

WORKS IN PROGRESS



BEYOND COAL EXPORTS

BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO KEEP COAL IN THE GROUND EVERYWHERE

WED, MARCH 5TH ■ 6 PM ■ EVERGREEN LONGHOUSE

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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

Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Governing Tool

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

Back Issues

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

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Editing: April Adams, Bethany Weidner, Fred Bridges, Scott Yoos, Sylvia Smith, and T. Belle
Layout: Sylvia Smith

Proofreading: April Adams, Emily Lardner, Enrique Quintero, Scott Yoos, and Sylvia Smith

Writers' Group: April Adams, Dan Leahy, Desdra Dawning, Emily Lardner, Enrique Quintero, Erin Palmer, Fred Bridges, Jordan Beaudry, Russell Frizzell, Sylvia Smith, and T. Belle

Graphics: Vince Ryland, April Adams

Mailings: Jeff Sowers

Finances: Pat Tassoni

Website: Emily Lardner, Robert Whitlock

Distribution: April Adams, Creighton Rose, T. Magster, Marylea Coday, Sandia Slaby, and Scott Yoos, and with room for more!

Submission Deadline

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olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ March 22 ♦ 1 pm
Olympia Timberland Library
in the back tables
(Be there for the first read!)

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On the front cover —

"No Coal Trains"

Graphic Artist: April Adams

The abuse of women in Iraq's criminal justice system

(Baghdad) – Iraqi authorities are detaining thousands of Iraqi women illegally and subjecting many to torture and ill-treatment, including the threat of sexual abuse. Iraq's weak judiciary, plagued by corruption, frequently bases convictions on coerced confessions, and trial proceedings fall far short of international standards. Many women were detained for months or even years without charge before seeing a judge.

The 105-page report, "'No One Is Safe': Abuses of Women in Iraq's Criminal Justice System," documents abuses of women in detention based on interviews with women and girls, Sunni and Shia, in prison; their families and lawyers; and medical service providers in the prisons at a time of escalating violence involving security forces and armed groups. Human Rights Watch also reviewed court documents and extensive information received in meetings with Iraqi authorities including Justice, Interior, Defense, and Human Rights ministry officials, and two deputy prime ministers.

"Iraqi security forces and officials act as if brutally abusing women will make the country safer," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "In fact, these women and their relatives have told us that as long as security forces abuse people with impunity, we can only expect security conditions to worsen."

In January 2013, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki promised to reform the criminal justice system, beginning with releasing detained women who had judicial orders of release. A year later, the brutal tactics of security forces remain essentially the same and hundreds of women remain in detention illegally.

--Human Rights Watch

Twenty years after NAFTA, Mexico has experienced lagging growth, persistent poverty and increased unemployment

Washington, DC – A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) finds that 20 years after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) took effect, Mexico's economic performance has been dismal compared to the rest of the region. The report, "Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years" examines official data sources to track Mexico's progress under NAFTA and finds slow growth, stagnant wages, and nothing to show in the way of poverty reduction.

"Of course it's possible that Mexico could have done even worse without NAFTA, but looking at the data it's tough to see how," CEPR Co-Director and lead author of the report Mark Weisbrot said today.

Among the paper's findings:

- Mexico ranks 18th out of 20 Latin American countries in growth of real GDP per person, the most basic economic measure of living standards.
- From 1960-1980, Mexican GDP per person almost doubled, growing by 98.7 percent. By comparison, in the past 20 years it has grown by just 18.6 percent.
- Mexico's per capita GDP growth of just 18.6 percent over the past 20 years is about half of the rate of growth achieved by the rest of Latin America.
- If NAFTA had been successful in restoring Mexico's pre-1980 growth rate – when developmentalist economic policies were the norm – Mexico today would be a relatively high income country, with income per person significantly higher than that of Portugal or Greece. It is unlikely that immigration reform would be a major political issue in the U.S., as relatively few Mexicans would seek to cross the border.

- According to Mexican national statistics, Mexico's poverty rate of 52.3 percent in 2012 is almost identical to the poverty rate of 1994. Meanwhile, the rest of Latin America saw a drop in poverty that was more than two-and-a-half times as fast as that of Mexico.

- Real (inflation-adjusted) wages for Mexico were almost the same in 2012 as in 1994, up just 2.3 percent in 18 years, and barely above their level of 1980.

- Unemployment in Mexico is 5.0 percent today, as compared to an average of 3.1 percent for 1990-1994 and a low of 2.2 percent in 2000; these numbers seriously understate the true lack of jobs, but they show a significant deterioration in the labor market during the NAFTA years.

"Mexico did all the things that Washington wanted and was supposed to be the big winner from NAFTA," said Weisbrot. "But after 20 years, it's pretty clear that although some billionaires did remarkably well, the Mexican people lost. There should be more discussion of what went wrong, especially in light of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which is modelled on NAFTA."

--Center for Economic and Policy Research

Redistricting plan counts incarcerated population as residents prison-based gerrymandering

CRANSTON, R.I. — Local residents joined the ACLU of Rhode Island today to sue the City of Cranston, charging that the 2012 redistricting plan for the City Council and School Committee violates the one person, one vote principle of the U.S. Constitution by counting incarcerated people in their prison location as if they were all residents of Cranston.

Because those incarcerated were counted as Cranston residents, three voters in the prison's district have as much voting power as four voters in every other city district, according to Census Bureau data. Cranston residents Karen Davidson, Debbie Flitman, Eugene Perry, and Sylvia Weber have joined the ACLU of Rhode Island as plaintiffs in the case. They are represented in federal court by Demos, the Prison Policy Initiative, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Plaintiff Davidson said today: "As a long-time resident and taxpayer of Cranston, I am deeply concerned that the City Council decided in 2012 to perpetuate this voting inequity, especially after the ACLU pointed out the constitutional problems with it. It is time for city officials to show some leadership and stop wasting taxpayers' money defending themselves from legal challenges like this."

The 2012 redistricting plan counted the population of Rhode Island's only state prison complex, the Adult Correctional Institutions, as residents of Ward 6 even though the overwhelming majority of these individuals are not true residents of the district, but instead remain residents of their pre-incarceration community for virtually all legal purposes, including voting.

"Using the people incarcerated at the ACI to pad the resident population of Ward 6 is not only irrational, but also unconstitutional. Over 200 municipalities and counties across the country actively avoid this 'prison gerrymandering' when redistricting," said Aleks Kajstura, Legal Director at the Prison Policy Initiative. "There is no reason for Cranston to give extra representation to a select group of residents just because they happen to live near a prison."

According to Census Bureau data, without the incarcerated population, Ward 6 has only 10,209 true constituents. Yet those constituents now wield the same political power as the roughly 13,300 constituents in each of the other wards. This dilutes the voting strength and political influence of citizens residing outside of Ward 6, in clear violation

of the Equal Protection requirements of Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"The people incarcerated in Cranston cannot vote in local elections, visit with their elected officials, or use the public library," said Adam Lioz, Demos counsel. "So, they should not be used to pad districts, skewing voting power in violation of the one person, one vote principle. The City Council should do the right thing and correct its redistricting process."

"All the voters of Cranston should have an equal say in who their elected officials should be. When a citizen exercises their fundamental right to vote, they expect that their vote will be counted equally, not as if it were only three-fourths of another citizen's vote. Cranston elected officials should stop playing games and restore fairness to the democratic system," said Sean Young, staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project.

ACLU of Rhode Island executive director Steven Brown said, "In 2012, the ACLU testified before the City Council and urged members to draw district lines in a way that would protect the principle of 'one person-one vote.' More than 200 counties and municipalities facing prison gerrymandering have pro-actively addressed the problem. It is unfortunate that the Cranston City Council refused to do so, leaving us no choice but to file this lawsuit."

The complaint, *Davidson v. City of Cranston*, was filed in U.S. District Court in Rhode Island.

The lawsuit is being handled locally by ACLU of RI volunteer attorney Lynette Labinger, who only two years ago in a highly-publicized case successfully sued Cranston officials over the display of a prayer banner in a high school auditorium.

--Demos

Unionization Continues to Boost Pay and Benefits of Black Workers

Washington DC – For over 50 years, black workers in the United States have found union representation to be a source of higher quality jobs than would otherwise be available. These jobs played an important role in creating a path to the middle class for many African Americans and their families. A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), demonstrates that despite a long decline in unionization rates in the United States, unions continue to boost the wages and benefits of black workers.

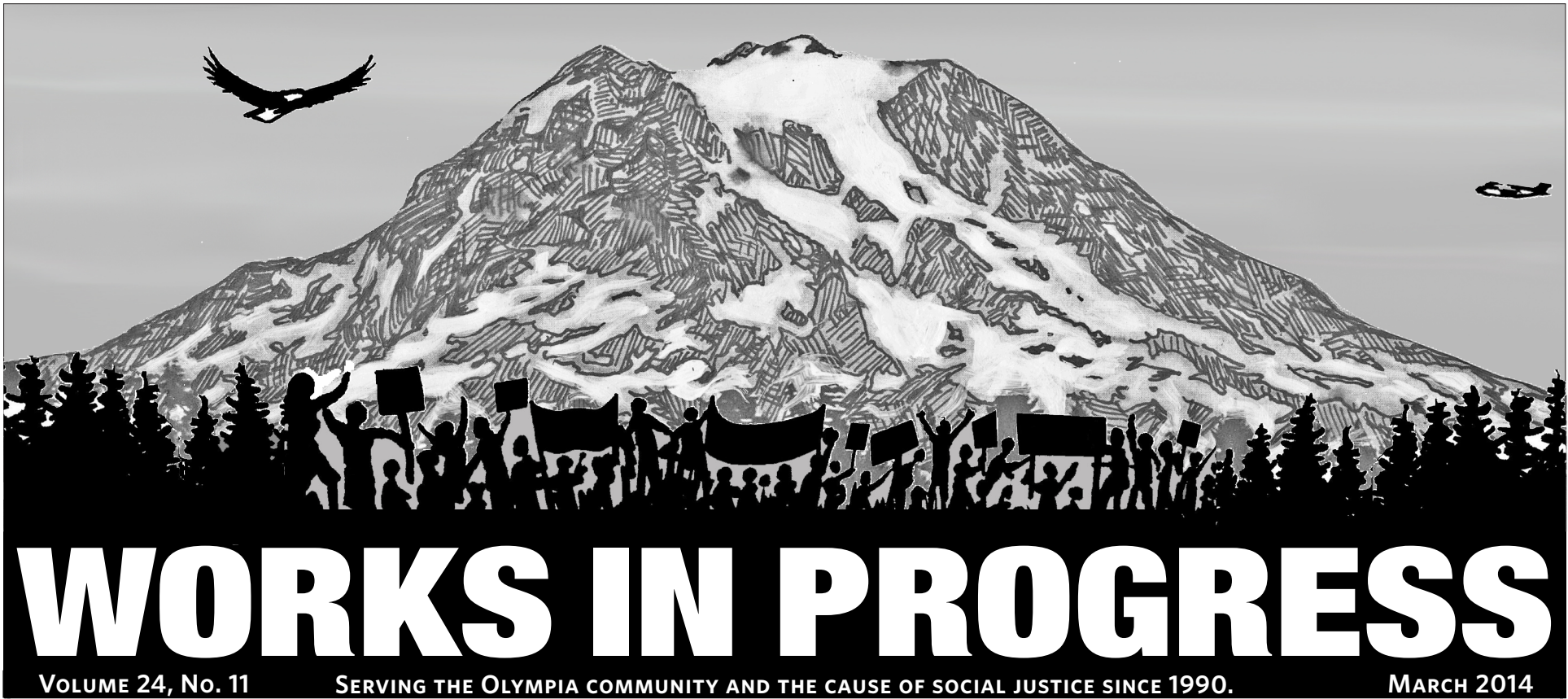
"Unionization rates are down for all workers, including black workers, but the pay and benefit boost for unionized black workers is very clear in the data," said Janelle Jones, a research associate at CEPR and an author of the report. Jones and her co-author, John Schmitt, note that black workers continue to have a higher unionization rate (15 percent) than the rate for all workers (13 percent).

Among the highlights of the "Union Advantage for Black Workers" report:

- Unionized African-American workers earn, on average, 15.6 percent more than their non-union counterparts.
- Almost three-fourths of unionized black workers had health insurance through their employer or union, compared to less than half of non-unionized black workers.
- Almost twice as many black workers had an employer-sponsored retirement plan as black workers who were not in a union.
- While unionization boosted the wages and benefits of black workers at all levels of educational attainment, the benefits of union representation were largest for less-educated workers.

The report is based on CEPR's analysis of the most recent Current Population Survey (CPS) data available, covering the period 2008-2013.

--Center for Economic and Policy Research



Legalizing marijuana: Profit over patients

Liquor Control Board recommendations threaten state’s medical marijuana system

Erin Palmer / Jordan Beaudry

In November 2012, Washington State voters passed Initiative 502, legalizing recreational marijuana use. Although I-502 proponents promised that it would not change the existing medical cannabis system, the state now aims to merge patients into the future recreational scheme.

Legislators are concerned about federal intervention with the recreational system unless they apply more regulations to the medical cannabis law passed fifteen years ago. This fear is based on an announcement made in August 2013 by U.S. District Attorney Jenny Durkan. She stated, “The continued operation and proliferation of unregulated, for-profit entities outside of the state’s regulatory and licensing scheme is not tenable and violates both state and federal law”. However, Durkan did not suggest specific changes.

The state is also worried that the new recreational industry will not be a profitable success unless it eliminates or envelops the competition of the medical cannabis market. Washington’s top recreational marijuana industry consultant, Mark Kleiman, was quoted in the Seattle Times saying “I don’t think the legal market state officials are imagining will be able to compete with the medical market if it remains as wide open as it currently is.”

The alterations to medical cannabis are based on a set of recommendations issued in October 2013 by the Washington State Liquor Control Board, in conjunction with the Departments of Health and Revenue. Several hundred patients protested the new guidelines at a public hearing for the Liquor Control Board in November 2013 before they were finally submitted to the legislature on January 1, 2014. The recommendations that most concern medical cannabis patients and activists include:

- Tightly restricting access to medical cannabis authorizations.
- Restricting and disciplining authorizing health care providers.
- Creating a mandatory patient registry accessible to state agencies.
- Redefining “intractable pain” and “debilitating.”
- Reducing legal possession amounts from 24 ounces to 3 ounces.
- Reducing legal patient grows from 15 plants to 6 plants (only 3 of which may

be flowering, or “budding,” plants).

- Eliminating collective gardens and medical cannabis “dispensaries”.
- Implementing high excise taxes and cost mark-ups.

The January 2014 legislative session commenced with a whirlwind of over twenty bills relating to marijuana. Three contentious and similar bills have been designed to fit the medical system into the confines of the Liquor Control Board recommendations. Two of the bills, Senate bills 5887 and 6178, would alter I-502. SB 5887 is sponsored by Republican Senator Ann Rivers of the 18th District, and Democratic Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles of the 36th District sponsors SB 6178. Any modifications to the 502 recreational legislation within the first two years of implementation require a two-thirds super majority to pass. Right now, both bills are awaiting a hearing by

the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and they may be combined into a single entity as they progress.

The third piece of legislation, House bill 2149, does not require that super majority because it adds onto the Controlled Substance Act rather than amends subsections of 502. This leaves 2149 as the bill most likely to finally pass. HB 2149 is sponsored by Democratic Representative of the 34th District, Eileen Cody. It was passed by the House

All three bills overhauling medical cannabis require authorizing health care providers to enter patients’ names into a database available to the Department of Health, Department of Revenue, and law enforcement.

on February 14 and will proceed to the Senate for the final votes. The current legislative session ends on March 13.

Steve Sarich, executive director of the Cannabis Action Coalition, who also

headed the No on I-502 campaign, feels that a final passing vote on 2149 would be devastating to the existing medical cannabis system. After the House vote passed 2149, Sarich stated, “Our cowardly legislators voted to effectively end medical cannabis here. Patients are in shock. If the Senate votes to pass this bill, Washington will be the first state to end medical cannabis.”

There was a bill that had much support from the medical cannabis community, but it never made it past it’s first reading on January 14, 2014. House bill 2233, also known as the Ric Smith Memorial Act, was created by the medical cannabis advocacy groups Sensible Washington and Americans for Safe Access, and sponsored by Democratic Representative Sherry Appleton. HB 2233 would have given patients arrest protection, further regulated authorizations from healthcare providers, created a voluntary instead of mandatory patient registry, kept patient possession limits at 24 ounces and 15 plants, more tightly

► **MARIJUANA**, continued on page 13.

So how would you like your oil?

Oil trains pose an threat to the environment and public safety in Washington State

Dan Leahy

Here’s Burlington Northern’s menu coming to your town on “virtual pipelines” of 100 car unit trains. For your entree: Bakken light, a shale specialty, close enough to gasoline to make it a highly explosive experience for your domestic taste buds. For your main course: Alberta heavy, tar sands in origin, but dressed with enough toxic synthetics so you’ll never imagine it’s really asphalt warmed up.

You’ve probably read about it. Derailments, like the one in Quebec on July 6th last year. A runaway train carrying 72 tank cars of Bakken oil from North Dakota left the tracks at 63 mph in the middle of a village called Lac Megantic. The cars exploded, killed 47 people and destroyed 40 buildings. 1.4 million gallons of oil spread over 77 acres, entered the Chaudiere river and flowed 74 miles down stream. The Quebec government

estimates a \$200 million clean up. The Maine-based owner, the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic (MMA) Railroad, filed bankruptcy.

Oops. Just an aberration. 2012 was the safest year in rail history, says the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Trans-Canada, the Keystone XL pipeline proponent, is considering rail and not just because the XL has been slowed down in the US. Native bands in British Columbia are dead set against new and expanded pipelines crossing their lands.

with staff sufficient to inspect just 1% of all rail traffic. We’ll get to the bottom of this. It must have been the engineer. With lightning speed, the FRA, just one month after Quebec, issued emergency order number 28! Trains on main lines can’t be left unattended unless railroads submit a plan that says they can be left

unattended.

Three months later it was Aliceville, Alabama. In November, thirty tankers in a 90 car unit train full of Bakken oil from North Dakota derailed, exploded, dumped its oil into a wetlands that didn’t burn out for three days. This time two engineers were on board (there goes that argument) going 40 mph on a relatively flat terrain. Damn. What’s up?

Then there was that plume of smoke and fire December 30th at Casselton, just west of Fargo, North Dakota. You have probably seen the video. Bakken oil again. A BNSF oil train headed one way hit a derailed BNSF grain train headed the other way. Eighteen of the 106 cars derailed. Boom. The oil exploded. 400,000 gallons of crude dumped. 2400 residents of Casselton were temporarily evacuated. 9,000 yards of soil have been excavated thus far.

So, what’s happening?

North Dakota is now the second largest oil producing state in the nation, just after Texas. The Bakken region now produces something like one million barrels per

► **OIL TRAINS**, continued on page 12.

Study shows mentally ill more likely to be victims, not perpetrators, of violence

Nearly one-third of adults with mental illness are likely to be victims of violence in a given six-month period, according to a new study by North Carolina State University, RTI International, the University of California, Davis, Simon Fraser University, and Duke University.

The study also found a strong correlation between being a victim of violence and committing a violent act. The study was published in the American Journal of Public Health and funded as part of a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

“We hear about the link between violence and mental illness in the news, and we wanted to look not only at the notion that the mentally ill are a danger to others, but the possibility that they are also in danger,” said Sarah Desmarais, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychology at NC State and lead author of a paper describing the work.

Researchers compiled a database of 4,480 mentally ill adults who had answered questions about both committing violence and being victims of violence in the previous six months. The database drew from five earlier studies that focused on issues ranging from antipsychotic medications to treat-

ment approaches. Those studies had different research goals, but all asked identical questions related to violence and victimization; questions ranged in severity from pushing and shoving to using a weapon.

Researchers found that 23.9 percent of study participants had committed a violent act within the previous six months. The majority of those acts – 63.5 percent – were committed in residential settings, not in public. Only 2.6 percent of the violent acts were committed in school or workplace settings.

The study found that a significantly higher percentage of participants – 30.9 percent – had been victims of violence during the same time period. Among those who said they were victimized, 43.7 percent said they’d been victimized on multiple occasions.

“We found that individuals with mental illness are at high risk of victimization, representing a substantial public health concern,” said Richard Van Dorn, Ph.D., senior mental health services researcher at RTI, co-author of the study, and principal investigator of the grant. “We found a strong correlation between violence and victimization, meaning that it’s essential that we do more than just focus on the reduction of violence perpetration; we also have to identify ways to reduce victimization in this population.”

—Research Triangle Institute

The real unemployment rate is. . .

In today’s labor market, the unemployment rate drastically understates the weakness of job opportunities. This is due to the existence of a large pool of “missing workers”—potential workers who, due to weak job opportunities, are neither employed nor actively seeking a job. Because jobless workers are only counted as unemployed if they are actively seeking work, these missing workers are not reflected in the unemployment rate.

“Our estimate shows there are currently nearly 5 million missing workers—workers who would be either working or looking for work if the labor market were strong,” According to EPI Economist Heidi Shierholz. “If these nearly 5 million missing workers had been actively seeking work in August, the unemployment rate would have been a staggering 10.1 percent instead of 7.3 percent, which demonstrates the continued magnitude of our jobs crisis.”

—Economic Policy Institute

Untitled

By Molly Nagin

we could play the blame game all night long
someone told me we need extensive complexive surgery

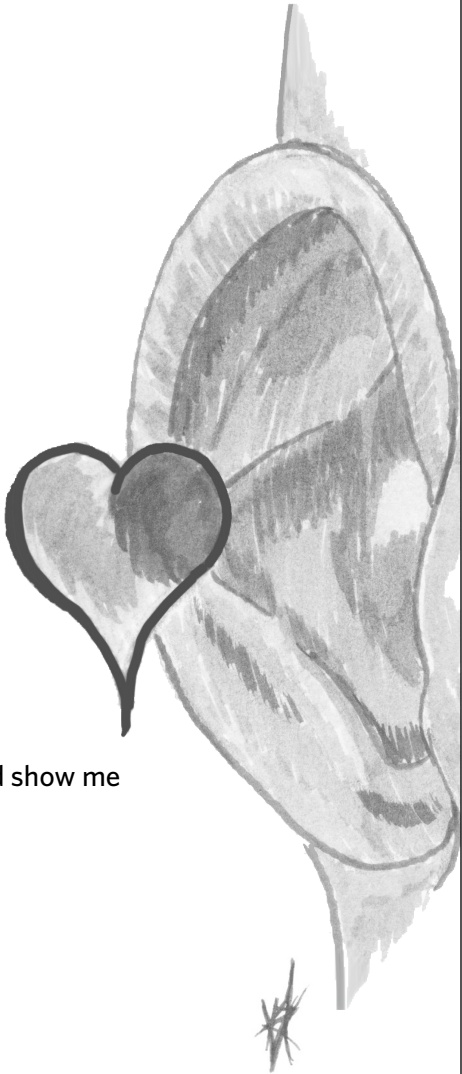
but life has taught me it only takes
one moment
to replenish completely
to be peace to end the war
to see through the eyes of our family
to walk in their shoes
as one traveler
for none of us know
the right answer

and none of us
invented war
welcome to planet earth
home of cosmic fucking energy
we hardly understand life at all

so please fast talkers
would you stop and tell me
what would you say
if only love were listening?
would you please stop right there and show me
what would you make
if only love were holding?

for i would certainly like to know you
humbly
unfolding
not scolding
not pointing fingers
maybe getting angry but not blaming
the very thing we are

we are the system
network of consciousness is infinite and crystalline
birth your right to be alive in your mission
stop your wishin for the answer
and listen



11th Annual

Voices of Children contest entries due April 15

Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives is a contest for children in Washington State who are being raised now or in the past by a relative other than theirparents. The contest honors both the children, and the more than 37,000 relatives in Washington State who are raising them.

Write a poem, short essay, or draw a picture that describes how living with a relative (such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle) has made a positive difference in your life. Entries will be judged in three age categories 5-7 year olds, 8-12 year olds, and 13-19 year olds.

Requirements

- All participants must live in Washington State and be 5 -19 years old.
- Poems should be 21 lines or less.
- Essays should be 200 words or less.
- Use colored pencils, markers, pencil, or crayons on any drawings. Make your art as big and bold as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing.
- Artwork must be submitted on the enclosed entry form.
- Do not include any names within artwork.
- Artwork must be flat and within the box on the entry form.
- Entry must be original, in English, and unpublished.
- Winners will be notified in early May and all decisions of the judges are final.
- Award ceremony for winners will be held in June or July.
- We reserve the right of first publication and use of writings and drawings.
- All entries may be published in a 2014 book called Voices of Children-Raised by Grandparentsand Other Relatives.

Prizes

- \$100 from Twin Star Credit Union
- Free night at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA for a family of four!

Questions? Please call Family Education and Support Services at 360-754-7629 or TollFree 1-877-813-2828 or e-mail Lynn@Familyess.org.

SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

The Invisible Woman March 7 - March 13

Fiennes and screenwriter Abi Morgan adapt Claire Tomalin’s book with delicate grace, presenting love as blessing, curse and, perhaps, inevitable force.

—Tom Long, *The Detroit News*

Seen in flashback from the perspective of the now married Nelly, tormented by the memories of her affair, the story unfolds in chilly but engaging fashion, with Abi Morgan’s typically insightful script taking its lead from Claire Tomalin’s book.

—Mark Kermode, *Observer [UK]*

In Bloom March 21 - March 27

The 14-year-old best friends of “In Bloom,” live in a place that seems to be crumbling at the edges. It’s 1992, and their homeland, the former Soviet republic of Georgia, is at war.

—A.O. Scott, *New York Times*

Classroom gossip, overbearing teachers, boy trouble, maintaining social standing and other staples of high-school misery are present. But so are bread lines with constant television reports of violence, unrest and curfews.

—Bill Goodykoontz , *Arizona Republic*

Moms Mambly: I’ve Got Something to Tell You Sunday, March 9, 7:30 pm

Whoopi Goldberg’s directorial debut follows the career of comedic pioneer and entertainer Moms Mabley, who began as a vaudeville star who traveled the Chitlin’ Circuit in the first half of the 20th century.

Born Loretta Mary Aiken, Mabley inspired and influenced many entertainers through her legacy, which encompassed a unique talent and “subtle” yet resounding political voice.

—Vanessa Martinez, *Shadow and Act*

The Great Beauty March 21 - March 27

The Great Beauty is an utterly ravishing portrait of listless luxuriance, a fantasy of decadent wealth and beauty that evokes Fellini’s La Dolce Vita by way of Baz Luhrmann.

—Geoff Pevere, *Globe and Mail*

Throughout the film, Sorrentino delivers gorgeous images, crazy images, startling and sexy and serene images; it’s a visual bath of sorts - the great beauty is everywhere, Jep (and we) just have to be open to it.

—Tom Long, *The Detroit News*

CAPITOL THEATER ON FIFTH AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

Activist sues Olympia Police Department for false arrest and imprisonment

Strife Support Committee

Olympia, WA – On March 11, Paul French will have his day in court in Tacoma, WA. French’s Federal civil suit is against Sean Lindros of the Olympia Police Department (OPD) for false arrest, imprisonment, and violation of his civil rights at a protest against police brutality that took place on April 8, 2010.

The lawsuit, filed in US District Court by National Lawyers Guild attorney Larry Hildes, alleges that Lindros violated French’s constitutional rights to free speech and assembly, to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, and equal protection under the law when he arrested French and 28 other protesters, and falsely charged French with a class C felony assault on an officer.

French served two months in Olympia’s city jail after agreeing to an Alford plea. Prior to his incarceration, French experienced a nervous breakdown due to the intense pressure brought on by the false charges and is

now suing for psychological damages.

After serving time, French was subjected to a campaign of harassment that included 12 police contacts and 5 tickets in a 2-month span in 2011. The suit also cites public records that revealed that French had been under surveillance by Washington State Patrol and the Olympia Police Department and was referred to as the “white rapper” in e-mail exchanges.

Larry Hildes; is also lead attorney in a civil suit against Army Spy John Towery (Panagacos v Towery), going to trial in June 2014. Towery, who worked as a criminal intelligence analyst for Joint Base Lewis McChord, infiltrated student groups and the anti-war movement in Olympia, WA from 2007-2009.

John Towery’s boss Tom Rudd had warned Olympia Police about the April 8, 2010 protest against police brutality in an email he sent to OPD’s Tor Bjornstad

just three weeks after the conclusion of three internal US Army reviews of Towery’s and Rudd’s conduct. Bjornstad is also a co-defendant in the Panagacos v Towery suit.

French believes that his case will demonstrate the need for more transparency and accountability for the Olympia Police Department.

“There’s a well-documented pattern of falsified charges, intimidation tactics, and harassment of myself and other activists in the Pacific Northwest and it needs to stop. That’s why I’m bringing this lawsuit, so that people who stand up for the rights of others can continue to fight for a more equal and just world without the fear of reprisal.”

Paul French’s trial will be begin on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 9 AM in US District Court located at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma, WA (1717 Pacific Way).

For more information on this case, go to the Strife Support Committee Blog- <http://breakingthewavesofrepression.wordpress.com/>

Final month to enroll for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act

March is the final month for open enrollment in 2014 for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. There are people staged in every county to assist those who want help with the process of reviewing, choosing, and registering for a policy that matches your needs and financial resources. Some policies are absolutely free, others \$50 per month or a bit more depending on your income & needs. Final deadline is March 31. *Everyone deserves to have health insurance!*

The following organizations in Thurston County have staff that can help people navigate the options:

- Family Support Center of South Sound
108 State Avenue, Olympia
(360) 754-9297, Dial 0

- Lewis Mason Thurston Agency on Aging
2404 Heritage Court SW, Olympia
(360) 664-3162 Ext. 133 Serving 55+
- Planned Parenthood
402 Legion Way, Suite 201, Olympia,
(206) 320-7610
- Providence St. Peter Hospital
413 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia,
(877) 215-7833
- Sea Mar Community Health Centers
669 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey
(855) 289-4503
- 3030 Limited Lane NW, Olympia
(855) 289-4503
- Thurston County Food Bank
220 Thurston Ave NE, Olympia
(360) 352-8597 Ext. 109

Playback Theatre Performance

Stories of Wisdom in collaboration with GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty)

Friday, March 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 GRuB (Garden Raised Urban Bounty). GRuB inspires positive personal and community change by bringing people together around food and agriculture. Working with youth and people with low-incomes, GRuB helps create empowering individual and community food solutions. GRuB also offers tools and trainings to help build a just and sustainable food system.

Through their GRuB in the School Initiative, disengaged and/or low-income high school students earn credits while learning about and contributing to their local food systems. The curriculum focuses on communication, team-building, personal development, sustainable land stewardship, and community service. Students participate in growing and marketing produce, herbs, and cut flowers on a small farm.

GRuB also engages elementary school students in hands-on learning about soil, plants, food, and community through field trips to the farm. The GRuB School students learn public-speaking and leadership skills while leading children on the tours.

Through the Kitchen Garden Project, GRuB partners with lower-income people to create projects that increase access to healthy food.

Since 1993, GRuB has worked alongside volunteers and gardeners to build more than 2,300 backyard and community gardens, host workshops, and provide support, training, and resources for new gardeners to find success. GRuB’s goal is for gardeners to build the skills and connections to organize good food projects in their own neighborhoods.

Background information about Playback Theatre:

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

Girls Without Limits Spring Break Camp April 7-11 (9:30-4:30 all days) YWCA of Olympia (220 Union Ave)

Girls ages 10-14 \$130 (scholarships are available)



Spring Break 2014 Camp is all about CODING! Girls will work with professional female software engineers to build their own laptops using Raspberry Pi technology. Campers will also take a field trip to the Intel Campus in Portland, OR and participate in workshops to develop the skills to create their own digital world.

Women working in the field of computer science will lead discussions on the history of women in the technology industry and their presence in software development today.

We will also discuss critical ethical issues that we as technology consumers and producers face every day, such as laws and regulations around downloading vs. sharing software online.

Registration is REQUIRED so contact Makenzie DeVries at mdevries@ywcaofolympia.org or give us a call at (360)352-0593.

More info is available on our website: <http://www.ywcaofolympia.org/program/girls-without-limits>. —YWCA of Olympia

Special Events

GI Coffeehouse Tour in Olympia Saturday, March 1, 2 pm Unitarian Universalist Congregation (near Division St. & Burbank Ave)

Military veterans and family members will travel to 10 West Coast cities promoting GI outreach centers in TX, WA, and Germany.

The tour will raise much needed funds for the three GI outreach centers, which provide counseling on military discharges, veterans benefits and conscientious objection to war, as well as safe spaces for soldiers to share their experiences and begin healing the psychological wounds of war.

Sponsors of the GI Coffeehouse Tour include Veterans For Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, War Resisters League, Military Law Task Force, Center for Conscience and War, Courage To Resist, March Forward, Center for Conscience in Action, Catalyst Project, and GI Rights Network.

Media Island and Last Word Books Benefit Brunch! Sunday, March 2, 11 am -2 pm 816 Adams St. SE, Olympia

Last Word Books has been Olympias downtown hub of radical thoughts and ideas for over ten years. Come celebrate the bookstore and help them during their move and transition to a more sustainable location and more vibrant space for the business to operate!

Feast on delicious breakfast food and join us for a spirited discussion on The role of book stores and independent media centers in our community! Please bring \$5-20 for the cause and food. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Beyond Coal Exports--Building a global movement to keep coal in the ground everywhere Wednesday, March 5, 6 pm - 8 pm Evergreen State College Longhouse

Evergreen Political Information Center is hosting an discussion at the Evergreen State College, featuring prominent international experts on the economic realities and environmental impacts of coal transportation through Pacific Northwest communities and First Nations lands for export to Asia. The roadshow is sponsored and organized by Greenpeace and Rising Tide.

Information contact: Pete Litster (South Sound Rising Tide) 801-638-3350 or para-pet.contra@gmail.com.

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/>

Olympia Free Space Assembly Wednesday, March 12, 7 pm Traditions Cafe, Olympia

One topic that has repeatedly been discussed over the course of several Free Olympia Project assemblies is the need for more free spaces in Olympia. This is a broad subject, from renting buildings or houses to use as community centers to reclaiming abandoned structures.

YWCA Open House and Movie Night! (Sponsored by Zonta Club) Thursday, March 27th at 5:30pm Kearney House 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

Join us to learn about the YWCA, our programs, and the historic Kearney House. Zonta Club will be on hand to share their work to improve the legal, political, economic, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.

The movie time is 6 pm and features several short videos created entirely by Girls Without Limits! Topics include E-Waste, Women in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, math), and the Girls Summit. Popcorn provided!

For any questions, please contact the YWCA at 352-0593.

Who watches the watchers? (or how I learned to stop worrying and love the NSA)

Paul French (aka Strife)

“It’s clear there are times where what is lawful is distinct from what is rightful. There are times throughout history, and it doesn’t take long for an American or a German to think about times in the history of their country where the law provided the government to do things that were not right.” – Edward Snowden

The technological achievements of the modern era trump even the most fantasticvisionsofsciencefictionwriters of the 20th century. The accelerating rate of technical advancement has led to manyadvantagesbut has come at a steep price. Every innovative gadget and new, convenient form of communication has also opened the door for users of these technologies to be scrutinized and exploited by those in the business of gathering intelligence. In an age of mass surveillance, the networks that connect us to each other across also provide powerful institutions near limitless access to our private information on a scale previously unimaginable. This dragnet of data collection and retention has serious implications for our ability to speak, think, and associate freely in the world. The power to garner intelligence on whole populations, study human interactions, map patterns of thought, track associations, and engage in predictive analysis of actions, behaviors, and events could send Philip K. Dick plunging into an existential crisis.

Fortunately, there is also abundant proof that in an age of increasing connectivity, new information can spread rapidly, shift dominant narratives, engender new perspectives, and change the course of history. An example of this phenomenon is former NSA intelligence analyst Edward Snowden who is responsible for some of the most important leaks in human history. At 30 years of age, Snowden worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, a private contractor, and was paid to track international terrorists. He became concerned when he noticed the ease with which his employer could gather data on American citizens in clear violation of the constitution. Instead of ignoring the abuses and collecting his \$122,000 annual salary, Snowden followed his conscience and fled with irrefutable proof, risking life and limb to expose official criminality at the highest levels.

In a series of explosive stories that began in the UK newspaper, the Guardian, in June 2013, Snowden revealed that the NSA collects the phone data and text messages of millions of people in the US and worldwide on a daily basis. One of his first leaks exposed a program called PRISM that the NSA used to collect mass quantities of online communications such as e-mails and chats as well as browser history and stored data, documents, photographs, and videos from at least nine corporations including Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, and Skype.

Subsequent leaks by Snowden also revealed that the NSA bugged the computer servers of the European Union, spied on 38 embassies worldwide, intercepted and stored the phone calls of at least 35 foreign leaders, including US allies such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Equally disturbing was the disclosure that the NSA runs an elite hacking unit specializing in cyber warfare called the

The power to garner intelligence on whole populations, study human interactions, map patterns of thought, track associations, and engage in predictive analysis of actions, behaviors, and events could send Philip K. Dick plunging into an existential crisis.

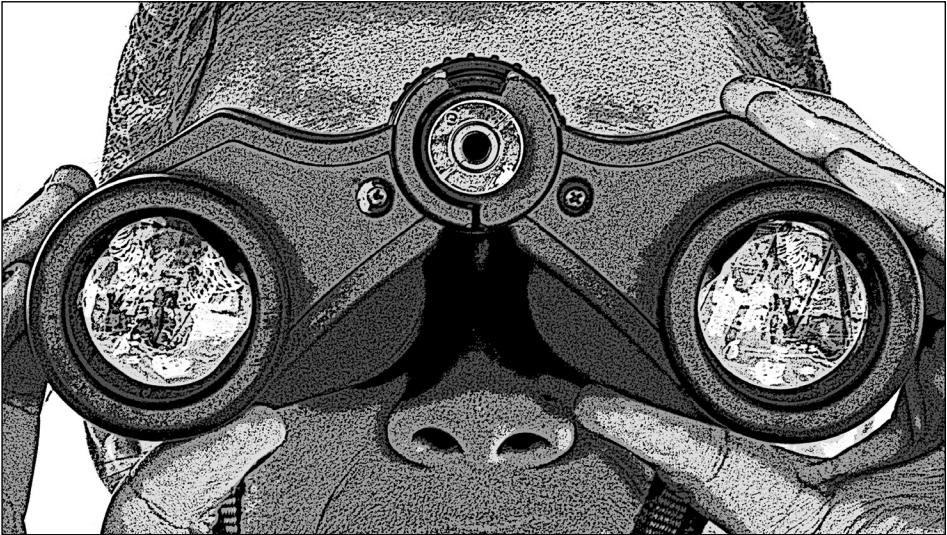
T.A.O. or (Tailored Access Operations) that went so far as to intercept laptops purchased online and divert them to warehouses where spyware and hardware could be installed before sending them to customers.

On December 17, 2013, Federal District Court Judge Richard J. Leon argued against the NSA spying programs calling them, “almost Orwellian,” in a 68-page landmark ruling stating, “I cannot imagine a more ‘indiscriminate’ and ‘arbitrary’ invasion than this systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every single citizen.”

In 2008, during his campaign for president, Barack Obama promised to end the Bush regime’s unconstitutional warrantless wiretapping programs. In February of that year he stated, “We can give our intelligence and law enforcement community the powers they need to track down and take out terrorists without undermining our commitment to the rule of law, or our basic rights and liberties.”

Unfortunately, under Obama’s watch, the massive power of the NSA has only grown by leaps and strides beginning with his five-year extension of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in 2012.

In response to the global debate over Snowden’s leaks, the President commissioned a review panel that published a 300-page report on December 18, 2013, recommending substantial reforms including the termination of bulk data-collection by the NSA. Despite this suggestion, on January 17, 2014, President Obamagave a speech deflecting his panel’s legitimate concerns and severely understating the dangers of the NSA’s systematic violations of the fourth amendment’s prohibition of unreasonable searches and seizures. Though acknowledging the tremendous impact of Snowden’s leaks, Obama proposed piecemeal policy reforms that essentially rubber-stamped the NSA’s unconstitutional programs such as Prism, Boundless Informant, and X Keyscore. He claimed



the “United States does not collect intelligence to suppress criticism or dissent.” In an article for the Guardian, Glen Greenwald called the reforms a “PR attempt to mollify the public” that served to “make the system prettier and more politically palatable” and “placate public anger while leaving the system fundamentally unchanged.”

The revolving door that has come unhinged between the private and public sector and the increasing reliance on corporate contractors to carry out government functions are likely to have influenced the decisions to leave these spying programs relatively untouched. For example, the Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, who perjured himself on the Senate floor on March 12, 2013, when asked whether the NSA collected information on US citizens, worked for the same private contractor as Edward Snowden, Booz Allen Hamilton, from 2006-2007. In 2010 at his confirmation hearing, Clapper stated that, “I worked as a contractor for six years myself, so I think I have a good understanding of the contribution that they have made and will continue to make.” This trend in surveillance apparatuses, armies, and privatizing prisons is extremely dangerous. When institutions designed for social control are maintained for profit, their imperative is to not only perpetuate themselves continuously but also expand to meet their shareholder requirements regardless of the social costs or whether there is an actual need for their services.

The repressive capacity of surveillance systems is especially important in light of our sordid national history of counter-intelligence programs (COINTELPRO). With the onset of the Cold War, the FBI used a combination of spying, dirty tricks, and even assassination to “expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities” of protesters and liberation movements of manydifferentstripes. This program was exposed by courageous whistleblowers in 1971 who suspected that authorities were engaging in a covert war against

dissent but lacked the hard evidence to prove it. As recounted in Betty Medsgar’s stellar new book, *The Burglary: the Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret FBI (2014)*, nine individuals burglarized an FBI field office in Media, PA, in 1971 to expose the designs of this powerful program. One of the ugliest chapters of this nation’s history was when the FBI used surveillance to obtain blackmail and send an anonymous letter to Martin Luther King Jr., urging him to kill himself or have his sexual infidelities exposed.

As Will Potter extensively documents in his award-winning book *Green Is the New Red (2011)*, the fear-based tactics once reserved for labor organizers and suspected communists during the McCarthy era have, in the ten years since 9/11, morphed into a highly lucrative witch-hunt against anarchists, animal rights advocates, environmentalists, and any one whose fight for social, economic or ecological justice threatens the bottom line of Wall Street. Surveillance is used to categorize a person’s politics and strip activists of their rights by falsely labeling them “terrorists.” Take for example recent legislation like the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). The wording of this law previously stated that a person could be charged with “terrorism” for “physically disrupting,” animal enterprise but this was later changed to “damaging and interfering” with any animal enterprise business. This ambiguous phrasing has been interpreted to include civil disobedience and even investigative journalism within the rubric of “terrorism”.

As people active in struggles in the Pacific Northwest know, surveillance of our communities is what led the FBI to break down the front doors of three local Olympians with warrants to seize “black clothing, paint, sticks, flags, computers and cell phones, and anti-government or anarchist literature.” Maddy Pfeifer, Katherine Olejnik, and Matt Duran spent several months in solitary confinement for refusing to cooperate with the Grand Jury supposedly convened to investigate the events of May 1, 2012, but public records showed the grand jury had been planned two months before May

► NSA, continued on page 7.

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Increasing minimum wage—necessary but not sufficient

Emily Lardner

“Equality matters because human beings are creatures that thrive in societies where we are treated more as equals than as being greatly unequal... We work best, behave best, play best and think best when we are not laboring under the assumption that some of us are much better, more deserving and so much more able than others. We perform the worst, are most atrocious in our conduct, are least relaxed and most unimaginative in outlook, when we live under the weight of great inequalities—and especially under the illusion that these are somehow warranted.” --No Nonsense Guide to Equality

We may be on our way in Washington State to having a higher minimum wage. House Bill 2672 passed out of the House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on February 5. Representatives Sells, Reykdal, Green, Moeller and Ormsby voted for it. Representatives Manville, Condotta, Christian and G. Hunt voted against it. The bill would raise the minimum wage to \$10/hour on January 1, 2015, to \$11/hour on January 1, 2016, and to \$12/hour on January 1, 2017. Each year after that, minimum wage for the state would be tied to the rate of inflation. Governor Inslee is advocating an increase in the minimum wage as well.

New Jersey voters approved a ballot measure to raise the state’s minimum wage to \$8.25 in 2014. California approved an increase to \$10 an hour by 2016, and the Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwuk Indians in Amador County, CA adopted an even higher minimum wage-- \$10.60 an hour beginning in 2014. Seattle’s new city

council has agreed to study increasing the minimum wage within the city to \$15 an hour. According to an AP report, minimum wage legislation and initiatives are active in at least thirty-five states.

At the federal level, the Fair Minimum Wage Act sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Representative George Miller (D-California) would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour and tie subsequent increases to the cost-of-living index. President Obama supports the bill, which has yet to be approved by Congress. The federal minimum wage was at \$5.15/hour for ten years until Congress passed the 2007 Fair Minimum Wage Act, which raised the minimum wage to \$7.25 by 2009. There it has stayed. President Obama used an executive order to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 on new federal contracts beginning in January 2015.

Why is all this happening now?

Inequality has never been greater in the U.S. than it is today, and never before has the illusion of the American Dream been so well documented. The Economic Opportunity Institute’s report, “Chutes and Ladders,” states that a third of American families experienced unemployment for six months or more between 1999 and 2009. Reporting on the Pew Charitable Fund project on economic mobility, Erin Currier describes “stickiness” in the economy: “Americans raised at the top or bottom of the economic ladder are highly likely to stay there as adults, a phenomenon called ‘stickiness at the ends.’ Seventy percent of children

raised in the bottom fifth of the income distribution will remain below the middle of the income ladder as adults. Among children raised in the top fifth, 63 percent will never fall below the middle. This stickiness challenges the notion that the United States promotes equality of opportunity.”

In the MoveOn.org YouTube video, *The War on the Poor and Working Families*, Robert Reich identifies—in less than two minutes—the policy positions that drive inequality: opposing increases to minimum wage, opposing extending emergency unemployment benefits, opposing extending Medicaid benefits to low-

If we assume that everyone who works full time should earn enough to support themselves and their families, we have to define what we mean by enough, and we have to define poverty. Both calculations are tricky.

wage workers, opposing investments in education and job training, opposing investing in public works programs, opposing unions, and supporting cuts to food stamps.

Increasing the minimum wage is a good and necessary strategy, but it doesn’t do all the work of moving us towards greater equality. The challenge lies in supporting increases to the minimum wage while advocating for broader-based strategies to reduce inequality. To use a popular term, we need to make sure that the “Overton window”—the window of politically acceptable ideas—opens a little further.

Quantifying poverty and fair wages

“In addition, the legislature finds that no school district employee who works full time should live in poverty.” HB 2608

Besides proposing an increase to the minimum wage, the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee also passed HB 2608 which would raise the minimum wage for school employees, including paraeducators, bus drivers, food service workers and custodians, to \$15/hour in January 2015. Increases each year after that would be tied to the rate of inflation. In the bill itself, the authors declare that “no school district employee who works full time should live in poverty.”

Which full-time workers should live in poverty?

If we assume that everyone who works full time should earn enough to support themselves and their families, we have to define what we mean by enough, and we have to define poverty. Both calculations are tricky.

The federal poverty guidelines are still based on a formula developed by Mollie Orshansky, a statistician with the Social Security Administration, in 1964. Orshansky based the formula on earlier work she did with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, calculating the cost of food. She knew that families at the time

spent about a third of their monthly income on food. She pegged family income against the least expensive food plan developed by the U.S.D.A., and assumed that the remaining two thirds of a family’s income would be sufficient to cover all their remaining costs. Consequently, families, whose incomes were three times the cost of the least expensive food plan or higher, were considered to be above the poverty threshold. Families whose incomes were less than three times the price of the least expensive food plan were considered to be in poverty.

That basic formula hasn’t changed. We still calculate poverty in terms of the cost of food, even though the highest cost for families today isn’t food, but housing.

The Universal Living Wage Organization (universallivingwage.org) is arguing that we should index the minimum wage not to the cost of living but to the cost of housing. We should

use HUD section 8 rental calculations rather than food to set a living wage. We could use the same formula to redefine the poverty threshold. Instead of using the cost of food as the basic third, we could use average rent.

Here’s what it would look like: In Thurston County, where the average rent for a one bedroom apartment is \$720, a living wage would need to be around \$25,920—\$8640 for rent (one third) and \$17280 for other expenses. That would require a wage of \$12.46/hour, and the assurance of 40 hours a week of work, 2080 hours in a year. This is a sharp contrast with the current poverty threshold for one person, which is set at \$11490. A person whose income was just above the threshold would be paying nearly 75% of their monthly income for housing.

As conversations continue about raising the minimum wage for workers, let’s push to be more systematic. For example, let’s make sure that all state workers earn a living wage—a task that needs to be taken up by state government and unions. If we use the living wage formula above, any worker in a classified position with the state whose salary falls under “range 32”—a negotiated wage for positions within that salary band—is potentially affected. This group of workers includes office assistants, fish hatchery technicians, digital printing operators, custodians, and agricultural inspectors—people whose work keep essential public functions moving.

Let’s increase the minimum wage for everyone, but let’s make sure our calculations about what constitutes a minimum wage are reasonable. We have to find a way to factor in the real cost of housing. Raising the minimum wage is important, but not sufficient.

Emily Lardner teaches at Evergreen State College and co-directs The Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education, a public service of the college.

► **NSA** cont. from page 6

Day happened. It is no accident that the individuals targeted by the Grand Jury had been active in the the anti-war movement from 2007-2009 when John Towery, a criminal intelligence analyst working with the US Army, infiltrated the movement and sent intelligence to the Washington State Fusion Center (an multi-jurisdictional information sharing network between local, state, federal, military, and private partners). The surveillance that Towery conducted at that time tagged these individuals as “persons of interest” which may have contributed to their consideration as “high value targets” to be subjected to a Grand Jury even years later.

The years of fabricated arrests, false charges, and campaigns of harassment against myself and other activists in the Pacific Northwest demonstrate the danger of criminalizing certain ideas and selectively enforcing laws in retaliatory ways that can socially, politically, and economically disenfranchise people deemed to have the “wrong” politics. In preparing for the lawsuit brought against John Towery, documented proof surfaced that at least four protesters were entered into a “national domestic terrorist database

with pictures, and identifying personal information along with false claims alleging a propensity for violence.” Also discussed in the legal brief brought against John Towery were “threat assessments” and “force protection memos” written as if protesters “were an enemy military force that had to be defeated in battle instead of non-violent civilians exercising their first amendment rights.”

With this distorted outlook, how far will the authorities go to crush dissent when our democratic rights to protest and redress grievances can be conflated with “terrorism”? The most recent Snowden leaks published earlier this month seem to offer a glimpse into that nightmarish future. The article written by Glenn Greenwald and Jeremy Seahill confirmed that NSA surveillance is key to the military’s assassination program abroad: “the NSA ‘geolocates’ the SIM card or handset of a suspected terrorist’s mobile phone, enabling the CIA and U.S. military to conduct night raids and drone strikes to kill or capture the individual in possession of the device.”


Paul French, aka Strife, is an Olympia resident, a musician, and a member of the area’s vibrant activist community.

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Marxism and the hypothesis of change

Enrique Quintero

The system and its discontents

If you don't agree with the present state of things, there are basically two ways to deal with it: you try to reform it, or you try to abolish it. Both points of view share the conception that things (political institutions, economic systems, etc.) are man-made and therefore, can be "man/person changed".

The first path, at its best, believes in the possibility of improving society using the political tools within the system, generally conceived as the tools of democracy. This position would support what is known as liberal or progressive measures at local, state, or federal levels. Implicitly, this position conceives of democracy as a thing in itself, a state of being, a noun without adjectives.

For the second path, it is impossible to understand democracy by itself. Democracy necessarily comes holding hands with an adjective or a qualifier tying this form of government to a specific organization of the economy in a specific historical time. This makes it possible to distinguish for example, the differences between classical Greek Democracy; the American democracy of 1790 when the nation was yet to be a fully developed capitalist country (shoemakers were the first trade union of the time), and territorial expansion was as yet an unspoken dream among the founding fathers; and current day American democracy, in which the country has become a highly developed post-industrial global capitalist economy with growing internal inequality, a strong military presence around the world, and a centralized, un-scrutinized, all inclusive state apparatus of surveillance of its own citizens and foreign nations alike.

For the second position it is important when defining democracy to keep in

mind the wellbeing and interests of the people, making sure that the concept of democracy is not used to cloak the political and economic interests of a given class and to push back into an ever distant future anti-capitalist transformations. For a good example of sharp policy differences developed inside current day American democracy see Robert Reich's account of *The War on the Poor and Working Families* on youtube.com.

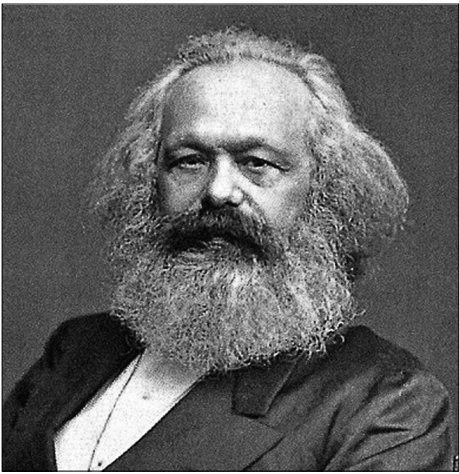
The second position does not ignore the importance of progressive democratic transformations, but is

In Marx's *Capital, A Critic of Political Economy*, what he does is not to propose an alternative model to capitalism, but to scrutinize the inconsistencies of capitalism and demystify its assumptions.

constantly looking for ways to enhance and elevate these transformations to a radical level. The second position does not accept the limits for change imposed by the main beneficiaries of democracy defined without adjectives. This second position is the position of Marxism.

The foretold death of Marxism and the critique of capital

No other political theory has received as many death certificates as Marxism. Sepulchral capitalists, as we mention somewhere else, have shown particular diligence writing most of these certificates. But the death of Marxism, as Terry Eagleton says in his book *Why Marx Was Right*, "would be music to ears of Marxists everywhere. They could pack in their marching, and picketing, return to the bosom of their grieving families and enjoy an evening at home instead of another tedious committee meeting." Marxists could stop being



Marxists because the job has been done.

Ironically, what has insured the survival of Marxism has been the survival of capitalism. Not in a symbiotic fashion, but because the essence of Marxism is its critical discourse regarding a specific period of time in human history, the one dominated by capitalist production. In Marx's *Capital, A Critic of Political Economy*, what he does is not to propose an alternative model to capitalism, but to scrutinize the inconsistencies of capitalism and demystify its assumptions. In the words of R.L. Heilbroner in *Marxism for and Against*, what makes Marx "inescapable" is that he "did not try to find how capitalism works, but to learn what capitalism is." Marx's findings,

particularly regarding the questionable relations between labor and capital and their detrimental impact on a person's sense of self, their creative potential, and the right to live in an egalitarian society, is what makes Marxism still relevant.

The revolution—a two step dance

Mistakenly, Marxism is perceived to be alive only when there are clear signals of revolutionary upheaval or social unrest. This is what we know as the revolutionary ethos. In the US the last expression of this was the Occupy movement. Occupy's expression of the revolutionary ethos was preceded by the great movements of the 60's and 70's i.e.

the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta's work with the National Farm Workers Association, The Black Panthers, Students for a Democratic Society, the counter-culture hippie movement, etc.

For the Latin American philosopher Bolivar Echeverria, the revolutionary potential of Marxism—presenting the possibility of a revolution—exists not only when a romanticized revolutionary ethos is popular among the masses, but always—as long as capitalism is alive. The Marxist critique of capitalism keeps alive the concept of the revolution regardless of the status of the "revolutionary ethos." Marxism offers an ongoing radical questioning of what exists in order to make things better, a line of questioning that can be engaged at any given moment by anyone, anywhere.

Change, within the quotidian of capitalist democracy

Periodically—even with all the above-mentioned constraints—we are given the possibility, or rather, we the people have made possible the potential for exercising certain civic rights, such as voting, supporting bills, and other social actions that will impact our lives. These measures (from electing a new president, to supporting an increase in the minimum wage, etc.) have to be examined specifically, with acute political lenses. We must determine whether—and how—even as we work to support the specific measures, we risk becoming entangled in an ideological trap, our wider aspirations frozen to whatever limit is allowed by a democracy without adjectives. Equally important, as new measures bubble up or are proposed, we need to notice whether—and where—they offer the possibility to raise popular causes to levels of true radical change.

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.

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Marxismo y la hipotesis de cambio

Enrique Quintero

El sistema y sus descontentos

Si usted no esta de acuerdo con el actual estado de cosas, existen básicamente dos modos de enfrentar la situación: usted trata de reformarlo, o trata de abolirlo. Ambos puntos de vista tienen en común el concepto de que las cosas (instituciones políticas, sistemas económicos, etc.) son productos de la actividad humana y por lo tanto pueden ser cambiados por la actividad humana.

La primera opción, en el mejor de los casos, cree en la posibilidad de mejorar la sociedad mediante el uso de herramientas políticas del propio sistema. Estas son generalmente vistas como las herramientas de la democracia. Esta opción apoya el tipo de medidas conocidas como liberales o progresistas tanto a nivel local, regional, o federal. Implícitamente esta posición concibe a la democracia como algo en si mismo, como un estado de ser, como un sustantivo sin adjetivos.

Para la segunda opción, es imposible entender la democracia por si mismo. La democracia siempre viene tomada de la mano de un adjetivo calificador, que conecta esta forma de gobierno con un modo específico de organización económica en un tiempo histórico determinado. Esto hace posible distinguir por ejemplo, las diferencias entre la democracia clásica Griega; la democracia Norteamericana de 1790, cuando la nación no había alcanzado todavía un capitalismo desarrollado (El primer sindicato existente de la época fue el de los zapateros), y la expansión territorial era un sueño del cual los padres de la patria no hablaban todavía; y la democracia Norteamericana actual,

en la cual el país se ha convertido en una potencia hegemónica global, con un desarrollo industrial y post industrial avanzado, con creciente desigualdad económica interna, con amplia presencia militar alrededor del mundo, y un centralizado aparato estatal de vigilancia de sus ciudadanos y naciones extranjeras que escapa casi todo escrutinio social interno.

Para la segunda posición, al definir la democracia es importante el mantener en mente el bienestar y los intereses populares, asegurándose que el concepto de democracia no es usado para enmascarar los intereses políticos y económicos de ciertas clases y

En su obra *El Capital. Critica de la Economía Política*, Marx no propone un modelo alternativo al capitalismo, pero un escrutinio sistemático de las inconsistencias del capitalismo y una desmitificación de sus asunciones.

posponer a un futuro cada ves mas distante transformaciones anti-capitalistas. Para un buen ejemplo de las radicales diferencias políticas desarrolladas al interno de la democracia norteamericana actual, véase el reporte de Robert Reich sobre la guerra en contra de la clase obrera y los pobres de este país . (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Npj2U1PdIHl>).

Esta segunda posición no ignora la importancia de transformaciones democráticas progresivas, pero constantemente busca las maneras de elevar estas transformaciones a un nivel revolucionario. Esta segunda posición no acepta los limites al cambio social

impuestos por los principales beneficiarios de la democracia a secas, de la democracia sin adjetivos. Esta segunda posición es la posición del Marxismo.

La muerte anunciada del Marxismo y la critica del capital

Ninguna otra teoría política ha recibido tantos certificados de defunción como el marxismo. Los capitalistas sepulcrales, como dijimos alguna ves, han mostrado particular afán y diligencia en escribir la mayoría de estos certificados. Sin embargo, la muerte del marxismo, como escribe Terry Eagleton en su libro *Why Marx Was Right*, “Seria música para los oídos de los marxistas del mundo. Podrían poner fin a sus marchas y protestas, volver al seno de sus preocupadas familias y disfrutar de una velada en casa en lugar de otra aburrida reunión de algún comité”. Los marxistas podrían dejar de ser marxistas porque el trabajo estaría terminado.

Irónicamente, lo que ha asegurado la sobrevivencia del marxismo es la sobrevivencia del capitalismo. No de un modo simbiótico, pero debido a que la esencia del marxismo es su discurso critico con respecto a un periodo específico de la historia humana, el dominado por la producción capitalista.

En su obra *El Capital. Critica de la Economía Política*, Marx no propone un modelo alternativo al capitalismo, pero un escrutinio sistemático de las inconsistencias del capitalismo y una desmitificación de sus asunciones. En palabras de R.L. Heilbroner en su libro, *Marxism For and Against*, lo que hace a Marx “inescapable” es que el “no trato de averiguar COMO funciona el capitalismo, pero entender que ES el capitalismo”. Las observaciones de Marx, particularmente aquellas referidas a las cuestionables relaciones entre capital y trabajo y su impacto negativo en el sentido de “si mismo” para las personas, para su potencial creativo, y el derecho a vivir en una sociedad igualitaria, es lo que hace que el marxismo tenga relevancia actual.

La revolución - una danza a dos tiempos.

Equivocadamente, hay quienes creen que el marxismo esta vivo solo durante épocas de crisis y situaciones pre-revolucionarias. Esto es lo que conocemos como el ethos revolucionario. En los USA la ultima expresión de esto fue el “Occupy Movement” cuyo revolucionario ethos fue precedido por los grandes movimientos de los años 60’s y 70’s i.e el movimiento por los derechos civiles, el movimiento en contra de la guerra de Viet Nam, Cesar Chávez y Dolores Huerta en la organización de la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas (NFWA), Los Black Panthers, Los Estudiantes por una Sociedad Democrática (SDS), el movimiento hippie contra la cultura oficial, etc.

Para el filósofo Latinoamericano



“Without struggle there is no victory.”

Bolívar Echeverría, el potencial revolucionario del marxismo—presentar la posibilidad de la revolución—existe no solamente cuando la versión romántica del ethos revolucionario es popular entre las masas; sino que esta presente siempre en tanto exista el capitalismo. La critica marxista al capital, mantiene vivo el concepto y la necesidad de la revolución, independientemente del status del “ethos revolucionario”. El marxismo ofrece una critica radical permanente cuestionando lo que existe para superarlo y hacerlo mejor. Esta línea de cuestionamiento puede ser activada a cualquier momento y en cualquier lugar por quien este dispuesto a hacerlo.

Cambio dentro de lo cotidiano de la democracia capitalista

Periódicamente—incluso a pesar de las restricciones antes mencionadas—se nos da la oportunidad, o mejor dicho, nosotros el pueblo hemos hecho posible el potencial de ejercer ciertos derechos civiles como el votar, decidir ciertas medidas legislativas, u otro tipo de acciones sociales que impactan nuestras vidas. Estas medidas (como la elección de un nuevo presidente, o el apoyo de un incremento al salario mínimo, etc.) tienen que ser examinadas en términos específicos, y con agudeza política. Nos toca a nosotros determinar—el si y el como—pues aun cuando trabajemos en apoyo de medidas específicas, corremos el riesgo de quedar atrapados en una trampa ideológica, y nuestras aspiraciones mas altas congeladas dentro de los limites que permite la democracia sin adjetivos. Es igualmente importante, que en la medida en que nuevas medidas son propuestas o hacen su aparición, que nosotros determinemos si es posible y el lugar preciso donde se presenta la posibilidad de elevar causas populares a niveles de cambio radical.

Enrique Quintero fue un activista político 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.

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Operation Uphold Democracy (part 1)

Question asked, "Are you afraid?"

[Editorial note: Operation Uphold Democracy, lasting from September 1994 to March 1995, was a military mission authorized by the United Nations Security Council to return elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Aristide had been overthrown by a military coup in 1991.]

September 1994

86th Signal Battalion, Fort Huachuca, Arizona

A Company of Telecommunications Operator and Maintainers with supporting units on call for Haiti.

I being the only under enlisted female. I am smallest in size and height, but larger than life, from years of bullying.

The day the call is sounded. 5 hours to get prepared.

Go home, turn off all electricity, and give the neighbor all the perishables, grab all gear and put the car in the lot on post.

Wait...

Go and stand in line to receive shots. Get a double dose of GG cause they believe it will stay in my system longer.

I am given salt tablets and malaria pills.

Wait...

In another room, as an officer shows up to tell us "blah blah blah" and sends us off.

No one is there to say goodbye.

Grabbing a large rucksack to put on my chest, duffle bag on my back, sling a M16A1 rifle one way across my shoulders and a M60 accessory bag slung the other way on my shoulders. I grab another duffle bag in my right hand and a I.C.E pack (accessories for gas mask) in the other hand.

I walk alone up a hill over a block away. I feel a slight lift of my duffle bag on my back, as a sergeant whom I did not know, ran up to me to assist. He states, "You walked by and all I could see was the top of your head and your boots." I welcomed the help and walked to the bus that waited to take us to the airstrip. I was thankful for his assistance, but wondered why being petite seemed weak?

The bus is full of soldiers and gear. A deafening silence fills the air.

We soon are at the airport and take everything out and get prepared for the flight.

We have our BDU's*, boots, hat, a bag of changed clothes and essentials. I even have my bolt from my weapon in my BDU breast pocket.

Wait...

* battle dress uniform ** military occupational specialty

Night falls, we are outside all lined up. Not until after 1am do we start to move to the aircraft.

Then the reporters arrive. They come over to me. I already know why, "Look, a young petite woman over there amongst all these troops." Again the societal, I cannot be a soldier because I am a female, sad.

Question asked, "Are you afraid?"

bags. The weapons already were taken to Port au Prince. I and the some other troops climbed to the top and sat on the bags and slowly followed the convoy.

Haitians were dancing around the vehicles when we started to drive on the main road.

Palm leaves and Old Glory were waved about, with shouts, fists raised and much excitement was taken to the streets.

I was not told details other than a militant coup uprising against President Jean Bertrand Aristide was being taken out if the Haitian military leader did not agree to amnesty.

Our job is to assist in bringing President Aristide back to power.

It was as though the Haitians were happy about his return. I hoped so, or this "peace" time would become horrific real quick.

We get to Port au Prince. It is now taken over by our Special Forces. I was glad to see them, for my own father was in the SF 101 Airborne. I understood their involvement.

We climb off the truck, grab the bags and walk for quite some time till we get to a bay, which we do not stay for long in, and set up cots and mosquito netting. The fort is not finished. There are no bay doors; there is an unfinished floor full of sand fleas and no running water.

Our female Sergeant Major comes to wish us well. She has to return the next day to Arizona. She comes up to me and lets me know I can handle it. I have what is takes or they would not have chosen me to come with the rest of the company. That was a morale boost and again not. Why point out the female side yet again?

We are given back our weapons and a card of engagement:

"When leaving Port au Prince, be locked and loaded at all times. Shoot to kill any oppressor on the oppressed." (What if the oppressor is the oppressed?)

Now it all starts to sink in. We are far away from home. No way to let anyone know we are "safe."

Wondering for a moment will I ever leave here and in one piece?

I turn off my emotions and go back to fight and flight mode.

It will be a long 3 months.

I take my first malaria pill.

I hear a storm way off in the distance.

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.



Note: "Sherfey" was April Adams' married name until 1996.

My answer "No. I just want to get there, do my job and go back home."

The reporters leave. I was not what they wanted. Not a surprise, really.

On the aircraft we go. Sleep moves in quickly.

It is cold on the aircraft. Commercial flight has nice seats, easy to get comfortable and not care about the future.

First stop, South Carolina. Have not been here since '91 for A.I.T (Advanced Initial Training on ones MOS**) we stay for a couple of days.

Fly again on another commercial flight. Enjoy it while one can.

Land, we awake and still it has not dawned on us the implications of what and where we are.

The door opens on the aircraft. Heat, different from Arizona, moist, dirty, heavy....

A feeling of a time when I was a child overwhelms me; I walked out of a cavern back into the "real world." How I wished to live in the cavern of clean air and water.

Tarmac. Stayed with the bags and drank 3 gallons of water in 5 hours. Heat is insane. Sweating and only went to the latrine once. My boots started turning white-salt. Decide to take a salt tablet.

The M35 2½ ton truck rolls up and we load all the

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Ethical principles to live by

Russ Frizzell

If we are to discuss science, then I must be up front about ethics. Scientists look to governments or other dubious sources of funding for research money. Then the financier gets to claim ownership of newly discovered sources of power. Some scientists never even think of ethics; they can torture bunny rabbits for cosmetics development or produce more terrifying weapons such as drones. We learn early on that our employer will tell us what is right and wrong. Scientists develop electronic surveillance systems and now those financiers are watching our every move; they store a copy of every communication you and your friends make. And when concerns arise, who can we trust to discuss them?

Standard science ethics modules highlight historic or current ethical debates. Today I'm doing something different, listing for myself what principles I want to live by. The list is preliminary, open to revision, it is mine to shape for myself. If you don't like my list, good, make your own list. Decide what ethical principles you want to base your

important decisions on. Be clear for yourself on what standards of ethics you wish to live by. Then you will have some basis of comparison to share with others. (Hard to believe I have gone this long without trying this!)

Improvement is a motive and goal which scientists have always claimed. A better knowledge base, a simpler explanation, a more accurate estimate are all things we can gain by applying science. What I see as improvement can strongly conflict with another person's idea of improvement. Some improvements I would like to see: I would like to see better treatment of animals, I would like to see large reduction in prisons populations, I would like to see children everywhere confident in their future. We all know

there are mistakes made along the way. A government which is active in correcting its own mistakes would be a welcome improvement. And a scientific establishment which is engaged with the people and serves the community.

Patience will be required for all of us, as we delve into the uncertain future. You have shown great patience if you have read this far. Further patience with me may be required. As I hope for this, I need to show patience with friends and adversaries as well. This may seem like a no-brainer, but the practice of patience is not so easy. Technology is developing so rapidly that no one can guess what will be next. Since the millennium began our government has been

Reality follows rules of nature; I cannot levitate simply by pretending. People can't really read minds like they show in the movies. It seems easy to predict what people are thinking, but let's not fool ourselves. It is an art, like theater stage performance.

clamoring for new wars continuously. We rarely spend time with our neighbors anymore. I need to adjust my attitude to allow patience for others and keep a spirit of fun about it all.

Understanding for scientists can be a slippery slope. Scientists are always trying to get a handle on things they don't really understand. They try to explain these half understood ideas to others out of context. My textbook says we understand light very well. I do not see how this can be since it is based on Quantum Electrodynamics, which no one really understands and hardly any scientist believes to be entirely correct. There are lots of things we can say about light: it travels close to 300,000,000 meters per second, the range of colors are proportional to wavelength, light

expresses features of waves and particles. The study of light is endlessly fascinating and could satisfy anyone's need for mystery. This may be as close to true understanding as we ever achieve, but it is not complete.

Availability means to take the time to discuss with another person the things which may be troubling them. Are any of us short on things which are troubling? Do we have the time to discuss all of our neighbors' problems? Maybe not. Modern life does not forbid availability but the hustle and bustle makes it less common. None of us has the energy to carry half the burden for everyone we know. What we can do is turn off the TV and refocus on the world around us. The lazy habit of modern life is to worry only about which problems we feel like dealing with. This leaves so much unfinished business around that no one can possibly handle it all. That is why being available to cooperate on things is an important goal.

Accompaniment is my attempt at deeper philosophic scholarship. (Remember I asked you to be patient with me.) This idea comes from Archbishop Romero of El Salvador who chose to practice leadership by participating. This will require us to suffer the destitution we observe; now who really wants to go first? In fact living in poverty may actually be more joyful and satisfying than wallowing in creature comforts. There requires even one more stretch. Accompaniment does not permit the actor to enjoy common vices or be misled. Accompaniment is the long slow process of working ourselves loose from the mighty grasp of evil. Scientists may need alone time to do their tedious work but should not isolate themselves too much.

Reality attempts to offer perspective, but also asks a great deal of us. Imagination is a part of the real world. When I put my mind to it, though, I can separate my dreams from my real life. Reality follows rules of nature; I cannot levitate simply by pretending. People can't really read minds like they show in the movies. It seems easy to predict what people are thinking, but let's not fool ourselves. It is an art, like theater stage performance. Distorting reality generates astonishment and wonder. Then believing washes over us; we do not want to let go. Dogma leads to happy

stagnation and there we smolder. I hope reality will work as the ladder out of that mire. Anything which can make reality clearer helps. Reality can be painful, like the current era of mass extinction of species due to human encroachment. This is another good reason to wake up and deal with those pesky problems which science uncovers.

Forgiveness becomes tricky because of the conflicting religious themes connected with it. For me it means that I should

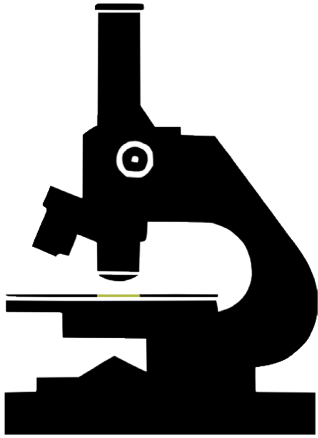
not waste much time on other peoples errors. I hope others can learn from their mistakes, but my job is to learn from my mistakes. Instead of punishing people so much, it may be more productive to clear away paths where folks can succeed. This does not mean allowing dangerous villains to keep attacking the way our government does. It is time for the right hand to see what the left is doing, say "Oops, let's not do that again." I had best stay in the real world and avoid harming others, so they will not need to forgive me more.

Remembrance is the most radical idea so far. As a child I often tried to hide my blunders and I still do not enjoy showing them to others. The important thing is to not forget where dangers lie, nor forget the harm others will inflict when it seems in their interest. It is advisable to remember who has been helpful as well as who harmed us and keep track of those trends. The best response is to remember who mislead us and stop following them, take a new path.

Change is what this is all about, the one true constant. The future is exciting; it is coming to your neighborhood today. We should have fun with it and find a way to better ourselves in the process. I hope to actively change habits by replacing bad ones with better ones. After the transition period, old vices lose their appeal. To be of service is a primary goal of change and a reason for it. Make life meaningful and worthwhile if you can, it is a reason to live.

I did not invent any of this; their are just things I've grabbed onto along the way. From this foundation we can construct a more solid discussion of science. I do not entirely know what is to come, but, I hope to report on more current events in science in upcoming articles. I'm going to review the LIGO gravity wave detector at Hanford next month. The world is changing; we are all in this together; let's get ready for 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.



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► **Oil trains**, cont. from page 1
day of light crude, but pipeline capacity is just half of that. Railroads have picked up the slack. In 2008, rail carried 9,500 carloads of crude but in 2012 that figure rose to 600,000 carloads, according to the Association of American Railroads. It now estimates that 70% of Bakken oil is moved by rail.

What does that mean for Washington State?

Burlington Northern (BNSF) and major oil companies, Tesoro, BP, Phillips, Shell and others, have big plans for us. They propose to increase rail receiving capacity at the five existing refineries, 2 at Ferndale, 2 at Anacortes and 1 at Tacoma. They want to construct trans-shipment facilities where oil is transferred to marine vessels at the ports of Vancouver and Grays Harbor. The Sightline Institute, based in Seattle, estimates that if all these projects came into being, it would mean an estimated 21 unit trains of oil per day running from Vancouver to Ferndale with handling capacity of 756,300 barrels of oil per day.

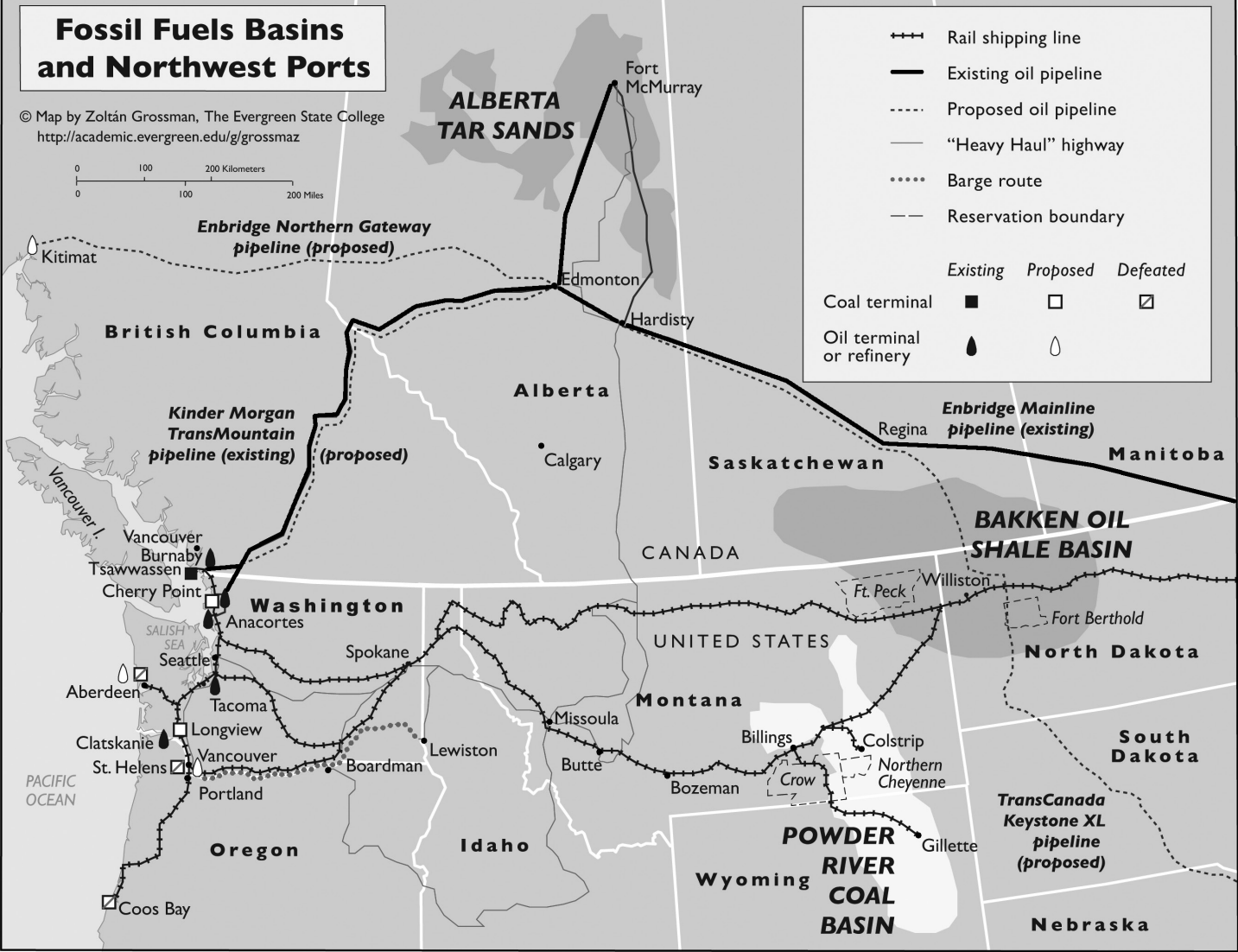
But all that oil wouldn't be from Bakken. This is where your main course comes in: Alberta tar sands. Whether you call it tar sands or oil sands products there is a lot of it; and even after Obama approves the XL part of the Keystone pipeline, some of it will be headed this way, most likely by rail.

Alberta, that's the province just east of British Columbia, has an estimated total reserves of 170 billion barrels of oil. What these reserves have is bitumen, a crude that's heavier than water. You get to it by surface mining or injecting steam down a well. Once extracted, the bitumen is too thick to move so you dilute with chemicals so it will flow in a pipeline.

Why is Alberta's heavy crude bitumen is headed this way?

Several reasons.
The majority of Canada's oil is exported to the US by pipeline, but between 2007 and 2012, rail transport increased by 7000% yearly. In addition, Trans-Canada, the Keystone XL pipeline proponent, is considering rail and not just because the XL has been slowed down in the US. Native bands in British Columbia are dead set against new and expanded pipelines crossing their land to export terminals in Burnaby, Prince Rupert and Kitimat. Railroads to these ports already exist. Plus, Alberta oil producers are moving toward eliminating the costs of diluting the crude by ordering heated oil tankers that can haul the bitumen undiluted.

Also a March 2013 US State Department study estimated that with some modest expansion and upgrades, "railroad networks in the US could handle all new oil produced in Western Canada through 2030." Here at home, the State



Department of Ecology is getting ready. They organized a two day workshop in April, 2013, to learn about Alberta oil sands. As part of the workshop, they played out a train derailment with a bitumen spill along the Columbia river. Finally, Canada, unlike the US, does not have a ban on the export of its oil to overseas markets.

Another concern...

As different as they are, Alberta's heavy crude and Bakken's light have some things in common when it comes to rail transportation. They come on rail lines that are secretive, ill-prepared and un-regulated. These rail lines carry cars that have been known for years to be dangerous and they carry hazardous materials that are either poorly labeled or mis-labeled.

These crudes come on tracks and trains owned by Warren Buffett whose Berkshire Hathaway bought BNSF in 2009 for \$26 billion one year after Warren visited the Bakken "play." BNSF owns and operates the most rail mileage in our state, the north south line and all three east-west lines that converge in Spokane. This railroad is not subject to

State regulation. No state agency knows the number, timing or content of these 100 car unit trains moving through our towns. BNSF's spill response plans are proprietary and not shared with the public.

Plus, the rail system in Washington is simply not ready for such traffic. A State Transportation study said our rail system was nearing capacity with strained service quality and rail rates increasing for businesses in 2007. Six years ago. These lines also have defective rail

Class I rail lines like BNSF. Short line railroads are playing catch up with all this increased traffic. Genesee & Wyoming (G&W) just became the largest short line railroad in the nation by buying 45 short line railroads. It was a G&W train that derailed in Alabama. G&W lines feed the rail terminal on the Columbia in Clatskanie that run through urban Vancouver, North Portland and up the Columbia through Scappose and Rainier to the expanding oil terminal on the Columbia at Clatskanie. After

the Alabama derailment, G&W's CEO said they "found conditions and facilities and track at several railroads that are not up to G&W standards for safety and service." It is a G&W line that would serve the proposed oil terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor.

These hazardous crude oils will also come on oil tanker

...a March 2013 US State Department study estimated that with some modest expansion and upgrades, "railroad networks in the US could handle all new oil produced in Western Canada through 2030."

crossings. BNSF was fined \$105,000 in February 2013 for failing to remedy seven defective rail crossings over a substantial amount of time in counties that now want to expand their oil by rail capacity.

Short lines involved, too

This oil will also come on short line railroads which act as feeders to the

cars called DOT 111s. These are the cars that blew up in Quebec, Alabama and North Dakota. Since 1991, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has said that these cars are defective with sidewalls that puncture and values that break open. A former Board NTSB Board member said even if this car doesn't crumble in derailment, "66% of the cars are going to spill whatever product is in there." But the NTSB sends recommendations to a Federal Railroad Administration that has no regulation to remove old cars from the rail. And, remember, retrofitting these cars would cost an estimated \$1 billion dollars which would hurt that nice billionaire Warren Buffett's bottom line. What does this all mean? About 85% of the 92,000 cars remain DOT 111s.

These hazardous crude oils will also come in rail tankers with a designation of "crude oil." For first responders and the public in general, this does not tell them whether they are dealing with an explosive Bakken crude or a heavy Alberta bitumen diluted with a natural gas condensate or synthetic fuels. There is no federal regulation that says that designation must be more specific and BNSF says they are prepared for any accidents so there is no need for the public to know their plans.

But the public does need *and want* to know.

Public reaction

Because the proposed oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver is so large, it comes
► **OIL TRAINS**, continued on page 13.

Can't you hear it comin'?

by Burke Flanagan

Buffett bought Burlington rail
Just before the Bakken boom.
Now the shale oil is flowing
And his rail lines are carrying doom.

His tankers puncture on impact
The oil close to gasoline
Its benzene causes cancer
While derailments light up the scene.

Whether it's the incineration of Megantic,
or the plume over Casselton's field
The public has started to question
Just what does this "play" yield.

Federal authorities issue warnings
It might be more explosive than we thought
But the railroad orders tankers
There's a market to be sought.

The States have no power.
They tell their citizens to chill,

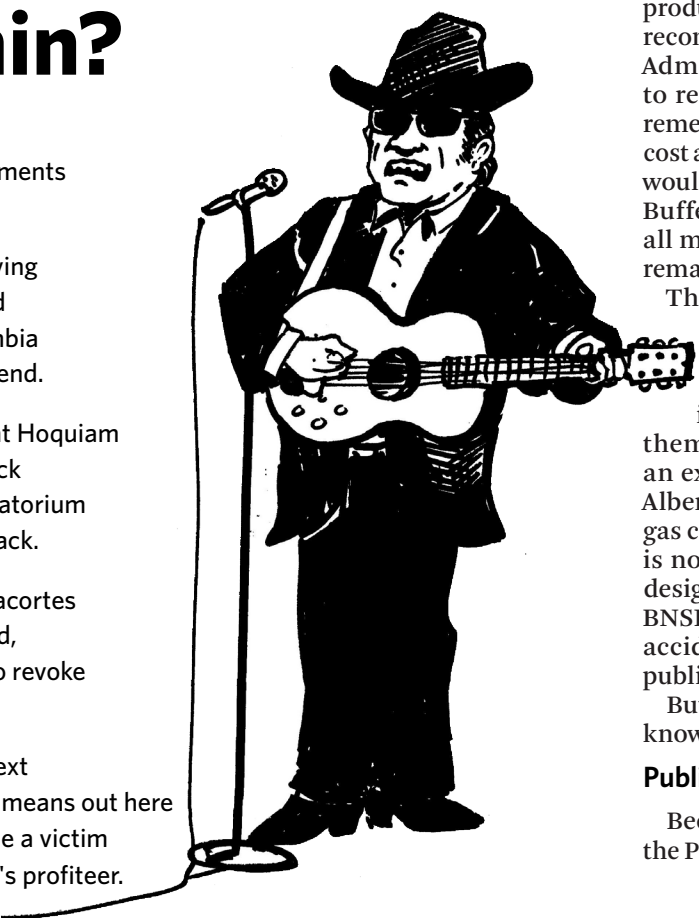
while conducting risk assessments
and waiting for the spill.

The citizens, though, are moving
And Tesoro must now defend
its rail terminal on the Columbia
The 31,000 comments at an end.

The Harbor's two terminals at Hoquiam
Got their permits handed back
The people there want a moratorium
till common sense gets on track.

Shell oil's rail terminal at Anacortes
still needs a permit to expand,
while Whatcom folks want to revoke
the refineries' Ferndale plan.

I wonder what will happen next
We all know what railroaded means out here
cause the Northwest won't be a victim
of Warren Buffett, Everyman's profiteer.



► **Marijuana**, cont. from page 1.
regulated collective gardens, and legalized licensed medical dispensaries. The bill was assigned to the House Health Care and Wellness Committee, which is chaired by Representative Eileen Cody, sponsor of Senate bill 2149. No public hearing has been planned on HB 2233 and it remains inactive. Medical cannabis activists are disappointed that the

► **Oil trains**, cont. from page 12.
under the purview of the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council. Thanks to the mobilization by the Columbia Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club and others, the Council received over 31,000 comments by December, 2013. These comments are now being summarized and a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be ordered. The final decision-maker on this proposed terminal will be Governor Inslee.

Keep in mind that Tesoro, the oil company promoting the Vancouver scheme, is responsible for one of the largest oil spills (20,600 barrels) in North Dakota history just last September. I mean this company was so out to lunch they didn't know their own pipeline was leaking until a farmer found oil flooding his wheat field. Closer to home, Tesoro's Anacortes refinery killed seven workers in 2010, which, according to a recently released US Chemical Safety Board report, "could have been prevented" if safer equipment had been used.

More reactions...

The two proposed oil transfer terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor by Westway Terminals and Imperium Terminal Services were granted go ahead permits by the City of Hoquiam and the State Department of Ecology. However, an alliance of the Quinault Nation, Friends of Grays Harbor and other groups had these permits overturned by the Shoreline Hearings Board in November, 2013 and now the issue is headed for either Superior Court or the Court of Appeals. Both Westway and Imperium are now asking the Department of Ecology for a full EIS.

Shell has a refinery on March Point at Anacortes. It wants to accept one 100 car unit train of Bakken light crude in and out per day at a new offloading facility. The Skagit County planning office set a February 17th deadline for comment.

Organizers in Whatcom County are also asking their County Executive to withdraw their "determinations of non-significance" that allows crude oil trains to terminals at the Cherry Point (Ferndale) refineries. They want a full environmental review.

Many of the opponents of these new oil terminals and expanded rail receiving capacity at the five refineries are calling for a moratorium on oil shipments so that a "programmatic" EIS could be conducted. Such an EIS would assess the cumulative effect of all the proposed expansions on Washington state and its citizens.

The State Legislature is also getting interested. The Spokane City Council president told a legislative committee that "we're in a situation where our town would be split in half if there was a derailment." Seattle State Representative Jessyn Farrell has proposed House Bill 2347 which is intended, among other things, to compile information on oil train traffic, something the BNSF refuses to make public.

Perhaps Cager Clabaugh said it best. He is the President of the Longshore (ILWU) local at the Port of Vancouver and is opposed to the proposed Tesoro oil terminal. "We don't believe in jobs at any cost. The reward is just not worth the risk. One accident will put us out of work. It will put thousands of people out of work."

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

bill did not gain more legislative support.

When asked about HB 2233 not progressing successfully, Kari Boiter, the Americans for Safe Access National Advocate of the Year, said, "We need a system designed specifically for medical cannabis that prioritizes the needs of patients. Recreational stores face many uncertainties and that is creating a lot of anxiety for patients who rely on cannabis to stay healthy. Patients need assurance that the medicine they use now will be available in the future. The bills currently active in the legislature do not provide the assurance that patients deserve."

One of the major concerns of patients about bills 2149, 5887, and 6178 is a mandatory registry. The Liquor Control Board official recommendations and all three bills aiming to overhaul medical cannabis require that authorizing health care providers enter patients into a database with information available to the Department of Health, Department of Revenue, and law enforcement. Many complain that this puts patients' privacy at risk and may violate federal HIPAA law. It appears unjust to make patient information available to law enforcement considering that marijuana is still classified as a schedule 1 substance at both the state and federal levels. In addition, requiring that medical professionals enter authorizations into the registry puts their careers at risk for the same reason. The bills claim that the registry will provide arrest protection for patients, yet simply being in the registry may be construed as probable cause for law enforcement. There is no mandatory registry proposed for future recreational users. Patients will not receive any rights or protections unless they are entered into the state registry.

Any of these pending bills would greatly limit access to medical cannabis authorizations. Many health providers, especially physicians, are unwilling to approve or supply medical cannabis authorizations due to the risk of legal action because cannabis is a schedule 1 substance. This may particularly affect military veterans who rely on the federal veterans' healthcare system and Medicaid patients on Social Security Disability who are limited to certain providers. Healthcare professionals will also likely be wary of authorizing patients as they will be subject to the new authorization disciplinary board to be established by the Department of Health. In addition, physicians cannot legally advertise that they offer or approve cannabis authorization, so patients will have even greater difficulty finding an authorizing health care provider.

The new legislation would allow patients to be authorized for additional medical cannabis use only with special approval from their primary care physician, after which they would be monitored every three months. This special approval is highly unlikely to occur due to physicians already being overwhelmed with patients and paperwork, and not wanting to be at risk of state or federal legal action. In addition, frequent physician appointments are too costly for low-income and uninsured patients. This hardly seems in line with the Liquor Control Board recommendation, which states, "Authorization system should not place an undue burden

on healthcare providers".

House bill 2149 specifically states that patients must show documented proof from their primary care physician that they have tried at least twenty other medications or treatments in order to authorize additional amounts. Many patients have already tried every other method before risking the stigma and murky legality of medical cannabis.

John Novak is a medical cannabis patient who has suffered from epilepsy since he was a teen. He wrote a letter to all the Washington State legislators regarding HB 2149, and recalled his history of trying various therapies for decades until finally doctors gave him the final option of experimental brain surgery and he turned to cannabis.

He said, "Forcing me to re-trace my steps and document every alternative would be near impossible. Plus I refuse the alternative: experimental brain surgery to remove the pineal gland and a large area of the short term memory section in my brain. This is NOT a viable alternative to me, but this language would seem to mandate it" [regarding bill 2149].

Another medical cannabis patient, Gina Garcia, a military veteran, has been

House bill 2149 specifically states that patients must show documented proof from their primary care physician that they have tried at least twenty other medications or treatments in order to authorize additional amounts.

able to gradually stop taking seventeen various pharmaceutical drugs and is no longer bound to her home by illness, thanks to cannabis.

She stated, "I am able to be a functioning member of society and responsible for my own care...If I have to go back on pharmaceuticals, playing with my grandchildren will once again be hard, I won't be able to leave my house, and I won't be able to contribute to society financially or physically as I do now with cannabis. I will not go back on pharmaceuticals. They were killing me."

The redefining of "debilitating" and "intractable pain" in order to be more stringent about authorizations is troubling to many chronic pain patients. How do you determine the severity of someone's pain? There are various types of pain; muscle, joint, spine, and nerve pain each manifest differently. It is difficult to objectively assess something that is not clinically measurable.

At a House Finance Committee meeting in March 2013, Liquor Control Board Agency Director, Rick Garza, declared—without any basis of fact—that over 90% of cannabis currently obtained at medical "dispensaries" is used for recreational purposes. His comment enraged legitimate patients who rely on cannabis for relief. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 73% of Americans with severe disabilities don't use an assistive device such as a cane, walker or wheelchair that easily indicates an infirmity. Garza's claim cannot be proven, especially since approximately 96% of chronic illnesses are invisible to the naked eye (and Garza is not a physician).

Other major concerns of patients include the proposed limits for possession and patient grows. The pending legislation would decrease the amount that patients could legally possess from 24 to 3 ounces of usable cannabis. Recreational users may possess up to 1 ounce of usable marijuana and cannot grow their own. House Bill 2149 would eliminate patient home grows in the year 2020, reducing the patient grow limits from 15 to 6 plants in the meantime. Only three plants may be in

the vegetative state, along with three flowering or "budding" plants, reducing the amount of usable cannabis medical patients are allowed to harvest by 80%. This is an inadequate amount for most patients dealing with serious illnesses.

A crop of three plants is likely to produce no more than three ounces of useable cannabis. In addition, three plants per harvest with an approximate four month growing cycle may not provide enough finished product to last until the next harvest. Cannabis is dried and aged, or "cured", before it is useable, adding a greater time gap between harvests. The existing medical cannabis system, under RCW 69.51A, states that patients have a right to possess a 60-day supply. However, the pending bills do not permit enough to last a patient that long.

Many of the sickest patients require high potency extracts and concentrates. They are known by names such as Rick Simpson oil, hash oil, wax, shatter, and dabs. They can be used in a variety of methods including ingested in infused food or capsules, vaporized and inhaled, or used topically. Extracts are the most potent form of cannabis, with cannabinoid levels as high as 80%.

In comparison, marijuana flowers have maximum cannabinoid levels of approximately 20%. Dale Meltzer, owner of the medical cannabis collective Serious Medicine, offers a variety of extracts and concentrates for patients. He estimates that it takes approximately seven grams of plant material to make one gram of oil extract. A common average daily dose of oil extract for seriously ill patients is one gram or more,

depending on the individual. Therefore, it could take approximately two ounces of cannabis to make just a week's worth of oil extract for one patient. Under the pending legislation, patients will not be permitted to possess or grow enough cannabis to make the amount of extract that they need. In addition, making extracts is a laborious process that utilizes special equipment and can be dangerous because most solvents are flammable. Therefore, many patients are unable to make their own extracts and rely on medical dispensaries and collective gardens, which will be closed under the pending legislation.

Not only has I-502 made it impossible for patients to produce cannabis extracts independently, but they may wind up being banned from state stores as well. Washington Administrative Code 314-55-079 stipulates, "Marijuana extracts, such as hash, hash oil, shatter, and wax can be infused in products sold in a marijuana retail store", but RCW 69.50.354 does not allow the sale of extracts that are not infused in products, "A marijuana extract does not meet the definition of a marijuana-infused product per RCW 69.50.101." In a nutshell, this would allow for the sale of only extract-infused products, such as foods, but not hash or oil extracts. The Liquor Control Board is currently working on revising these definitions, and possession limits for extracts are written into their recommendations and the subsequent bills. However, there is still much to clarify about concentrates and extracts in the new recreational system, and as of now, won't be available at recreational stores in their pure form.

Growing large numbers of plants or having access to a medical dispensary is essential for patients to create or obtain the oils, extracts, tinctures, edibles, salves, and other products that are used to treat various medical conditions. One of the most controversial aspects of the Liquor Control Board recommendations and the legislation built around them is the proposed shutdown of collective gardens and medical dispensaries. The LCB has stipulated that only licensed stores following 502 regulations may sell marijuana, and that collective gardens and dispensaries will be eliminated.

► **MARIJUANA**, continued on back cover.



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► **Oil trains**, cont. from page 13.

nated. Currently, collective gardens allow up to ten medical patients to grow up to forty-five plants, distributing the yield amongst them. Many patients do not have the space, physical capability, resources, or knowledge to grow on their own, and large numbers of low-income patients rely on collective gardens for affordable medication. For those unable to grow at all or participate in a collective grow, medical dispensaries are an essential access point for a variety of cannabis and cannabis products that are unlikely to be offered at state stores geared towards recreational use.

Patients’ needs are different from recreational users; certain strains of cannabis and cannabis products are useful for their specific symptoms. For example, the plant chemical compound CBD is a type of cannabinoid that has been shown to treat conditions such as seizures and inflammation, yet it does not provide the psychoactive high that recreational smokers will want to buy. 502 stores will not carry the high-CBD strains of cannabis that many patients seek. In addition, the regulations for recreational growers approve of only chemical nutrients and over two hundred pesticides. Medical patients often prefer organically-grown cannabis for health reasons, especially those with weakened immune systems. With medical cannabis shoved to the wayside and commercial growers streamlining to suit the masses, it seems unlikely that recreational stores will make patients a priority.

Although cannabis is classified as medicine under Washington’s current set of medical cannabis laws, a stipulation was added to I-502 by the Liquor

Control Board last October that makes it illegal to advertise marijuana as having any curative or therapeutic value. This effectively bars future recreational stores from discussing the therapeutic benefits of cannabis with patients. This will make it more difficult for patients to figure out which specific medicine is most appropriate for their ailment, if the stores even carry what they need.

The state is planning to license 334 recreational marijuana stores, a fraction of the medical dispensaries that currently operate in Washington State. The number of growers and stores is capped at a very low number compared to existing dispensaries and demand. Seattle alone had 274 dispensaries as of last May. The LCB

has allotted just two recreational stores in Olympia, two in Lacey, and one in Tumwater. According to the Associated Press, the Liquor Control Board is currently only aiming for the recreational stores to reach 25% of the state’s entire marijuana market, including medical cannabis and illegal sales. BOTEC Analysis Corporation, the state’s marijuana industry consultant firm, estimates that just 50% of businesses granted recreational marijuana licenses will stay in business.

Adding to the problem, cities and counties have the right to place moratoriums on I-502 businesses. Currently 80 cities and counties are enforcing moratoriums temporarily banning state licensed marijuana businesses. These moratoriums will each last six months to a year, although there is no current guarantee that they cannot be renewed

indefinitely. A few cities have taken the bold measure of outright banning 502 establishments, citing federal law.

State Attorney General Bob Ferguson is in favor of local jurisdictions getting to set these ordinances. On January 16 he stated, “[I-502] establishes a licensing and regulatory system for marijuana producers, processors and retailers in Washington state, it includes no clear indication that it was intended to preempt local authority to regulate such businesses.” This opinion, which carries no legal weight, nevertheless comes much to the dismay of the Liquor Control Board. The LCB has been granting recreational marijuana licenses regardless of local jurisdiction requirements, which is likely to result in legal battles over areas where state licensed marijuana suppliers are in violation of local jurisdictions. A legislative bill has also been introduced to overturn the city and county moratoriums. At least 1.5 million Washington residents will be impacted by these bans. Steve Sarich of the Cannabis Action Coalition estimates that the moratoriums will leave 85-90% of the

The regulations for recreational growers approve of only chemical nutrients and over 200 pesticides. Medical patients often prefer organically-grown cannabis for health reasons, especially those with weakened immune systems.

state without access to legal marijuana.

In addition to severely limiting access to cannabis, the state will be significantly driving up marijuana prices. Recreational marijuana producers, processors, and retailers will each pay a 25% excise tax on wholesale sales. These three 25% taxes, along with the state and local sales and use taxes, will significantly raise the price of marijuana. Medical patients will have to pay the same retail tax as recreational users.

According to a statement by Americans for Safe Access, “As a botanical medicine recognized by the American

Herbal Pharmacopoeia and in line with RCW 82.08.02831 and RCW 82.08.9252, medical cannabis should not be subject to excise, sales or use taxes.” They suggest using licensing fees to cover the cost of agency oversight and administrative overhead. Senator Kohl-Welles, sponsor of SB 6178, has said, “People will go to whatever is out there so they can get marijuana at a lower cost”.

In a recent article for the Northwest Leaf, Steve Sarich calculated that, “The current price of medication in Washington is approximately \$180-\$225 per ounce. We have recently seen the price of medication in Colorado rise to \$500 an ounce with only a 15% excise tax. That is more than twice the price of medical cannabis here in Washington. With the new excise tax on recreational cannabis in the I-502 stores at 35%-60% higher than those of Colorado, prices here could easily top \$700 per ounce. That’s more than 3 times the price patients are currently paying for their medication.”

While the federal government has warned Washington State we need sufficient regulation of both medical and recreational marijuana, they didn’t specify such drastic measures against vulnerable people with chronic illness and disabilities. Washington legislators are choosing recreational profit over care for patients. Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access, Steph Sherer, stated that, “Washington voters approved medical cannabis out of compassion, not because they wanted to generate revenue. Washington lawmakers have a duty to uphold the will of the voters, not just those who supported I-502, but also those who believe seriously ill patients should have access to medical cannabis.” With limited access to medicine, and increased costs, it is likely that state intervention will push many medical patients back to the underground economy.

Erin Palmer is an Olympia resident and occasional writer.

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

For-profit probation tramples rights of poor in United States

Minor offenders, charged huge fees, end up jailed

New York – Every year, US courts sentence several hundred thousand misdemeanor offenders to probation overseen by private companies that charge their fees directly to the probationers. Often, the poorest people wind up paying the most in fees over time, in what amounts to a discriminatory penalty. And when they can’t pay, companies can and do secure their arrest.

The 72-page report, “Profiting from Probation: America’s ‘Offender-Funded’ Probation Industry,” describes how more than 1,000 courts in several US states delegate tremendous coercive power to companies that are often subject to little meaningful oversight or regulation. In many cases, the only reason people are put on probation is because they need time to pay off fines and court costs linked to minor crimes. In some of these cases, probation companies act more like abusive debt collectors than probation officers, charging the debtors for their services.

“Many of the people supervised by these companies wouldn’t be on probation to begin with if they had more money,” said Chris Albin-Lackey, senior researcher on business and human rights at Human Rights Watch. “Often, the poorer people are, the more they ultimately pay in company fees and the more likely it is that they will wind up behind bars.”

Companies refuse to disclose how much money they collect in fees from

offenders under their supervision. Remarkably, the courts that hire them generally do not demand this information either. Human Rights Watch estimates that, in Georgia alone, the industry collects a minimum of US\$40 million in fees every year from probationers. In other states, disclosure requirements are so minimal that is not possible even to hazard a guess how much probation companies are harvesting from probationers in fees.

Human Rights Watch research in

“...the poorer people are, the more they ultimately pay in company fees and the more likely it is that they will wind up behind bars.”

Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama revealed numerous egregious cases that illustrate the abuses related to outsourcing probation supervision as it is practiced today.

- In Augusta, Georgia, a man who pled guilty to shoplifting a US \$2 can of beer and fined US\$200 was ultimately jailed for failing to pay more than US\$1,000 in fees to his probation company. At the time he was destitute, selling his own blood plasma twice a week to raise money.
- In another Georgia town, a company probation officer said she routinely has offenders arrested for non-payment and then bargains with their families for money in exchange for

- the person’s release.
- In Alabama, the town of Harpersville shut down its entire municipal court after a judge slammed the municipality and its probation company for running what he called a “judicially sanctioned extortion racket.”
 - The Mississippi Delta town of Greenwood, an impoverished community of 15,000, had more than 1,200 people on probation with the private firm Judicial Corrections Services as of August 2013. Many were guilty only of traffic offenses. The town’s municipal judge told Human Rights Watch that “maybe one or two” of those had warrants out for their arrest. The real figure was close to 300.

These cases are not mere aberrations. Not all company probation officers behave unethically, but they are all subject to perverse financial incentives that encourage abusive behavior. Courts that view probation companies as an easy way to boost collections have troubling incentives not to ask hard questions about the tactics companies use.

Probation companies operate on an “offender-funded” basis that is financially appealing to many courts and local governments. They offer to provide probation supervision for low-level, misdemeanor offenders at no cost to the taxpayer. Instead, their contracts stipulate that judges should order probationers to pay them various fees as a condition of their sentence of probation. Many companies’ profits are entirely dependent on their ability to collect these fees from probationers.

In *Bearden v. Georgia*, the US Supreme Court has ruled that a person on probation cannot be jailed simply because they cannot afford to pay a criminal fine.

But many courts effectively delegate the responsibility of determining whether an offender can afford to pay fines and company fees to their probation companies. This presents a clear conflict of interest because company profits, along with the quarterly bonuses of some company probation officers, depend entirely on their ability to collect fees.

“Probation companies have a financial stake in every single one of the cases they supervise,” Albin-Lackey said. “Their employees are the last people who should be entrusted with determining whether an offender can afford to pay company fees.”

In some cases, courts sentence offenders to probation because they think they require supervision and monitoring. But in many cases, people are sentenced to probation purely so that courts can task their probation companies with monitoring an offender’s efforts to pay down fines and court costs over time. These offenders would not be on probation at all if they could afford to pay these costs immediately and in full at the time of their sentencing.

Many are guilty only of minor traffic violations like driving without proof of insurance or seatbelt violations. While these offenses often carry no real threat of jail time in and of themselves, a probationer who fails to keep up with payments on their fines, court costs, and company fees can be locked up.

“Courts sentence several hundred thousand people to probation with private companies every year but many do almost nothing to guard against abusive practices,” Albin-Lackey said. “Perversely, some of America’s poorest counties are golden business opportunities for the industry precisely because so many residents struggle to pay off their fines.”

--Human Rights Watch