



WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 24, No. 7 SERVING THE OLYMPIA COMMUNITY AND THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SINCE 1990. NOVEMBER 2013

City's objection to downtown street feed falls flat

Harassment of Crazy Faith a symptom of City Hall's discomfort with homeless

Jordan Beaudry

Crazy Faith Ministries, a nondenominational Christian community outreach collective started by Ben Charles, feeds their “street family” in a parking lot on State Street every Thursday at 6 pm. They feed an average of 200-300 people per week—primarily those who are homeless or otherwise affected by poverty. Recently they have come under fire from the Olympia Police Department and City Manager Steve Hall for “blocking vehicle traffic and parking, leaving behind garbage, food handling safety, and participant and public safety.”

Crazy Faith has been conducting the Thursday feed at their current location, a public parking lot across the street from the Olympia Transit Center, on the corner of State and Washington, since March of this year. Before that they operated out of a privately owned lot on the other corner of the same

block. When they switched to their current location Mr. Charles contacted the city government and spoke with Tom Hill, Olympia's Chief Inspector and Building Official, to make sure they had permission to use the location, at which time he was told, “You are not breaking any regulations or restrictions.”

On September 27 Paul Lower of the Olympia Police department contacted Mr. Charles to tell him Crazy Faith cannot continue using the lot. The only law Lower cited was the pedestrian interference code, claiming that by congregating in a parking area Crazy Faith is “obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic.” When I stopped by the Crazy Faith feed on October 25 to gather information for this article I found that Crazy Faith's tents were only taking up five parking spots. A small walkway runs

through the middle of the largely empty lot separating two rows of spaces by a small concrete barrier on either side. The food line formed between the two barriers, preventing pedestrians from blocking a single car. After getting dinner most folks stood with their plates in the back of the lot, away from vehicles. On the one occasion a car entered the

leads Crazy Faith's cooking crew about the food sanitation accusations. Mrs. Jorgensen has a food handler's permit and many years experience working in restaurants, as do the bulk of her volunteers. All of them wear disposable gloves, switching to a fresh pair whenever one becomes compromised. There was sanitizer on hand and excess food was

stored in coolers at the proper temperature. These are the same hygiene standards the state of Washington requires for its food service establishments. One out of two weeks Crazy Faith serves donated Mariner hotdogs,

and the other weeks Mrs. Jorgensen and her team prepare meals from fresh ingredients that have been donated or purchased out of pocket.

At the end of each event it is customary for the volunteers and participants, many of whom are parents, to have their children go around the lot picking up garbage. When the children are done

► **STREET FEED**, continued on page 10

Mr. Charles contacted the city to make sure they had permission to use the location, at which time he was told, “You are not breaking any regulations or restrictions.”

area and, the two occasions cars exited, folks happily moved out of the way causing no disturbance. Although the night I attended has a relatively low-turnout it was clear that the claims of vehicular obstruction were dubious; the feed takes up a portion of one of five large parking lots within a one-block radius, none of which were close to halfway full.

I spoke to Michelle Jorgensen, who

Tumwater has an opportunity to retain diversity on its city council

Kyle Taylor Lucas offers a Native perspective, government experience, and unflagging dedication

Desdra Dawning

Kyle Taylor Lucas is running to retain her seat as a Council Member for the City of Tumwater. Having seven months ago been unanimously appointed to a vacant seat, she is now hoping to secure her Council position to continue her service. Kyle brings a unique and much-needed perspective to her work with the Council, pointing out that she is the only American Indian woman serving on city council in the state of Washington and the only woman of color sitting on a local government in Thurston County. She points to most city councils as being quite homogeneous with most lacking diversity of race, ethnicity, and class that would be truly representative of our growing diversity.

“We need a broader diversity of representation sitting at the table,” she said. Considering the values of Native wise land stewardship along with her own unique life experiences that Kyle brings to the table, it would seem a positive

...all city councils, these days, have the moral duty not only to take care of their traditional roles of “paving potholes and ensuring public safety and other essential services,” but to go beyond to address the bigger societal issues of our times.

shift in direction if more city councils included members who could offer different life experience and perspective.

Over a cup of tea, I asked Kyle what brought her to the Council position. “What inspires me to public service,” she told me, “is my deep commitment to earth stewardship inspired by my Na-

tive culture and traditions that I grew up with, as well as a lifelong commitment to social justice.”

Kyle's first ten years of life were spent in logging camps in rural southeast Alaska, where her father, like many other native peoples, worked in the logging industry. “Being tied to the land, he was torn,” she said, “between his need to feed his family and his commitment to protecting the land.”

For most native peoples, making a living on reservations is very difficult. Most must go where the jobs are and that means leaving the reservation for either urban or rural employment. In the case of Kyle's family, that meant the

remote logging camps of Alaska. But it was here that she gained life lessons that she now offers to her community. “We grew up living from the land,” she shared, “from the deer and elk dad hunted, and the salmon, shellfish, berries...” Her childhood was also one of “extreme adversity, abuse, and trauma.”

Her family had no indoor plumbing or electricity until she was ten years of age. She said the life accompanying these camps together with the abuse and brutal racism experienced over her lifetime helped to shape, inform, and to make her who she is today. They motivated her, through social and human rights activism, and public service, to “advocate for a community that honors human dignity, cares for all people, wildlife, and the earth,” she said.



► **KYLE TAYLOR LUCAS**, continued on page 11.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community publication 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

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Submission Deadline:

Friday, November 15
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ November 23 ♦ 1 pm
Lacey Timberland Library in the Group Study Area
(Be there for the first read!)

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On the front cover —

Food Not Bombs! Dinner is served Saturday 4:30 pm at the library.

Graphic Artist: Vince Ryland

LETTERS TO WORKS IN PROGRESS

Response to Phan Nguyen

To the Editor:

My candidacy for the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors is indeed “peculiar,” though not strange, eccentric, or bizarre as Phan Nguyen suggests by his article’s title (“The Peculiar Candidacy of Nancy Koppelman,” *Works in Progress*, October 2013, Vol. 24, No. 6). My candidacy is peculiar because it is particular and unique. I’m not a fool: I knew I would become the target of efforts, like those of Nguyen, to discredit me. Nguyen finds my viability as a candidate for the Co-op Board controversial. So be it. Our differences can highlight and test the values of the Olympia Food Co-op where, over the last 30 years, I have been a member, a working member, and a member of the Board of Directors, and where my cherished loved ones have served on the staff.

In free societies, people can safely criticize institutions to which they belong and from which they benefit. For example, Omar Barghouti, a founding member of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement, holds a Master’s degree from Tel Aviv University. TAU is a prestigious institution (ranked 56th in the world by the Center for World University Rankings) in the country whose very existence Barghouti calls into question. Amid fervent calls to expel him, university officials defended his rights, a move which Barghouti criticized as weakening the energies of his own movement. Yet Barghouti did not quit school to protest the university’s protection of his rights and, when asked, refused to justify his graduate education in Israel. “Peculiar” can take many forms.

Democracy breeds controversy, and controversy tests democracy. Although communities sometimes fail to meet the highest standards of democracy, values associated with self-rule require people to see beyond one of its lowest: the powerful passions of the moment. They can help people aspire toward the difficult goal of collective self-governance, which still eludes the Olympia Food Co-op.

On July 15, 2010, the ten members of the Co-op’s Board of Directors who attended its monthly meeting *made* the Co-op, and so all its members, join the BDS movement. Like every other Co-op member, I am free to question that decision. After the Board essentially ignored criticisms from hundreds, the lawsuit was undertaken soberly and seriously. As Nguyen notes, the plaintiffs sought help. Some of the organizations that offered help advocate for Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state. Some voices on the political left criticize this affiliation. Yet compromise of this kind is not unique to the plaintiffs. In their reply to the plaintiffs’ brief opposing the strike, the defendants cited *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* to support their right to make the Co-op join the BDS movement: as board members of a corporation, they claimed, they enjoy the privilege of “corporate personhood.” The awful truth came out: when push came to shove, those members of the Co-op’s Board of Directors were more than willing to trump the Co-op’s longstanding identity as a cooperative dedicated to community and consensus decision-making. They mobilized their legal status as the tip of a corporate pyramid, as any other corporate board can. In so doing, they yoked themselves to Citizens United, an organization whose president produced a film lambasting the Occupy Movement. The *Citizens United* decision deeply betrays democracy, among other values for which the Co-op allegedly stands. Controversy not only tests democracy;

it can make strange bedfellows.

Yet that’s democracy for you. Thoughtful and empathetic Olympians on all sides of the issue know that the boycott deeply hurt our community. And the wounds are still there. To engage with the Co-op by running for the Board of Directors is to be an active, engaged, and committed Co-op member. To run openly as a critic of the boycott is indeed peculiar, because it is rare. Yet it honors the best processes that the Co-op has always stood for. Nguyen belittles the standard of “process.” Yet process is usually fundamental to justice worthy of the name, and certainly is essential for the values associated with self-rule to be honored, whatever the outcome.

Nancy Koppelman

Proud of our Co-op

Dear Works in Progress,

The idea that someone involved in suing the Olympia Food Co-op would run for the Co-op board is ridiculous, but no more ridiculous than the lawsuit itself—or the fact that the plaintiffs now want the Co-op to pay the fine that they incurred for suing the Co-op.

The irony is not lost that the same people who claimed that the Israeli boycott would destroy both the Co-op and Israel are now trying to destroy the Co-op themselves. Nor is the irony lost that by suing the Co-op over the boycott, they have effectively cemented the boycott in place—having prevented the board from making any changes to the boycott while a lawsuit remains hanging over their heads.

It’s about time that these people take responsibility for their own actions, rather than blaming everyone else for their feeling “unsafe.” The boycott is not about them. It’s about recognizing that Palestinians deserve equal rights—and it is shameful that some people in our community can’t accept that.

I am proud of our Co-op, and I am proud that it is honoring the Palestinian boycott call and taking a stand for human rights.

Sincerely,
Amirah Ziada

Sincerely,
Desdra Dawning

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Thanks to MIXX 96 for its generous support in providing much needed space for Works In Progress production meetings.

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Playback Theatre Performance

Stories of being downtown with Olympia's Downtown Ambassador Program

Friday, November 8, 7:30 pm
Traditions in Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. This month we are collaborating with Play On Greater Olympia (POGO) an after-school music program designed to effect social change and nurture promising futures for Thurston County youth.

The Play On Greater Olympia (POGO) pilot program is in its final stages. In January faculty and staff of Washington Middle School in the Olympia School District were asked to recommend students to the POGO program who did not currently have access to music instruction or would highly benefit from such a program. Over 50 households were contacted and there are currently 13 students in the program. There is no cost to the student for participation. Funds have been raised through private donations, foundations and local businesses.

The POGO students have been meeting for two hours every weekday after school to receive musical instruction. In addition to acquiring the skills needed to perform on a musical instrument, they negotiate the fundamental skills of music reading, including rhythm, notation, style, and ensemble playing. In a very short time, these students have performed for the county commissioners, at the Washington Center for the Performing Art, and most recently for the Olympia Arts Walk.

Teachers reported that POGO students show improved focus, confidence, attitude, and more persistence in their work habits.

POGO is modeled after Jose Abreu's program in Venezuela—el Systima (The System)—that he started forty years ago with 11 students in a Caracas parking garage. Today, Abreu's dream reaches nearly 350,000 children and youth throughout Venezuela. This movement is now being replicated in Boston, New York, Florida, California, Britain and Scotland to name a few places - and, now in Thurston County through POGO. Suggested donation \$5.00-\$10.00 (No one is turned away)

Background information about Playback Theatre:

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

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

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Coffee Strong 5th Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction

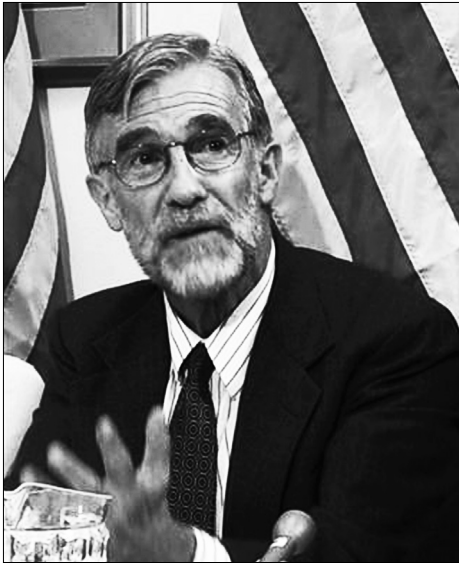
Sunday, Nov. 10th, 4:30 pm

Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, Seattle WA

For the past five years Coffee Strong has stood for the rights of the military and veteran communities while challenging war and militarism. Please join us as we celebrate our successful transition from coffeehouse to military and veterans' rights center. Former CIA Official Ray McGovern will be joining us as our keynote speaker for the evening.

Doors will open at 4:00pm for those who want to get a head start on the silent auction. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center is located inside of Discovery Park in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle.

This year's anniversary celebration will be a buffet-style dinner with a formal program. Included in the ticket is everything you'll need to enjoy your evening—food, drinks, dessert and more! Keynote speaker Ray McGovern is a "retired CIA officer turned political activist" who provided intelligence briefings to President Reagan from 1981 to 1985. In January 2003, Ray helped create Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) to expose the way in-



Ray McGovern

telligence was being falsified to "justify" war on Iraq. Long time peace and justice leader Nina Laboy will be our MC for the evening.

Arrive early and enjoy the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center Gallery. Take a quick walk through beautiful Discovery Park or checkout the great views of the Puget Sound from Daybreak itself. Discovery Park was previously a major US military installation, Fort Lawton. After being largely decommissioned in 1970, American Indian activists occupied the grounds and asserted treaty rights, leading to the creation of Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

For more information on the event, please contact Alex Bacon at alex@givoice.org, 253-581-1565.

Activist veteran Elliott Adams to speak in Olympia

"Closing GITMO"

A conversation w/ Elliott Adams
Tuesday, November 5, 7 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
2300 East End St. NW, Olympia

Elliott Adams, a long-time social justice activist and past president of Veterans For Peace, will speak about the campaign to close the American prison at Guantanamo Bay Cuba. Commonly known as GITMO, the controversial prison is a place of indefinite detention without trial for detainees from US "anti-terror" operations around the world. Mr. Adams recently completed an 80-day fast of 300 calories or less in solidarity with the Guantanamo Bay prisoner hunger strike in protest of this ongoing human rights violation.

America will be safer and stronger when we close Guantanamo, according to Mr. Adams. He will discuss the different messages that demonstrate how why we will be better off when Guantanamo is closed. These messages speak to various perspectives: Christians, Muslims, Jews, the security-minded, or those whose goals are cost containment. He believes that much of our message needs to shift from the evils of GITMO to include the

practical benefits of closing the Guantanamo prison. Along with questions, a discussion will follow Mr. Adam's presentation.

The campaign to close GITMO is the latest in Elliot Adams' long history of activism and public service. A Vietnam combat veteran whose experience of war informs his activism, Mr. Adams transitioned from soldier to nonviolent warrior, building movements that create justice. He utilizes international and domestic law as a means to end our war culture. He is a nonviolence and social movement trainer, and has served in that role for Fellowship of Reconciliation, School Of Americas Watch, Peacemakers of Schoharie, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Veterans For Peace, and War Resisters League. He currently works with the Meta Peace Team, and is co-chair of Creating a Culture of Peace.

Mr. Adams' work has taken him many places, including jail. He's testified before the US Congress Judiciary Committee and attended Parliament in Canada. He has been arrested repeatedly for speaking against injustice.

Sponsored by The Rachel Corrie Chapter, Veterans For Peace. For further information call: 360-888-3704

WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Special Events

Emma's Revolution in concert
Friday, November 1, 8pm
Traditions Café, Olympia

Smart, funny, informative—like Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars. Emma's Revolution is the, award-winning, activist musicians Pat Humphries & Sandy O. With hauntingly beautiful harmonies and powerful acoustic instrumentals that deliver the energy and strength of their convictions, Emma's Revolution creates new standards in the art and culture of social justice.

This annual show sold out last time, so it's recommended for folks to purchase their tickets early!

Tickets: \$15 general admission / \$10 student & low income

Million Mask March (Olympia)
Tuesday, November 5, 1 pm
Sylvester Park
Capital Way S & Legion Way SE,

Greetings, people of Washington State, and people throughout the world!

On November 5th, we will rally at Sylvester Park at 1pm, and then march to the Capitol Building and Washington State Supreme Court at 2pm. Teach-ins and rallies will continue throughout the remainder of the day. We are protesting:

- Unconstitutional spying on citizens.
- The recent government shutdown without regard for the people's well-being.
- The poisoning of our food, water, and air.
- The mistreatment of indigenous people and illegal occupations of tribal lands for global expansion and development.
- The use of propaganda to spread fear, lies, and distrust among the people.
- Physical, verbal, and emotional abuse by law enforcement personnel.
- The unconstitutional use of secret courts to detain and prosecute civilians.
- Wars to keep the elite rich and powerful.
- The corporate control over our daily lives.
- ...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!

Rainy Day Record's 6th Annual Olympia Record Show!

Saturday, November 16, 3 - 7 pm
Olympia Elks Lodge
1818 4th Ave E, by Ralph's Thriftway

For the uninitiated, it's kind of like having a really great record store dropped into your town for a day. All formats with a focus on VINYL and all genres of music for every possible listener.

Open to the public, \$2 admission, with a full bar available for 21+! Please direct all inquiries to OlympiaRecordShow@yahoo.com.

Please call or email Honduras Supreme Court of Justice demanding freedom for Chavelo
Saturday, November 30

Please call and e-mail the Honduran Supreme Court and urge them to annul Chavelo's sentence and free him immediately!

Sample scripts and info for calling and emailing are available on Facebook. Please let Greg (greg_mccain@yahoo.com) or Brigitte (Brigitte@soaw.org) know if you call. Thanks!

Make Olympia's Lincoln Winter Market

Saturday, November 30, 11 am - 5 pm
Lincoln Elementary, Olympia

This is the 3rd annual Lincoln Winter Market. There will be over 60 vendors selling a huge variety of quality handmade goods created by our community and beyond. This is a public event, open to everyone, and free to attend. There will be hot food, baked goods, and entertainment, too.



► **Rafah Mural**, cont. from page 4.
ple as ‘the other.’ It was noted that wall construction is a huge industry, profitable to only a few. In Olympia, the comparison, while much softer, was made with police state policies put in place at the Washington/Canadian border.

Looking at the theme of Return

In Rafah, when Israel was made a homeland for the Jewish people, Palestinians were pushed from their homes, becoming refugees, and longing to return. In Olympia, they looked at Native people who were forced onto reservations by the government—their children sent away to “schools” to be assimilated—longing to regain what was taken away.

Reconciliation

The final theme sets the underlying goal for this mural—for the people of Palestine and Israel, for Olympia’s marginalized populations, and for oppressed people everywhere. It is a goal

that acknowledges the need for truth to be spoken, wrongdoing to be recognized, and forgiveness to be extended by all those involved. It asks for the acceptance of differences at the same time that it realizes our common humanity. And it offers the vision of a world where children can feel safe, and where all people can have dignity and know equality. It is a vision of the crashing down of all walls. Looking closely at the mural, one can see a wall being swept away by a mighty wave of...what? Intelligence? Compassion? Love?

It was with all of this in mind—extending the olive branch of peace—that the image of the olive tree was born, leading to the huge tree we now see on the wall of the Woodruff Building. Following that chilly January meeting in 2007, Cindy and Craig, along with the group of brainstormers, took a walk around town, looking

for the perfect place to put their mural, and discovered that huge wall, finding later that the owners were amenable to their ideas. Cindy felt it significant to point out to me that this building

Cindy’s admiration for Susan Greene is apparent in her description as one who “sees the possibilities for mural art and their potential to bring support, healing, awareness, advocacy and movement-building...”

has seen in its history: A US President (Harrison) speaking from its balcony, a Washington Governor (Ferry) reviewing his militia from it on his Inauguration Day, fraternal and patriotic organizations using it as a meeting place, and to this day, the housing of labor unions. “We were pleased, she told me, “to use the wall in this building because it is an historical building in Olympia with a history of labor activity but also, a place where people chose to speak to the community.”

Cindy’s admiration for Susan Greene is apparent in her description as one who “sees the possibilities for mural art and their potential to bring support, healing, awareness, advocacy and movement-building,” adding that “she serves us by bringing the possibility of a mural to communities, initiating a collaborative, creative process with the community and with others who are connected to it in some way.”

Looking back on that time, Cindy also noted that “numerous artists, volunteers, and supporters were critical to the creation of the mural along the

way, bringing their ideas, inspiration, time, and labor at different stages. Some were designers like Carrie Ziegler and Darien Brown. “Darien,” Cindy recalled, “suggested an olive tree and Carrie brought forth the design and was instrumental in realizing that image for the enormous wall, along with Alicia Martinson, Josh Elliott and Boots Brown.” Over time, local, national and international organizations began to find their places on the leaves that cover this mural. Seeing how they each speak to his daughter’s vision, Craig Corrie once commented that, “The leaf does a

marvelous job of visually bringing together Olympia and Rafah in a way Rachel found basic to her understanding of the world as a community.”

So now, when you walk or drive past the Olympia/Rafah Solidarity Mural, perhaps it will speak to you in a new way, and you will be inspired to check out their website: www.olympiarafahmural.org. If you do, you will find a key to each of the leaves with information about that organization. Works In Progress has a leaf there! And if you are patient, and are willing to come back, you will find that their audio section will have returned from its current technological updating, offering you an even better exploration of the many local, national and global organizations represented on that amazing olive tree!

Stay tuned for the next installment! An exciting wind of creativity and freedom is blowing through those olive leaves!

Desdra Dawning writes for the Olympia Food Co-op Newsletter and Works In Progress. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Northern Arizona University.

Peter Bohmer and Savvina Chowdhury to lead political economy workshops at Traditions

Beginning, Wednesday, November 6 and continuing the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, political economy faculty members from the Evergreen State College, Savvina Chowdhury and Peter Bohmer, will lead political economy workshops at Traditions Cafe at 5th and Water in downtown Olympia. No background in the study of political economy is required. This workshop is aimed especially at those who know that something is seriously wrong with the di-

rection of the United States economy and society, but do not have a defined ideology or politics. We will encourage participation and discussion.

Workshop 1, Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm at Traditions Cafe; Learning About the Economic Inequality of Income and Wealth in the United States; and about Strategies to Further Economic Equality

For more info contact: Peter Bohmer, peterbohmer@yahoo.com or Savvina Chowdhury, savvinac@yahoo.com

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Progressive community organizations pose questions to candidates for the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors

Some candidates did not respond to the questionnaire at press time. Kim Chaplin and Casey Kilduff have withdrawn from the election.

	EMMA GOLDMAN YOUTH & HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT	OLYMPIA SEED EXCHANGE	OLYMPIA MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE	OLYMPIA BOYCOTTS DIVESTMENTS AND SANCTIONS
	<i>What concrete steps (or public activism) do you feel the Co-op can (or should) initiate to help lessen food insecurity for vulnerable or marginalized members of our community?</i>	<i>What role do you envision the Co-op having in community-based efforts to promote local food sovereignty?</i>	<i>How can a small local business act to promote global justice and peace?</i>	<i>From boycotts to strikes to food labeling, how can the Co-op strive to make positive impacts and encourage social and economic justice?</i>
Sally Brownfield	I know the Co-op is already involved in lessening food insecurity for vulnerable or marginalized members of our community: by offering a free membership and a 10% discount to self-identified low-income people, by collecting food for the food bank, by housing TULIP—the credit union catering to low-income people, by offering a 25% discount to volunteers, by being located on the bus line, and also by providing living-wage jobs. The Co-op should keep and improve or expand these programs. The Co-op could have better outreach regarding these programs as not everyone who would benefit is aware of the programs.	The Co-op can and should promote local food sovereignty by supporting local farms and encouraging local neighborhood food production. The Co-op often posts pictures and histories of farmers they buy from in the store and in the newsletter. This fosters a link between the farmer and the community, making the growing process more real for shoppers. The Co-op should continue offering classes to the community, to help us to become food producers ourselves. Co-op volunteers even grow food in the landscape at the Eastside store. The Co-op could cooperate with other local organizations (like the OSE, GRuB and Enterprise for Equity) that help gardeners and farmers get started.	A small business can act to promote global justice and peace, and social and economic justice in general by practicing fair trade; by offering living-wage jobs; by being in solidarity with oppressed people seeking justice; by boycotting products from companies or places which abuse human rights; by supporting strikers; by donating to social justice events; by offering anti-racism education and practicing anti-racism principles regarding its employees and its customers; and by encouraging democratic and egalitarian processes in its operation. I am especially interested in seeing the Co-op continue to support the GMO labeling initiative and in providing GMO-free food. I encourage co-op members and staff to research corporate opponents to GMO labeling, and to make sure that none of their products are on our shelves.	
Desdra Dawning	We have a large base of volunteers, ready and willing to be of service. I suggest creating work positions for them to help local organizations (examples: Food Bank, Bread and Roses, SideWalk, Safe Place, etc.) that are involved with the vulnerable and marginalized members of our community to insure that they are fed. I also consider member education very important and see the Co-op Newsletter as a key tool in helping our community to be aware of and understand our marginalized population. I would encourage Co-op members (myself included) to learn more about this and submit articles on this subject for print.	I suggest developing fund-raising/educational outreach efforts (another opportunity for volunteers to contribute) for local organizations such as the Seed Exchange and Land Trust and through membership education (newsletter and public meetings) on the importance of supporting our local food suppliers. I would like to see more local and less packaged foods on our shelves, especially those coming from companies now owned by big corporations who do not support Co-op values.	Traditions is a perfect example of this. I say, follow Dick’s lead! Make your space open to all. Carry only products that support peace and justice. Stay humble and loving. Provide a platform for P&J to have its say. Be a center for conscious awareness and loving kindness.	These are all strong and positive actions for supporting Co-op values. I support our boycott of products from Israel. I arrived in Olympia in the midst of its beginnings. I believe if I had been on the Board at that time, I would have called for a vote of the membership, and feel confident that it would have been upheld. I support unions, worker-rights and strike-power. I wrote an article for the Newsletter on GMO’s and labeling and support I 522.
Mohamed El-Sokkary	The Co-op has always had a great atmosphere for people from all different backgrounds to come in and shop for great tasting healthy food at a affordable price. The Co-op also provides great education on where people who are struggling can get food or a warm meal. The staff are very helpful and willing to share some information for those who are in need whether it is food or clothes. Our community has services for our younger community members who are in need. Programs such as the soup kitchen, the salvation army, and our local food bank are some and our Co-op has great connections with them all—whether it’s volunteering or donating, the Co-op is connected. I see the Co-op providing such services for our marginalized community with our Free store and food programs that involve our local businesses.	The Co-op has always supported our local businesses and its this big effort that promotes our Sovereignty. The Co-op shops from great farms in our community and support the ideals of local foods. We have many local sources for produce, bakery and fresh cooked meals that the Co-op uses and supports. The spirit of supporting our local food vendors is what keeps our costs down and supports the survival of our business community. Through great efforts like our Farms and Grub programs we can support our sustainability for food.	The Co-op has always stood by the side of justice and peace whether it is local or Global as well as supporting social and economic justice. The Co-op makes huge efforts to share and educate our local community about Social events that impact our global community. The Co-op is always a great place for people to go and gain this insight through literature that is posted or allowing community volunteers a space to set up a table with info on local or global events that relate to Justice and Peace. The Co-op is also big on supporting businesses and communities that are fair trade where there business does not negatively impact human dignity and existence. The Co-op has been very active in its a stand against any community who negatively impacts the rights, freedom and justice and will not buy products that come from those communities. This small act can send a ripple effect in our community to impact and cause change in our broader global community. The Co-op has always attracted a positive atmosphere for our community to come and shop enjoy healthy food and to learn about local and global information that impacts us all. As a member of the Co-op for 21 years and as a volunteer for over 3 I am proud to be a part of this great Co-op community.	
Allison Koerber	Recently I had the pleasure of meeting a young, low income family. After getting to know their situation I shared with them some of the programs the community has to offer. I think one big step we need to take is educating people on what they have available to them. If they don’t know where to turn to for help, they will fill alone. We MUST get the word out there that the community wants to help and are here to help. For lack of a better word, market, market to everyone and anyone, share the word!	One thing I have found that Co-Op lacks is being a big presence in the community. If we want to become the main food outlet for the community members we need to make our presence known. I have meet so many people my age that have lived here their whole lives and have no idea what the co-op is. Or lower income families do not think they can go because they are on EBT, after I share the information about everyone being welcome at the Co-Op and that they do take EBT cards, they start going. That’s it, that simple, make our presence known by getting out there and meeting people. Not just at small events but mainstream events, races or concerts, things that have big turns outs.	Lead by example is a great way to start, networking to the community and showing people how. It about being an example, actions speak louder than words.	I think if we held monthly, or even quarterly gatherings, educating people who want to be educated about what is going on in our community and sharing what options they have to become involved. Find ways to empower them to find a resolution. Small groups, or one person helping, to spread the word and meeting needs, will in turn become a big group and many people.
Isa Bella Rogol	I know the Co-op has taken some concrete steps to address food insecurity for vulnerable people in our community, by donating directly to organizations that work directly with the homeless like the Food Bank. The Co-op also refers people in need of resources to other organizations that, for example, help low income people grow their own gardens. The Co-op also maintains a food bank drop. The Co-op should continue all of these and increase outreach to low income communities through the low income discount program if funds allow. I am also very open to hear your ideas.	I think the Co-op has a vision already and I understand that some members of the board and staff already are working with different groups in our community to create a coalition. The Co-op is also supporting Initiative 522. I do not know anything about the programs already offered to farmers by the Co-op but the Co-op should not only purchase local produce from local farms but also provide them with educational opportunities. Like I said before creating a coalition of people who are fired up about food sovereignty or strengthen what we already have would be ideal. The Co-op has a great program for our members to learn about foods and also to keep in mind to use produce seasonally. That is a very important program that we can use to educate the community about food policy and legislation if we are not already doing so. Olympia Seed Exchange should reach the Co-op and its members if there are projects we can help with.	The Co-op can continue making a difference around the world through boycotts, strikes, supporting food labeling, writing letters to support other groups’ causes and continue to strive to provide healthy foods to more people.	The Co-op is already an organization that strives to make a positive impact and encourages social and economic justice. But there is always more that can be done. The Co-op could work with other similar co-ops around the world. I know of such an exchange with a co-op in Venezuela but it would be great to see the Co-op getting involved with more organizations. I know that part of the expansion idea was to create a space to make a coalition with other community organizations and I support that.

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Nancy Koppelman	To help lessen food insecurity, the Co-op can continue to be a local leader. EGYHOP has done wonderful work making hunger public by distributing food in a conspicuous way. The Co-op could partner with this and other organizations, such as those serving homeless schoolchildren, to show that the Co-op cares and walks the walk. This would be particularly effective if the Co-op had a presence in downtown Olympia.	Regarding the Co-op’s role in promoting local food sovereignty, the Olympia Seed Exchange provides an inspirational example. It’s a local grass-roots effort that started small, filled a huge need, and helped people take food production into their own hands. The Co-op could continue to partner with OSE in its ongoing efforts to develop its presence, enabling people to make the transition from would-be home gardener to Actual Gardner.	Small local business owners decide whether and how they can gear the practical need to make a living toward the broader goals of global justice and peace. With few exceptions, most businesses do not structure their buying and selling practices specifically toward those goals. They buy products from countries all over the world regardless of how they are produced, and sell them to make a profit—their bottom line. Because they are not governed by boards composed of members, they can and do act as they see fit. Local businesses that DO gear their efforts toward global justice tend to favor a “fair trade” approach which is, in my view, quite effective.	The Co-op can strive to encourage social and economic justice. Yet the Co-op is not like any other local business: it’s a membership-driven non-profit corporation. As such, it embodies tensions that small single-owner businesses do not. It has a highly diverse and deeply invested local membership. It also has a mission statement which says that its primary reason for existing is to “contribute to the health and well-being of people by providing wholesome foods and other goods and services, accessible to all, through a locally-oriented, collectively managed, not-for-profit cooperative organization that relies on consensus decision making. We strive to make human effects on the earth and its inhabitants positive and renewing and to encourage economic and social justice.” A fair trade approach—somewhere between the extreme of boycotts and mere “labeling”— supports generative efforts while simultaneously honoring the diversity of the Co-op’s membership.
Josh Simpson	During tough economic times, the Co-op needs to make sure that all of its members continue to have access to healthy food regardless of their income. The Co-op should work at better compensating low-income members who volunteer at the Co-op already. The Co-op could also automatically give the low income discount to all members who are paying with food stamps. If it is feasible for the Co-op to expand (in some form) to other parts of Olympia, it would make access to the Co-op more feasible to members who for whatever reason are less able to commute to the two current locations. The Co-op could also work even harder to continue to make sure that all unsold food goes to those who need it instead of being wasted.	The Co-op should continue to support local farms by giving farmers fair prices for their produce while still offering it at an affordable price to the public and low-income members of the Co-op. The Co-op should also make sure that all local farms and suppliers treat their employees, animals, and the environment in a way that encourages “economic and social justice.” I believe that food is a human right, and the Co-op should continue and extend its work to make sure that local food sources are given priority over food that has had to travel greater distances.	In the Olympia Food Co-op’s mission statement it states that the Co-op will do all it can to “support efforts to foster a socially and economically egalitarian society.” This means that the Co-op has a duty to support all groups and movements working towards those ends. This means boycotting nations and corporations that do not respect the rights of its workers and inhabitants. This also means that the Co-op board needs to continue to support the development of other local cooperatives that seek to create alternatives to traditional capitalist business models.	Boycotts are one of the most effective nonviolent tools for bringing about change and social justice. The reason that people often find them threatening is because they work. They have historically been proven to be a successful form of combating injustice. Whether in support of farm workers, civil rights advocates, or in opposition to apartheid; boycotts have always been used to help give social justice movements more teeth in fighting for change. The Co-op should continue to honor boycotts of producers that do not support the rights of their workers, and honor boycotts of nations that do not respect basic human rights. I also realize that the harm likely to be imposed on those that are being boycotted always pales in comparison to the suffering of the oppressed people calling for a boycott. As far as food labeling goes, it is common sense that all food should be labeled and that customers deserve to know if they are eating GMO products. The Co-op should continue to support initiatives that force all corporations and food producers to label their food products.
Micheal Snow	I think this issue requires exploring creative avenues of support and solidarity. Providing more affordable food and donating to the food bank are both amazing and important, however food insecurity is a consequence of other societal concerns that we can also address. I think the Co-op could endorse and support projects like the newly proposed low-barrier shelter; contribute in the fight against the prejudices targeting marginalized members that are prevalent in downtown business associations and in city hall; and become involved in the exploration of projects that create empowering transitional/permanent living and working spaces. Some examples would be encouraging members to explore housing cooperative projects, participatory workplaces, and community controlled projects like some of the long-standing and productive community gardens.	I envision the Co-op promoting local food sovereignty in the way that it carries and prioritizes locally grown produce and locally produced food products. What I would like to see is more regionally and locally produced goods.	I feel like the Olympia Food Co-op is more than just a grocery store. It’s also a place to learn about progressive movements and struggles. During the UNFI worker’s strike, although the stores decided not to boycott the distributor due to the financial consequences members would have faced, the staff carried on a large conversation about the strike with members, printed leaflets to share at the stores, emailed out information to members, and encouraged everyone to support the striking workers in every way that they could. The staff collective and the board looked both at making changes in their operations to support the struggle, as well as thinking up other creative ways to help and encourage others to do the same. This is how I see the Co-op making positive impacts towards social and economic justice.	
Chris Weekes	In response to the question regarding improving food security for vulnerable or marginalized people, I think it is the board’s responsibility to pursue the goals related to this issue as expressed in the Co-op’s Mission statement, “to make good food available to more people” and “to support efforts to foster a socially and economically egalitarian society.” Partnering with EGYHOP and other local organizations in creative and collaborative ways to meaningfully promote both organizations will benefit our membership and community.	While the Co-op currently offers food related classes, we could consider hosting a Guest Lecture Series, with input from OMJP on issues of peace and social, economic, and environmental justice, with a sliding donation to benefit certain charities and organizations (perhaps EGYHOP). My alma mater, the University of South Florida, hosts a lecture series that is open to the public and has featured such speakers as Howard Zinn, Chaz Bono, Martin Luther King III, and Dan Savage. Partnering with Evergreen State College to host the lectures could be fruitful. There are bountiful resources of amazing local non-profit organizations to partner with, we just need to foster these connections.	Efforts to promote local food sovereignty and sustainability are close to my heart, it’s really a huge part of why I moved to the Pacific Northwest. The Olympia Seed Exchange is awesome! I got a ton of seed from them at the Love Our Local Fest a few weeks ago! The Co-op should partner with this organization, host seed swaps, and invite the OSE to teach a class educating about technique to save varieties of seed, appropriate to each season. The more seed savers, the merrier!	Regarding the BDS, I would love to see more information about boycotts in the newsletter and on the Co-op’s website. Information about ongoing boycotts should be archived in such a way that it is easily accessible. I want to know why certain products aren’t on the shelves, these stories should be examples of what has gone wrong with certain companies and provide an example of how and why businesses should be supported that promote, rather than hinder, our common struggle for social and economic justice. Too many people rely on conventional grocery stores with their long chains of distribution and inherent inequalities in their business models-- so how do we reach out to our neighbors and show them that eating local and organic food is better for their bodies and beneficial to promoting social and economic justice? Let’s engage.
VOTING FOR THE OLYMPIA FOOD COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENDS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15.				

Dirty coal remains unpopular

The gloves come off at the Tacoma public hearing on the coal terminal

Anonymous

Thursday evening, October 17, 2013 there was a Scoping Hearing concerning the Millennium Coal Terminals proposed for Longview, Washington. The hearing was held at the Tacoma Convention Center. Comments, both written and oral, could be addressed to representatives of the Washington Department of Ecology and the Cowlitz County Building and Development Department. An observer from the Army Corps of Engineers was also present (they've already given their okay). It was the last in a series of hearings held around Washington. I guesstimate that there were probably close to 1,000 people present over the course of the three-hour hearing. A system somewhat reminiscent of a high school football game has developed where proponents of the terminals wear blue and opponents wear red. This made it easy to see that the attendees were about 90% opposed to the terminal.

Those who spoke directly to the two-person panel had two minutes each for their presentations. This time limit was strictly enforced to give the maximum number of people an opportunity. The on-lookers mostly complied with the no-noise rule and that also helped keep the process moving. Those who didn't win the speakers lottery could give their testimony to a stenographer or fill out a comment sheet.

There were many excellent comments by the “reds”—some narrow

and science-based, some looking at the broadest possible effects, some from children, some from elders, some from elected officials, some from Tacoma, some from Longview, some from Seattle, and some very excellent presentations by your fellow Olympians. They added up to a very impressive out-pouring of public sentiment, science, and skepticism. The goal of the comments was to have the state and county reviewers take into account the broadest possible scope of the effects of aiding and abetting the coal industry: the mines, the miners, the coal trains, the coal dust, the infrastructure upgrades (95% to be paid by local jurisdictions), air pollution, water pollution and acidification, marine life destruction, fisheries destruction, job loss in the 42,000 Washington jobs in fishing and related fields; from the depths of the sea to the sky above, all put at risk by coal.

I particularly wanted to hear the comments of the “blue shirts” who wanted the scope to be only the terminals themselves, nothing before and nothing after. The testimony I heard—whether it was from elected officials, Chamber of Commerce representatives, union representatives, or anyone else—was based on a very narrow focus indeed: jobs. It was pointed out that the unemployment rate in Longview

is higher than the State average, but pretty much anywhere “jobs” is a hard-to-resist call. The interesting thing to me was that the only jobs I heard about were temporary construction jobs building the terminals. The union

Nothing was said about how many “good-paying union jobs” and how many might actually go to actual Longview residents. More notable, nothing was said about how many jobs there would be running the terminals after the construction workers packed up...

speakers were generally from the construction trades (the only exception I remember was railroading) and not from the Longview area. The figure of 1,400 construction jobs was mentioned. Nothing was said about how many of those would be “good-paying union jobs” and how many might actually go to actual Longview residents. More notable, nothing was said about how many jobs there would be running the terminals after the construction workers packed up and went home and whether they would be union jobs or perhaps contracted out to the lowest bidder as so much work is. I heard no argument stating that the “no’s” were wrong in thinking that coal-burning is a leading cause of climate change just that well, China would get coal from somewhere anyway so it might as well be ours that ups the global CO₂ level and sends pollution back to Wash-

ington on the prevailing winds. Don't these folks have children? It's a little uncomfortable to be arguing against unions, but no one is right (or wrong) all the time.

Oh wait, there was another very pressing point made as to why these coal terminals are necessary. How could I have forgotten? One prescient military mind (Ret.) predicted that “denying” US coal to China would lead to war and that the dredging at Longview harbor necessary to accommodate the very large and heavy ships needed for coal transport would have a secondary benefit of making the port ready for military transport ships. Taking arms to the forces repelling China’s attacks over the denial of coal?

On another front it is possible that all the above was unnecessary because, just like the US, China is moving away from coal (and with greater vigor than the US) and the two companies who are seeking to build the terminals, Arch (US) and Ambre (Aus.) may be terminal themselves as their stock prices sink and the interest rates they pay rise.

Little old Longview is a battleground in the central struggle of our time and you can be proud of the Climate Champions of Olympia who represented you there: Mayor Steven Buxbaum, Bour-tai Hargrove, Dr. Evan Hirsch, Robert Whitlock, and more.

The author, who wishes to remain anonymous, is, as she wrote, “another little old lady for a harmonious and livable planet who lives in West Olympia and supports the work of Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation Climate Crisis Group.”

City of Providence to pay \$75,000 for illegally barring protester from leafleting

The City of Providence has agreed to pay \$75,000 to settle an ACLU lawsuit involving the violation of the free speech rights of a local resident three years ago when she was barred from peacefully leafleting in front of a building where then-Mayor David Cicilline was speaking.

Under the agreement signed today by U.S. District Judge William Smith, the City acknowledged that it “unconstitutionally interfered” with Judith Reilly’s right to distribute flyers on a public sidewalk adjacent to the Providence Career and Technical Academy where Cicilline was scheduled to give his annual “State of the City” address, and also agreed to pay Reilly \$500 in damages for violation of her rights and \$74,500 in costs and attorneys’ fees.

The incident took place in February 2010, when Reilly was handing out the flyers, prepared by the Olneyville Neighborhood Association, which were critical of a Mayoral appointee. While leafleting, Reilly was confronted by two police officers who ordered her to move across the street or else face arrest. She reluctantly moved, but then returned to the front of the auditorium, where she was confronted by two other officers who again ordered her to move. She

complained that doing so would prevent her from handing flyers to her intended audience—people entering the auditorium—thus largely defeating the purpose of the activity. However, after again being threatened with arrest, she moved back across the street. ACLU volunteer attorney Richard A. Sinapi filed suit on her behalf later that year to challenge the police officers' actions.

Reilly said today: "My constitutional rights are priceless, and I'm grateful to the ACLU and Mr. Sinapi for defending them. I will never understand why Mayor Taveras chose to spend so much public money defending the indefensible. I hope that he and the Police Department learned something from this case, but I fear they have not."

RI ACLU attorney Sinapi added: "Ms. Reilly's peaceful leafleting represented a time-honored method for sharing political views with other members of the public. It is disconcerting that purportedly well-trained police officers in a large municipal police department like Providence could be unaware that banning such activity violated First Amendment rights—particularly since two of the officers involved in the suit have law degrees. This lack of informed judgment apparently also extends to the city officials who refused the opportunity to amicably resolve this

matter for a fraction of the money the City now has to pay. This decision will hopefully ensure that citizens exercising free speech rights in Providence will not be subjected to unreasonable restrictions in the future.”

In opposing the ACLU's suit, the City's major argument for ordering Reilly to move was a supposed concern for keeping the sidewalk clear in case of the need for an emergency evacuation from the building. But in a ruling issued earlier this year, Judge Smith noted: "There is no evidence in the record, beyond Defendants' bald assertions, that Plaintiff's presence in this area would have posed a hazard in the event of a mass evacuation. Additionally, because leafleters are only marginally more obstructive than other pedestrians, Defendants' decision to ban only Plaintiff and her companion from the lower sidewalk while allowing all other pedestrians access to that same stretch of sidewalk undermines the credibility of their purported public safety justification."

The judge said it was unclear whether the police banned Reilly from leafleting because of the specific content of his flyer, criticizing the Mayor, or because of a more general unconstitutional “custom of clearing vast public spaces in order to keep exit passageways open.” As a result, he was unable to determine whether the defendants could be held individually liable for their conduct, or whether only the City was liable due to its unconstitutional policy. He therefore ordered a trial to ascertain liability. The settlement reached by the parties obvi-

ates the need for that trial.

—ACLU

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September unemployment edges down as people continue to leave the workforce

Dean Baker

Jobs Byte—Workers with less than a high school degree saw a drop of 1.0 percentage point in their unemployment rate over the last year.

The unemployment rate edged down to 7.2 percent in September, the lowest level since November of 2008. The Labor Department's establishment survey showed a gain of 148,000 jobs. With modest upward revisions to the prior two months' data, this brings the average rate of job growth over the last three months to 143,000. This compares with an average rate of job growth of 186,000 a month over the last year.

In spite of the September drop in unemployment, the employment-to-population rate (EPOP) remained unchanged at 58.6 percent. This continues the pattern that we have seen throughout the recovery as the unemployment rate falls mainly because workers leave the labor market. The unemployment rate is now down by 2.8 percentage points from its 10.0 percent peak in October of 2009. However, the EPOP is up just 0.4 percentage points from its low point in June of 2011. Over the last year the EPOP actually edged down by 0.1 percentage point, while the unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points. This drop in labor force participation is now occurring at an equal pace among men and women, with the participation of both dropping 0.5 percentage points in the last year.

By educational attainment, workers with less than a high school degree were the big winners in September with a drop of a full percentage point in their unemployment rate to 10.3 percent. That is down from a peak of 15.7 percent in November of 2010. This decline was also accompanied by a drop of 0.3 percentage points in the EPOP over the last month, but over the last year the EPOP for the least-educated workers is down

by just 0.1 percentage point. This is also likely due to the aging of the population since older workers disproportionately lack high school degrees. The strong relative gains by workers with the least education does not easily fit with accounts of the economy increasingly demanding higher-skilled workers.

Foreign-born workers also seem to be doing relatively well in the recovery. In the last year their unemployment rate is down by 1.1 percentage point to 6.5 percent, while their EPOP rose by 1.0 percentage points to 61.9 percent. By comparison, the unemployment rate for native-born workers fell by just 0.5 percentage points to 7.1 percent.

Other data in the household survey were mostly positive. The percentage of unemployment due to people voluntary quitting their jobs rose back to 8.8 percent, tying the high for the recovery hit in June. The duration measures were little changed, although the share of the unemployed who were out of work for more than 27 weeks fell 1.0 percentage point to 36.9 percent, the lowest since October of 2009. However, this is probably more attributable to shorter benefit duration than an improvement in job prospects. The number of people working part time continued to fall back, continuing the trend of the last three years.

The establishment data suggest that the modest pace of job growth seen over the last year may be slowing further. On closer inspection, the September data look even worse than the headline number. The job growth reported in several sectors was almost certainly an anomaly.

For example, wholesale trade reportedly added 16,100 jobs, the largest gain since January of 2012. Transit and ground transportation added 17,900 jobs, although this was mostly reversing a 22,100 drop reported for July. And state and local government education added 29,300 jobs in September after adding 43,000 in August. All of these rises are likely flukes that will not be re-

peated in the months ahead, if not actually reversed.

On the other side, health care created just 6,800 jobs, while restaurants lost 7,100 jobs. This compares with average monthly job growth over the year of 22,000 and 25,000, respectively.

Hours were unchanged in September, while the average hourly wage increased at a 1.8 percent annual rate over the last three months. This is down slightly from a 2.1 percent rate of increase over the last year.

On the whole, this is not a very en-

couraging report. It reinforces the notion that the economy had slowed in the third quarter. This is before any negative effects of the shutdown.

Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC, writes a weekly column for the Guardian, the Huffington Post, TruthOut, and received his Ph.D in economics from the University of Michigan.

CEPR's Jobs Byte is published each month upon release of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' employment report and is reprinted in WIP with permission.

International "war" on illegal drugs is failing to curb supply

Over the past 20 years, street prices have fallen while potency has increased,

BMJ OPEN—The international war on illegal drugs is failing to curb supply, despite the increasing amounts of resource being ploughed into law enforcement activities, finds research published in the online journal BMJ Open.

Since 1990, the street price of illegal drugs has fallen in real terms while the purity/potency has generally increased, both of which are indicators of availability.

The United Nations recently estimated that the illicit drug trade is worth at least US \$350 billion every year. And needle sharing is one of the key drivers of blood borne infections, including HIV. The drug trade is also linked to high rates of violence.

Over the past several decades most national drug control strategies have focused on law enforcement to curb supply, despite calls to explore approaches, such as decriminalisation and strict legal regulation.

The researchers analysed data from seven international government-funded drug surveillance systems, which had at least 10 years of information on the price and purity of cannabis, cocaine and opiates, including heroin.

They also reviewed the number of seizures of illegal drugs in drug production regions and rates of consumption in markets where demand for illegal drugs is high.

Three of the seven surveillance systems reported on international data; three reported on US data; and one reported on data from Australia. In some cases the data went back as far as 1975, with the most recent data going back to 2001.

Three major trends emerged from the data analysis: the purity/potency of illegal drugs either generally remained stable or increased between 1990 and 2010; with few exceptions, the street price generally fell; and seizures of drugs increased in both the countries of major supply and demand.

In the US, after adjusting for inflation and purity, the average street price of heroin, cocaine and cannabis fell by 81%, 80%, and 86%, respectively, whereas the purity and/or potency of these drugs increased by 60%, 11%, and 161%, respectively.

Similar trends were observed in Europe where, during the same period, the average price of opiates and cocaine, adjusted for inflation and purity, decreased by 74% and 51%, respectively,

and in Australia, where the price of cocaine fell by 14% and the price of heroin and cannabis dropped by 49%.

In the US seizures of cocaine roughly halved between 1990 and 2010, but those of cannabis and heroin rose by 465% and 29%, respectively; in Europe seizures of cocaine and can-

nabis fluctuated, but seizures of heroin had risen 380% by 2009.

On the basis of the data, the authors conclude, as previous studies have, "that the global supply of illicit drugs has likely not been reduced in the previous two decades."

They add: "In particular, the data presented in this study suggest that the supply of opiates and cannabis have increased, given the increasing potency and decreasing prices of these illegal commodities."

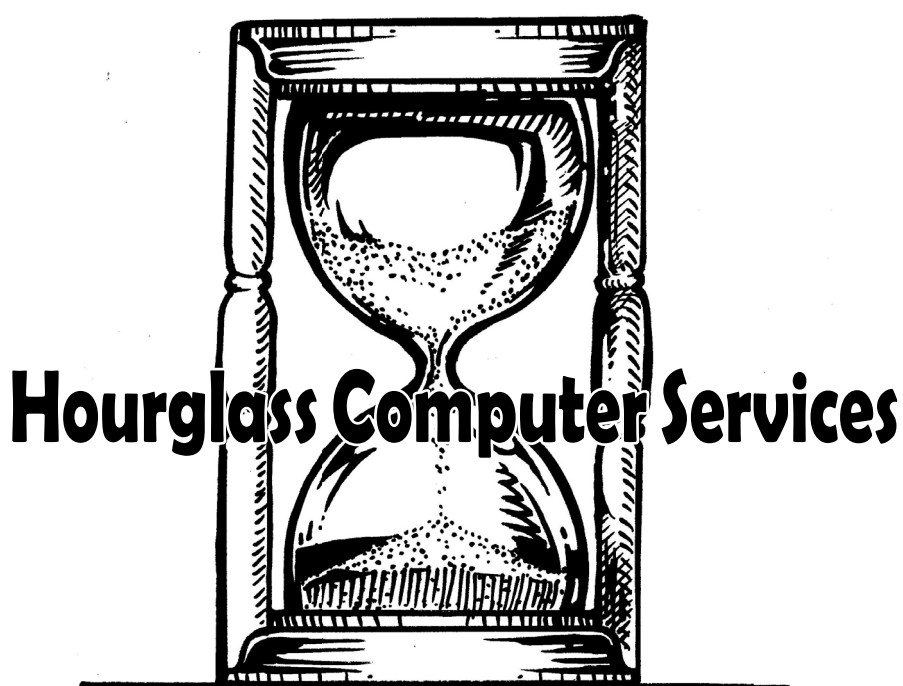
And they conclude: "These findings suggest that expanding efforts at controlling the global illegal drug market through law enforcement are failing."

"It is hoped that this study highlights the need to re-examine the effectiveness of national and international drug strategies that place a disproportionate emphasis on supply reduction at the expense of evidence based prevention and treatment of problematic illegal drug use," they add.

In an accompanying podcast, co-author Dan Werb says that other indicators of the effectiveness of illegal drug policies are needed, such as rates of HIV related transmission.

BMJ OPEN is an open access, online-only general medical journal dedicated to publishing research from all disciplines and therapeutic areas.

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► **Street feed** cont. from page 1.

the adults double check for anything they missed, throwing away whatever's left before leaving. No evidence has been found to justify the littering claims. The 4th Ave Tav even lets Crazy Faith dispose of it's trash in their dumpster, which adds over \$100 a month to the bar's garbage bill, a cost they happily cover.

To the people they serve, Crazy Faith is much more than a feed—it's a family. Ben Charles describes Crazy Faith as food for the soul; the actual food is second to the love and sense of community fostered by the congregation. Jeremiah Sullivan, a Crazy Faith participant and volunteer of two years, considers his street family to be his "family away from family." To him the Thursday feed is about liveliness. It is, in his words, "a place I know I will run into friends and, no matter how bad I feel, I will always feel a little better." For one of the cooks, Heather, it is the part of the week she looks forward to most.

There have been no known incidents of assault, theft, or drug use during or resulting from Crazy Faith's outreach. This leaves the assumption that City Hall views a large gathering of Olympia's homeless and low-income populations as an inherent threat to public safety. On October 1 Ben Charles and about thirty members of the Crazy Faith street family attended an Olympia City Council meeting to state their case for continuing the feed. Several of members of the community spoke on Crazy Faith's behalf along with Mr. Charles, two business owners, and an employee of Terra Firma Cosmetics, who urged the city to "please not treat these people with the 'don't feed the animals' attitude. It is a basic human right to eat." Mr. Charles made the point that "Crazy Faith is providing a service that lightens the load of government responsibility."

Those who spoke against Crazy Faith were using the organization as a figurehead for the entirety of downtown's

homeless population. Melinda Atkinson, a Lacey schoolteacher who lives in Olympia, argued that the homeless population is ruining downtown Olympia. According to her, "[People] are not coming [downtown] anymore, in large part because of the homeless. I am not saying that I think we should[n't] feed the homeless, but, like Ben said, I understand feeling abandoned and ma-

flated his loss in business over a five-year period with a feed Crazy Faith has been doing for less than half that time. Furthermore, his salon closes at 5:30pm, half an hour before the once-weekly feed begins. Other salons, such as Jamie Lee and Company, located on the same street as Euphorium, stay open until 7 pm and do not have trouble booking clients in the evening.

The city government seemed to give more credence to the claims by Morlan and Atkinson than those directly related to Crazy Faith's outreach. Thanking Mr. Morlan for his opinion Councilmember Roe emphasized that, "It's about the manners in how people treat each other. Those getting fed by Crazy Faith, in turn have to have courtesy to those who are trying to shop and just be citizens downtown."

Mr. Hall also told Crazy Faith that they need a permit to conduct their feed on city property, a statement that contradicts the information Mr. Charles was given by City Inspector Tom Hill a month prior. According to multiple witnesses Mr. Charles spoke with Steve Hall and Mayor Buxbaum after the meeting to inquire about the permit he would need in order to continue the feed. They were elusive about which permit it was, the process Ben would have to go through in order to get it, and if such a permit even exists. The document in question seems to be the city's "temporary use permit," but this permit requires the applicant to be a business. Crazy Faith is not a business, nor is it a legally recognized charitable organization or nonprofit. It is merely a loose collective of individuals who perform charitable outreach, making their get-togethers public assembly, which is protected under the first amendment. Tom Hill has since stated that he is working on developing a citywide parking lot use permit to regulate situations such as this. The consensus among Crazy Faith is they are not breaking any

laws, but the city government is now rewriting the laws so that they will be.

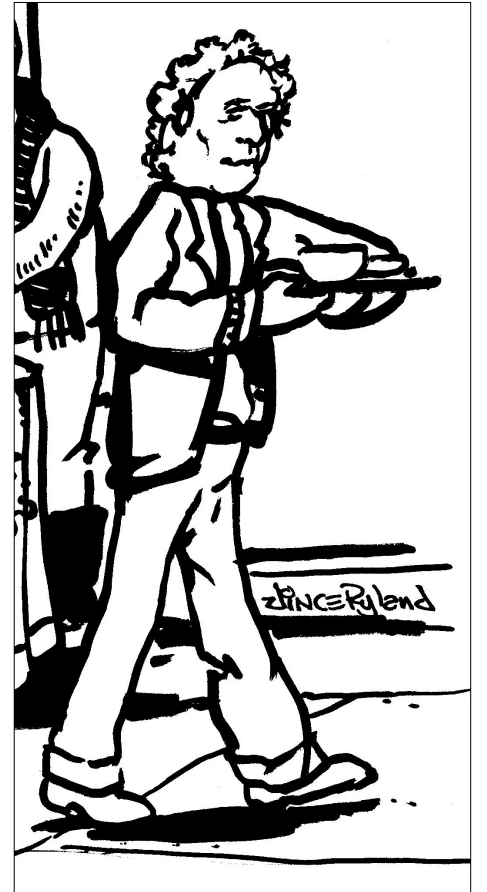
An email exchange between Mr. Charles and Mr. Hall would seem to confirm this. On October 8 Ben wrote Steve requesting "the city to issue a formal written notice prohibiting Crazy Faith from utilizing the location at State and Washington as well as the law that gives the city the authority to do so."

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nipulated, but for a different reason. I feel manipulated because we are being asked to feel pity for some people who are changing the way I am able to feed my family. Just like these folks can't eat for whatever reason, we're not going to be able to eat and provide a roof for much longer if this type of thing continues. Nobody comes downtown."

This is very similar to the rationale used by Randy Morlan, owner of the Euphorium Salon & Spa on 4th and Franklin. According to Mr. Morlan, "By having the services in downtown Olympia we are encouraging loitering, which has cost my business immensely. In the last five years I have lost 20% of my business because no one will come down past dark, and a lot of people won't come at all. It's because they're hounded by panhandlers and groups of people that are scary to them... I am not against the homeless. I want you people to be taken care of and hopefully find your way in the community. I have been here my whole life and all I know is, by the concentration of those people downtown, they're forcing people out of my business."

It is peculiar for Mr. Morlan to con-



The reply Mr. Charles received did not honor the request or provide any new information:

I trust that you are trying to do the right thing. I think a formal process for identifying violations of the law is the least productive approach. I can tell you that your activities violate the requirement for a temporary use permit under the City's land use codes and your interference with parking operations and use of sidewalk violates the City's Pedestrian interference ordinance.

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My hope was that you would see that underlying these legal issues is a greater concern about public safety created by your activities. I am confident that you do not want to see someone get hit by a car while rushing across State Avenue, nor do you want your good deeds to lead to a confrontation in the parking lot between users.

So my direction is clear. I am saying only that you may not use the lot at State and Washington. It is unsafe to continue to do so. I sincerely wish you well in your efforts to feed the hungry.

Steve Hall has repeatedly declared that he is only against Crazy Faith doing outreach in their current location but not against the feed itself. Several members of City Government have stated that they may approve of the feed at another location, some even expressing interest in helping find Crazy Faith

Food assistance benefits to drop for nearly 47 million Americans this month

CBPP—All of the more than 47 million Americans, including 22 million children, who receive food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) will see their benefits cut this fall, according to new data that the U.S. Department of Agriculture released today and discussed in a new report from the Washington, DC-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

That’s because a modest boost in benefits for all SNAP recipients that policymakers included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to strengthen the economy and ease hardship expires on October 31. Beginning November 1, every SNAP household in America will face cuts to already modest assistance to purchase food. For a family of three, that cut will mean a reduction of \$29 a month — \$319 for the remaining 11 months of the fiscal year — a serious loss for families whose benefits will, after this cut, average less than \$1.40 per person, per meal.

“Millions of families’ budgets have been stretched to the breaking point during the economic recession and the long recovery,” stated Stacy Dean, Vice President for Food Assistance Policy and an author of the report. “Whether someone has lost a job, or is working at a job that does not pay enough to keep food on the table, this modest increase in food assistance is providing a vital lifeline to keep families afloat.”

SNAP is one of the fastest, most effective ways to stimulate a struggling economy, with every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generating about \$1.70 in economic activity.

The across-the-board cuts scheduled for November will reduce the program by \$5 billion in fiscal year 2014 alone. Cuts of that magnitude will have a significant impact on low-income families.

Dean continued, “For the first time in the program’s history, every SNAP recipient will see a cut in their benefits—including 22 million children. These cuts will be particularly painful for the many families who struggle to have enough to eat at the end of each month even with SNAP assistance.”

On top of these across-the-board cuts to the program, the House of Representatives recently considered legislation that would have cut \$20 billion from SNAP, eliminating food assistance for nearly 2 million people and incentivizing states to cut families off of the program. The House is considering and could vote on even deeper cuts to the program in the coming weeks.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and programs. It is supported primarily by foundation grants.

a new spot. They have yet to chime in with suggestions. For Crazy Faith the new location would have to be downtown because that is where the people it serves are concentrated. Moving the feed away from downtown would not move the homeless population with it; they would just be making the food less accessible to the people it benefits. According to Mr. Charles, “Crazy Faith goes where we are needed. Where we go is our Church. We meet people where they are, on their terms, and bring the love.”

City Hall has made an ongoing attempt to uproot downtown Olympia’s homeless population. The issue with Crazy Faith is just the latest example. Last January twenty homeless youth began sleeping in a covered area in front of City Hall to escape the winter cold. The following month the Olympia City Council passed an ordinance that forbids folks from sleeping on city-owned property. Steve Hall’s rationale was that the homeless made city employees feel unsafe. At the time City Hall vowed to find new solutions to serve the home-

► **Kyle Taylor Lucas** cont. from page 1.

“I like to call myself both a Tulalip tribal citizen and a Tumwater citizen,” she shared, when asked about her native background. Her father’s people are the Tulalip Tribes whose reservation is located north of Everett. Her mother’s people are the Lytton and Cooks Ferry Indian Bands of the Nlaka’pamux Nation in B.C. Canada.

As Tribal Affairs Manager for the Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, WA, where Kyle was appointed to the executive teams of two Commissioners of Public Lands, Kyle worked to promote agency appreciation for tribal governance, history, and culture and to promote tribal understanding of the state’s regulatory and administrative limitations. She was praised for her ability to help overcome conflict, avoid litigation, and to create partnerships. Then serving the Tulalip Tribe as Government Affairs Manager, Kyle advocated tribal policy positions and served as a delegate to state and national tribal committees and commissions, mitigating for fisheries, wildlife, and cultural and archeological resources. Most recently, she was Executive Director to the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs in Olympia, serving as the primary tribal policy adviser to the Governor, and primary liaison between state executive branch agencies and federally recognized tribes. Her work in the Governor’s office saw her interfacing with constituents on a variety of complex state and tribal policy issues, addressing: social and health services, law enforcement and courts, education, the environment, economic development, water policy and law, treaty fisheries, and natural and cultural resources.

Kyle said “In addition to my unique experience and perspectives as a woman of color, as an Indigenous woman, and coming from an impoverished socio-economic background, it is important to note that I also bring twenty years of successful public policy and executive experience—including management of large public budgets to my work with the Tumwater City Council.”

I asked her what issues the Council is currently facing that hold her attention. She explained her belief that all city councils, these days, have the moral duty not only to take care of their traditional roles of “paving potholes and ensuring public safety and other essential services,” but to go beyond to address the bigger societal issues of our times: climate change, housing, the homeless, environmental sustainability, poverty,

less community, but in the intervening months this has not been the case. By leaving the people nowhere to go, City Hall has been relying on private organizations to fill the void. It does not make sense to outsource the well-being of a large sector of your population to non-governmental entities and then crack down on those groups as they step up to the plate.

Coercive tactics do nothing to address the roots of economic inequality that lead to Olympia and many other urban areas around the country having a disproportionately large homeless population. If the city wants to reduce homelessness they should be providing resources to aid and uplift those in poverty. Attacking organizations that do just that is counter productive and only perpetuates the tension between the homeless and the officials elected to safeguard the community of which they are a part. I spoke with Darren Tamble, a member of the Crazy Faith street family, who summarized the situation aptly. “The city’s tired of the homeless problem but they’re not do-

ing anything to help. They’re down to build a new sculpture in front of city hall with a garden. They’re willing to redecorate their front yard as they try to stop people who are helping.”

In the intervening month Crazy Faith has continued their outreach and the City of Olympia has taken no further action. Even if the city continues to pursue the shutdown, Mr. Charles has vowed to continue being there to feed his street family. “The feed will continue either way. It’s a necessity for the community. The impact without us being there will be far greater. What are we doing that is so wrong? There are no heaps of trash. It is a peaceful gathering. It bums me out to think a person would look at this and not see the bigger benefits. This is not an isolated situation for street families in Olympia. It is happening and growing.” Ben believes that City Hall will resume the crackdown once the ballots have been cast in November’s election. Until then, bon appétit.

Jordan Beaudry has a pen in his pocket and a passion for social justice.

and the punitive approach our culture has developed to solve problems. She pointed out that when these integrated issues are addressed locally, each community can do its part in solving the bigger picture. She believes the Sustainable Thurston’s “Creating Places Preserving Spaces” sustainable development plan is a huge step in the right direction with its integrated, holistic, long-term approach which seeks to address the issues just mentioned. “Think globally, yet act locally,” seems to be

Every citizen should have a roof over her or his head. It is unacceptable to me that more than 500 students in our high school population are homeless, that any child is homeless, yet we plan for and around it.

very much a part of Kyle’s approach to wise community government.

Kyle said the significant lack of low-income housing in Thurston County is one of her primary areas of focus on the City Council. She pointed to two Thurston Regional Planning Council reports “Fair Housing Equity” and “Regional Housing Plan” of this year, each of which documents the dearth of low-income and affordable housing in our tri-city area. Kyle believes it is a human rights and social justice issue and is committed to addressing it. “Every citizen should have a roof over her or his head. It is unacceptable to me that more than 500 students in our high school population are homeless, that any child is homeless, yet we plan for and around it. We speak in numbers, statistics. I want to work to change this dynamic—the terrible, mean, acceptance of this as status quo.”

Kyle’s also offered the statistic that, due to the lack of adequate housing and job opportunities on Indian reservations, about 90% of America’s Indian population live in urban environments with few resources. Reflecting on the “Indian Boarding School Era,” she told me that like so many from that time, her mother was forcibly taken from her family and placed in a boarding school, ultimately affecting Kyle’s own child-

hood with the trauma of five foster homes. This breaking apart of families and undermining of language and culture contribute to the many challenges experienced by American Indians and is apparent on reservations across this country. “The boarding schools very much influenced what is happening today in Indian Country with much of the unresolved grief and trauma our people endured then.” What helped pull her out of these hardships in her own life? “I was blessed,” she said, “by those around me with great compassion and empathy, who inspired me to become an activist for social justice and human rights.” This has motivated her to work, today, for “all people” in her community to create diverse and affordable housing.

Kyle’s tenure so far on the Council has given her the opportunity to address the issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s). These include, among others: neglect, physical and sexual abuse, alcohol and drugs, incarcerated parents and the witnessing of domestic violence. Thurston County, she pointed out, has the third highest number of ACE’s in the state. Relating back to her Native connections, she said that the tribes call this phenomenon “multigenerational unresolved grief and trauma” and that it “deprives us of reaching our full potential.” As a Councilwoman, Kyle has been representing the City of Tumwater in public and private efforts to address this crisis by working with the Thurston Council on Children and Youth to identify community resources and create “resiliency” through the creation of personal and institutional support systems.

What does Kyle Taylor Lucas feel that she brings to the table that is unique? “At this time in our society and in our communities, when so many people are struggling, I relate to that struggle, coming from my unique ethnic, racial, and social background. I bring a passion for justice and a commitment to community.” It is apparent that her life experiences have shaped her perspective, one that is unlike anyone currently on or running for this Tumwater City Council position. It is a perspective that brings with it a clear sense of empathy and humanity to her process of policy-making.

You can contact Kyle Taylor Lucas at: <http://www.retainkyletaylorlucas.com/>

Desdra Dawning writes for the Olympia Food Co-op Newsletter and Works In Progress. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Northern Arizona University.



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I am the light when it is dark. I am the dark when I have no light. I am the water when I need to have something to keep me cool and wet.

When I have no water I am the snow and ice.

Think of me

Catching a fish by hand

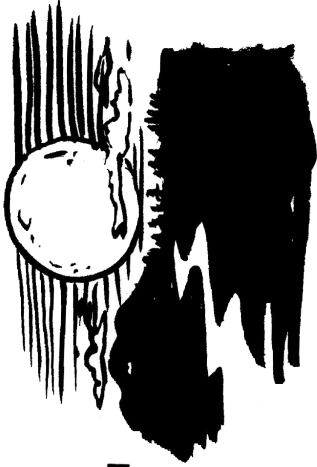
On a river

In a boat on water

While everyone sleeps

I am still awake midnight

That is all



Halen Ryland

Poem: Halen Donovan Ryland from Eagle Point, Alaska—age 12. Graphic: Vince Ryland

A warrant is now required for GPS device surveillance

PHILADELPHIA – The Third Circuit its movements. The decision in U.S. v. Katzin is the first time an appeals court has addressed this question since the Supreme Court ruled last year that attaching a GPS device to a car is a “search” under the Fourth Amendment. In that case, U.S.

v. Jones, the Supreme Court left open whether it was the type of search that requires a warrant and probable cause.

Today’s decision is a victory for all Americans because it ensures that the police cannot use powerful tracking technology without court supervision and a good reason to believe it will turn up evidence of wrong. —ACLU



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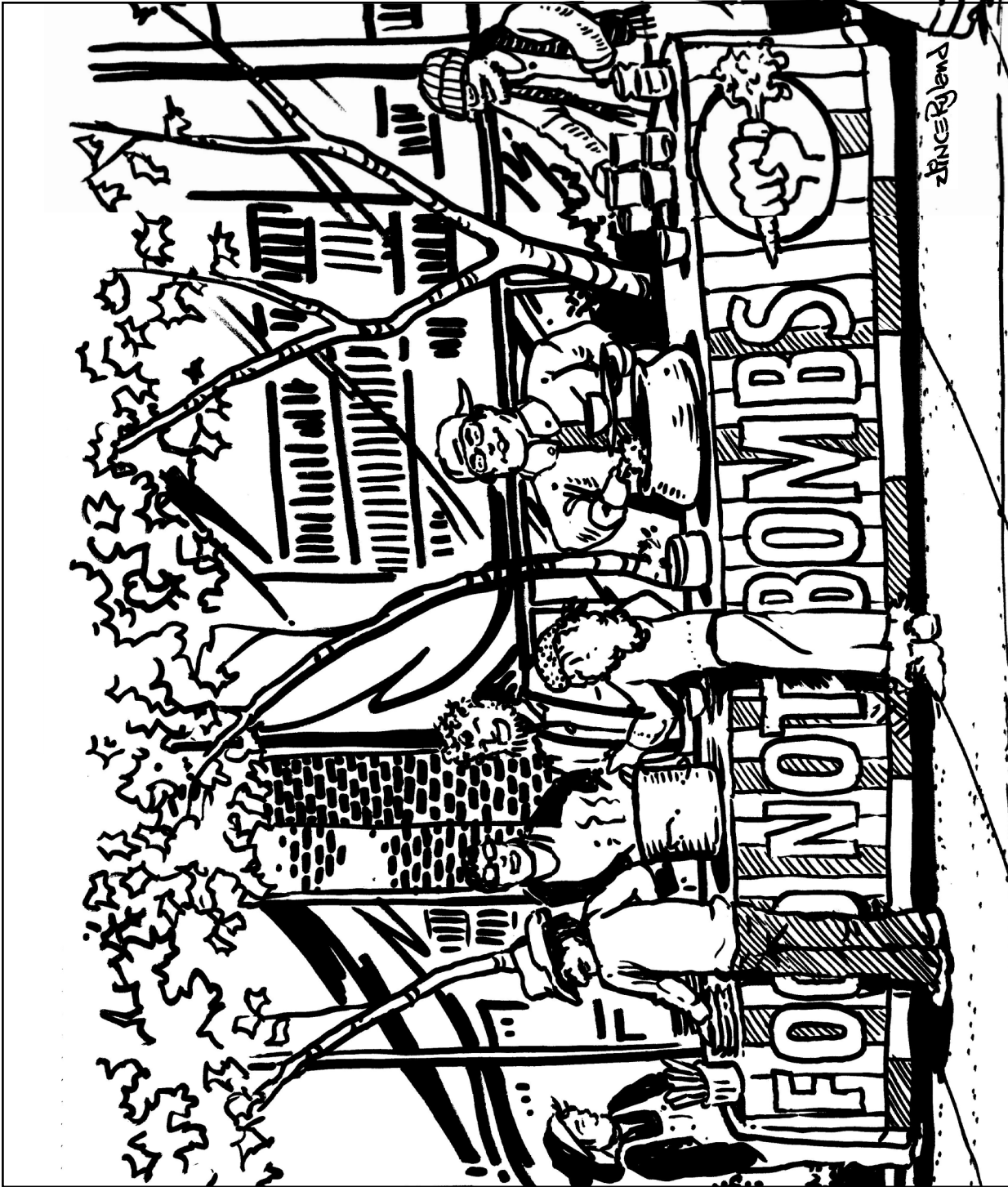


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CITY’S OBJECTION TO DOWNTOWN
STREET FEED FALLS FLAT

TUMWATER HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
RETAIN DIVERSITY ON ITS CITY COUNCIL

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