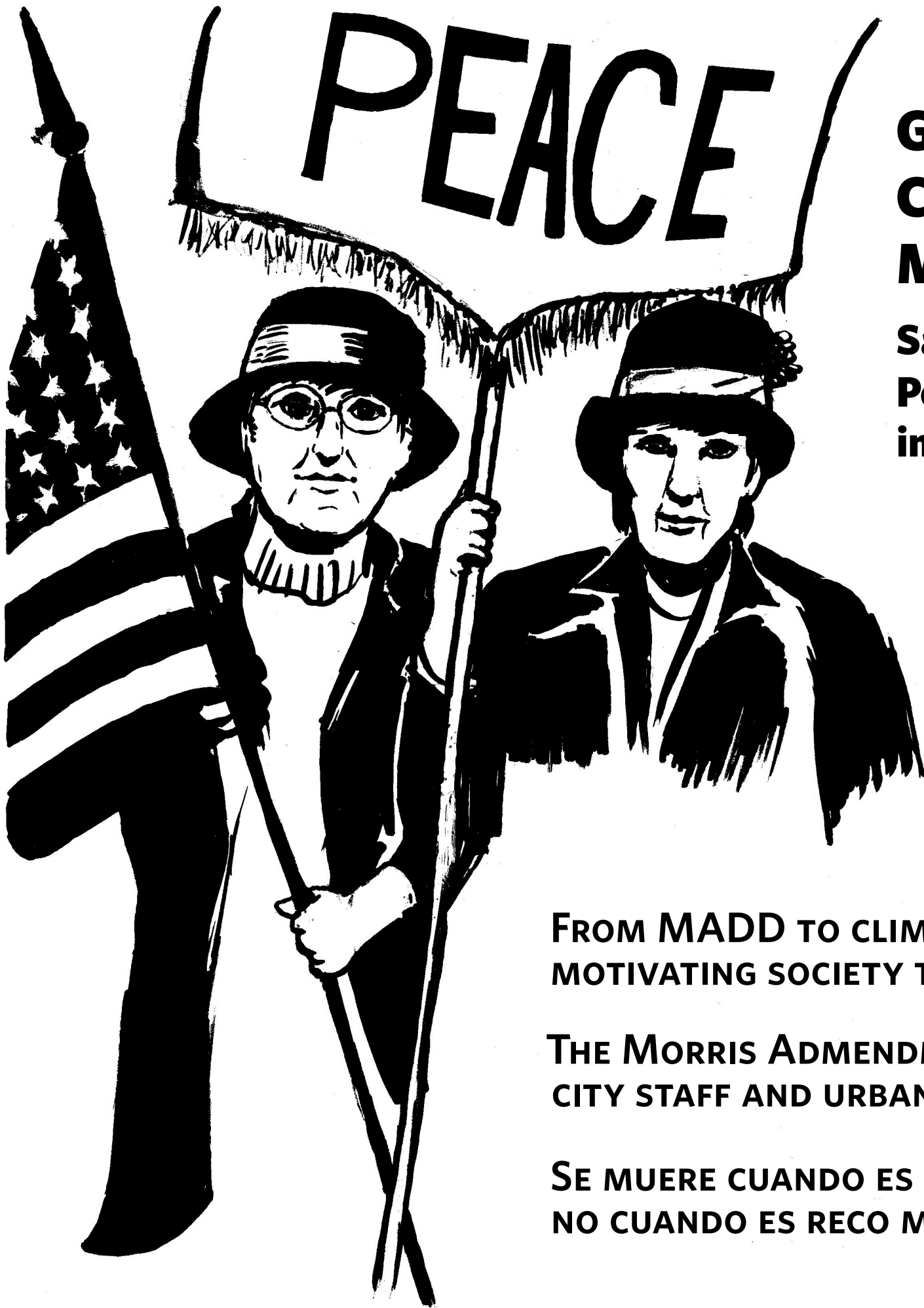


# WORKS IN PROGRESS



**Ground Zero  
Celebrates  
Mothers' Day**

**Saturday, May 10  
Poulsbo, WA  
[info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org)**

**FROM MADD TO CLIMATE CHANGE—  
MOTIVATING SOCIETY TO DEMAND ACTION**

**THE MORRIS ADMENDMENT:  
CITY STAFF AND URBAN GROWTH**

**SE MUERE CUANDO ES POSIBLE,  
NO CUANDO ES RECO MENDADO**

**Page 3** The Morris Amendment: urban growth machine: Olympia's planning department keeps a constant eye on bringing in tax revenue.  
What should the United Faculty of Evergreen bargain for? An open letter to a progressive union.

**Page 6** Splendor in the cosmos: *Rus explains what is meant by an expanding universe.*

**Page 7** Who is buying our future? When regulating heavy industry is viewed as infringing on freedom and the right to profit.

**Page 8** Gabriel Garcia Marquez 1927 - 2014: Dying when it's doable, not when it's recommendable. (También en Español)

**Page 9** Amiri Baraka 1934 - 2014: Never can say goodbye

**Page 10** From MADD to climate change: Motivating society to to demand action in addressing the very real dangers of global warming.

**Page 11** The Bakken Index: In the style of Harper's Magazine, a list of facts related to Bakken crude, hydraulic fracking, and the oil trains.

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.

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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

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On the front cover —

"The Original Mothers' Day"

Graphic Artist: April Adams

Unions seek accountability for aerospace tax breaks

SEATTLE — Machinists Union District Lodge 751 is pursuing legislation that would hold Washington’s aerospace companies accountable for creating middle-class jobs with the state tax incentives they received last winter.

“We as a state did not agree to \$8.7 billion worth of tax breaks for these companies so that they could create minimum-wage manufacturing jobs, and move good-paying engineering jobs out of state,” said District 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown.

The union’s District Council on April 22 unanimously approved a motion calling on the Legislature to amend the tax breaks given to Boeing and the rest of the aerospace industry, to make the companies accountable.

District 751 and SPEEA, the aerospace engineers’ union, plan to work together with the rest of Washington’s labor unions to draft legislation and get it introduced in Olympia in 2015, Brown said.

The April 22 motion didn’t include any specific proposals. But the general idea, Brown said, is that the state should set some minimum pay and employment standards that Boeing and other companies would have to meet in order to share in the tax handouts – similar to those other states have required of Boeing in the past.

“It’s the biggest corporate tax giveaway in U.S. history,” Brown said. “We think it’s fair that there should be a few strings attached.”

The Legislature approved Gov. Jay Inslee’s \$8.7 billion tax incentive proposal during a special session in November.

In return for getting the tax break — and steep contract concessions from Machinists – Boeing agreed to put wing fabrication and overall final assembly of the 777X in Washington state. But nothing in the company’s deal with the Legislature requires it to maintain any specific number of workers here in the state, nor does it do anything to address the kinds of jobs that Boeing suppliers might create.

“We know that some non-union aerospace suppliers pay their workers poverty wages,” Brown said. “Companies shouldn’t get public tax subsidies for creating minimum-wage jobs.”

“It’s the biggest corporate tax giveaway in U.S. history. We think it’s fair that there should be a few strings attached.”

Boeing’s recently announced decisions to ship some 2,000 engineering jobs out of state clearly violates the spirit of the tax incentive agreement, said District 751 President Jon Holden.

Federal agency rules against use of Border Patrol agents as nterpreters

Seattle -- In a precedent-setting decision released publicly today, the Department of Agriculture’s civil rights office said that the U.S. Forest Service discriminated against Latinos on the Olympic Peninsula by using Border Patrol agents as interpreters and as law-enforcement support in routine matters.

The USDA’S Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, known as OASCR, also ordered the Forest Service to make significant policy changes at the national level to remedy its discriminatory policies and practices. In addition, the office directed that additional steps be taken at the Olympic National Forest offices in Washington State.

The decision by the federal agency came in response to a complaint filed by Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) on behalf of one of its clients, whose name is not being released publicly to protect her privacy. The complaint stemmed from an incident in May 2011 in which a U.S. Forest Service officer called Border Patrol during a routine stop in the Olympic Peninsula.

“The citizens of Washington are paying Boeing with tax dollars to create engineering jobs here, not in California or Missouri or South Carolina,” Holden said. “If that doesn’t violate the letter of the law, then we need to change the law.”

Brown said representatives from District 751 and SPEEA plan to meet with legislators in May to set up meetings to discuss the problems with the current law and potential solutions.

The unions also are drafting resolutions to the Martin Luther King County Labor Council and Washington State Labor Council, asking for their support in making this a top legislative priority for organized labor in 2015.

Originally formed in 1935 to represent hourly workers at Boeing, District Lodge 751 of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers now represents more than 32,000 working men and women at 50 employers across Washington, Oregon and California.

—Machinists Union District Lodge 751

The incident led to the death of the partner of the complainant in the case.

“The decision in this tragic case vindicates the complaints made not only by our client but also by many community members in the Olympic Peninsula about the discriminatory practices of the U.S. Forest Service,” said Jorge L. Barón, Executive Director of Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

“We also believe this is the first legal ruling addressing the issue of whether the use of Border Patrol agents as interpreters violates civil rights protections and we are pleased that this federal agency has concluded unambiguously that this practice is discriminatory,” Barón added.

The decision in this case comes less than a month after NWIRP filed a separate complaint with the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security regarding the use of Border Patrol agents for interpretation assistance by other law enforcement agencies throughout Washington State. That complaint remains pending.

—Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Grays Harbor says “NO!”

Dan Leahy

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the City of Hoquiam and the Department of Ecology held a “scoping” hearing in Hoquiam High School on two of the three proposed oil terminals for storing and shipping North Dakota Bakken oil. About 100 people attended. Forty people gave two minute talks. No one spoke for the proposed terminals.

**The scoping process itself.** People wanted an evaluation of how the City of Hoquiam and the Department of Ecology could have made a judgment of non-significance and issued permits. As one person said, “You ask us to be respectful in this hearing, but you have shown us no respect.”

**Treaty rights violations.** Fawn R. Sharp, President of the Quinault Nation, stated the Quinault Nation opposes these oil terminals and wants the EIS to assess violations of treaty rights guaranteeing tribal access to natural resources.

**Examine fisheries.** People want an assessment of financial damage to razor clam beaches, the dungeness crab harvest, oyster beds and the Chehalis Basin. The proposal was called “a shortsighted vision with long term costs,” and “a response plan for something you can not clean up.” One asked why spend \$100

million cleaning up the Chehalis Basin when “one spill and the fish are gone.”

**Question assumptions.** Ecology shouldn’t use an “improved spill response plan” to justify the massive increase in oil trains. Zoltan Grossman said this would be like answering parents concerned about fire when a cigarette company passed out lighters to their school children by telling them it will be alright because there will be a new burn unit in the local hospital. He advocated the precautionary principle: Don’t build it. Deny the permit.

**The ecology of crude.** People wanted an assessment of the accumulative effect of all three proposed oil terminals, the entire extraction, transportation, storage and marine transport of the Bakken crude and its effects on congestion, air pollution and emissions in all communities it passes through.

**Assessment of the railroad infrastructure.** People pointed to the deteriorating railroad bridges, the old ties, landslides and derailments. One derailment happened as the train was standing still when rain washed out the underpinnings of the track.

**Hemispheric resource.** Grays Harbor is a hemispheric resource for birds. One person talked about the 1000s of birds killed in the late 80s. She asked that they

“think about our birds and protect them.”

**Who will pay for the spill?** Pointing to previous spills and the difficulty of clean up, people wanted an assessment of the costs and an analysis of who will pay.

**Assessment of petroleum fires.** One person said one oil explosion and kids in this school “would to blown to kingdom come.” Another said, “You need a certain kind of foam to fight an oil fire.” They wanted to know all the schoolkids in danger and a complete assessment of resources for oil fires.

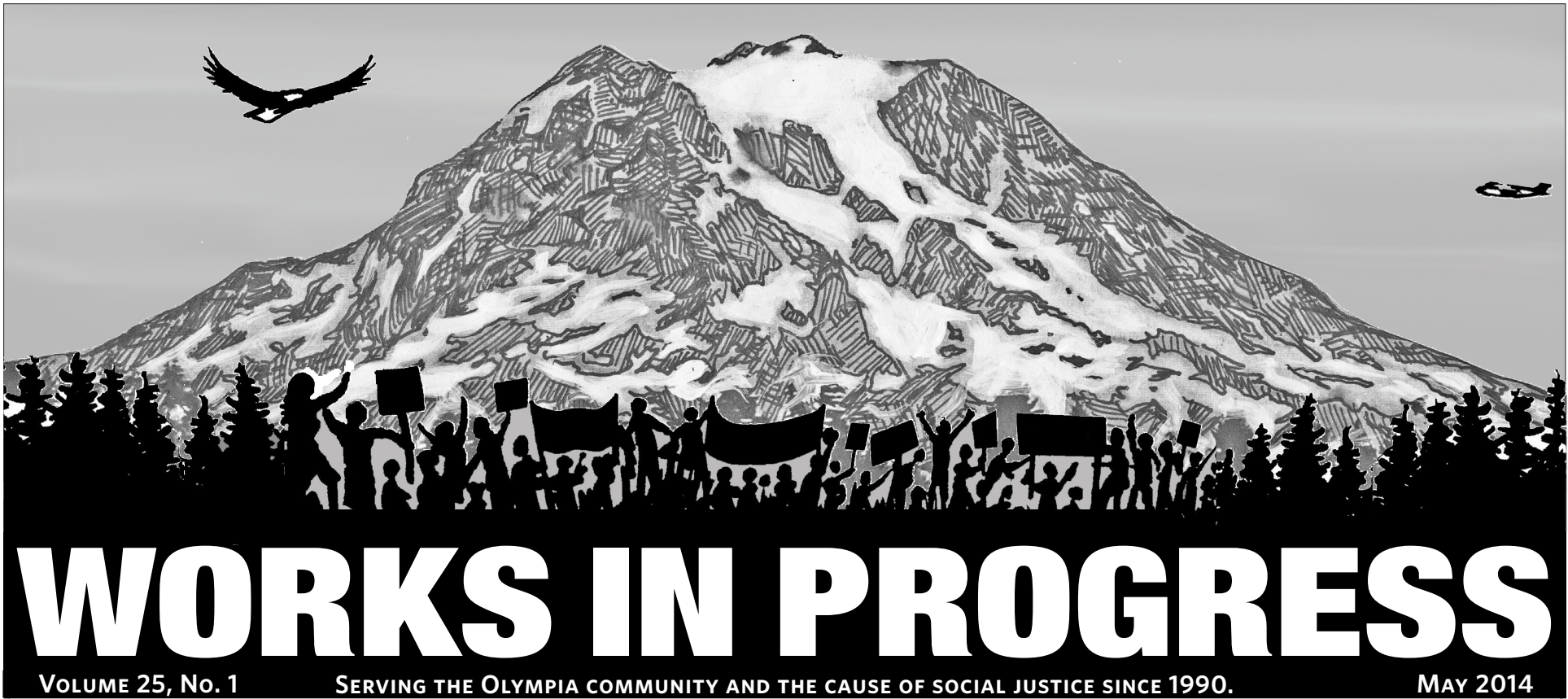
**Harbor navigation assessment.** People said the entrance to Grays Harbor is the second most dangerous on the West Coast, yet Panamex tankers and articulated barges would be used to export the oil. They wanted an assessment of existing marine traffic and the added congestion.

**Assessment of health effects.** People said an environmental disaster leads to trauma, that Grays Harbor county has the second highest cancer rate of Washington counties and that emergency vehicles are on one side of the tracks and dying people on the other.

**A cultural resource.** A person near the end of the hearing asked how do you value a cultural resource? We are in danger of losing it, she said, something of infinite value for something of a finite value.

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





# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 25, No. 1

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

MAY 2014

## The Morris Amendment: urban growth machine

*Olympia's planning department keeps a constant eye on bringing in tax revenue*

Bethany Weidner

Do you look around Olympia's Westside and wonder why, after 20+ years of "comprehensive planning" it's still all about cars? How is it that developers have been able to crowd the freeway exits with "destination retail"; line the arterials with fast-food chains and drive-in banks; add fortress-like drugstore complexes next to strip malls; clear the remaining stands of trees for more national brand stores—and surround them all with a sea of parking lots?

Part of the answer comes because of a recent brouhaha arising from private meetings between a developer and members of the Olympia Planning Commission. The meetings coincided with Commission deliberation on a change to one of Olympia's zoning districts. It was a change billed by staff as a simple "text amendment"—by implication, nothing special.

In fact, it was quite special. It was the camel's nose under the tent—a camel abetted by city officials who believe in the virtues of the urban growth machine. A camel that would join the herd that roams the city buying undeveloped land and turning it into "investment property." What follows is the story of the role that the camel's nose plays in the urban growth machine...

### PROLOGUE

On October 7 2013, a man named Jim Morris sent an email to Leonard Bauer at the City of Olympia. Leonard Bauer is the Deputy Director of Olympia's Community Planning and Development Department (CP&D). Morris is the owner of MPHHoldings and a major developer of office properties around Olympia. Morris wanted to talk about his interest in developing a large retail building on land he owns off Harrison at Kaiser Rd. The parcel is in an area zoned Professional Office/Residential Multifamily, or PO/RM. It also allows many commercial uses, and caps the size of retail structures, such as grocery stores, at 10,000 sq. ft.

In 2007 Morris entered into a contract with the City of Olympia to construct professional offices ("West Capital Office Park") on that land. The contract "vested" Morris's project, guaranteeing that no new regulations would apply while the contract was in effect. But the boom of 2007 turned into the bust of 2008. Today there are vacancies in several of Morris's office complexes

in West Olympia. Offices don't look profitable in this market.

Which brings us back to Mr. Morris's email to CP&D last October. Would it be possible to fix the PO/RM zoning to allow a 50- or 100,000 sq ft retail store?

### ACT I. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, A MEETING OF THE OLYMPIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Seemingly out of the blue, a proposal to increase the maximum size for stores in certain parts of the PO/RM zone appeared on the March 3 agenda of the Olympia Planning Commission. (The Commission is an official citizen group that advises the City Council on long-range planning.) CP&D Deputy Director Leonard Bauer briefed the Commissioners: this was a simple "text amendment" that would allow stores up to 50,000 sq. ft. in the PO/RM zone in lieu of the current limit of 10,000 sq ft. The staff memo supporting

the change was brief: the proposal originated with a study by EcoNorthwest, a consultant to the city. The market for offices is depressed. There's a lot of new housing out west past Kaiser Road and not much retail. Without the change, this largely undeveloped area will end up as exclusively multi-family apartments. With the change, several large parcels could provide a desirable

the staff recommends. This one was no exception. The "options" section of the memo said only this: Hold public hearings on this proposal.

### Scene 1. The Commissioners ask "Why now?"

One of the Commissioners, Carol Richmond, wondered why the Commission was being asked to amend the language of the PO/RM zone right now—with no context and no pressing need?

Mr. Bauer added some detail to the information in his memo: EcoNorthwest had identified a 10% office vacancy rate in Olympia, so "it is unlikely that developers would develop offices [in this area]." And "there is very little chance for commercial services, given the restrictions of the zone."

Okay, then, Richmond said; if there's a problem with the zoning—why don't we open up the options since this is a fairly new area yet to be developed? At that point—halfway through the briefing—Bauer revealed that the CP&D had put just such a "focus area planning

► **URBAN GROWTH**, continued on page 12.

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mix of residential and retail services.

The memo didn't explain why increasing the maximum size for a retail store by a factor of five was necessary for a mix of residential and retail stores to be built. Briefing memos from the staff are often bare of supporting information, rarely identify pro's and con's and don't offer meaningful alternatives to what

## For what should the United Faculty of Evergreen bargain?

### Open letter to a progressive union

Emily Lardner

Evergreen's faculty union, the United Faculty of Evergreen (UFE), has begun bargaining with the administration for its next contract. The purpose of this letter is to describe one thing I hope the UFE will bargain for and one I hope it won't.

I'll address the one I hope it won't bargain for first—spousal hiring. A good argument cannot be made for preferentially hiring the spouse or partner of a faculty member who has already been hired to teach at Evergreen. Yet, the union continues to entertain this position.

Prior to the 70's and 80's, many colleges and universities had rules against nepotism that prohibited spouses from being hired at the same institution. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) argued, in 1971, that such rules were biased in

faculty simultaneously. In fact, at least six couples currently teach there.

So what's the basis for considering spousal hires? From the point of view of the spouses, it's an issue of their shared quality of life. The primary unit of analysis is the couple, a point noted

We can't forget that to be transformative higher education has to be accessible to students, which means it has to be affordable.

by the AAUP in its report cited above.

But a union represents its members, not couples. Each member of the couple can be a union member and the union will represent their rights as individuals. If they divorce, they can still be union members. The rights of a union member do not depend on their marital status. The rights of a spousal hire—to even be considered as a spousal hire—do.

A democratic union, representing the rights of all its members, would not put its efforts into representing the "super rights" of couples.

I hope the union bargaining will focus on how to create working conditions for teachers that lead to a stronger educational program for students. This falls squarely within the mission of United Faculty of Washington State, the parent union for the UFE, which is to promote and defend public university education because "high quality public university education transforms the lives of our students and drives Washington state's economy."

► **BARGAINING**, continued on page 6.



## New art installation draws on kid forts and nest eggs

Olympia-based artist, Aimee Biggerstaff, is premiering her solo instillation show, “Where You’ll Find Me” at Northern Gallery, 321 N. Fourth Ave downtown Olympia on May 10, 2014 from 5:30 pm-10:30 pm.

Biggerstaff’s new body of work “Where You’ll Find Me” aims to bring a spotlight to the spaces we inhabit, mentally and physically.

“My intent is to use the full space installation to spark emotion, memory, and reflection in the viewer,” Biggerstaff said. “I want to entertain and excite people while keeping the experience really accessible to anyone who comes into the space.”

The full room installation is heavily influenced by Biggerstaff’s ongoing fascination with space and security, and how the two inform each other.

“My art is informed by the places we hide,” Biggerstaff said. “As kids, it’s behind the couch or in a blanket fort. As adults, it’s in homes or dreams. We age, and our childhood memories take on fantasy aspects. How we interpret imagery and narrative shifts to accommodate our current world view.”!

For Biggerstaff, viewer experience is central to the art she creates. She aims to draw a reaction to her work by indirectly challenging people to move outside of the “normal art and viewer interaction.” Think, classic museum etiquette.!

“I want people to ask, ‘Can I touch this?’ and then I want them to do it without being told yes,” Biggerstaff said.

The show can be seen in Northern Gallery from May 10 - June 1, 2014. Northern is an all-ages venue located at 321 N. Fourth Ave. SW, Olympia, WA, 98501.

For more information about Aimee Biggerstaff, her current art installation, or to schedule an interview, call +1.360.481.1808 or email biggerstaff.aimee@gmail.com.

## New York enacts national popular vote proposal

NEW YORK— On April 15, the state of New York joined ten other states and the District of Columbia to enact a National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) proposal. NPVIC, if enacted, would award all of a state’s electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote, ensuring the winner of the popular vote wins the presidency. NPVIC, which takes effect when enacted by states representing a majority of electors, has now received over half of the state laws it needs to be realized.

New York adopting the National Popular Vote proposal is a victory for democracy

“New York adopting the National Popular Vote proposal is a victory for democracy,” said Demos President Heather McGhee. “Under the current electoral system, national candidates and parties can ignore voters in large swaths of the country. Changing that paradigm would help all voters have an equal say in our democracy and give voters in every state a greater voice in federal elections.” —Demos.org

## Quinault Nation urges opposition to oil trains and shipping

TAHOLAH, WA— The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) is adamantly opposed to increased oil train traffic in Grays Harbor County, the construction of new oil terminals, increased oil shipping from the Port of Grays Harbor and dredging of the Chehalis River estuary. “We oppose all of these for both economic and environmental reasons,” said Fawn Sharp, QIN President. “We ask the citizens, businesses and agencies from within the county and beyond to stand with us in opposing the intrusion of Big Oil into our region,” she said.

“The small number of jobs this dirty industry brings with it is vastly outnumbered by the number of jobs connected with healthy natural resources and a clean environment,” she said.

“It is time for people from all walks of life to stand up for their quality of life, their children and their grandchildren. It makes no sense whatsoever to allow Big Oil to invade our region, especially with the volume they propose. We all have too much at stake to place ourselves square in the path of this onrushing deluge of pollution, to allow mile-long trains to divide our communities and jeopardize our air, land and waters,” she said.

“Consider the number of jobs that are dependent on the health of fish and wildlife. The birdlife in Grays Harbor alone attracts thousands of tourists every year. Fishing and clamming attract thousands more. And anyone who listens to Big Oil or their pawns when they tell us how safe the oil trains are, or the ships or even the oil terminals that are being proposed needs to pay closer attention. We have already had large quantities of fish and shellfish stolen from us through development of and damage to Grays Harbor and its tributaries and we are not accepting any more losses. We want restoration, not further damage,” she said.

“Derailments, crashes, spills and explosions are extremely dangerous and they happen with frightening regularity. The fact is that there will be accidents and there will be spills, and they will do extensive damage,” said Sharp.

Sharp said there is another fact of which people must be aware: “If we stand together, speak up and demand

to be heard, we can make a difference. Our collective voice empowers us.”

U.S. Development Group is currently seeking permits to build an oil terminal on the Washington coast to handle about 45,000 barrels of crude oil a day. The \$80 million proposal at the Port of Grays Harbor is one of several in Washington that together would bring millions of barrels of oil by train from the Bakken region of North Dakota and

It is time for people from all walks of life to stand up for their quality of life, their children and their grandchildren. It makes no sense whatsoever to allow Big Oil to invade our region.

Montana. About 17 million barrels of oil were shipped across Washington State last year. That number is expected to triple this year. Grays Harbor is facing three separate crude-by-rail proposals. Westway Terminal Company, Imperium Terminal Services, and U.S. Development Group have each proposed projects that would ship tens of millions of barrels of crude oil through Grays Harbor each year. Daily trains more than a mile long would bring crude oil from North Dakota or tar sands crude oil from Alberta, Canada along the Chehalis River and into the port, where it would be stored in huge shoreline tanks. The crude would then be pumped onto oil tankers and barges, increasing at least four-fold the large vessel traffic in and out of the harbor.

Westway Terminal Company proposes five new storage tanks of 200,000 barrels each. Westway estimates it will receive 1.25 unit trains per day or 458 trains trips (loaded and unloaded) a year. The company estimates it will add 198-238 oil barge transits of Grays Harbor per year. “The chances are even those counts are very conservative,” said Sharp.

Imperium Terminal Services proposes nine new storage tanks of 80,000 barrels each. With a capacity to receive 78,000 barrels per day, Imperium may ship almost 28.5 million barrels of crude oil per year. Imperium estimates that the terminal would add 730 train trips

annually, equaling two, 105-car trains (one loaded with oil on the way in, one empty on the way out) per day. The company estimates 400 ship/barge transits through Grays Harbor per year.

U.S. Development Group submitted its application in this crude-by-rail race early this month. It proposes eight storage tanks each capable of holding over 123,000 barrels of crude oil. The company anticipates receiving one loaded 120 tank car train every two days, and adding 90-120 Panamax-sized vessel transits through Grays Harbor per year.

“We are targeted by Big Oil,” said Sharp. “We will not allow them to turn our region into the greasy mess they have created in other regions. We care about our land and our water. We realize how important our natural resources are to our future and we’re not going to sit by and let them destroy what we have,” said Sharp.

Deborah Hersman, outgoing chair of the National Transportation Safety Board said on April 21 that U.S. communities are not prepared to respond to worst-case accidents involving trains carrying crude oil and ethanol. In her farewell address in Washington DC, she said regulators are behind the curve in addressing the transport of hazardous liquids by rail and that Federal regulations have not been revised to address the 440 percent increase in rail transport of crude oil and other flammables we have experienced since 2005. Hersman, who is leaving her post at NTSB April 25 to serve as president of the National Safety Council, said the petroleum industry and first responders don’t have provisions in place to address a worst-case scenario event involving a train carrying crude oil or ethanol.

Hershman added in her comments that the DOT-111 rail tank cars used to carry crude oil are not safe to carry hazardous liquids. She also said that NTSB is overwhelmed by the number of oil train accidents. At present, she said the NTSB is involved in more than 20 rail accident investigations but only has about 10 rail investigators.

“It makes absolutely no sense for us to allow our communities to be exposed to the same dangers that killed 47 people in Quebec this past summer. That tragedy was not an isolated incident. It could happen here, and there is absolutely no doubt that this increased

► QUINULT, continued on page 5.

## SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

### Particle Fever May 9 thru May 15

*Particle Fever explores with awe-inspiring precision, and in remarkably accessible language, how 10,000 scientists and engineers from around the world built what in effect is the ultimate test tube for particle physics.*

—Tirdad Derakhshani, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

*...even a science dunce will walk away with a basic understanding of the project and a strong impression of the community around this important research.*

—Peter Canavese, *Groucho Reviews*

### Anita May 23 thru May 29

*If you weren’t alive then, well, you live in a world Anita Hill helped make possible (and Thomas, too, for different reasons), and you should probably understand why.*

—Ty Burr, *Boston Globe*

*It begins with a 2010 phone message from Thomas’ wife, Ginni, left on Hill’s voicemail, asking her to apologize, and ending with a chirpy “Okay?” Hill is not apologizing. She is still utterly dignified and unruffled.*

—David Kaplan, *Kaplan vs. Kaplan*

### The Square May 23 thru May 29

*“The Square” is often chaotic, but that’s what revolution is; messy and painful, sped-up and slowed down. “There’s only so much you can see,” whispers one of the half-dozen activists the film follows.*

—Moirra MacDonald, *Seattle Times*

*Jehane Noujaim hoped to record a buoyant moment in history. Muslims and Christians, Islamists and secularists, raising their voices together after decades of fear.*

—Simon Houpt, *The Globe and Mail*

### God’s Daughters Monday, June 2, premiere

*God’s Daughters presents an intimate portrait of two ordained Roman Catholic women priests, part of a movement of active ordained women, who ask to be formally recognized by the Vatican and to be part of the institutional Roman Catholic Church. The filmmaker was granted complete access, resulting in a very human, unvarnished glimpse into the lives and struggles of these women. Through their movement, they promote their vision and goal of establishing a renewed and all-inclusive Roman Catholic Church.*

—The Olympia Film Society

CAPITOL THEATER ON FIFTH AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA



► **Quinalt**, continued from page 4.

oil traffic will cost us all in terms of both environmental and long term economic damage,” said Sharp.

“For the sake of our public safety, our long term economy, our streams, wetlands, fishing areas, shellfish beds, and migratory bird habitats, we will stand up to them. The Quinalt Nation encourages everyone who cares about the future of our region to participate.

We encourage letters and calls to the Department of Ecology, to local government and to the Governor. Now is the time to speak out in support of the future of Grays Harbor and the Pacific Northwest!”

Written comments can be sent to Maia Bellon, Director of the Department of Ecology, at 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98503-1274.

To join QIN in this effort, please email [ProtectOurFuture@Quinalt.org](mailto:ProtectOurFuture@Quinalt.org). “Together, we can protect the land and the water for our children, and rebuild a sustainable economy,” said Sharp.

—Citizens for a Clean Harbor

**CORRECTION TO APRIL 2014 ISSUE**

My article last month, “Legislature goes nowhere with climate change,” should have said that the expert report submitted to CLEW last fall said that cap and trade would have a stronger effect on reducing emissions than would a carbon tax. I inadvertently mis-reported the recommendation. Thanks to eagle eye reader Thad Curtz for pointing out the error.

—Emily Lardner

## How much money did you throw in your garbage can today?

Have you been tossing cash in the trash? That is not as silly of a question as you might think. On average, American families toss out about 25 percent of the food they buy. That includes the moldy cheese, black bananas, long lost leftovers, or that new casserole recipe that even Fido wouldn’t eat.

Most people don’t think they waste that much food. However, when researchers asked people about their habits, and then actually measured what was in the trash, there was much more food than reported. This waste has some very serious financial, environmental, and social consequences.

First, the average family of four spends about \$1,600 a year on food that they do not eat. Is there anything else you could do with that \$130 each month? Some families struggle to make ends meet while others scrimp and save for a special something. Most would be surprised if they calculated the amount of money lost.

Second are the environmental consequences. It takes 1,000 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk, ten gallons of water to make one slice of bread, and 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. Yet we regularly throw it away. Uneaten food accounts for almost 25 percent of U.S. methane emissions.

Finally, there are the social impacts. An estimated 50 million Americans do not have access to enough food. If Americans reduced wasted food by just 15 percent, it could feed 25 million people in the U.S. The more we consume and waste, the greater global demand for food becomes, and the higher food prices rise. So the single mom down the street—or the food bank using donated funds to buy food—just can’t get that dollar to stretch as far.

Thurston County Solid Waste would like to help you change all that with the Waste Less Food project. First, find out how much you really waste by taking our challenge. It only takes about 10 minutes per week—less time than you spend watching commercials in one hour of television.

## POGO presents Me, My Mom, and Mary P. (Mary Poppins, that is!)

Saturday, May 10 ■ 1:30 pm ■ Capitol Theater

POGO – Play on Greater Olympia - at Capitol Theater on Saturday, May 10, for Me, My Mom and Mary P. (Mary Poppins, that is!), celebrating the 50th anniversary of the beloved Disney classic. Doors open at 1 pm with the program beginning at 1:30 pm. Admission is by donation with all proceeds benefiting POGO. The afternoon includes live entertainment, “Practically Perfect” buttons, a Mary Poppins look-a-like contest and more!

POGO is an innovative after-school program at Washington Middle School, designed to positively affect social change and nurture promising futures for Thurston County youth through musical instruction. The POGO program is designed for students who do not have access or needed support for music instruction or would benefit from such a program. POGO is free to eligible students and tuition is funded through scholarships.

POGO is fashioned after the Venezuelan “el Sistema” model, which has brought music to over 350,000 children and youth in the South American country. Developed by Jose Abreu 37 years ago, el Sistema started with 11 kids in a garage and has

blossomed into the country’s leading social change movement for kids.

El Sistema-inspired programs have been created in several US and global locations in recent years. Greg Allison, founder and Executive Director of POGO, thought it was time to bring the ground-breaking program to Thurston County’s kids.

“Research and our own personal experience show us the many ways learning to play a musical instrument effects us. It changes the way we value ourselves and others, grows our confidence, improves executive brain functions, and gives us a sense of belonging to something larger than ourselves to mention a few. We must make this life changing instruction accessible for more children,” says Allison.

POGO started at Washington Middle School, where Allison has taught band for over 30 years. Currently, 15 students are receiving two hours of musical instruction after school each day. POGO plans to expand the program to other area schools in the near future.

To learn more about POGO, visit [www.facebook.com/playongreaterolympia](http://www.facebook.com/playongreaterolympia).

*Waste Less Food - Thurston County* to win great prizes and learn even more ways to reduce the food you waste.

To date, residents that have taken the WasteLessFood Challenge report they have reduced their waste by an average of 63% and feedback indicates the process was very eye opening and fun. So we are off to a good start! Get your family, neighbors, friends, and coworkers involved and let’s see how big we can make this. Look for us at community events or schedule us to come do a presentation for your group.

For more information or to start your challenge, visit [www.WasteLessFood.com](http://www.WasteLessFood.com) or contact Gabby Byrne at 360-867-2284 or [byrneg@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:byrneg@co.thurston.wa.us).

—Thurston County Solid Waste Program

Keep Olympia's progressive community **vibrant**. Support the Community Sustaining Fund by saying...



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## Letter to WIP

Too much, too fast

Massive changes to the living systems of the planet have occurred in the “geological relative” blink of an eye. These changes are the works of man. Fossil fuels should have been phased out by now. The technology exists to get along without fossil fuels. Present day societies and their peoples could get along in much better harmony with the living systems, and other creatures of this planet. If only technology was geared toward getting along, rather than using the planet as if it was disposable, and a dumping ground. At this point, change is necessary. It would make sense to proceed in future industrial endeavors with caution, according to the precautionary principle, in order to avoid the worst case scenarios (according to Murphy’s law—that if it can go wrong, then it will.) There is an appearance that the fossil fuel industry is a tyrant.

Robert F. W. Whitlock

### Special Events

**TSTSCA Perennial Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 3, 9 am to 3 pm**  
**117 Thomas St NW, West Olympia**

Large, healthy starts of fifty varieties of perennial plants will be on sale at very modest prices to benefit the Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association. Info--943-8642 or [tstsc@gmail.com](mailto:tstsc@gmail.com)

**Jog for Justice 5k Fun Run!**  
**Sunday, May 4, 9 am - 12 pm**  
**Marathon Park @ Capital Lake in Olympia, Washington**

Come join us for a family and pet friendly 5k walk/run to support Gateways for Incarcerated Youth! Gateways works with young men currently serving time to help them bridge the gap between incarceration and education. All proceeds go towards tuition for the young men, who earn college credit through their participation in the program.

Students pay \$10 (bring your student ID), Community members pay \$25, families pay \$20 per person

**Annual Mama Care Fair!**  
**Monday, May 5, 5:30 - 8:00 pm**  
**Darby's Cafe**  
**211 5th Ave SE, Olympia**

POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, welcomes you to our Mama Care Fair, a celebration and night of relaxation for mamas. Every year we put on a celebration of mothers and the important work they do—mothering all of us. We will serve dinner, have a prize raffle giveaway, and provide others reflections of our appreciation.

**Dance Oly Dance House Party with Fruit Juice**  
**Saturday, May 10, 10 pm - 2 am**  
**Metcalf Manor**  
**2110 Amhurst St SE, Olympia**

Free four-hour-long performance & dance party with recording of Dance Oly Dance TV show episode to be aired on TCTV.

**Icarus/Daedalus (Art Show)**  
**May 23-25**  
**Midnight Sun**  
**113 N Columbia St, Olympia**

Icarus/Daedalus is an exhibition of abstract art designed to illustrate a tumultuous journey through the artist’s psyche. The exhibition attempts to express catharsis via abstract allusions to the myth of Icarus and Daedalus. Encore is an Evergreen student from Pittsburgh, PA. The artist brings an East Coast sensibility to visual arts, hearkening back to concept album-styled archetypal narratives. Encore has had a number of successful group and solo exhibitions, garnering praise from feminist artist, Cydra Vaux, as well as Nine Inch Nails art director, Rob Sheridan, among others.

**LGBT Pride Celebration**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 11 am to 2 pm**  
**Centralia College**  
**600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia**

Annual Pride event in Washington Hall (Theatre Bldg)—music, community tables, speakers, and food.



# Splendor in the cosmos

Rus Frizzell

Everything we can see of the Universe is only like a small sprinkle of dust on the surface of some tremendous unexplored cosmic ocean. Scotty Yoos recently asked me, “Why not capitalize the word Universe?” I only said that it would be considered silly. Scotty may be right, let’s capitalize Universe, for our place in the scheme of things; and use a small u for any other universe. Next he asked if the Universe is really expanding. I said, “Yes, no one knows why.” Well, how can we be sure?

What is meant by the expanding Universe? Start with the Doppler shift, it is what the police radar employs to catch speeders. Light waves reflected off a moving car will get a little frequency shift depending on the car’s speed. If we are moving toward the police the shift will be toward the blue (higher frequency), moving away from the police and the shift will be toward the red (lower frequency). When we look at far off galaxies they all seem to be shifted toward the red. The farther away a galaxy is, the more red shifted their light spectrum; they are moving away. The exception to this rule is our little local group of galaxies--galaxies close enough for gravity to overpower the expansion. They are pulled together in mutual orbit.

Around five billion years in the future, our Milky Way galaxy is expected to undergo a collision with the great Andromeda galaxy. This is approximately the same time period as the end of the life cycle for our own Sun. Those will be exciting times! Over those long five billion years we will have had time to develop space travel technology and find safer planets to live on. Or, could we refuel the Sun and save everything? With

a decent pair of binoculars you can see the Andromeda galaxy for yourself, and it is still a long way off.

Our local group of galaxies is drifting around the outskirts of the Virgo cluster of galaxies. The Virgo cluster is a large group of galaxies centered about sixty million light years from us. They are still near enough to hold our local group in gravitational orbit. In the far distant future we will be drifting closer to the rest of the Virgo cluster galaxies. By then maybe, the human race will be a member of the larger civilization of space faring species, “The Federation.” Our membership will likely depend on us becoming much less barbaric than we are today.

Beyond the Virgo cluster there are a billion more clusters of galaxies. Being farther away, those may always be out of our reach. The expansion of the Universe is sending the more distant galaxies away from us faster and faster, they are too far away for gravity to prevent them

escaping. Eventually they should drift out of sight and be gone from our visible Universe, leaving us alone with the Virgo cluster; or if we’re lucky we might hold on to a larger grouping of galaxies. So, while our Universe is expanding, our neighborhood may be limited by time and space. The Virgo cluster, with its 2500 galaxies (where we are likely to stay) is still a tremendously large place.

Gravity is a property of matter and energy. Given a large enough chunk of matter the surface gravity may even prevent light from escaping. This describes a black hole. Black holes originate when very massive stars run out of nuclear fuel. They then collapse and explode as a supernova, leaving a cinder so dense that gravity overpowers everything. Now the Standard Model of Cosmology claims the big bang produced the entire Universe out of nothing for no known reason. Dark Energy is causing the Universe to expand faster and faster. Dark Matter holds galaxies and clusters of galaxies together. The model does not say how these things could be so, it only says that this is what it appears to be. Then there will be the long, slow process of all the stars and planets gradually spiraling into one extra large black hole at the center of our galaxy cluster. When the energy and matter is all in, an even longer, slower process of the black hole evaporating off into particles and heat radiation.

A hypothesis called Cosmological Natural Selection examines an idea that our Universe is a result of the evaporation process from a previously existing black hole within a larger universe. And, the laws of nature are thought to evolve slightly in the black hole evaporation process. Searching for deeper truths, the astrophysicist, Lee Smolin developed the idea of Cosmological Natural Selection because it explains where our Universe came from and why it developed nature’s laws the way they are. There are suspected to be lots and lots of smaller black holes in our Universe. Could they each be the seeds for little universes with all the mysteries and drama that our Universe has? Yes, they could.

The “surface” of a black hole, known



as the event horizon hides entirely what is inside. When a falling object crosses the event horizon entering a black hole it could find that the laws of nature evolve at the boundary going in, as well. What if that threshold were to appear from the inside just the way the big bang appears to us as if we were outside. Matter being pulled in might get the view as though space were expanding. The driving principle for Cosmological Natural Selection being: a universe succeeds by producing great numbers of black holes, each with a long life expectancy. So, conditions in our Universe evolved to the biology-friendly state we see. Lee Smolin is currently developing tests to support or refute the Cosmological Natural Selection idea. See more on this topic in the April 2014 issue of Physics Today magazine, or check your local library.

It may be that with the accumulation of presumptions and approximations, I have slipped over the edge to the realm of fantasy. Many respectable theorists have done as much, there are alternative scenarios. Come what may, given the evidence available, Cosmological Natural Selection looks like a plausible story. When better evidence comes to light, we can of course reconsider.

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

## ► Bargaining, cont. from page 1.

It’s not a new idea. In 2011, the American Federation of Teachers released a report, “Student Success in Higher Education,” outlining the roles of unions in strengthening educational programs for students. This report on student success was the AFT’s response to national calls to increase accountability among higher education institutions. The report offers a definition of success in terms of the knowledge and skills students should develop in college. Then, based on that definition of student success, the AFT argues that faculty and professional staff need time and opportunities for “focused professional thinking, collaboration, and planning around the institution’s teaching program and assessment.”

I hope the UFE takes this up, making a strong case that faculty and professional staff at Evergreen need time and opportunities to think, collaborate and plan around our teaching program and our assessment not of students, but of that program.

Finally—though this may be outside the purview of bargaining—we can’t forget that to be transformative higher education has to be accessible to students, which means it has to be affordable. According to the Project on Student Debt, the average debt for a college graduate is \$29,400. Senator Elizabeth Warren is arguing that we need to rethink our policies around

student loans. In particular, she’s advocating that the federal government not make a profit on student loans, that bankruptcy provisions for student debt be reinstated, and that colleges whose students default on their loans in high numbers be penalized. All three of these moves make sense. The UFE should support them in whatever ways it can.

To my colleagues on the bargaining team, spousal hires are undemocratic. Don’t support them. Creating working conditions for teachers that lead to a stronger education program—yes please.

*Emily Lardner is a member of the UFE. She teaches at The Evergreen State College and co-directs The Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education, a public service of TESC.*

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# Who is buying our future?

Emily Lardner

*“Do we understand the path we are taking here, by defining two classes of water, for two different groups of population?”*

Dr Raul Gupta, head of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, West Virginia  
—Evan Osnos, “Chemical Valley,” *The New Yorker*, April 7, 2014

The chemical spill in West Virginia, in which at least 10,000 gallons of MCHM (methylcyclohexane methanol) poured into the Elk River one mile upriver of the largest water treatment in the state, is symptomatic of a political system that has to change. On January 9, 2014, after people called emergency services to complain about the smell in the air and the way that drinking water coated their throats, two state inspectors went to a chemical storage facility run by Freedom Industries. There, they found a leaking chemical tank. At least 300,000 people were affected. Schools, restaurants and businesses were shut down. President Obama declared a national emergency and sent in the National Guard to deliver bottled water.

“Open for Business.” That slogan was adopted by West Virginia in 2006, and the chemical spill illustrates what that means. The radical approach to environmental regulation adopted

in the state focuses on compliance assistance—helping business live within the law. West Virginia Republican leaders have successfully made the case that regulating heavy industry infringes on freedom and the right to profit.

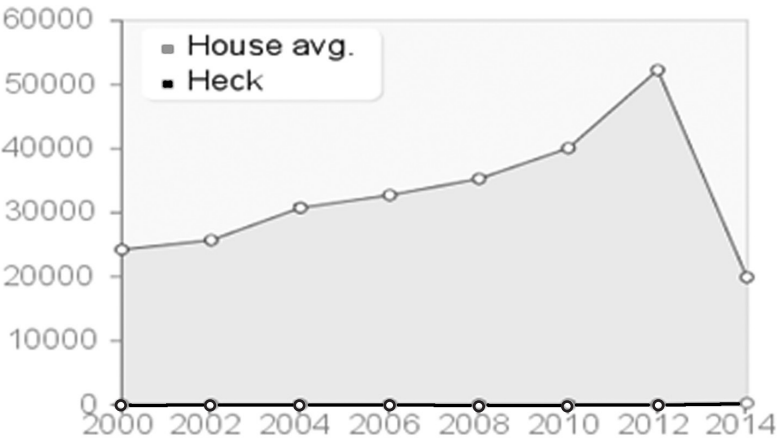
That approach doesn’t work, as the spill so profoundly demonstrated. The interests of businesses in an unregulated capitalist system directly conflict with our basic human rights. Although Freedom Industries has now declared bankruptcy, they made a large profit—in part because they didn’t spend money on chemical storage tanks that didn’t leak. They didn’t have to.

The same dynamic is at work with climate change, only the number of people effected by the “spill” is and will continue to be much larger. The recent IPCC report describes disruptions in food systems, water shortages, and mass migrations leading to political conflicts as a consequence of increasing green house gas emissions. The only way to keep the scale of the disaster manageable is to limit and then stop

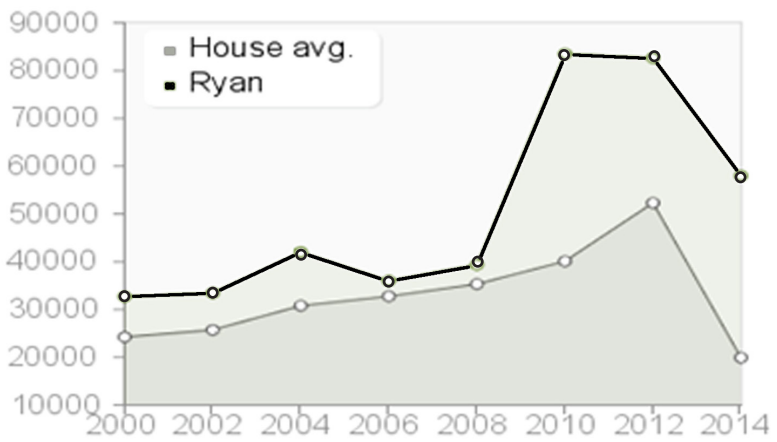
**West Virginia Republican leaders have successfully made the case that regulating heavy industry infringes on freedom and the right to profit.**

the use of fossil fuels.  
As a first step, we need to end subsidies for fossil fuel companies at a state and national level.  
Oil Change International has a great website ([priceofoil.org](http://priceofoil.org)) that shows why this is an uphill battle. Fossil fuel companies pay Republican and some Democrat politicians to maintain subsidies for production and to limit regulations. Oil Change International’s “dirty energy money” database lets you see who is taking what from whom.  
Here’s a glimpse in the graphs above.

Dirty energy money accepted by Heck per term



Dirty energy money accepted by Ryan per term



Denny Heck has accepted less money from fossil fuel based energy companies than the House average. (The same is true for our senators.) Paul Ryan, in comparison, is subsidized to protect fossil fuel subsidies.  
When politicians are paid to protect subsidies, they will. Republican politicians in West Virginia made deals with their largest contributors to put corporate profits ahead of public safety—in the form of clean water and clean air. West Virginia people

suffer as a result. The problem with climate change is that we can’t move to another state—it effects us all. Check out Oil Change International’s “Separate Oil and State” initiative—and let’s see if we can get our future back.  
*Emily Lardner teaches at Evergreen State College and co-directs The Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education, a public service of the college.*

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(Gabriel Garcia Marquez 1927 - 2014)

# Dying when it's doable, not when it's recommendable

Enrique Quintero

To many, Gabriel Garcia Marquez is the most important writer in Spanish literature, more important than Cervantes. His main work, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, has become canonical not only in western literature but in the universal republic of letters. The history of the Buendia family transcended time and place and came to be the history of all of us, human beings hoping to live life, as it should be, a little better. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* became “la novela total” (The Total Novel).

American pop-culture, just like any other culture, has generational referentials i.e. where were you when Kennedy was assassinated or when Armstrong walked in the moon?

Growing up in Latin America in the 60's—the novel was first published in 1967—the questions were: how old were you when you first read *One Hundred Years of Solitude*? And what did you think of it? The answers of course would shed light on how soon or late you became aware of your Latin American identity.

## The literary and the political (and the dinosaur)

Latin America during the 60's and 70's, like the rest of world for that matter, was living under the spell of the immediacy of the revolution. It was close enough that we could practically see it. There was Vietnam, and the third world liberation, anti-colonialist movement. The French student rebellion of '68 and the massive European trade unions protests. There was the counter-culture and civil rights movement in the US. There was the example of Cuba and the guerrilla. Politically the subaltern was finding its voice through the writings of intellectuals like Franz Fanon in the *Wretched of the Earth*, the *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King, the speeches of Fidel Castro and the guerrilla manuals and journals of “Che” Guevara. Of course all these were developed under the conceptual framework of Marxist theory.

In literary terms, the Latin American voice was simultaneously being constructed and heard through that cultural phenomenon known as the “Boom” (The Explosion) with writers such as Julio Cortazar, Carlos Fuentes, Mario Vargas Llosa, Jose Donoso, and Augusto Roa Bastos among others. Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

engulfed all these voices and made them resonate at a literary level where it was hard to imagine how to write anything better, both for Marquez himself and the other writers.

Nevertheless, Marquez's acceptance and well-deserved recognition as a writer in the official corridors of literary power—he won the Nobel Prize in 1982—has always been accompanied by either open resistance, opposition, or silence about his political views. A recent example comes in the words of Ilan Stavans of The New Republic two days ago: “As savvy as he was in literary terms, in his politics he was a dinosaur.” Here is the dinosaur speaking at the Nobel Prize reception in Stockholm:

*Eleven years ago, the Chilean Pablo Neruda, one of the outstanding poets of our time, enlightened this audience*

Latin America during the 60's and 70's, like the rest of world for that matter, was living under the spell of the immediacy of the revolution.

*with his word. Since then, the Europeans of good will—and sometimes those of bad, as well—have been struck, with ever greater force, by the unearthly tidings of Latin America, that boundless realm of haunted men and historic women, whose unending obstinacy blurs into legend. We have not had a moment's rest. A promethean president, entrenched in his burning palace, died fighting an entire army, alone; and two suspicious*

*airplane accidents, yet to be explained, cut short the life of another great-hearted president and that of a democratic soldier who had revived the dignity of his people. There have been five wars and seventeen military coups; there emerged a diabolic dictator who is carrying out, in God's name, the first Latin American ethnocide of our time. In the meantime, twenty million Latin American children died before the age of one—more than have been born in Europe since 1970. Those missing because of repression number nearly one hundred and twenty thousand, which is as if no one could account for all the inhabitants of Uppsala. Numerous women arrested while pregnant have given birth in Argentine prisons, yet nobody knows the whereabouts and identity of their children who were furtively adopted or sent to an orphanage by order of the military authorities. Because they tried to change this state of things, nearly two hundred thousand men and women have died throughout the continent, and over one hundred thousand have lost their lives in three small and ill-fated countries of Central America: Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. If this had happened in the United States, the corresponding figure would be that of one million six hundred thousand violent deaths in four years.*

Very inconvenient truths indeed to be heard by the world, the ears of



the well behaved King of Sweden, the members of the Nobel Academy and their spouses; but the point here is to show that Gabriel Garcia Marquez the writer, even at the time of accepting the highest literary recognition in the West, can not be separated from Gabriel Garcia Márquez the human being with a political consciousness.

The simple equation of connecting writing (or the arts in general) with the social is a hard pill both to swallow and digest for a culture where individualism is the King of the Hill, and the social is mostly circumscribed to identity issues, leaving untouched economics, distribution of wealth, and socio-political equity.

## Arts, revolution and the public intellectual

Anyone with a modicum of knowledge about Latin American intellectual and artistic history would acknowledge

► MARQUEZ, continued on page 9.

(Gabriel García Márquez 1927 -2014)

# Se muere cuando es posible, no cuando es recomendado

Enrique Quintero

Para muchos Gabriel García Márquez es el escritor mas importante de la literatura en español, mas importante que Cervantes. Su obra mas importante *Cien Años de Soledad*, se ha convertido en canónica no solo de la literatura occidental pero de la republica universal de las letras. La historia de la familia Buendía trascendió tiempo y espacio hasta convertirse en la historia de todos nosotros, seres humanos esperando vivir la vida como debería ser, un poco mejor. *Cien Años de Soledad* se convirtió en la “novela total”.

La cultura-pop norteamericana, como cualquier otra cultura, tiene referenciales generacionales i.e. donde estuviste cuando Kennedy fue asesinado o cuando Armstrong camino en la luna? Creciendo en Latino-América en los años 60—la novela fue publicada por primera vez en 1967—las preguntas eran: que edad tenias cuando leíste *Cien Anos de Soledad*? y que te pareció? Las respuestas por supuesto arrojaban luz sobre lo temprano o tardío de la adquisición de una identidad latinoamericana.

## Lo Literario y lo Político (y el dinosaurio)

América Latina durante los años 60

y 70, como en el resto del mundo por aquel entonces, vivía bajo la ilusión de la inmediatez de la revolución, la cual estaba tan cerca que era prácticamente visible. Eran los tiempos de la guerra de Vietnam y de los movimientos tercermundistas de liberación y anti-colonialismo. El tiempo de la rebelión estudiantil francesa de 1968 y de las masivas protestas de los sindicatos obreros europeos. El tiempo de la contra-cultura y del movimiento por los derechos civiles en los U.S. El tiempo

América Latina durante los años 60 y 70, como en el resto del mundo por aquel entonces, vivía bajo la ilusión de la inmediatez de la revolución, la cual estaba tan cerca que era prácticamente visible.

del ejemplo de Cuba y de la guerrilla. Políticamente los tiempos en que “el subalterno” encontraba su propia voz en los escritos de intelectuales como Franz Fanon en *Los Condenados de La Tierra*, *Carta Desde una Prisión en Birmingham* de Martin Luther King, los discursos de Fidel Castro y los manuales y diarios sobre la guerrilla del “Che” Guevara. Desde luego todos estos desarrollados desde un modelo conceptual marxista.

En términos literarios, la voz de América Latina era simultáneamente construida y escuchada a través de ese

fenómeno cultural llamado el “Boom” con escritores como Julio Cortázar, Carlos Fuentes, Mario Vargas Llosa, José Donoso, y Augusto Roa Bastos entre otros. *Cien Años de Soledad* de García Márquez encerró todas esas voces haciéndolas resonar a un nivel de calidad literaria que era difícil imaginar como escribir algo mejor, tanto para Márquez como para otros escritores.

A pesar de esto, la aceptación y el merecido reconocimiento como escritor para con Marques en los corredores del poder literario oficial—se le otorga el Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1982 -ha estado siempre acompañada bien sea de una resistencia abierta, oposición, o silencio respecto a sus puntos de vista políticos. Un ejemplo reciente nos llega en las palabras de Ilan Stavans de la *New Republic* dos días atrás: “ Tan diestro como el fue en términos literarios en su política el fue un dinosaurio”. He aquí las palabras del dinosaurio en la recepción del Premio Nobel en Estocolmo:

*Hace once años, uno de los poetas insignes de nuestro tiempo, el chileno Pablo Neruda, iluminó este ámbito con su palabra. En las buenas conciencias de Europa, y a veces también en las malas, han irrumpido desde entonces*

*con más ímpetus que nunca las noticias fantasmales de la América Latina, esa patria inmensa de hombres alucinados y mujeres históricas, cuya terquedad sin fin se confunde con la leyenda. No hemos tenido un instante de sosiego. Un presidente prometeico atrincherado en su palacio en llamas murió peleando solo contra todo un ejército, y dos desastres aéreos sospechosos y nunca esclarecidos segaron la vida de otro de corazón generoso, y la de un militar demócrata que había restaurado la dignidad de su*

► MARQUEZ, continúa en la página 9.

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► **Márquez**, cont. from page 8.

the impact of revolutionary politics – Marxism to be precise-- in the life and work of its artists and intellectuals, from openly declared communist poets like Neruda, Cesar Vallejo, Gabriela Mistral, and Jorge Amado, to muralists and painters like Siqueiros, Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Guayasamin, etc., just to mention a few. Garcia Marquez belongs to this continental tradition; not only he was a member of the Communist Party in his youth, but once he reached literary prominence he continued actively participating in socialist and progressive projects as journalist. He also contributed to the formation and development of a socialist party in Venezuela, and remained a loyal friend of the Cuban Revolution. This is the kind of intellectual that we hear very little about when his name is mentioned in literary circles. For Garcia Marquez, life wasn't separated from politics, just the opposite, as he noted in an interview for the Paris Review mentioned in this week's Guardian.

On death and After

Ideally we would have liked for Gabo to continue living and writing but as he noticed, “a person doesn't die when he should but when he can.” He has stopped living and his writing was interrupted due to illness a few years ago, but maybe, just maybe, like Melquiades, one of his famous characters in the elliptical magical realism of his prose, “although he really had been through death, he had returned because he could not bear the solitude.”

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► **Márquez**, viene de la página 8.

pueblo. En este lapso ha habido 5 guerras y 17 golpes de estado, y surgió un dictador luciferino que en el nombre de Dios lleva a cabo el primer etnocidio de América Latina en nuestro tiempo. Mientras tanto 20 millones de niños latinoamericanos morían antes de cumplir dos años, que son más de cuantos han nacido en Europa occidental desde 1970. Los desaparecidos por motivos de la represión son casi los 120 mil, que es como si hoy no se supiera dónde están todos los habitantes de la ciudad de Upsala. Numerosas mujeres arrestadas ecintas dieron a luz en cárceles argentinas, pero aún se ignora el paradero y la identidad de sus hijos, que fueron dados en adopción clandestina o internados en orfanatos por las autoridades militares. Por no querer que las cosas siguieran así han muerto cerca de 200 mil mujeres y hombres en todo el continente, y más de 100 mil perecieron en tres pequeños y voluntariosos países de la América Central, Nicaragua, El Salvador y Guatemala. Si esto fuera en los Estados Unidos, la cifra proporcional sería de un millón 600 mil muertes violentas en cuatro años.

En efecto verdades muy inconvenientes para ser escuchadas por el mundo, los oídos del siempre caballeresco Rey de Suecia, y los miembros de la Academia Nobel y sus consortes. Pero el punto que nos interesa destacar es que Gabriel García Márquez, el escritor, aun en el momento de aceptar el mas alto galardón literario de occidente, no puede ser separado de Gabriel García Márquez el ser humano con conciencia política.

La simple ecuación que conecta

Amiri Baraka (1934-2014)

Never can say goodbye

Paul Ortiz

*The spirit will not descend without song.*  
*-Blues People: Negro Music in White America (1963)*

Amiri Baraka (born Everett LeRoi Jones) was one of the greatest poets in American history. A two-time recipient of the American Book Award, he was a founder of the Black Arts Movement, a multimedia explosion of poetry, prose, paintings and other forms of expression rooted in the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, and the global anti-colonial struggle. Baraka's contemporaries in the Black Arts Movement included literary giants such as Sonia Sanchez, Lorraine Hansberry, Ishmael Reed and many others who used words as weapons to attack the rigid systems of oppression that continue to degrade social relations in the United States.

Amiri Baraka's words were variously incisive, wide of the mark, angry, joyous, fiery, loving, wicked, satirical, incendiary, full of hate, full of love, strident, whispery, soft as down, hard as iron. Like all great artists Baraka ultimately refused to integrate into what he understood to be a fundamentally corrupt society. A year after winning the prestigious PEN Open Book Award for his magnificent *Tales of the Out and Gone* (2008) Baraka stated that “Art is a weapon in the struggle of ideas, the class struggle. The bourgeoisie uses the arts to valorize capitalism, whether

el escribir ( o cualquier otra arte en general) con lo social, es una píldora difícil de engullir y digerir por una cultura donde el individualismo es “El Rey de La Colina”, y lo social se limita mayoritariamente a asuntos de identidad dejando intocados asuntos económicos como la re-distribución de la riqueza, y desigualdad político-social.

Arte, revolución y el intelectual publico

Cualquiera que tenga aunque sea un módico conocimiento sobre la historia intelectual y artística de América Latina debe reconocer el impacto de la política

revolucionaria – el marxismo para ser exacto - en la vida y obras de sus artistas e intelectuales. Desde aquellos a b i e r t a m e n t e c o m u n i s t a s como Neruda, Cesar Vallejo, y Jorge Amado; a los muralistas y pintores como Siqueiros, Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Guayasamin, etc. solo para mencionar unos pocos. García Márquez pertenece a esta tradición del continente; no solo fue miembro del Partido Comunista en su juventud,

pero una ves que alcanzo prominencia internacional continuo participando activamente en proyectos socialistas y progresistas como periodista. También contribuyo a la formación y desarrollo de un partido socialista en Venezuela y permaneció como amigo fiel de la Revolución Cubana. Este es el tipo de intelectual del cual se escucha muy poco cuando su nombre es mencionado



books, films, drama, music. The most progressive artists can never get the exposure that the artist prostitutes get. Mao said even arts, literary criticism et cetera is part of the class struggle. So that we must utilize works that are

LeRoi Jones did not start out as a radical. To paraphrase C.L.R. James, the poet as a young man was made by the revolution.

artistically powerful and ideologically revolutionary.”

LeRoi Jones did not start out as a radical. To paraphrase C.L.R. James, the poet as a young man was made by the revolution. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, he established a reputation as a promising poet and playwright in the 1950s with plays such as *A Good Girl is Hard to Find* and his first collection of poems, *Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note* published in 1961. Early in his artistic life, Baraka was associated with the poetic *avant-gardes* Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Gilbert Sorrentino and the Greenwich Village Beats.

The rise of the Civil Rights Movement

en los círculos literarios. Para García Márquez la vida no esta separada de la política, todo lo contrario, como el nota en una entrevista con *Paris Review* aludida en e *The Guardian* de esta semana.

La muerte y después

Idealmente, hubiéramos querido que Gabo continúe viviendo y escribiendo, pero como el mismo nota “una persona no muere cuando debe pero cuando puede”. El ha dejado de vivir, y su escribir fue interrumpido hace pocos años debido a su salud, pero talvez, solo talvez, como Melquiades, uno de sus famosos personajes en la prosa elíptica de su realismo mágico “ aunque el realmente haya atravesado la muerte, el retorna porque no puede tolerar la soledad”.

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had a major impact on Baraka's development but his trip to revolutionary Cuba in 1960 was a turning point in his creative life. He traveled to the nation as part of a delegation of Fair Play for Cuba Committee members. The

Third World artistic struggle for freedom humbled Baraka. While he initially defended the separation of art and politics, his counterparts from the Global South would have none of it. In *Cuba Libre* (1966) Baraka vividly remembered that Mexican poet Jaime Shelley openly challenged him: “You want to cultivate your

soul? In the ugliness you live in, you want to cultivate your soul? Well, we've got millions of starving people to feed, and that moves me enough to make poems out of.”

Subsequently, Baraka (as LeRoi Jones) wrote one of the most influential books ever published on African American history: *Blues People: Negro Music in White America* (1963). The text was squarely Pan-African and the maturing writer placed the origins of blues and jazz music squarely in the maelstrom of Africa, the transatlantic slave trade, and the struggles of enslaved people to survive American capitalism. The book contains gems and revelations on almost every page. *Blues People* referred to Mexican civilization at the time of the Conquest as “...one of the longest-lived, most sophisticated and exalted traditions of human life on this planet.”

Beloved in his native Newark, Baraka became heavily involved in politics of various forms, and he had a major role in helping to elect Kenneth A. Gibson, the city's first African American mayor in 1970. (His son, Ras Baraka, is currently a candidate in the Newark mayor's race.) In the mid-1960s, profoundly shaken by the wave of assassinations that took the lives of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bobby Kennedy, and others, he produced several writings he later condemned as being frankly anti-Semitic. This self-criticism set Baraka apart from countless white authors who have never felt the need to retract or to apologize for anti-black or anti-Latino utterances then or now.

Words cannot express my own sadness in thinking about a world without Amiri Baraka. For those of us in the farm worker and Chicano movements his barbs against the powerful have been a source of strength for decades. Baraka's great comrade and intellectual

sparring partner Ishmael Reed provided the most fitting epitaph of all: “I once said that he did for the English syntax what Monk did with the chord. He was an original.”

Amiri Baraka, presente!

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# From MADD to climate change

## Motivating society to demand action in addressing the very real dangers of global warming

Sylvia Smith

*The American public has a complicated view of global warming – most believe it is happening, but most do not think it will seriously affect their way of life and many do not attribute severe or unusual weather events to this phenomenon. While a majority view the reported seriousness as generally correct or underestimated, a sizable and, since 2009, heightened percentage see the threat as generally exaggerated.* –Gallup, March 17, 2014

In March, Gallup released the results of a poll on “Americans’ level of worry about national problems.” Climate change was next to the bottom of the list, just above race relations and well below the fear of potential terrorist attacks. It surprised me with its likeness to the acceptance and tolerance of another national concern this society faced in the past—one in which I was part of the problem.

Thirty-eight years ago in 1976 I turned 21. I was in my third year at Western Washington State College and at midnight my roommate, Karen, decided to take me out to celebrate at a local disco where patrons were “doing the hustle.” We had just joined a bunch of her accounting major friends when one of the bartenders recognized me. He was from my home town in Pierce County—a very small stagnant community of around 1,500 souls who had a heightened awareness of each other. Surprised and pleased to see his sister’s friend’s little sister, he began sending over free shots of tequila filled to the brim. Within the hour I was plastered.

I don’t recall what Karen was drinking or how much, but in my semi-conscience state I knew she was far from sober. Understand this: when Karen was inebriated it was hard to miss. This woman, who would go on to be very successful, was normally a sweet, slightly mischievous, gentle person who called her mother “Treas” (short for treasure). She had a pretty face w/soft features and a pleasant expression similar to that of the Madonna. Yet, when she was smashed, her eyes would open wide and glaze over while her lips would pull back in a rather demonic smile. Whether or not one knew Karen, the transformation was unsettling—especially in view of the fact that she was six-feet tall and, even without that expression, imposing.

Now imagine, me as the typical sloppy drunk and Karen—aka Ms. Franken-

stein—walking out to the parking lot and getting into a car. None of her friends tried to stop us. The bartender didn’t say a word; I believe he even smiled goodbye.

We took off in my red 66 VW bug with Karen driving since I didn’t yet have my license (which was probably a very good thing). Did we make the wise decision to go home? Oh no, we were not in that state. We decided instead to visit a love interest who lived on the far side of town. I have a very clear memory of the next few minutes as we blasted through downtown B’ham at 50-60 miles per hour. (Where are the cops when you need them?) Fortunately, the streets were completely deserted so we weren’t much of a risk to others; we were mostly just a danger to ourselves.

Arriving at his home, Karen slid the nearest house window open, which just happened to be his bedroom, leaned in over his bed and shocked him awake. Soon we were the kitchen facing four twenty-year-old male roommates. We stood there—foolish drunk women—and then the unimaginable happened. They allowed us to climb back into the car and drive away.

Now one might think that we were all terrible people back then—driving drunk and allowing others to drive drunk—but it was simply a different mindset. It was considered “funny” to be drunk; comedians had whole skits

year and a half, just a few days before the eruption of Mount Saint Helens, when society would finally begin to shift its gaze to the victims of drunken driving.

Cari Lightner, a 13-year-old living in Fair Oaks, California, was on her way to a near-



by church carnival. While walking in the bike lane at Sunset and New York Avenues, she was struck from behind by a drunken driver who had briefly passed out. Her body was thrown 125 feet and the driver, who was out on bail for another hit and run, drove off.

For the Lightner family, this was not their first experience with impaired drivers. Years earlier the family car was rear ended by a drunken driver slightly injuring their other daughter. In another incident, an unlicensed driver on tranquilizers ran over their son breaking numerous bones, placing him in a coma, and causing permanent brain injury. The offending driver received no punishment, not even a ticket.

After the death of her daughter, Candice Lightner had had enough. The day after Cari’s funeral, Lightner founded Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). Following 18 months of campaigning, MADD was able to claim its first victory when California Governor Jerry Brown signed four bills into law. The bills increased penalties for drunken driving, added to the number of state patrol officers, reduced the ability of offenders to plea bargain, and lowered the legal blood alcohol level to .10. Across the nation, MADD became a household name as people began to pay attention and the number of deaths related to drunken driving started to drop.

Back in 1976, the same year as my 21st birthday, the National Academy of Sciences released a study cautioning that climbing carbon dioxide levels would threaten Earth’s future. An editorial in the Cleveland Ohio newspaper *The Plain Dealer* quoted a warning from the study: “A warmer earth in turn would mean a melting of polar ice and a consequent rise in ocean levels to a point where coastal regions could be flooded. Change for the worse in world agricultural patterns and in the oceans’ capacity to provide food also are seen as effects from a warmed planet earth.”

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, also announced the same year that it would begin a four-year research program to study the effects of increased carbon dioxide on the world’s climate. Rumen Bojkov, director of the atmospheric science division of WMO, spoke of the concentration of carbon dioxide in

Earth’s atmosphere. It had increased 140 parts per million (ppm) from 280 ppm in 1900, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels. If the oceans were to reach a point of being unable to absorb additional carbon dioxide, change would become more dramatic.

The message regarding the danger of global warming has changed little in the last four decades. The greenhouse effect causes global warming: polar ice caps and glaciers will and have melted; sea levels will rise and have risen; droughts will and have occurred. The effects of global warming have already shown themselves; yet industry still emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases; our transportation is still responsible for one-third of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions; electricity is still produced in most parts of the country with fossil fuels, and carbon dioxide has risen by another 60 parts per million since 1976 to a total of 400 ppm. We all know the situation, so why aren’t people in the streets protesting that the Washington State legislature did absolutely nothing last session to

address this dire situation?

When the Northwest experienced an unusually long period of dry, cold days of sun this last winter, people told me they liked it. When I suggested that it was likely a symptom of global warming and probably not a good thing for the native flora and fauna, they shrugged and said they still liked it. This response puzzled (and annoyed) me.

Looking back to my youth, I remember people having the same blasé attitude. While no one would want to be in the path of an inebriated driver, people would say they could drive while drunk without effect. Their belief that they could handle their liquor was almost a badge of honor. So many people had driven while drunk or ridden with a drunken driver at one time or another and had still made it home. People didn’t see drunken driving as a danger unless they were among the unlucky. If we had been honest with ourselves, we would have acknowledged that we were a nation of perpetrators and accomplices. And maybe attitudes toward global warming are similar; people have benefitted from the emissions of greenhouse gases and have failed to realize they are directly affected.

Maybe, as Fiona Harvey wrote in *The Guardian*, another “part of the problem is that global warming sounds quite nice.” She explains further that with “a couple of degrees hotter in summer—we could be sitting out on our verandahs of an evening sipping Sauvignon Blanc from our own vineyards. Who wouldn’t want that?” It is a nice image. Certainly not like the image of a sloppy drunk driving away from a hit and run. But maybe that’s what we need in the state of Washington to remove people from their complacency—a less pretty image of climate change.

And what type of picture might affect people in Washington State? It doesn’t seem that the brutally cold winter on the East Coast or the drought that is occurring in California has had much of an effect. Weather happens. Nor does it appear that extreme weather such as hurricanes and tornados in the southern portion of the nation has elicited anything more than sympathy. I sense that the acidification of the oceans, oceans that have been absorbing 90 percent of the carbon dioxide, will just be viewed from the perspective of an unfortunate

► CLIMATE CHANGE, continued on page 11.

If we had been honest with ourselves, we would have acknowledged that we were a nation of perpetrators and accomplices. And maybe attitudes toward global warming are similar...

around alcoholics. It was so common, so normal. It didn’t dawn on most that things could/should be different. Driving drunk, being drunk was socially accepted, but there were a few who were paying attention.

During the years from 1971 to 1976 the federal government conducted a study and released its results in 1979. It revealed that half of all fatal accidents involved alcohol—25,000 deaths each year. The study described a typical Saturday night as one-in-ten drivers driving drunk with only one-in-2,000 arrested. Joan Claybrook, the director of the Transportation Department, called drunk drivers “America’s No. 1 highway menace.” She sent letters to state and city officials asking them to use money that had been recently allotted by Congress “to attack the drunk driving problem...to the fullest extent possible.”

In the same year, the General Accountability Office (GAO) in its report to Congress blamed “society’s general acceptance of drinking and driving as the main obstacle to solving the drinking problem.” John Moulden, a research psychologist with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, explained that “drunk driving is the most socially accepted violent crime we have.” When those who are our judges, lawyers, and juries are confronted with a drunk driver “they tend to see themselves and take the view that, ‘but for the grace of God, there go I.’” It would be another

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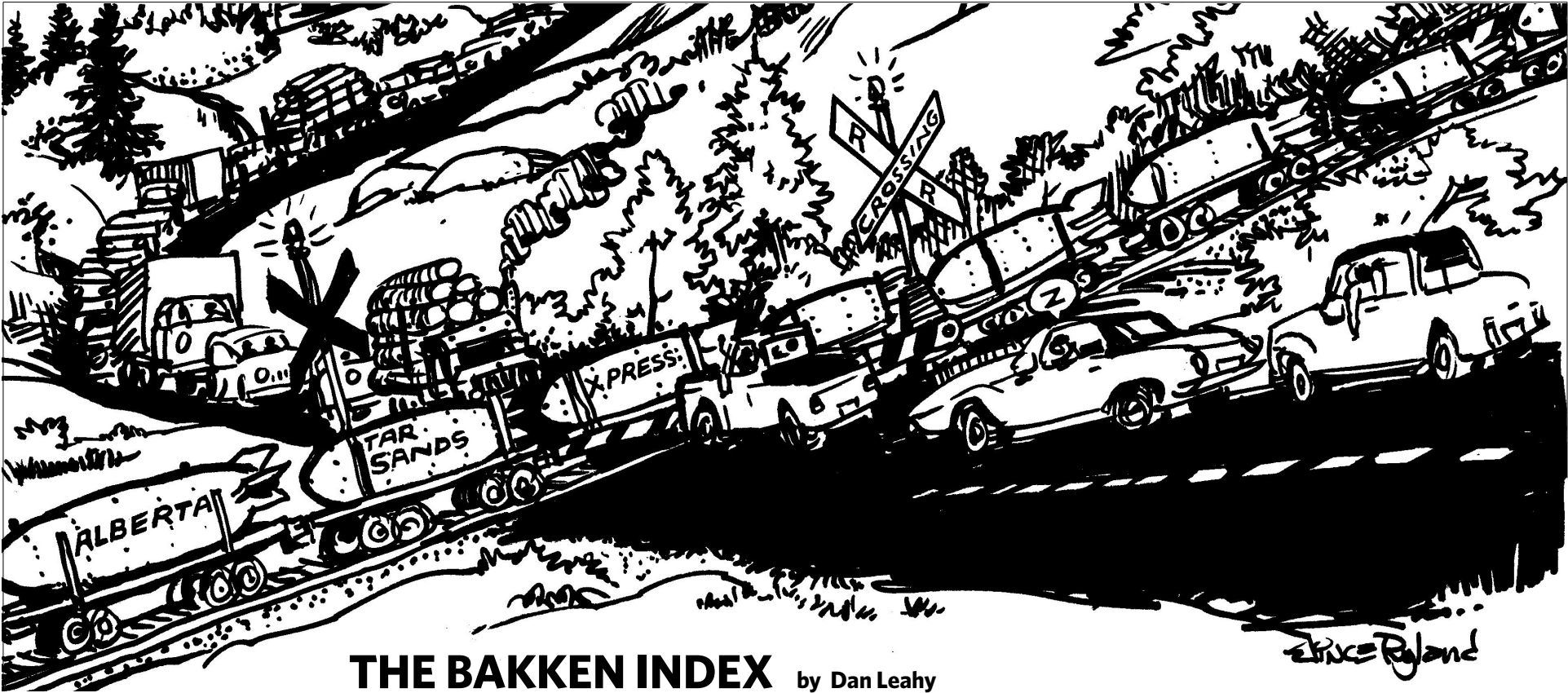
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# THE BAKKEN INDEX

by Dan Leahy

When the Harpers Magazine arrives, it is a family tradition for one member to read off the Index and have the other members guess at the possible answer. I thought it would be fun to have a Bakken Index. The North Dakota Bakken oil field combines hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. This has produced a new U.S. crude oil boom that wants to come our way on virtual pipelines of 120 car Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) unit trains.

## The Bakken Crude Oil Field

Rank of North Dakota in the extraction of domestic crude oil: 2  
Percentage increase in North Dakota’s Bakken oil production from 2007 to 2012: 500%  
Number of barrels/day produced in North Dakota in 2013: 860,000/day  
Number of North Dakota counties that currently produce 85% of the Bakken crude oil: 4  
Number of publicly traded corporations listed as “Bakken Operating Companies”: 69  
Rank of stock price of listed companies for world’s largest producer of ceramic proppant: 1  
Rank of Berkshire Hathaway’s stock price among these 69 Operating companies: 4  
Average percentage nationwide for the flaring of natural gas at oil producing wells: 1%  
Percentage of N Dakota oil producing wells that flared natural gas in December 2013: 36%  
Number of tons of radioactive oil socks produced daily in North Dakota: 27 tons  
Number of picocuries/gram of radioactive waste allowed to be disposed in N Dakota: 5  
Number of radioactive oil socks allowed to be disposed of in North Dakota: 0  
Volume estimate of illegally dumped radioactive socks in North Dakota: 1000s of lbs.  
Month US Ecology, Inc said part of N Dakota in danger of being a superfund site: March '14  
Level at which US Ecology Inc deposits Bakken radioactive oil socks in Idaho: 500 picocuries/gram

## Hydraulic Fracturing and Horizontal Drilling

Year when hydraulic fracking was first commercially used in U.S. oil and gas industry: 1947  
Decade in which the use of hydraulic fracking in horizontal wells introduced: 1980s  
Depth a production casing at a oil well can extend before turning horizontally: 10,000 feet  
Percentage of water and sand in the fracturing fluids injected into the wells: 98-99.5%  
Average amount of surface water used for a single Bakken oil well: 4,600,000 gallons  
Amount of fracking sand that can be used in a single Bakken well: 1 million pounds or more.  
Remaining component of the fracturing fluid is made of what: proprietary chemicals.  
In a typical fracturing treatment, what is the number of chemical additives used: 3 to 12  
Number of EPA regulations for fracking fluids or propping agents injected in oil wells: 0  
Name of exemption of hydraulic fracking from Safe Water Drinking Act: “Halliburton Loophole”  
Number of fracking chemicals on Material Safety Data Sheets that must be reported: 0  
Number of hydraulic fracturing products used by leading companies: 2,500  
Number of these products known as human carcinogens or hazardous air pollutants: 650  
The percentage of fracking fluid that is returned to the surface as “flowback fluid”: 75%  
Port of Olympia 2012 revenue from ceramic proppant shipping for the Bakken: \$1.2 million  
Number of bags of ceramic proppants offloaded by the Port in February 2014: 7,000

## Burlington Northern Sante Fe

How many years after Warren Buffet visited the Bakken crude oil fields did he buy BNSF: 1  
What was the price Warren paid for the BNSF rail line in 2009: \$26 billion  
The number of originated carloads of crude oil by rail in 2005: 6,032  
The number of originated carloads of crude oil by rail in 2013: 400,000  
The number of gallons of Bakken crude in a 100 car unit train: 3,000,000  
Percentage of the million barrels/day of Bakken crude BNSF plans to ship by rail in 2014: 90%

No. of days North Dakota wheat shipments delayed this winter due to oil train traffic: 40  
When oil-train-disrupted Amtrak Empire Builder may return to normal schedule: June '14  
No. of loaded coal cars derailed on BNSF lines in eastern Montana February 24, 2014: 29  
No. of empty coal cars derailed on BNSF lines in western Montana on March 1, 2014: 45  
Number of BNSF track defects since 2006 reported in North Dakota: 13,000  
Number of these violations written up: 721  
The amount of oil spilled by the rail industry in 2013 alone: 1.15 million gallons of crude  
No. of deaths in Lac-Megantic, Quebec due to July 2013 derailment of Bakken oil: 47  
Number of months after this derailment that the MMA railroad declared bankruptcy: 1  
Estimated # of months the Lac-Megantic downtown will be closed for restoration: 12  
First thing rebuilt after 40 downtown buildings were burned to the ground: railroad line.  
Amount of oil spilled by BNSF train in Casselton, North Dakota: 400,000 gallons.  
Number of hours that this spilled Bakken oil burned near Casselton: 24  
Number of tons of oil-tainted dirt hauled away after this spill: 10,000  
No. of train derailments nationwide carrying crude oil between Nov. 2013 & Jan. 2014: 4  
Of 92,000 rail tank cars in use, how many do not meet current safety standards: 80,000  
Year the National Transportation Safety Board raise concerns about these cars: 1991.  
Year in which regulations for new tank cars began: 2011.  
Number of barrels of crude oil shipped across Washington state in 2013: 17 million barrels  
How much will that figure be in 2014 cording to US Senator Murray: 51 million barrels  
The number of rail cars on back-order at Trinity Industries in 2013: 40,050  
How many of Washington’s three east west rails lines are owned by Buffett’s BNSF: 3  
Who owns the main North South rail line in Washington state: Warren Buffett’s BNSF  
Number of trains that run on the North South BNSF track in a 24 hour period: 68  
Number of riders on this same north south rail by Amtrak Cascades in 2012: 836,000  
Amount cut from WSDOT’s share of Amtrak Cascades budget for 2013-15: \$1 million  
Amount of fed. dollars WSDOT is spending on improving rail lines owned by BNSF: \$800 million  
No. of oil trains added if all oil receiving expansion projects in WA are approved: 22/day  
Number of projected loaded and empty coal trains on WA rail lines by 2018: 36/day  
Percentage of Washington’s 167 million bushels of wheat in 2011 shipped by rail: 27%  
No. of containers or TEU’s handled by Seattle, Tacoma and Portland in 2009: 3 million  
Tons of corn, wheat & soybean primarily exported in 2012 from WA ports: 60 million  
Number of oil trains traveling each day if all three Grays Harbor oil terminals are built: 5  
Number of oil trains/day loaded/unloaded projected for Vancouver’s Tesoro oil terminal: 10.3  
Name of 2nd largest U.S. independent refiner wanting to end export ban on crude oil: Tesoro  
Number of 7 Vancouver City Council members who oppose Tesoro’s crude oil terminal: 4  
Number of public comments received by EFSEC on Tesoro’s proposed terminal: 31,000  
Number of Washington state inspectors reviewing 3,000 miles of railroad track: 4  
Percentage of nationwide railroad track the Federal Railroad Administration inspects: 1%  
Number of local emergency responders BNSF must advise in advance of shipments: 0

## Bakken Index Sources

For more information or questions on the Bakken Index or if you need a specific source or a list of all sources used, please contact Dan Leahy: danleahy43@yahoo.com (360) 402-0441. PO Box 602, Olympia, WA 98507

► **Climate Change**, cont. from page 10.  
change in diet. “Have you seen the price of halibut?”  
There is one possibility that might motivate Washingtonians, but I don’t like. It was the same one that finally motivated Candice Lightner—the danger to her children. I find it incredibly disturbing to even think of this necessity, but it’s the only way I know that clearly shows how climate change has affected us and especially our children: asthma and other respiratory diseases.  
In my elementary school in the 1960s, there was only one person who had asthma. I don’t remember there being much

in the way of allergies; certainly none that were life threatening. People broke legs, had shots for rabies, and received polio and small pox vaccines. Then, of course, there was the measles, the mumps, and chicken pox. But things have changed.  
Since 1980, the incidence of asthma has risen significantly right along with the CO2 levels. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that, between the years 2001 to 2012, the proportion of people with asthma in the United States grew by nearly 17% to 25 million or one-in-twelve. More women than men have

asthma and are more likely to die of it. Hispanics have a higher rate than Whites; Blacks have a higher rate than Hispanics. The rate of asthma among Black children increased a heart-stopping almost 50 percent from 2001 to 2009 to one-in-six. Children are more likely to have an attack than adults.  
The CDC has listed Washington State’s “asthma prevalence as among the highest in the nation, and steadily increasing.” According to the Washington State Department of Health, there are now “more than half a million adults in the state with asthma and nearly 120,000 children.” (Native adults

have the highest incidence at 19 percent, nearly one-in-five.) Eight to eleven percent of middle school and high school students have asthma and almost 100 people in the state die of asthma each year—well above the national average. (If we were average, 30 fewer people would die.)  
In 2012, the American Thoracic Society issued a position paper that the “increase in incidence of asthma, allergies, infectious and cardiovascular diseases will result from a variety of impacts of global climate change, including rising temperatures, worsening ozone levels  
► **CLIMATE CHANGE**, continued on page 13.



► **Urban Planning**, cont. from page 1.  
process” for the Kaiser/Harrison site on their schedule but... not til 2016. The reason CP&D brought up this “text amendment”—before the planning process—was because the market for office is so weak that *if we don’t make the changes now, the area is likely to develop as only residential multifamily*.

[Noises, off: Consider Deputy Bauer’s repeated references to the 10% vacancy rate in offices as the reason we need this change. This tells us that if the market for offices were strong, no such text amendment would be before the Commission. That is, if Jim Morris were prepared to build his office park, the Commission wouldn’t be deliberating about 50,000 sq ft retail stores.]

**Scene 2. Why this “text amendment?”**

Three of the Commissioners voiced concern—wouldn’t increasing the size of stores just lead to more segregated retail requiring more driving? Why not consider some alternatives, like a neighborhood center approach, or an urban village integrating retail and different types of housing... Maybe move up the date for the focus area planning process? Amend the text amendment?

Deputy Director Bauer’s response to these questions was misleading and at times downright wrong. He said the new text would “allow *a little bit larger* building than currently allowed.” He told the Commissioners that the current PO/RM language makes “only some very minimal allowances for commercial retail uses”—yet the kinds of commercial uses allowed are quite varied and would not change under the “text amendment.” When Carol Richmond asked Mr. Bauer whether housing types other than multifamily could contribute to a more mixed area, he said no other types of housing were permitted: “the zoning currently is just multifamily.” The Deputy Director of Planning apparently did not know that the PO/RM zone allows about every kind of housing you can think of—single family homes, townhouses, co-housing, duplexes, apartments, retirement homes—but he readily provided the Commissioners with the wrong answer.

Toward the end of the discussion, Mr. Bauer pointed out that he had made “a few wording changes” to the statement defining the intent of a zone. The original intent of the PO/RM zone was described as creating “a compatible mix of office, residential and small-scale commercial uses” that will “generate low traffic.” To reflect the 5-fold increase in the maximum store size, “small-scale” commercial uses became “small *and medium* scale” uses, characteristic not of “low vehicle traffic,” but of “*low and moderate*” vehicle traffic. The camel’s nose inched a bit further into the tent.

Only three of the nine Commissioners asked questions during the briefing. One Commissioner had recused herself

due to a professional relationship with a property-holder affected by the amendment. (It was Jim Morris.). His name was not mentioned.

**ACT II. THE OLYMPIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Jim Morris brought his request for an increase in the size of buildings allowed on his property to the CP&D in the first week of October 2013. From that date through January 2014, he was consulted at each stage of the city staff’s drafting of the PO/RM “text amendment.”

**Scene 1. Deputy Director Bauer’s computer screen**

From: Keith Stahley To: Leonard Bauer; Steve Friddle  
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 2:58 PM  
Subject: PORM Revisions

Here are the two sections that I am aware that would need to be amended for Mr. Morris to pursue a 10,000 to 50,000 square foot food store on his West Cap site. Anything else?

Given the size of the parcel in question it may be advisable to consider making it proportional such as 2,500 square feet per acre or something like that.

From: Keith Stahley To: Leonard Bauer; Steve Friddle  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 2:49 PM  
Subject: West Cap

What’s the status of this one? ...Jim [Morris]phoned and was looking for an answer or at least a next step. Should I schedule another meeting with him for next week?

From: Leonard Bauer lbauer@ci.olympia.wa.us  
To: jim@mphholdings.com; Shelby Hentges  
Subject: Friday meeting on West Cap  
Date: 12/4/2013 5:29:33 PM  
Attachment N1: image001.png  
Attachment N2: PORM zoning text proposal - draft.docx

We’ve drafted some language as a possible PO/RM zone text amendment that we can all discuss on Friday. See you then. Leonard Bauer/

On January 2, 2014 Bauer sent Morris a copy the final version of the text amendment. There is no indication that Bauer and Stahley consulted anyone else during the drafting process.

The answer to the questions “Why now?” and “Why this text amendment?” is therefore to support a change in development strategy that Jim Morris—and likely others who own land on that part of the Westside wishes to make. The citizen committee advising on the “redevelopment opportunities” study made the following observations at a meeting with the City on June 20, 2013: : “Develop west side property to generate revenue to improve downtown,” and “West side development is the economic engine that supports the city’s revenues...” Developers

operate in a market where greater profitability comes from greater volumes and greater volumes are tied to more auto traffic. CP&D staff operates in a context where growth is the principal—if not the only—measure. Revenue from development and impact fees; from property tax, from retail sales is an unalloyed good. Facilitating development becomes the primary job of the city and its staff.

**Scene 2. The City Council’s annual retreat January 2014**

From: Leonard Bauer lbauer@ci.olympia.wa.us To: jim@mphholdings.com; Shelby Hentges  
Subject: FW: PORM Revisions – updated  
Date: 1/2/2014 1:37:06 PM

Per our discussion at our last meeting, here’s an updated draft of potential changes to PO/RM zoning text. Please let me know if you have any additional comments.

As I mentioned to Jim today on the phone, our proposed CPD work program will be reviewed by city council at their retreat Jan. 10-11. It includes this proposed text amendment in the first quarter of 2014, so *if council approves the work program, we’ll be ready to start the process of the text amendment as soon as we can get it on the planning commission’s agenda.* (Emphasis added.)

“If council approves the work program...” Mr. Bauer stressed at various points that the staff was bringing this “text amendment” forward at the request of the City Council. Yet it is the staff that 1) made the “text amendment” a priority in the 2014 CP&D workplan; 2) presented the plan to Council members; 3) got their sign-off and 4) now disclaims authorship because “the Council made us do it...” This is how city policy evolves from staff priorities that channel the demands of the growth machine—even when laundered through the Council.

**ACT III. BACK AT THE OLYMPIA PLANNING COMMISSION APRIL 7**

After the March 3 OPC meeting, Commissioner Judy Bardin triggered a public outpouring of indignation when she questioned the propriety of meeting privately with Mr. Morris. Suddenly the obscure “text amendment” became an object of interest to various people—let’s call them “citizen/staff”—who decided to present the results of their inquiries into the how and the why of the amendment at the April 7 meeting where the Commissioners were slated to decide about the amendment.

Deputy Director Bauer brought a new Staff Report that said nothing new about the need to increase the size of retail buildings in the PO/RM zone at Kaiser. It said again that it was necessary to allow big retail stores in order to “reduce barriers to mixed-use development.” It reiterated that the amendment came directly from the EcoNorthwest studv and asserted that “no property

owner requested the PO/RM changes.” This time he offered five options, beginning with recommend the change’ and ending with ‘don’t

recommend the change.’ (This is the first time this study is mentioned. Will readers know what it is?)

**Scene 1. Behind the podium in the council room**

The “citizen/staff” presentations, on the other hand, were full of new information. Their testimony addressed all of the questions about the proposed change to the PO/RM zone that the CP&D staff left out of its briefing. One by one the “citizen/staff” members dismantled the city staff’s assertions and assumptions. [The author was one of the people who spoke.]

Mr. Bauer said the amendment came from the EcoNorthwest study—but that study doesn’t call for increasing the size of buildings allowed in the PO/RM zone. It specifically identifies “an opportunity for *small local-serving* retail.” (Just the sort of idea that Commissioner Richmond wanted to know about.) Otherwise, the short-term action recommended by the study is to “address zoning issues by implementing a master planning, community renewal or subarea planning” process. The EcoNorthwest study doesn’t identify any barrier to mixed use development that would be solved by increasing the size of facilities for retail uses already permitted.

The city staff acknowledged the fact that their amendment would alter the intent of the PO/RM zone when they changed the purpose statement from “small scale commercial uses” to “small-to-medium scale...” But 25,000 – 50,000 sq.ft. stores aren’t medium scale according to Olympia regulations. The Municipal Code defines them as Very Large Scale Retail facilities. Using the correct term could have prevented the adoption of the amendment...

Bauer kept saying that the PO/RM currently allows only minimal commercial uses. In fact, it allows many kinds of commercial uses, including day care centers, banks, art galleries, business and government offices, b&b’s, commercial printing, and laundries—along with grocery, equipment and general merchandise stores, fitness centers, and specialty stores, as long as these don’t exceed 10,000 sq ft. The “text amendment” doesn’t increase the amount of commercial uses possible, rather, it allows structures that are five times larger.

The reason Deputy Director Bauer brought up this change now was that, without it, the area would fill with multifamily residential housing. The EcoNorthwest study found a 10% vacancy rate and falling rents in the office market: the conclusion? No offices will be built any time soon in this PO/RM zone. The study also found that “rents may not be high enough to support new multi-family residential development.” Yet Mr. Bauer concluded that the prospect for more multifamily housing was excellent. He termed the finding about residential rents “incongruous” and asserted that *nothing but* multifamily housing would be built if the amendment were not adopted.

Bauer said that the new text would “allow *a little bit larger* buildings than currently allowed.” It would actually allow buildings 5 times larger: at 50,000 sq ft a building would be about the size of the Safeway at Harrison and Cooper Point. Bayview Market by comparison is 26,000 sq. ft.

The claim that the area is in imminent danger of being developed with nothing but multifamily homes simply isn’t born out by the evidence. Apartment buildings, apartments above mixed use developments, duplexes, single-family homes, boarding homes, co-housing, retirement homes, townhouses—all are permitted without restriction.

Some important issues were simply absent from the staff briefing—traffic volumes associated with new big box stores; congestion on certain streets and intersections on the Westside; the city’s pursuit of a new interchange from Highway 101 at Kaiser Road, with ► **URBAN PLANNING**, continued on page 13.

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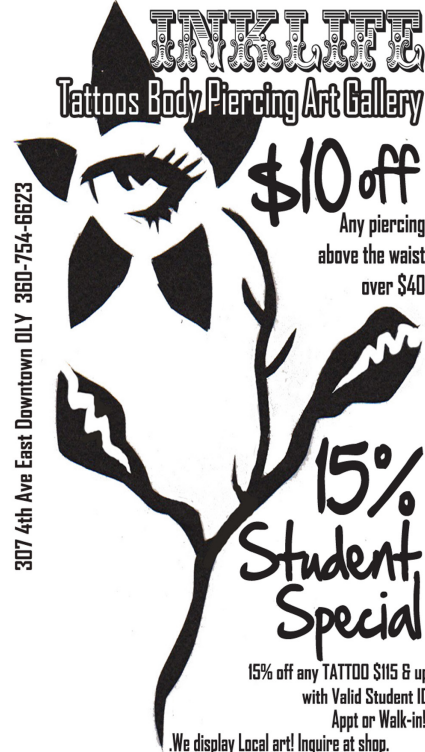
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# Old economic rights in a new age of austerity

Marco Rosaire Conrad-Rossi

The famous historian E. H. Carr once noted that historians have an inherently ironic profession. Historians may research the past, but the past is not the reason why people are interested in their work. Rather, people become interested in history because they are searching for guidance into the future. In this way, the study of history is more about knowing the future than about knowing the past. This observation seems counterintuitive, but it does make sense once a person is willing to let go of any notion of history as a linear, inevitably progressive unfolding of time. Indeed, many epochs and decades—at least in certain aspects—would be considered far more “progressive” than our own time.

Or, at least such is the case with what is often referred to as “economic rights” in the United States. The codification of economic rights such as the right to health care, food, housing, and other amenities necessary for material subsistence is regarded as a progressive cause in the United States. It is a project that is pushed forward by the Left, and only pickup in piecemeal and often half-hearted manner by the Democratic Party. This was not always the case. At one time, trying to achieve a guaranteed level of material prosperity for every American had bipartisan support.

After the devastation of the Second World War there was a collective understanding—one that even trickled up to elite thinking—that the world had to reach for a higher humanitarian standard if it was to avoid self-annihilation. Thus, the United States—which was the only true winner of the war—sponsored the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While many of the articles in the Declaration are familiar to many Americans, in that they focus on a liberal conception of rights as prohibiting state action, the Declaration also has provisions which require action by governments in order to secure a degree of material prosperity for each citizen. The most important of these is Article 25(1) which reads: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was never intended to be a legally binding document, but its moral force in the world was clear. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt—who acted as the chair to the

## Free mental health support for women and genderqueers

The chapter of the Icarus Project has openings for new members. We meet weekly for support and discussion around albeism, mental and physical health issues, etc. We value anti-oppression, encourage neurodiversity and we believe the individual should have autonomy when making health decisions. Please note: This group is closed to male identified persons. This was a thoughtfully considered decision whose purpose is to allow some in our group to feel safer dealing with issues around abuse, etc. We urge interested males to form their own group, there is a real need for an equivalent space for men.

Please see the Icarus Project national website for more information in general and email [oly.theicarusproject@gmail.com](mailto:oly.theicarusproject@gmail.com) or call Candy at 360-918-8328 to get information about joining the local group.

—Icarus Project

committee that drafted the document—referred to it as the “new Magna Carte.” The United States’ relationship with the Declaration was always complicated. Policymakers and political pundits trumped the importance of the document internationally, while at the same time worked to ensure that it did not apply domestically to end segregation. They accused it as being communist inspired, while at the same time used it as a propaganda tool against the failures of Soviet “socialism”. Regardless, initially there were clear efforts in the United States to take some of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seriously, at least when it came to housing. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 10th of December 1948. Less than a year later the United States Congress passed the

Housing Act of 1949. The Act dedicated federal funds to renewing urban neighborhoods, ensuring availability of low-income housing, and increasing the access to fair mortgages. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Act was its Preamble which stated that it was the responsibility of the federal government to make “as soon as feasible of the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.” Unfortunately, the Housing Act of 1949 did not accomplish this goal; neither did the Housing Act of 1968; nor did the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; nor the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983; by the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act 1990 the ambitious and universal language of the

1949 Housing Act had been completely removed. Not only that, but the federal government has not passed any significant legislation inching Americans towards that goal since the mid-1990s. Still feeling the pains of the collapse of the housing market, the idea that the federal government would guarantee every American a decent home would be a godsend for Americans. However, the needs of the majority of Americans have rarely been a serious priority of Congress, and for many Americans the situation keeps getting worse. According to The Joint Center for Housing

The idea of ratifying international treaties that recognize economic rights is considered outrageous, but the idea that for-profit corporations are entitled to the same rights as natural persons is considered legally sound.

Studies of Harvard University in 2012 homeownership fell in the Untied for its eighth straight year. African-American homeownership is the lowest it has been in thirteen years. More than 1.4 million homes were foreclosed on in 2013. That represents an astonishing 3.6 percent of all mortgages in service, more than four times the average between the years 1974–1999. At the same time rent continues to climb at a rate of 2.5% or more per year.

Americans are experiencing a state of economic anxiety unheard of for several generations, but they find little solace for their woes in the political atmosphere around them. With the growth of free market populism and the Reagan revolution of the 1980s, the political class in the United States has universally turned its back on the entire

## Justice Dept sides with CTS Corporation in landmark Supreme Court pollution case

Washington, D.C. – Consumer advocate Erin Brockovich, dozens of military veterans, and watchdog groups rallied April 23 to voice frustration over the federal government’s support of a known polluter in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case.

The U.S. Department of Justice has taken the side of electronics manufacturer CTS Corporation in a case before the Court today that could strip legal rights from military families poisoned by toxic drinking water at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. and others harmed by industrial pollution across the country.

The case, CTS Corporation v. Waldburger, will decide if federal environmental law preempts North Carolina’s statute of repose, which imposes a 10-year limit to file a lawsuit. A ruling in favor of CTS Corporation would void injury claims of Asheville, N.C. residents who, for decades, were exposed to trichloroethylene, a known carcinogen, on land contaminated by the company.

“Whether it’s Marines at Camp Lejeune, families in Asheville, or residents of any community located near a Superfund site, we cannot allow this case to set a precedent giving polluters a free pass,” said Brockovich, who attended the rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court. “It is unconscionable and egregious to deny victims of industrial pollution their day in court.”

Rather than defending the victims, DOJ filed a brief on behalf of CTS Corporation, specifically noting the government’s interest in the case and how it could affect ongoing litigation from those sickened at Camp Lejeune.

“DOJ is purposely supporting a known polluter to set a legal precedent which would deny Marines, veterans and their

families of the very constitutional rights we all served and sacrificed to protect,” said retired Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger, who uncovered the contamination at Camp Lejeune after losing his 9-year old daughter Janey to leukemia. “We just want the opportunity to present our cases in court and allow the merits of our cases to be the determining factor. DOJ has instead resorted to last ditch ‘legal gymnastics’ to kill all of our claims in their cribs.”

“It is preposterous that DOJ is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to reward corporate and government irresponsibility and condone the poisoning of up to one million Marines and their families who faithfully served this country,” said Mike Partain, a breast cancer survivor who lived at Camp Lejeune.

DOJ’s position conflicts with the Obama administration’s commitment to protect public health and the environment. In August 2012, President Barack Obama signed the Janey Ensminger Act into law, which offers health benefits to those contaminated at Camp Lejeune.

“Instead of fulfilling its obligation to take care of the military veterans and families sickened at Camp Lejeune, the U.S. government has turned its back on them,” said Heather White, EWG’s Executive Director. “It is truly disappointing for not only the victims of Camp Lejeune, but for all of the men and women who serve our country.”

“Today we stand with the estimated one million Marines, their families, and the civilians of Camp Lejeune,” said Angela Canterbury, Project On Government Oversight’s Director of Public Policy. “It’s time to finally protect those who protect us.”

—Environmental Working Group

notion of economic rights. Today, many pundits agree with the stingy view of former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick—who described the provisions of the Universal Declaration dealing with economic rights as “a letter to Santa Claus” that “neither nature, experience, nor probability informs these lists of `entitlements,’ which are subject to no constraints except those of the mind and appetite of their authors.” For these reasons any effort to codify economic rights—either through domestic legislation or ratifying international treaties—has been considered dead on arrival; nothing but a pet project for quixotic activists and ineffective politicians.

The reason that this is so is that the United States has always been a rights-based society. It is the first country to have a modern Bill of Rights and Americans refer to their Constitution with a degree of sacredness that is uncommon in other democracies. Unfortunately, this rights-based consciousness has not flowed through

the country evenly. If it is true that rights act as legal “trump cards”, as legal philosopher Ronald Dworkin proposes, then the rich have sought to deal themselves a hand of nothing but trump cards. Thus, talk of securing economic rights such as housing, food, and social security is considered a pipedream, but strengthening private property rights is considered essential to an efficient economy. The idea of ratifying international treaties that recognize economic rights—such as the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights—is considered outrageous, but the idea that for-profit corporations are entitled to the same rights as natural persons is considered legally sound. Despite all the talk of financial reform and stabilizing the economy, little has been done by the Obama administration—or anyone else in Washington—to change this stacking of the deck. And again, in many ways the situation has gotten worse.

The silver lining in all of this is that past never disappears; it is just felt in new and different ways. The prospect that the United States could have expanded certain freedoms so that the country would have been a genuine social democracy was slim and short, but it was also very real. It was a product of long and resilient struggles through the Great Depression and two World Wars. While many books on economic history will leave readers believing that the creation of social wealth is simply a matter of market dynamism and entrepreneurial innovation, the truth of the matter is that it is largely dependent on the establishment of laws encouraging economic inclusion. Once those laws are set in place “economic” rights tend to be promoted to the status of “political” rights; that is, recognized as essential to the workings of a democratic society. When voting rights were tied to the ownership of property participation in elections was considered an economic right. Once suffrage was open to all people regardless of property it was recognized as a political right. Same is true with in varying degrees to right to an attorney, to a jury of one’s peers, to due process, and even freedom of the speech. There is no reason to think that current “economic” rights won’t go through a similar “politicizing” process. Indeed, today’s economic rights must go through this process if the majority of Americans are ever to see an improvement in their livelihoods. Not forgetting the experiences of this past reality is essential if we are ever able to use the past to propel ourselves from our miserly present, and into a more just and prosperous future.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate of the University for Peace in Costa Rica and a resident of Olympia.



# About our senseless, corrupt, warmongoring government...

## A letter to federal officials, elected and appointed

Dear President Obama, Congressional Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, and heads of selected U.S. agencies including IRS, EPA, FDA:

I write this message from a place of peace and love within myself. I am simply asking a question. I would like your response within 30 days.

I am finding myself, a living person residing in the continent called the United States of America, witnessing the whole sale corruption

of the federal government it appears to have 'fallen' into deep abyss of 'moral collapse'. The government, itself merely a fictional structure, the fictional structure called the Federal Reserve banking system structure put in place in 1913 by the U.S. Congress at that time, and the federal agencies, also fictional structures IRS, EPA and FDA etc., clearly, in my humble viewpoint, are not representing the *will* of the Sovereigns, the people of this country.

The following 'crimes' against the citizens by its supposedly 'representative government' appear heinous to me:

1) Attack of sovereign countries like Iraq and Afghanistan...neither of which attacked us. Also, attack by our drones in Pakistan and other countries.

2) The use of our young men and women in the military to attack sovereign countries causing their deaths, injuries and mental anguish (suicides).

3) Giving 6 trillion bail out monies to 14 banks, mostly owned by foreigners-our tax money! (This happened even though "letters to Congress were a thousand-to-one stating *not to bail out the banks!*" as stated by Sen.Barbara Boxer on national television.) Again, no representation!

4) The continuance of a privately owned agency, the Federal Reserve, with its grand scam of 'creating' wealth for a few bankers and their corporations by our direct funding to them and their using their position of control of the money system to 'manipulate' the money supply for their personal

benefit. Obviously, I cannot support any President, Congressman or Supreme Court judge who does not actively fight *to end the fed!*

5) On February 10, 2014, [the US

Febuary 10, the US Department of Energy approved 8.6 billion in federal loans for a nuclear plant in Georgia! This is against all sensibilities with the knowledge of the severe results from Fukushima, which is still melting down.

Department of Energy approved] 8.6 billion [in federal loans] for a *nuclear plant* in Georgia! This 'act' is against all sensibilities with the knowledge of the severe results of radiation from the lessons learned at Three Mile Island,

Chernobyl, and Fukushima, which, by the way, is still 'melting down' with 400,000 gals of radiated water being released *daily* into the Pacific! EPA is not even testing our air, water or fish for radiation! Nor our radiation dump sites!

6) Our 'rights' as citizens are obviously gone. For example: NSA is spying on all of us: our communications, sensors in our phones, TVs, licenses etc. Now anyone can be detained indefinitely or targeted for assasination without due process [as allowed by Congress and Presidential Order]. We have no Bill of Rights any longer!

7) Congress voting huge tax payer money subsidies to fossil fuel

corporations, the wealthiest companies in the world, while 'cutting' food stamps to our poor. Shameful! These measures were done by bi-partisan action.There is no 'lesser evil' anymore...it is all 'evil' with very little exceptions. Apparently, most of our Congress is *bought* by the bankers and their corporations!

My question to you all: Why should I pay any taxes to such a government?

If you dare to say "because we 'protect' you." My response would be because of our military intervention in other countries and our killing of so many civilians we are *hated* worldwide. And our military actions have brought many to join the Taliban and other extremist groups to fight against us. This, of course, is welcomed by the military/industrial complex which Eisenhower and Kennedy warned us about.

Sincerely, Mary Hath Spokane

Mary Hath Spokane is the author of the United Peace Pledge and can be reached at <http://maryhathspokane.com>.

## Expansion of FMLA to small firms would give coverage to over 34 million working U.S. citizens

Washington, DC- The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) gives eligible employees job-protected, unpaid leave. While the FMLA covers about 60 million private sector employees, roughly two-in-five private sector workers are not covered because firms with fewer than 50 employees are exempt from the FMLA. A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) indicates that an expansion of the FMLA to would extend coverage to 34 million working Americans without posing undue hardships on business.

The report, "Expanding Family and Medical Leave to Small Firms," analyzes the Department of Labor's 2012 FMLA Worksite Survey to paint a fuller picture of the scope of leave policies already in place at small U.S. firms, and their experiences with those policies.

Currently, the FMLA gives covered employees job-protected and unpaid leave to bond with a new child, care for a seriously ill family member or military service member, or for their own serious illness for up to 12 weeks a year. Citing concerns that family and medi-

cal leave events would impose a heavy burden for smaller companies, business groups secured a carve-out to exempt firms with fewer than 50 employees from FMLA coverage. The authors of the study, Helene Jorgensen and Eileen Appelbaum of CEPR, found little evidence supporting the arguments against expansion of FMLA coverage to smaller worksites.

While not all of the firms examined in the study offered the full 12 weeks provided by the FMLA, the number of small firms offering some form of leave was significant. About 85 percent of these firms had a medical leave policy and 83 percent had a leave policy that allowed employees to take time off to care for family members. Roughly 87 percent of these worksites guaranteed the same or equivalent job upon return from leave.

Though technically exempt from the FMLA, some small firms do have leave policies that meet the FMLA standards and have not found the policies problematic.

"Our analysis found that small firms with leave policies that met the standards of the FMLA rarely reported any negative impacts on their business as a result of offering leave to their employees," said Jorgensen. Appelbaum added, "Less than one percent of small firm worksites characterized their experience complying with the FMLA standard as very difficult or even somewhat difficult. Extending coverage to all firms would provide job-protected leave to an additional 35 million workers."

There are also potential benefits to

small business employers. The FMLA survey revealed that a number of small business owners found the FMLA to have a positive effect on productivity, turnover, and profitability. Echoing this sentiment, Matt Grove, owner of Bagel Grove in Utica, New York said, "Family medical leave not only provides a safety net for small businesses and our employees in terms of healthcare and medical situations, it creates a dedicated workforce. That leads to greater productivity, boosting small businesses' bottom lines. It also shows workers we recognize they are not only contributing to the success of our businesses, but also to the well-being of themselves and their families."

Jorgensen and Appelbaum's analysis yields valuable insights in the states that are pursuing their own family and medical leave policies as well as those seeking to expand the leave policies they have recently adopted.

Strengthening leave policies at the national level by extending FMLA coverage to all firms could help these efforts.

"The landmark protections of the Family and Medical Leave Act sadly do not apply to more than two-in-five private sector employees," said U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney [D-NY]. "It's time for Congress to catch up to America's workforce needs and pass the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act legislation I introduced earlier this year to expand these protections. As the Center for Economic and Policy Research has demonstrated, the vast majority of employers that have voluntarily adopted FMLA standards have seen no detrimental effect and found it easier to attract and retain strong employees."

—Center for Economic and Policy Research

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## Segregation may be the hardest part of inequality to solve

If you hang around the inequality debate long enough, wading through the many smart proposals to reduce the income gap, it all starts to seem kind of doable. We could make a real dent in inequality through a bunch of steps ranging from raising the minimum wage to more heavily taxing capitals gains to whacking tax subsidies to affluent Americans to making it easier to form unions to downsizing Wall Street's role in the economy to reducing the role of money in politics and so on.

To the degree that inequality is an economic or governance problem -- which is how it's often framed these days -- it can be tackled with technocratic solutions. Fiddle with this or that policy and, presto, we have less income going to the top and more going to the bottom; we have less power in hands of wealthy donors and more in the hands of ordinary people.

Of course, though, inequality is also a deeply embedded social problem, one entwined with class and race in America. In turn, our racial legacy has become entrenched in geographic patterns that structure where people grow up and what opportunities they encounter. Which brings me to the chilling series of articles that ProPublica has been doing on the enduring problem of segregation, in its series "Segregation Now."

The two key take-aways of the series are that a) school and residential segregation is as bad now in many places as it was when *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided and b) the federal government has given up trying to reduce that segregation in any kind of aggressive way.

The first point is hardly news and many studies have documented the resurgence of segregation. The new wrinkle is that many of the kids going to school with few or any white kids are Latino, and are growing up in cities or regions which are heavily Latino. I used to live very close to one of these cities, Union City, which is just across the river from Manhattan and is 85 percent Latino. The schools have very few whites.

The second point of the series is only partly understood: Yes, most people know that the federal government largely gave up on efforts to directly integrate schools with busing and other strategies (as ProPublica shows in its most recent article in the series). What people don't know is that Washington has also pulled back from enforcing housing integration, which is actually the best solution to school segregation, since it's better to foster integrated residential patterns and school districts than to compensate for their absence through busing.

That pullback from housing integration is the most damning part of the segregation story, and has been the focus of several ProPublica pieces, including one that reported this: "A nationwide survey by HUD reveals, again, that minorities face racism in the housing market. But HUD, again, chooses not to punish the offenders." ProPublica has looked particularly closely at Westchester County in New York, where it found that "minority home seekers still face discrimination in many areas."

On the upside, ProPublica found that the Obama administration has finally been taking a few steps to do better in combating housing discrimination.

But here's the thing: Even if the government does a much, much better job in cracking down on blatant discrimination against people of color looking for housing in white areas, the fact will remain that many non-white households can't afford to live in these areas anyway. Fining racist landlords in Scarsdale isn't going to make housing in that suburb, with its great schools, any less expensive.

The more important strategy to integrate places like Scarsdale is to

force it to change its zoning rules to allow more multi-family apartment units that are far less expensive than homes. But this is another area where the government has dragged its feet, as ProPublica has also reported. But again, even if the government did everything in its power here, the road to success will be long: Getting affluent white communities all over the country to change their zoning rules is an incredibly heavy lift, particularly since there are a lot of good reasons why these communities don't want more development, growth, and congestion.

Sorry, folks, but this post doesn't have a hopeful ending. All I can is this: It's great that the core economic and political drivers of inequality are finally getting the attention they deserve. Yet at some point we'll need to refocus attention on the profound racial and geographic realities that also stand in the way of a more equal society.

—David Callahan, Demos

## There are lots of twisted and extreme rich guys where Donald Sterling came from

One of the greatest things about a market economy is that all sorts of people can get to the top -- in contrast to, say, feudalism where the only people at the top are those who were born there. And while I spend plenty of time bemoaning the decline of upward mobility and how privilege

is increasingly inherited in America, the fact remains that there are still elements of a robust meritocracy here. Just look at the far upper class, which is well-populated with people who got there thanks to their drive and creativity, as well as plain dumb luck.

One downside, though, to the porous nature of hierarchy in America is that some pretty twisted and scary people can end up at the very top of the food chain with huge resources at their disposal. Donald Sterling is a great example. Here's a guy who came from modest means, who went to public schools and then public universities, eventually getting a law degree. He chased ambulances as a personal injury lawyer and made enough money to get into real estate just as the California real estate market was soaring. Later he bought the Los Angeles Clippers for a steal, just \$12.5 million, and now owns a franchise worth \$775 million.

Because Sterling is rich, he became an important figure in Los Angeles in the way that rich people do: They get attention, they get courted, they get false flattery. Along his way to wealth, though, Sterling distinguished himself as being an unpleasant human being in a variety of ways, and his recent racist remarks are just the tip of a pretty big iceberg.

If Sterling lived a small and quiet life, his offensive views wouldn't much matter. But big money gives people big

megaphones, and we all have to listen to what they have to say -- however offensive or extreme these people may be. Sterling is a minor case study in this regard. Right now, voters in key states where Senate seats are up for grabs have to listen to TV commercials where, in effect, the Koch brothers and their wealthy allies are speaking out against Democratic candidates.

The Koch brothers hold libertarian views that are quite outside the mainstream. And if they were just ordinary citizens, nobody would listen to them -- or have to when they turned on their TV. But, of course, they aren't and we do.

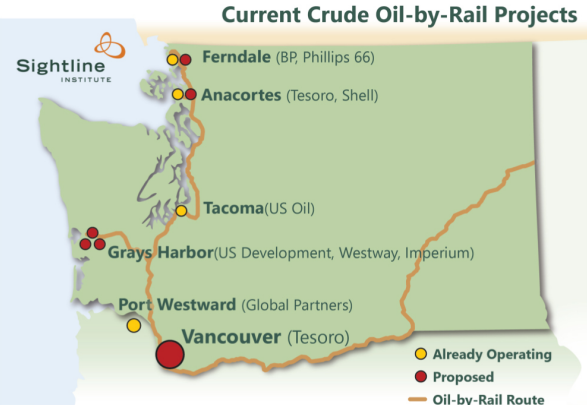
I should add the obvious point that money doesn't just empower fringe viewpoints or extreme people on the right. It empowers anyone of any stripe who is loaded and has a cause. If some billionaire decided that astrology should be required coursework in our schools, and money was no object to achieving that goal, you can bet that we'd see ballot initiatives, think tank projects, advocacy campaigns, and eventually legislation introduced to this effect.

It's bad enough to have a crazy political system where money translates into influence. It's even worse in a country with so many crazy rich people. donor class and effectuate our rights of participation and representation. Justice Stevens is pointing a way forward.

—David Callahan, Demos

# OIL TRAINS IN GRAYS HARBOR?

Right now, there are three oil export proposals in Grays Harbor to bring crude oil by rail – and they are being pushed through quickly. Two of the proposals are already in the permitting process: Westway Terminal Company and the Imperium Renewables. These proposals would result in crude oil coming into Grays Harbor via trains from Spokane, along the Columbia River, up through Centralia, and into Hoquiam. The oil would then be transferred onto tankers and pass through Grays Harbor and on to Puget Sound, California, or Hawaii for refining or export.



## THE PROBLEM

**Oil trains pose serious risks to the health and safety of our community.** Right now, the proposals are for Bakken crude oil fracked in North Dakota, but the expanded capacity could also serve as infrastructure to move Canadian tar sands. Bakken crude oil is highly volatile, the train cars being used are old and unsafe, and a safe way to transport it has yet to be found. **These risks have unfortunately been shown repeatedly with the recent train derailments:** in Quebec, Canada (July 2013) that killed 47 people; in North Dakota (December 2013) where 400,000 gallons spilled and 1,400 people had to evacuate; in Alabama (November 2013) that leaked over 200,000 gallons oil into waterways; in Pennsylvania (January, February, and April 2014); and more.

Long oil trains require slower speeds, since they are heavy and carry such volatile substances, creating traffic congestion. **The two current proposals under review would add an additional 23 trains a week and trains would be up to 1.3 miles long.** This creates delays for emergency vehicles, makes commutes longer, and decreases access to local businesses.



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD



From April 10 through May 27, the state Department of Ecology and the city of Hoquiam will be taking public comments on what should be studied in environmental impact statements for proposals from Westway Terminal Company and Imperium Renewables.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

"We encourage letters and calls to the Department of Ecology, to local government and to the Governor. Now is the time to speak out in support of the future of Grays Harbor and the Pacific Northwest!" Fawn Sharp, QIN President

Written comments can be sent to Maia Bellon, Director of the Department of Ecology, at 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98503-1274.

## CONTACT

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