

WORKS IN PROGRESS



**MAKING A CONNECTION TO
HENDERSON INLET**

**ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY IN
THE LANIAKEA SUPERCLUSTER**

**MEXICO: THE LONG NIGHT
FROM TLATELOLCO TO IGUALA**

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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

Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Governing Tool

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

Back Issues

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

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Submission Deadline

Friday, December 19
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Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ December 27 ♦ 1 pm

**In our new WIP office
in the Labor Temple Building
(119 Capitol Way N, Olympia)**

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On the front cover —

WIP has new newspaper boxes!

The Milton Hall shooting—

"Eight police officers fired 46 times at my mentally ill son for holding a pen knife"

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Jewel Hall conducted by the ACLU of Michigan about the killing in 2012 of her son Milton by eight police officers. The county prosecutor declined to bring charges against the officers involved, and earlier this year, the Department of Justice also declined to bring charges against them. The interview has been lightly edited for clarity. [A graphic video of the shooting can be seen on the ACLU website.]

Milton was a homeless, mentally ill African-American man, who was born on April 25, 1963, in Saginaw, Michigan. He was a community worker, and he was always there speaking out for those whom he considered the weak, for those who did not have the strength to speak for themselves.

He had a mental disability that became apparent as a young adult, from when he was probably 24 or 25. But in spite of this, he lived his life independently and with freedom.

He managed his own affairs, and that I supported and understood.

As long as he was on his medication and all, he did fine. It was when he wasn't on his medication that he was impatient. He'd sometimes become intolerant. But when he was on his medication, he maintained.

He always would say everybody has equal rights. That was one of his songs that he sang all the time. So he exposed violations and campaigned for redress for people that he thought were victims.

Milton took action to ensure and promote equal rights, and that was part of his training that he got from working with Rosa Parks. He was always addressing institutional racism. I admired him for that.

Being an avid reader and a researcher, he was knowledgeable about oppression, particularly violence towards poor people, people of color , the homeless, and those who struggled with mental illness.

For him to be shot at 46 times and hit 14 times by all white policemen, it really raised questions in my mind. How they circled him and assassinated him. One policeman, after he was on the ground, turned him over, handcuffed him, and put his foot on his back.

His blood running down the street like water. And he wasn't a threat, I mean, he had a little pen knife. He had no idea that those policemen would do that to him.

To have eight people stand in front of one human being and shoot at him 46 times and hit him 14 times – it's been devastating to our family. It was devastating to the community, to everybody. And justice still has not been served.

When you have the U.S. government go in and look at Milton's case for four or five months and then come out and say, "Well, it wasn't intentional." To shoot at somebody 46 times and it wasn't intentional? It has given me a commitment for the little time that I have left to work with parents whose kids have been similarly killed.

What needs to change is how police deal with situations like the one that

ended in my son's death. The elected leaders and community leaders must address conditions that allow police to use excessive and deadly force with impunity.

—ACLU

Black and Blue

The all-too-often toxic relationship between communities of color and law enforcement

Twenty-five years ago, Director Spike Lee released the film “Do the Right Thing” which illustrated with startling realism the racial tensions and uneasy relationship between police and the communities of color in Brooklyn’s Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood. The film’s message about the need to alter the fraught relationship between communities of color and law enforcement has assumed renewed importance with the events surrounding the tragic killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson this summer.

One clear message that emerges is that the decision by the St. Louis County Grand Jury not to indict Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson for that killing cannot be the final word in the discussion about the all-too-often toxic relationship between communities of color and law enforcement.

As an initial matter, the Department of Justice can still conduct an exhaustive investigation about Brown’s shooting as well as looking at the broader question of unfair repressive practices in the Ferguson Police Department as a whole. But even though the current focus on police practices was triggered by the Brown shooting, the events that occurred in its aftermath have demonstrated that the underlying problem is neither new nor limited to the shooting of Brown or to the city of Ferguson.

Similar concerns about the use of deadly force in communities of color have appeared throughout the country. The following list is long and by no means exhaustive.

In Staten Island, New York, Eric Garner died after being placed in an illegal choke hold while being arrested for selling loose cigarettes. John Crawford, an African American man, was shot while speaking on his cell phone and holding a toy gun in the toy aisle of a Walmart in Ohio – an open carry state. Milton Hall, a 49-year-old man with mental illness, was surrounded by eight police officers and a police dog and shot and killed in a hail of 46 shots, even though he was armed only with a pen knife and presented no immediate threat to anyone. Levar Jones was shot by a South Carolina State Trooper while reaching into his car to comply with an order to provide his license in a supposed investigation of a seat belt violation. In Oakland, a handcuffed Oscar Grant was shot and killed while laying face down in a Bart station. These and numerous other incidents suggest the existence of a broader systemic problem that demands investigation regardless of the ultimate outcome of the investigation of Officer Darren Wilson.

Spike Lee ended his landmark movie with a dedication to the families of black New Yorkers killed in incidents in which the specter of race loomed large. Included in the list were Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Griffith, Arthur Miller, Edmund Perry, Yvonne Smallwood and Michael Stewart” all of whom except Michael Griffith died at the hands of police officers.

Although those names may be unfamiliar to a younger generation, they are a reminder of the persistence of a problem that existed long before Spike Lee’s movie and, sadly, appears to continue unabated up to the present. Like all good movies, Lee’s movie continues to speak to us in part because it is well-made, but unfortunately, it’s timeliness is also due to the fact that the problems that it documented have not changed.

If there is a silver lining in the tragic cloud that has surrounded Ferguson, it is that it has prompted organizing and discussions about the larger issues of the improper use of force against communities of color, communities that ask nothing more than to be provided the same protection and appreciation of their humanity as is guaranteed by laws and the Constitution.

It would be sad if that momentum were brought to a halt by the lack of an indictment in Ferguson and we found ourselves, 25 years from now, substituting a whole new list of names from locations across the country, for the ones immortalized in Spike Lee’s film.

—Dennis Parker, Director, ACLU Racial Justice Program

United Nations criticizes U.S. on torture, police practices, immigration detention

GENEVA – The U.N. Committee Against Torture issued a report today castigating the United States’ record on a wide range of issues, including lack of accountability for torture, immigration detention, and abusive criminal justice practices such as solitary confinement and excessive use of force by law enforcement.

The “Concluding Observations” from the committee come after this month’s hearings reviewing U.S. compliance with a major human rights treaty, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which the U.S. ratified in 1994.

The report took the Obama administration to task about the lack of consequences for the officials responsible for torture during the Bush administration and failing to provide redress for victims. It also called for the swift release of the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on the CIA’s torture program with minimal redactions, which the White House and senators have been fighting over. In addition, the report urged an end to unfair military commissions and indefinite detention at Guantánamo as well as a halt to the force feedings there.

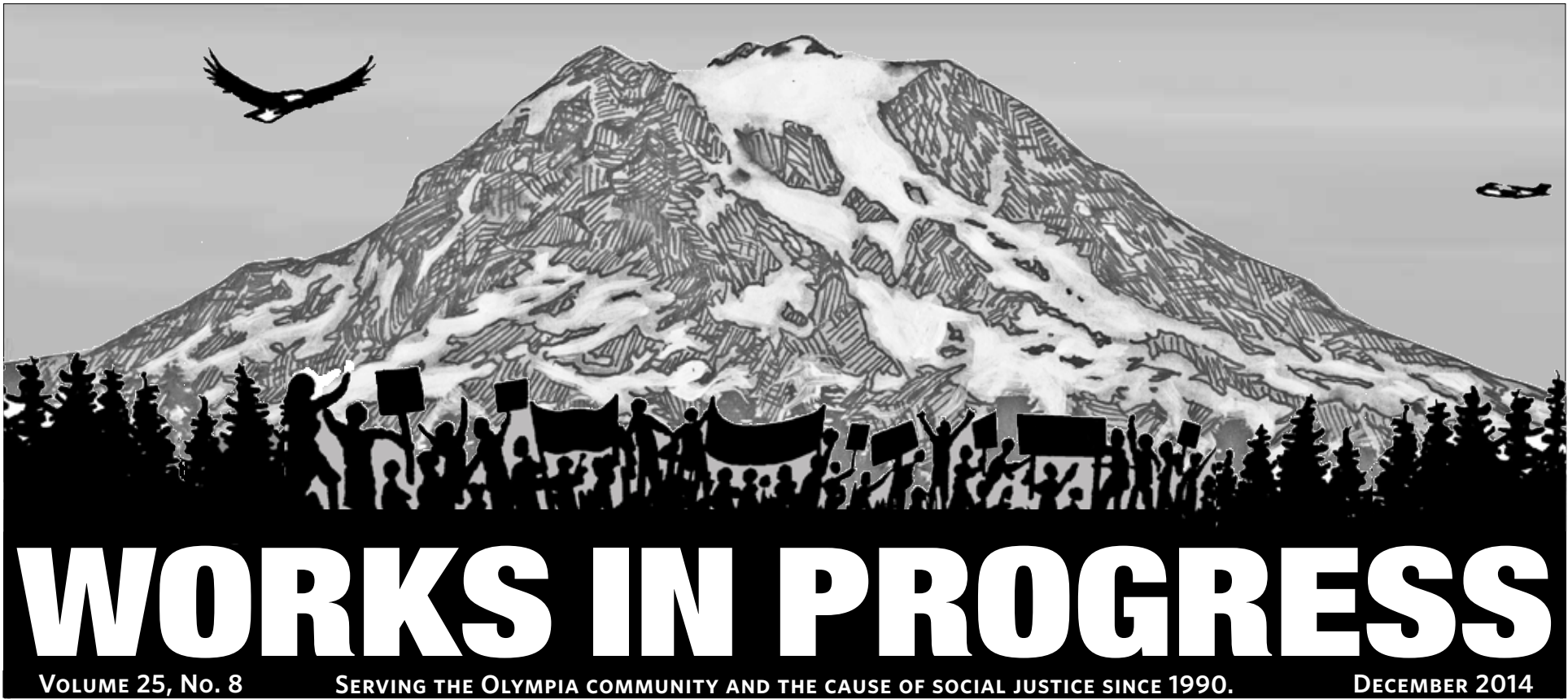
On criminal justice issues, the committee harshly criticized the extensive use of solitary confinement in the U. S. and called for extensive reforms including banning its use for certain categories of prisoners, such as juveniles and pregnant women. The report also found that too often, police in the U.S. are unaccountable for pervasive racial profiling and use of excessive and lethal force, especially against people of color. Along the same lines, the report decried the growing militarization of policing, spurred by federal programs funding military equipment for local police.

“This report – along with the voices of Americans protesting around the country this week – is a wake-up call for police who think they can act with impunity,” said Dakwar. “It’s time for systemic policing reforms and effective oversight that make sure law enforcement agencies treat all citizens with equal respect and hold officers accountable when they cross the line.”

On immigration and border issues, the report expressed grave concern over the expansion of expedited deportation processes without adequate protection for asylum seekers, as well as the blanket U.S. policy of detaining families and young children, many of whom have fled violence. It recommended expanding community-based alternatives to immigration detention and also taking steps to prevent sexual assault in detention centers.

“The committee is right to demand that immigrants and especially people seeking asylum must have fair hearings and access to legal representation to ensure that they are not returned to dangerous situations,” Dakwar said. “Immigration detention should be the last resort, and certainly not a method of deterrence.”

—ACLU



WORKS IN PROGRESS

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

DECEMBER 2014

Toward a clean and healthy Puget Sound

Community shellfish farming fosters a local connection to our marine environment

Derek King

Bounding forth onto the tideland rain or shine, hipboot toting, the hardy volunteer community shellfish farmers are working and slurping oysters at Olympia's own Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm (HICSF). With wide smiles the crew is surrounded by the abundant beauty of the Salish Sea tromping amongst bands of bivalves, with seabirds singing overhead. Some of the enticements and pleasures of Community Shellfish Farming is the first hand experience of working with your neighbors in the world of the marine intertidal, knowing that your efforts are supporting water quality, making that oyster taste ever more sweet.

Locally in Olympia, many people have heard about or have become involved with community gardens, urban agriculture, and community farming. In the most recent years the awareness has grown alongside the development of the local food movement, but what is a Community Shellfish Farm? It is the idea of creating public access to marine resources for the sake of local food production, community and our environment; this access can be utilized to educate, restore, and celebrate efforts around water quality and the marine environment.

Here in Washington, we are fortunate to live next to Puget Sound the nation's second largest estuary. This special place is not only beautiful but magnificently productive with the potential to support a large complex ecosystem as well as a buffet of world class seafood. Alongside the productivity is the building ecological pressure that our increasing population is putting on these invaluable marine resources.

Non-Profit Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) was founded in 1997 with the mission to restore marine habitat, water quality, and native species in Puget Sound through tangible, on-the-ground projects. Much of their work consists of projects directed at restoring native species such as the Olympia Oyster, Pinto Abalone and Bull Kelp. PSRF developed the Community Shellfish Farm (CSF) model to address water quality issues in areas where

bacterial contamination and resulting downgrades in shellfish growing areas threaten access to resources that depend on clean water.

PSRF's Community Shellfish Farms Drayton Harbor*(Blaine, WA), Port Madison (Bainbridge Island, WA),

Harvesting local seafood on the beach influences people to *want* to protect and preserve the marine environment, which leads to a long-term commitment to the health of Puget Sound.

and Henderson Inlet (Olympia, WA) have joined other organizations and agencies with a common vision of a clean and healthy sound that is productive, full of life and capable of sustaining us. CSFs work with

watershed communities to help restore and maintain healthy shellfish growing areas, spur cleanup efforts, and maintain community access to shellfish resources. By maintaining community access, PSRF fosters stewardship of the marine environment. When bacterial contamination threatens the ability to harvest, residents are motivated to change practices on their own property and support local pollution control efforts to regain something that's personally important to them. Harvesting local seafood on the beach influences people to *want* to protect and preserve the marine environment, which leads to a long-term commitment to the health of Puget Sound.

Here in Olympia, south sound residents are fortunate to be close to the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm located in southern Henderson Inlet. Volunteers, students, educators and community members can experience first hand the bounty of high quality shellfish harvested from clean water.

They also learn about the struggle for water quality, growing oysters and the surrounding marine ecosystem. This currently safe access culminated out of a massive amount of work done by a plethora of partners within the watershed.

Prior to this work, in 2001 the health of the inlet was not looking good. Commercial shellfish harvest was almost brought to a complete halt, long time historical growers such as Jerry Yamashita were at the front lines of this battle for water quality, desperately trying to stop the downgrades and began to reach out to the community for help.

The source of the pollution forcing the closures, in this case, was not what most people have in mind when they think of pollution. No big smokestacks or warehouses, no black ooze draining from pipes, no point source. It was our own individual collective impact within our watershed that accumulates fecal waste, creating bacterial contamination through failing septic systems, pet waste, and stormwater management
► **SHELLFISH FARMING**, continued on page 12.

Thankful, but not enough to celebrate

Recent world events provide a bit of hope for halting climate change

Emily Lardner

When I was growing up, the Thanksgiving holiday meant that my family got together with aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents from all limbs of the family tree to eat turkey and mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce and pie. At some point in the increasingly rowdy conversations, a solemn adult would interject the plea that we all pause and consider what we were thankful for.

This November, three events occurred for which I am grateful. They offer a glimmer of hope that we may act collectively to address global climate change and reduce the rate at which carbon dioxide emissions are accumulating in our atmosphere—just a glimmer, not enough to celebrate, but enough to pause and say, okay. We might

pull this off.

Presidents Obama, Xi Jinping agree to emissions reductions targets

On November 12, 2014, the presidents of the two countries that are the biggest contributors to climate change announced a deal to limit carbon dioxide emissions. By 2025, the U.S.

The targets are too low, and too soft. But this is the first time China has agreed to participate in an international climate agreement—and that's a good step.

aims to reduce its emissions 26 to 28 percent below the level of emissions in 2005. China set the goal of getting 20 percent of its energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and of having 2030 be the peak year for carbon dioxide emissions. Both these moves are not

enough and also precedent setting. Meanwhile, the European Union reached an agreement to cut its carbon dioxide emissions 40 percent below the levels set in 1990, and to achieve this reduction by 2030. That means, as Jeff Spross reported on the website Climate Progress on November 12, the world's three biggest carbon dioxide emitters have "gone on record with new commitments to get their greenhouse gas emissions under control."

Should we be pleased with this turn of events? Paul Krugman, the often pessimistic and solidly liberal columnist for the *New York Times* says yes. Krugman's op-ed piece on November 14 outlines why the agreement between China and the United States is a big deal. First, he says, consider the context. Fossil-fuel interests and "their loyal servants," which is how Krugman characterizes the entire Republican Party today, have erected a deep defense against any action to save the planet.

Their first line of defense is denial. Climate change isn't real. Senator James Inhofe, the likely chair of the

► **THANKFUL**, continued on page 10.

WalMart workers heard on economic insecurity and income inequality

Briefing held as growing number of elected officials introduce, pass legislation to hold country's largest employer accountable

Washington (11.18) -- Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman George Miller and legislative experts held a committee briefing—Walmart and the Economic Insecurity of American Families—to hear from members of OUR Walmart on how the country's largest employer is creating an economic crisis for working families in America.

“I was glad to join Walmart employees today to support efforts to push back against practices by Walmart and other big corporations that make it hard for working families to make ends meet,” said Sen. Warren (D-MA). “Hardworking men and women across the country want a fighting chance to build a future for themselves and their families. We need to give workers this chance by raising the minimum wage, providing some basic fairness in scheduling, and fighting for equal pay for equal work.”

“Walmart’s shoddy business model is singlehandedly wreaking havoc on American families across the country and making it impossible for hundreds of thousands of workers to have a shot at the American Dream,” said Rep. Miller (D-CA). “America’s workers and their families deserve better than they’re getting from Walmart today—they deserve higher wages, less erratic schedules, and equal pay regardless of their gender. The courage of Walmart workers who are engaged in sit-down strikes to protest the company’s illegal silencing of workers who have called for better jobs and full-time work is essential to creating real change.”

At the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee briefing, Walmart workers discussed how Walmart’s low pay, manipulation of scheduling and illegal threats to workers have created a new norm across industries that makes it nearly impossible for workers to hold down second jobs, arrange child care, go to school or manage health conditions.

“With Walmart’s low-wages and hectic schedules, too many Walmart workers are left on the edge of poverty. But all too often when we stand up, Walmart tries to silence us. Just days before I planned to participate in our first sit-down strike in LA, Walmart fired me for speaking up for better wages and hours, but I’m still fighting today because my former colleagues like deserve better,” said Evelin Cruz, OUR Walmart member.

The briefing highlighted the Schedules That Work Act, Fair Minimum Wage Act and Paycheck Fairness Act—legislation that would force the company to improve its pay and hours for 100s of 1,000s of American workers.

The action from elected officials comes as an increasing number of Americans and Walmart workers point to OUR Walmart as making significant changes at the country’s largest retailer. Most recently, after public calls from OUR Walmart, the company committed to raise wages for its lowest paid workers and rolled out a new scheduling system that allows workers to sign up for open shifts. To date, workers at more than 2,100 Walmart stores nationwide have signed a petition calling on Walmart and the Waltons to publicly commit to paying \$15 an hour and providing consistent, full-time hours.

—Making Change at Walmart

Serenity

—Brian McCracken

This poem is for the drug addicts
the dope fiends.
this poem is for ninety pound bodies
shriveling in gutters like dried fruit.
this is for those who shoot.
for the withering alley-cat specters dancing
sleepwalk in the devil’s daymare.
this is for those who drown in dope
without a sunrise beyond the black tar’s shadow.
indentured to the needle and the spoon.
this is for my siblings who met their makers too soon.

This poem is for you
you who are black listed for your sickness
convicted, untouchable and criminally ill.
you who is locked up for possession
without a hope of redemption for
your child who is missing you and doesn’t understand
the reasons why the drug war nabbed his daddy
and will follow in his boot steps
if not properly guided.

This poem is for you who grew up
comfortable, but were missing something.
who graduated from the school
bus to the squad car, the pen to the magnum,
you who found your feet, your fountain,
in the Haight & Ashbury.

No hurry.
Why worry?

SMACK is the main line out of the middle class
and into an early grave. this is
for the track marks we paved.

This poem is for you who is on the wait list
for an underfunded treatment center for three
months deciding between
triage through treatment
or deliverance through death.
anything to stop the suffering.

This poem is reality.

I know this poem.
This poem is for **ME**.

ME who used to strip mine crumbs of amphetamine from
the carpet snorting whatever came along with the catch. **ME**
who trembled in anticipation at every new prescription. **ME**
for whom the birds chirping in the morning would produce
paranoia. **ME** who heard *gunshots* and lived in *psychotic*
delusions

ME. . . *who got clean*.

ME who no longer lives between high speed chases and post-
mania comas under the covers.

This poem
is for worried mothers.

This poem is for hope.
it is for one day, just this day clean
and serene, finally again a human being.
this poem is for no longer
being an animal a slave to my desires,
impulse towards deathly indulgence.
this poem is for skin clear of scabs,
face full of color and complexion.
this poem is for
a job,
an education,
poetry slams,
and getting published.

this poem is
for friends and family
proud to call me theirs,
for a mother who I can look in the eye.

this poem
is for hope.

But this poem is also for the fallen,
for the soldiers digging their trenches in
Southeast D.C. and Baltimore.

This poem is **NOT** for
the War on Drugs
the War on the Poor
the War on the Spirit.

This poem. . .
is for my dead kin who struggle no more.
for those who finally gave up and greeted the
reaper in the back seat of a beat up Caddy
with not an ounce of body fat,
sunken cheeks
emaciated skeletons
the ones we loved

dead at 23.
...this poem is an epitaph.

This poem is statistics.
This poem rolls dice.
This poem is proof that the dealer didn’t win.
This poem is for every addict who never met the pen.
This poem is for last gasps beneath bridges,
for the funerals
we didn’t have the courage to attend.

This poem is for
resistance,
resilience, and
blind fucking luck.

THIS is a poem against all odds.
THIS POEM should be six
feet under, but

IT defies gravity.
I defy gravity!
I defy DEATH!

Brian McCracken is a poet, activist, and youth ally living and resisting in Olympia. As a founding member of Old Growth Poetry Collective, he lives in a house full of dyslexic poet revolutionaries.

Works in Progress Cover Contest!

Announcing the very first *Works In Progress* Contest for cover-worthy photos and graphics. Inspired by the success of our October 2014 cover (Thanks, Jamie Lee, for the photo!) we are launching our first ever photo and graphic contest. First prize is \$100, second prize \$50, and the third prize is a gift certificate for a delicious Vic’s Pizzeria pizza!

Guidelines:

Photos must be black and white and submitted as jpeg files.

Graphics must be scanned.

All submissions must be original, and by submitting them to WIP, the artist agrees that WIP can use the image in the newspaper.

Deadline for submissions is December 15, 2014.

Winners will be announced in January.



Playback Theatre Performance

Stories of Knowing Our Own Worth

In collaboration with POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights)

Friday, December 12, 7:30 pm Traditions in Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance.

This month we are collaborating with POWER, an organization of low-income parents and allies working to strengthen social safety nets and eradicate poverty. POWER was founded in 2007 by members of WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition. Since then they have provided telephone and internet advocacy to thousands of low-income people and service providers; offered legal information and welfare witnesses; and taught self-advocacy. With generous donations of coffee and pastries, POWER sweetens the long waits at welfare offices, food banks and other locations, and brings information to people through weekly outreach.

Through its many programs, POWER empowers citizens, decreases isolation, shares resources, and challenges misconceptions around poverty.

POWER has presented nearly 200 skill-building workshops to low-income people and service providers throughout Washington, including subjects such as “Know Your Rights”, “Poverty Myths and Facts”, and “Telling Your Story.” They have registered hundreds of low-income women to vote, and they have continued voter education through informative newsletters and community conversations. POWER engages low-income residents to create and effectively advocate for their own legislative platforms. They have prepared over 50 parents to present powerful testimony before local, state, and national committees. Using personal stories, art, and theater, POWER challenge myths and misconceptions about welfare mothers and increases accessibility to people with literacy, language, and other barriers. They have worked in coalition with other organizations to prevent cuts to vital services needed by poor families. In addition, POWER has improved policies regarding access to education for low-income parents, support for parents with special-needs children, and vital supports to immigrant families.

Background information about Playback Theatre:

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



Coordinated actions; climate change is major concern for oil trains in Washington State

Following the October 30 lock down of Department of Ecology by Seattle Raging Grannies and Rising Tide, the banner above was lifted in solidarity across two flag poles on the capital campus. Local community members including the Fellowship of Reconciliation rallied at the Capitol and marched to the oil train safety hearing. Protests outside the hearing included Idle No More Washington with traditional Native American drumming and songs, Columbia River Keeper, Climate Solutions and GreenPeace.

Governor Inslee recently passed a “Directive” this spring urging the Department of Ecology to study the impacts of oil trains. The study focuses on the safety of the cars, which activists point out ignores the larger impacts of transporting oil. Despite a law passed in 2007 to reduce carbon emissions in Washington, the state has been fast tracking the permitting process for oil by rail facilities and refineries. This directive follows mass opposition for oil trains during the first round of

Department of Ecology hearing earlier this year. Activists in Olympia stand in solidarity with communities in Gray’s Harbor, home of major plans for new oil infrastructure, including Citizen’s for a Clean Harbor and the Quinault Indian Nation who have come out against the increased oil trains. They also stand with Vancouver Washington’s city council resolution against the Tesoro refinery. The groups advocate for a moratorium on oil trains, not further studies since studying the safety of this new infrastructure is not enough to stop the effects of climate change and would not fulfill the 2007 carbon emission law. William Sturmen says, ““The very existence of these oil trains promotes the burning of fossil fuels and we don’t need another study to prove that. Inslee’s directive ignores that oil trains contribute to climate change.” The protesters in communities where oil is being exported also stand in solidarity with the residents of towns in North Dakota where the oil is being extracted.

—Rising Tide

No January meeting for WIP's Writers' Group; next meeting will be in February

The Works In Progress Writer's Group has been meeting at the beginning of each month for the last two years as a way to encourage those interested in submitting articles. This coming January there will be no meeting.

WIP members have decided to cancel the January meeting in order to determine how the group can be improved to allow Work In Progress to better serve the community.

The next Writers’ Group, or whatever it will be called, will be in early February. See you then.



SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

THE SKELETON TWINS November 28th - December 3rd

The Skeleton Twins is a drama with many mood swings where siblings who haven’t spoken to each other in a decade are brought back together by a moment of synchronicity. Maggie and Milo are linked by lousy parenting and disappointing lives. He’s a gay, underemployed actor living alone in LA, so Maggie brings him back to the upstate New York home she shares with her nice-guy bore of a husband (Luke Wilson, very good).

—Siobhan Synnot, Scotsman

LAST DAYS IN VIETNAM November 28th - December 3rd

In a contemptuous world, where people are quick to label, blame, and ignore, Kennedy’s “Last Days of Vietnam” comes along to remind us that it’s never simple. Even in a war as unpopular and damaging as the Vietnam War, there comes a point when you have to stop running back the clock, and acknowledge the bravery and honor of certain participants, American and Vietnamese alike, who did the best they could in an impossible situation.

—Nikola Grozdanovic, The Playlist

CAPITOL THEATER, 206 FIFTH AVENUE SE, DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

Special Events

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The Olympia Village Building Convergence is a year-long series of placemaking events to bring together neighbors and communities, culminating in a 10-day summer extravaganza in August 2015.

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Sponsored by Olympia Federal Savings, Northwest Ecobuilding Guild, and Transition Olympia.

Olympia F.O.R.'s 39th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil Saturday, December 20, 12 to 1 pm 4th Ave at Percival Landing, Olympia

The public is invited to participate in Olympia’s 39th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. along West Fourth Avenue, along the south side of Percival Landing and in front of Heritage Fountain.

The annual vigil is an Olympia tradition. Signs are provided, but participants may bring their own. Children are welcome. Members of the Artesian Rumble Arkestra will perform. Participants may enjoy free refreshments nearby after the vigil.

“During this holiday season of joy and good will, let us set aside all violence and militarism, which are the opposites of joy and good will,” said Glen Anderson, vigil organizer. “The vigil gives participants and passersby an opportunity to pause and consider choosing peace instead of violence. Peace is so much more consistent with the holiday spirit.”

The vigil is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Olympia FOR has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues. It is the local affiliate of a very broadly interfaith, international pacifist organization founded in 1914.

The Olympia FOR has also sponsored a weekly peace vigil in Sylvester Park at the corner of Legion and Capitol Way, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday since March 5, 1980, and another vigil at the south end of Percival Landing from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. every Friday since November 1998.

The vigil is free, but the Olympia FOR will gratefully accept donations to support its persistent work for nonviolence, social justice and peace.

For information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org or visit the Olympia FOR’s website, www.olympiafor.org

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Oil terminal opponents want the governor to take executive action

An emerging alliance of community and labor leaders joined by local elected officials want Governor Inslee to use his executive authority to deny the permitting of proposed oil terminals in Grays Harbor and Vancouver and the expansion of a Shell refinery in Anacortes.

“All of these terminals and expansions and all the increased oil train traffic fall directly under the executive authority of Governor Inslee,” said their spokesperson, Geoff Simpson. Mr. Simpson is a long time fire fighter for the City of Kent and a lobbyist for the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters.

“We want Governor Inslee to live up to his commitment for a clean energy future and stop the use of our state’s rail system as a carbon corridor for the export of crude oil to Asian markets,” he continued.

In their letter to Governor Inslee, this

alliance of organizations is seeking a meeting with Governor Inslee so that they can discuss their perspective. It is signed by leaders of labor unions, community organizations, physicians, fishery groups, as well as elected officials such as Ben Stuckart, President of the Spokane City Council, and two Port of Olympia Commissioners.

Mr. Simpson said that these organizations first met in August at a Statewide Strategy Summit on Oil Trains at The Evergreen State College. As a follow up to the Summit, they met at an all-day session hosted by the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters on Saturday, November 15, in Olympia where they drafted their letter to Governor Inslee.

—WA State Council of Fire Fighters

November 21, 2014

Dear Governor Jay Inslee:

We are community, labor, farm, environmental, fishery, medical and elected leaders from throughout Washington State who are opposed to the proposed oil terminals in Grays Harbor and Vancouver and to the expansion of oil refineries in Washington State, including the Shell oil refinery in Anacortes.

All of these proposed terminals and expansions fall directly under your executive jurisdiction. These are statewide issues and are, rightfully so, in your hands.

We are asking you to follow through on your commitment to a clean energy future and a robust sustainable economy by denying their permitting and construction.

These terminals, refinery expansions and the consequent increase in rail and marine transport threaten the very essence of Washington State. We have always been an independent state, proud of our resources, mountains and rivers, our abundant agriculture and fisheries, our treaty obligations, our organized labor, and our populist institutions, such as our constitutionally mandated public school system.

The Quinault Indian Nation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, among others, stand in opposition to these terminals and oil trains as threats to their federally recognized, treaty- reserved natural resources and fishing rights. Their opposition is supported by numerous industry groups such as the Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen’s Association, who know one spill means disaster for our fishing industry. In addition, the cities of Vancouver, Aberdeen, Elma, Montesano, Westport and Ocean Shores, along with the Port of Olympia have all passed resolutions of opposition to these terminals citing the need to protect economic viability as well as public health and safety.

Representatives of our Washington farmers see our agricultural export market threatened by unit trains of oil tankers displacing our home-grown commodities such as wheat and forcing our produce onto the highways.

Our state’s fire fighters have repeatedly noted the public dangers inherent in these oil trains and the volatile crude oil they carry. They have stated the impossibility of fire departments fighting the fires caused by recent derailments. Public safety, too, is a prime concern of unions representing rail labor who point out that current railroad policies promoting longer and heavier unit trains manned by one- person crews with woefully inadequate locomotive and track maintenance schedules is a formula for disaster.

Physicians and nurses in Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility have adopted a position opposing the siting of these oil tank farms in population centers as an unacceptable risk to the public health of area residents.


We don’t want our state to become a “Petrostate” where our economy, our transportation system, our politics and our elections are dominated and distorted by oil interests whose sole purpose is exorbitant profits and whose main goal is the use of our state as a carbon corridor to Asian markets.

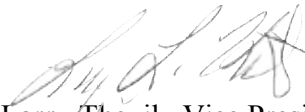
We are aware of your mandated study of marine and oil transport. This study’s focus misses the critical point: the projected increase in rail and marine traffic is directly related to your executive approval or denial of these terminals and expanding refineries.


We look to your leadership and executive action in protecting the health and safety of our citizens and wildlife from the effects of these proposed terminals and consequent increase of crude by rail.

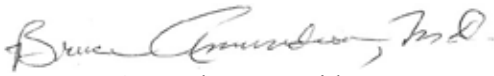
We request a meeting with you to discuss our perspective. Please contact us via the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF).

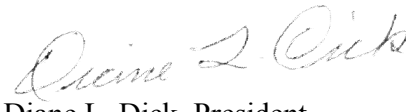
Sincerely,

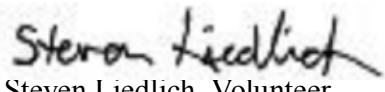

Kelly L. Fox, President
Washington State Council of Fire Fighters



Larry Thevik, Vice President
Washington Dungeness Crab Fisherman’s Association, Westport



Eric Labrant, President
Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association, Vancouver



Dr. Bruce Amundson, President
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility



Diane L. Dick, President
Landowners & Citizens for a Safe Community, Longview



Steven Liedlich, Volunteer
Snohomish County Train Watch, Everett



Arthur ‘R.D.’ Grunbaum, President
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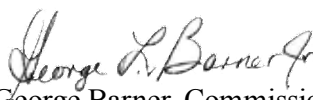

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Ben Stuckart, President
Spokane City Council



Cager Clabaugh, President
ILWU Local 4, Vancouver



Carlo Voli
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The Lands Council, Spokane


George Barner, Commissioner
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Linda Orgel, Treasurer
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Alan Richrod
Council member, City of Aberdeen

Adventure and mystery in Laniakea

Rus Frizzell

Laniakea, as Wikipedia defines it, is a Hawaiian word meaning, “immeasurable heaven.” The exciting thing for me is to finally see a well made map of our actual neighborhood in the Cosmos.

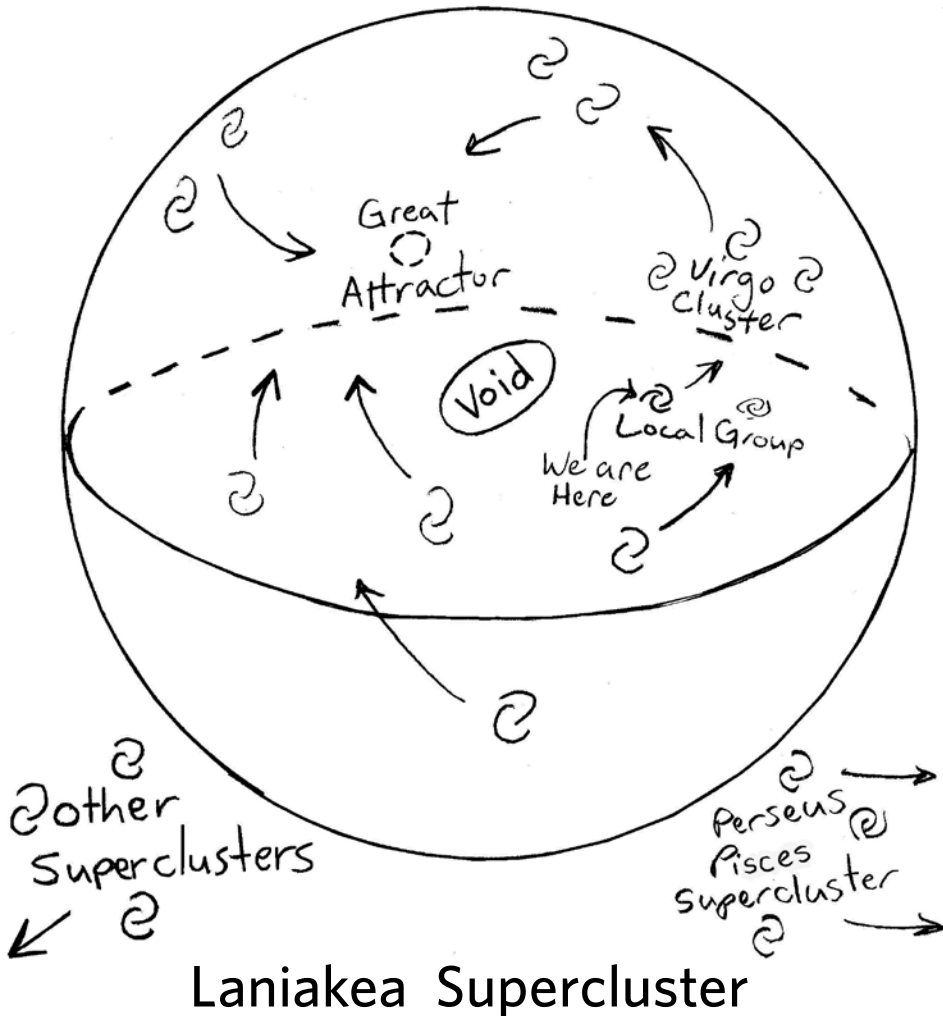
The British science journal Nature recently released a fantastic four minute video on YouTube called, “Laniakea: Our Home Supercluster.” We now have this clear view our home port—something the human race has never had before. It is the recently released description of Laniakea by R. Brent Tully and his team of astronomers at the University of Hawaii.

Our galaxy, the Milky Way is part of a Local Group which contains around 75 nearby galaxies. Our Local Group roams the edge of the Virgo Cluster of about 2500 galaxies. This is a very big neighborhood.

Bigger still is our supercluster. Our neighborhood revolves around the center, a place called the Great Attractor. We now have a clear idea that the 100,000 galaxies of Laniakea are all bound together by gravity.

All the while we are gliding through space along with a plethora of other clusters of galaxies. These clusters are in mutual orbit around the Great Attractor - the gravitational center of our supercluster of which there no known way to leave.

The other superclusters are expanding away from us at an accelerating rate. This will eventually fling them out of sight far away across the Universe. But our Laniakea will probably always be here as a very large and wondrous domain for us to explore.



may run into in the future just requires us to multiply a few estimates.

N(hab) is the number of habitable planets, I'll guess one in ten stars out there has one.

F(life) is the fraction of these where life gets started some how, my guess could be one in a hundred.

F(civ) being the fraction of these where life develops into a space-faring civilization, maybe one in a thousand.

F(now) is the fraction where that civilization exists during our time period (civilizations come and go we guess) may be one in a hundred.

N(civ) the total civilizations estimated to be in Laniakea today.

$(1/10) \times (1/100) \times (1/1000) \times (1/100) = 1/100,000,000$

Divide the ten quadrillion stars of Laneakia by the one hundred millionth chance of a civilization being there. The estimate is on hundred million strange, advanced, diverse, alien civilizations out there for us to meet, this does not include ones which might visit form neighboring superclusters like the nearest, the Perseus-Pisces Supercluster.

Many people feel we should fear these civilizations. I think that is ridiculous. We should be searching for ways to cooperate and coexist with them, as well as ourselves. We need a conversation above all, to decide how we will handle contact with these alien civilizations who may have much to teach us.

to merge with each other. Humans will have little choice but to populate other star systems or perish as our Sun solar systems with an unknown quantity of alien civilizations to meet. The number of possible extra-

One hundred thousand galaxies with 100 billion stars each, that makes room for lots and lots of possible adventures. Ten quadrillion solar systems with no one knows how many other alien civilizations to meet.

To explore on not to explore?

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is in mutual orbit with the great galaxy Andromeda. In several billion years we will be much closer together and likely

advances through the red giant phase of its life.

100,000 galaxies with 100 billion stars each, that's room for lots and lots of possible adventures. Ten quadrillion

terrestrial civilizations can be estimated by using the famous Drake equation. It is quite easy to estimate for yourself:

$N(hab) \times F(life) \times F(civ) \times F(now) = N(civ)$

The number of extra-terrestrial civilizations within Laniakea which we

is staging for a return to human Moon landings. We have more opportunity than ever to cooperate with other explorers.

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

Household wealth falls considerably for majority of Americans

(November 6)--A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) shows that most households now have less wealth now than they did in 1989. The report, “The Wealth of Households: An Analysis of the 2013 Survey of Consumer Finances,” presents data on household wealth by age cohort based on the results of the most recent Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). The analysis shows little or no gains for the majority of Americans over the last 25 years, even in the years since the end of the recession. This is true of and particularly concerning for near retirees.

“This is especially bad for those nearing retirement,” said Dean Baker, a co-director of CEPR and an author of the paper. “Households in this age cohort will not have a chance to benefit from any strengthening of the economy and will only have the wealth they have accumulated to date to depend on in their retirement.”

The authors document several trends gleaned from the SCF. Between 1989 and 2013, average household net worth rose from \$342,300 to \$528,400 in 2013 dollars. However the average gains are misleading, as the population was older in 2013 than it was in 1989. More importantly, median net worth actually fell from \$84,100 in 1989 to \$81,400 in 2013, indicating that much of the gains of wealth accumulation went to those in the top quintiles. Other key points of the analysis include:

- The median net wealth of near retirees (ages 55-64) was \$165,700 in 2013, down from 177,600 in 1989.
 - The average non-housing wealth for the typical household in the 55-64 year old cohort was \$89,300, compared to a peak of \$160,700 in 2004.
 - The net wealth for the middle quintile (ages 35-44) of mid-career workers averaged \$50,100, less than half the net wealth of the same quintile (\$103,800) in 1989.
 - The average housing equity for the middle quintile of mid-career workers was also down considerably, from \$63,500 in 1989 to \$23,200 in 2013.
 - There was some improvement for the middle quintile of recent retirees who saw their average net wealth go up from \$142,900 in 1989 to \$239,300 in 2013, but this was still less than the peak of \$270,700 hit in 2007.
- When compared with the previous Surveys of Consumer Finances, it can generally be said that wealth grew in the United States from 1989 to 2007 and shrank from then on. At the time of the 2013 survey, the stock market had almost recovered to its 2007 peak. House prices had not. With house prices representing a larger share of assets for the bottom three fifths of Americans, this helped increase the differences in wealth between the top and the bottom. All in all, the results of the survey yield a pessimistic picture of economic progress since the end of the recession.
- CEPR

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Mexico: A dissenting nation

The long night from Tlatelolco to Iguala

Enrique Quintero

In October of 1968, ten days before the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, over ten thousand students gathered in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, in the neighborhood of Tlatelolco, to protest the repressive government policies against labor, farmers, unions, and popular organizations as well as to oppose the irresponsible spending of very significant national resources to finance the Olympic Games—in detriment of needed social programs. The government of Gustavo Diaz Ordaz responded by shooting from helicopters and tanks killing over 300 students.

This massacre has remained in the collective memory of the Mexican and Latin American Student movement for decades. It has also permeated many Mexican cultural expressions in the arts, film, and literature, an example of which is Elena Poniatowska's novel *The Night of Tlatelolco*. (She is the latest recipient of the Premio Cervantes, the equivalent of the Nobel prize for Hispanic literature). It was in the middle of organizing an event to commemorate in the city of Iguala their comrades fallen 46 years ago in Tlatelolco, that 43 young student teachers of the near by city of Ayotzinapa were kidnaped by police forces following orders of public functionaries, shot in cold blood, and then incinerated in a macabre pyre that burned for over 14 hours. According to *The Guardian* (November 9), the remains left “were collected in plastic bags and disposed in a nearby river.” The 82-year-old Poniatowska, revisited her indignation yesterday in Miami, where she is to inaugurate the American Book Fair, denouncing on American—Spanish television the slaughter of the students with these caustic words:

That 43 people be assassinated in such fashion, not just assassinated, they were burned in a garbage dump, like garbage, as if they were shit.

In response to the massacre, huge protest rallies with hundreds of thousands of participants have been organized throughout Mexico's largest cities, towns, and small villages to protest this new crime. While his country shows legitimate indignation and demands justice, Enrique Peña Nieto, the current Mexican President, has decided not to interrupt the new Olympic Games of Mexican capitalism and continue his planned tour to China and Australia. Whereas the Chinese people have been kept silent by president Xi Jinping's suppressive state surveillance (Remember Tiananmen Square protest in 1989?); in Australia, numerous protests for the missing students have taken place during Peña Nieto's visit demanding that he steps down as president.

The Berlin Wall
American style, and
Mexicans as “the other”

It is hardly an accident that a 680 miles long wall barriers, at a cost close to 50 billion dollars has been erected along the Mexican-American border in the States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas allegedly to

stop undocumented migrants and smugglers (ironically, at one point in history all those states used to be part of Mexico). The border-wall is an unequivocal architectural cultural testimony that shows how conservative, fundamentally white America characterizes “the other” at the south of the border though a discourse that assumes innate illegality by reasons of geography and skin color. Simultaneously, like all walls do, the border-wall also serves as a barrier to the exterior world that asserts and reinforces the isolation and parochialism of the U.S versus

...the border-wall creates the illusion that law and non-violence resides this side of the Rio Grande, ignoring the high military apparatus of men and equipment, integrated by official federal and state forces, and voluntary forces of right-wing vigilantes along the border.

other countries. This double function of distortion and isolation, have been visible in the ways the American media has covered the events in Mexico focusing exclusively on describing the violence without an analysis of the forces behind and its beneficiaries on both sides of the border. It has also systematically ignored the massive dissenting struggle of the Mexican people against the status quo.

Complementing this dual function, the border-wall serves as an implicit ideological purifier demarcation, meant to create the illusion among Americans that the law and non-violence resides this side of the Rio Grande, ignoring the high military apparatus of men and equipment, integrated by official federal and state forces, and voluntary forces of right-wing vigilantes put in place along the border. The border-wall with its massive blocks of concrete and electronic surveillance in tall iron fences is the new iconic symbol of contemporary America, replacing The Statue of Liberty with 680 miles of barbwire.

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the flaws of the border-wall forcing migrants to take perilous desert routes, or its pathetic un-effectiveness which according to ‘No Border-Wall .com’, shows that 97 percent who tried to cross the U.S. – Mexico border eventually succeed at entering he country. Rather my purpose is to bring attention to how Mexico and its people has been criminalized in the American mind by the erection of tangible physical structures like the border-wall, the persistent racism in American

► **LONG NIGHT**, continued on page 9.

México: Una nación que diciente

La larga noche de Tlatelolco a Iguala

Enrique Quintero

En octubre de 1968, diez días antes de los Juegos Olímpicos de Verano en la Ciudad de México, más de diez mil estudiantes se reunieron en la Plaza de las Tres Culturas en el barrio de Tlatelolco para protestar contra las políticas represivas del gobierno contra trabajadores, agricultores, sindicatos y organizaciones populares; y también para oponerse al gasto irresponsable de recursos nacionales para financiar los Juegos Olímpicos—en detrimento de los programas sociales necesarios.

El gobierno de Gustavo Díaz Ordaz respondió disparando desde helicópteros y tanques matando a más de 300 estudiantes.

Esta masacre permanece viva en la memoria colectiva del movimiento estudiantil mexicano y latino-americano. En las ultimas décadas también ha permeado muchas expresiones culturales mexicanas en las artes, el cine y la literatura, un ejemplo de esto es la novela de Elena Poniatowska *La noche de Tlatelolco*. (Ella es el último ganador del Premio Cervantes, el equivalente al premio Nobel de la literatura hispano-americana.) Fue en medio de la organización de un evento para conmemorar en la ciudad de Iguala sus camaradas caídos hace 46 años en Tlatelolco, que 43 jóvenes estudiantes de pedagogía de la cercana ciudad de Ayotzinapa fueron secuestrados por fuerzas policiales siguiendo órdenes de los funcionarios públicos, asesinados a sangre fría, y luego incinerados en una pira macabra que ardió durante más de 14 horas. Según *The Guardian* (Domingo, 09 de noviembre 2014), los restos remanentes “fueron recogidos en bolsas de plástico y arrojados en un río cercano”. La octogenaria (82 años) Elena Poniatowska, volvió a revivir su indignación ayer en Miami, donde se encuentra para inaugurar la Feria del Libro en Estados Unidos, denunciando en la televisión hispano-parlante la masacre de los estudiantes con estas cáusticas palabras :

Que 43 personas sean asesinadas de esta manera, pero no sólo asesinadas, sino que además fueran quemadas en un basurero, como basura, como si fueran mierda.

En respuesta a la masacre, enormes manifestaciones de protesta con cientos de miles de participantes se han organizado a lo largo de las ciudades más grandes de México, pueblos y pequeñas aldeas para protestar este nuevo crimen. Mientras que su país muestra indignación legítima y exige justicia, Enrique Peña Nieto, el actual presidente mexicano, ha decidido no interrumpir los nuevos Juegos Olímpicos del capitalismo mexicano y continuar su planificada gira a China y Australia. Mientras que el pueblo chino se han mantenido en silencio bajo la vigilancia del estado y su presidente Xi Jinping (Recuerdan protesta la plaza de Tiananmen en 1989?); en Australia, durante la visita de Peña Nieto han tenido lugar numerosas protestas por los estudiantes desaparecidos y exigiendo la renuncia del presidente mexicano.

El Muro de Berlín a la American y los Mexicanos como "el otro"

No es casual que 680 millas de muro fronterizo, a un costo cercano a los 50 mil millones de dólares se han erigido a lo largo de la frontera mexicano-americana en los Estados de California, Arizona, Nuevo México y Texas; supuestamente para detener inmigrantes indocumentados y contrabandistas (irónicamente, en algún momento histórico todos esos estados solían ser parte de México). El muro fronterizo es un testimonio arquitectónico cultural y una muestra inequívoca de cómo fuerzas conservadoras, fundamentalmente blancas de los Estados Unidos caracterizan a “el otro” en el sur de la frontera, a través de un discurso que asume la ilegalidad innata por razones geográficas y por el color de la piel. Simultáneamente, como lo hacen todas las paredes, la pared fronteriza sirve también como una barrera hacia el mundo exterior que afirma y refuerza el aislamiento y la estrechez de miras de los EE.UU. frente a otros países. Esta doble función de distorsión y aislamiento, han sido visibles en las formas en que la prensa estadounidense ha cubierto los últimos acontecimientos en México, centrándose exclusivamente en la descripción de la violencia sin un análisis de las fuerzas detrás de la misma y de sus beneficiarios en ambos lados de la frontera. También ha ignorado sistemáticamente la lucha disidente masiva y persistente del pueblo mexicano contra el status quo.

Como complemento de esta doble función, el muro de la frontera sirve como instrumento implícito de demarcación y purificación ideológica, destinado a crear la ilusión entre los estadounidenses de que la ley y la no violencia reside a este lado del Río Grande, ignorando así la gran magnitud del aparato militar de hombres y equipo, integrado por fuerzas armadas oficiales federales y estatales, así como por voluntarios de extrema derecha y vigilantes a lo largo de la frontera. El muro de la frontera con sus enormes bloques de concreto y la vigilancia electrónica en sus altas vallas de hierro es el nuevo símbolo icónico de la América contemporánea. Se ha substituido La Estatua de la Libertad con 680 millas de alambre de púas.

No es el propósito de este artículo el hablar de otros efectos del muro en la frontera que obligan a los migrantes a tomar rutas desérticas peligrosas; o su patética falta de efectividad demostrada según ‘Sin Fronteras-Wall .com’, por el hecho que 97 por ciento de quienes intentan cruzar la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, finalmente tienen éxito entrando al país. Más bien mi propósito es llamar la atención sobre la forma en que México y su gente han

► **LARGA NOCHE**, continúa en la página 9.

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► **Long night**, cont. from page 8.

culture, the economic exploitation of immigrants subjected to ‘inferior’ and underpaid jobs, as well as the one-sided media reports that portray Mexico as an out of control, violent land run by corrupt government officials in alliance with drug-cartels and the army. The reports on the massacre of the student teachers in Iguala last month exemplifies this approach in the sense that they have left out an important national historical trait of Mexican people: their ability to dissent and struggle against the hard conditions imposed by capitalism in its most current version. A form of capitalism directly conditioned by American interests in the region.

Mexico: a dissenting nation

If, as mentioned above, the Tlatelolco massacre lives on in the collective memory of students and people all over Latin America, so does the long revolutionary, dissenting tradition of contemporary Mexican history. From the first country in the Western world to organize an armed agrarian revolution in 1910 (of which Lenin and Mao where to learn more than one thing in 1917 and 1949 respectively); to the strong peasant and workers movements of the 30’s and 40’s; to the prominent intellectual role played by Mexican writers, poets, painters, muralists, etc. influencing south-American culture, to the New-Zapatista Army of National Liberation born in 1994 and still active nowadays in a anti-capitalist struggle in favor of Mexican indigenous peoples and the reforming of Mexican Political Constitution.

But most importantly, this article pays tribute to the Mexican people who through decades of social adversity—created by an alliance of mutual benefits between the traditional Mexican dominant capitalist classes, the drug cartels as new members of this class, (This distinction is important because the economy of drug-trafficking exist closely integrated in the Mexican economy), and the official and un-official armed forces in the country—still persist in its dissent and questions the violence generated by existent domination system, as proved by the dozens of public rallies and protest marches nation occupying the streets and plazas of their country.

I have chosen as a final example of the long ascendancy of dissent in Mexico, parts of a poem by Javier Raya that with eloquence and figuration combines in a popular form, his individual subjectivity with wider social sentiments. (Translated to English by me)

I Dissent

“I dissent your version of public health as an illness to be cured by bullets. I dissent your version of education that allows the most brilliant minds of my generation condemned to telemarketing jobs or living with their parents until their 30’s and to fuck without making too much



EN HUELGA: Con la boca con cinta adhesiva, Rafael Reygadas, un profesor de la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) Xochimilco, se sienta con los muebles que sostienen fotografías de la juventud Escuela Normal Rural de Ayotzinapa. "Agresiones aberrantes contra Ayotzinapa futuros profesores - heridas, mutilaciones, asesinatos y desapariciones forzadas - son los más graves de una política de criminalización de la juventud vez Sin duda, es de los crímenes de Estado y crímenes de lesa humanidad que no debe ser impunes Ellos. mostrar colusión inadmisible entre las autoridades, los partidos políticos y el crimen organizado "profesores de la UAM. Foto: Araceli Mondragón

ON STRIKE: With his mouth taped, Rafael Reygadas, a professor at the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM) Xochimilco, sits with furniture that hold photographs of the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal School youth. The sign behind him says, "I can't hold class, I am missing 43 students." In a statement from UAM faculty, "Aberrant assaults against Ayotzinapa student teachers-wounds, mutilations, murders and forced disappearances—are the most serious of a policy of criminalization of youth time. It is certainly of State crimes and crimes against humanity that should not go unpunished. They show impermissible collusion between authorities, political parties and organized crime." Photo: Araceli Mondragon

noise

The only luxury of young people has been hope and even hope is sold to us on credit and overpriced, they take advantage of us as they did with our parents

I dissent, when you tell me that the 121 deaths until 2014, and keep on counting is just collateral damage

I dissent when you tell me that the dead fit in a figure of cost analysis or in the expenses of producing peace.

I dissent when you tell me that the increasing violence is in the name of happiness, of unity, and national prosperity.

I know that everything will be fine because I am not alone, because we are many, and we'll make sure that everything will be fine.

Enrique Quintero, a political activist in Latin America during the 70's, taught ESL and Second Language Acquisition in the Anchorage School District, and

► **Larga noche**, viene de la página 8.

sido criminalizados y tipificados en la mentalidad americana a través de la erección de estructuras físicas tangibles como el muro fronterizo, el racismo persistente en la cultura americana, la explotación económica de los inmigrantes sometidos a puestos de trabajo mal pagados y considerados ‘inferiores’, así como los informes de los medios que nos presentan un retrato de un México fuera de control, una tierra violenta dirigida por funcionarios corruptos y por narco-traficantes. Los informes sobre la masacre de los estudiantes en Iguala el mes pasado es un ejemplo de este enfoque en el sentido de que ha dejado de lado un importante rasgo histórico nacional del pueblo mexicano: su capacidad de disentir y luchar contra las duras condiciones impuestas por el capitalismo. Un capitalismo que en su forma actual es directamente condicionado por los intereses estadounidenses en la región.

México: Una Nación Disidente

Si, como se mencionó anteriormente, la masacre de Tlatelolco vive en la memoria colectiva de los estudiantes y el pueblo latinoamericano; también viven en esta memoria la larga tradición revolucionaria y disidente de la historia mexicana contemporánea. In 1910, México fue el primer país en el mundo occidental en organizar una revolución agraria armada (de la cual

Lenin y Mao, aprendieron más de una cosa en 1917 y 1949, respectivamente); los años 30’s y 40’s caracterizaron a México por altos niveles de organización y movilización obrera y campesina; en el pasado los intelectuales escritores mexicanos, poetas, pintores, muralistas, etc. jugaron un rol influyente en la cultura sur-americana y continúan haciéndolo en el presente; de igual modo Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional, nacido en 1994 y sigue activo hoy en una lucha anticapitalista y en favor de los pueblos indígenas de México y por la reforma de la actual constitución política mexicana.

Pero aun más importante, este artículo rinde homenaje al pueblo mexicano que a través de décadas de adversidad social—creada por una alianza de beneficio mutuo entre las clases dominantes capitalistas tradicionales mexicanos y los carteles de la droga como nuevos miembros de esta clase, (Esta distinción es importante porque la economía del narcotráfico existe estrechamente integrada en la economía mexicana), y las fuerzas armadas oficiales y no-oficiales en el país—todavía persiste en su disidencia y cuestiona la violencia generada por el sistema de dominación existente como lo demuestran las decenas de mítines y marchas públicas de protesta ocupando las calles y plazas de Mexico.

He elegido como un ejemplo final de la larga ascendencia de disidencia en México, partes de un poema de Javier Raya que con la elocuencia y la figuración combina en una forma popular, su subjetividad individual con sentimientos sociales más amplios.

Disentimientos de la Nacion

Yo disiento tu versión de la salud como una enfermedad que se cura a balazos. Yo disiento de tu versión de la educación que deja a las mentes más brillantes de mi generación condenadas a empleos de telemarketing o viviendo con sus padres hasta los 30, cogiendo sin hacer mucho ruido

El único lujo de los jóvenes ha sido la esperanza e incluso la esperanza nos la venden a crédito y cara, nos ven la cara como se la vieron a nuestros padres

Disiento, cuando me dices que las 121 mil muertes hasta el año 2014 y contando son bajas colaterales

Disiento cuando me dices que los muertos caben en una cifra, en un costo, en un gasto de producción de la paz.

Disiento cuando me dices que la violencia creciente es en nombre de la felicidad, de la unidad, y la prosperidad nacional.

Yo sé que todo va a estar bien porque no soy solo yo, porque somos muchos, y nos aseguraremos de que todo va a estar bien.

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.

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► **Thankful**, cont. from page 3.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is an outspoken proponent of this view, and also the recipient of more than a 1.5 million dollars from the oil and coal industries. In spite of the rich funding, arguing that climate change is a hoax perpetuated on the public by money grubbing scientists is losing its luster: a Pew Research study released last summer found that 67 percent of people in the U.S. believe that climate change is real.

According to Krugman, the second line of defense against taking steps necessary to save the planet is the argument that the economy will suffer. If we reduce carbon dioxide emissions, jobs will be lost and economic growth will sputter to a standstill. A version of this argument is central in the debate in Washington State about whether (and how) to put a price on carbon emissions—more on that later. The truth, Krugman argues, that is putting a price on carbon emissions will affect some businesses—any form of a “polluter-pay” policy is intended to shift the cost of polluting back to the producer. The alternative is for all of us to pay for the cost of pollution, leaving the polluter to count their profits and move on. Shifting costs of pollution back to the polluter changes profit margins; it doesn’t cost jobs and it doesn’t halt economic growth.

The third line of defense guarding us from taking action to reduce carbon emissions is that it’s pointless to act if the other big polluter, namely China, won’t. But now China will. The targets are too low, and too soft; however, this is the first time China has agreed to participate in an international climate agreement—and that’s a good step.

Krugman’s analysis of the U.S./China agreement is good in that it dismantles the arguments for ignoring climate change. Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org (which reminds us of the need to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

from current levels of 400 parts per million to 350 parts per million in order to preserve a liveable planet), makes an even better case that the two presidents acted because of political pressure—pressure from activists. McKibben points out that this agreement comes at a time of growing unrest in China about the terrible air quality in cities, and just seven weeks after the largest global climate demonstrations in history. In other words, as McKibben writes, “movements work.” In the spirit of being grateful, thanks to everyone who participated in demonstrations, called their Congress members, supported 350.org and other organizations, and wrote and talked and shouted and marched to say—business as usual won’t cut it. Reduce carbon emissions now.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce release WA State report

Governor Inslee’s Executive Order 14-04, issued in April 2014, established the the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce (CERT) that was charged with providing recommendations for designing a carbon emissions reduction program. On November 14, they released their report, organized around four findings:

- Emissions-based market mechanisms (carbon cap-and-trade systems) and price-based market mechanisms (carbon tax systems) can contribute to the goal of reducing carbon emissions in the state;
- Either approach can work; whichever is implemented needs to be carried out in a thoughtful way and consequently, both approaches require further analysis;
- The only way that Washington State can reach its carbon emissions limits is by developing a “harmonized” set of policies, particularly in terms of the transportation sector, which is the

largest source of carbon emissions in the state. (In other words, reducing carbon emissions from transportation requires a mix of strategies, from land-use planning to transit development, that keep the diverse needs of WA residents, including low-income and rural communities, in mind.);

• “Important questions remain unanswered”...

So far, there’s not that much to be grateful for. However, at the end of this 38-page report, an avid reader can find

making the case that not acting—not putting a price on carbon—is unacceptable because it’s immoral. As Rick Stolz, Executive Director of OneAmerica writes, “we are united by a deeply felt urgency to take immediate action to reduce carbon emissions in ways that address social. Economic, health, and food justice.”

Governor Inslee faces Republican opposition that will take this form: reducing carbon emissions will hurt Washington’s economy—the same argument Paul Krugman identified at a national level, the second level of defense once the argument that climate change is a hoax has been dismantled. Lots of work remains to be done to get us past the “do more research” mode and into the

effective action mode. Still, I’m grateful for those in our state, including the fore mentioned members of the CERT, for pushing forward in demanding the state meet its carbon emissions reduction goals.

Keystone Pipeline not approved—yet

The same week that CERT delivered its report the Senate took up the issue of whether to approve the Keystone Pipeline. The vote to approve the pipeline didn’t carry—60 votes were needed, and pipeline supporters only got 59. The 59 senators voting for the pipeline included all 45 Republican senators along with 14 Democrats. Forty-one senators voted against the pipeline: 39 Democrats and two Independents, Bernie Sanders from Vermont and Angus King from Maine. Mitch McConnell, soon to become leader of the Senate, threatened to bring the issue back for another vote in January, when the number of Republican Senators will increase. A veto from the president is not a sure thing. Ashley Parker and Cora Davenport, writing for the *New York Times* on November 18, 2014, conclude their report on the Senate vote with this cautionary note: “People familiar with the president’s thinking say that in 2015, he might use Keystone as a bargaining chip: He could offer Republicans approval of it in exchange for approval of one of his policies.”

We have a lot of work to do to topple the tyranny of the fossil fuel industry and the stranglehold it has on our political system and consequently on our future. I’m glad for a pause, a moment of hope, and grateful to everyone, everywhere, who works on making our political representatives more representative of us, the people. Let’s keep at it.

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

“Price is key. We cannot fully unleash our innovative potential if we continue to allow unmitigated carbon pollution for free.”

letters from individual members who served on the CERT. Reading these letters is instructive and, for the most part, heartening.

J. Perry England, Vice President of Building Performance at McDonald Miller writes that, “Price is key. We cannot fully unleash our innovative potential if we continue to allow unmitigated carbon pollution for free.” As a business owner, England wants the state to put a price on carbon.

Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council, ALF-CIO, also wants a price on carbon. Johnson writes that “the impact of climate disaster, while bad for everyone, will fall disproportionately on the poor and communities of color, the very people who will be least able to afford the cost of transitioning to a new energy economy.” Consequently, he argues, in addition to establishing a price on carbon, the state should set up an “Economic Justice and Environmental Equity Board” made up of representatives from highly impacted communities (low-income, communities of color, front line workers in fossil fuel dependent communities) around the state who will monitor carbon emissions reduction strategies and make recommendations about investing carbon revenues so as to maximize equity, job creation, positive health outcomes, and further carbon emission reductions.

Renee Klein, President & CEO of the American Lung Association for the Mountain Pacific similarly focuses on issues of health. The reason to act, she writes, is to protect human health. She outlines current threats to health created by changes in our climate, and points out that the elderly, pregnant women, low-income and minority communities, people with chronic illnesses, and children are most vulnerable.

Other letters are equally eloquent,

Google’s rapidly expanding political activity and information collection systems are cause for concern

WASHINGTON - Google is so rapidly expanding both its information-collecting capabilities and its political clout that it could become too powerful to be held accountable, a new report finds.

“Mission Creep-y: Google Is Quietly Becoming One of the Nation’s Most Powerful Political Forces While Expanding Its Information-Collection Empire” looks at how Google is accruing power both in terms of the information it collects and the sway it has over federal and state governments, and civil society.

Privacy experts say only the National Security Agency (NSA) rivals Google in terms of information gathering. But

Public Citizen documents that Google has not always warned the public before collecting or combining users’ information in new ways—and some of its collection practices have pushed the boundaries of the law. This is cause for concern as Google expands into new technological developments and acquisitions that collect information beyond what people do on the Internet.

Recently Google moved its influence operation into new Washington, D.C. offices as large as the White House and has become one of the most politically active companies in the United States.

—Public Citizen

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Recipe for disaster, as Israel allows more civilians to carry guns

Rania Khalek

Israeli minister of public security Yitzhak Aharonovitch approved a measure on Thursday that eases gun restrictions, expanding gun license eligibility to tens of thousands of people who previously did not qualify.

“The decision comes from a need to improve the feeling of safety among the population in light of the recent terror attacks,” said Aharonovitch.

The new, ostensibly temporary, guidelines will allow certain army unit veterans, officers in the army reserves, former police and Shin Bet (Israeli secret police) officers and former security guards at the Israel Airports Authority to qualify for a gun license.

Because military conscription for Jewish Israelis is compulsory, this constitutes a large portion of the Israeli population.

Recipe for disaster

Combined with the rising tide of anti-Arab extremism in Israeli society, the loosening of gun restrictions is a recipe for disaster.

For weeks right-wing Israeli demonstrators have clamored for more police violence against Palestinians, with some demanding that Arab rock-throwers as young as seven be shot on sight.

This type of incitement is not only prevalent, it is alarmingly acceptable.

As *The Electronic Intifada*’s Patrick O. Strickland reported last week, an Israeli train driver who agitated for his countrymen to run over Palestinians for “the Jewish Nation” in a Facebook post has faced no real repercussions, and will keep his job.

Similarly, there will be likely be

no consequence for the high school math teacher in Ashkelon who sent an image to his students of a Muslim graveyard, captioned: “In times like these, it’s important to remember there are also good Arabs! And they can be found here.”

The hate is not isolated to random individuals. Indeed, the Israeli public has been whipped into a racist frenzy by incitement from the top.

Incitement from the top

Earlier this month, Aharonovitch (the security minister) incited vigilante violence when he applauded the swift police execution of the Palestinian driver responsible for a vehicular attack in Jerusalem on 5 November.

“The action of the Border Police officer who chased the terrorist and quickly killed him is the right and professional action, and that is the way

A high school math teacher in Ashkelon sent an image to his students of a Muslim graveyard, captioned: “In times like these, it’s important to remember there are also good Arabs! And they can be found here.”

I would like these incidents to end,” said Aharonovitch. “A terrorist who strikes civilians should be killed.”

Many understood this as a call for police and armed civilians to act as judge, jury and executioner against perceived “terrorists,” which in the Israeli lexicon is interchangeable with “Arabs.”

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel linked Aharonovitch’s incitement to the police murder of 22-year-old Kheir



Hamdan days later.

On 9 November, in the Galilee village of Kufr Kana, Israeli police shot Hamdan after he banged on their van with an unidentified object.

CCTV footage of the killing reveals that the officers shot Hamdan at close range without warning as he ran away, and then shot him again after he was injured and bleeding on the ground, completely contradicting initial police claims that Hamdan attacked an officer with a knife.

Despite the video evidence, Israel’s economic minister Naftali Bennett celebrated the police shooting, labeling Hamdan a “crazed Arab terrorist.”

Adalah, the legal center for Arab minority rights, expressed alarm over the “direct connection” between incitement from the top and the behavior of citizens on the ground.

“The minister [Aharonovitch] stated

that anyone who attacks Israeli Jewish citizens should be killed immediately,” said Adalah. “In any democratic society that respects the life of its citizens, any government minister that makes statements such as those by Yitzhak Aharonovitch should be immediately dismissed.”

But there is no penalty for inciting against Arabs in Israel, so Aharonovitch has doubled down.

After inciting vigilantism against a largely defenseless Palestinian population, Aharonovitch is supplying the trigger for Israelis to act on their worst impulses.

Rania Khalek is an independent journalist reporting on the underclass and marginalized. For more of her work check out her website Dispatches from the Underclass and follow her on Twitter @RaniaKhalek. This article was originally published in The Electronic Intifada and is reprinted with permission.

Coalition presents constitutional challenge to law that silences industry whistle-blowers

BOISE, Idaho - Today, a broad-based public interest coalition of national nonprofits, including the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho (ACLU), and Center for Food Safety (CFS), filed a motion for summary judgment in their lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Idaho’s “ag gag” statute. The coalition argues that they are entitled to judgment in their favor because the statute—Idaho Code sec. 18-7042—violates their right to free speech and other rights protected by the U.S.

Constitution. As a matter of law, this statute cannot withstand legal scrutiny.

Idaho’s controversial ag gag statute makes it a crime to conduct an undercover investigation at an Idaho agricultural facility. Under this law, journalists, workers, activists, and members of the public can be convicted for videotaping animal cruelty or life-threatening safety violations. The coalition argues that this statute violates the Free Speech clause of the First Amendment by suppressing speech that criticizes industrial animal farms, and that the statute was motivated by unconstitutional animus against animal advocates, in violation of the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter signed the law into effect in February 2014. The lawsuit was filed in March in the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho. In July, the court allowed the lawsuit to proceed and denied the state’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

The coalition consists of organizations dedicated to civil liberties, animal protection, food safety, labor rights, and the environment, along with journalists. Plaintiffs include ALDF, PETA, ACLU, CFS, Farm Sanctuary, River’s Wish Animal Sanctuary, Western Watersheds Project, Sandpoint Vegetarians, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE), Idaho Hispanic Caucus Institute for Research and Education (IHCIRE), the political journal CounterPunch, Farm Forward, journalist Will Potter, Professor James McWilliams, investigator Monte Hickman, investigative journalist Blair Koch, and undercover investigations consultant Daniel Hauff.

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► **Shellfish farming** cont. from page 3.

intensifying these non-point nutrient pollution that poisons our shellfish beds in Henderson Inlet.

It was at this time in 2001 that PSRF partnered with the Pacific Coast Growers Association and WSU to create the HICSF in conjunction with the formation of the Shellfish Protection District (SPD) within the Henderson/ Nisqually Reach watersheds. HICSF became a stakeholder within the SPD, working with partners to create context and to educate community members around the necessary work to be done to improve water quality in the inlet and stop the flow of nutrient pollution. The SPD, stakeholders, and partners worked diligently with homeowners to inspect and maintain septic systems, create farm plans with agricultural businesses to manage fecal waste, and the creation of stormwater treatment plants in the city of Lacey and Olympia. Along with this they have worked to slow down nutrient inputs during heavy rainfall, implemented constant water quality testing, orchestrated a county wide pet waste campaign, and promoted many other efforts around education for students and community members to create awareness and stimulate action.

It was almost ten years later, in 2010, that these efforts finally began to pay off for the oysters and residents of Henderson Inlet. Between 2010 and 2012, 340 acres of the shellfish growing area were upgraded by the Department of Health as determined by the frequent testing throughout water stations in the inlet. Growing areas such as the HICSF's status changed from conditional to approved allowing for safe harvest most of the year!

Now more than ever, with water quality presently trending toward a decrease in bacterial contamination, efforts are needed to continue this



Two hardy volunteers celebrating a good day of work and clean water at one of the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farms monthly work parties enjoying some fresh oysters off the grill. Photo courtesy of Puget Sound Restoration Fund

positive momentum as well as celebrate the successes in the watershed. Outreach goals with HICSF have been

issues and say thank you for the work that has been accomplished is operate an Oyster-Give-Away Program. This program rewards residents of the combined Henderson and Nisqually Reach watersheds with a dozen free oysters for those who successfully complete the Operation and Maintenance of their septic systems required within the SPD. This year HICSF is currently expanding the Give-a-way program to those who have taken action volunteering towards water quality, create

farm plans on their property, or other pledges people make to Puget Sound. Oyster Give-A-Way dozens can be picked up at farm events or the HICSF Farm Stand located in East Olympia at George and Son's Fruit Market @ 427 Lilly RD, Olympia, WA. Currently HICSF operates year round hosting monthly work parties, volunteer opportunities, and educational tours.

These events allow for people to visit the farm and participate in a hands-on oyster farming experience, learning about oyster aquaculture and upland connections to water quality while also supplying that gut connection to Puget Sound through oyster BBQs and slurping some on the half-shell. HICSF can also be found in the community shucking oysters or serving oyster pickle sandwiches at events such as the PCSGA's SLURP, SSEA Turn of the Tides Festival in Olympia, Elliot's Oyster House's Oyster New Year in Seattle, and others. You can find Henderson Pacific Oysters on the half-shell at the Dockside Bistro in Olympia, the HICSF Farm Stand, and events throughout Puget Sound.

Population growth is not expected to slow down; our community needs to keep in mind how to manage our growth, to be stewards of our marine environment. Our actions will impact the water quality downstream and ultimately our access to these marine resources for now and for generations to come.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." —John Muir

Derek King grew up on Orcas Island where his connection to the Salish Sea began. Currently based in Olympia, Derek graduated from the Evergreen State College with a dual BS/BA in Marine Science and Environmental Journalism in 2014, and is a Program Technician with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund. There he manages the day-to-day operations at the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm and coordinates and assists in other native species and water quality projects.

For more information on the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm, volunteer opportunities, and Oyster-Give-Away Program, go to www.restorationfund.org.

* With the role of PSRF accomplished Drayton Harbor CSF has since become its own commercial entity in 2014 as the Drayton Harbor Oyster Company.

Warshington by broKEN

Was howl my father pronounced it when here
He from Indiana, I Kali-foreign, ya'll
Him to return but I stayed, and pronounced it washed up

Oh home in the rain
Where they've cornered us so we can complain
But do little more than spruce up our cave
In theory an anarchist, in reality a slave

Home of ICE: the coldest of all corrections
Home of the seeds of the world's eventual end by nuclear death
Home of Bill Gates and, like everywhere, meth
And heroin, good weed, bad cocaine
Deception pass the space needle I need to shoot up,
smoke out, snort, and drink
I'm in pain
So alone
I'm in pain so so alone
Still I'm glad I moved here
My new home
I'll never be the same
Unless forced away by earthquake or flood
or inconvenient convenience store shooting
I will remain, and rant; sit and smile, in
and at, Washington—removing the war
with humor and wit
Just don't invite me to the protest
That won't change shit
See my previous if you're asking advice
Something about burning, I believe
Read it twice

Kenneth continues to struggle through poverty, bringing home the bacon only when it's free. The starving artist is what he has been branded; though he writes from the left, he is definitely right-handed.

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MINING THE WEALTH OF THE 99% AND THE NATION

Definition of financialization

Financialization is the current form of capitalism in the United States, transforming the economy over the last four decades.

A financialized economy is primarily focused on the accumulation of capital—short-term profit (and as much as possible) is its major focus.

Large corporations have become financialized in that they have accumulated large sums of money—more than they need for financing their investments—so they have become largely independent of banks. Where in the past they would have invested their excess capital in new commercial ventures, they now invest it in finance, which creates little in real assets.

Financial investments are more profitable because they have less overhead. (No factories to build and maintain, little in labor costs, management, etc.)

"Studies by Özgür Orhangazi, an economist, show that as financialization increases, investment in financial assets tends to crowd out investment in real assets, because the markets prefer short-term and liquid assets, and nonfinancial corporations face increased pressure to make investor payouts (principally through dividends or stock buybacks) instead of buying real assets." (Gautam Mukunda)

All this puts great pressure on labor—fewer jobs, stand-still incomes, decreased benefits—because of the financialized economy's desire for greater profits *now* rather than later.

"Financialization promotes increased income inequality with increased shares of the Gross Domestic Product going to owners of financial assets, who tend to be the very rich. The short-term orientation of financial investors undermine long-term investment important for healthy economic development." (Gerald Epstein)

Banks, too, have been altered. "They do less straightforward money collecting and lending and more transacting in open markets, and more business with households." (Costas Lapavitsas)

According to Costas Lapavitsas, households have also become financialized, and not in a good way. With stagnant wages, job insecurity, and long-term unemployed, households have become more dependent on borrowing (credit cards) while "at the same time, public provision in health, education, housing, and so many other fields has either not expanded or retreated."

One in seven Americans—46 million people—rely on food pantries and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families. (USA Today)

Outsourcing

"Many large 'industrial' corporations, according to Ravi Bhandari, do not manufacture at all. They retain the segments of brand design, marketing, distribution and financial management and outsource the manufacturing," thereby limiting their risks and responsibilities. "The suppliers, faced with a single buyer, are forced to reduce their operating costs to a minimum."

"Coca-Cola, for example, does not own or operate any bottling plant in Colombia. No related accounting linkage exist with outsourced bottling plants, all under franchise, with the American brand. Coca-Cola has outsourced not only commercial risk and responsibility for pollution, but also the violent exploitation of its 10,000 workers on temporary contracts, for \$80/month, no holidays, pensions, insurance." (Ravi Bhandari)

"In the last 30 years, financialization has also become a factor that both produces unemployment...Increased pressure from financial markets and institutions on corporations encouraged massive layoffs, outsourcing, production transfers, and plant closures." (Ozgur Orhangazi)

The percentage of those employed in the U.S. has changed little since the end of 2009 when the job market bottomed out at 59 percent—so far a seemingly permanent drop of four percent. (Remember, the official unemployment rate does not include the long-term unemployed nor the never-have-been employed.) (U.S. Department of Labor Statistics)

Influence of financialization

The great wealth of financialized corporations have given them an ability to influence "financial markets, institutions, and elites over both the economy and the other institutions of society, including the government," and operate outside the law. For example:

- The U.S. Treasury Secretaries over the last two decades:
 - Jack Lew**, the current secretary, former COO at Citigroup (2013- present)
 - Timothy Geithner**, president of Warburg Pincus, a Wall Street private equity firm (2009 to 2013)
 - Hank Paulson**, formerly the CEO of Goldman Sachs (2006-2009)
 - John Snow**, chairman of Cerberus, a private equity firm (2003-2006)
 - Paul O'Neil**, CEO of Alcoa and RAND Corporation chairman (2001-2002)
 - Larry Summers**, received \$5 million+ from D.E. Shaw hedge fund after leaving the Treasury (1999-2001)
 - Robert Rubin**, Goldman CEO before and senior position at Citigroup after (1995-1999)
- "When the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) attempted to regulate derivatives— financial instruments that played a key role in the crisis—Wall Street's response was a lobbying blitzkrieg. The result was a series of exemptions that ensured the CFTC's regulations would cover less than 20% of the world market." (Gautam Mukunda)

- Attorney General Eric Holder: When our chief law enforcement officer testifies before Congress that he didn't hold the banks accountable because they are "so powerful, he has declared them above the law." (Gautam Mukunda)

Financialization undermines economies in two ways:

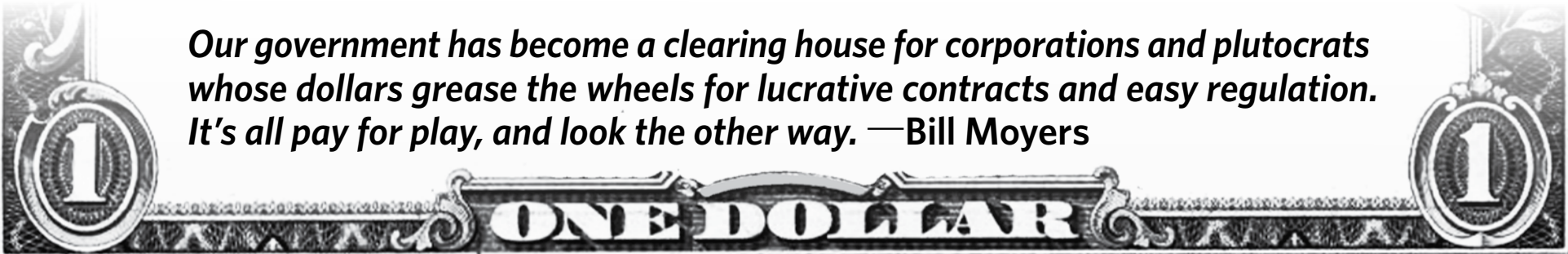
- **It makes an economy more prone to crashes.** "While a strong financial system is crucial to a country's early and intermediate-stage growth, once the sector becomes too large—when private-sector credit reaches 80% to 100% of the Gross Domestic Product— it actually inhibits growth and increases volatility. (Gautam Mukunda)
- **It tends to encourage the misallocate resources.** "The British economist Roger Bootle argues that all economic activity can be classified as either "creative" or "distributive." Creative work increases a society's wealth. Distributive work just moves wealth from one hand to another. Every industry contains both. But activity in the financial sector is primarily distributive...a very high level of a form of distributive activity called "rent seeking," which involves trying to make a profit by manipulating government policy."

"Studies by Özgür Orhangazi, an economist, show that as financialization increases, investment in financial assets tends to crowd out investment in real assets, because the markets prefer short-term and liquid assets, and nonfinancial corporations face increased pressure to make investor payouts (principally through dividends or stock buybacks) instead of buying real assets." (Gautam Mukunda)

Financialization ideology

[Corporate] "executives often explain their deference to Wall Street by saying they have a "fiduciary duty" to maximize shareholder returns. The problem, however, is that it's not true..A fiduciary duty is a specific legal obligation, and, as a matter of law, American executives simply do not face any such requirement." (Gautam Mukunda)

"Well-functioning financial markets are crucial to a modern economy. But what economies primarily need are financial institutions that can mobilize long-term, patient capital and allocate it to dynamic and productive sectors of the economy, institutions that can help workers and investors save for important needs, such as education, housing and retirement, and that can diversify risks. Instead financialization, as it has evolved in the U.S., has contributed to short-termism and impatient capital, diversion of resources to speculative investments, and increases in risks for most workers and middle class investors." (Gerald Epstein)



Our government has become a clearing house for corporations and plutocrats whose dollars grease the wheels for lucrative contracts and easy regulation. It's all pay for play, and look the other way. —Bill Moyers