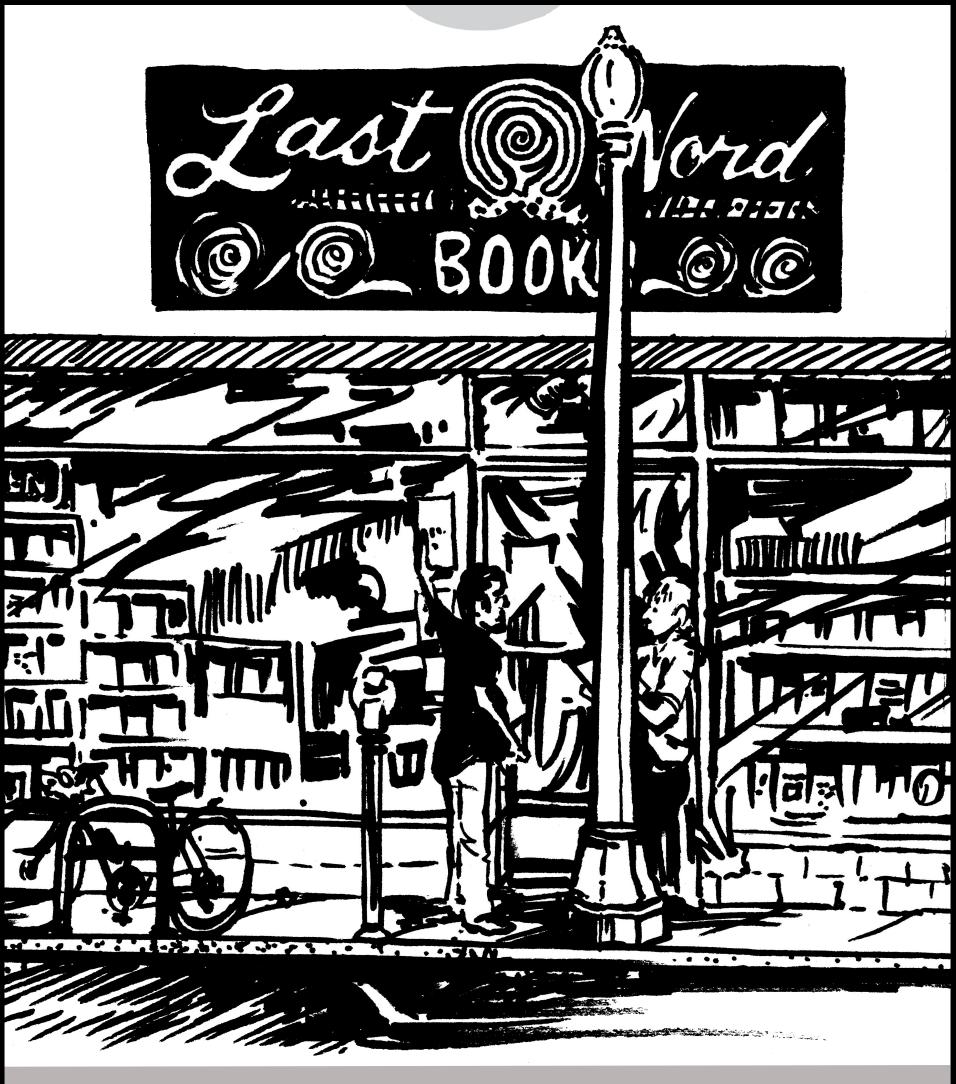
# WORKS IN PROGRESS



- Page 3 Scandal of income-based inequality in education: A strategy for addressing poverty that depends on not being poor in the first place

  What the heck is up with Denny? A bit of a jaw dropping interview with our 10th congressional district representative
- Page 5 Try science first: It's for everyone, to openly share ideas propelling forward the common progress
- Page 4 Kevin Stormans stumbles badly: Dana Walker sings the praises of Seattle's Real Change (but not Kevin Stormans)
- Page 5 How the revolving door came unhinged: The collusion of government and corporations to crush dissent
- Page 6 Never the owner of his own ashes: Argentine poet Juan Gelman—"a voice in defense of the left, democracy, and humanist values"
- Page 9 Review of the Fifth Estate (2013): The movie—"fiction masquerading as fact"—pushed WikiLeaks back into the spotlight
- Page 11 Ground Zero Center: Honoring Dr. King by speaking/acting against nuclear weapons
- Page 12 Making legislative priorities heard in Olympia: Washington CAN! (Community Action Network), and POWER! march to the Capitol

### **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

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### Submission Deadline

# Friday, February 16 olywip@gmail.com

### **Proofreading Meeting**

Saturday ◆ February 22 ◆ 1 pm Lacey Timberland Library in

the Group Study Area
(Be there for the first read!)

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On the front cover —

"Last Word Books"

Graphic Artist: Vince Ryland

# Judge Rhodes' rejects Detroit's proposal to exit swaps deal

NEW YORK (Jan 16) Today, US Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes rejected a proposal by Detroit's Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr to pay off a complex financial deal that was originated in 2005 and turned catastrophic for the city during the recession.

The City's proposal to pay off UBS and Bank of America for the deals, which was renegotiated down from \$230 million to \$165 million after Rhodes ordered the banks and the city back to the bargaining table in December, was denied again for being too generous. The Detroit Free Press characterized Rhodes's decision as a "stunning blow to global banks UBS and Bank of America Merrill Lynch."

"This is a huge win for the people of Detroit," said Heather McGhee, Vice President of Policy & Outreach. "Judge Rhodes called out the deal for what it was: a massive giveaway to the banks. He deserves praise for putting the city first."

"There were so many indications that the swaps deal was bad at its inception," said Demos Senior Fellow Wallace Turbeville and author of the report The Detroit Bankruptcy. "That the Emergency Manager reached a settlement just three days before he filed for bankruptcy was a very troubling thing to do. Judge Rhodes is right to reject the settlement and call attention to the questionable aspects of the original derivative deals."

-Demos.org

# No job openings for more than three out of five job seekers

(Jan 17) The Job Openings and Labor Turnover data released this morning by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the ratio of job seekers to job openings in November was 2.7-to-1. This means that for more than three out of five job seekers, there simply are no jobs. In her analysis, EPI Economist Heidi Shierholz notes the improvement in the ratio of job seekers to job openings in this recovery (from a peak of 6.7-to-1 in July 2009) overstates the improvement in job opportunities.

"Most of the decline in the number of job seekers is because roughly 6 million would-be workers are sidelined; they are neither employed nor looking for work due to the weak labor market," said Shierholz. "These missing workers are not counted as unemployed, but many will become job seekers when a robust jobs recovery finally begins, so job openings will be needed for them, too."

# Prominent economists endorse \$10.10 minimum wage

-Economic Policy Institute

(Jan14)Today, prominent economists, including 7 Nobel Prize winners and 8 former presidents of the American Economic Association, signed a letter to the president and Congress endorsing the economic benefits of raising the minimum wage to \$10.10. The letter urges lawmakers to immediately enact a three-step raise of 95 cents a year for three years—which would mean a minimum wage of \$10.10 by 2016—and then index it to protect against inflation. This increase would mean minimum-wage workers who work full time would see a raise from their current salary of roughly \$15,000 to roughly \$21,000. The proposals would also raise the tipped minimum wage to 70 percent of the regular minimum.

"Let's be clear: our federal minimum wage of just \$7.25, which has not budged in more than four years, is now a poverty wage. No American who works a full-time job should have to struggle to put food on the table or pay the bills," said Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. "All around the country, we're seeing the impact of growing income inequality and stagnant wages on millions of American families. Raising the minimum wage will help narrow the income gap and enable millions of lowwage working Americans to make ends meet.

"As the letter released by the Economic Policy Institute shows, economists and experts agree that raising the minimum wage isn't just the morally right thing to do, it's also the smart thing to do for our economy, sending \$22 billion into the economy and adding 85,000 jobs over three years thanks to higher consumer demand. Now is the time for action."

-Economic Policy Institute

# Finding Low Unemployment in all the Wrong Places

(Jan10) The December employment report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the excessive optimism in recent weeks about strong acceleration in the labor market is likely misplaced. EPI Economist Heidi Shierholz notes that while the unemployment rate dropped from 7.0 percent to 6.7 percent in December, most of the improvement was not for "good" reasons. Instead, the drop was due to potential workers dropping out of, or never entering, the labor force because job opportunities are weak. The share of the working-age population with a job did not increase in December and the labor force participation rate dropped back down to its lowest point in more than 35 years.

Further, the number of "missing workers" increased from 5.6 million to 6.0 million. (Missing workers are jobless workers who are not actively seeking work but who would be either employed or looking for work if job opportunities were stronger, after accounting for longer-run demographic trends.) If these workers were in the labor force looking for work, the unemployment rate would be 10.2 percent instead of 6.7 percent.

-Economic Policy Institute

# On recession's sixth anniversary, we're still 8 million jobs short

(Jan 9) Six years after the onset of the Great Recession, the U.S. economy needs nearly 8 million jobs to return to pre-recession health, a new Economic Policy Institute report finds. In Six Years From its Beginning, the Great Recession's Shadow Looms over the Labor Market, EPI economist Heidi Shierholz shows that while some economic indicatorssuch as the stock market and corporate profits—have improved substantially since the Great Recession, the labor market remains extraordinarily weak, with few job opportunities, crushing levels of long-term unemployment, and depressed wages. Today's weak labor market is due to businesses not seeing demand for goods and services rise rapidly enough to necessitate significantly increased hiring. This demonstrates the importance of expansionary fiscal policy, including large-scale ongoing public investments, the restoration of public services and public-sector employment cut in the recession and its aftermath, and the renewal of federal unemployment insurance benefits.

All told, the economy still needs 7.9 million jobs to return to pre-recession health, and at the current pace of job growth, it would take roughly five more years to get there.

"American workers are still reeling from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression," said Shierholz, "but it doesn't have to be this way. Austerity driven by historically slow rates of public spending has held the economy back. Government policies, including investments in infrastructure, public sector jobs, and federal unemployment insurance benefits could generate demand for workers and increase employment quickly."

# Equal pay for working women would reduce poverty and grow the American economy

(Jan 13) Washington, DC—According to a regression analysis of federal data by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), the poverty rate for working women would be cut in half if women were paid the same as comparable men. The analysis estimates the U.S. economy would have produced income of \$447.6 billion more if women received equal pay, which represents 2.9 percent of 2012

gross domestic product (GDP).

Persistent earnings inequality for working women translates into lower pay, less family income, and more poverty in families with a working woman. About 71 percent of all mothers in the United States work for pay. One-third are single mothers and often the sole support of their families.

"The Shriver Report emphasizes that women play a vital role in the American economy and in the financial security of families around the country," said IWPR President Heidi Hartmann, Ph.D. "Paying women fairly for their work would go a long way in reducing poverty and giving the economy the jump start it needs."

Additional findings include:

- 59.3 percent of women would earn more if working women were paid the same as men of the same age with similar education and hours of work.
- The poverty rate for women would be cut in half, falling to 3.9 percent from 8.1 percent among working women.
   The very high poverty rate for working single mothers would fall by nearly half, from 28.7 percent to 15.0 percent.
- The total increase in women's earnings with pay equity represents more than 14 times what the Federal and state governments spent in fiscal year 2012 on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

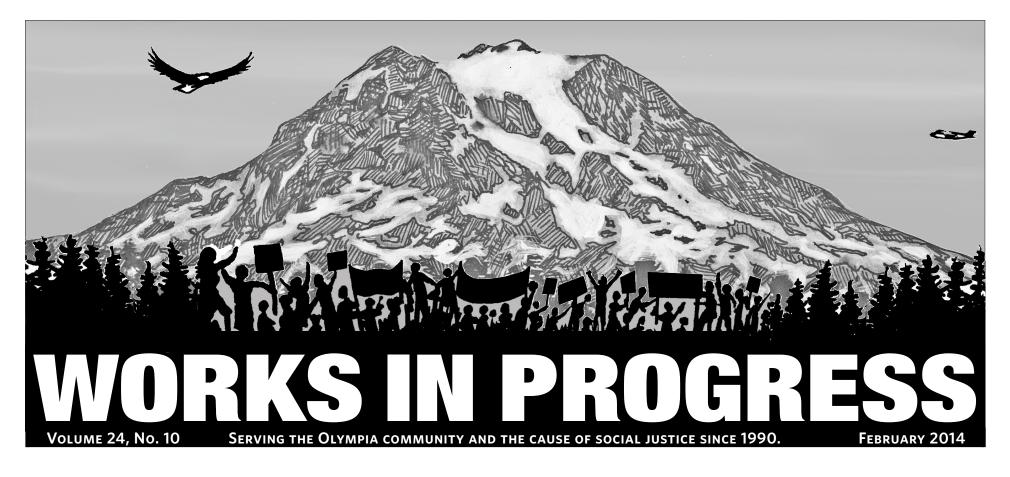
--Institute for Women's Policy Research

# Higher education pays off for older Americans at different ages

(Jan 02) Washington, DC-New research from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) finds higher education pays off for women and men for all ages 50 and older, including for the oldest group studied, those 75 and older. Those with higher levels of education—meaning those with at least some education beyond high school—work more at older ages and earn more per hour at older ages, relative to those with less education. Women, however, earn less at every age and education level than men, and often earn about the same as men who are at the educational level below them. The higher hourly wages workers with higher education earn (relative to those with no education beyond high school) decline with age for both women and men.

Findings from the study include:

- Women in the two highest education groups earn the same as men one educational group lower. Women with a Bachelor's degree earn about what men with some college or an Associate's degree earn, and women with a postgraduate education-Master's, PhD, or professional degree—earn wages similar to men with a Bachelor's degree. At ages 65 and older, women with a Bachelor's degree or more earn \$3-\$9 more per hour than women without postsecondary education, and men with postsecondary education earn \$4-\$12 more per hour (depending on age and higher education level).
- Women with advanced degrees lose more earnings with age than men do.
- Estimated earnings of older Americans age 65 until their eventual retirement are three to almost five times higher for those with advanced degrees compared to those with only high school or less (and two to almost three times higher for those with Bachelor's degrees).
- The largest occupations for older women and men reveal considerable gender differences. Not only is there little overlap in the largest occupations for men and women aged 50 and older—only retail salespersons appear in the women's and men's lists of their ten largest occupations—but the occupations in which older men work pay more. For those aged 75 and older, several very high wage occupations are among the most common for men: physicians and surgeons (at \$64.54 per hour), lawyers and judges (at \$59.13 per hour), and chief executives and legislators (at \$48.00 per hour). For older women of the same age group, the highest paying occupation in the top ten list is secretary and receptionist at \$15.37 per hour.



# Scandal of income-based inequality in education

Education as a strategy for addressing poverty depends on not being poor in the first place.

Emily Lardner

The way we understand poverty determines what we do about it. That's the argument Sasha Abramsky makes in his new book, The American Way of Pov-

erty: How the Other Half Still Lives, published by The Nation in 2013. Abramsky, who will be speaking in the Longhouse at Evergreen State College on February 19 at 6pm, argues that defining poverty as a tragedy may provoke compassion. But, he writes, what we are witnessing today isn't a tragedy. It's a scandal, "a subtle difference,

but an important one. What turns poverty into a scandal rather than a tragedy is the political landscape out of which it bubbles".

Inhabitants of the political landscape responsible for the scandal of increasing inequality and declining opportunity have adopted the position that education is the solution to both problems. Ironically, the surest predictor of educational success is family income. The better your income, the more likely you are to get a good education. Without significant changes in how we fund k-12 education and support low-income students through college, the success of education as a strategy for addressing poverty depends on not being poor in the first place.

One of the best thinkers about the relationship between education and income inequality today, Richard Rothstein, consistently argues that differences in educational achievement must be addressed side-by-side with the larger causes and consequences of inequality. We shouldn't be pushing for school reform without pushing for universal health care at the same time, along with living wage jobs and affordable housing.

Given the caveat that changing the material conditions of students' lives outside the classroom is critical to increasing educational achievement, what can be done now?

We need fairness in school funding. The Washington State Supreme Court is compelling the Legislature to increase its funding of basic education (K-12) to fulfill the Washington State Constitution promise of making "ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

Washington needs to increase its funding for basic education. The Edu-

cation Law Center (ELC), based at Rutgers Graduate School, published a National Report Card that ranks school funding fairness. One measure used by authors Bruce Baker, David Sciarra and Danielle Farrie is "effort," which they define as the level of effort a state

Richard Rothstein consistently argues that differences in educational achievement must be addressed sideby-side with the larger causes and consequences of inequality.

> makes to fairly fund its public schools. They calculate effort by dividing the sum of state and local revenue per pupil by the state GDP. Washington State got an F in 2007, 2008, and 2009, one of only ten states to be rated so poorly.

> More funding alone isn't enough. Better policies need to be in place to

address inequality. According to the ELC's 2012 National Report Card, in half of Washington state's school districts, ten to twenty percent of students live in concentrated poverty; in nearly 20% of them, between twenty and thirty percent do. A progressive finance system would allocate more funding to districts with high levels of student poverty. Seventeen states provide greater funding to high poverty districts than

> to low-poverty districts. Sixteen have regressive funding systems, providing high-poverty districts with fewer funds than low-poverty districts. Fifteen states, WA State among them, have "flat" systems, with no appreciable difference in funding among high and low-poverty districts.

Income inequality has huge effects on college completion. And yet, the "college completion agenda" is our primary social policy for reducing income inequality.

In "Developing 20/20 Vision on the 20/20 Degree Attainment Goal: The Threat of Income-Based Inequality in Education," Pell Institute staff point

out that the U.S. ranks 12th out of 36 developed countries in the number of 25-34 year olds with some type of college degree. However, when they looked at degree attainment by income quartile, they found that 58.8 percent of individuals in the top half of income distribution earned bachelor's degrees by age 24. Only twelve percent of individuals from the bottom half of the income distribution earned bachelor's degrees by

Comparatively speaking, if 58.8% of all students attained bachelor's degrees by age 24, the US would have the highest share of bachelor degree recipients in the world. If 12% of all students attained bachelor's degrees by age 24, the rate at which students whose family incomes fall into the bottom half of income distribution earn them, the U.S. would be thirty-fifth of the thirtysix developed countries in educational achievement. Which country are we?

Some important projects are underway that are designed to address the material circumstances in low-income students' lives that jeopardize their education. One innovative program

▶ **SCANDAL,** continued on page 10.

# What the heck is up with Denny?

# A bit of a jaw dropping interview with our 10th congressional district representative interview and appreciated Congressman

Ed. note: This article was originally published in Janine's Little Hollywood blog.

United States Representative Denny Heck (D-WA10) went back to the other

Washington early in January, but during his two week Christmas break, he was home in Olympia.

Congressman Heck visited Quixote Village, Thurston County's new permanent community for the homeless, made several speaking engagements, toured

local businesses and non-profits, and relaxed with someone he calls his best friend, his wife, Paula.

The timing seemed to be right to check in with Heck after the completion of his first session of the 113th Congress as a freshman from the newly created 10th district. Little Hollywood requested an

Heck making time for this opportunity.

2010 census, encompasses parts or all of Thurston, Pierce and Mason Counties, with Joint Base Lewis-McChord thrown into the middle.

According to the website shop on Capitol Way in downtown

were introduced by someone other than a Democrat, according to the website GovTrack.us.

As Heck stated at a recent swearing-in ceremony of local officials in Thurston The 10th district, created after the County, "Never stop looking for common ground and always be civil—you have so little control over all the rest."

> This interview was conducted on January 4 at Batdorf and Bronson coffee

> > Olympia, the day after Boeing machinists approved a ten year contract.

> > Since the interview, some of the issues we discussed have already transpired, such as the Senate's confirmation on Monday of Janet Yellen as chair of the Federal Reserve, and yesterday's

movement by the Senate to extend federal unemployment compensation

Jumping right in, we stuck to my organized list of about 20 topics: questions about Boeing, the government shutdown, the federal minimum wage

▶ **DENNY HECK,** continued on page 12.

About the increased privatization of South Sound shores to the shellfish aquaculture industry, Heck said he prefers to think of it in terms of what the industry is doing to help global warming and ocean acidification.

> OpenCongress, Heck voted with fellow Democrats 93.1 percent of the time.

Accommodating a range of political and philosophical viewpoints, Heck ranked among the highest 15 percent among all representatives in joining bipartisan bills, and of the 115 bills that Heck cosponsored, 39 percent

Page 4 Works In Progress February 2014

### WA residents more likely to face downward economic mobility

Stagnated wages and declining social insurance programs are diminishing economic opportunity for Washington's working families

Seattle--A new report from the **Economic Opportunity Institute** highlights a crisis of economic inequality in Washington state, brought on by ever-higher barriers to upward economic mobility for middleclass and low-income workersincluding stagnating wages, declining workplace benefits, underemployment and low retirement savings.

"Through the middle part of the 20th century, the American economy grew, workers became more productive and working families across the economic spectrum enjoyed rising standards of living. A prosperous middle-class grew as the result of policies that invested in public goods and shared prosperity," stated Tatsuko Go Hollo, a policy associate at EOI and the report's author. "Today that trend is moving in reverse."

The report notes that only one-third of Americans experience upward economic mobility, and another third experience downward economic mobility. In Washington, however, residents are more likely to fall down the economic ladder: 32 percent of Washington residents experiencing downward mobility compared to 28 percent nationally.

The biggest driver of downward economic mobility is low job growth in middle-class, family-wage jobs. According to the report, overall job growth has been strong over the past decade—expanding by 34 percent from 1990 to 2012, compared to 22 percent nationally. But growth has been concentrated at the very top and very bottom rungs of the economy. High-income tech jobs have grown immensely, but low-income jobs—in sectors like food service, accommodation and hospitality/ leisure—are outpacing overall job growth. In those low-wage sectors, jobs grew by 45 percent from 1990 to 2012, compared to total nonfarm job growth of 34 percent over the same period. Without middle-income jobs, income disparity has widened over the past half-century.

The crisis of widening income inequality has been compounded by uneven wage growth in the top percent of income earners. Middle-class and low-income workers have seen stagnated wages over more than three decades. However, those in the top 10 percent have experienced a 31 percent increase in hourly wages. The top 20 percent of income earners are the only workers who have experienced increased wages since the start of the Great Recession.

Go Hollo says it doesn't have to be this way. "By focusing on policies that create opportunities for upward economic mobility, lawmakers in Olympia can strengthen the middle class, and build a stronger and more prosperous economy for Washington's working families. That means strengthening the minimum wage, supporting healthy workers through paid sick days and family leave plans, and creating retirement savings opportunities for low-income earners through universal retirement savings accounts."

The full report is available on the **Economic Policy Institute website:** http://www.eoionline.org/

Seattle-based Economic Opportunity Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy center dedicated to building an economy that works—for everyone. www.eoionline.org.

# **LETTER TO WORKS IN PROGRESS**

### Unhappy with Mr. Nguyen and OFC

Too bad about Nancy Koppelman being targeted because she was involved in the suit against the co-op's "disinvestment" strategy. She didn't like the co-op taking sides in the Palestinian war. With that suit, the co-op staff acknowledged the supremacy of its corporate identity and its decision-making mechanism became an unchallengeable person entity. Her seeking election to the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors was too much for Mr. Nguyen. He liked diversity, but not that kind. He moved on her in enforcement mode with his WIP piece.

Ms. Koppelman should not feel like the Lone Ranger. Mr. Nguyen targeted this writer five years ago after a piece of mine did not conform to his internationalist schtick.

At the westside co-op several months ago this writer was accosted when I remarked to the cashier that I would pay the higher price because I had heard that the co-op needed money to pay lawyers. The person in front of me in line overheard and falsely accused me of being involved in the divestiture suit. I denied it. She stared at me with dark eyes out of the side of her head and backed off

into a faceless nowhere without speaking melting my image in her data bank. "Age, race, sex, uppity."

This writer tended the Westside co-op's free store for many months on Saturday afternoon. Sometimes I'd have a car, park it next to the free store and play songs in the sunny day. Maybe the word got around among the internationalists enforcers that I avoided hanging up clothes that stunk too bad on Shabat. "Very suspicious: avoiding work on Saturday." This writer was fired from the free store and any volunteering at all by westside co-op staffer Mr. Ruiz (pending reeducation), he said. That is in process.

Internationalists have war over there and they want war over here and "purge" is always part of their struggle.

Garbanzo Russo

# Muslims need not apply

### T. Belle

The ACLU of Southern California recently exposed a secret program of the USCIS' (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services) that uses racial & religious profiling to discriminate against individuals from Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities. In a 76 page document titled "Muslims Need Not Apply - How USCIS Secretly Mandates the Discriminatory Delay and eventual Denial of Citizenship and Immigration Benefits to Aspiring Americans", the ACLU's report details how DHS (Department of Homeland Security), through CARRP (Controlled Application Review & Resolution Program), unconstitutionally delays and eventually denies immigration and naturalization of eligible individuals.

From the ACLU Report: "CARRP effectively turns over the immigration benefits application process to the FBI, allowing them to dictate to USCIS when or whether an application should be granted, denied, or held in abeyance. It also provides the FBI an opportunity to comment on USCIS's proposed decisions in immigration cases, to submit questions for USCIS to ask in interviews, and to suggest Requests for Evidence that USCIS should make.

CARRP requires USCIS officers to inform the FBI or other relevant law enforcement agencies as soon as an applicant it has labeled a "national security concern" has applied for an immigration benefit. As a result, far too often, the FBI exploits this information to blackmail applicants to work for them as informants, telling applicants that the FBI can help them get their long-delayed immigration application adjudicated and approved if they agree to snitch on

### **Playback Theatre Performance**

### **Stories of Wisdom** featuring The Thunders

### Friday, February 14, 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 The Thunders. They are powerful, mysterious, to be noticed, awakening, strong, dramatic, courageous, flashes of light through the darkness & virtuous!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 recreated with movement, music and dialogue.

their communities."

Through CARRP, USCIS has sought to circumvent Congress - which has sole authority under the Constitution to "establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization" - by establishing its own set of hidden & secret rules for adjudication. In doing so, it has fundamentally strayed not just from its duty to administer (not make) the laws governing immigration rights, but has also infused the immigration

**Cut the CARRP End USCIS's** 

discrimination against

**Muslims** 

### **ACLU INVITATION TO ACTION!**

Denying people the right to live in our country because of their perceived religion or nationality is un-American.

Under a secret, previously unknown program called the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program" (CARRP), the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) singles out people from perceived Muslim communities and instructs immigration officers to find pre-textual reasons to deny them benefits such as U.S. citizenship, asylum and legal residency.

Though national security may play a role in immigration policy, CARRP casts far too wide a net, snagging too many innocent, law-abiding and upstanding individuals who pose no threat to our national security. The fact that someone is from a Muslimmajority country, or that he or she gave a lawful donation to a Muslim charity, should not render that person ineligible for citizenship. This program is downright discriminatory, unfair and un-American.

Below are some points you might consider & include in your ACTION letter to USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas for reforming CARRP:

First, decisions to deny applications must be made on the basis of statutory criteria, not a secret policy. The program should not bar people from obtaining immigration rights for which they are legally eligible and should not cause unlawful delays in adjudication beyond statutory deadlines. Stop pretextual (i.e.: being stopped for tail-light out and getting sent to deportation) denials and endless delays that contravene our immigration laws.

Second, bring the program in line with Constitutional due process with discrimination and a lack of fairness that are profoundly un-American.

> For more information and to access the report, go to the following websites:

> http://keepzahidhome.org/ news/

http://justice4chaudhry. info/?page\_id=18 http://keepzahidhome.org/ how-you-can-help/

http://justice4chaudhry.



process. Where there is derogatory information about an applicant, the applicant must be given a meaningful opportunity to respond.

Third, the FBI must not be allowed to interfere with, obstruct, or exploit immigration adjudication process. Stop permitting the FBI or law enforcement to exploit the process to gain information about applicants outside of what is necessary for the immigration application/process. Furthermore, law enforcement must not be allowed to coerce or blackmail applicants into serving as informants with promises that the FBI will help speed the adjudication of their longdelayed immigration applications.

Finally, CARRP was introduced in secret without any input "by the people" or by Congress about what it means for our communities. Now that CARRP has been exposed as a discriminatory scheme that violates Constitutional due process and our longstanding immigration laws, as well as basic standards of fairness and equality, please heed our requests and restore what so many could only dream about: the promise of America.

Send a message to USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas him to stop his agency's secret, discriminatory program that directs officers to deny immigration benefits based on an applicant's perceived religion or country of origin.

Follow the link below to take action: https://ssl.capwiz.com/aclu/ca/ issues/alert/?alertid=62833126

# Try science first

Russ Frizzell

Scientists love a good idea. If you want to please scientists, tell them their idea seems elegant. Of all the good ideas out there, none is more attractive than gravity. But seriously folks, if we no longer wish to remain ignorant of the real world, we need to address science. First let's be clear: technology is not science, medicine is not science, industry is not science. Science is a method of investigation and the collection of what has been found. We don't have to like the results. To be science they must be cor-

Current trends in "New Age" spiritualism, such as the "Thrive" movie, rely

on persuasion to prove their point. This is a clear indicator of not being science. Just like the old time religions, you will not beat scientific results by clever word usage. Wishful thinking is not a strong basis for building a community or society. In order to succeed we want to have our facts straight.

The laws of nature appear to be the same everywhere, they

describe what really happens. Violating these laws is not a crime, it is a failure to see clearly, a return to wishful thinking or make-believe. These laws fit into a few main categories: Thermodynamics, Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, The Big Bang theory, Evolution by Natural Selection. Together these orchestrate all the events and activities in the world.

Thermodynamics, briefly, is about statistics and action and decay. The Kelvin scale of temperature places absolute zero at -273 degrees Celsius. The great scientist, Boltzmann found entropy to fit a logarithmic scale in

the nineteenth century. Conservation of energy was understood much further back in history.

Scientific thinking has a great advantage over other modes of thought. Unlike ideology, it is selfcorrecting. Scientists are happy when an old

idea is found to be incorrect; this is the brink of discovery. Even a tiny improvement on some traditional method is celebrated. Scientists strive to improve their understanding and freely share what they have learned. Letting go of some false notion or discovering some new thing provides a joy, like renewal.

Relativity combines space, time, mat-

lation and fear of the unknown is to embrace the spirit of scientific inquiry. We are human and imperfect, better to face reality and compare notes than hide from the truth.

The strangest scientific idea of them all is quantum mechanics. Try to convince yourself that waves and particles are the same thing. On the smallest scales, we can measure a plethora

of bazaar phenomena. Even the most jaded scientist becomes dizzy from the weird actions of sub-atomic particles.

So the math is tough. No one knows it all; let's talk about it anyway. I get stuck on some of the more outlandish formulas; there are limits to my ability to follow some of the logic. I don't want to let that stop me. We can begin

> where we are and consider every talent to be a contribution. Everyone can learn; everyone is welcome in a scientific com-

If Darwin's evolution goes should you do? Can we afford to say make-believe is better than reality? Pretending can be fun at times but most of us in our saner moments will

prefer to know the truth and choose it instead of believing lies. However beloved your friends (or leaders) may be, if they denounce natural selection or call it a design, they do not know what they are talking about. Maybe they meant well but got mixed up. We can forgive that but not participate in the false-

The Big Bang theory is not quite so clear. As best as we can tell, the universe began 13.8 billion years ago and continues to expand like nobody's business. Space is about great voids, clusters of galaxies, and supernovas. Now this is what I want to study!

Olympia is a beautiful place; there are all types of people here. Many of us already have a healthy understanding of science and respect it. We are happy when our computers work (and sad when they do not). I feel we can still use a closer and stronger scientific community here. We need a place where anyone can come and openly participate in scientific inquiry or debate together. We may not have the funding for our own Hubble Space Telescope or Large Hadron Collider, but we can share what we know. The benefits of science are at least as amazing as yoga classes but where do we go to talk about it? We can start a blog and chat. Getting together for presentations and discussion builds community as well. Comment and criticisms are welcome here: let's talk about it.

Russ Frizzell is an activist living in Olympia since 2010 and a graduate of The Evergreen State College where he studied Physics and Cosmology.

Interested parties can contact the au-

thor at: russfrizzell@yahoo.com STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS "We'll trim it, rub it. or read it" OLYMPIA, WA 98501 CONDITIONING 360-786-6027 JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM KAOS patron business.

**BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS** 

"Garage" Sale Saturday, February 1, 9 am - 3 pm **Lincoln Elementary School** 213 21st Ave SE, Olympia

Proceeds will support the public library, a children's free lunch program and college scholarships in Santo Tomás

### Media Island Benefit Brunch Youth N Action! Sunday, February 2, 11 am - 2 pm **Media Island International**

**Special Events** 

**Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister** 

**County Association Annual** 

Youth 'N Action (YNA) is a Washington statewide program that empowers under served youth, ages 14-24, to make impacting change within ourselves, our communities, and surrounding systems.

Move to Amend meeting Thursday, February 6, 6:30pm **Thurston County Court House Building 1, Room 280** 

816 Adams St. SE, Olympia

### 18th Annual Int'l Day in Solidarity with Leonard Peltier Saturday, February 8 March for Justice, 12 pm noon **Portland Avenue Park, Tacoma** Rally for Justice, 1 pm **United States Federal Court House** 1717-Pacific Avenue, T

Some of the rally speakers:

Matilaja: YuPik Eskimo from Mountain Village Alaska. NW AIM member since 1973 Ramona Bennett: Puyallup Tribal Elder Chauncy Peltier: Leonard Peltier's son.

Gary Wessels-Galbreath: Host View From The Shore on KAOS Radio.

### **Dismantling Christian Hegemony Forum Performance** Sunday, February 9, 7 pm Olympia Family Theater 112 State Ave NE, Olympia

We invite the community to witness the scenes and help provide solutions to the struggles therein through forum theatre.

### **Economics for Everyone series** Wednesday, February 12, 7-9 pm **Traditions Cafe, Olympia**

Political economy faculty members from the Evergreen State College—Savvina Chowdhury and Peter Bohmer—lead political economy workshops each month for all interested. This month's topic is the "relation between capitalism, and racial and gender oppression, and inequality'

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

### Give \$25 for 25 years **The Community Sustaining Fund** Sunday, February 16, 2-5 pm

The Community Sustaining Fund invites you to 'Show the Love' at our Open House. Music! Dessert! Somewhere in the south Capitol area of Olympia.. For more info: thurstoncsf@comcast.net Please like our Facebook page!

### Sasha Abramsky Sunday, February 19, 6 pm Longhouse **The Evergreen State College**

An Evergreen-style seminar:

Abramsky will speak for 30-40 minutes, and then everyone will be organized into small groups for conversations. Afterwards, Abramsky will respond to questions. Sashaabramsky.com for seminar topics.

Free event sponsored by Evergreen.

### Muslims Need Not Apply Friday, February 28, 7:00 pm **Traditions Cafe**

Strife's Court Date Tuesday, March 11, 9 am **U.S. District Court Federal Courthouse Union Station** 1717 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma

Please join me for the first day of my trial. For news and updates on my case and the upcoming trial of John Towery please visit my support blog, "We Are All Suspects Now" at http://strife-101-life.tumblr.com/

Scientists strive to improve their understanding and freely share what they have learned. Letting go of some false against your beliefs, what notion or discovering some new thing provides a joy, like renewal.

> ter, energy, and gravity into a branch of study that supplies endless mysteries and wonder. The results improve the accuracy of Isaac Newton's earlier work, but let's face it, the math got harder. Albert Einstein improved our understanding, and Newton would be glad to know another thinker has built on his

> Science is for everyone, to openly share ideas propelling forward the common progress. The contribution of brilliant women and outsiders puts away wrong ideas just as smoothly as an insider may. To rid ourselves of iso-

# A musical evening in support of Carolyn Hewitt

ARYA JOY song and violin audience ambiance

ROBERT JORGENSEN classical pianist of excellence

### LOS CALAVERAS

traditional Latin American grooves

### CHRISTINE GUNN

cellist for Trillian Green will soothe and mesmerize your soul

### DREW GIBBS

pianist/percussionist, 44 years of jazz, Cuban, salsa, timba bands

December 10, 2013, Carolyn had emergency surgery. A massive ovarian tumor had ruptured—a condition that had been misdiagnosed for years. Carolyn also has a systemic staph infection and is presently involved in a lengthy recovery.

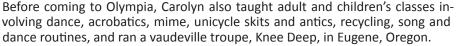
We are gathering resources of support to assist Carolyn in covering her medical bills and recovery period costs all while having a good time with friends and neighbors listening to some great music.

Celebrating with Carolyn at this time gives her with a sense of love and well-being, which only our close-knit community is able to provide.

Carolyn has served our community in a variety

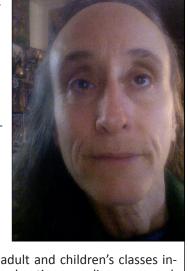
a nutritional consultant specializing food preparation.

- ran the Olympia Waldorf Extended Care pro-
- a paraeducator and volunteer at Lincoln Elementary, holding theater and cooking classes in addition to singing in the school's parent band.
- operated a landscape and gardening service from which she is now retired.



Carolyn dreams of operating a café, catering service here in Olympia specializing in organic allergen-free, fairly traded local food.

Thursday, February 13, 7 pm Traditions Fair Trade Café





Walking the talk

# **Kevin Stormans** stumbles badly

Dana Walker

It is said that a journalist with a personal stake should not report on a story. I disagree. I think that someone with a stated point of view is much more trustable than someone who is hiding their agenda behind a veil of 'objectivity'.

So full disclosure: I am about to report on a story in which I was directly involved and upon which I have a point of view.

While everyone is a hypocrite on one level or another, there are highly varied levels.

First, the context: I became involved in activism on the homelessness issue about three years ago when I was at a meeting of political activists (I forget now what the meeting was even about) and our meeting was crashed by a local homeless gentleman known as Dude Man. Dude Man then related a story of insane police harassment that he was suffering and-literally in tearshe stated that he was at the end of his rope, had no idea what to do, and he begged us for our help. I somewhat reluctantly agreed to look into the matter since I was technically homeless myself at the time. (I was sleeping in my truck.) Upon doing so I discovered that the Olympia police—representing the nearly omnipotent armed might of the state—were conducting a reign of terror not only upon Dude Man but upon the most helpless and vulnerable members of our community, i.e. mentally ill homeless people.

All my life I have loathed bullies. All my life I have defended the weak from the strong.

These people's lives were already problematic as it was, and suffering constant violent police harassment just made the problems worse for everyone involved—this was absolutely the last thing in the world these people needed.

I was so profoundly outraged that I formed an organization called Citizens in Violation of Illegal Laws [CIVIL]. CIVIL then decided to first target the busking-laws since these were the most outrageous and unpopular of the many laws specifically designed to harass homeless people. CIVIL then organized the two 'Busker Parades', wherein we surrounded city hall right before a city

council meeting with about 80 people playing illegal music to greet the arriv- than leaving people with the common contempt for their law.

The city subsequently rescinded their busking laws—but then simultaneously passed an exponentially more problematic Sit-Lie Ordinance that basically makes it illegal to be homeless in Olympia. Thanks to 'Sit-Lie', the homeless are now forced to hide from the police in camps out in the woods like animals. These camps tend to be very cold and

very dark and very wet this time of year. Predators are free to prey on the homeless kids with near impunity—and indeed, robberies, rapes, and even murders are regular occurrences in these camps. However, all the privileged white liberals of Thurston County no longer need to be made 'uncomfortable' as in the bad old days when-after leaving their nice safe warm homesthey were forced to step over people sleeping on the downtown sidewalks. Now that the homeless are out-of-sightout-of-mind out in the woods then evidently everything is now good as far as they're concerned.

As for Dude Man, though, things didn't work out so well. Dude Man, in fact, has committed suicide.

I have heard several city council members say that solving homelessness should not be the city's task. I agree. However, I will task the city government with not making stupid ignorant classist laws that kill people.

Next, the full disclosure concerning my personal involvement in this story: I became homeless in 2008 after all of the profits from my mobile espresso stand went into the coffers of Exxon Mobil (you may remember that this was the year they began charging \$4 per gallon for their gasoline). Then my espresso machine broke and by that point I didn't have the \$3,000 to fix it. Then my daughter's ex-boyfriend stole all of my equipment along with a \$1,500 generator that I had recently purchased to operate my stand. As a result of this chain of events I became homeless in Olympia for three years. I ended up vending a 'street paper' out of Seattle called Real Change, which is a newspaper that focuses upon issues of low-income and homeless people. Real Change wins prestigious journalistic awards on a regular basis and they have some truly talented weekly columnists. They educate people about the actual facts and

While *Real Change* isn't the complete solution for homelessness, it does work well for people who are mentally capable of operating a small cash business. I am no longer homeless thanks to Real Change. It works.

issues concerning homelessness rather ing council members and express our stereotypes that often have little to do with reality. Selling the paper provides an alternative to panhandling for people who have no income but would rather sell a quality product than beg from strangers on some freeway rampeven though I would make much more money on the freeway ramp.

> While Real Change isn't the complete solution for homelessness, it does work very well for people who are mentally

Bottom line: I am one of several hundred people who are no longer homeless thanks to Real Change. It works.

I have been vending Real Change at the Olympia Food CoOp for five years now, but I recently moved from a rentfree caretaker situation and began paying rent —which meant I needed to sell

> a lot more papers per week. Especially since there is now another *Real Change* vendor also working at the Co-op, I figured that location was pretty much saturated and thus I needed an alternative spot for at least a couple of days per week.

> Top Foods, Safeway, and Fred Meyer all flatly refused, so I gave up on the corporate chain stores.

Thus, I approached Kevin Stormans, the owner of both the Thriftway and Bayview grocery stores, which are the only grocery stores located anywhere near downtown Olympia. Kevin Stormans is also a right-wing political activist. He was one of the business owners that sued the state because he didn't want to be forced to sell the 'Morning After Pill' in his stores. He is also a leading promoter of the oppressive laws against the homeless and he was a leading proponent of the new Sit-Lie Ordinance.

Anyway, I explained Real Change to Mr. Stormans and I asked permission to vend Real Change one day per week at each of his stores.

He refused.

Being very familiar with the profound hypocrisy of right-wingers (and leftwingers too, for that matter) this was exactly the answer that I had been expecting and I was prepared; I then conducted what is known as an 'ambush interview'. I whipped out my Works in *Progress* press pass and informed Mr. Stormans that in that case, I was going to put on another hat and ask, as a journalist, why, after his endless expressed concerns about the problems associated with homelessness, that he would subsequently refuse to support a program that has proven to be an effective method of ending homelessness?

I might also add that my request would cost him absolutely nothing.

His only reply was that this was his 'policy'. This, of course, is the answer that you give when you don't have an answer.

I have found in judging people that things which often mean little in and of themselves are often indicative of deeper insights. Ralph Stormans, the founder of Stormans Inc., could always be found in the store and he knew all of his employees' names. Kevin Stormans is virtually never seen in the stores and he knows virtually none of his employees' names.

Everyone needs to follow their own conscience, but I am going to now avoid shopping at Bayview or Ralph's Thriftway.

Dana Walker spent 28 years traveling in North America, 6 years in federal prison (ostensibly for marijuana; in actuality for refusing to sell his friends to the feds), and 3 1/2 years in Olympia hurling verbal barrages of sarcasm at the Machine. He's currently a Real Change vendor and a caretaker at Media Island. He is also the author of numerous novels and a radical bi-weekly political newsletter



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# **Bank of America** is watching

# How the revolving door came unhinged

### Paul French

If those in charge of our society - politicians, corporate executives, and the owners of the press and television - can dominate our ideas, they will be secure in their power. They will not need soldiers patrolling the streets. We will control ourselves.

-Howard Zinn

On Jan 1, 2014, public records activist Drew Hendricks, published a chain of e-mails about a coordinated effort between Bank of America, Washington State Patrol, the Olympia Police Department, the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Washington State Fusion Center to track and monitor a peaceful protest that occurred on November 5, 2013.

The protest was organized by the Olympia chapter of the hacktivist group Anonymous as part of a nation-wide "Million Mask March." Before the march on the Washington Capitol, the 75-100 participants held teach-ins and rallies to protest "the use and expansion of the FBI, DHS, NSA, and other government agencies for the sole purpose of silencing free speech," and to raise awareness about "the billionaires who own banks and corporations who corrupt politicians" among other things.

Despite acknowledgement by Washington State Patrol (WSP) that the group called for a "peaceful protest" and "no property damage, injuries, or arrests" occurred, WSP employed multiple undercover agents and took 48 minutes of video footage (including close-ups on the faces of the participants). According to an after-action report, WSP spent a total of \$28,707 on direct costs and dedicated 602 hours to this three hour protest. State Patrol also hired two Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) units for crowd control, a bus in case of mass arrests, and a fixed-wing Cessna 206 airplane to conduct aerial surveillance of the march.

Documents received under the Public Records Act reveal that Kim Triplett-Kolerich, Bank of America's senior intelligence analyst for the Western Region

of the US, tipped off Washington State Patrol on September 23, 2013, almost six weeks before the protest on November 5, 2013. Triplett-Kolerich, who retired from WSP in 2012 wrote in an email...

"From time to time I will see items that I believe will be of use to my friends at WSP—especially during session. May Day I will pick your brain for intel and I will give you a lot also - the Public-Private Partnership worked great last year... if you find any intel on anarchists or occupy protesters let me know."

In the same email, Triplett-Kolerich boasted about Bank of America's online surveillance unit, "social media trolling

is not what WSP does best. Bank of America has a team of 20 people and that's all they do all day then pass it to us around the country!!"

On October 30, 2013, Triplett-Kolerich referred to online social media as "open-source" intelligence and mentioned that she was in contact with the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the Washington State Fusion Center

(WSFC) about the protest. The JTTF is a collection of local law enforcement agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Fusion centers, are multi-jurisdictional information sharing networks created by DHS to track and monitor terrorist threats and criminal activity. Their website states that their aim is "to support the public safety and homeland security missions of federal, state, local, tribal agencies and private sector entities." On September 2, 2011, Bank of America intelligence analyst Tripplet-Kolerich became a Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) for the Washington State Fusion Center while working for WSP.

According to an interview conducted by writers at the Stranger Blog in Seattle, WSP claimed that the counter-terrorist surveillance was out of concern that "outside agitators," and "non-peaceful individuals" might join the protest. This disproportionate overreaction to an avowed non-violent protest shares uncanny similarities to the protocol used by WSP and other state agencies from 2006-2009 during the port protests in Olympia and Tacoma.

From March 2007 until July 2009, a man named John Towery posing as an anarchist was later revealed to be a spy and military intelligence analyst for the US Army, working with the Washington State Fusion Center to collect intelligence on the anti-war movement

This merger of public and private interests is represented by Fusion Centers which now incorporate military intelligence supplied by spies as well as corporate intelligence from security analysts who abuse their tremendous power to monitor, target, and neutralize those engaged in legally-protected first amendment activity.

. Towery and others are currently being sued in federal court by protesters who suffered a targeted pattern of false arrests, citations, imprisonment, excessive force, and harassment as a result of intelligence gathered on them by the Army

According to an article written for the New York Times in June 2013 about this federal civil suit, Chris Adamson of the Pierce County Sheriffs Office and a Director of regional intelligence groups for the Washington State Fusion Center helped coordinate Mr. Towery's spying efforts and listed at least four protesters in a "national domestic terrorist database with pictures, and identifying personal information along with false claims alleging a propensity for violence," the lawsuit said. Lawrence A. Hildes, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said the database was controlled by the Washington State Patrol. "They have taken upon themselves to say, 'We don't like this person, therefore he's a domestic terrorist," Mr. Hildes said. "It's not only illegal—it's absolutely chilling."

Given this disturbing history of targeting those who engage in peaceful activism and re-branding them terrorists, there is good reason to question this revolving door relationship between a conglomeration of state agencies and a senior intelligence analyst at Bank of America

Those who followed the heavily coordinated crackdown on the Occupy Wall Street movement, may recall a Guardian expose in December 2012 that discussed declassified FBI documents which revealed "federal agencies functioning as a de facto intelligence arm of Wall Street and Corporate America." In this article, Naomi Wolf describes "a terrifying network of coordinated DHS, FBI, police, regional fusion center, and private-sector activity so completely merged into one another that the monstrous whole is, in fact, one entity: in some cases, bearing a single name, the Domestic Security Alliance Council." A brochure from the Domestic Security Alliance Council's website described it as "a strategic partnership between the US private sector and the FBI...preventing, detecting and investigating those matters which affect interstate commerce, while advancing the ability of the US private sector to protect it's employees, assets, and proprietary information."

The publication of e-mails between Bank of America and the Washington State Patrol detail how this relationship goes both ways and highlights how

we are hurtling towards a hegemonic dystopia at break-neck speeds, a unified axis of government and corporate power whose interests are inexorably intertwined and inextricably linked. The implications of this for the future of humanity are grave. As Naomi Wolf states in her Guardian piece, "people's income streams and financial records—[are] now firmly in the hands of the banks, which are, in turn, now in the business of tracking your dissent." She goes on to highlight the danger of this merging of state power and corporate privilege opining that the "crushing of one's personal or business financial freedom

can happen to any of us. How messy, criminalizing and prosecuting dissent. How simple, by contrast, just to label an entity a 'terrorist organization' and choke off, disrupt or indict its sources of financing."

As these declassified documents as well as Edward Snowden's NSA whistleblowing reveal, those in power have access to a sprawling surveillance apparatus that

eclipses any totalitarian regime in world history. Corporations have the full cooperation and might of militarized police forces to protect their interests and in turn, they corrupt elections, buy off politicians, and push for legislation that criminalizes dissent, entrenching their power further under the guise of national security. This merger of public and private interests is poignantly represented by the establishment of Fusion Centers which operate ostensibly to distribute information on terrorist activity between law enforcement agencies, but now incorporate military intelligence supplied by spies like John Towery as well as corporate intelligence from security analysts like Kim Tripplet-Kolerich who abuse their tremendous power to monitor, target, and neutralize those engaged in legally-protected first amendment activity. This corporate-state collusion is broadly indicative of late stage capitalism. Seeing its own contradictions play out, and understanding it's inevitable failure on the horizon, it seeks total power to arrest the development of alternative ideas, stubbornly refusing to let a different future be born.

Paul French (known as the hip hop artist, Strife) has brought a civil suit against the Olympia Police Department for a frame up and false arrest that happened in 2010. His trial is set for March 11, 2014 at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma at 9 am. For news and updates on the case and the upcoming trial of the military spy John Towery in June 2014, please visit the support blog, "We Are All Suspects Now" at http://strife-101-life.tumblr.com/

[Ed. note: The public records mentioned in this article that were posted by Drew Hendrick can be viewed on Drew's scribd site: http://www.scribd.com/andrew\_hendricks\_2.]



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



### Juan Gelman (1930—2014)

# Never the owner of his own ashes

### **Enrique Quintero**

The Latin American poet Juan Gelman died January 14. He is little known within the Republic of Letters and the literary "salonniers" of the English word in spite of being the winner of many international literary awards, including the Cervantes Prize in 2007 (the most prestigious award in the in the Spanish language), and his regular appearance on the lists of potential

his immense popularity in Latin America—comparable to that of Borges, Neruda, Nicanor Parra, Garcia Marquez, Cortazar, Onetti, Paz, Fuentes, Galeano, and so many others.

Nobel- laureates not to mention

From the beginning, Gelman's poetry was characterized by a profound lyricism and an unorthodox fluid movement between the personal and the socio-political. After the government killed his son and daughter-in-law, his poetry became a strong and direct indictment of the Argentinean Junta and the rest of the military governments that during the "Lost Decade" of the 70's to early 80's ruled Latin America. His voice was a voice against the "Dirty War"—a voice against the killing and

"disappearance" of more than 30,000 young Argentineans, a voice in defense of the left, democracy, and humanist values in the continent. His voice was the voice of hope in spite of the suffering and grief. A voice of hope for a

His voice was the voice of hope in spite of the suffering and grief. A voice of hope for a generation who had been politically defeated.

> generation who had been politically defeated.

### The Deluded

hope fails us often grief never that's why some think that known grief is better than unknown grief they believe that hope is an illusion they are deluded by grief

Latin American cultural life would be difficult to understand if we ignored the role of left wing politics among its intellectuals. Left wing politics strongly permeates Latin American literature, its pictorial arts, its cinema, its architecture, its education theory, etc. It may be news for the average reader in the U.S. to realize that the political theory

connecting all these cultural expressions is Marxism. The current progressive governments of Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, Brazil, and Gelman's own Argentina, prove that Latin Americans continue exploring forms of resistance to capitalism. And in spite of Marxism's regional variations and the numerous death certificates freely extended to it by

the mortuary homes of capital, Marxism continues to offer valid tools for the analysis of the capitalist system and the understanding of the narratives of history. Intellectuals in Latin America, including poets, continue to study Marxism because it offers tools with which to envision and enact political change.

"The universe writes from the depth and breath of time. Miserable and poor is the human being who never gets to read that writing" -Juan Gelman

Poetry was for Gelman, as murals were to Siqueiros, Orozco y Rivera, as music for Violeta Parra y Victor Jara, as movies for Gutierrez Alea, an artistic choice to critique a system that through history had and continues to generate inequality, war, poverty, and

suffering for most people in the planet. Gelman saw literature not as directly subordinated to politics, nor did he subordinate politics to literature. The depth of his work, like so many other Latin American writers and artists, reflects his active involvement with politics and with his art. While there are numerous exceptions in the American literary world (Marge Piercy, to mention one), progressive politics seems to be mostly absent in the American literary narrative, where themes of identity and unending introspections in search of the self take priority over the inventing, imagining, or making of a better

Poetry for Gelman was an art that did not belong to him:

### The Art of Poetry

Of all trades, I've chosen one that isn't

Like a hard taskmaster it makes me work day and night, in pain, in love,

out in the rain, in dark times, when tenderness or the soul opens its

when illness weighs down my hands. The grief of others, tears, handkerchiefs raised in greeting, promises in the middle of autumn or fire, kisses of reunion or goodbye, everything makes me work with words, with blood.

I've never been the owner of my ashes, my poems,

obscure faces write my verses like bul-

lets firing at death.

PS. There are two books recently published in English with the poems of Juan Gelman: Dark Times Filled with Light. The Selected Work of Juan Gelman, translated by Hardie St. Martin, published by Open Letter 2012. Also, Between Words: Juan Gelman's Public Letter, translated by Lisa Rose Bradford and published by Coimbra Editions,

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

cuando se abren los brazos de la ternura, o del alma.

cuando la enfermedad hunde las manos.

A este oficio me obligan los dolores ajenos, las lágrimas, los pañuelos saludadores, las promesas en medio del otoño o del fuego, los besos del encuentro, los besos del adiós, todo me obliga a trabajar con las palabras, con la sangre.

Nunca fui el dueño de mis cenizas, mis versos.

rostros oscuros los escriben como tirar contra la muerte.

PS. Existen dos libros recientemente publicados en Ingles con poemas de Juan Gelman.

St. Martin, published by Open Letter 2012. Also, Between Words: Juan Gelman's Public Dark Times Filled With Light. The Selected Work of Juan Gelman, translated by Hardie Letter, translated by Lisa Rose Bradford, published by Coimbra Editions, 2010.

Enrique Quintero fue un activista politico en America Latina durante los años 70. Luego trabajó como profesor de ESL y Adquisición de Segunda Lengua en el Distrito Escolar de Anchorage y Profesor de Español en la Universidad de Alaska. Actualmente vive y escribe en Olympia.

### Juan Gelman (1930—2014)

# Nunca el dueño de sus propias cenizas

### Enrique Quintero

El poeta Latino Americano Juan Gelman falleció hace pocos días. El es poco conocido en la Republica de las Letras y los "salonnieres" oficiales del idioma Ingles a pesar de ser el ganador de varios premios internacionales, como el Premio Cervantes en el 2007 (el premio mas prestigioso de la lengua española), y de la aparición regular de su nombre en la lista de potenciales ganadores del Premio Nobel, así como su inmensa popularidad en Latino América. Popularidad comparable a la de Borges, Neruda, Nicanor Parra, García Márquez, Cortázar, Onetti, Paz, Galeano, y tantos

Desde un inicio la poesía de Gelman se caracterizó por un profundo sentido lírico y una fluidez no-ortodoxa entre

lo personal y lo socio-político. Después del asesinato de su hijo su poesía se convirtió en una acusación directa contra la junta gobiernos militares que durante la "década perdida" de los 70's a los Su voz fue una voz contra la "Guerra Sucia", una voz contra el asesinato y "desaparición" de mas de 30.000

jóvenes argentinos, una voz en defensa de la izquierda, de la democracia, y de valores humanistas en el continente.

### Los Engañados

la esperanza nos falla a menudo el desconsuelo jamás es por eso que algunos creen que dolor conocido es mejor que dolor desconocido ellos creen que la esperanza es una ilusión ellos están engañados por el desconsuelo

La vida cultural de América Latina seria difícil de comprender si se ignora el rol de las políticas de izquierda entre sus intelectuales. Concepciones políticas de

izquierda tienen gran incidencia el la literatura latino-americana, en sus artes pictóricas, su cine, su arquitectura, sus teorías sobre la educación, etc. Puede que resulte novedoso para el lector norteamericano promedio el hecho de que la teoría política que conecta todas estas expresiones culturales sea el Marxismo. La presencia de los actuales gobiernos progresistas de Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, Brasil, y la propia Argentina de Gelman, comprueba que los latino-americanos continúan explorando formas alternativas al capitalismo. A pesar de las

variaciones regionales de Marxismo y de los numerosos certificados de defunción extendidos gratuitamente por las casas mortuorias del capital, el Marxismo

y su nuera a manos del gobierno, Su voz fue una voz contra la "Guerra" la política a la literatura. La Sucia", una voz contra el asesinato militar argentina y el resto de y "desaparición" de mas de 30,000 latino-americanos, refleja una jóvenes argentinos, una voz en defensa 80's gobernaron en América latina. de la izquierda, de la democracia, y de valores humanistas en el continente.

> continua ofreciendo herramientas validas para el análisis y transformación del sistema capitalista y las narrativas de la historia. Intelectuales latinoamericanos, poetas incluidos, continúan estudiando Marxismo por que ofrece instrumentos para visualizar y activar cambios políticos.

"El universo escribe desde el profundo aliento del tiempo. Miserable y desafortunado es el ser humano que nunca llega a leer su escritura" - Juan Gelman

La poesía fue para Gelman, lo que murales fueron para Siqueiros, Orozco y Rivera; lo que música para Violeta Parra y Víctor Jara; el cine para Gutiérrez Alea, una forma artística de criticar a un sistema que a través de la historia y en el presente continua a generar desigualdad, guerra, pobreza, y sufrimiento para la mayoría de habitantes del planeta. Gelman entendió la literatura no como algo directamente subordinado a

la política, y tampoco subordinó profundidad de su trabajo, como el de tantos escritores y artistas participación activa con la política como con el arte. Si de hecho existen numerosas excepciones en el mundo literario norte-americano (Marge Piercy, para mencionar una), políticas progresistas parecen

estar mayoritariamente ausentes de su narrativa literaria, en la cual temas de identidad e introspecciones sin fin en busca del yo, tienen prioridad sobre el imaginar, inventar, o hacer un mundo mejor.

La poesía para Gelman fue un oficio que no le pertenecía:

### Arte Poética

Entre tantos oficios ejerzo este que no es

Como un amo implacable me obliga a trabajar de día, de noche, con dolor, con amor, bajo la lluvia, en la catástrofe,



The Fifth Estate (2013)

# Movie—fiction masquerading as factpushed WikiLeaks back into the spotlight

April Adams

The Fifth Estate by director Bill Condon sets a tone that has one believing it would be about WikiLeaks, instead it concentrates on how Daniel Domscheit-Berg, the former spokesman for WikiLeaks, perceived the founder, Julian Assange. The book on which the movie is based, Inside WikiLeaks: My Time with Julian Assange and the World's

Most Dangerous Website, does nothing to explain how Julian Assange ticks and why WikiLeaks is so important to the people of the World. The movie goes into how Domshceit-Berg sees Julian Assange as erratic, paranoid and "obsessed with power."

Julian Assange, regardless of his characteristics, is fulfilling the job requirements of what world leaders should be doing for their own populaces, "integrity of the institutions and security of the individual." It does not matter if he is erratic; being unpredictable is essential when you have governments trying to find you. Paranoia, this can happen after moving 39 times during his youth (Julian's mother constantly was moving from what or whom I'm not sure) and evading the authoritys time and again for hacking into government computers to stop them from doing harm to the majority of humans without their knowledge or ability to

keep integrity in check.

At seventeen, Assange hacked into the U.S. Defense Department prior to the invasion of Iraq in January 1991 and found classified documents containing target sites of civilians. For that, he was hunted by the FBI and, before he could distribute the information, was arrested by Australian federal police. One of his fellow hackers had turned informant. "Obsessed with power"—is that a perception of Julian Assange as

Benedict Cumberbatch reached out to Julian Assange because he wanted to show Assange as three dimensional and not as the book perceives him.

> a power seeker or one who is wielding power of knowledge to help others gain wisdom?

> It is unfortunate that the movie is Hollywood propaganda. No one from DreamWorks Pictures nor it's distributor-Disney-contacted Julian Assange or gave WikiLeaks a cut from the profits on the movie. It seems to be the case for Julian Assange and WikiLeaks that the movies and books based on his story and website are too often used for corporate profiteering.

> Even though the film is generally negative, a simple light is shown in the making of Fifth Estate when the

lead actor Benedict Cumberbatch [well known for his role in the British TV series Sherlock] reached out to Julian Assange. Mr. Cumberbatch took it upon himself to get in touch with Julian As-

sange because he really wanted to present Assange as three dimensional and not as the book perceives him to be. During their email contacts, Julian was concerned Benedict would be used "as a smoking gun," this in turn caused Mr. Cumberbatch out of respect for Julian to consider his words, but then saw it bigger than the

two of them—"story needed to be told." Julian Assange did state that "Cumberbatch tried to ameliorate the script

but, unfortunately, with limited success... though I'm pleased he tried."

What seemed to move Benedict Cumberbatch to finish the movie was his story he spoke of during the making of the film. Mr. Cumberbatch was in South Africa in 2005, where he and his friends were driving in a dangerous location, when the car had a flat. While changing the tire, he and his comrades were kidnapped (with weapons pointed at them) and driven away from their vehicle, just to be let out onto the ground,

IKE US ON

scared, tied up with limbs numb and dumbfound as to what just occurred. Cumberbatch recalls, "It taught me that you come into this world as you leave it, on your own. It's made me want to live a life slightly less ordinary." He has also found himself realizing that government tyranny and criminal activity are one and the same.

Even though reluctant to do the movie, Benedict—"personally supportive" of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks—and the director of Fifth Estate, Bill Condon, saw it as an opportunity to bring Julian Assange and WikiLeaks back into the spotlight. Benedict has stated, "No matter how you cut it, he's done us a massive service to wake us up to the zombielike way we absorb our news."

Bill Condon commented, "It may be decades before we understand the full impact of WikiLeaks and how it's revolutionized the spread of information. So this film won't claim any long view authority on its subject, or attempt any final judgment. We want to explore the complexities of transparency in the information age and, we hope, enliven and enrich the conversations WikiLeaks has already provoked."

In the end it is up to each of us to go out and search for the truth and bring it to light.

April Adams, an Evergreen alumna, is a member of the Inter-Tribal Warrior Society, the secretary for Veterans For Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter 109 Olympia, journalist, photographer, artist, and political activist.



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# Initiative-1329 to address corporate personhood

Janine Unsoeld

A state initiative seeking to amend the U.S. Constitution was submitted electronically to the Washington Secretary of State's office in January.

### Initiative-1329 summary

"The voters of the State of Washington urge immediate action by the current and future Washington State Congressional delegations to propose a joint resolution for an amendment to the United States Constitution clarifying that:

- 1. The rights of people protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.
- 2. All citizens should have equal voice in the political process, and no person or artificial legal entity should gain undue influence over government as a result of financial resources. Federal, state, and local governments shall be fully empowered to regulate all political contributions and expenditures to meet this goal.
- All political contributions and expenditures shall be publicly disclosed in a full and timely manner.

Kim Jordan, a WAmend organizer from Whidbey Island, was in Olympia to meet with South Sound activists and solicit support for the initiative's language. "I got involved with this movement because...I thought that politicians were dependent on the people. But too many times I saw that only a few voices—those of very wealthy interests—seemed to be controlling the conversation and that our representatives seemed to listen to them, or fear them, far more than you and I. So I knew it had to do with money... both inside and outside of the campaigns and how it controls candidates, political parties, legislation and just about every other aspect of the political system," said

The statewide Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution is 27 organizations with about 1,450 volunteer petition gatherers so far. Jordan asked for volunteers, saying that 3000 people are desired to accomplish the work of signature gathering by June 30, 2014. "We are a volunteer, grassroots, statewide initiative, building teams throughout the state...our goal is to give templates and tools to local groups, and let them do their own field work," Jordan told the local group, which has been active for several years in vari-

According to a 2012 USA Today/Gallup Poll, 87% of Americans say money in the political process is a problem and want

Ninety U.S. Congressional House of Representative members and 28 U.S. Senators have announced their support for

a constitutional amendment. According to WAmend, 18 Washington State senators and 38 representatives support a U.S. Constitutional amendment, including South Sound 22nd District Senator Karen Fraser, and Representatives Chris Reykdal and Sam Hunt.

Over 600 counties and cities nationwide have voted for measures calling for an end to money as free speech. In Washington State, thirteen cities have passed resolutions supporting the move to amend: Port Townsend, Bellingham, Seattle, Langley, La Conner, Coupeville, Olympia, Kirkland, Sequim, Walla Walla, Tacoma, Oak Harbor, and Anacortes.

Three Washington counties, Jefferson, Island, and Snohomish have also passed resolutions in support of the movement. The Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution is 27 organizations with 1,450 volunteer signature gatherers so far. The group is seeking 300,000 signatures as a buffer to ensure they get valid 250,000 signatures.

Several groups have worked on the initiative's wording, which has gone through about nine versions and will have to pass muster at the code revisers and attorney general's office, and a Thurston County

▶ Scandal, cont. from page 1. started in New York City with funding from the Robin Hood Foundation. SingleStop is a non-profit organization with locations on community college campuses in six states. At no cost to students, staff help identify eligibility for government supports like cash assistance, food stamps, unemployment, WIC, Social Security and

more. Tax preparation is

available, and so is legal counseling for issues ranging from evictions to child-care to immigration. Staff members also provide one-on-one financial counseling sessions focused on build-

judge. "Our strategy is based on Colorado's and Montana's successful method," said Jordan.

The full text of the initiative is available at www.WAmend.org.

For more information about money in politics, read "Dollarocracy and the Movement to Amend the Constitution," and other articles at www.janineslittlehollywood. blogspot.com.

[Ed. note: This article was reduced in length. The unabridged article can be found at http://www.janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com/]

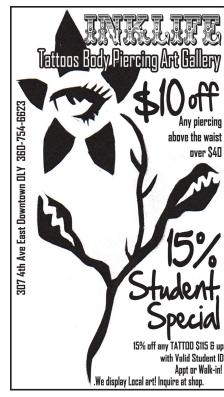
# **The American Dream**

ing lifelong money management skills. The SingleStop office I visited at Kingsborough Community College was located right next to the registration office and was accessible to all students and to their families.

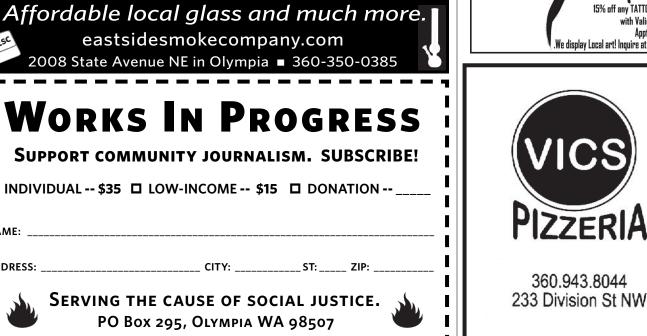
In May 2012, the Education Trust published a report on The Access to Success Initiative, a project aimed at halving the gaps between students of color and white students, and low-income students and more affluent ones, in both attending college and college completion. Twenty-two higher education systems, representing 3.5 million students-twenty percent of all students and nearly forty percent of underrepresented minority and low-income students—are participating. The results are good. When campuses turn their collective attention to increasing the success of students of color and low-income students, and keep their attention there, they figure out what to do. The surprising finding from the project is that work is mostly ordinary—mostly sensible—mostly very day-to-day.

"The work of the world is as common as mud," Marge Piercy writes in her wonderful poem "To Be of Use." If we want to address the scandal of poverty, we have a lot of common-sense work to

Emily Lardner teaches at Evergreen and co-directs one of Evergreen's public service centers. She served on LOTT's groundwater scoping study committee and on Olympia's Utility Advisory Committee. Emily currently serves on the Thurston County's Storm and Surface Water Advisory Committee.



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### Constitutional rights successfully claimed by corporations

1st Amendment Free Speech--Corporations use these rights, meant to protect human beings from the power of the state, to influence elections through political "contributions" (more like "investments"); to advertise for guns, tobacco and other dangerous products over the objections of communities; to avoid having to label genetically modified foods.

4th Amendment Search and Seizure---Corporations have used these rights to avoid subpoenas for unlawful trade and price fixing and to prevent citizens, communities and regulatory agencies from stopping corporate pollution and other assaults on people or the commons (e.g., prohibiting regulators from making surprise inspections).

5th Amendment Takings, Double Jeopardy and Due Process -- Corporations use these rights to be compensated for property value lost (e.g., future profits) when regulations are established to protect homeowners or communities; to ensure they cannot be retried after a judgment of acquittal in court; to ensure that the granting of property to a corporation by a public official cannot be unilaterally revoked by a subsequent public official or Act of Congress.

14th Amendment Due Process and **Equal Protection--** Corporations have used these rights to build chain stores and erect cell towers against the will of communities; oppose tax and other

ADDRESS:

public policies favoring local businesses over multinational corporations; resist democratic efforts to prevent corporate mergers and revoke corporate charters through citizen initiatives. 14th Amendment rights, originally enacted to free slaves from oppression, were seen by corporations as a grand opportunity to also get equal protection. Between 1890 and 1910, more than 300 Supreme Court cases were heard under the 14th Amendment: 288 by corporations and only 19 by African Americans.

Commerce Clause-related-- Corporations have used this section of the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8), for example, to ship toxic waste from one state to another over the "health, safety and welfare" objections of communities by claiming the waste isn't actually "waste" but "commerce."

Contracts Clause-related -- The Supreme Court ruled in Dartmouth vs. Woodward (1819) that a corporation is as a party in a private contract based on the Contracts Clause (Art 1, Sec 10) rather than being a creature of public law. Even though the state creates a corporation when it issues a charter, that state is not sovereign over the charter, merely a party to the contract. Thus, corporations became "private contracts" with the state and, therefore, shielded from many forms of control by We the People. Source: WAmend



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# Honoring Dr. King by speaking/acting against nuclear weapons

Ground Zero

On January 18, 2014 activists from a Puget Sound-based nuclear abolition group engaged in a nonviolent direct action at the US Navy's West Coast nuclear submarine and nuclear weapons base.

Members of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a peaceful vigil and nonviolent direct action at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. They protested the U.S. government's continued deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system, and increasing military presence in Asia due to its Asia-Pacific Pivot. Its continued reliance on nuclear weapons as an instrument of foreign policy by force projection is in contravention of both U.S. and international laws.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, contains the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the US arsenal. Each of the 8 Trident submarines at Bangor



Photos; Leonard Eiger

carries up to 24 Trident II (D-5) missiles, each capable of being armed with as many as 8 independently targetable thermonuclear warheads. Each nuclear warhead has an explosive force of between 100 and 475 kilotons (up to 30 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb). 60 percent of the Trident fleet is based at Bangor, with 40 percent at King's Bay, Georgia.

On Saturday afternoon the group main-

tained a peaceful vigil on the roadside outside the base entrance. Honoring Martin Luther King Jr's strong stand against war and nuclear weapons, participants held a large banner with a quote from Dr. King: "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."

Two participants entered the roadway, symbolically closing the base, and were

removed by Washington State Patrol officers. Cited for traffic violations - "Pedestrian on Roadway Illegally" - were Gilberto Perez, Bainbridge Island and Michael Siptroth, Belfair, WA. Perez, a Buddhist monk who has visited Jeju Island in South Korea, held a banner (in Korean) calling for "No Naval Base on Jeju."

Another participant, Tom Krebsbach, Brier, WA walked onto the base in an attempt to deliver a message, in the form of a poem, to the base commander. Naval security authorities arrested Krebsbach, and took him to a base facility for processing. He was released a short while later, after having been cited for Trespassing (18 USC 1382).

After Krebsbach's arrest, one last resister entered the roadway carrying a sign reading, "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." MacKnight Johnson, Silverdale, WA was also escorted from the roadway by State Patrol officers and cited.

The day planned in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. began in the morning at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action where participants screened "The Ghosts of Jeju," a shocking documentary about the people of Jeju Island who are resisting the military advance on their island today, just as their parents and relatives did in 1947. Participants included members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Walk that had walked from Olympia to Ground Zero Center, beginning on January 13th. The walk was led by monks from the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Miyohoji Buddhist Temple.

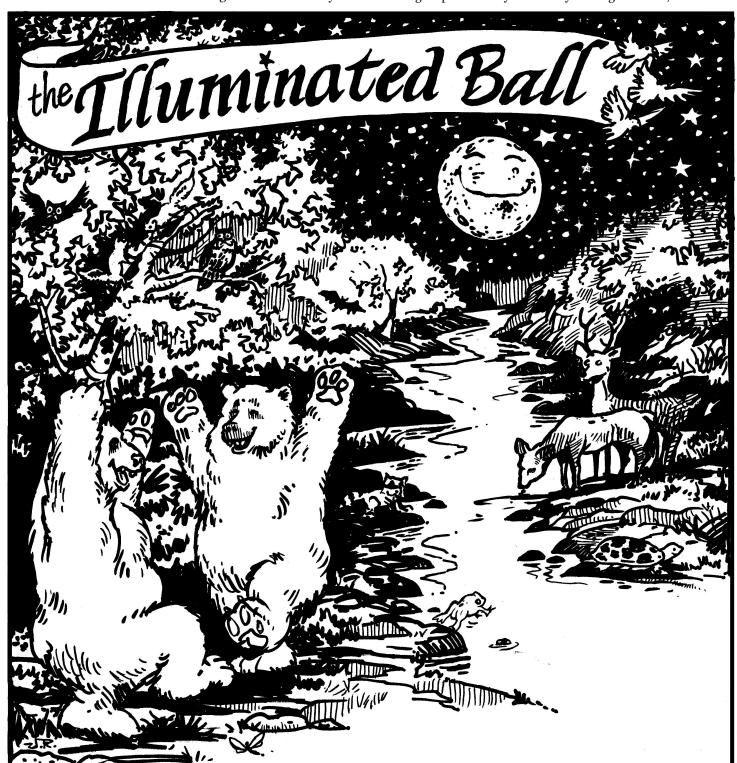
Ground Zero also hosted an ecumenical gathering organized by William "Bix" Bichsel, SJ, of the Tacoma Catholic Worker on January 15th (Dr. King's birthday). Fr. Bichsel led a shared Eucharist at the Bangor base Main Gate bringing people together in witness against nuclear weapons and in solidarity with the struggle of the people of Jeju Island.

On Monday's legal holiday recognizing Dr. King, Ground Zero Center participated in the Seattle MLK Rally & March, carrying a full-size (44 feet in length) Trident II D-5 missile and handing out leaflets calling on people to join in efforts to build a nuclear weapons-free world.

Ground Zero holds three scheduled vigils and actions each year in resistance to Trident and in protest of U.S. nuclear weapons policy. The group has been engaged in a continuing legal struggle to stop construction of a Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor.

Ground Zero is also working, through its "NO To NEW TRIDENT" campaign, to de-fund the Navy's plans for a next generation ballistic missile submarine, estimated to cost approximately \$100 billion to build. Building a new generation of ballistic missile submarines will undermine nonproliferation efforts and will increase the risk of either accidental or intentional nuclear war.

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



# February 8 \* 8 pm \* Eagle's Grand Ballroom

Tickets are on sale at Traditions \$65 through February 7 \* \$75 at the door

A dance performance, spearheaded by Steve Pessaro, and including Tall House aerialists will be followed by dancing to local band Pumphouse. There will be free appetizers and a no host bar. Proceeds from this annual event are used to fund the free public art space that serves participants in the Procession of the Species.

### ▶ Denny Heck, cont. from page 1

indexing bill, Syria, China's ban on geoducks and the privatization of our shorelines for a growing shellfish industry, coal export terminals, Puget Sound cleanup efforts, his role on the House Finance Committee, and more.

I also prepared for our interview by looking over Heck's re-election financial reports submitted so far, and, as a result, asked him about his thoughts about the movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to keep big money out of

Is Heck really giving 'em heck, as his campaign slogan promised?

### Northwest Issues and 2014 **Priorities**

Not surprisingly, Heck was positive on the approval of the Boeing machinist's new ten year contract.

"In the 10th district in Fredrickson, Boeing builds composite wings, and will be one of the competitors as the 777X project develops....We now have an opportunity to create up to 4000 well-paying jobs in Fredrickson...the kind of jobs you can buy a home and take a vacation and send your kids to college, so we now have an opportunity for significant middle class jobs wage jobs to be expanded, and that's a good thing...." (The Boeing PAC has already given Heck \$10,000 in 2013).

Asked what his priorities will be going into the 2014 Session, Heck said, without hesitation, first, to extend the unemployment compensation benefits to 1.3 million families, which were discontinued December 28, 2013, and affects 3,472 job seekers in the South

"Letting that go was not the best thing to do economically or morallywe could be doing better by them... No single dollar that the government spends is circulated more times than unemployment benefits...."

To check in with constituents, Heck said he has held about six to eight town hall meetings and several telephone town hall meetings so far, the latter of which he prefers because thousands of people are able to call in and be part of the conversation, rather than 50 - 100 who can attend meetings in person. Heck says he's able to answer questions over the telephone just as ably as in person. Still, he appreciates and welcomes all forums.

"[Regarding extending the unemployment benefits] I do hear several people say it's the right thing to do, and I agree. Despite some of the flaws, the House passage of the Murray-Ryan deal mitigated sequestration....The austerity approach won't work...'

"I'm also focused on the farm billthat's a great battle with serious consequences. We seem to have relative agreement on reforming the farm subsidy program—we're essentially going to provide fewer subsidies to large corporations that are otherwise pretty profitable...but the problem is that the House Republican majority wants to devastate the program....It's now in conference committee to work out the differences. I am cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to work it out.... If we don't fix the farm bill, come March, April, May, anybody who is the parent of a child 12 years or younger is going to feel it big time because milk prices are going to double...."

He said he also heard from his

constituents regarding the topic of Syria, because he specifically solicited their opinion when it was looking like diplomatic solutions may not work:

"....I cannot imagine any more sobering responsibility by a member of Congress than to decide whether or not to engage in an act of war which will take lives, and my family has been personally affected in this way...."

Heck, who lost his brother to cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange while serving as a Marine in Vietnam,

said he reached out to constituents about Syria, and was enriched by those conversations.

In the end, he said he felt the President had not made the case for a military intervention in Syria.

### **Economic and Financial** Issues

Last January, Heck gave up the chance to be appointed to other committees such as the Budget and Judiciary Committees. Instead Heck jumped at a last minute opening on the House Finance Committee and feels it's his niche.

Most notably, Heck saw

his bill, HR 2167, the Reverse Mortgage Stabilization Act of 2013, pass in June—no small feat for a freshman congressman.

Regarding the Federal Reserve, Heck said he thinks the Federal Reserve is a functional institution. "I'm an unabashed fan of Chair Bernanke and I think I will be of Janet Yellin as well. Both are smart, balanced people... tasked with keeping inflation and unemployment down, and this year Chair Bernanke was clearly concerned about employment levels...."

In early December, Heck signed onto the federal minimum wage indexing bill H.R. 1010 to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10.

"It won't kick start the middle class by itself...but 1 percent of our nation's population has 20 percent of its income and the top 1 percent has 40 percent of its net worth...and two-thirds of our economy is built on consumption.... that's a recipe for economic disaster...."

This comment provided a perfect segue to ask his opinion about the movement to amend the United States Constitution. Heck said he could support it depending on what it said, adding that Citizen's United was just "plain wrong and is bad for the country" but seemed to feel the movement was an uphill battle.

"Let's change it as we can."

### Minty Fresh, Green Businesses

Asked what local businesses provide him with a sense of where we should be heading with a clean, green local economy, Heck said he appreciated businesses like I.P. Callison & Sons in Lacey, which provides mint related products throughout the world. Ice Chips Candy in Yelm, which was spotlighted on the television show "Shark Tank," and Allafia, also headquartered in Lacey, whose fair trade health and beauty product production is the second largest employer in the African country of Togo.

"Allafia told me the other day that they

gave 6,000 bikes to high school girls to commute to and from the village and raised high school graduation rates from nine percent to 95 percent—now that's changing the world!"

Speaking of green businesses, I asked about the state legalization of pot. Heck says he is devoting his energy toward removing the federal barriers for marijuana related businesses so they can access the use of depository institutions.

"That's where I've concentrated my



efforts...I will also say that we seem to be decades beyond the point that marijuana should be a Class 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act. I don't think that's supported by the science."

### **Local Environmental Issues**

Heck was asked a variety of environmental questions that he seemed to answer in terms of being an opportunity to discuss the issues.

Asked about China's recent ban on geoducks, Heck responded, "I spoke with Ambassador (Gary) Locke a couple times...and our repeated tests were showing something different...Given the data I've been presented with, I'd be comfortable consuming that product...."

About the increased privatization

of South Sound shores to the shellfish aquaculture industry, Heck said he prefers to think of it in terms of what the industry is doing to help global warming and ocean acidification.

"I tend to have a different view of shellfish farming—there is no stronger proponent of doing something about global warming than shellfish farmers and the reason for that is ocean acidification and what it does to the shellfish. In fact, I think shellfish is the water quality 'canary in the mineshaft.'

But if you believe, as I do, that global warming is one of the greatest threats to civilization, then that helps us spread the word...."

When pressed that what activists are talking about is the intensity and method that the shellfish aquaculture industry uses to scour the shoreline of native species, Heck said he knows people have strong feelings on both sides of the issue.

Asked for his opinion on the coal export terminals being proposed in Washington State, Heck said, "We are proceeding exactly as Photo: Janine Unsoeld we should be, with the

state Department of Ecology and the Corps of Engineering determining the outcome. I always use the question about coal as an opportunity to talk about global warming. Whether or not hauling that much coal traffic through our communities is environmentally damaging will hopefully be indicated by the results to these efforts that are currently underway."

Little Hollywood: "It doesn't sound like you're coming out against them..."

Heck: "What should be inarguable to everybody is that global warming is real and coal is a significant contributor and if we do not recognize that, we will pay a price beyond our imagination...."

LH: "But we're aiding and abetting China to continue what they're doing

▶ **DENNY HECK,** continued on page 11.





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### ▶ Denny Heck, cont. from page 10.

and it's going to come back to us in the form of ocean acidification."

Heck did not respond.

Bringing more global issues local, I asked Heck how we can move to a healthier economy if our own Port of Olympia stays complicit in the degradation of our environment by accepting contracts to move raw logs to China and accept ceramic proppants from China, destined to be used in fracking. Heck was unfamiliar with this issue and/or the port's role, so I provided him with several past issues of the South Sound Green Pages.

A little frustrated, perhaps, Heck added, "I don't want to substitute my judgment all the time, ahead of time, for people whose job it is to evaluate this stuff—I mean, before their work product comes out, the state Department of Ecology and the Corps—yea or nay...."

Lastly, Heck was questioned about the slow cleanup efforts of Puget Sound, the Puget Sound Partnership, and his role with Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA06) as co-founders in June 2013 of the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus.

Heck said, "Not too much is happening yet, and that's fair...In part, we see ourselves as defenders and advocates of appropriations designed to help with habitat restoration and the like, but we can also play a soft power role of being the ones who can prod improved coordination between these agencies...."

Heck described a Tacoma town hall meeting devoted to the topic of

Puget Sound clean-up efforts, and a Washington, D.C.-based meeting between the state Partnership and the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10, at which many of the parties had not met before.

"In terms of how I spend my time, it was a whole lot more than approving a press release—we are actually poking and prodding, trying to figure out how it is we can make a difference."

### **Looking Toward Re-Election**

Heck is running for re-election, and no Republican has stepped forth to challenge him. The primary is August 5. His last election against Republican Richard Muri cost a little over \$2 million.

Freedom Foundation executive director Tom McCabe said last week in a meeting of Republicans at Panorama City that they do not yet have anyone to run against Heck, but hoped someone would step forward. He acknowledged that the 10th district would be difficult for Republicans to win.

Toward his re-election campaign, Heck has already raised \$603,335, according to a federal financial report filed October 14, 2013. Over half, \$332,110, is from political action committees (PACs), and \$271,225 is from individuals. Heck has \$494,429.16 in cash on hand. His next financial report is due January 31.

I pointed out that in this last report alone, he has received thousands of dollars from the PACs of the very banks and financial institutions, such as Bank of America, Capital One, Citigroup, American Express, Ernst and Young, Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs, that he is empowered to oversee and investigate as a member of the House Finance Committee.

Other corporations reporting contributions this quarter include Verizon, Walmart, General Electric, and \$10,000 each from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

I asked him if there is anyone he would not accept campaign monies from.

"I don't know, really...I'd probably have a hard time if cigarette companies come knocking, and I've never gotten any money from Big Oil, but my record ringing the bell on global warming is well established, and my advocacy for closing some of the tax preferences Big Oil has is pretty well known, so maybe they'll never come, I don't know...."

Asked about his opinion on public financing, Heck said he's conceptually supportive but if one's position is that this is a good thing because it will impact policy in a good way, then all one has to do is look at Arizona. "They had a form of that for a while...and Maine...I'm not entirely convinced....'

When asked if accepting money from the aforementioned financial institutions doesn't suggest a conflict of interest or leave him open to corruption, Heck said, "I am more than content to leave this up to the voters...I give thanks for being a member of Congress. I am not somebody who is going to retire post Congressional term to be a lobbyist...

this is my home....I sleep pretty well at night."

The House 113th Congress, Second Session is in session for only 11 days in January, and 112 days total this year, for which Heck is paid \$174,000.

On Wednesday, January 15, the Finance Committee will hold a hearing to examine the impact and potential unintended consequences of the recently finalized Volcker Rule.

On Tuesday, January 28, the committee will hold a hearing to receive the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau semi-annual report.

While many of the issues we discussed are far away from the minds of many South Sounders, Heck will be there, and giving 'em heck, or at least, some pokin' and proddin'.

For more information about U.S. Congressman Denny Heck, go to his website at www.dennyheck.house.gov.

His congressional Thurston and Mason County office is located at Lacey City Hall, 420 College Street SE, Suite 3000, Lacey, Washington 98503, (360) 459-8514; Pierce County office is located at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street SW, Suite 3B, Lakewood, WA 98499, (253) 208-6172; Washington D.C. office, 425 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20215, (202) 225-9740.

Full disclosure: Janine Unsoeld is a board member of the South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse (SPEECH) that publishes the South Sound Green Pages, a quarterly environmental magazine. For more information, go to: www.oly-wa.us/greenpages.

# Making legislative priorities heard in Olympia



Marchers with Washington CAN! and POWER! walked to the Capitol Building, then spoke with their legislators about their concerns today. Photo: Janine Unsoeld

### Janine Unsoeld

"An individual has not started living fully until they can rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of humanity."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marching from downtown Olympia to the Washington State Capitol building, activists with Washington CAN! (Community Action Network), and POWER! (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights), converged today as a collective force to express their priorities to

their legislators. Today is also Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Washington CAN! is a grassroots community organization with over 44,000 dues paying members from every legislative district in the state. Emphasizing racial, social and economic justice, about 140 members of the organization came to Olympia to meet with their legislators on four main priorities:

- Realize the promise of health reform and save Basic Health (SB 6231);
- Urge the Washington State Senate to pass the DREAM Act (HB 1817); Increase access to dental care for
- consumers (HB 2321); and Give workers access to paid sick days
- (HB 1313).

Organizing all morning at the Capitol Theater in downtown Olympia, activists were briefed on state legislation regarding Basic Health, the Dream Act, paid sick days, and dental access, then broke into small role-playing groups to rehearse brief, personal statements about

their own experiences on these issues.

Mariah McKay, a lead WA-CAN! organizer, said the group at today's effort included about 50 people from Eastern Washington, 30 from Seattle, 30 from the Greater Seattle area, 10 from Olympia, 10 from Tacoma, and 10 from rural communities throughout the state.

Shancie Wagner, a dentist from Spokane, came to Olympia to testify this afternoon to the House Health Care & Wellness Committee in support of HB 2321 to expand access to dental care. Wagner is the first private dentist in the state to express her support of dental access for all.

HB 2321 would create a new mid-level dental provider—a dental therapist—as an retired teacher from effective way to create much needed jobs demand, particularly among low-income people, communities of color and Native communities.

According Washington-CAN!, thirty out of 39 counties in Washington face a shortage of dental care professionals.

Wagner said she helped pass a bill in Minnesota similar to Washington's HB 2321, and that the dental therapist model that exists in Minnesota and Alaska works well.

"A dental therapist is like a hygienist and a dentist—the person would do extractions and fillings. I trained with

the very first dental therapist in Minnesota and saw firsthand that these people are competent because they are trained in limited procedures. They were, in fact, better at it than dental students. Dentists can hire them to do the simple stuff, and then we (dentists) can do the more complicated stuff.

"We should also restore Medicaid service payments to providers...I accept Medicaid, but I can only

accept a certain percentage—the reimbursement rates are so low, I lose money." Asked how much, Wagner says she loses about \$200 an hour.

"I've only been a dentist for two years, and I have a \$5,000 a month student loan to pay."

Asked why she became a dentist, Wagner said, "I was always terrified of the dentist, so I developed a passion of how it should be done—and I wanted to serve the community," she smiled.

Nearby, Rayan Orbom, 21, a student of Eastern Washington University in Spokane, said she works in the dental field, and was also in Olympia in support of affordable dental care.

Several members of the Peace

Jennifer Calvert, a

Spokane, said she

living adjustments,

salaries,

and Justice Action League of Spokane were sporting their new League T-shirts and said they will be speaking with their 4th Legislative District and meet the growing is concerned about representatives about their concerns. restoring cost-of-

Jennifer Calvert, a retired teacher from Spokane, said she increasing teacher's is concerned about restoring cost-ofand living adjustments, decreasing class sizes. increasing teacher's salaries, decreasing class sizes.

Ayoung man, Marcelas Owens, 14, of Seattle, knocked everyone out with his on-stage, pre-march rendition of the Black National Anthem.

Later, walking up to the Capitol, Owens said he's been working on social justice issues since he was seven years

"I started on health care, but now I'm mostly interested in youth involvement."

For more information about Washington CAN!, go to www. washingtoncan.org, or 220 South River Street #11, Seattle, Washington 98108, (206) 389-0050.

To follow Washington State Legislation, go to www.leg.wa.gov or call the hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

And for more about POWER!, go to www.mamapower.org, (360) 352-9716 or toll-free, 1-866-343-9716.

Janine Unsoeld is a local writer. She blogs at www.janineslittlehollywood. blogspot.com.

