

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 26, No. 12

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

APRIL 2016

## A mother's plea for justice

### Police accountability for last year's West Olympia shooting

Crystal Chaplin

It was a nice day in May 2015. It was dry outside and both André and Bryson decided they were going to the local skate park on Cooper Point Road. It wasn't far from where we lived; they left late that afternoon.

That night, or should I say early that morning on May 21, my daughter came home saying someone had just been shot down on Cooper Point Road not far from our home. She was frantic asking if her brothers were home. "They hadn't come home yet," I said to her. We stayed up the rest of the night waiting for them to come home, but they didn't.

Later that morning there was a knock on the door. It was detectives/police saying that both my sons, André and Bryson, were both shot in the chest by a police officer and were in critical condition. I froze; I can remember dropping to the floor. My heart felt like it was just ripped out of my chest.

I cried and I felt sick to my stomach. I said, "God please don't take them from me. Please." What went through my mind then was why a police officer would shoot them? What the hell is going on?

We were told which hospital they were taken to. When we arrived at the hospital I was not allowed to go in to see my sons. An officer was there in the lobby outside the ICU wanting to ask my daughter more questions. After informing my family on what happened they advised me to stop talking to the police or media until we have legal representation. I immediately said, "no more questions. I want to see my sons right now." They finally let me in after a few minutes.

Walking into that room seeing my youngest son unconscious and having all these machines around him—wires all over him and on a respirator to help him breath—was something I wasn't prepared for. It was frightening and very overwhelming and then seeing a police officer sitting there all calm made me so upset. I wondered why he was there with his little pad writing things down. I still didn't know exactly what had happened or if my son would make it. Doctors then said to me that he was stable but still critical.

I asked where was my other son. At first they didn't seem to know where he

was but finally we were told where he was, he was about 30-45 minutes away from St Peter's. Before leaving to get on the freeway for the drive to Tacoma General Hospital, we made sure Bryson was stable.

I felt numb and so worried because

I cried and felt sick to my stomach. I said, "God please don't take them from me. Please." What went through my mind was why a police officer would shoot them? What the hell is going on?

now I'm going to see André and I wasn't prepared for what I was about to see, I was scared and I just prayed "Please, God, please let him be still with us, please." Finally making it to André's room I was so happy to see him awake and I could see the pain and worry in his eyes. He

asked how his brother, Bryson, was. I told him and he began to cry. My heart was breaking.

He said, "Go back to Bryson, Mom, I'm okay." He was so worried for his brother. He said, "Mom, Bryson needs you."

I kissed him, told him I loved him very much and said, "I will be back soon baby." "Love you, Mom," he said.

Arriving back at St. Peters Hospital Bryson was still unconscious and being readied to be airlifted to Seattle Harborview Hospital. I stayed overnight with Bryson not leaving his side, talking to him saying to him I love you and saying, "Bry-Bry, open your eyes. Baby, fight. Baby, you're strong. I'm here; Mommy's not going anywhere."

I believe it was the next day when he opened his eyes. Family had flown in from Rhode Island, Florida and California to be with us because this was just unbelievable. Nothing like this happens in our family. We would drive back and forth between hospitals until André was released a couple days later. My brother, my oldest son, my son's father, my daughter and I would take turns staying with Bryson

in the hospital because we didn't want him to be alone; someone had to be with him at all times. The drive back and forth from Seattle was so stressful and overwhelming.

I was so afraid for André and Bryson. I still am 'til this day.

Bryson is now paralyzed. He has a bullet in his back from the White police officer who opened fire on him and his brother. When I learned that he couldn't walk and saw the x-ray that showed the bullet in his spine, I was angry that the police lied. They told me both he and his brother were shot in the chest.

*Liars!*

And while in the hospital, after Bryson was airlifted to Seattle, I got a call from the Olympia police chief asking me how I was doing and saying he was sorry for what happened. He spoke some more, but I wasn't really paying too much attention to what he was saying because I really didn't want to hear what he had to say. I remember him saying to call him when I could because he would like to talk with me.

"Hmm, for what," I asked in my mind.

After about a month Bryson was

► **JUSTICE**, continued on page 11

## God as Republican

### Theocratic thinking on the 2016 presidential campaign trail

Enrique Quintero

#### Connected with the divine

Claiming to have God on your side can be philosophically problematic, mainly because without logical evidence, you are invoking an imaginary force with extra powers and unexplained superior morality as an ally and justifier of your actions, without risking much social scrutiny. As a politician running for office in a nation that, according to the 2010 results of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, has over three-hundred-fifty-thousand religious congregations, with an estimated total of over one-hundred-and-fifty-million adherents, asserting that God is on *your* side may constitute

more an act of political calculation than an act of faith. This type of political scheming is not new in human history; rather, it's probably as old as human political opportunism.

In search for political power, rulers from ancient civilizations as well as contemporary political leaders have,

...rulers from ancient civilizations as well as contemporary political leaders have, on innumerable occasions, created a connection with God merely by claiming that such a connection exists.

on innumerable occasions, created a connection with God merely by claiming that such a connection exists. Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz belong to this

category of evangelical politicians, or so they both tell us. To the surprise of many, it turns out that God in the United States happens to be Republican.

#### Early crucifixion: The Marco Rubio case

The principle of the separation between church and state constitutes one of the guiding principles of western political democracy. This separation between faith and politics is also required by the First Amendment to the American Constitution, which allows all citizens the freedom to practice any religion of their choice, but also stops government from favoring any particular religion. The violation of this principle constitutes the main mistake of theocratic politicians.

Rubio's use of faith for political advantage is not new to his political career; his passion for 'country and God' is only eclipsed by his religious contortionism: first born as Catholic, later converted to Mormonism while

living in Nevada for three years, then, after returning to Florida, he was confirmed and married in the Catholic

► **REPUBLICAN**, continued on page 11



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

Monday, April 18  
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting  
Saturday ♦ April 23 ♦ 1 pm

Lacey Timberland Library  
(in the goup study section)

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On the front cover —

The cover graphic depicts an image of Donald Trump overlaying the Israeli West Bank Barrier. Trump has consistently called for a similar structure to separate the US and Mexico. Some tagging on the wall reads: "Here is a wall at which to weep," "Love Justice," "Know Hope," "Only Free Men Can Negotiate. -N. Mandela" and "Made in the USA," as well as "Israel, is this what you want to be remembered by?"

Barrier photo: Kate Gould, FCNL

Graphic design: Michaela Williams

Nicaraguan visitors from our sister community will be here April 19 to May 12



Jean Eberhardt

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association (TSTSCA) has hosted numerous community exchanges as part of our sister city relationship with Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua. Since 1988, over 150 people from Thurston County have visited Santo Tomás, and 31 *tomasin@s* have visited Olympia. Sometimes always they include learning about reality on the ground, be it here or there. Throughout the typical three-week long delegation visits to the states, TSTSCA members accompany our guests to local schools, the public colleges, libraries, museums, and other relevant organizations in the greater Olympia area. Some context:

TSTSCA began as a part of the decentralized sister city movement that sought to “sister” with communities in countries with which the US was at war, overtly or covertly. During the 70s and 80s in Nicaragua, a brutal dictator was toppled, followed by an impressive social and economic revolution that was attacked by the US funded contra war. All of this drew the attention of many people in the US who demanded an end to funding the war that caused incalculable amounts of suffering, while demanding respect for a sovereign nation. After the war ended and Nicaragua shifted into a long period of disastrous neoliberal economics, TSTSCA maintained its relationship with Santo Tomás by supporting projects including a children's free lunch program, small public library, and the construction of different education and health care facilities. Nicaragua entered yet another economic era seven years ago with the re-election of the Sandinista Party, access to cheap Venezuelan oil making possible the financing of poverty reduction projects, signing on to the CAFTA-DR Free Trade Agreement and a further opening of export markets (coffee, textiles, gold, beef, sugar, seafood). A controversial inter-oceanic canal has been given the green light to proceed, displacing farmers, with volatile opinions being sounded across the country. A new law is now in effect to squelch protests and demonstrations.

In the midst of many challenges in both of our countries, we are honored to host the 11th community delegation from Santo Tomás, which will arrive in Olympia on April 19th and depart for home on May 12th, 2016. This delegation will be largely focused on education, with a good dose of cultural pride.

Please join us and connect with the delegation from Santo Tomas. (See the TSTSCA special events in the next column.)

- **Juanita Yuri Alfaro López** is the volunteer coordinator of the College Scholarship Program that TSTSCA has supported for the last six years, helping young people become professionals dedicated to serving their community. Yuri is also a return visitor, having come to Olympia in 2002 and is a compelling public speaker on issues ranging from gender to living through war and subsequent hard times. She's a member of the Comité para Desarrollo Comunal and an accountant in the Clínica Popular.
- **Amilta Danelia Rocha** is a recent graduate of the Scholarship Program. After completing a five year university program in nursing, she has secured full time employment in a private clinic in Santo Tomás and supports her younger siblings, inspiring them to continue their studies. One of her interests is equine therapy for people with disabilities.
- **Thelma Nubia Castillo Suarez** is the librarian at Rubén Darío, Lincoln Elementary's sister school. Thelma will be the 7th teacher to visit from the sister school. She will spend much of her visit at Lincoln, getting to know students, parents and staff.
- **César Enrique Castillo Bermúdez** is an elementary school teacher in a rural community outside of Santo Tomás, who earned his teaching certificate while completing high school! He is also involved with a youth group that offers healthy activities such as dance and outdoor walks. He enjoys performing traditional dances from Nicaragua as well as Zumba, salsa, merengue, etc.
- **María Isabel Ruíz Taleno** is still working with TSTSCA to secure her visa from the US Embassy. If she is able to travel to Olympia, she will focus on learning about community museums and interactive exhibits in support of the local museum in Santo Tomás the visits include volunteering alongside people in community development projects and schools, and

She will also make solid connections with students, and local college professors who support students in traveling to Nicaragua to study. She will soon step into the main leadership role in Santo Tomás to support future student delegations from The Evergreen State College.

TSTSCA Special Events

**TSTSCA @ 2nd Annual Social Justice Bloc Party**  
**Arts Walk Weekend, April 22 & 23**  
**Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural**  
**119-1/2 Capitol Way North, Olympia**

Art, Music, Poetry, Food, Workshops, and Social Justice! Come see our community working across movements towards collective liberation and celebrate the arrival of the 11th delegation (since 1990) from Thurston County's sister community, Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua! Stop by to learn about upcoming events and join the festivities. For more information contact Allie at (360) 742-6997

**OHS Rotary Interact Club International Dinner**  
**Thursday, April 28, 6:00-8:00pm**  
**Olympia High School Cafeteria**  
**1302 North Street, Olympia**

Come see a variety of performances, including our visitors from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua, at this International Dinner that brings together students, parents, and community members to address current issues impacting Thurston County and the world. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$7. This year, donations will benefit the Tronie Foundation--a survivor-led organization that advocates on behalf of those at risk of exploitation, human trafficking, and slavery worldwide. For more information contact Rachel at (360) 951-7355

**A Night with Nicaraguan Neighbors: Stories, Dinner, and Dancing**  
**Saturday, April 30th 6:00-10:00pm**  
**The Abigail Stuart Woman's Club**  
**1002 Washington St SE, Olympia**

TSTSCA supports educational projects in Santo Tomás, Nicaragua including a public library, free lunch program, college scholarships, and don't forget the sister schools connection between Lincoln Elementary and Escuela Rubén Darío. Come learn from our visitors who themselves engage with these projects as students, educators, and community organizers. Stay tuned for updates about this evening, which will include dinner and dancing.

**Spanish-Language Activity Night**  
**Thursday, May 5, 6:00-9:00pm,**  
**in the Lincoln Gym**  
**213 21st Ave SE, Olympia**

Food, Music, Spanish, Activities, Friendship! Join us for an evening with our visitors from Nicaragua & help celebrate our Sister-School Connection! Brought to you by Lincoln Elementary & the Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association. For more information or to volunteer contact Emily at 360-480-8720.

**4th Annual Benefit Spring Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-3:00pm**  
**117 Thomas St NW**  
**between Harrison and 4th**

We'll be selling 50+ varieties of native and non-native flowering plants, shrubs, and edibles to raise money for college scholarships for students from Santo Tomás. The Olympia Farmworker Justice Collective will also be selling strawberry starts in support of the international boycott of Driscoll's berries. For more information, to donate plants, or to volunteer, email tstsca@gmail.com

**Mount Rainier Trip**  
**Sunday, May 8th, 8:30am**  
**Carpool from Lincoln Elementary**  
**213 21st Ave SE, Olympia**

Come with us for a day in the snow and perhaps some sledding! Meet at 8:30am in the Lincoln parking lot on Washington Street (bring appropriate clothing, lunch and drinks). For more information, to offer to drive or to seek a spot in the carpool email tstsca@gmail.com by May 6th.

More events are being planned as this publication goes to press. Please like “Thurston/Santo Tomas Sister County Association” on Facebook to be updated on all that will be happening to introduce our visitors to the community and facilitate this educational and cultural exchange. You're also invited to email tstsca@gmail.com to learn more about our organization and to get involved.



# The Peasant Agroecology for Food Sovereignty and Mother Earth tour

Erika Takeo

During April 22-24, 2016, Marlen Sánchez and Nils McCune of the Nicaraguan Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo (ATC, or Rural Workers Association), will visit Olympia as part of a West Coast speaking tour. Agroecology, a form of low-input, politicized, sustainable agriculture, is seen as a key pillar to constructing food sovereignty, or the right of all peoples to define their own local, culturally appropriate food systems. The ATC is a founding member of La Via Campesina, an international social movement made up of peasants, agricultural workers, women farmers, fishermen and women, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, and migrants around the world that coined the term food sovereignty.

Sánchez and McCune will highlight the ATC and Via Campesina’s work to construct the Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano (IALA) Mesoamérica, or the Latin American Institute of Agroecology of Mesoamerica in Santo Tomás, Nicaragua. While IALAs exist in other parts of Latin America, this would be the first regional, agroecology peasant university of its kind for Central America. Another group from Santo Tomás will be in Olympia at the same time as the



Entrance to IALA Mesoamerica in Santo Tomás, Nicaragua with agroecology leaders from throughout Central America. Speaking tour delegates Nils McCune and Marlen Sánchez pictured on far left and far right, respectively. Photo credit: Nils McCune

ATC representatives for the speaking tour, organized through the Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association. These two groups look forward to meeting one another in the States! Sánchez and McCune also look forward to meeting with Evergreen State organic agriculture students and local farmers through the South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust.

### Bios of the two Via Campesina delegates:

- Marlen Sánchez is the National Coordinator of Agroecology for the ATC. She was one of the first graduates of IALA Paulo Freire, located in Venezuela, and is currently the director for implementation of IALA Mesoamerica.

- Nils McCune is a student and researcher in agroecology, as well as a technical team staff member with the ATC. He represented the ATC at the International Forum for Agroecology in Mali in 2015. He is a regular translator at Via Campesina international meetings (and can serve as translator during this proposed project). He is also the liaison to Friends of the ATC, the sister solidarity organization of the ATC.

*Please stay tuned for more details about the Olympia visit of this agroecology speaking tour at [friendsatc.org](http://friendsatc.org), or by contacting Erika Takeo at [erikatakeo.atc@gmail.com](mailto:erikatakeo.atc@gmail.com).*

## THE STORY OF MY LIFE © R.W. Walker 2008

I was born in Kentucky on a dark and stormy night  
My daddy bit the cord in half and I commenced to fight  
And when I learned to understand, my Mama, she would say  
Just you be a good boy, son, and life will be o.k.

Then I passed twelve grades at the consolidated school  
Which is where I met ol’ Joanie, my Barren County jewel  
I served in the Air Force, then came directly back  
And we took accommodations in a yellow shotgun shack

I swung a framing hammer for well nigh thirty years  
Each day we’d roll the cords up, then we’d drink us several beers  
When I walked in the kitchen, Joan would fry me up a steak  
And Joanie, when the lights went out, was icing on my cake

On weekends I would hunt or fish, I’d take along ol’ Dan  
Seems I’d get back to discover June had added to the clan  
And with each new arrival I’d tack on some extra space  
You never lack for doin’ with six kids around the place

One frosty mornin’ I slipped off a second story deck  
I landed ‘cross a footin’, it like to broke my neck  
And some #7 rebar sorta grazed my brain  
I got hooked on Oxycontin and it weren’t just for the pain

So now we’re on the county / mortal short of cash  
Some nice folks show us charity and others call us trash  
There’s nothin’ much that I can do but sit and watch the kids  
And every single one of them does just what we did

Now some say life’s a blessing and some say life’s a load  
And some think our redemption is broke down on some back road  
‘Though I got no college learning I can point you out the way  
Y’all just mind your mamas good and life will be o.k.  
You’ll see  
Life will be o.k.

## Special Events

**The Market With a Heart (MMJ Farmers Market)**  
**Every Sunday 11-5**  
**528 Devoe St. NE, Olympia**

Meet growers and processors and get medicine at patient-friendly prices. Watch the Seahawks! Be there for the 4:20 raffle! Must have ID and MMJ authorization. 21+

**Weekly Clinic Defense Demonstrations**  
**Every Friday, 10 AM**  
**Planned Parenthood**  
**402 Legion Way, Olympia**  
Hosted by OlyAct.

**NightMoves/Benefit for Long Hair David**  
**Friday, April 1, 10 PM**  
**Obsidian, 414 4th Ave E, Olympia**

Dance!! Attack!! returns with crates of vinyl in homage to the boogie. This night is about health, positivity, vibrancy, love for dancing and the warm, complete sound and energy of a diverse disco culture. Many of you know Long Hair David and his tireless spirit, his advocacy for the unseen population of Olympia, and his love for sweaty dancing. Come support him in a time where he needs us most. All proceeds from the door go to benefit David’s medical costs. He has been fighting for us for a long time and now it is time to warrior up. Dance Warriors! Keepers of the Floor! We summon you with undying love! DANCE!! ATTACK!!

**Brunch and Poems**  
**Sunday, April 3, 11 am - 2pm**  
**Media Island**  
**816 Adams St NE, Olympia**

April is National Poetry Month!

Join Media Island International and the Old Growth Poetry Collective for brunch food and spoken word poetry performances.

Half of the proceeds will help send a team from Olympia to the National Poetry Slam in Decatur, Georgia this summer.

**Copwatch Training**  
**Sunday, April 10, 3 PM**  
**Obsidian, 414 4th Ave E, Olympia**

Learn how to:

- Contest and limit police repression by monitoring officers
- Observe and document cops interactions with the public
- Educate community members on their rights and document their stories

**The 2nd Annual Social Justice Bloc Party**  
**Friday, April 22, 6-10pm**  
**Saturday, April 23, 12-8pm**  
**Capitol Way & State Ave, Olympia**

This event brings organizations ‘off the wall’ and into direct relationship with each other and the greater community to support building relationships across movements, issues, cultures and great distances. Meet fellow activists, organizers and artists working in local social justice organizations as featured organizations will table Friday & Saturday. Email [solidaritymural@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritymural@gmail.com) for more information

Sponsored by Art Forces & The Rachel Corrie Foundation

**April Sunday Assembly**  
**Sunday, April 24, 2:30-4:30pm**  
**Priest Point Meeting House**  
**3201 Boston Harbor Rd NE, Olympia**

Olympia Sunday Assembly is a secular community social group and we are excited to welcome Dr. Todd Duncan, a cosmologist, author, and teacher from Portland as he shares his perspective on the relationship between science, meaning, and wonder.

**2016 season begins May 10**  
**West Olympia Farmers’ Market**  
**Tuesdays, 4-7 pm**  
**West Central Park**  
**Harrison and Division**

Hosted by the West Central Park in Olympia’s Westside Neighborhood.

### Playback Theatre Performance

### Stories of Where Waters Meet and Life Abounds

in collaboration with Nisqually Reach Nature Center

**Friday, April 8, 7:30 pm**  
**Traditions Cafe, Olympia**

This month we collaborate with Nisqually Reach Nature Center (NRNC). NRNC has been offering estuarine environmental education at Luhr Beach since 1982. Through the years, their emphasis has changed from general public outreach to their current focus on providing supplemental classroom, laboratory, and field trip opportunities for schools in Thurston and Pierce counties and beyond. In a typical year, upwards of 2,000 school kids, mostly in grades 5 through 12, visit the Nature Center with their teachers and parents. They also support and sponsor estuarine research opportunities for South Puget Sound college students.

NRNC has four AWESOME salt water aquariums with a wide variety of species from South Puget Sound including Sea Stars, Sea Cucumbers, Dungeness Crabs, Red Rock Crabs, Anemones, and much more! They are open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12pm-4pm. Other exhibits include over 30 bird taxidermies, fossils, animal pelts, and much, much more. Come check them out!

They also host and perform a variety of research from the Nature Center within South Puget Sound. This includes Forage Fish surveys, Pigeon Guillemot surveys, and more. NRNC is the site proponent for the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve and they help support research and outreach about the reserve.

Suggested Donation \$7.00-\$12.00 (No one is turned away)

### Background information about Playback Theatre:

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



# Food, food-like substances, and the GMO vs. real food legal debates in Washington

Liza Rognas

Remember when you were a teenager in a life-sciences class where genetics was first explained to you using Mendel's experiments with peas? We all learned about dominant and recessive genes and their manipulation, producing hybrids. Genetic manipulation explained why Mendel could produce different colors of peas and pea blossoms; and why wolves don't look like golden retrievers even though they're all canines; and how brown-eyed parents could produce blue-eyed or green-eyed babies but not the reverse. If you want a refresher course on basic Medelian genetics, check-out this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWqgZUnJdAY>

On February 19, 2016, Washington State Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, sued the Grocery Manufacturers Association, whose members contributed \$11+ million to defeat Initiative 522, a 2013 state ballot measure that required foods sold in the State of Washington to carry a GM/GE label if those fresh foods, or the ingredients of processed foods, were genetically modified or genetically engineered. (Read more about this later in this article.)

The great concern is about the unintended consequences of GM foods upon human health and ecosystems. There's a huge difference between selective breeding—that which produces hybrids within a specific varietal, like peas, carrots, cabbage or grains using controlled parent plants and controlled pollination techniques –and GMOs, where genetically modified organisms become something other than what their genetic make-up produced. For example, a hybrid plant like wheat, hybridized from Triticum grass stock and domesticated by humans about 10,000 years ago—becomes a GM plant when genes or parts of genes from other organisms or chemicals are inserted into its cells using a technique called gene-splicing.

Soy beans, corn, rice and wheat are among the most genetically-modified, human/animal “food/feed” products in the world. For example, studies now show that genetically modified (GM) wheat, engineered to be high in protein (high gluten) and resistant to disease and to pesticides/herbicides, contain non-wheat amino acids that can penetrate cell walls. Emerging research shows that the GM wheat used throughout the US food industry may be contributing to Celiac Disease. Industrial agriculture has countered the debilitating effects of high gluten, GM wheat, by producing and marketing gluten-free products, at a much higher price, to the general public.

Another example can be found in beef. The average feed-lot beef steer slaughtered between age two and three ingests almost 100 liquid pounds of petrochemicals through his diet every year. Where does he get this food? From high protein, GM food-like, feed pellets (corn and soy) grown specifically for feed-lot animals, laced with petroleum-rich insecticides/herbicides, and fertilized with petroleum-based “nutrients.” The bovine species, Bos Taurus, cannot well digest corn or soy. Cattle evolved eating grass, not legumes (soy) and not GM corn—which moved from a grass, to a grain, to a starch under human manipulation as hybrids, but which is now almost totally GM, except for

heritage corn plants found in Central and South America.

Cattle in feedlots eat GM corn and soy food pellets to fatten them up so they can be slaughtered at about 1500 pounds at two years, rather than the 3-5 years a grass-fed steer takes to gain that weight. Feedlot cattle get sick from this fast-fattening feed diet. They are then inoculated with antibiotics, followed by doses of bGH (bovine growth hormone) to boost their weight to maximum before the final moment of slaughter.

What happens when cattle are force-fed corn and soy, which make them sick, and are then injected with antibiotics? They get diarrhea. The most common infection they harbor from being fed food they cannot eat is E.coli. The ethal strain of E.coli known as o157:H7 evolved

...the State of Washington is suing the Grocery Manufacturers Association for concealing major contributions from international companies that gave hidden donations of more than \$1 million to the NO on I-522 campaign.

in the gut of feedlot cattle. Poisoned beef poisons humans who eat it—witness the decades of E.coli reports/recalls for grocery store beef, fast-food restaurants and frozen “food-like” meat products.

In the larger, human-only, industrial “food” world: GM “food” producers create plant seeds infused with genetically spliced, high-protein nut, various bacteria and chemical genes. These GM plants are designed, not mated in a Mendelian fashion. Genetic engineering is now used by major food corporations to manufacture food-like substances for industrial food production. Biotechnology now makes it possible to insert genes, or parts of them, folded into proteins from one plant family to another (Brazil nut proteins into a wheat clone); and from plant genes into animal genes, creating an assorted mix of common GM “foods” as whole ingredients or as additives to processed human food products. One worst-case result? Latex-intolerant allergic reactions by people ingesting genetically modified corn and soybean products.

As consumers, we can escape the spiral of GM food -produced or -enhanced diseases by refusing to buy and eat them. Of course the question is, how do we know what is genetically modified and what isn't? That was the question fueling informed citizens of this state to successfully qualify I-522—the Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Measure—which appeared on the Washington ballot in November 2013.

Back to the politics of the I-522

campaign and the current case before the Washington Supreme Court.

In 2012, support for I-522 was coordinated by YES on 522, a group that included individual citizens, food activists, small-scale producers and several food co-operatives such as PCC Natural Markets, Olympia Food Co-op, and retail grocers like Whole Foods Market. It was also promoted by the Organic Consumers Association, and by Washington and Oregon Tilth. Dr Bronner's Magic Soaps issued a special label in support of I-522.

Labor groups supported the initiative, including the Washington State Labor Council, over 350 businesses, 25 seafood groups, 150 farms, more than 100 other groups, 45 elected officials and many individuals. Reported state campaign donations for YES on I-522 totaled more than 13,000 donors, giving \$6.2 million with a median donation of approximately \$25.

Full disclosure by author: I gave \$50 to the I-522 initiative.

The largest donation in opposition to I-522 was \$7.2 million from the Grocery Manufacturers Association. The top five contributors in opposition to I-522 were the Grocery Manufacturers Association, Monsanto, DuPont Pioneer, Dow AgroSciences LLC, and Bayer CropScience.

Currently, the State of Washington is suing the Grocery Manufacturers Association for concealing major contributions from international companies: PepsiCo, Nestlé USA and Coca-Cola each gave hidden donations of more than \$1 million to the NO on I-522 campaign. The opposition to I-522 raised nearly \$17.2 million, with most of the money coming from “food” companies Pepsi, Nestlé and Coca-Cola, and the rest from “food” chemical/biotech companies: Monsanto, Dow, DuPont, and Bayer.

Do you want to eat “manufactured food?” Or do you want to eat real food? Let's imagine a world we can take food for granted. A real food world where peas are peas, carrots are carrots, lettuce is lettuce, beets are beets, right? Is that a good assumption?

So, here's the take-away, in popular media parlance:

- Eat real food, fresh and organic, locally and seasonally grown.
- Don't buy mass-produced wheat, soy or corn products.
- Reduce or eliminate highly processed foods.
- Buy organic, sprouted grain breads and bread products.
- Give your money to the farmer at the market, or to local vendors.

Keep in mind that every dollar you spend in locally-owned businesses circulates in your community 12 times

before it leaves. Every dollar spent at a big-box corporate store leaves about 10-15 cents in the local economy when it's spent. The rest, let's say, 85 cents, immediately translates into corporate profits and dividends to shareholders within about 48 hours.

If we want to have safe local food, we must support our local organic growers. These farmers—small-scale (less than 20 acres)—are all around us. Most of them are organic or nearly so. In Thurston, Lewis and Mason counties, buying local and organic means no GMOs in the plant world; many opportunities to buy plants or seeds from heritage growers—very tasty and often higher in nutrients; no GM feed, antibiotics or hormones in the meat world; no weird, genetically modified cells making crazy diseases in our human bodies or being flushed into the rivers, aquifers and oceans from which we draw water and life.

Readers, I'll wager that my words confirm what you already know. I'm excited that our state's Attorney General is calling the question and proving the point related to campaign financing and corruption. I must say that I'm dancing with glee that in this instance, local organic food may win the day against the behemoth corporations on the GMO issue.

Full disclosure: I did drink a cola at a locally-owned restaurant the other day. While drinking the soda, I never once confused it with food.

*Liza Rognas is an academic librarian and a research professional, and has been a community food security activist and researcher for 20 years in Washington State.*

## What the Grocery Manufacturers Association spent lobbying nationwide

GMA's PAC made \$222,245 in political contributions at the federal level in 2014—63 percent to Republicans and 37 percent to Democrats—according to the Center for Responsive Politics. According to the Sunlight Foundation, the top recipient of GMA political contributions from 1989 through the second quarter of 2014 was Democratic Senator Ron Kind of Wisconsin. GMA made \$11,073,608 in political contributions at the state level in 2014, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics. It has spent \$41,052,904 in lobbying at the federal level from 1989 through the second quarter of 2014, according to the Sunlight Foundation. It spent \$4,620,347 lobbying at the federal level and had eight lobbyists active in three states in 2014.



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Meaning making

# The erasing of Bernie Sanders

Emily Lardner

Language matters. How we name things, how we describe things, the things we choose talk and write about—all of those choices shape the shared world of meaning in which we live. It's not that language creates our material reality, as I argued with a student last quarter. The socio-economic status of the family one is born or adopted into, the physiological features upon which race is constructed—these are not created by language. How we understand, interpret, make meaning of class and race—these are functions of language and power.

We are witnessing this phenomenon of meaning making in the current primary races. Ted Cruz, a Republican contender with approximately 18% of the total number of available Republican delegates, is considered by many in his party to be a viable alternative to Donald Trump, who currently has approximately 30% of the total number. Simultaneously, Bernie Sanders, with 24% of total number of elected delegates (975 as March 28) as compared with Hillary Clinton, with 31% of the total elected delegates (1243 as of March 28), is being asked by leaders in the Democratic party to step aside. “Viable” is not a function of mathematical percentages, but rather of the preferences of those in power—the political and financial establishment.

**Hayakawa’s semantic parable—A story for our times**

In 1991, Republican Senator S. I. Hayakawa published *Language in Thought and Action*, a treatise on the nature of language and its effects on perception. In it, he offered a “semantic parable”—the story of two communities hit by a recession, each with about one hundred heads of families unemployed. In A-town, leaders believed that giving people something for nothing would undermine their character. On the other hand, their families were starving. What to do? The town leaders opted to give unemployed families “welfare payments” but made sure getting those payments was difficult and demoralizing.

In B-ville, leaders faced a similar situation—a recession, and a hundred heads of families unemployed. Rather than opting for welfare, the leaders in this town determined that these families had contributed to—had helped insure—the overall wellbeing of the community. Instead of welfare investigators, B-ville appointed claims adjusters, to ensure people were paid.

As the parable goes, A-town relations

festered. B-ville thrived. The point of the parable, Hayakawa suggested, was not that people can give different names to the same thing, but rather, that the different names we give make the things we are naming different. Social insurance in B-ville is not the same as welfare in A-town.

**Where is Bernie Sanders?**

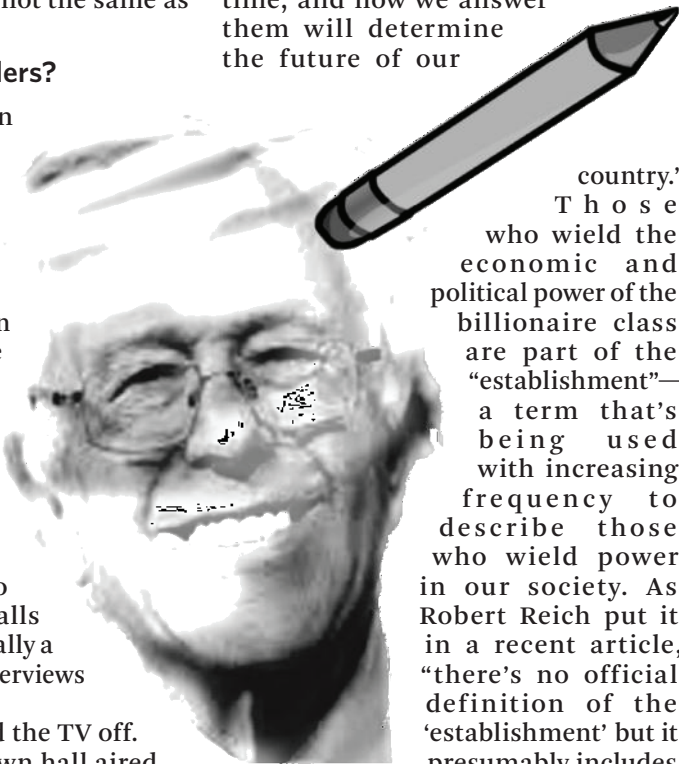
I should have known better. On March 21, while I was working on a draft of this article, I got a ping on my smartphone informing me that CNN was airing its town hall, featuring all five current presidential candidates. In spite of my skepticism (why would they all agree to a debate/discussion now?), I turned on the television, only to find that what CNN calls a “town hall” was actually a series of one-on-one interviews with candidates.

I should have turned the TV off. When an ad for the town hall aired several minutes later, encouraging viewers to stay tuned, it featured four of the five candidates. Kasich, Cruz, Trump, and Clinton—no mention of Senator Sanders. I kept watching. Hours later, I can report that the organization of this serial set of interviews perplexed me, going neither by alphabetical order nor by frontrunner status. CNN started with the three Republicans, and aired the interviews in order from least delegates to most—Kasich, Cruz, then Trump. That put Trump in prime time. When they switched to the Democrats, they reversed order, and began with Clinton, and then finally, hours later, ended with Sanders. From all appearances, he was the least wanted guest at the party. What’s up?

**Provoking the establishment**

All Senator Sanders has done is wage a successful campaign that is, in its very essence, a call for significant change. As he puts it on his campaign website, “The American people must make a fundamental decision. Do we continue the 40-year decline of our middle class and the growing gap between the very rich and everyone else, or do we fight for a progressive economic agenda that creates jobs, raises wages, protects the environment and provides health

care for all? Are we prepared to take on the enormous economic and political power of the billionaire class, or do we continue to slide into economic and political oligarchy? These are the most important questions of our time, and how we answer them will determine the future of our



country.” Those who wield the economic and political power of the billionaire class are part of the “establishment”—a term that’s being used with increasing frequency to describe those who wield power in our society. As Robert Reich put it in a recent article, “there’s no official definition of the ‘establishment’ but it presumably includes all of the people and institutions that have wielded significant power over the American political economy, and are therefore deemed complicit. At its core are the major corporations, their top executives, and Washington lobbyists and trade associations; the biggest Wall Street banks, their top officers, traders, hedge-fund and private-equity managers,

...major media companies are trying to erase the Sanders’ campaign. CNN’s pseudo-town hall is but one example...Democratic Senators are in on this erasure too.

and their lackeys in Washington; the billionaires who invest directly in politics; and the political leaders of both parties, their political operatives, and fundraisers. Arrayed around this core are the deniers and apologists—those who attribute what’s happened to ‘neutral market forces,’ or say the system can’t be changed, or who urge that any reform be small and incremental.” Senator Sanders’ campaign is grounded squarely in challenging the people and the institutions, including the media, that have exercised power over the American political economy. In response, major media companies are trying to erase the Sanders’ campaign. CNN’s pseudo-town hall is but one example.

Democratic Senators are in on this erasure too. According to Burgess Everett, writing for Politico on March 21, 2016, a group of Democratic senators, backers of Hillary Clinton, are calling on Sanders to stop pointing out differences between his positions and Clinton’s, and instead focus on the inadequacies of Donald Trump’s policies. The issues where differences can and should be ignored, claim these senators, for the sake of party victory, include trade, financial regulation, and foreign policy.

**Counting Delegates**

I’m not a party activist, and I’ll never be chosen to be a super-delegate, but in my role as an ordinary person trying to make sense of our political system, I found myself wondering what the vaunted delegate counts mean, in terms

of actual voter turn-out.

I did some digging, and found two useful sources. Michael McDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida, keeps a website entitled “United States Election Project” (<http://www.electproject.org/2016P>). There, he keeps track of voter turn out for all the primaries and caucuses, noting the total number of the voting age population in a state, the voting eligible population, and the number that turned out for the primary or caucus, Democrats and Republicans. He includes notes about where he gets his data, and even a quick look at his table confirms that the number of people making decisions about the delegates awarded to these candidates is much smaller than the number of eligible voters. The highest voter turn-out so far has been in New Hampshire—52.4%. The lowest turnouts, under 10% of eligible voters, occurred in Nevada, Minnesota, Kansas and Maine.

I used the Real Clear Politics website to get a current delegate count ([http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/democratic\\_delegate\\_count.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/democratic_delegate_count.html)). One thing about this site, in comparison with the New York Times site, is that super delegates aren’t lumped into the delegate totals. (If you are trying to track elected delegates to get a sense of what people want, the New York Times site is maddening.) After doing some simple math, I realized my concerns about biased reporting and the irresponsible use of language are well placed. For example, in Massachusetts, Sanders won 45 delegates and Clinton won 46. The Washington Examiner wrote, “Hillary Clinton has won Massachusetts, dealing a major blow to her rival Sen. Bernie Sanders.” In the Illinois primary, Sanders won 67 delegates and Clinton won 68. The Washington Post headline the following day read “Super Tuesday II: Clinton sweeps Florida, Illinois,

Ohio and North Carolina.” In fact, in terms of delegates awarded in all four states, Clinton won 339 while Sanders won 239—in other terms, Clinton won 58.7% of the combined delegate totals, and Sanders won 41.3%. In terms of actual numbers of people who participated in those four Democratic caucuses, 3,525,243 voted supported Clinton, but 2,449,745 supported Sanders. Clinton won, but the nearly 2.5 million people who voted for Sanders have been swept under a rug of easy rhetoric.

**It’s not over—nearly half the delegates are still to be delegated**

As I write this article, about half the Democratic delegates have been elected. Half remain to be chosen, by people in the states whose primaries and caucuses fall after March 28. As strong as the establishment resistance is to Bernie Sanders’ candidacy (to say nothing of Trump’s, that that’s another story), so too are the millions of people who disagree with the Democratic party establishment that “trade, financial regulation, and foreign policy” are minor matters. In fact, we are living in—and actively shaping—a moment in U.S. history where the political and financial elite are being challenged through the democratic process in a new way. Even if the mainstream media won’t carry the story, this moment of political foment is real.

*Emily Lardner lives and works in Olympia, Washington.*

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Newspaper carrier

The lonely road of a local contract worker

Michael Wilson

When I retired a few years ago my wife and I moved to Olympia so that I could finish my college degree. I had hoped to find some sort of employment after college. Unfortunately that didn't work as planned so I took a job as a contractor delivering newspapers to help make ends meet. That proved to be an interesting experience.

The Uber or Gig Economy, as contracting is being called, has been with us for some time and in the news recently. Many different fields are represented. Some workers are doctors or software designers. Others are janitors and landscape workers.

I signed a contract when I went to work for this company that spelled out my responsibilities. If I had had some legal advice of my own I might have had second thoughts about taking the job but at the time that was not really an issue since I had no plans on being there more than about eighteen months. I had delivered newspapers when I was a kid and I had spent considerable time in retail so I knew how to treat a customer. I wanted to pay off a couple of bills, put a few dollars away and this job would have done that. For the most part I was on my own. I had no one looking over my shoulder. If I made a mistake I fixed it. In some instances I was charged three dollars for an error but for the most part I took care of my business without many problems.

To some two-hundred customers I delivered six papers, a local one and two others from in the state *as well as the USA Today, Investor's Business Daily,* and the *New York Times*. It was a fairly simple job one where I showed up at 1 a.m., picked up the papers as they came off the truck, inserted the comics and ads which was done daily except on Mondays. For some reason Mondays were the only days the comics were inserted as the papers were printed. The plastic bags the papers come in are purchased by the carriers and many of us inserted the papers in the bags before we left the warehouse. I was told that the company once paid for the bags and rubber bands but shifted the costs to the carriers a few years ago.

If there was a sports event on Sunday we could plan on spending more time waiting for the Monday papers to arrive. Add to that three hours a week at home updating my route list. For this I earned about a thousand dollars a month or about six to seven dollars an hour. From that I then took out my gas and other expenses which dropped my income. The time spent on the job varied but the work was about 30 to 35 hours a week.

On my first route I was given a monthly gas allowance. On the second one with just a few less miles I didn't receive gas allowance. I was fortunate in that the routes I ran during the time I was working there generally were about 45 miles.



Some people had routes that were eighty or more miles and one man told me he drove over 120 miles a night.

The first day or two on the job I rode with the carrier I was going to replace at my own expense. The third day I drove and she received no pay. From then on the route was my responsibility and it then took me a couple of weeks to get it down so that I could drive it without wondering if I had delivered to all of my customers. This was my first route with the company and I didn't know what really to expect from them in terms of assistance but the job was not complicated. Even though the pay was low I would be able to pay off some of our bills and there was no one leaning over my shoulder criticizing my work.

To some two-hundred customers I delivered six papers, a local one and two others from in the state *as well as the USA Today, Investor's Business Daily,* and the *New York Times*.

Other carriers told me that according to state law the route supervisors are not allowed to tell you what to do and they also are not allowed to provide much in the way of advice or explain any best practices. In my case the first route I ran was easy. The woman I took it over from handed me a well maintained route map of customers that showed me the best way to run the route. On the second route the map I was given to work from was three years old. Fortunately I did get an alphabetical customer list. I was then left with the task of matching the names up with the list that showed which order the streets were in and then place the customers in order of their address.

The weather complicated things. I dealt with downed trees blocking the road on a couple of nights. I also had to contend with elk, deer, lots of raccoons a few dogs and even one bear. All made life

interesting. Then there were the drivers whom I will assume were drunk. Two nights in a row I dodged cars that ran stops signs. There was the night I had to pull into a driveway to avoid a pickup truck. I heard him before I saw him come around the curve and I was lucky that I did hear him. He was in my lane coming at me at about 60 mph.

There were the occasional accidents, ambulances and damage done by those who decided that running over mail boxes late at night and knocking over every trash can they could see was a fun time.

My wife who doesn't drive because of a disability rode with me sometimes. That was mainly to give her something to do but I also felt safer with her in the car. I didn't like of the idea of her being left overnight in the apartment by herself. Shortly after I started she had a relapse and had to stay home instead of riding along with me. A few months after I started the opportunity for a route closer to where we lived became available. I asked for a transfer since I felt it might be better for me to be closer to home in the event that she might need me in an emergency. The route supervisor that I was working for at the time agreed but also asked me to take on another route as well. I had my doubts because of the time involved but agreed to give the two routes a try.

It didn't take me two weeks to realize that combining the two routes wasn't going to work. Being new to both routes ended up putting me late getting done on the second one and I ended up with too many complaints. I was the one running the routes and had agreed to give it a try but somewhere along the line management should have had a better idea as to how long it took to do both especially when I was new to both of them. In the previous months I had been told by another carrier that it generally took three to four weeks to get a route down so that you could get done in time. As a result of being late I was charged

three dollars for each complaint which came out of my paycheck. The fact that I was new to both routes didn't seem to register with management and my effort to appeal the penalty fell on deaf ears. Part of the reason I had no luck in reducing the charges might have had something to do with the fact that the route supervisor who had started me on the two routes was dismissed a few days after I started on the second route.

I walked into the office one morning and asked to be relieved of the second route. In response another of the supervisors commented that he didn't think it was going to work out in the first place. Common sense had gone out the door but I still had to pay the financial penalty for the late papers on the second route.

A few days after I had turned the second route over to someone else I received a call from a woman saying that she had not received her television guide and needed one that day. I explained that I was no longer the carrier but she insisted. I called the supervisor who told me he was well out of the area and he then asked if I could deliver the copy. I agreed to do so and drove it over to her but received no compensation from management. Maybe I should have complained but at least I didn't have that problem to deal with so I shut up and let it go.

Theft was not much of a problem but on one section of my route someone was helping themselves to the papers but the problem was easily fixed. This section was the first part of the route and I just changed it and made it the last section I delivered. My wife was now riding with me again so I gave her a copy of the

► **CONTRACT WORKER**, cont. on page 7

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