

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

A REVIEW OF MICHAEL RENNER AND TOM PRUGHS' *Governing for Sustainability*

ADBERDEEN RESIDENT SPEAKS OUT ON OIL TRAINS IN HER HARBOR COMMUNITY

CONSEJOS DEL PRESIDENTE URUGUAYO JOSÉ MUJICA A LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS



## Capital City Pride, June 20-22

Page 3 Grays Harbor residents alarmed by derailments. Aberdeen woman points out why her city council needs to stand against oil trains.

Local solution to the influence of wealth in politics. I-1329 proposes constitutional amendment to denounce money as speech.

Page 6 A review of *Governing for Sustainability* — Better government is possible, and necessary

Page 7 Homegrown Tumwater resident wins the Washington State marijuana retailer lottery.

Page 8 "We grow, but we distribute." Uruguayan President Jose Mujica's advice to the US. (También en Español.)

Page 10 Near death, just like everybody else. Rus Frizzell on the scientific examination of near death experiences.

Page 11 April Adams' experience in the U.S. military mission to Haiti in the 1990's. Operation Uphold Democracy (part 3): Let Them Eat Cake.

## 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.

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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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## Submission Deadline

**Friday, June 20**  
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On the front cover —

"Pride"

Graphic Artist: Vince Ryland

## Oil train briefings

# What's going on and what's coming up

Dan Leahy

As organizers and citizens take a breather from keeping massive coal export terminals out of Longview and Cherry Point, the campaign to stop Warren Buffett from transporting the explosive Bakken crude on his BNSF trains through our state for export to Asia is gaining ground.

Quite an opening sentence, but it's quite a movement that is forming. Here's some of the things going on.

### Vancouver City Council Resolution: May 19, 2014 Work Session

Spokane, Bellingham, Edmonds and Seattle passed resolutions basically asking that the Governor and other state agencies refrain from permitting increased capacity at refineries or oil terminals until all the facts are in.

The City Council of Vancouver, however, has enough facts. Their draft resolution, which now has five of seven council members in support, says NO to the 360,000 barrel/day Tesoro/Savage oil terminal and asks the Port of Vancouver to cancel the lease and asks the Governor and the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to reject the proposal. In addition, the resolution makes it clear that the City Council does not want oil trains coming through their city, such as those proposed to go to three possible oil tank terminals in Grays Harbor.

There will no doubt be more resolutions coming. Organizers have been approaching city council members in Anacortes, Aberdeen, Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Oakville, Ocean Shores and other cities.

You can contact Don Steinke, lead organizer in Vancouver, if you want a copy of the City of Vancouver resolution: [crvancouverusa@gmail.com](mailto:crvancouverusa@gmail.com).

### Federal Railroad Administration Emergency Orders: May 7, 2014

Derailments with fiery explosions seem to generate one impotent emergency order after another, but the recent derailment in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 30 where one of the newly designed rail cars fell into the James River,—punctured and exploded—created an emergency order with some teeth.

Emergency Order DOT-OST 2014-0067 of May 7, 2014 directs railroad carriers transporting in a single train one million gallons or more of Bakken crude from the Williston Basin to notify the State Emergency Response Commission of their expected movement through the state. In our state, the notification must arrive by June 6, 2014. Failure to comply is subject to civil penalties of up to \$175,000 for each violation per day.

Sadie Whitener, State Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Coordinator, Washington State Emergency Response Commission, PO Box 47659, Olympia, 98504, is the person in charge of receiving the information. Email: [swhi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:swhi461@ecy.wa.gov).

### Derailments in Grays Harbor County: April 29, May 9, May 15, and May 21

Speaking of derailments, there have been four on the short line railroad (PSAP) that is supposedly gearing up to carry 100 to 150 car unit trains filled with Bakken crude from Centralia, along the Chehalis River, through Oakville, Porter, Elma, Montesano, Aberdeen, and into the Port of Grays Harbor.

PSAP railroad is owned by the largest short line railroad company in the U.S., Genesee and Wyoming. It was a Genesee and Wyoming (G&W) train that derailed 26 Bakken oil tankers in Aliceville, Alabama in November, 2013. Clean up costs are estimated at \$3.9 million.

Luckily for citizens, businesses and schools along the rail line in Grays Harbor, the derailments appeared to be carrying only grain, one derailed in Central Park and two in Aberdeen. In Aberdeen, one derailment left seven rail cars blocking the Walmart Store and put the tracks out for five days.

Amazingly, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with inspectors sufficient to inspect less than 1% of the nation's rail system, sent an inspector to Grays Harbor. The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission is assisting.

For more information on the results of these investigations, contact: Kathy Hunter at the WUTC (360) 664-1257 [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov) or the FRA folks:

**Spokane, Bellingham, Edmonds and Seattle passed resolutions asking the Governor and state agencies to not permit increased capacity at refineries or oil terminals until all the facts are in.**

Kevin Thompson, Associate Administrator for Communication, [kevin.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:kevin.thompson@dot.gov) or Michael England, Public Affairs Specialist, [Michael.england@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.england@dot.gov)

You can also follow the events in Grays Harbor by subscribing to the Grays Harbor Daily World, where

the courageous editor, Doug Barker, has come out opposed to the proposed oil terminals in Grays Harbor or by contacting Friends of Grays Harbor through [rd@FOGH.org](mailto:rd@FOGH.org).

### Is there a tanker in their TIGER?

Organizers in Lewis County obtained a copy of the Port of Centralia's application to the US Department of Transportation for \$9 million dollars in federal funds (TIGER) to turn the PSAP railroad from Centralia to Grays Harbor into "a major export corridor for goods moving to Asia" on "very long" unit trains that have become the standard for PSAP customers.

There are some amazing statements in their application that would make one wonder why there should be any train traffic on this line until G&W puts up some of its considerable resources to improve it. These statements might explain why there have been so many recent derailments.

Statements like, "For the past two years freight volume peaks...have overwhelmed the line." Or, "all three bridges within the PSAP rail corridor are roughly a century old and well past the operational life span for which they were designed." Or maybe this one about curves, "freight volumes and weights constantly threaten to spread the rail out of gauge."

Probably the most egregious part of this application is that nowhere in the 32 page narrative or in the accompanying documents are the three proposed oil terminals at Grays Harbor mentioned or the possibility of this railroad carrying 100 to 150 car unit trains of Bakken oil. This absence led one observer to suggest that the application is actually a bait and switch. The application says their line is overwhelmed by grains, autos, and machinery, but, he said, more profitable oil trains would take precedence.

Organizers with the Lewis County for Safe Rails are considering making public comments to the US DOT, National Infrastructure Investments Program, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC 20590. (202) 366-0301. [TIGERgrants@dot.gov](mailto:TIGERgrants@dot.gov). For a copy of the application, write to Amy Due, Public Records Officer, Port of Centralia, 3508 Galvin Rd. Centralia. 98531 (360) 736-3527. You can reach the Lewis County Safe Rails group through Larry Kerschner. [Larry@peacepoet.me](mailto:Larry@peacepoet.me)

### Peoples hearings on oil trains

There was a Peoples Hearing on Oil Trains in Spokane, Washington on May 21 and organizers are planning another for July 10 in Seattle. For more information, contact Ahmed Gaya. [adgaya@gmail.com](mailto:adgaya@gmail.com)

### Statewide Strategy Summit

Save the dates: Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23 at The Evergreen State College Long House, building on local successes and creating a statewide movement. For more information, [danleahy43@yahoo.com](mailto:danleahy43@yahoo.com)

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

## YWCA hosting a month-long clothing drive in June

*Doing a little spring cleaning? Finding clothes you'd like to donate?*

Join Value Village-Lacey and Auto Mall Mini Storage in supporting the YWCA of Olympia by donating your clothing during the month of June! Drop off clothing IN BAGS Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm between June 1st and June 30th.

We'll take all donations to Value Village Lacey on Wednesday, July 2nd and Value Village will donate back to the YW for every single donation you bring in!

What are we looking for? Clothing, shoes, accessories (Ties, scarves, purses, socks, wallets), bed& bath (towels, sheets, drapes, yarn, pillows, blankets). You must place your kind donation of clothes in a BAG (garbage bag is fine).

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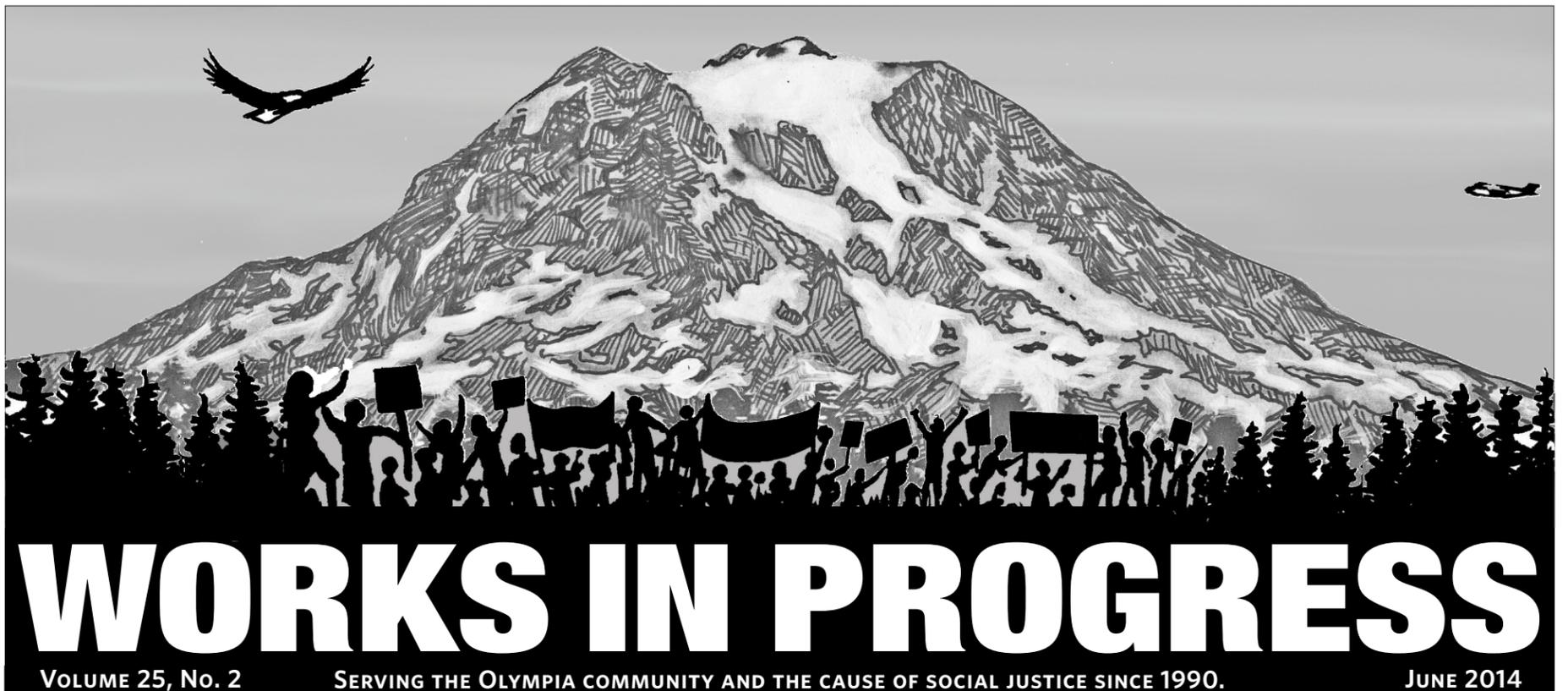
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# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 25, No. 2

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

JUNE 2014

## Grays Harbor residents alarmed by derailments

### Aberdeen woman points out why her city council needs to stand against oil trains

Gail Morehouse

As a community member engaged in conversations and grassroots efforts to improve quality of life in our little city on the Harbor, my eyes were opened to an issue far greater than downtown cosmetics and socio-economic status quos. On April 29, 2014, I was confronted by a derailed train 2-1/2 blocks from my home. A second derailment blocked Walmart and a third happened near Central Park—all within a 16-day period. Our local Facebook pages exploded with lively discussions.

#### Opinions vs facts and complacency

I attended the Aberdeen City Council Meeting May 14 to listen in on the conversation regarding rail transport of crude oil to the Port of Grays Harbor. Harborites from Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Montesano and Elma presented various documents to support their pleas for mercy. In short, our residents are terrified. A derailment involving crude oil or the mismanagement of holding tanks and transport hoses are more than we can conceive. A foam-yielding fire truck donated to the City of Hoquiam could not extinguish even one spilled oil car fire by itself. Each city should have 4-5 on hand. The Grays Harbor Port Commission was accused of political immorality and injustice based on their power-play decision to force such a detrimental decision upon intercity residents. Derailments were blamed solely on the railroads, yet Aberdeen's basic infrastructure is ill-prepared for such a venture.

DeCoursey (Kathi) Hoder, City Council President, spoke candidly and two others concurred. Hoder pointed out that eminent dangers far out-weighted local job prospects as was the case with the Pontoon Project. Current industries would halt if the Chehalis River Bridge was destroyed. The destruction or blocking of Highway 12 E/W would put the harbor on lockdown from Aberdeen to Ocean Shores which we experienced during the storm of December 3, 2007.

Community demands for action were made on Mayor Simpson who listened anxiously. Residents declared that City Council was responsible to "take a stance, any stance" and at least draft a letter similar to one submitted to the Environmental Impact Study by the Mayor of Montesano. Citizen voices on the harbor are seemingly

disproportionately marginalized.

Federal law regulates the railroads. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) emergency order requires carriers to report to a WA state agency despite claims that local fire departments can be directly notified as to what chemicals are on which rails and their potential for explosion before entering a municipality. Simpson was urged to address the Environmental Impact Study before the May 27 deadline. Simpson responded, "Okay," saying he would *consider* writing a letter. He was eager to adjourn. I wondered where all the strong voices were that night who gallantly posted information and claims in our lively on-line discussions.

Meanwhile, Grays Harbor County Commissioners voted against submitting a lengthy resolution regarding crude by rail citing that

specifics were not consistent with county responsibilities. A brief letter drafted by County Commissioner Wes Cormier was submitted instead. Grays Harbor County Commissioners are not scheduled to meet again until after the May 27 scoping period deadline for the Environmental Impact Study.

#### My personal opinion

The greatest threat to rail security here is the ground. Aberdeen's foundation is simply a mud bay covered with back-fill. It moves daily. Houses and businesses shake regularly with every passing semi-truck.

I say "NO!" to crude oil by rail to the Port of Grays Harbor over the shifting sands upon which Aberdeen sits. I fault the railroad for neglecting the tracks and the FRA for not enforcing better inspections and repairs. I hold the Grays Harbor Port Commission accountable for their self-serving attitudes – for

countering public opinion regarding decisions that affect public safety by purporting an influx of local jobs which is highly unlikely. The prospect of money overshadows any commitment to collaborative discussion with city municipalities or constituents. The damage will be done by the time we vote them out.

Personally, the greatest threat I see to rail security here is the ground. Aberdeen's foundation is simply a mud bay covered with back-fill. It moves daily. Houses and businesses shake regularly with every passing semi-truck. River dredging invites river-bed erosion. Old buildings are haunted by wavy floors and houses are seen tipping to one side due to movement below well-constructed foundations. *This is why time and money was invested to install pontoons beneath the State Building reconstruction in Aberdeen a few years ago.* One side of the street in front of my house has dropped 2-3 inches in the past

► **ABERDEEN** continued on page 6.

## Local solution to the growing influence of wealth in politics

### I-1329 proposes constitutional amendment to denounce money as speech

Jordan Beaudry

Wealth inequality is the highest it has been since the Great Depression. Starting in the mid-1970's the income of the wealthiest 1% of Americans began to skyrocket as the earnings of the middle and lower classes stagnated. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has concluded that, "Between 1979 and 2007, average after-tax incomes for the top 1 percent rose by 281 percent after adjusting for inflation—an increase in income of \$973,100 per household—compared to increases of 25 percent (\$11,200 per household) for the middle fifth of households and 16 percent (\$2,400 per household) for the bottom fifth."

The problem has accelerated in the wake of our current economic recession.

According to UC Berkeley Economics Professor Emmanuel Saez's 2013 report *Striking it Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States*, "After decades of stability in the post-war period, the top decile share (of income) has increased dramatically over the last twenty-five years and has now regained its pre-war level. Indeed, the top decile

share in 2012 is equal to 50.4 percent, a level higher than any other year since 1917." This ever-increasing income inequality

The pervasive influence of wealth in politics is stronger on a federal level than it is locally. For this reason working within our communities to make our voices heard is the most effective strategy we have at our disposal.

is a symptom of the larger issue of unbalanced wealth distribution. While income refers to money received through wages and investments wealth includes assets, such as property and investments. Wealth is self-perpetuating, income is not. In 1973 the 0.1% wealthiest Americans owned roughly 8% of national wealth, in 2013 they possessed above 20%, their biggest share since the beginning of the great depression. It is no coincidence that the blight of wealth inequality has increased lockstep with the growing influence of the wealthy in the political process.

In 1971 the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) was passed, requiring greater disclosure of federal campaign contributions. The Senate amended the act in 1974, adding limits to campaign contributions by individuals, political parties, and political action committees (PAC's). This amendment also created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to enforce

► **I-1329**, continued on page 12.

## Sales of organic produce surge

Washington, D.C. – Sales of organic food topped \$32 billion in 2013 – up 11.5 percent from the year before – and organic fruits and vegetables now account for more than 10 percent of all produce sold in the United States, according to a new survey by the Organic Trade Association.

“Consumers are expressing their increasing concern over growth hormones, fertilizers, GMOs and, of course, toxic pesticides by increasingly choosing organic foods over conventional,” said EWG President Ken Cook. “The public’s depth of support for organic foods should send a strong signal to conventional agriculture that people would rather spend their hard-earned dollars on foods free of synthetic chemicals.”

The survey of more than 200 companies, conducted between January and April of this year, is “the most accurate and quantitative picture of the organic industry available,” according to the Organic Trade Association. Participating companies provided data on sales growth and revenue, among other information.

Fruits and vegetables continued to be the largest sector of the organic industry with \$11.6 billion in sales in 2013, up 15 percent over 2012.

“The Organic Trade Association and its members deserve a huge pat on the back for giving consumers exactly what they want – healthy foods that aren’t made with the assistance of toxic chemicals,” added Cook.

—Environmental Working Group

## EPA: Should have another peek at 1,000 chemicals

In April, the EPA official responsible for reviewing the safety of chemicals used in thousands of every-day products was asked how many chemicals in use are so dangerous they should get a harder look by the agency to protect public health and the environment.

The answer?

1,000.

You read that right.

Jim Jones, who runs the EPA office charged with reviewing the safety of chemicals that have been linked to everything from cancer to reproductive problems, told lawmakers that “about one thousand” chemicals currently found in everyday products need to be reviewed.

So what have House Republicans proposed to address this problem?

A bill that would let EPA take at least seven years, but likely longer, to review and manage the dangers posed by any one chemical.

But that’s not all.

The aptly named “Chemicals in Commerce Act” is less concerned with making sure that chemicals are safe than with making it easier for companies to flood the market with substances that could cause harm.

Under the proposal developed by Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), EPA would only be able to restrict chemicals so that they pose no “unreasonable” risks.

In other words, we would have to tolerate chemicals that can harm us so long as chemical companies can convince the EPA – and ultimately the courts – that their toll on health and the environment is justified.

But that’s not all.

The proposal would still allow new chemicals onto the market before EPA has enough information to adequately assess their safety. Although the EPA would have more authority to make companies develop and share test data about their chemicals, the bill has no requirement that the companies produce at least a basic amount of information to identify any hidden risks.

# Anti-nuclear weapons activists stage tea party at West Coast nuke base



Protesters holding banner in the designated protest zone.

Photo: Leonard Eiger

## Ground Zero

Silverdale, WA, May 10: Activists from Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, in Poulsbo, staged a tea party at the main gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, the West Coast home port of the nuclear ballistic missile submarine fleet.

Protesters walked onto the roadway in successive waves, briefly blocking the entrance, and offered tea and cookies to the Washington State Patrol officers standing in the median. Officers escorted them from the roadway and cited them for walking on the roadway where prohibited.

Those cited were Rose Betz-Zall, Seattle; Victor Edward Digilio, Seattle; Anne Hall, Lopez Island; David Hall, Lopez Island; Norm Keegel, Bainbridge Island; Tom Rogers, Keyport; Michael Siptroth, Belfair; and Christine Warmedahl, Port Orchard.

Four of the protestors previously cited re-entered the roadway pulling along a long banner reading, “The earth is our mother—treat her with respect.” State Patrol officers arrested Victor Edward Digilio, Anne Hall, David Hall and Michael Siptroth. All four were taken to the Kitsap County Jail where they were booked for obstruction and released.

The actions at the Bangor gate were

part of a day-long event by Ground Zero to bring attention to Bangor’s nuclear arsenal. Bangor, 20 miles west of Seattle, represents the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the US arsenal. Each of the eight Trident submarines based at Bangor carries up to 24 Trident II (D-5) missiles, each capable of being armed with as many as eight independently targetable thermonuclear warheads. Each nuclear warhead has an explosive force of between 100 and 475

“From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.”

kilotons (up to 30 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb).

Ground Zero Center’s annual Mother’s Day weekend event honored Julia Ward Howe’s work to establish a Mother’s Day for Peace. Participants read Howe’s 1870 Mother’s Day Proclamation in which she declared that “We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.”

Participants also engaged in nonviolence training and learned about the current state of nuclear weapons from Dr. David Hall, past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Members of the Seattle Raging Grannies provided musical entertainment. The Raging Grannies’ promote global peace, justice, and social and economic equality by raising public awareness through song and humor.

Ground Zero continues its legal effort to stop the Navy’s construction of a \$715 million Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor. The group is also working on plans to defund the Navy’s program to build a successor to its existing Trident fleet, which was created as a strategic nuclear deterrent to the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost to build 12 new subs at nearly \$100 billion.

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

For more information, please contact Leonard Eiger, 425-445 2190, [subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com](mailto:subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com).

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW Poulsbo, WA 98370. [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

Further, companies would be able to hide from the public the names of chemicals that are the subject of health and safety studies – putting business interests ahead of protecting public health.

But that’s not all.

The proposal would not only create a framework that would prevent the federal government from effectively ensuring that chemicals are safe, it would also greatly curtail the states’ ability to pick up the slack on your behalf.

Rep. Shimkus has pledged to improve his proposal, but it will take substantial changes to give EPA the tools it needs to address the hazards posed by the 1,000 chemicals Jones mentioned.

So what’s needed for real reform?

- Real reform would require companies to give EPA at least the minimum set of data that regulators need to understand the potential hazards and uses of chemicals before they go to market.
- Real reform would require EPA to ensure that chemicals are in fact safe –

or, in wonkier terms – pose a “reasonable certainty of no harm.”

- Real reform would ensure that the EPA has readily available the tools and resources it needs to review – and (if warranted) ban or restrict – Jones’ 1,000 chemicals.
- Real reform would not only tell EPA to identify which chemicals are the most urgent to review, but also direct the agency to make a priority of those that bio-accumulate in our bodies, persist for long periods in the environment or may cause cancer, reproductive problems and other serious health problems.
- Real reform would allow the EPA to take extra steps to protect vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, children, workers, the elderly and communities near chemical plants.
- Real reform would retain a significant role for the states in ensuring chemical safety and eliminate the legal hurdles that for decades have thwarted efforts to regulate chemicals.
- Real reform would give EPA more tools to keep chemical companies from dragging their feet when they’re instructed to take steps to protect health and the environment.

And, of course, real reform would ensure public access to health and safety information about chemicals, including their names, especially for emergency workers and medical providers.

Chemical companies purport to share many of these same goals, including a requirement that chemicals be proven “safe.”

So, why don’t House Republicans?

—Environmental Working Group

## Psychiatric patients entitled to treatment, not warehousing

SEATTLE – Advocates for psychiatric patients filed a friend of the court brief with the Washington Supreme Court urging it to uphold a trial court ruling invalidating a practice called “boarding” – holding civil commitment patients in hospital emergency rooms unable to provide adequate treatment.

The patients in this case were involuntarily detained in emergency rooms for days, often with little or no psychiatric care. In June 2013, a Pierce County Superior Court judge ruled this practice is illegal since the law requires patients to be held in certified evaluation and treatment facilities capable of providing treatment needed by patients. The Washington Supreme Court recently agreed to review the ruling, and oral argument will occur on June 26, 2014.

Twenty percent of patients committed under the state’s civil commitment law, the Involuntary Treatment Act, are boarded, such as general hospital emergency rooms without appropriate treatment, according to a recent report by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). The WSIPP report also found that the problem of psychiatric boarding in emergency rooms swelled to nearly 200 per month in 2010.

—Washington ACLU

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# Two-tiered justice system protested at Thurston County Courthouse

Jayne Rossman

What does a 100 mph police chase in a Ferrari through downtown Olympia with a terrified passenger begging to be let out of the vehicle, hitting a house and two parked cars, and a seventh DUI with a blood alcohol level twice the legal limit get you?

If you're Shaun Goodman, a local business owner, it gets you a year of work release.

On May 16, about twenty-five people met by Capitol Lake and marched to the Thurston County Courthouse to protest Judge Christine Schaller's decision to accept the one year work release plea bargain agreed to by Goodman's attorney, Paul Strophy, and Thurston Deputy Prosecuting Attorney James Power. Carrying signs that read "Driving under the influence" and "Convicted of driving while wealthy and white = 1 year work release", protestors questioned the impartiality of Thurston courts when it comes to class and race.

Strophy and Powers recommended work release so Goodman could maintain employment and run his business while he serves his sentence. Goodman is the owner of Vantage Communications, a cable installation company with six employees and an estimated revenue of \$800,000 per year. His work release agreement allows him to be at work from 8 am-8 pm, Monday through Saturday. At this time, it is uncertain whether he will serve evenings and Sundays in jail, or at his home.

"It's not fair that there's a two-tiered legal system, one for those with money and another for those without," Sam Miller, the event's organizer, told The Olympian. Some protestors at the May

16 march compared Goodman's sentence to those of friends and relatives who received more jail time or were denied work release for smaller infractions. Henri Griffen, the passenger who eventually threw himself out of the moving vehicle to escape Goodman's reckless driving, noted that "There are people who are less fortunate that get the shaft more, you know what I mean?"

When Goodman was first arraigned in late December, Deputy Prosecuting

## Protestors at the May 16 march compared Goodman's sentence to those of friends and relatives who received more jail time or were denied work release for much smaller infractions.

Attorney Joseph Wheeler called Goodman's behavior "atrocious" and Thurston County Superior Court Judge James Dixon compared his alleged actions to "walking downtown with a loaded gun firing rounds."

A six-time DUI offender who had literally graduated from Thurston's DUI court earlier in the same year, Goodman was originally held on suspicion of false imprisonment, felony eluding and felony driving under the influence of alcohol.

Although protestors questioned why the prosecutor didn't add more charges, such as reckless driving, by the time of his May 9 court date, Goodman faced even fewer charges. He pled guilty to two: felony eluding a police officer and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Washington State's DUI sentencing guidelines call for a DUI defendant with "two or three" prior DUIs to be sentenced to a minimum of 120 days in jail, and a maximum of 364. So when local resi-

dent Jim Gerner spoke to James Power by telephone, Mr. Power was technically correct in telling him that he had pursued the "maximum possible sentence for DUI." But if the maximum sentence for DUI was 364 days, what did Goodman get for felony eluding a police officer? And how much time, fines, and restitution would have been ordered for the charges he never faced, such as reckless driving or false imprisonment?

In addition to minimal charges, no victim's statement was ordered, even though Goodman's passenger was forced to throw himself from the moving vehicle in order to escape. Henri Griffen, the passenger, told 911 dispatchers that he had begged with Goodman to let him out, telling him, "I'm a father." He told the dispatcher, "I'm calling you guys because I'm scared." Griffen said he visits a chiropractor and a psychiatrist regularly, and continues to have dreams about the incident. "It's like the prosecutors did not even care," he told fellow protestors online before the event.

The protest has garnered national attention, although some reporting ignored the larger concerns of protestors. While the impact of Goodman's ongoing drunk driving on the community was part of the protest, protestors were concerned about much more than Shaun Goodman. The protest was about a "justice" system that disproportionately locks up poor people and people of color. In that sense, Shaun Goodman wasn't exceptional. He experienced what many well-off, white men can expect: the softer side of the court.

"Remember to me this isn't about Shaun Goodman," Sam Miller said afterward in a Facebook post, "This is about inequality. The amount of money you make and the color of your skin should not determine your punishment."

*Jayne Rossman lives and writes in Olympia. She attended the May 16 protest because she believes our prison system is unconscionable.*

# WAmend and the Olympia chapter of Move to Amend are gathering signatures for I-1329

We no longer have democracy in our country because *big money* owns the political process. We need to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that a corporation is a *person* and money is *speech* (Citizens United v. FEC). To do that, we need 34 states to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. 16 states have already passed similar resolutions; 21 are in the process. With citizen Initiative-1329, Washington will be the 17th state.

Local members of the Olympia chapter of Move to Amend are helping to gather signatures for I-1329 which urges an amendment to the Constitution which would clarify that constitutional rights apply to natural persons, not corporations, and authorize greater regulation of political contributions and

expenditures. Sign I-1329 by June 30, and let's get big money out of politics!

You can sign the initiative, get petition forms, and turn in filled forms locally at:

- Traditions Café, 300 5th Ave SW, 98501, and
- Mountain Home Bakery, 5823 Lacey Blvd SE, 98503

You can find volunteers for I-1329 gathering signatures at these upcoming events:

- May 31-June 1: Mother Earth News Fair at the fairgrounds in Puyallup

- June 7 & June 14: Olympia Farmers Market (weather permitting),
- June 21-22: Olympia Pride Festival

For more information about I-1329 and to help us spread the word and gather signatures, please contact Florence at [florencev@fairpoint.net](mailto:florencev@fairpoint.net), 360-264-6055; or Rob at [robmoly84@gmail.com](mailto:robmoly84@gmail.com)

For information about the Olympia Chapter of Move to Amend, contact Mike at [savocas@fairpoint.net](mailto:savocas@fairpoint.net) or find us on Facebook: [MoveToAmendOlympia](http://MoveToAmendOlympia).

—Olympia Chapter of Move to Amend

## WDA: Perceptions of Justice in Washington

Monday, June 9, 2014, 9am - noon

Office Bldg. 2 Auditorium, 1115 Washington St., DSHS, Olympia, WA 206.623.4321

Join us for a discussion of a report by the researchers who studied Washington's public perception of how its people feel they are treated by police and by the courts. Advance registration is advised. Email: [wda@defensenet.org](mailto:wda@defensenet.org) with the program name in the subject line.

Registration opens at 8:45 a.m.

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Presentation of the report "Justice in Washington" by the researchers of the report. Professors Mark Peffley, Jon Hurwitz and Jeffrey Mondak.
- 9:50 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Question-and-answer session with researchers.
- 10:20 - 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Measures of Justice: Using data to address systemic issues of racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. Professor Don Stemen.
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Question-and-answer period.
- 12 p.m. - Complimentary boxed lunch provided.

This CLE is free and open to the public. For more information: 206.623.4321

# Special Events

**Garrison Garden Work Party 2**  
Saturday, May 31, 10 am - 1 pm  
1702 Garrison St NE, Olympia

We are looking to turn a city right of way into a community garden and gathering area for our neighborhood. Come help us clean up the site and help get the word out. Even if you can't lift a tool please come and gather with us and build community. Please invite friends, family and neighbors. Spread the word!

**Madaraka Festival**  
Jun 1 at 7 pm to Jun 2 at 11 pm  
325 5th Avenue N Seattle

When Seattle trumpet player Owuor Arunga isn't touring with Mackelmore & Ryan Lewis, he devotes his time supporting a cause that hits close to home. Originally from Kenya, Arunga has joined the local non-profit One Vibe Africa to host Madaraka Festival, a benefit concert to empower youth in his hometown of Kisumu. Madaraka Day (June 1) commemorates the day that Kenya attained internal self-rule, and this year's festival at EMP will showcase the music, visual arts, initiatives, and innovations that embody the special relationship between Seattle and Africa with proceeds supporting resources and instruments to help Kenyan youth attain their dreams. Join us in supporting this event as well as One Vibe Africa's Music to Empower Youth Campaign.

This event is hosted by The Physics.

**Basque Peace Process**  
Tuesday, June 3rd, 5 pm  
Seminar 2, A1107, Evergreen

Urko Aiartza, a Basque Senator, will speak at Evergreen on the Basque Peace Process. The Basque country is divided between Spain and France. It has had an ongoing and major struggle for the right to self-determination.

Urko Aiartza will discuss the historical conflict and the ongoing peace process.

**Part 3 in the Stigma Series!**  
Friday, June 6, 4 pm - 6 pm  
Sem Bldg 2 A 2105, Evergreen

This workshop will uncover the stigma we see in the military, socioeconomic status and etc. We ask the question, how does stigma affect political action.

Students United for Reproductive Justice (SURJ) workshop series.

**Garden Center Grand Opening!**  
Saturday, June 7, 10 am  
Westside Olympia Food Co-Op  
921 Rogers St NW, Olympia

We're excited to invite you to the Grand Opening of our New Garden Center!

Come celebrate our latest expansion project on June 7th! The Grand Opening Celebration main events will begin in the early afternoon (1pm) on Saturday, and until the evening (7pm) will include live musical entertainment, refreshments, raffle with prizes, and plant-start giveaways.

**The earth does not belong to us**  
Thursday, June 12, 8 pm  
Media Island International  
816 Adams St. SE, Olympia

A mixed medium cabaret/vaudeville show explores human beings' relationships with land and environment, bringing into contemporary performance the old adage that 'the earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth', using a mixture of music, poetry, fiction-reading, puppetry and live art.

**Entry Deadline for July 4 Tumwater Parade**  
Monday, June 23  
Centralia College  
600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia

The parade is sponsored by Tumwater Parks & Recreation. To be considered for participation, entry forms must be received prior to Monday, June 23, 2014 at 5:00pm.

**Olympia Really Really Free Market**  
Sunday, June 29, 1 pm - 4 pm  
Sylvester Park, Olympia

Free music, food, comedy. The Really free market, is a free gift economy in action, in which you bring things you'd like to give away and take what you want.

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# A review of *Governing for Sustainability* Better government is possible, and necessary



Emily Lardner

My mom, a thoughtful educator and environmentalist, looked at me on Mother's Day and sighed. "Can we do it? Do you think there's any way we can get out of this mess?" We'd spent most of the weekend watching an owl fledge out of a nest box under the watchful eyes of its parents. Spring in northern Illinois has been unusual. The Mississippi River is still high in its banks. The weather got so hot, so fast that the daffodils bloomed and faded. My mom anticipates another summer of drought. She's worried.

I'm worried too. Too many people—young and old—who are concerned about climate change and income inequality are equally turned off by conventional electoral politics. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans represent their interests; corruption is rampant; government bureaucracies are perceived as inefficient at best or organized against people's interests at worst. Ordinary people have no voice in the governing of our country, so why participate in the charade?

Meanwhile, Governor Inslee's modest proposal to reduce the coal used for Washingtonians' electricity is already meeting opposition. U.S. Rep. Steve Daines (R-Montana and current contender for a seat in the Senate) says that Inslee's proposal will hurt Montana mining interests. Critics in Washington say that the move to get off coal will result in rate hikes. Both sets of calculations fail to consider what we all lose by increasing carbon in the atmosphere, but those voices may prevail.

Inslee plans to introduce a carbon cap and trade system in the next legislative session. Expect another version of the "jobs vs. the environment" battle. As

Patrick Mazza writes in *Crosscut*, cap and trade—ineffective as it is—will be billed as a "job-killing energy tax." Republicans and Democrats in swing districts will opt for jobs and the legislation won't pass. Alternatively, we can work our hearts off for legislation that promises to do only modest good at best, and only if the cap can hold.

## What are we to do?

In spite of the odds, we need to get our governance right if we want to decrease greenhouse gas emissions in any

...as Renner and Prugh put it, only "a steady popular commitment to engaged governance" can prevent our nearly assured destruction...that means getting involved in politics.

measurable way. Enter the Worldwatch Institute's State of the World 2014 edition, *Governing for Sustainability*, a collection of essays arguing that good government is not only necessary, but according to these authors, possible.

We need good governance—not small government. In a forward to the volume, professor David Orr argues that what's being championed in the name of smaller government is not smaller government at all. It's a different government, one that focuses on higher military expenditures, domestic surveillance, larger police forces, subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy, and low to no corporate taxes or taxes on the wealthy. This argument for this "smaller" government, made popular by Ronald Reagan, is on the upsurge. As a result of this "pro-small government" view, Orr argues, we are losing our capacity to solve public

problems.

In their rousing introduction to the volume, "Failing governance and an unsustainable planet," Michael Renner and Tom Prugh, codirectors of *Governing for Sustainability* Project, note that in 2012, 25 companies were behind 58% of worldwide upstream oil and gas investments. Those companies exercise enormous influence on governments. As Renner and Prugh write, "concentrated power and wealth will forever seek to fulfill its own narrow interests—even as the biosphere and civilization are corrupted and perhaps destroyed." And, as Renner and Prugh put it, only "a steady popular commitment to engaged governance" can prevent our nearly assured destruction.

Several chapters address the need to "break the political power of finance", as Thomas Palley, economic advisor to the AFL-CIO puts it in his chapter, "Making Finance Serve the Real Economy." Palley writes, "The process of 'financialization'—by which the financial sector has become the new master of the broader economy—needs to be tamed so that finance once again serves the economy and people's needs. Subjecting runaway financial institutions to rules and regulations driven by the public interest forms a critical part of overhauling governance processes."

Other chapters argue that we have to think (and talk and act) differently. We need a more sophisticated understanding of the relationship between sustainability and governance. We can't achieve the first—at any scale—without a version of the second and that means getting involved in politics. For example, Monty Hempel, president of Blue Planet United ([www.blueplanetunited.org](http://www.blueplanetunited.org)), argues in "Ecoliteracy: Knowledge is Not Enough," that we need to incorporate social and

economic concerns within a framework connecting eco-literacy with political literacy.

From this eco-socio-politically just perspective, exactly what needs to be done to address climate change? David Orr offers this essential list:

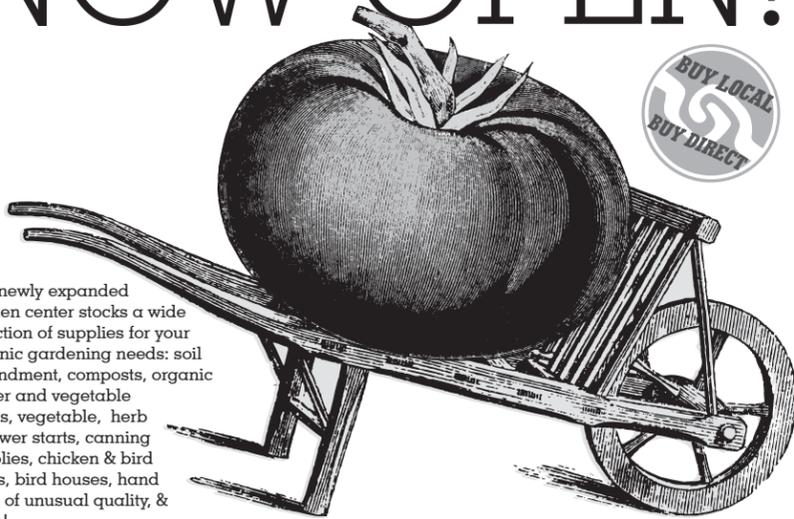
- Permanently remove reserves of coal, oil, tar sands and natural gas from the asset side of the economic ledger but without crashing the global economy
- Reform the global economy so that its full costs are internalized—costs to the environment, costs to workers, costs to communities—and also fairly distribute benefits, costs and risks within and between generations.
- Acknowledge the rights of our descendants to a habitable and hospitable environment.

Nothing can happen until we separate money and policy. As long as wealthy donors, corporate and individual, can purchase the legislative policies that protect their interests, we won't move forward. Citing political philosopher Alan Ryan, Orr writes that "the struggle to separate money from policy making and law will, in time, come to be seen rather like historic battles against feudalism, monarchy, and slavery."

*Governing for Sustainability* is not a perfect book—it underreports important eco-socio-politically just work going on in Latin America, particularly in Ecuador. It under-reports the work of indigenous people, and only one chapter focuses on youth movements. However, it's a good book, and it makes a good argument. Governing ourselves isn't an option—the only question is how, and who will do it.

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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► **Aberdeen**, cont. from page 3.

4 years cracking the pavement full circle with adjacent puzzle-pieces hang on for dear life. I dread the demise of my car to a sinkhole scenario, but expect it would simply drop 12 - 15 inches and float. A neighbor informs me that the street patch turned speed bump in front of my house was there when he moved in 19 years ago. Rainwater bypasses the drain to pool in my yard, forcing me to wade through the pond from my front steps to the other side of the street. Could it be that our railroad tracks are undermined in the same way?

Whenever a business with more power than the people (or local government in this case) comes to town, the people lose. Big businesses promise whatever necessary to get contracts. How many cities were promised improved rail infrastructure and maintenance only

to blow up? How much of our downtown area are we going to sacrifice in this game of Russian roulette? How many lives? Bearing in mind the skilled, technical knowledge necessary to man the trains and oil, how many Harborites will have their employment hopes dashed again like they were with the pontoon project? We need our neighbors who understand the dangers involved and the high price of ignoring the peoples' voices to stand in solidarity with us.

Gail Morehouse is a Grays Harbor based Evergreen student. Passionate about integrative social processes for marginalized populations and the welfare of community at-large, Gail is Administrative Director of "Grays Harbor Houses of Hope", and Executive Board Member for "Grays Harbor Transitional Services" 501c3.

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# Homegrown Tumwater resident wins the marijuana retailer lottery

Sylvia Smith

In early May the Washington State Liquor Control Board announced the winners of the retail pot lottery winners. Tumwater resident David Moore of MooreHempCo was one of the lucky few. "We're excited about it. Our main goal is to get our doors open and be one of the county's premier outlets."

Now that retailers have been selected from the lists of qualified applicants, the Liquor Control Board has begun examining business plans and background checks in an effort to weed out those with possible connection with organized crime. Qualified applicants who were not selected are still waiting to see if they might yet be lucky. But David Moore is confident his selection will stand. "We're ready for the scrutiny." He describes his background as "squeaky clean" and his finances and business plan in order. Moore and Ruth, his wife, are putting up their life savings for this opportunity to be a part this historic movement for change in U.S. drug policy. When asked when he thought he would finally receive the license, he replied, "When they ask us for a \$1000. We'll write a check; they'll hand us the license."

**WIP:** *With all the paperwork and money required just to qualify to enter the lottery, what motivated you to even try?*

**Moore:** I didn't want to do it. I didn't desire to be in the monkey cage again. [Moore had previously owned a store on the Westside that offered industrial hemp products.] I was at that store all the time. When I told my wife that friends were saying that I should go for [setting up a recreational marijuana retail store], she said, "Well, why don't we?" And I had no answer for her.

**WIP:** *What do you think was her motivation?*

**Moore:** It's simple, she sees this as my passion.

The Moores are planning a trip to Colorado to see close up how things are going for recreational marijuana retail stores there that have been open since the first of the year.

"I've been in contact with one of the Colorado retailer and we began trading information back in January. I called them the other day to let them know we have a number one spot. They said for us to give them a week's notice and they'd give us a tour and take care of us."

Colorado has a similar set up with a few

exceptions. Non-Colorado residents may only buy up to a quarter gram whereas in WA non-residents will be able to one gram same as WA residents. Colorado residents will also be able to grow up to six plants in their homes as long as they are enclosed and locked up with no more than three plants in bloom at any time. The sole purpose of this last exception is to undercut the underground economy sale of marijuana.

While retailers in Washington State will be able to open shop in July, Moore says he will probably not open his business until mid-August. He claims to be concerned that state producers and processors might not have enough supplies of marijuana products to meet customer demand and he would rather delay opening than disappoint his customers.

**WIP:** *Do you think the State is allowing enough acreage to grow marijuana crops?*

**Moore:** I believe by the time they have it all set, they will. Right now I think they have 40 licensed growers and they will need three months or so. Some of them have been running for a while, but it will be touch and go.

Yet Moore already has a team in place. Two, Vince Ryland and Richard Landgraf, he couldn't do without. "They were so key to having my little (hemp) store open." And Moore is about to sign the lease for his store. In the next couple of months he will have a lot to do in bringing his business up to speed with what is required by the Liquor Control Board—cameras, signage, security safeguards, etc.

According to the Washington State Liquor Control Board website, Moore will not be allowed to put up a "fancy sign" outside his retail store. It brings to mind the generic food stuffs of the 1980's—white background with plain black lettering. The state does allow a non-fancy sign no larger than 1,600 square inches. This may sound rather large but actually it's just a fancy way of saying a square meter (approximately 40 inches by 40 inches). Moore assured me that though the outside of his business will be generic plain, the inside will not. He has already contacted Vince Ryland to spruce up the inside portion.

As a retailer, Moore will only be able to "sell marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana paraphernalia." He is hoping paraphernalia will also include industrial hemp products that

he stills has from his former Westside hemp store. It's one of many questions he plans to ask during his coming interview with the state.

**WIP:** *Have you thought about your out-of-state customers? They can't take it out of state and they can't smoke it in public. What are they going to do?*

**Moore:** They'll have to get a motel room, I don't know whether they'll have to get a smoking room.



**WIP:** *Do you know if you will be able to sell organic weed?*

**Moore:** I imagine so. It will probably be a little more expensive and certified. We're hoping the common place marijuana would be organic eventually.

Moore was also asked what he thought the legal/social atmosphere regarding marijuana in Washington state look like after ten years.

**Moore:** Marijuana will be common place. We're not the minority anymore. I don't believe they are ready to admit that because they think they are the ones who are right. And that's okay. It's not about being right; it's about making things work and work together.

**WIP:** *Do you think it's going to take people a little while to get used to being able to smoke legally? More people are going to smoke now simply because it's legal. Like myself, it's been decades. How much can you consume and still function? How long must one wait before one can drive?*

**Moore:** Oh, people have been driving high all this time and people are now worried about the danger of driving high? They are not uncontrollable drunks. They've probably been driving right next to you all along.

They're the folks you've been honking at because they're in your way. [Moore is laughing.]

Don't worry. Moore plans to put up a sign telling people to take their stash straight home. More important for him is the fact that people will no longer have to be criminals. "I'm very excited about that."

David Moore also asked that in addition to Vince Ryland and Richard Landgraf, that I be sure to mention his wife, Ruth, "who is the driving force, everyone associated with Shaydo Command Post, and the Fun Specialist. I'm dragging all my friends with me. They're our valuable team members."

*Sylvia Smith is a long-time member of Works In Progress and an alumna of The Evergreen State College.*

Moore is about to sign the lease for his store. In the next couple of months he will have a lot to do in bringing his business up to speed with what is required by the Liquor Control Board.

**WIP:** *And they can't smoke on your premises.*

**Moore:** No, not at all. We'll have a camera in the parking lot, too.

**WIP:** *I'm curious. I wonder if people going to set up B & Bs or...*

**Moore:** They just may. You'd have another little industry. When we're in Colorado we're going to see how that works.

A special concern I have heard from people in the Olympia area is whether recreational retailers will be providing organic marijuana. A couple of years ago there was a study of medical marijuana patients. Sixty percent of patients claimed that, more so than price or location, the most important aspect in selecting a marijuana pharmacy was whether or not they carried organics.

## Recent Black grads hardest hit

As millions of new graduates prepare to enter the workforce, the report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), "A College Degree is no Guarantee," demonstrates that the Great Recession has been hard on recent graduates, especially black college graduates. While young black workers with college degrees have fared better than their less-educated peers, they have a higher unemployment rate and are more likely to find themselves in a job that does not require a degree than other recent college graduates.

The main findings include:

- In 2013, 12.4 percent of black college graduates between the ages of 22 and 27 were unemployed. For all college graduates in the same age range, the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent.
- Between 2007 and 2013, unemployment rate for black recent college graduates nearly tripled (up 7.8 percentage points from 4.6 percent).

- In 2013, more than half of employed black recent college graduates were "underemployed"—defined as working in an occupation that typically does not require a four-year college degree. Even before the Great Recession, almost half of black recent graduates were underemployed.

- Black recent college graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors have fared somewhat better, but still suffer from high unemployment and underemployment rates. Among black recent graduates with degrees in engineering, the average unemployment rate was 10 percent and underemployment rate was 32 percent.

These outcomes reflect the strong negative effect of economic downturns on young workers in general, but also reflect ongoing racial discrimination in the labor market," said Janelle Jones, an author of the report and a research associate at CEPR.

—Center for Economic and Policy Research



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"We grow, but we distribute."

## Uruguayan President Jose Mujica's advice to the US

Enrique Quintero

### Architecture and memory

The White House is a building with a nefarious reputation within the South American left. Since the Monroe Doctrine in the early 1800's, its walls and chambers have been mute witnesses of numerous decisions meant to convert the region in "our back yard"—meant to guaranty endless Latin-American economic dependence on U.S. interests, without much concern for the political forms believed necessary to secure this favorable equation.

Against this background, it did not matter, as Frank D. Roosevelt stated in reference to Nicaragua's Somoza, if a brutal "son of a bitch" dictator ruled the continent as long as "he is our son of a bitch." By the end of the 1970's and 80's the marriage between U.S. capital interests and their subservient allies among the Latin American right had proved fertile and fruitful; our sons of a bitches in military uniforms ruled most of the continent. The union was more prolific than the Brady Bunch.

Having been a member of the Tupamaros during the 70's—an armed urban guerrilla resistance movement against the dictatorship—having been shot many times and having spent fourteen years incarcerated by pro-Washington military administrations in Uruguay, it wasn't surprising that a journalist would ask Jose Mujica about his reflections when visiting the White house. He responded:

*"Buildings are not to blame, I am not to pick a fight with architecture, I choose to forget because what I am interested in is the future"*

Of course since he has never before been in the White House, for Mujica there cannot be a transaction between the mental and the physical in the literal sense. The White House is more a semiotic symbol of political significance; for Mujica, 'choosing to forget' does not mean it ceases to exist in his memory, but it ceases to exist in his actions.

### Architecture and the commodification of policy

Washington DC's architecture is eclectic. Many of its forms are evocative of ancient empires (Egyptian, Greek, Roman) and although its buildings and monuments are affected by urban regulations limiting their height, the space they occupy clearly makes visible to visitors, particularly from other countries, that this is the city where the center of power (at least) in the West is located.

The United States Chamber of Commerce is situated on 1651 H St., right across Lafayette Park from the White House in a beautiful Beaux Arts building. It is listed in the National Register of Historic places but is not ranked high in the priority list for most tourists. According to the official web page, the three-story Corinthian columns and Indiana limestone surface of the exterior:

*Reflect the Chamber commitment to solid, traditional American values, while the interior public rooms and space reflect the organization's dynamic forward-thinking mission.*

Since its insertion in 1912 as an organized response to labor, with over three million members including the

estate subsidiaries, the Chamber is the largest, probably most powerful, and best organized lobbyist organization representing business and trade associations in the nation. Since 2002, according to the Center for Responsible Politics, the Chamber has continually spent almost twice as much, and in some years three times as much, as the next higher spenders including the National Association of Realtors, General Electric, PG&E Corporation, Exxon, Pharmaceutical Research of America, AT&T, AARP, and Philip Morris for the tobacco industry. In 2013 for example, the Chamber spent 74,470,000 million dollars in lobbying activities followed by the National Association of Realtors, which spent 35,584,580 million.

The Official Chamber page does not offer an explanation of what the grandiloquent "solid traditional American values" means, or how they may be different from let's say, traditional Canadian values, or traditional German values, or traditional Central American

values, or traditional South American values, or when and how they became solid and traditional for that matter. What we do know is that the majority of its electoral contributions went to support Republican candidates that denied the scientific foundations of climate change; to support Corporate Globalization Rights and outsourcing; and to oppose the following legislation:

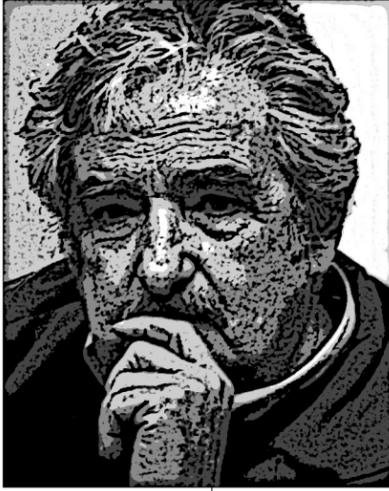
the DISCLOSE Act which investigates foreign investments in US electoral processes, and the Health Care for America Act. If the aesthetic imagination of the exterior serves any functional purposes, these are clearly the interests of an extremely wealthy capitalist class able to buy legislation to the detriment of the majority of people of this country. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce was the second building visited by Jose Mujica in Washington DC.

### Another possible world

Although it is not unusual for foreign leaders to speak at the Chamber, the presence of a Marxist president like Jose Mujica may appear to many as a diplomatic anomaly. Ironically, on the other hand, it reflects the results of a new reality that has taken place in Latin America and cannot be ignored: the emergence of a significantly large number of democratically-elected governments consciously searching for alternative forms to capitalism, neoliberalism and globalization. With local national variations, we witness the following governments seeking independent ways to regulate their own economies: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and to a lesser extend Peru; they have created a continental progressive front that challenges the aged and dysfunctional U.S. hegemony in the area.

In the words of the well-known

► **MUJICA**, continued on page 9.



"Crecemos pero distribuimos"

## Consejos del Presidente Uruguayo José Mujica a los USA

Enrique Quintero

### Arquitectura y Memoria

La casa Blanca es un edificio con infame reputación dentro de la izquierda Latino-Americana. A partir de la Doctrina Monroe en los inicios de los 1800's sus paredes y recamaras han sido testigos mudos de numerosas decisiones encaminadas a convertir a la región en "nuestro patio trasero", lo que significaba garantizar una dependencia económica sin fin de América Latina a los intereses norteamericanos, sin importar mucho las formas políticas consideradas necesarias para asegurar esta ventajosa situación.

Con este telón de fondo, como anotara Frank D. Roosevelt en referencia a Somoza en Nicaragua, importaba poco si un bestial dictador "hijo de puta" regía el continente en tanto y cuanto él fuera "nuestro hijo de puta." Para finales de los 70's y los 80's el matrimonio entre el capital norteamericano y sus serviles aliados de la derecha Latinoamericana resultó fértil y fructífero; *nuestros* hijos de puta en uniforme militar gobernaban caso todo el continente. La unión fue mas prolífica que los Brady Bunch de la televisión.

Habiendo pertenecido a los Tupamaros en los 70's—un movimiento armado de resistencia y oposición a la dictadura—habiendo sido herido en combate muchas veces, y habiendo pasado catorce años encarcelado por los gobiernos militares pro-Washington, no fue extraño que un periodista le preguntara a José Mujica sobre cuales eran sus reflexiones al visitar la Casa Blanca. El respondió:

*Los edificios no tienen la culpa, no me las voy a agarrar contra la arquitectura. Yo he decidido no acordarme porque me interesa el porvenir*

Por supuesto que sin haber estado antes en la Casa Blanca, para Mujica no puede existir una transacción entre lo mental y lo físico en sentido literal. La casa blanca es un símbolo semiótico con significado político.

Para Mujica el 'he decidido no acordarme' no quiere decir que ha dejado de existir en su memoria, pero deja de existir en sus acciones.

### Arquitectura y la Política como Mercancia

La arquitectura de Whashington D.C. es eclética. Muchas de sus formas son evocativas de imperios antiguos (Egipcio, Griego, Romano) y aunque sus edificios y monumentos son afectados por regulaciones que limitan su altura, el espacio que ocupan hace claramente visible a los visitantes de la ciudad, particularmente a aquellos provenientes de otros países, que esta es la ciudad donde esta localizado el centro del poder (al menos) del mundo occidental.

La Cámara de Comercio de Los Estados Unidos esta situada en la calle H 1651,

justo al cruzar el Parque Lafayette frente a la Casa Blanca en un hermoso edificio Beaux Arts. El edificio es parte del Registro Oficial de Lugares Históricos sin embargo no es una atracción prioritaria para turistas. Según la pagina oficial web, las columnas de tres pisos de altura estilo Corinto así como la roca de Indiana que cubre el exterior:

*Reflejan su compromiso con solidos y tradicionales valores americanos, mientras que los espacios públicos del interior reflejan la misión dinámica y de vanguardia de la Cámara.*

Desde sus inicios en 1912 como una respuesta organizada en contra del movimiento laboral, y con mas de tres millones de afiliados incluyendo afiliaciones estatales, la Cámara es probablemente la mejor organizada y mas poderosa organización de Lobbyist representando los intereses de empresas y asociaciones de comercio en el país. Desde 2002, según el Center for Responsible Politics, la Cámara ha gastado continuamente casi el doble, y en ocasiones el triple, de quienes le siguen a continuación en el reporte de gastos entre las cuales se encuentran la National Association of Realtors, General Electric, PG&E Corporation, Exxon, Pharmaceutical Research of America, AT&T, AARP, y Philip Morris por la industria del tabaco. En 2013 por ejemplo, la Cámara gastó 74.470.000 millones de dólares en actividades de lobbyng seguida por la National Association of Realtors que gastó 35.584.580 millones.

La pagina oficial de la Cámara no ofrece una explicación de lo que significa el grandilocuente "solidos y tradicionales valores americanos," o como estos son diferentes digamos de tradicionales valores canadienses, o tradicionales valores alemanes, o tradicionales valores centro-americanos, o tradicionales valores latino-americanos; o como y

cuando estos valores se convirtieron en tradicionales y solidos. Lo que sabemos con certeza es que la gran mayoría de las contribuciones electorales apoyaron a candidatos Republicanos que negaban los fundamentos científicos de cambios climáticos, o para apoyar los Derechos Globales de las Corporaciones y externalización laboral; o para oponerse a la DISCLOSE Act que investiga las inversiones extranjeras en los procesos electorales de los U.S.A, o a la Ley de Seguro para la Salud en los USA. Si la imaginación estética del exterior de la cámara

**Aunque no es inusual para líderes y mandatarios extranjeros el hacer presentaciones en la Cámara, la presencia de un presidente marxista como José Mujica puede aparecer a muchos como una anomalía diplomática.**

sirve algún propósito funcional, estos son claramente los intereses de una extremadamente acaudalada clase capitalista capaz de comprar legislación en detrimento de la mayoría de la población de este país. La Cámara de Comercio de los Estados Unidos fue el segundo edificio que visitó José Mujica en Washington D.C.

### Otro Mundo Posible

Aunque no es inusual para líderes y mandatarios extranjeros el hacer presentaciones en la Cámara, la presencia de un presidente marxista como José Mujica puede aparecer a muchos como una anomalía diplomática. Por otro lado, irónicamente, el evento es el resultado de una nueva realidad que ha tomado lugar en Latino-

► **MUJICA**, continúa en la página 9.

► **Mujica**, cont. from page 8.

Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, these emergent new forces “are struggling to create another possible world—traveling against winds and storms and, at times, against all evidence”. But evidence was not scarce when Mujica addressed the Chamber of Commerce. During his administration Uruguay has taken remarkable steps favorable to the social and economic well being of the people. Among many other things it is worth mentioning the following: The poverty index diminished from 39% to 11%. The country’s yearly economic growth index is 4%, one of the highest on the globe. The minimum wage has increased 250% in the last nine years with an increase of real consuming power of 54%. As Mujica indicated to the audience present at his talk in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce “In Uruguay we grow, but we also distribute”.

There is a radical contrast between the reality of this small Latin American country and the expanding inequality that characterizes the U.S economy where prosperity is designed to benefit a parasitic 1% of its population.

**The Marlboro Man’s blues**

Uruguay’s success is not limited to economic growth. Under Mujica’s administration abortion has been decriminalized, same sex marriage became legal in August of 2013, and in the same year Uruguay became the first country to legalize and regulate the growth and use of cannabis. Uruguay also has one of the most severe regulations against cigarette trade and consumption, which prompted the Philip Morris Corporation (noted above as one of the largest lobbyists in the U.S.) to sue the Uruguayan government alleging the regulations have a negative effect on its right to profit from the sale of cigarettes. But as Mujica (an ex-smoker) expressed to Obama (another ex-smoker) in the Oval office, the fight against cigarette consumption transcends private litigation, because:

*In the world per year eight million people are dying from smoking. And that is more deaths than World War I and World War II. It is murder. We are in an arduous fight—very arduous—and we must fight against very strong interests. Governments must not be involved in private litigation, but we are fighting for life.*

**Freedom and the size of a prison cell**

During his visit to the White House Mujica also discussed with Obama Uruguay’s willingness to admit five Guantamo Bay detainees out of more than seventy cleared by U.S. intelligence and security agencies yet still remaining in Guantanamo without legal cause. The negotiations about this issue were seen as a contribution to human rights on Uruguay’s part, and as an opportunity for the Obama administration to resuscitate the six-year-old electoral promise to close the detention facilities in Cuban territory. Although at the time of this writing the negotiations have concluded successfully, the main obstacle was the Obama administration’s demand that Mujica would guaranty that the detainees “won’t leave Uruguay.” A few days ago when asked about this issue Mujica had this to say:

*They will be free men. My government will not control their movements.*

Freedom seems a hard concept to grasp for the Obama administration—their demand essentially meant extending the size of a prison cell from a few square meters to the size of the Uruguayan nation. Mujica rejected the request/demand of a paranoid government accustomed to the illegal surveillance and movement control of its citizens, and overseas friends and foes.

**On governments and human happiness**

Much has been written about the legendary austerity of Mujica’s life as a president and as a citizen. He has given up living in the Presidential Palace and lives with his wife in a humble house in the outskirts of Montevideo. He

► **Mujica**, viene de la página 8.

América y que no puede ser ignorada: la emergencia de un significativo número de gobiernos democráticamente elegidos, conscientemente buscando formas alternativas al capitalismo, neoliberalismo y globalización. Con variaciones locales nacionales, vemos como los siguientes gobiernos buscan regular sus propias economías de un modo independiente: Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, y en un menor grado Perú. Ellos forman un frente continental progresista que desafía la vieja y disfuncional hegemonía de los U.S. en el área.

En palabras del conocido escritor uruguayo Eduardo Galeano, estas fuerzas emergentes “están luchando por crear otro mundo posible, navegando en contra de vientos y tormentas, y a veces en contra de toda evidencia.” Pero evidencia es lo que menos escaseaba en la presentación de Mujica en la Cámara de Comercio. Durante su administración Uruguay ha tomado grandes pasos a favor del bienestar social y económico de su población. Entre otras cosas vales recalcar lo siguiente: el índice de pobreza disminuyó del 39% al 11%. El índice de crecimiento anual es del 4%, uno de los más altos del globo. El salario mínimo ha crecido un 250% en los últimos nueve años con un crecimiento de poder adquisitivo real del 54%. Como dijera Mujica a la audiencia en la Cámara de

donates 80% of his presidential salary to housing programs. He refuses to use official transportation and drives his own beat-up Volkswagen beetle to work etc. There is no doubt a strong, unique and exemplary correspondence between his political beliefs and his everyday life; most importantly is his conviction that “development is not to be measured by the totality of wealth but by human happiness.”

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

Comercio norteamericana “**En Uruguay crecemos pero también distribuimos.**”

Hay un contraste radical entre la realidad de este pequeño país latinoamericano y la creciente desigualdad que caracteriza la economía norteamericana, donde la prosperidad es diseñada para beneficiar a un parasitario 1% de la población.

**Los “blues” del hombre Marlboro**

Los sucesos económicos de Uruguay no se limitan a lo económico. Durante la administración de Mujica el aborto ha sido de-criminalizado, el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo es legal desde agosto del 2013, y el mismo año Uruguay fue el primer país en legalizar y regular el consumo, cultivo y uso de cannabis. Igualmente Uruguay tiene una de las legislaciones más severas en contra consumo y comercio de cigarrillos, lo que obliga a la Philip Morris (mencionada anteriormente como de los grandes lobbyst en los U.S) a un juicio en contra del gobierno alegando que las regulaciones tienen un efecto negativo en sus derechos de obtener ganancias de la venta de cigarrillos. Pero como Mujica (un ex fumador) expresara a Obama (otro ex fumador) en la Oval Office, la lucha en contra del consumo de tabaco trasciende la litigación privada, porque:

*En el mundo anualmente mueren ocho millones de personas por el cigarrillo. Y eso significa más muertes que en la primera y segunda guerras mundiales. Es un asesinato. Nosotros estamos en una ardua lucha – muy ardua- y debemos luchar contra intereses muy poderosos. Los gobiernos no deberían intervenir en legislación privada pero estamos luchando por la vida.*

**Libertad y el Tamaño de la Prisión**

Durante su visita a la Casa Blanca Mujica también discutió con Obama la disposición de Uruguay de recibir cinco de los más de setenta detenidos en Guantanamo Bay que han sido exonerados de cargos por las agencias de inteligencia y seguridad norteamericanas, pero que sin embargo permanecen en Guantanamo sin causa legal. Las

negociaciones al respecto fueron vistas como una contribución a los derechos humanos por parte de Uruguay, y como una oportunidad para el gobierno de Obama de resucitar la promesa electoral de hace seis años de cerrar las prisión en territorio Cubano. Aunque al momento de escribir este artículo las negociaciones han concluido favorablemente, el obstáculo principal era la demanda por parte del gobierno de Obama de que Mujica garantizara que los detenidos “no abandonarían” Uruguay. Hace pocos días cuando le preguntaron a Mujica sobre este asunto él dijo lo siguiente:

*Ellos serán hombres libres. Mi gobierno no controlara sus movimientos.*

Libertad parece ser un concepto difícil de entender para el Gobierno de Obama – su demanda esencialmente significa extender el tamaño de la prisión desde un celda al tamaño de la nación Uruguaya. Mujica rechazó la demanda/solicitud de un gobierno paranoico acostumbrado a la vigilancia y control ilegal de sus ciudadanos, amigos y enemigos en el exterior.

**Gobiernos y la Felicidad Humana**

Mucho se ha escrito sobre la legendaria austeridad de Mujica como presidente y como ciudadano. El no vive en el palacio presidencial, pero con su esposa en una casa humilde en las afueras de Montevideo. El dona el 80% de su salario para programas de vivienda. Refuta el uso de transporte presidencial oficial y se transporta el mismo al trabajo en su viejo Volkswagen escarabajo, etc., etc. Sin lugar a dudas existe una fuerte, única y ejemplar correspondencia entre sus ideas políticas y su vida cotidiana; pero aun más importante es su convicción de que *el desarrollo no debe medirse como la totalidad de la riqueza si no por los niveles de felicidad humana.*

*Enrique Quintero, un activista político en América Latina durante la década de los 70, enseñó ESL y adquisición de segundas lenguas en el Distrito Escolar de Anchorage, y español en la Universidad de Alaska Anchorage. Actualmente vive y escribe en Olympia.*

**WESTSIDE CO-OP GARDEN CENTER**

**Olympia Food Co-op to host Grand Opening of new Garden Center**

The Olympia Food Co-op will be celebrating the Grand Opening of its new Garden Center on Sat. Jun 7th, from 10 am - 7 pm, at the Westside Store 921 Rogers St NW. After the Grand Opening, the Garden Center will have regular hours of 10 am - 7 pm, seven days a week.

In 2010 the Co-op purchased adjoining property of its two locations as part of its overall Expansion Plan. The Garden Center is the latest of the Co-op Expansion projects to come to fruition. After working with the City of Olympia, the Co-op obtained permits and began construction early this year. The Co-op’s Westside Garden Center will serve many functions.

The Garden Center will be a gathering space and resource staffed with experienced urban gardeners. It will provide a dedicated retail area offering seeds, plant-starts, and general provisions for gardening and chicken-keeping. The Garden Center also will offer food preservation supplies, and food processing tools to preserve the local bounty for the off season. The Garden Center will serve as an additional classroom for the Co-op Community Classes, working with other local organizations to

coordinate class offerings in the community. Future plans include offering bee-keeping supplies, and working with the Produce Department to bulk order fruits and vegetables from local farms.

The Grand Opening Celebration main events will begin in the early afternoon, and will include live musical entertainment, refreshments, raffle with prizes, and plant-start giveaways. Board members and local vendors will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Empowering our members and community towards sustainability in food production is part of the Olympia Food Co-op’s mission.

The Olympia Food Co-op is a member-based, not-for-profit, natural foods grocery store with two locations in Olympia, Washington. The Olympia Food Co-op has provided healthy, organic and local food to the Olympia area since 1977, with an emphasis on promoting social and environmental responsibility. The stores are collectively managed and largely supported by the contributions of working members.

Visit [www.olympiafood.coop](http://www.olympiafood.coop) for more details.

# Near death, just like everybody else

Rus Frizzell

Even if we do not always agree, we can present our arguments clearly and consider respectfully what the opposing viewpoint is. For scientists, we expect that differing views will add to the knowledge base and then help clarify our understanding. The way I will consider the truth here involves understanding and evidence. The “Near Death, Explained” article by Mario Beauregard, published in Salon.com April 21, 2012, contains some useful information and also some false. Some of the people involved may be sincere and competent and searching for the truth. But, the art of story telling requires that a story hold the attention of people and so word usage may often confuse the facts. Death and the human mind both seem very mysterious in many ways.

However, the term science is used in this story incorrectly and should not be considered true. Some of the reports included, seem accurate enough for a human interest article and the entertainment value here is medium (pun intended). As with claimants like the Discovery Channel though, popular stories are not always true and the term science used in a story does not cause a story to become accurate. There is actually no person I already knew involved or any facts in Beauregard’s story which make it appear true. As near as I can tell (at face value) it could be entirely fictional. Others may surely disagree, but, for this story I will try to explain how “Near Death, Explained” fails to ring true. Scientists must fine tune their precision and the audience has to be able to meet them half way on communication and understanding.

There are some convincing terminology in, “Near Death Explained” which are sure to persuade many people. The subtitle reads: “New science is shedding light on what really happens during out-of-body experiences—with shocking results.” So, are we reading to find the truth or to be entertained? The two are not mutually exclusive, but already the author is deliberately mingling these two perspectives to generate false ideas. He offers, “what really happens,” and also, “shocking results.” Ordinarily I would stop here and never read this story if it were not for a deliberate purpose. (If readers really wanted to be entertained by clever writing and mystery, I recommend a book by Richard Bach, *Bridge across Forever*. This book is far more entertaining and makes a better case for the possibility of out of body experience.) But still no substantive evidence.

This story begins with a famous case study, a celebrity named Pam Reynolds. I have not independently verified any of these reports because the time required, in this case, is better spent elsewhere. I’ll just use these reports at face value. A trustworthy “cardiologist.. was able to obtain verification from medical personnel regarding crucial details...” Pam recalled details she should not have overheard during her surgery and remembers viewing the scene from above. Since I myself have had dreams which are astonishingly vivid and seemed to reveal images I should not have been able to know about, I am suddenly intrigued. But, just because educated doctors claim something, does not make it science. To be science there should be tests which can

confirm or refute a hypothesis. This is a human interest mystery, the story is not science.

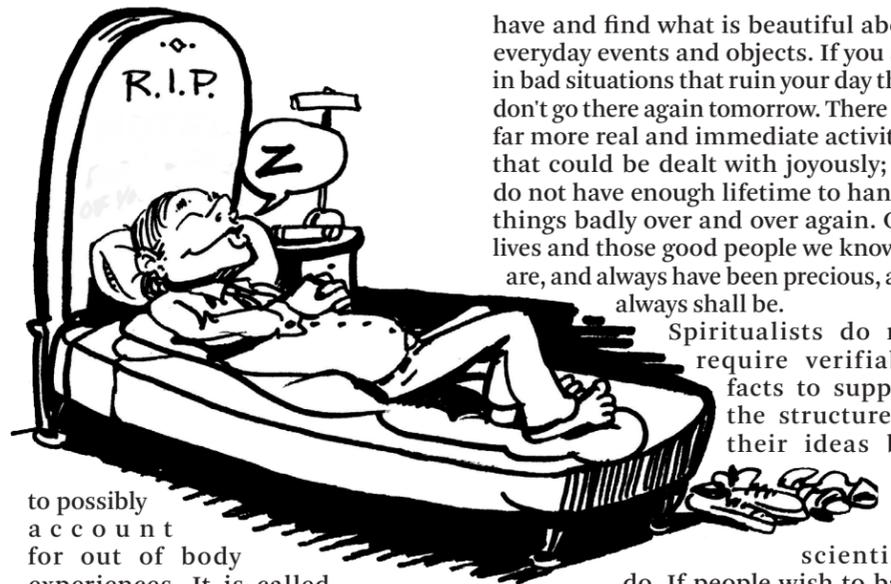
In fact the human mind is wondrous. We should be astonished that we can interpret reality at all. But, because we always only observe a minute fraction of what goes on around us, much of our brain’s activity is about filling in the blanks with guess work. And, I only sometimes remember where I once saw some various details. If we are alert and focused we can make reasonably good predictions about what details we missed. But a good casino player knows the probability of the odds and does not fool themselves with the hope of magically seeing the future.

Psychology is a budding science.

If you really want to retain memory after death, I recommend doing good for others and they will retain fond memories of you. Quantum mechanics is clear on these topics, extra-sensory perception is not science or real.

No doubt many people are helped by psychiatry, I get discombobulated myself from time to time. But, is all the help it renders really greater than all the pain of the experiments done on humans and other animals over the years? I think not. When we only look for the helpful features, then all the thousands of tortured and killed mental patients, prisoners, and millions of puppies, bunnies and monkeys get forgotten. If we want to understand psychological phenomena we should begin to see the need to be rigorously honest with ourselves. A dream is not reality.

There is actually a mysterious way in science which could be misconstrued



to possibly account for out of body experiences. It is called quantum entanglement. This real action seems to demonstrate how widely separated particles remain synchronized. If things in your brain can stay synchronized with the ceiling outside perhaps you could dream of actual events from some ceiling’s viewpoint. Could people really use this effect to spy on others or retain conscientiousness after final death, not very likely. The synchronization of particles works only when they are not observed; it is subject to randomization and will dissipate rapidly. The cult classic movie, *Dreamscape* made a vary entertaining display of these ideas. If though, you really wanted to retain memory after death then I recommend doing good for others and they will retain fond memories of you. Quantum mechanics is clear on these topics, extra sensory perception is not science or real.

Many people report that their lives are changed for the better after near death experiences. Since we could all use a little bit of that, I will not scorn them. Anytime we make it to work or school and back home we pass by dangerous situations where we might have been killed. We can use any normal day to consider that we have been near death this day and decide to hold life more dear from now on. But, because things stop us from getting things we would like to have we become resentful and forget the value of a grateful spirit. Now try looking at what you do

have and find what is beautiful about everyday events and objects. If you are in bad situations that ruin your day then don’t go there again tomorrow. There are far more real and immediate activities that could be dealt with joyously; we do not have enough lifetime to handle things badly over and over again. Our lives and those good people we know of are, and always have been precious, and always shall be.

Spiritualists do not require verifiable facts to support the structure of their ideas but scientists

do. If people wish to base their beliefs on testimonials and it helps them to live happy, productive lives, then who am I to burst their bubbles. I would not bother if I did not know that sincere people are searching for the truth. Just like the previously mentioned psychologists, the spiritualists are keeping a blind eye for the suffering they cause. They are convinced that nonsensical chanting, or meditation calms the spirit so we don’t need to feel bad about the suffering around them. A friend recently told me that foreign children probably deserve to suffer because they committed crimes in their previous life. This is the thinking of spiritual people. We don’t know how to stop the suffering, since we cannot reliably work together. Impoverished people who can’t get condoms and increased green house gas emissions are some results of people with blind eyes toward consequences. When a story is put in writing the words can be rearranged to present false ideas as true if we are not alert. I would rather welcome someone to help make these stories more accurate. When writing about science it is presumed that a misplaced word can destroy an explanation. A fun game to spiritualists, but to science it is a serious house of cards. If certain cards are removed then the structure will collapse. New age mystics could help us more by considering reality to be valuable and solving the real problems.

► **NEAR DEATH**, continued on page 9.

## Resisting the new plantation

# One of the Angola 3 spoke at Evergreen

Joseph Bullington

What does he look like? That’s what a friend wondered when I told her that Robert H. King, a Black Panther and one of the Angola 3, would be speaking at Evergreen. I was curious too. What does a man who spent 29 years in solitary confinement look like? What does he talk like, think like? There is some type of human curiosity at work here that transcends politics, and which helped draw a politically sundry audience of more than 50 people to hear King speak on a Tuesday night.

King, true to the Black Panther legacy of sharp dress, wore brown slacks, a black

turtleneck, and a slick silver fedora. He spoke slowly, his words rising and falling on the rhythm of a deep Southern drawl fashioned on the streets of New Orleans, where he was born and lived for most of his free years. Imprisoned in 1970, King

believed no jury could convict him, took his case to trial. He was found guilty and given 35 years.

“I was still under the illusion that there was fairness in the judicial system,” King said.

When he was arrested, King was married, his wife was pregnant, he had a job.

“I felt like I was an American,” he said.

After his conviction, King decided that he had been turned into a slave, that “the prison is the new plantation”—a metaphor that becomes disturbingly literal at Angola. It’s a maximum security prison

where inmates—80 percent of whom are African American—are forced to labor in the cotton fields. A work farm that resembles the plantation it once was and that is named for the home country of the slaves who were brought there. Like a slave, he had been stripped of his legal rights but he still had a moral right, King said: a slave’s right—the right to rebel. And he did. Among other acts of defiance, he tried to escape several times and succeeded once.

“Every chance I got to aggravate the system, I did!” King declared. “And I make no apologies for that!”

The lecture hall erupted with spontaneous applause.

► **ANGOLA 3**, continued on page 9.

Turning down a plea deal that would have recommended 15 years in prison, King believed no jury could convict him. “I was still under the illusion that there was fairness in the judicial system.”

is an old man now, having paid out his best years to the Closed Correction unit of the Louisiana State Penitentiary—more commonly known as Angola.

Robert King is also black, of course, which is not coincidental to his case but at the very center. His skin color is, King said, the reason he was arrested for robbery in 1970. No evidence linked him to the crime, he explained, and the only eyewitness, when shown King’s picture by the police, said that he was not the man. Turning down a plea deal that would have recommended 15 years in prison, King, who

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# Eyewitness debunks Israeli journalist's claim Palestinians nearly "lynched" him

Ali Abunimah

When Israeli occupation forces firing live bullets killed two young Palestinians at a recent demonstration on Nakba Day near Ofer Prison in the West Bank, the deaths were covered in some international news outlets. The *Washington Post* and the *NY Times* had pieces; the *Times* quoting an ambulance attendant who said the protest "began peacefully" and "turned into violence when the Israeli Army used live fire to disperse stone throwers." The Israeli Military denied that live ammunition was used, saying that the Border Police fired rubber-coated steel projectiles... Amnesty International and B'tselem condemned the killings and the UN called for a third-party investigation.

The next day an Israeli reporter found a story to displace the story of the killing of the Palestinian youths—his own "near lynching." Avi Issacharoff said he and a colleague were "seconds away from being beaten to death by a mob of Palestinian masked men" at another demonstration. "I'm not prone

► **Near death**, cont. from page 10.

In conclusion, the story, "Near Death, Explained" has no scientific merit. I do consider it to be somewhat entertaining, although, I have listed a book and a movie which are both more entertaining and illuminating than, "Near Death, Explained." To evaluate reports and judge the truth of some story, there is an already well known method which scientists often use. "The Boloney Detection Kit" in Carl Sagan's 1995 book, *The Demon-Haunted World*. The real world around us is too valuable to be taken away by fantasizers. Anyone who writes about science should apply the boloney detection kit to their ideas before presenting them to readers, or it is probably not science. I have mentioned three wonderful sources now, if you have the time to check facts, these three are really terrific starting places.

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

► **Angola 3**, cont. from page 10.

Robert King became interested in the Black Panthers shortly after his 1970 conviction. At that point, King said, "I understood segregation and racism...but I could not articulate these things." In the Panthers, he found an ideology that made sense of the world he lived in, that gave him a means of understanding his anger and indignation. His new politics, he said, helped sustain him through his 31-year incarceration.

"America was set on oppressing a segment of its people," King explained. "And the Black Panthers understood this.... That's why they were demonized." He stopped. "Now, I'm not trying to legitimize the Black Panther Party. Because history has already done that."

In 1973, Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace, prisoners at Angola and King's Panther comrades, were convicted of murdering a prison guard. King was being held at the Orleans Parish Prison when the guard was killed, but he said he was soon shipped to Angola and placed under investigation for the murder. At most, Woodfox and Wallace are connected to the murder by tenuous evidence. As Amnesty International put it in a 2013 press release: "...no physical evidence links them [Woodfox and Wallace] to the crime—potentially exculpatory DNA evidence has been lost and the testimony

to exaggeration," Issacharoff wrote in *The Times of Israel*. "It was a case of life and death, and I was within moments of falling victim to the kind of lynch that saw two Israeli soldiers who strayed into Ramallah in 2000 beaten to death by a baying mob."

In a more detailed account in *Walla! News*, Issacharoff claims he was attacked because Palestinians were intent on forcing Israeli journalists to stop covering protests in the West Bank. He alleges that Palestinian journalists are behind the attacks in order to "punish" their Israeli counterparts for Israel's refusal to allow them into Israel.

## A Grossly Exaggerated "non-incident"

But was the Israeli journalist actually in danger? An Israeli eyewitness at the demonstration contradicts Issacharoff's dramatic account: Noa Shaindlinger says that Issacharoff was grossly exaggerating what she called a "non-incident" and that at least four other Israeli Journalists who habitually cover such protests were present and none of them raised the ire of protestors.

For Shaindlinger, Issacharoff's account shows contempt for Palestinians: "He wanted to make himself the center of the story and take the attention away from the two Palestinians who were killed" the day before.

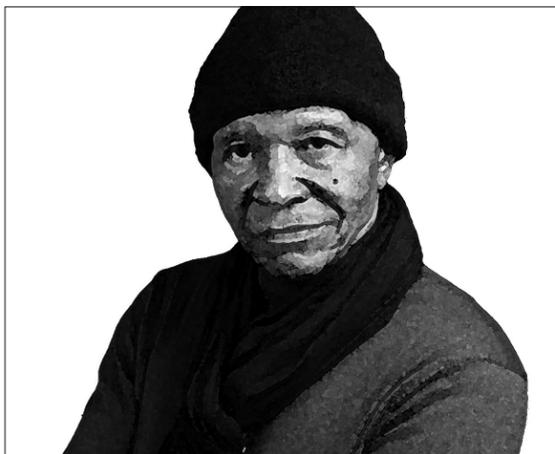
The area outside of the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah where the protest took place sees frequent demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinians held at Ofer Military prison. The protests take place along a street leading to a hill where Israeli soldiers take positions to prevent protestors reaching the prison.

Shaindlinger told The Electronic Intifada in a Skype call that she had been close to the hill but fell back along the road after Israeli occupation forces fired many tear gas rounds.

"I was by a gas station and I heard a commotion," she said. "I went over and saw what I realized were the Israeli journalists (Issacharoff and a *Walla! News* photographer) and a whole group of protestors who had run up to the

of the main eyewitness has been discredited." Nevertheless, all three men were condemned to solitary confinement, later to become famous as the Angola 3.

The prison authorities claimed the men were dangerous. King believes he and his comrades were targeted because they were Black Panthers—activists working to improve deplorable prison conditions



and eliminate systematic violence and rape; antagonists to authority trying to educate their fellow prisoners; a threat to the status quo.

In 2001, King's conviction was overturned and he was released from prison. Herman Wallace was freed on October 1, 2013 when his conviction was also overturned. He died three days later of liver cancer. Albert Woodfox's

journalists. I ran right in. I asked, 'What happened?' Someone told me, 'There are two Israeli journalists here and they are taking photos of people's faces.' That was the main concern. Another person said, 'They have two Palestinian *mukhabarat* [intelligence men] with them.'"

## Fear of Photography

Because Israeli occupation forces use

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videos of protests to carry out night raids and arrests of Palestinians, those who participate in protests often cover their faces. "Israeli journalists who come there come with a very clear understanding that they need to protect those guys," Shaindlinger explained.

She points out that a video taken by another Israeli journalist at the demonstration uses pixelation to obscure the faces of protestors who are not covering their faces themselves. Another video of the protest shows an Israeli armored vehicle firing what protestors call "popcorn"—multiple rounds of teargas in quick succession.

Shaindlinger added, "There was a lot of shouting and shoving. And the two journalists went to their car. They were sitting in their car for a minute or two. A couple of guys went and kicked the car. And then they drove away and that was it."

## Anger over the killing of two boys the previous day

Shaindlinger says that tension was particularly high that Friday because of the killings at the same place the day before. Shaindlinger had been at the Thursday protest and recalled one of the shootings:

"I couldn't see him being shot down. As soon as we heard the live bullets—everybody knows what live ammunition

conviction has been overturned several times, said King, but the State of Louisiana continues to appeal. Woodfox remains in solitary confinement where, as of 2013, he and Wallace had spent 40 years.

King called his release a victory, but a bittersweet victory—because his Angola 3 comrades and many others remained imprisoned unjustly and in terrible conditions. And though he is a free man now, there are the years in prison that the government can't give back—and the permanent of effects of 29 lonely years of isolation in a six by nine foot cell. In his talk, King did not speak much about the experience of solitary. When asked how he survived, he answered with humor.

"People ask: how did you not go crazy? Well, one minute there.... I did not say I am not crazy." He laughed and added "prison affected me. You don't get dipped in waste and not come out smelly."

King's talk was part of an April-long series of events called "Rethinking Prisons Month," hosted by new campus organization Abolish Cops, Abolish Prisons.

*Joseph Bullington is an Evergreen student and his article was originally printed in the Cooper Point Journal, the student-run publication at TESC.*

sounds like—we all started running back because no one wants to get hurt. As soon as we started running, we heard the shouting and so people rushed back [toward the sound of the fire]."

An ambulance that was nearby came quickly and took the victim away. Shaindlinger said she does not know which of the two teenagers was hit at that moment.

But she saw a friend who had carried one of the victims "soaked in blood. There was so much blood and he was screaming. He obviously was in shock. People tried to calm him down, and then he collapsed from shock."

The two victims were named as 17-year-old Muhammad Odeh Abu al-Thahir and 15-year-old Nadim Siyam Nuwara. Amnesty International strongly condemned the killings.

Many people had come directly to the Friday protest after the boys' funerals so "people were angry," Shaindlinger said.

## Coffee, tea, sweets and cigarettes

In his torrid accounts in English and Hebrew, Issacharoff does not acknowledge the killings

the day before, or the role they might have played in the heightened tension. In his Hebrew account, he says that Friday's incident began with a "provocation" by Palestinians who approached him and his photographer and asked them to leave. He refused to do so; the situation escalated and the pair found themselves surrounded by angry men.

"Then someone approached me from behind and kicked me. Then two more came and hit me in my back and leg. That's it. They did not hit me in the face, nor cause me any other injury."

He acknowledges that many in the crowd were urging that no one harm the two Israelis, but still insists the atmosphere was one of a "near lynch." "I was saved by pure good fortune," he said, "Two plainclothes members of the Palestinian Authority security forces happened to be nearby and waded in to extricate me."

After he and his photographer got in their car with the two Palestinian intelligence men who he says "rescued" them, they went to a Palestinian Authority security headquarters where they were plied with "coffee, tea, sweets and cigarettes" and kind words from the PA men. "An hour later I was on the Israeli side of the checkpoint." And prepared to tell the story of being "nearly lynched" by a Palestinian mob.

*This article is adapted from a piece written by Ali Abunimah, co-founder of The Electronic Intifada and author of The Battle for Justice in Palestine (now out from Haymarket Books), as well as One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse. It is reprinted with permission.*

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► I-1329, cont. from page 3.

these new requirements. James L Buckley, a Senator in the conservative minority that voted against the 1974 reforms, and several of his cohorts brought the case to the Supreme Court in 1976, arguing that placing limits on campaign expenditures violates the rights of wealthy candidates who want to bankroll their own campaigns. In *Buckley v Valeo*, the Supreme Court sided with Buckley on the grounds that limits on expenditures curtailed the right to free speech, qualifying political contributions as a form of free speech. This overturned the FECA's campaign expenditure limits while retaining campaign contribution limits. In simpler terms the money that can be donated to a political campaign became unlimited, but caps remained on the amount one individual or group can contribute. The campaign finance reforms of the 1970's have greatly increased the power of money in the political process. This trend continues today and allows

the wealthy to influence democratically elected representatives to pass measures that predominantly favor their interests, hence the massive income gains of the wealthiest 1% over the last 35 years.

The cost of national campaigns has been rising at an exponential rate as more money is poured into the political process year after year. For example, the amount spent by all candidates running for the House of Representatives in 1976 was \$60,046,006, by 1994 that number was \$346,189,285, and in 2012 it was up to \$923,555,204. The upward trend in campaign costs is similar for senate and presidential elections. In 2012 there was a total of \$6,285,557,223 spent between both houses congressional races and the presidential election, compared to the roughly \$653,201,966 spent in 1996. Over the same period the contributions political candidates received from PAC's has increased rapidly; in 1978 PAC's spent \$34.1 million on the election cycle, in 2012 their money accounted for \$425.5 million.

The 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, further exacerbated the influence of corporate wealth in the political process. The *Citizens United* ruling bars the federal government from restricting how much money a corporation or individual can put towards independent expenditures in political campaigns. This ruling builds on the assumption put forth by *Buckley v Valeo* that money constitutes speech and extends the first amendment right to free speech to corporations, treating corporations as people by granting them the same rights as living breathing humans. Allowing corporations unlimited independent expenditures does not allow them to contribute unlimited funds to individual candidates or political parties. However,

they can now dump as much money as they want into the political process by running advertisements and taking other measures to endorse or denounce a candidate or position so long as they do not coordinate their efforts with a specific candidate, their campaign or a political party.

The *Citizens United* decision gave way to the creation of Super PAC's, which may collect unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, and other organizations to be used on independent expenditures. During the 2012 election cycle Super PAC's raised a total of \$828,224,700 and spent \$609,417,654.

**One may argue the right to vote is devolving into a symbolic sham gesture. If that is the case, it is of the utmost importance that we cling to that sham with an iron grip and do everything we can to milk the little we are given into as much as we can make it.**

Data revealed by the FEC on March 25, 2013 shows that 57% of the money contributed to the election cycle by Super PAC's came from the 102 wealthiest donors, who spent a combined total of \$471,545,650. The wealthiest 1% of super PAC donors, 216 individuals, contributed \$560,091,896. The 2012 presidential election was the most costly in US history, and Super PAC's spent more money on it than the campaigns themselves.

The influence of wealth in the political process has become so extreme that a recent study by Princeton professors Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page concluded that, "Economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on US government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little to no independent influence." By this definition the United States is an oligarchy ruled by a small economic elite, not a democracy where all citizens have an equal voice in the development and implementation of law, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Economist Thomas Pinketty argues in his groundbreaking *Capital in the Twenty First Century* that there is an inherent rift between capitalism and democracy. Indeed the struggle to reign in the undue influence of self-perpetuating wealth on our democratic

system may be the most pressing issue of our time (or at the very least a substantial roadblock to addressing other impending catastrophes such as environmental collapse), and the democratic process, as corrupted by big money as it is, remains the most powerful tool we have to make our voices heard. One may argue the right to vote is devolving into a symbolic sham gesture. If that is the case, it is of the utmost importance that we cling to that sham with an iron grip and do everything we can to milk the little we are given into as much as we can make it.

The pervasive influence of wealth in politics is stronger on a federal level than it is locally. For this reason working within our communities to make our voices heard is the most effective strategy we have at our disposal. The trick is to get each community across the country to chant in unison for the common good. To that end 16 states have already passed measures that formally renounce *Citizens United* and the influence of wealth in the political process. With proposed ballot initiative 1329 Washington State has a chance to add our voice to the growing chorus. Section 1 of the initiative measure states:

*This act declares that the people of Washington State support amending the US Constitution to reduce the influence of money on elections and government policy. The amendment would overturn all U.S. Supreme Court decisions granting constitutional rights to corporations and other special interests, and would provide for regulation and disclosure of political contributions and spending, in order to ensure that no person or artificial legal entity gains undue influence over government as a result of money.*

I-1329 goes on to define people as living, breathing human beings and corporations as artificial legal entities separate and apart from humans. Furthermore, human beings have first amendment rights, and political spending is not a form of free speech. Corporations are subject to government regulation and do not have constitutional protections. Section 3 of the initiative, Policy and Promotion, calls for:

Immediate action by the current and future Washington State Congressional delegations to propose a joint resolution for an amendment to the United States Constitution clarifying that:

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

A proposed constitutional amendment is sent to the states for ratification when two-thirds of both houses of congress deem an amendment necessary. For an amendment to be ratified it has to be approved by three quarters of the states legislatures, making up 38 states. A national convention to propose amendments to the constitution may also be called if two-thirds state legislatures, 34 states, submit applications. All 27 amendments to the Constitution thus far have been sent to states for ratification; a national convention has never been called. As such I-1329, like the other state resolutions, calls for congress to send an amendment to the states for ratification. Collectively these proposals send a strong, necessary message to the federal government. If enough pressure is placed on congress they may end up having to propose a campaign finance amendment out of sheer political necessity.

As our country continues to suffer due to the power wealth wields in the political process we can take solace in the fact that national change starts in our own community. This was recently demonstrated by Seattle becoming the first US city to enact a \$15 an hour minimum wage in the wake the Senate's failure raise it from \$7.25 to \$10.10. Local grassroots activism is also the reason same sex marriage, first passed by Massachusetts in 2004, is a legally recognized right in 19 states today. Once individual communities make a positive change the ripple cannot be contained. This is why it is imperative that Washington passes initiative 1329. The first step is to get the measure on the November 4 ballot, which requires obtaining 300,000 signatures by June 25. To learn more about the petition, including where you can sign it and other ways you can help our state usher in I-1329 please visit <http://www.wamend.org/>.

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

## SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

### God's Daughters

Monday, June 2, 6:30 pm, 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

### Joe

June 6 through June 12

*Cage's Joe Ransom, an ex-con with a ratty beard and dirty T-shirt, is struggling to bottle up the monster within—a tough thing to do in his corner of the U.S., where jobs are scarce, hope is scarcer and violence comes as easily as breathing.*

—Peter Howell, *The Star.com*

*Gary Poulter, a homeless guy recruited to play the abusive dad, died shortly after filming never knowing his scenes with Cage and Sheridan would become the beating heart of the film.*

—Simon Houpt, *The Globe and Mail*

### Moon Man

Sunday, June 8, 2 pm, encore screening

*Bored with life on his lonely satellite, the Moon Man hitches a ride to Earth on a passing comet. Overstimulation soon ensues. While Moon Man marvels at new colours and sensations, the children of Earth, deprived of his moonlight, are unable to sleep.*

—Tara Brady, *Irish Times*

*Moon Man is a quirky children's animation based on the Tomi Ungerer picture book. The movie has an oddball charm and innocence.*

—Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

### DamNation

Thursday, June 19, 6:30 pm

*DamNation documents the movement to restore rivers by removing dams that can no longer justify their existence. It shows how far we've come in the last 50 years, from assuming all dams are progress to taking out the first major dam on the Kennebec River in Maine. Celebrating the successes on the Elwha and White Salmon River, the film turns its lens on the four lower Snake River dams in eastern Washington. Since its premier in March, DamNation has been winning awards at every film festival.*

—The Olympia Film Society

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April Adams

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

Operation Uphold Democracy (part 3): Let Them Eat Cake.

As we settled in, the time came for us to start washing our clothes.

There were 50-gallon drums, just tall enough for me to reach. We had 3 each. We had the one that was really, really hot with some soap. Then we had the next, which was just a little bit warm to rinse off, and another to do the same.

The wondrous beauty that ended up happening inside this gray colored fish can that we resided in, was up on the wall, where on a 550 cord hung men's undergarments of colors of turquoise, leopard print, and strange colored stripes. It made me wonder why they told us ladies to wear neutral colors under our clothes, while the men bust out these massive colors that made me feel like I should be in a carnival.

Those who did not partake in the color schemes that adorned the backside of our bay (no pun intended) could only hoot, holler, laugh... If it did anything, it definitely boosted the morale for the day.

Unfortunately times like these didn't last very long. The situation started to get a bit more violent. You've heard about Haitians trying to get food out of garbage trucks, which resulted in attacks that caused the soldiers to start carrying around pepper spray.

Interesting to note that, if you recall what I wrote before about us being ordered to shoot anyone we saw oppressing someone else, the game changer happened when Haitians simply started to come at us from the place of trying to get food.

I don't know when the rules of engagement changed. Someone must have been paying attention to the mere fact that the Hatians at the base of this hill were struggling at such a level that it didn't even phase them that they could be shot and killed if they could only get their hands on nourishment.

This wasn't the only strange time of my existence in Haiti. I would sit and watch the little ones play. Some would even run to our fire pits to grab parts of our MREs in desperation to seek any possible sustenance.

You have to understand. These pits were not something small, they were big and had to be pushed around by one or two people. They were surrounded by concertina wire, and when they were burning, flames would shoot out of them.

And the kids wouldn't just snag MREs. They would lift creamer packets, Tabasco sauce, whatever they could find that could be consumed.

At certain points I would find myself talking to the young ones. Over time I found out that some of them, by the age of ten, could speak up to 5 languages.

So I made a pact with them. I was not allowed to give away money. That was often more damaging than helpful. In 1994 Haiti's primary currency, the gourde, was trading 250 to every American dollar. Under these circumstances, giving what we might consider even small amounts of money to some, but not others, would very easily create majorly disruptive social imbalances, which could escalate quickly into conflict.

So I decided to trade quarters for their coins, centimes. This not only gave them what they needed to survive for a week, but the beauty of the exchange allowed me to learn from them, and them from me.

What's sad and frustrating was seeing these beautiful, intelligent living people being treated with such disrespect and dishonor. How could I possibly vow to protect, and still find myself leaving these people, in the end, no better than when we came.

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

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