

Local activists stand up to Tesoro

Olympians arrested in Anacortes opposing climate change and fossil fuels

Olympia Confronts the Climate Crisis

Twenty-one Olympia area climate activists with Olympia Confronts the Climate Crisis went to protest fossil fuel expansion at Tesoro Refinery at Anacortes and support the Break Free: PNW effort May 12-15. This was a call to break from fossil fuels. Six Olympia activists, motivated by the urgency of the situation and need caused by the climate crisis, and lack of effective effort at state or federal levels, planned to do civil disobedience in the form of trespass to block the oil trains and risk possible arrests. They had previously taken nonviolent direct action training. Because arrests were made at 5 AM Sunday morning only three Olympia activists were on the tracks at the time the arrests were made. Three others planned to be arrested but were at other locations in the action when the arrests were made. The Olympia area activists arrested were Todd Davidson, Scott Goddard and Scott Yoos. They face arraignment in Skagit County Superior Court on June 2. Forty-nine others who refused to vacate the tracks were also arrested.

Background

The Northwest Regional Action took place at the Shell and Tesoro refineries near Anacortes, Washington, from Thursday May 12-Sunday May 15. This included some pedestrian and kayak trespass civil disobedience actions but refineries were not shut down nor was there interference with refinery workers. On Saturday, May 14, there was a family friendly protest and Native Water Blessing and rally with Indigenous Peoples at the facilities attended by more than 1,000 People. Sunday after the arrests there was another protest march down the refinery road. People from all around the west participated in this citizen effort to hasten the end of the fossil fuel era and bring about a just transition to 100% renewable energy. [See video on the event: Break Free PNW: Direct Action Gets The Goods]

This regional focus for the Break Free was selected for the action because of proposed oil train expansion projects and new xylene plant planned for the facility. Already the Shell and Tesoro refineries near Anacortes are the largest source of carbon pollution in the Northwest and refine 47% of all the gas

and diesel consumed in the region. Our government and others have been unable or unwilling to stop expansion of fossil fuel energy projects in spite of scientific warnings that the lives of millions would be put at risk and life on our planet could end with the continued rate of use of fossil fuels. Pope Francis even pointed out that climate inaction puts the planet at the point of suicide. Canada just gave preliminary approval to a major oil pipeline and export expansion in British Columbia. Tesoro plans on expanding oil train shipments and exports from their site at March Point at Anacortes. Fossil fuel expansion and export facilities are also proposed along the Columbia River and in Grays Harbor.

Scientists, 195 national leaders at Paris UN Conference and world religious leaders have pointed out the need to end the fossil fuel era to reduce worst effects of climate change and have a livable planet. Our energy system must change within years not decades. We have a moral responsibility to direct an aggressive change to sustainable,



Mary Abramson & Donald Coughlin at March. Photo: Bob Zeigler

renewable energy to preserve a livable climate for our children and grandchildren.

Everything proposed by governments has been insufficient to stop the fossil fuels era or give our children a livable planet. [See recent report: "Warming

far outpacing climate action, as UN negotiators meet in Bonn"]

Citizen action is essential if we are going break free from our addiction to fossil fuels. Accountability to create a stable climate falls to civil society-you
► **ACTIVISTS**, continued on page 12

Hoo-hah! The scent of a woman!

Comments on presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's malodorous feminism

Enrique Quintero

Learning from others is anti-American, even if it could benefit women

Occasionally Hillary Clinton is inclined to tell the truth. One of those sparse occasions took place in the early 90's when she reassured Larry King that "there is no Left in the Clinton White House". Another, more recent, instance that unveils the ideological longevity of her neo-liberal values happened in February of this year when dismissing Bernie Sander's idea that the U.S. could learn from other industrialized nations which are able to provide higher quality socialized services; she stated that although she loved Denmark, "We are not Denmark, we are the United States of America!"

The implications of statements

like this oscillate and ultimately cover all the territorial space of political arrogance, stupidity about social learning processes, and unsubstantiated delusions about the superiority of American capitalism and U.S. exceptionalism. The progressive news organization "Common Dreams"

Clinton's self-proclaimed feminism has the function of giftwrapping the perpetuation of existing structures of power that, throughout her political career, Hillary Clinton has been unable and unwilling to challenge.

commented on Clinton's statement by reminding us that "America's twenty-first century 'exceptions' appear as dubious distinctions: gun violence,

carbon emissions, mass incarceration, wealth inequality, racial disparities, capital punishment, child poverty, and military spending." A sobering list meant to dissipate the conceited mind of American superiority.

From a feminist perspective, Denmark, among other things, has one of the highest levels of positive indicators regarding women's rights and gender equality. In fact, Denmark even has a Ministry of Gender Equality that oversees the implementation of progressive policies in areas such as: equal participation in political and economical decision-making; equal promotion of women and minorities to the labor market; LGBTQ issues; gender equal pay and equal retirement pensions; reconciliation of private and professional life i.e. maternity, paternity and parental leave; and eradication of gender-based

violence. I believe that for American men and women, there is more than one idea worth considering and emulating

► **CLINTON**, continued on page 15

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

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olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ June 25 ♦ 1 pm

Lacey Timberland Library
(in the group study area)

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On the front cover —

Black Lives Matter in Olympia—
One-year anniversary of the police
shooting of Andre and Bryson

Graphic design: Michaela Williams

Opportunity for Olympia: 1.5 percent income tax on the wealthiest 3 percent

Danielle Westbrook

This year, Olympia can seize the rare opportunity to address income inequality, increase revenue, and fund higher education for our community.

The initiative, Opportunity for Olympia, would provide at least one year of community college tuition, or the equivalent towards public, in-state university tuition for all high school graduates or GED recipients in the Olympia city limits. Nearly 2.5 million dollars in revenue will be raised through a 1.5 percent tax on household income over \$200,000—95 percent of which would go to funding education, not administration.

While the tax only applies to the wealthiest 3 percent of households in Olympia, it would raise millions of dollars to enable high school graduates to attend community college for free. By investing in a better-educated workforce, we will be able to attract more businesses, create good-paying jobs and ensure a legacy of opportunity for our entire community.

Opportunity for Olympia has garnered broad support in Olympia, including endorsements from Olympia City Councilmembers Clark Gilman and Jessica Bateman.

“My own story leads me to support the Opportunity for Olympia Initiative,” Clark said. “I was the first in my family

to go to college. I didn’t even fill out the financial aid forms my senior year of high school because we didn’t know a thing about higher education. I completed my freshman year at Evergreen, used up all my money and had to go to work. I returned several years later to complete the degree. A program like Opportunity for Olympia could offer students in my situation the support and encouragement to go on past high school.”

While the tax only applies to the wealthiest 3 percent of households, it would raise millions for high school graduates to attend community college for free.

Opportunity for Olympia isn’t only about equal access to higher education. It also takes a step in the right direction to address income inequality. Washington’s tax system is the most regressive in our country. In our community, the lowest income families pay nearly 17 percent of their income for state and local taxes, while those in the top one percent pay only 2.4 percent. We’re leaving millions in much needed revenue on the table, and this is our opportunity to address this issue in Olympia.

“Without progress at the state and federal level on tax reform our local governments will increasingly

be presented with initiatives from citizens trying to fix an inequitable and unsustainable system,” Bateman said.

“The fact is, the state of Washington hasn’t addressed tax equity. I’ve always believed that if no one is on the dance floor, it’s my personal responsibility to get something started,” Clark added.

“With so many families struggling to get by in our community it is more important than ever to ensure every student has the

opportunity to thrive and earn a post high school education. We must also take steps toward progressive taxation in order to fund vital pubic services and decrease the cost of higher education,” Bateman said.

Opportunity for Olympia is a grassroots campaign. Volunteers have been on the ground

collecting signatures since March. As of this writing, 1 in 6 Olympia voters have signed the petition. Over 4,700 valid signatures will be submitted to the Olympia City Council by June 21, with the initiative appearing on the general election ballot in November.

The campaign is seeking volunteers. To learn more, visit www.opportunityforolympia.com.

Danielle, a local political consultant and campaign manager for Opportunity for Olympia, is a parent and teacher, and mentors at-risk youth. She knows first hand the life-changing potential of this important initiative.

Farmworker solidarity grows across the U.S.

After all the lessons history has taught us, people unthinkingly continue to trample the rights of their neighbors. Doing the right thing requires effort to learn what the right thing is. The struggle

of any working people is a concern for all working people.

On May first, while all the media attention was focussed on the buffoonery of the Seattle Police Department, I.W.W.

members from around our region marched in Bellingham, Washington. The ongoing struggle for union recognition for Familias Unidas por la Justicia continues.

Early in the morning, the farmworkers began their march from miles outside Bellingham. I.W.W. picketers met up with students from Western Washington University and supporters from Community to Community at the COSTCO on the north side of Bellingham around noon.

The intrepid farmworkers marched in and joined the picket around one o'clock. A brief demonstration commenced by the front doors of COSTCO and then the entire ensemble continued onward. Together the groups marched the last three miles to Bellingham’s Maritime Heritage Park.

The farmworkers claim that the work they do is drastically undervalued by their employer Sakuma Brothers Farms. They are the biggest berry supplier to Driscoll’s Berries, the world’s largest berry distributor. The farmworkers of Familias Unidas por la Justicia still face an uphill battle, but they have caught the attention of one national news broadcast, *Democracy Now!*

Democracy Now! reporters investigated on the following weekend and aired an excellent report on May ninth, which can be viewed on the *Democracy Now!* video archive. There, COSTCO members state that COSTCO should demand from its vendors the same basic dignity that the store shares with its employees.

The boycott of Driscoll’s Berries has grown across the continent. While the spotlight briefly shined on Bellingham, pickets at the Tumwater COSTCO and others across the west coast and across the United States ensued. The infant union Familias Unidas por la Justicia even has a branch in Baja, California, Mexico.

Remind your families and neighbors before going to the grocery store that “an injury to one is and injury to all.” Learn more about this at the website, boycottsakumaberries.com

—Russ Frizzell



I.W.W members from around the region supporting the Familias Unidas por la Justicia in their struggle for a decent life and union recognition. Photos: (above) courtesy of IWW and (below) Michaela Williams.



U.S. Supreme Court delays decision on whether to hear *Stormans vs Wiesman*

Janet Blanding

Ten years ago this month, a boycott against Ralph’s and Bayview began after numerous Olympia women had prescriptions for Plan B refused at Ralph’s Pharmacy. Despite more than 20 complaints filed with the Board of Pharmacy, dozens of protests outside the store, the promulgation of state pharmacy regulations guaranteeing patient access to medication, and a court battle that has dragged on for nearly a decade, the owners of Ralph’s continue to insist that stocking and dispensing emergency contraception interferes with the free exercise of their religion. So insistent are they, that when the 9th Circuit Appellate Court did not see things their way, they appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It was expected that the Supreme Court would decide whether or not to review the Stormans case in mid-April.

And indeed, *Stormans v. Wiesman* was originally scheduled to be discussed at the justices’ conference on April 15. However, the discussion of the case was rescheduled, and rescheduled, and rescheduled again. Finally, it made it into the justices’ May 12 conference, but no decision about whether to review the case or not was forthcoming. Instead, *Stormans v. Wiesman* was relisted for the justices’ conference of May 19, after which the docket showed a records request. This means that one or more justices asked to see the court record, presumably from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, although no details are provided on the docket. According to Amy Howe of SCOTUSblog, this indicates that someone is interested enough in the case to take a closer look.

When *Works In Progress* went to press, *Stormans v. Wiesman* was once again scheduled for discussion during the justices’ conference of Thursday, May 26, meaning a decision on whether the case will be taken up by the Supreme Court could be announced as soon as Tuesday, May 31, when the SCOTUS orders list is released. However, the possibility of the case discussion being yet again rescheduled or discussed without a decision being reached still remains.

Janet Blanding has been writing about the Ralph’s boycott and subsequent lawsuit since 2006, when her Plan B prescription could not be filled there. After a year-long investigation, the Board of Pharmacy dismissed her complaint without action against Ralph’s.

Watch powerfully informative interviews on your computer

For more than 29 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has been producing powerfully informative TV programs on important issues.

You can watch our current program and more than 150 of our previous ones through the Olympia FOR’s website at your convenience even if you don’t watch our current program on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County (Mondays 1:30 pm, Wednesdays 5:00 pm, Thursdays 9:00 pm).

Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click

the “TV Programs” link, and scroll down past the thorough description of the current month’s program. Previous programs are listed chronologically.



Click the link for the program you want to watch. Also, next to each program’s link is a link to a thorough description of the program that you can read by clicking the “Word” or

“pdf” link.

You can watch more than 150 programs through www.olympiafor.org. These were new in 2016:

June: “TPP and other ‘Free Trade’ schemes endanger us all”

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), its European-U.S. equivalent, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and similar schemes would be absolutely horrible for workers, consumers, small farmers, environments, the climate, sustainability, and democracy itself.

Our expert guest, Gillian Locascio, is the Director of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, which includes 60 groups representing labor, environmental, and a great variety of other groups. See www.washingtonfairtrade.org.

May: “Vietnam War: What really happened”

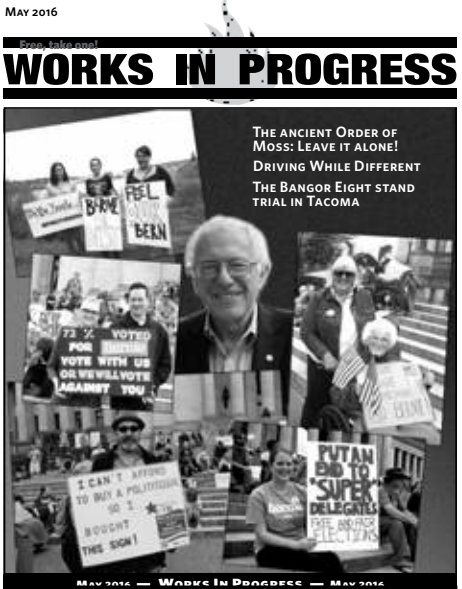
April: “Stories of successful work for peace, nonviolence, social justice”

March: “Support an effective public sector”

February: “Understanding socialism”

January: “Bold, friendly action to help LGBTQ Ugandans flee to safety”

WWW.OLYMPIA4OR.ORG

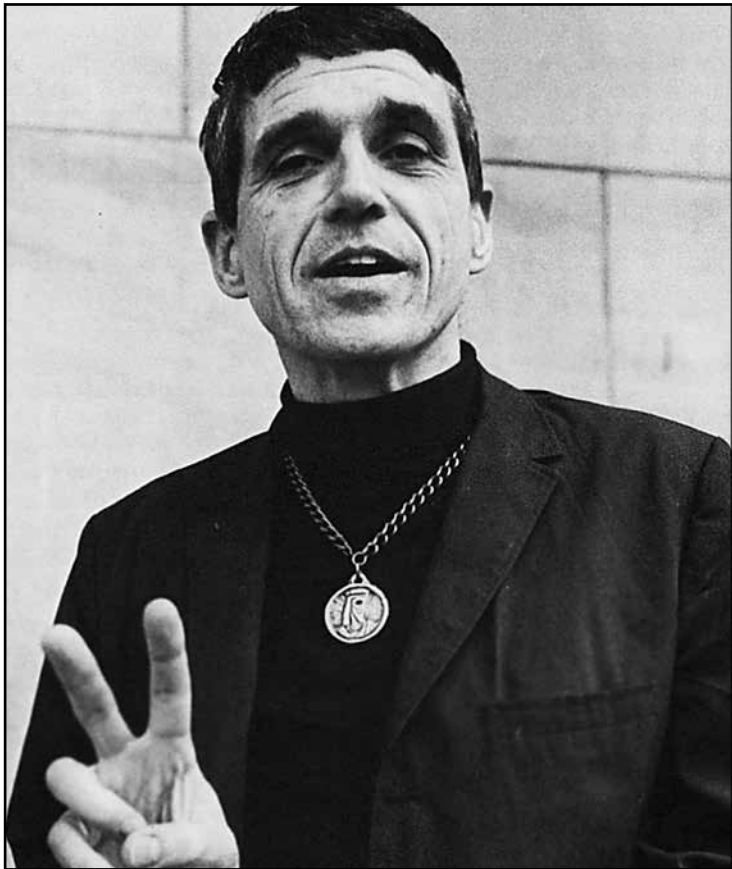


Correction to the May issue

In the last issue, WIP neglected remove the description of the previous month’s cover and replace it with the proper description of the May cover graphic.

The description should have stated, “Sanders supporters from across the state converge at the Capitol to protest the superdelegates’ role in the Democratic presidential nomination (4/16/2016).”

“Cover graphic by Michaela Williams.”



A Daniel Berrigan Remembrance

Thursday, June 16, 6:30 pm

Traditions Café

5th & Water St - Downtown Oly

Learn about the Late Daniel Berrigan and the bold Nonviolent Peace Activism he & others practiced.

6:30pm - social time & finger food (bring some to share)

7pm - Intro & a chance to hear some first hand stories from some locals who knew him.

We will then watch the informative, Inspiring Film *Hit and Stay* followed by brief discussion

On April 30, Dan Berrigan died shortly before reaching the age of 95. He and his late brother Phil were members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and were courageous leaders of bold nonviolent peace activities from the 1960s onward, opposing the Vietnam war and nuclear weapons.

This event is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation & Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace

Special Events

Olympia CopWatch
Every Thursday, 4 pm
Traditions Cafe

We collect stories in oral, written, or video formats and use these to compile an on-going document of interactions between the officers of the OPD and the public for whom they are charged to serve and protect.

Have a Heart Market (MMJ Farmers Market)
Every Sunday 11-5
Pauli G’s Pool Hall
528 Devoe St. NE, Olympia

Come to the Have a Heart Market and stock up on local artisan cannabis products at the best prices in Thurston County. Talk directly to grower and processors and buy handmade local glass. Medical Marijuana laws change on July 1, 2016 and patient access will be limited. Must be 21, have MMJ authorization and ID.

Clinic Defense Demonstrations
Every Friday, 10 AM
Planned Parenthood
402 Legion Way, Olympia

Hosted by OlyAct.

2016 Season 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.

Stonewall Youth’s Costume Bowl-O-Rama
Saturday, June 4 at 6 PM - 8 PM
Westside Lanes
2200 Garfield Ave NW, Olympia

Costumes! Games! Prizes! Music! Diner Food! Oh, and BOWLING! This is an all-ages and child-friendly event. But you don’t even need to attend (or bowl) to participate!

All the info about this event is on our website: <http://tinyurl.com/sybowling>

An Evening With the Plants
Friday, June 10 at 6:30 - 8:30 PM
33414 74th Ave S. Roy, WA

We will slow down and listen within to experience various non-hallucinogenic medicinal plants in new ways. By learning directly from the plants, we come to better understand their gifts and teachings, and to trust our own knowing.

We will practice ways to know the plants, briefly discussing each plant and our encounter. This event allows for a deepening experiential encounter with the plants that allows us to meet a variety of plants, and to share our growing wisdom. During this gathering we will ingest alcohol-based tinctures.

Suggested donation \$10 - \$30. Space is limited; Please RSVP. For questions or to RSVP contact Bill at 360-789-4232 / mt-nadv@hotmail.com

Anarchist 5k Benefit Race!
Saturday, June 11 at 11 AM
Olympia, Washington

Join us to run (or walk!) a 5k! All proceeds will go directly to supporting long-term anarchist prisoners.

The course will be 3.2 miles of relatively even terrain. Location to be announced. You can be timed or not, depending on what you are into. Walking is encouraged! No bro swagger.

Get more info: june11-5k.com

Chalk The Police State Day 2016
Monday, July 18 at 6 PM

Arguably the biggest chalk event of the year. The last two years over a dozen cities participated. This year we can do even better. Chalk law enforcement, government and corporate locations in your area and post pictures if you want. The event began in protest of law enforcement’s harassment of chalkers in Las Vegas. Chalk is not a crime, it’s free speech and one way to demonstrate that we all have this right is by doing it.

Is the system working?

So what should Bernie do next?

Janet Jordan

Editorial note: *The following is approved as a statement from the local Green Party.*

Bernie Sanders has proposed the most progressive program we have heard in many years, including more taxes for the rich, taxes on Wall Street transactions, reducing the size of banks, free college tuition for all, big money out of politics, and on and on. It has been fantastic to see so many voters, especially young ones, who feel that their concerns are being heard; there hasn't been this much interest in a long time.

Bernie isn't perfect; however, one can support a candidate with whom one does not completely agree. Hillary Clinton is less acceptable as she has supported the Iraq war, welfare "reform," expanded prisons, more police on the streets, and so forth. Yet with at least one unusually honest candidate, people have been happy.

As time goes on though, and the Democratic primary process moves ahead, gloom is taking over. As I write this, following the Nevada convention, Hillary Clinton's lead is considered by many to be insurmountable.

The problems

It looks likely that Hillary Clinton will be the nominee. For all the emotions expended in Nevada, there were only two delegates at stake—not enough to change things. Bernie's supporters said they were angered that the process was tilted to favor Hillary, but underneath, the anger and dismay was probably caused by a dawning recognition that their candidate just could not take control of the Democratic Party—it's too entrenched—and what a waste that is. So many good ideas, indeed necessary ideas, and so much energy; and it's all over, at least for this four-year cycle. We won't get to vote for Bernie in the fall election.

When that happens, Bernie's function will be to shepherd loyal Democrats into the fold of the winning candidate, in spite of her obvious flaws. He will encourage them to ignore better independent or minor party candidates.

Indeed that urging has already begun. He's aware that many Bernie supporters say they won't vote in the General Election if they can't vote for him (thus creating a kind of third party of Bernie hold-outs), and he's speaking out about how "stupid" that would be. He says it will ensure Trump's election.

And party regulars want even more compliance than that. Even though he could still win (by earning two-thirds of all remaining delegates), he is being urged to quit the race for the sake of party unity.

The problems of a two-party system

In a two-party system, a party can demand that sort of knuckling under and both parties can work a sort of hostage deal on the rest of the country: Those who don't vote for the official party candidate will be delivering the country to the evil Other Party. The Democratic candidate holds the country's well-being in front of her as a body shield.

Voters have fallen for this regularly

over the years. Looking just at the years since Bill Clinton, we gave a few votes to Ralph Nader in 2000. It was not enough to change the outcome of the election, but the narrative of the Democratic Party has reduced support for third parties and so their candidates have come to expect that they will receive less than one percent of the vote. Pleading with third-party candidates not to run is standard these days.

For minor parties like the Green Party and the Bernie hold-outs, the hostage phenomenon is a problem. There is slight though unlikely chance that the Democrat establishment candidate's chances might be harmed. It didn't happen in 2000, but it could someday. It could only take one vote.

For this reason, you hear Green Party people saying now and then they will only run in "safe states"—only in states where they are guaranteed not to have any influence over the final scores. It might make the Democratic Party happy,

With the many critical issues in today's world, we need a system in which leaders reflect the voters' wishes, and that's going to be one that allows more than two parties or two candidates to participate.

but what a recipe for irrelevance!

There is talk among Green Party people that maybe Bernie will want to be a Green Party candidate after his Democratic Party run is over. No, he won't. He doesn't want to throw the election to the Republican. Jill Stein has called him 12 times and he has never once picked up the phone.

No choice

So for the voter after the primary, the problem will be a lack of choice. From twelve Republicans, five Democrats and umpteen small party candidates, we're down to only one Republican and one Democrat, and the likelihood that either one will represent your values are very small. As *Works In Progress* readers, the likelihood is much greater that the Green Party more closely matches your values; but you can't vote for the Greens because of that hostage thing.

Over the years when voters have to vote for a candidate they don't really like, it gives the candidate and the party the ability to move even further away from the majority's values. Eventually neither party comes close to a reasonable platform for its base. This has already happened. The Democratic Party now takes in as much corporate money as the GOP and is sponsoring the TPP—the largest corporate giveaway in the history of the country.

How can the Democrats base take the party back? They have no leverage; they have "nowhere else to go." After Bernie is no longer in the race, Hillary Clinton will have no reason to mention inequality, or student debt, or money in politics—Bernie's issues. She will say those are important issues only for as long as it takes to get into office.

Numerous political commentators say the United States does not have a democracy anymore, that the wishes of the average person have zero weight

in the eyes of elected officials and their parties.

This horrible predicament cannot be resolved by any kind of party politics. Voting for one candidate or another won't help. If Bernie were to win, you'd be happy for as long as he is in office, but the same situation will await you on the other side. You cannot solve the problem while you are inside the problem.

In addition, getting "money out of politics" won't solve it either. The influence of money cropped up worldwide in the 1970's; some countries solved it; the United States didn't. With only two parties, voters cannot demand any action from either of them. The countries that solved the problem were countries where more than two parties compete.

The answer, then, is outside the problem—outside the system.

A look at other systems

With the many critical issues in today's world, we need a system in which leaders reflect the voters' wishes, and that's going to be one that allows more than two parties or two candidates to participate. This is necessary to encourage candidates to be honest. If a political party were to move too far from a platform the voters like, another party will come in and gain those voters' support. Cause and effect! Accountability!

Examples include Iceland, Australia, and Brazil. Each has multiple parties and each has some type of two-step system: one step to pick a party that represents you and a second step to form a governing coalition.

Iceland has a parliamentary system. The steps here are first vote for your Member of Parliament, who is a member of some party or other; then you hope your party becomes a part of the governing coalition. To form such a

coalition, a group of parties big enough to represent 50 percent or more of the people agree to act together. There's a pretty good chance your party will be in the coalition.

The party with the most votes chooses the Prime Minister. That party can choose other parties have the most or the most important values in common. In Iceland, the two biggest parties are currently out of favor because of bad calls in the past—for example, the Prime Minister was implicated in the Panama Papers. It looks as if the Pirate Party has become the most popular with its issues of open government and accountability. It's a tiny party that received just 5.1 percent in the last election, but that doesn't matter. It has the same chance as any other party of being a member of the governing coalition.

None of the marginalizing tactics of the two major US political parties would work in Iceland. Each party has its own personality, its own values, and no party is considered the little brother of any other party. Bright Future at 8.25 percent is not the little brother of the Progressive Party (24.43 percent) and the Progressive Party does not own their votes. Nobody reproaches them for not supporting the Progressive Party in an election (or for just staying home).

Brazil has a two-round election system. In the first round, people say who they want, or who best represents their values. They can do that because it's not the final vote. It just ranks the parties by popularity. Then all but the top two drop out and the people who were in them vote for the coalition-type party that can become big enough to take over the government. They either pick one of the final remaining candidates, or they stay home in protest.

That might sound a little like the Top Two system in Washington State, but it's not. Our system selects the top two through the primary, an election that has no standing. Statistics will not record what your minor party won in that primary—only the two winners. It rewards the two largest parties and makes the smaller ones disappear.

Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's president is being ousted from office by the Far Right in a slow-moving coup. But her party, the progressive Workers Party, will remain. It

► **BERNIE** continued on page 5

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The Life of Poetry

The disconnect from poetry indicates lost connection to reality

Sandra Yannone

“In time of crisis, we summon up our strength.” So begins the introduction to poet, activist, and journalist Muriel Rukeyser’s 1949 manifesta *The Life of Poetry*. Written from a series of lectures Rukeyser delivered at Vassar College, the California Labor School, and Columbia University before, during, after World War II, *The Life of Poetry* speaks from the frame of conflict to discuss the significance that poetry can bear on American culture’s need to reach always toward peace.

In Rukeyser’s experience, poetry existed as a vital, natural, human resource for a society’s people to reconcile their present fears and actively seek out hope either as poet or reader specifically because “[a]lways we need the audacity to speak for more freedom, more imagination, more poetry with all its meanings.” Conversely, Robert Frost, the 1962 Poet Laureate of the United States, who read at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration, and who worked from a more individualistic perspective, cited that writing poetry served its author by

making meaning through the creation of “a momentary stay against confusion.”

The two are not mutually exclusive. When written to communicate openly, American poetry of all colors has the capacity to cut through the static noise of its made-in-the-USA brand of manufactured chaos and enable each of us to experience some aspect of the elusive lyrical. Some barely recognize the faint symphonic melody when we hear it over the din of traffic while others crave its discovery in unexpected places. A poem can arrest us as a

while in graduate school, I would scour and highlight the upcoming week’s poetry readings in the *Boston Globe’s* events insert. The twin literary meccas of Boston and Cambridge, as well as the surrounding college towns in New

A poem can arrest us as a snippet of melody on a radio surprises us or as a story stored in our bones that when released, when *heard*, connects us with a familiar knowing...

England, provided an abundance of opportunities. My friends and I didn’t have the money to wine and dine our way through Beantown’s finer culinary establishments, but we could afford the price tag of poetry readings (often free) and intoxicate ourselves by drinking in the life poets breathed into their poems on the page.

Often after a reading, our eclectic dinner party would pool our money to purchase the poet’s book. The litmus test: if we heard a poem that “killed” us. We always agreed on the poem as we did on the quest for that ecstatic, lyrical moment when the alchemy of language and meaning and truth cut through the defenses we’d walled up and grabbed our hearts by our throats, grabbed our lapels and shook us down saying “See here, you are going to listen to something, get it?” That adrenalin rush from the experience often lingered well into the night and next day when we’d meet up at school and review the previous evening’s feast.

Poetry remains an endeavor of discovery for me as it did on those electric nights in Massachusetts, and I’ve also read enough now that I’ve curated a personal anthology of poems that I turn to in time of crisis or joy or anything in between. Housed in a small, bound, cloth book that my best

friend in high school instructed me to fill with things that mattered to me, the book honors our friendship with poems about love, loss, grief, and joy. Elizabeth Bishop’s “One Art.” Emily Dickinson’s “After Great Pain.” Derek Walcott’s “Love after Love.” William Stafford’s “A Ritual to Read Each Other.”

When I rediscovered the book a few years ago by accident, I opened it up and marveled at the poems that my younger, emerging adult self had curated. Captured by the fading ink in a book now held together by an elastic band were poems that spoke perfectly to my current sensibilities. One poem, Philip Levine’s “Picture Postcard from the Other Side of the World,” speaks of sending messages ahead to a future self. I carry this fragile book with me everywhere now, ready if the moment strikes when I need to share a poem.

Like the poets of witness that preceded and followed her, Rukeyser plead that a culture disconnected from

poetry reflected “an indication that we are cut off from our own reality.” She urged earth’s inhabitants to use poetry’s unique capacity to speak its truth through motion and image to reverse America’s imperialist penchant for disaster, its turn away from the star.

Those poems that killed my friends and me in graduate school, like all productive poems, built momentum line by line to arrive at a pivotal moment, a threshold, where the poem’s power burst through. In poetry, that momentary stay against confusion is called the volta, a xxx word for turn. Poetry allows each of us to turn toward the face of one we love, whether partner, stranger, plant, animal, country, or all of humanity, whether in the light of day or the hush of night, and offer this stay against confusion. Poetry offers us the opportunity to quell the deafening silences that divide us. Poetry encourages us to imagine a place where the last word in Rukeyser’s poetry manifesta resides. And that last word in her house of poetry is peace.

Sandra Yannone is a poet, educator, and antique dealer in Olympia. She is a Member of the Faculty and Director of the Writing Center at The Evergreen State College.

► **Bernie**, cont. from page 4.

will not be co-opted by any other party and it will be available for action as the movement regains strength.

Australia has an instant run-off system. That’s the same as a two-round election, except that the second choice party is already listed on the ballot (you check off your first choice, and then your second choice). Australia has 17 parties, including 12 with either 1 or 2 members in their legislature. Those parties had enough voters in their home districts to elect a representative or a senator, and that adds to the diversity of those bodies. The remaining five parties have 11 or more members.

These systems all have a common feature: they require two steps to electing a leader. One step lets the voter identify the party that best represents him or her; the next step encourages that voter to join in a bigger coalition—hopefully including that party—big enough to overcome the opposition. The voter’s first choice is still on record and remains to give validity to that party. If the coalition doesn’t perform, there are other parties to go to.

Any one of these three systems would allow us a choice of candidates and a probability that at least one of the parties would act with integrity and in the public interest. Any one of these electoral systems would be better than the one that exists in the United States.

So what should Bernie do?

Article after article appears with advice for Bernie: He should continue as an Independent—as a Green; he should lead a movement, a non-political but powerful grassroots movement for the things we want; he should support Hillary.

All of these are choices from within the system and they are all bad

choices. None of them will gain for us a government that is strong for the things the US wants and needs right now. Some of these choices will put us at risk of a Republican government with its 1800’s values, and one that will all but guarantee we get the second-rate Hillary as our leader.

We need to free ourselves from the dysfunctional voting system that delivers these bad results. If Bernie speaks up for a better system, it will go a long way towards a public understanding that the voting system is holding us back and that it can be changed.

We usually don’t question the voting system. It’s American so “it’s the best” is the general thinking. Or at least, “it’s American so it’s what we’ve got, period.” But it’s not working for us. It’s at the root of our persistent horrible problems because it keeps us from choosing a better governing party—permanently, or until the system changes.

It’s a long path towards changing the voting system, with twists and turns impossible to predict, but it starts with recognition that it needs changing. Bernie can help with that.

NEWSFLASH, May 23, 2016: Austria has just elected a Green Party President, Alexander Van Der Bellen, over Norbert Hofer, his far-right, anti-immigrant, neo Nazi opponent. The Green Party only had about 12 percent of the Austrian Parliament but it was a viable and visible party, and in this election, its particular values were recognized. *Salon Magazine* reports this as a Sanders win over a Trump opponent.

It happened in a country with a parliamentary voting system.

Janet Jordan is a resident of Thurston County and an active member of the Green Party of South Puget Sound.

The Green Party's Ten Key Values

1. **Social Justice:** We oppose systemic global injustice and poverty. We seek universal health care, fair payment for work, equitable drug laws and corrections to many other wrongs that exist today.
2. **Grassroots Democracy:** The influence of big business and big government combined is undermining genuine democracy. To help overcome this, we promote public participation at all levels of government, and a better electoral system.
3. **Non-Violence:** We must develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. Greens work globally to demilitarize foreign policies, redirecting defense budgets to purposes of health, safety, education, and the welfare of all.
4. **Ecological Wisdom:** We support a sustainable society that utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We seek to protect ecological diversity and balance.
5. **Future Focus:** As did the Iroquois, we strive to create a society where the interests of the Seventh Generation are considered equal to the interests of the present.
6. **Decentralization:** Decision-making in our social, political, and economic institutions should reside as far as possible at the individual and local levels, consistent with ecological sustainability, civil rights, and social justice.
7. **Gender Equality:** We are committed to gender equality in all aspects of our society. We wish to replace top-down domination with cooperation, compassion, communication and understanding.
8. **Community-Based Economics:** We seek a new economics based on global ecological sustainability, livable wages, sufficient social safety nets, and democratically accountable businesses.
9. **Personal and Global Responsibility:** We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of our planet. We take personal responsibility in upholding our values.
10. **Respect for Diversity:** We honor the biological diversity of the earth and the cultural, racial, sexual and spiritual diversity of its people.

May 21, 2016

One year later—the struggle for justice continues

Peter Bohmer

There was a march and rally of 150 to 200 people in the rain, May 21, 2016 from Woodruff Park to Olympia City Hall and back. We took the streets. This is the text of my talk in front of City Hall.

Today is a sad anniversary because of what happened a year ago! Let us turn it into a positive and meaningful day. I want to thank the organizers and all of you who are here.

A year ago, two young Black men, Andre Thompson and Bryon Chaplin, were shot by White police officer, Ryan Donald. They had attempted to shop lift beer from Safeway and after dropping the beer inside the store were returning home. Officer Donald stopped them and claimed he felt threatened by their skateboards. He shot them many times in the spine and torso. Bryson Chaplin is now in a wheel chair. In a very overt display of racism among the police chief, other law enforcements agencies who investigated the shooting, the City Council and City manager, and County Prosecutor Tunheim, charged Bryon Chaplin and Andre Thompson with felony assault, and totally cleared Police Officer Ryan Donald. Donald remains a danger as a police officer to the community, especially to young Black people.

I know the brothers—Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin—their sister, Jasmine, and mother Chrystal; they are real assets to Olympia. Andre and Bryson are unlike what many unacquainted people think of them. Many, who have no knowledge of them, have called them thugs—a racist term. They are decent young men.

We in Olympia need to put forward a different narrative and do our own investigation about what happened a year ago because otherwise too many people will accept the police narrative designed to cover up the actions of Ryan Donald. Many lawyers advise not to discuss the evidence. I disagree. Giving a true version of what happened, putting holes in the police propaganda, will build support for Bryson and Andre and can create a climate that will increase the chance the jury will acquit them or that the charges will be dropped.

I have lived in Olympia almost 30 years and raised my daughter and three sons here. Several people I know had thought a police shooting of innocent young black people could not happen in Olympia; shootings of this type happen elsewhere, not in our “liberal progressive” city. Sadly Olympia, its mayor, the city council, and much of the population are not progressive when it comes to challenging racism and being inclusive around race, class and sexual identity. They are not progressive when it comes to treating the homeless population with respect and making housing affordable for all, nor progressive enough to support a \$15 an hour minimum wage and paid sick leave. They are not progressive about taxing



Photo: Lennée Reid

upper income people to pay for the first year or two of college, nor progressive when it comes to ending our port's complicity with the military and the war machine.

Let **us** connect these issues and build a bold and inclusive mass movement that makes racial justice a core principle. Let us challenge poverty in Olympia and beyond and make connections among all these interrelated issues which includes climate justice and the determination not to accept meaningless proclamations of concern. Let us add to our numbers in

in Seattle, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Antonio Zambrano-Montes in Pasco, Washington, Daniel Covarrubias in Lakewood, Washington, and Bryon Chaplin and Andre Thompson in Olympia, the claim is always police actions were justifiable or it was an accident. In each of these cases, the official story is that other places may be experiencing racism or excess police force, but not in our town, not in this specific case; law enforcement and our city are innocent, blameless and not racist. Too many accept this scenario—including in Olympia. Let us see through this rationale for Olympia and not let Olympia exceptionalism continue.

A year ago today, May 21, 2015, in response to the shooting of Andre Thompson and Bryon Chaplin, 800 people rallied and marched from Woodruff Park to Olympia City Hall standing against police violence and racism. This was important and inspiring, but we need to struggle continually—not just once a year—against racism and all forms of oppression in Olympia and beyond. Let us demand the charges be dropped against Bryson and Andre, that their medical expenses be paid for by the City of Olympia, that Officer Ryan Donald be fired, that the police be demilitarized, and an independent civilian review board be created that can discipline cops who violate the law.

While it is important that we talk to people about this case and attend demonstrations and rallies, this is not

enough.

We are living in a period of growing economic inequality, an accelerating environmental crisis, and a continuing practice of our government waging wars around the world. Our government and its police, along with the corporations, are waging a war at home against the working class and poor peoples, especially, but not limited to, African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Muslims. Hillary Clinton is part of the problem—a representative of the one percent. The Republican Party candidate, Donald Trump, encourages white supremacists and fascists in creating a climate that helps build their organizations, many of them support him. Trump hopefully, because of his extreme racism, will cause a rise of a militant and bold anti-racist and anti-fascist movement. Let us be a part of this upsurge.

I urge everyone to think big and to do something every day—as individuals and in the groups we form and build, in our communities, workplaces and schools—to go beyond business as usual and beyond normal daily activities. This means listening to and talking to people we haven't talked to before; it means a willingness to take risks and risking arrest because militancy can challenge those in power. Let us make the connections between poverty, racism, Islamophobia, militarism, sexism, homophobia, climate change and meaningless jobs and alienation to the underlying oppressive and destructive global capitalist system that is destroying the planet in order to benefit the 1%. Let us create a society based on production for need, a participatory socialist society, where sustainability is real—a non-class liberated society where poverty, racism and all forms of oppression are ended.

Drop the charges against Bryson Chaplin and Andre Thompson.

Si, se puede, power to the people.

Black Lives Matter!

Pete Bohmer teaches political economy at Evergreen and is active in organizing for economic justice and against U.S. imperialism. He is currently coordinating and participating in Economics for Everyone workshops in downtown Olympia

Several people I know had thought a police shooting of innocent young black people could not happen in Olympia; shootings of this type happen elsewhere, not in our “liberal progressive” city.

our organizations and in the streets and win these changes, but not stop there.

This is not the first time in Olympia that young people have been unjustly harmed by the police. This is not an isolated case. Danny Spencer was killed by the Olympia police in 1989 for being high on LSD; Stephen Edwards was tasered to death for shoplifting in 2002; Jose Ramirez-Jimenez was shot and killed by the police in 2008.

In the cities where police shootings or killings have taken place, e.g., Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Akil Gurley in Brooklyn, John Williams

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Centralia Square Antique Mall

Antiques ▪ Restaurant ▪ Hotel

Directions from Olympia
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days
10AM - 5PM



GEO Group still needs to go

WA Youth Rainbow Coalition

Tacoma – Imagine that you had to flee from your own country to a completely new place to find a new job. Once you got settled into the country, you ran a red light or made an illegal left turn. For most Americans, and especially for most white Americans, this might result in a \$100 ticket or a slap on the wrist. But for brown Americans, law enforcement not only requests your Driver’s license and registration, but also your naturalization documents. Not only does this affect legal Chicano-Americans in that those who do not have documentation with them are at risk of being sent to detention centers as documented Americans, but it certainly affects those without naturalization documents or simply those who left them at home. For Chicano Americans, as well as those who may be mistaken for being Chicano, the initial response might be to convince the police that you are not undocumented. However, law enforcement makes the ultimate decision about where to send you after you have been detained in central lock-up. For many Chicano-Americans, both documented and undocumented, you end up in Tacoma Northwest Detention Center.

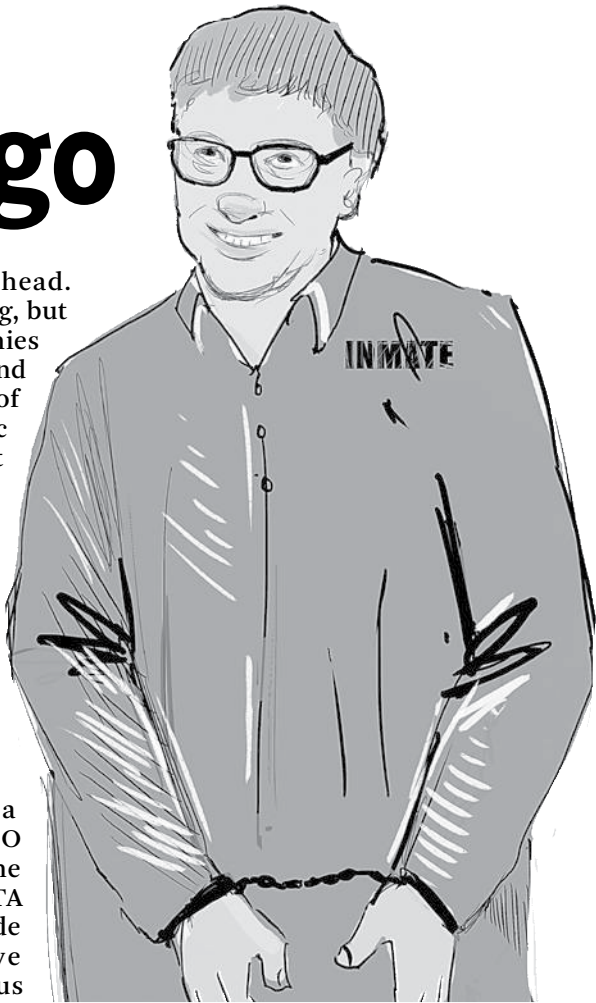
Believe it or not, this is exactly what

happened to Rennison Vern Castillo. He is a documented citizen but still spent months in custody before an immigration judge set him free. The circumstances in another man’s case were very much so different, though. Angel Padilla was 17-years-old when he committed an armed robbery, which he says was a huge mistake on his part. Padilla served 19 years for this crime and when released was taken back to be locked up at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. He did

We know what must be done when we consider that brown Americans who have simply violated traffic laws are bedded alongside the dangerous.

not commit an additional crime, but as an undocumented individual, his very existence proved to be a crime upon release from prison. Some might say that the Northwest Detention Center serves a purpose, and that the inmates who reside there are dangerous and need to be kept away from documented citizens including women and children, who might fall victim to their predatory habits. But this opinion is all too common presently, as we have seen the mighty populism of Republican presidential nominee

Donald Trump rear its ugly head. Xenophobic rhetoric is one thing, but when local Washington companies both operate against statistics and prove to be an efficient waste of money, all while violating basic human rights, we know what must be done. We know what must be done when only about 1,000 of the 1,300 detainees wear blue, denoting that they do not have a violent criminal history. We know what must be done when we consider that brown Americans who have simply violated traffic laws are bedded alongside the dangerous. We know what must be done when a major corporation like GEO Group makes a profit off the disastrous result of NAFTA and other destabilizing trade agreements which have negatively impacted Indigenous and Mestizo peoples in Mexico and Central America. The Northwest Detention Center is operated by GEO Group, fronted by CEO George Zoley, and funded in part by the Gates Foundation. There have been many protests in the past three years organized by Presente and other groups surrounding issues like Angel Padilla’s lack of access to healthcare, specifically treatment for cancer he may have developed due to poor conditions in prison, as well as the conditions of



“The Hole”, a place where hunger strikers are often sent for solitary confinement. Our Rainbow Coalition has decided that based on the costs of incarceration with GEO Group, it would be much more efficient for ICE to put the “blue” detainees on house arrest and spend about \$20/day to make the undocumented wear GPS ankle bracelets with occasional visits to their residences by officers. Our Rainbow Coalition has decided that it is the duty of both the Federal government (ICE) and the Gates Foundation (which is double-dipping by investing Seattle Public Schools testing programs which more often than not fail ESL students), to divest from GEO Group. We call for a boycott of all institutions to those the Gates Foundation has donated, as well as for future protests to occur outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma as well as Gates Foundation headquarters in Seattle. The fight has not yet been won. GEO Group still needs to go. Please visit NWDCResistance.org if you are interested in volunteering to help shut down this facility. The Washington Youth Rainbow Coalition is a sister organization located in Seattle, Washington.

Insitu sells deadly Intel

WA Youth Rainbow Coalition

Bingen, WA – Insitu is a local Washington subsidiary of Boeing, whose main purpose is to produce ScanEagle drones, which provide intelligence to the U.S. Army in countries like Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan—specifically the province of Waziristan. Schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods have been attacked by the larger Boeing X-45, with targets being alleged terrorists, and actual victims ranging from schoolchildren to humanitarian aid workers, journalists, and local women. One set of statistics implies that 9/10 victims of drone strikes in the Middle East and Northern Africa are innocents, and another data set claims that only 41 of 1147 people killed in drone strikes were the intended targets. For President Obama to call these “targeted killings” is quite a stretch. Put simply, it’s not morally right how the drone operators and the U.S. Army are forcing American taxpayers to become complicit in murder. Even with three sets of Insitu-Boeing drones laying the groundwork for surveillance of the area (ScanEagle, PhantomEye, then X-45 used to attack), these operations are just not accurate enough for the technology to be appropriately used. And by killing innocents in places like Waziristan among other locations, the Pentagon is in fact creating new threats and new radicals every day by painting itself as a monstrous manufacturer of remote war crimes, and thus more

targets on their agenda. Perhaps this is the idea. Insitu-Boeing certainly isn’t complaining. Imagine for a second that you live in one of the destabilized areas which the U.S. Army is bombing. You couldn’t go to school, go to work, or visit your family or friends in a neighboring town without feeling like your life was threatened. However, we believe that the majority of Americans truly will not take the time to protest companies like Insitu until the spy and weaponized drones are used domestically to cull activists and the poor.



What if drones were flying overhead while you were trying to run errands and feed your family? What if drones were even in your own yard? The U.S. Army has already tested domestic use against a farmer in North Dakota and protesters in Ferguson. How these products are used concerns us very much so. Drones will certainly affect the privacy and security of all American lives in the near future, but it will especially affect

those of us who aspire to be activists, as well as the poor. Just as there are segregated bubbles of security in the Middle East (the kingdoms of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as Israel, come to mind), there will be bubbles of security in America’s future, likely protecting the rich. Insitu did not start as a military intelligence company. It started out as a company dedicated to science, the pursuit of which was to better American lives, specifically to make it easier for commercial fishermen in the Pacific Northwest to track schools of fish. Our group is demanding that the Pentagon divest from Insitu-Boeing, and that Insitu-Boeing joins us in our fight to defund the Pentagon, whose budget is bursting at the seams. To repent for their sins, we propose that Insitu both stop producing drones for the Pentagon and start producing non-combatative drones for children to learn about science at the New Iqra School in Wana, Pakistan, an area where Boeing’s drones have taken the lives of many young boys and girls. If we focused America’s budget on both domestic and international education; if we, as a country were really focused on the proactive, peaceful aspects of STEM learning (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), we would dedicate more than 10% of our budget towards education, and enlist our corporate alliances to build diplomatic bridges, not bombs. But until that happens, we need to replicate the protests from two to three years ago against Insitu, because they are still selling to the Pentagon intelligence that kills.

TRADITIONS

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Ghana
Ojoba Collective

Earrings
India
Mata Traders

Handbag from
recycled
grocery bags
Women's group,
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WORKS IN PROGRESS

At the Longview hearing on the Millennium Bulk Terminals — the proposed coal export dock

Wendy Tanowitz went to the hearing in Longview Tuesday, May 24, in which officials from Cowlitz County and Ecology heard testimony on the DEIS for the proposed expansion of the Millenium Bulk Terminal. Thousands were in attendance. She took the following photos.

According to Sarah Grothjan and Marissa Luck of *The Daily News*, "the \$680 million Millennium terminal would ship 44 million tons of Rocky Mountain coal to Asia annually from the old Reynolds Metals Co. plant west of Longview. At its height, the project would see eight trains per day, each carrying 125 cars full of coal, travel through the Columbia River Gorge and Vancouver, with many if not all of those trains making a return trip through Clark County."



Day Dahlquist, 11, from White Salmon, WA

This young man rocked the crowd with his eloquent plea on behalf of the world's children, who will be living with the consequences of climate change.



Aji Piper, 15, of Seattle

Mr. Piper was one of 21 plaintiffs in a successful lawsuit against the State of Washington's Department of Ecology brought by Our Children's Trust.

In Seattle on April 29, in a surprise ruling from the bench in the critical climate case brought by youths against the State of Washington's Department of Ecology ("Ecology"), King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill ordered Ecology to promulgate an emissions reduction rule by the end of 2016 and make recommendations to the state legislature on science-based greenhouse gas reductions in the 2017 legislative session. Judge Hill also ordered Ecology to consult with the youth petitioners in advance of that recommendation. The youths were forced back to court after Ecology unexpectedly withdrew the very rulemaking efforts to reduce carbon emissions the agency told the judge it had underway. This case is one of several similar state, federal, and international cases, all supported by Our Children's Trust, seeking the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate. www.ourchildrenstrust.org



Alaina Buffalo Spirit (left), a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in southeastern Montana and Joelle Robinson (right): Field Director, Climate Solutions, Seattle, working to stop any coal export from the U.S. West Coast.

"Anyone who says we can't have economic development while protecting our land, water, and culture isn't trying hard enough." —Alaina Buffalo Spirit



Daughter of Ray Estrada, member Yakama Nation, Celilo Village, Oregon

Excerpt from Hieroglyphic Stairway

It's 3:23 in the morning and I'm awake... because my great great grandchildren won't let me sleep.

My great great grandchildren ask me in dreams,
What did you do while the planet was plundered?
What did you do when the earth was unraveling?
surely you did something ?...

When the seasons started failing?
surely you did something?

As the mammals, reptiles, and birds were all dying?
surely you did something?

Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?
What did you do once you knew?

by Drew Dellinger

Tacoma author

New novel takes on the corporations

Dave Zink

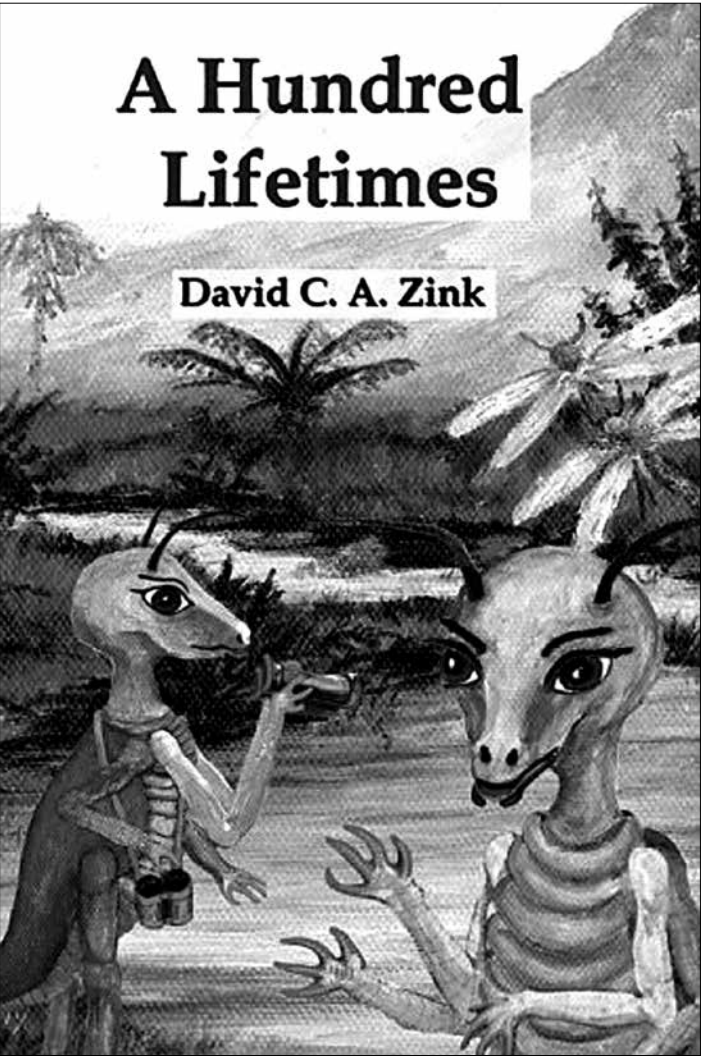
A Hundred Lifetimes is now available.

Let me tell you a bit about my book, and why I wrote it.
Working in the environmental sciences, military and civilian (WA State Department of Ecology) for over thirty years, I've had my share of interesting encounters, and met some memorable people. I thought writing a novel would be a fun way to share some of

We've done a pretty poor job of controlling Capitalism, and that's produced a staggering array of detrimental effects...

these characters and experiences—a precautionary tale wrapped in a science fiction and love-story package.
The dominant theme of *A Hundred Lifetimes* is the greed and the chase for profits that are destroying all we hold dear, interlaced with several supporting themes, including climate change, racism, and the repression of indigenous peoples.
As I type this piece, the tar-sands project is scalping massive acreages of carbon-sequestering boreal forest in northern Alberta. It would be far better to leave petrol, natural gas, and other greenhouse-gas producing fuels in the ground; build an energy network based on the generation of wind, solar, and tidal power; and replace our cars with electronic models that can go long distances between charges. Perhaps the single major obstacle to building an ecologically sustainable

society is the meddling of the trans-national fossil-fuel corporations in our political process. The power of million-dollar contributions—with subsequent relentless pressure by well-paid corporate lobbyists—outshouts the voices of the working-class majority, and corrupts our political process. The game is rigged, as Bernie Sanders says.
We've done a pretty poor job of controlling Capitalism, and that's produced a staggering array of detrimental effects, exacerbating problems ranging from militarism, environmental troubles, the prison-industrial complex, and general widespread social injustice.
Throughout my career, I've seen environmentalists stumbling repeatedly into the same obstacles. It's easy to point the finger at the "bad guys", but it's really not a "good guys vs. bad guys" situation, and those who play that game are guilty of misleading via over-simplification and dumbing things down. If there is any "bad guy", it's the profits-first System itself. Each year, the world's wealthiest corporations spend hundreds of millions of dollars to protect their ability to extract water from drying aquifers; replace meadows, forests, and farms with biologically barren parking lots and malls via so-called "development"; pollute our air and water; and wreak general eco-havoc with little if any regard for the future beyond their next corporate quarterly report. And, they set the pace and supply the model that smaller companies must emulate to survive long in this system.



A corollary contributor to our predicament is a crisis of leadership. People are looking for alternatives, but the Left is fractured into increasingly marginalized competing sects, each so weak that most people are either ignorant about their existence, or consider them as irrelevant jokes. Wouldn't it be great if these groups could bury the hatchet, stop quibbling about divisive matters, and unite into an effective movement for social and environmental justice? In my story, I describe a scenario of this happening. In *A Hundred Lifetimes*, there are analogs of several characters currently active in North American politics. WIP readers might even find themselves among them.
The reader will detect much satire, parody, exaggeration, & extrapolation in these pages. Hope you enjoy the book!
A Hundred Lifetimes is now available at Orca Bookstore, or from Amazon Books.

Dave Zink was an early Works In Progress contributor and currently resides in the Tacoma area.

Greenpeace calls out Obama's double standards for a nuclear-free world at Hiroshima visit

TOKYO - Greenpeace welcomes President Obama's historic visit to Hiroshima just after the G7 meeting - the first ever visit by a sitting U.S. president - but condemns his double-standards as his administration work to expand the U.S.' own nuclear capabilities.
"We welcome President Obama's attempt to understand the miseries of nuclear warfare, but this visit rings hollow without far bolder efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. If the U.S. wants to help build a peaceful world, it is not enough to only visit the ruins of the past," said Hisayo Takada, Deputy Program Director at Greenpeace Japan.
"The U.S. administration recently sent to Congress a budget that would invest nearly US\$1 trillion in updating and expanding U.S. nuclear weapons capacities, while also cutting funding for nonproliferation efforts. This is wholly unacceptable for a Nobel Peace laureate."
The U.S. must also address the issue of its military base in Okinawa, which is an ongoing problem with local people, particularly when military personnel are involved in serious crimes.
The U.S. still has 4,700 operational


nuclear warheads, according to the Federation of American Scientists, and continues to spend a fortune maintaining and modernising its arsenal . The U.S. is not the only one; over 40 years after the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, nuclear-armed states are still clinging to their arsenals.
—Greenpeace



Ray Estrada, Yakama Nation, Celilo Village, The Dalles, Oregon
He stated that diabetes used to be the most common illness on the reservation but that now cancer has taken over as the leading cause of death.

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The climate-nuclear nexus and our response

Bernie Meyer

What do we do when storm clouds well up and are about to wreak havoc on our lives? The ultimate storm clouds are welling up for not only human lives, but all life on this planet as we spew carbon dioxide, methane, and countless other man-created chemicals into the atmosphere that accumulate in the oceans and onto the continents heating the planet eventually beyond our tolerance. For my part I am now confronting the powers-that-be by taking a stand and being arrested, to say we must change our ways.

On May 7, I was arrested at Sub Base Bangor on the Hood Canal, home of the Trident nuclear submarine. Unfortunately, during the weekend of May 13-15, my health prevented my participation in the Break Free in Anacortes. Both nuclear weapons and fossil fuels are murderous and suicidal. Unless we confront them and control them, they will end us as murderous effects are now being experienced.

Einstein said, “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” In addition he said, “the unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking, and thus we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe.” Gandhi said, “Unless humanity adopts nonviolence, it will be suicidal for mankind.”

Anthropocentric Climate Destruction (ACD)

Anthropocene means the human-centered age. With the initiation of the industrial age based on fossil fuels, humanity invented a way of life dependent upon fossil fuels, which had developed over millions of years and are being consumed in only a few hundred years. Much of the life on this planet will not be able to tolerate the increasing temperatures. Humanity has never experienced the likes of this. Can the resilience of humans to problem solve, reverse course to limit the effects? The time remaining is short and getting shorter.

April 2016 was the seventh successive month of record global climate temperature increases and it is being predicted that the Arctic will turn from ice to heat-absorbing water this summer—84 years ahead of conventional model projections.

There are many connections between nuclear weapons/power and the climate crisis

Under Obama, the United States has committed to the next generation of nuclear weapons allocating one trillion dollars over the next ten years, which includes new facilities. The planned development of “small nuclear weapons” causes an appeal to usability and raises concern. Other nations are following suit, including India and Pakistan. The nuclear club is growing.

A nuclear war could cause drastic changes in climate. Scientists have determined that the effects of a nuclear exchange—whether between the US and Russia or between Pakistan and India (both possess 100+ nuclear weapons) would cause freezing of the earth, signaling the end of farming and result in at least two billion deaths.

Both nuclear war and climate change would cause three intergenerational

effects. Nuclear testing has already caused birth defects and early deaths into the third and fourth generations. To date, there is no way to safely dispose of nuclear waste.

Following the European Commission in 2008, the US Department of Defense in 2015 stated that “global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for US national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate existing problems—such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions—that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries.”

Non-nation actors are a major concern for nuclear terror.

Is nuclear power an answer to abandoning fossil fuels? No

The costs of nuclear power and the time needed to construct new plants, not to mention the environmental damage caused by uranium extraction and the dilemma spent fuel rod storage, prevent it from being a reasonable replacement of fossil fuels. While the use of nuclear power to produce energy has been decreasing, the growth of the renewable energy industry has been growing significantly.

The necessity of resolving both the climate crisis and the threat from nuclear weapons and nuclear power demands international cooperation. One cannot be mitigated without the other.

For humanity to overcome its mistake

The necessity of resolving both the climate crisis and the threat from nuclear weapons and nuclear power demands international cooperation. One cannot be mitigated without the other.

of developing an unsustainable and suicidal way of life, we must create a sustainable peace by way of cooperation. This requires the trust and open communication among nations. How can the US work towards nuclear abolition or work on the climate crisis while participating in NATO and surrounding Russia and China with military bases? International Law is the most obvious tool needed for mitigation (e.g., Litigation led by the Marshall Islands is being attempted to move beyond the lethargy preventing nuclear abolition).

(Analysis about the nexus between nuclear weapons and the climate crisis was generated by the World Future Council and can be accessed at its website.)

Signs of destruction

Most people in the US are unaware of the nuclear threat that still exists—whether from accidents or perhaps, more importantly, the growing animosity between the United States and Russia. Ignorance abounds. Shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US adopted the Wolfowitz Doctrine: “Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile

power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power.” (Paul Wolfowitz, 1992, according to Paul Craig Roberts, 11 May 2015)

Since then, the US has fomented a coup in the Ukraine, converted NATO into a political and military force, and armed the nations surrounding Russia. Several people of note have warned about the slide that could result in a nuclear war. The situation is so deep most cannot face it and ignore or deny it. What does it mean that humanity is in this situation where all life on Earth is threatened?

Not many of the storm clouds can be seen. The signs of destruction seem hidden. Maybe it is better to ignore and hope the threat will go away! But...we have children. There are generations to come after us. What about them? The droughts, the fires, the pollution, the melting Arctic, and the changing weather lead to the questions, “What about us? How vulnerable are we?”

The genesis of our situation is revealed in the history of human endeavors to find meaning in seeking survival. We seek the meaning of life because we have a brain capable of reflection on the past and the future. The frontal cortex evolved beyond the primitive amygdala’s fight-or-flight response. Now we can reflect on our bodies and see that they live and they die. What is this all about? Can and does life go on after death? Immortality? Of course, most average people circumscribe their thinking to their own self-interests and world-views, attempting to live a secure and ordinary life.

Years of study and reflection lead me to conclude with the words of Earnest Becker. Becker focuses on immortality as the prime human motivation. “We can see that the self-perpetuation of organisms is the basic motive for what is most distinctive about man—namely, religion. As Otto Rank put it, all religion springs, in the last analysis, ‘not so much from ... fear of natural death as of final destruction.’ But it is culture itself that embodies the transcendence of death in some form or other, whether it appears purely religious or not. It is very important for students of man to be clear about this: culture itself is sacred, since it is the ‘religion’ that assures in some way the perpetuation of its members.” (Escape from Evil)

The definition of religion currently is in dispute. I choose to bypass the dispute by saying world-views that regarded as absolute can be regarded as a “religion” for those who hold absolute views of the life-symbolizing meanings. At risk of inadequately addressing this point of view, I move to an observation about its implications.

Robert Jay Lifton describes it in these terms: “Religious wars and persecutions are, at bottom, expressions of rivalry between contending claims to immortality and ultimate spiritual power. Religious victimization is a

one-sided version of that process with the specific psychological functions of finding a target for death anxiety, sweeping away cosmological doubt, and achieving (or maintaining) revitalization.” The Broken Connection, p. 315.

In other words, nuclear weapons and our fossil fuel generated life style, and maintained by the almighty dollar, serve us like God. In fact, those in power and those caught up in the power of power assume the power of God. When we choose the weapons or choose to attempt control of the environment, we act like god. Lifton uses the word “nuclearism” for the nuclear weapon mindset.

Quoted by Terrence J. Rynne in *Gandhi and Jesus, The Saving Power of Nonviolence*, Rene Girard states, “[T]he Bomb does indeed seem like a prince of this world, enthroned above a host of priests and worshipers, who exist, it would seem, only to do it service... Humans have always found peace in the shadow of their idols...truly wonderful sense of the appropriate has guided the inventors of the most terrifying weapons to choose names that evoke ultimate violence in the most effective ways: names taken from the direct divinities in Greek mythology, like Titan, Poseidon and Saturn, the god who devoured his own children. We who sacrifice fabulous resources to fatten the most inhuman form of violence so that it will continue to protect us...”

Which road?

Humanity is not only at a survival juncture of existence, humanity is at a moral juncture. Even now, we are tolerating the murderous effects of the nuclear experiment. We may also be tolerating the suicidal possibility.

Which road do we choose now? We created the bomb; we initiated the fossil-fuel-based way of life. Intended or not, we facilitated the Anthropocene age. Will those of us who see a new way be able to take on those of us who like being gods for whatever reasons? We can choose one of three ways: bury ourselves in passivism, join the gods, or with courageous nonviolence and creativity take a stand.

I chose the third way long ago. May 7, I joined with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action—along with Larry Kerschner, a Vietnam Veteran for Peace, and Gilberto Perez, a member of Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist community—risking arrest by blocking the federal entrance to Sub Base Bangor.

Bangor houses eight Trident nuclear submarines, each with the capacity of twenty-four D-5 missiles. These missiles are capable of carrying six to eight independently-targeted nuclear warheads with a destructive power many times greater than the bomb dropped

► NEXUS continued on page 11

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Britain's thin White David Duke

David Bowie's terrible past

EJD

Trigger warning: violence against women and rape

On January 10 the world lost a "hero", David Bowie. Like the world over, I loved his music and his persona. When you search "Bowie" on the internet, it's easy to find praise for him—but we need to acknowledge something less popular about him: *David Bowie wasn't that great of a human being*. David Bowie did and said things that, had he been any other regular old schmo, he would have been scrutinized, at the least.

In 1975, Bowie described his persona as "the thin white Duke" in the midst of his almost decade-long flirtation with fascism. In several interviews, Bowie made comments like this, as reported in *The Spectator*:

"The country [Britain] needed a good dose of fascism.....I believe very strongly in fascism... Adolf Hitler was one of the first rock stars." He added, "You've got to have an extreme right-wing front come up and sweep everything off its feet and tidy everything up."

What did he mean by "tidy?" He spoke of fascism as if it were a weather front. Bowie was arrested in Poland that same year for possession of Nazi paraphernalia; and in 1976 Bowie was photographed giving the Nazi salute—although he later denies that he did it. Later still Bowie will blame his praise of Hitler and fascism on cocaine.

He used the same excuse when he violently came at his then-wife, Angie. She was "having an argument with his personal assistant, Corinne Schwab, he hurtled across the room and grabbed [Angie] by the throat with both hands and started squeezing." (*Mail Online*)

Gross. While addiction is a difficult and complicated issue, I feel that



intoxication is a poor justification for someone's behavior.

Digging deeper into Bowie's fascism, I found that most major websites only briefly mention his fascism only to quickly move on to praise his interracial relationships and his jabs at MTV for not having enough black artists. But let's not overpraise a white artist for acknowledging racism in the media

after the Nazis attempted one of the largest genocidal schemes ever. When Germany lost the war the Nazis did not just disappear; nor did white supremacy, or the social structures that upheld their ideology. Nazis are still everywhere. They adapted their ideology to meet the post-WWII world, and attempted to move along as if nothing had happened. The current German political power,

The Christian Democratic Union, is still unsettlingly reminiscent of yesterday's national socialism.

Now that Bowie is dead I doubt that we will ever know his true feelings about fascism. But Bowie had money and social status that he used to do and get what he wanted whether it was drugs or Lori Mattix.

Lori Mattix, a notorious rock n' roll groupie, was only 14 when she lost her virginity to David Bowie who was over 30 years old at the time. Lori wasn't the only underage girl that Bowie had sex with, nor was Bowie the only star who had sexual relationships with underage girls: Iggy Pop, Mick Jagger, Rod Stewart, Alice Cooper and Marc Bolan did as well, to name a few. Iggy Pop wrote a song about having sex with another underage groupie, Sable Starr:

"I slept with Sable when she was 13,
Her parents were too rich to do anything,
She rocked her way around L.A.,

I have caught myself talking about famous people as if I knew who they were... The reality is we don't know who famous people are. Their images, distorted and fabricated, are sold to us to consume by the media and music industry.

when that same artist's previous fascism goes unacknowledged. Where is his self-reflection on his words and actions? How am I to trust that he wasn't a fascist anymore? The media's focus on Bowie's relationships with people of color should not outweigh his political history. It is great that he used his social status and white privilege to spotlight the racism of MTV, but that does not change the fact that he romanticized Nazis. How did Bowie feel about the Jews, the Roma and other victims of Nazis, I wonder?

Let me put this into context: Bowie's flirtation with fascism happened while he was living in Berlin only 30 years

'Til a New York Doll carried her away..." (Iggy Pop, "Look Away") And people love Iggy Pop and they love Bowie! How can people not know about this or how can people know about this and still love David Bowie? How can famous people walk around and violate people and espouse fascism? This isn't just about Bowie, or just about fascism—this is also about patriarchy.

Patriarchy allows men to act with impunity. Patriarchy allows Chris Brown to beat Rihanna, his then-girlfriend, without making it feel wrong for us to consume his music. Some people claim to delineate between the art and the artist, yet we still bow down to the artist! We align ourselves with abusers, sexual aggressors, and fascists. When we support famous people with bad boundaries, we are upholding oppression. I find it naive for us to think that their politics and actions cannot affect their music or us.

I have caught myself talking about famous people as if I knew who they were based on what I had heard about them through their art, music, or film. The reality is we don't know who famous people are. Their images, distorted and fabricated, are sold to us to consume by the media and music industry. You can hear the problematic views and behaviors reflected and refracted in their music:

- "she was only 16" (Sam Cooke, "Only Sixteen")
- "I'd rather see you dead, little girl than to be with another man" (The Beatles, "Run For Your Life")
- "I know you want it. You're a good girl" (Robin Thicke, "Blurred Lines")

Underage sex, non-consensual sex/rape and drugs, classism and racism are all glorified and disseminated through music. Arguably, popular music is a pillar of oppression within our society, perpetuating violent ideology as the norm. But what can we do? If the artist will not take responsibility for their actions then it is up to us to take responsibility for our own actions. Understanding and acknowledging the deep connection between society and oppression, and how popular music is enforcing it, is a step in understanding our place within the greater issue. We are not divorced from it and we play a significant role within it. Not purchasing their music will not do much, but talking about it is a start.

EJD lives, works, and attends school in Olympia.

► **Nexus**, cont. from page 10

on Hiroshima. Ground Zero has been resisting the Trident nuclear weapons for 38 years.

Unless we can wean ourselves from fossil fuels we will send the climate over the tipping point. Many think we may already have passed the point of no return, but I believe it could get much worse. By participating in these two actions within a week, I had intended to demonstrate my belief that nukes and fossil fuel use are mutually reinforcing.

We need to change our way of thinking. We need to be responsible. We need more than just inventiveness. We need a sense of ethics and humility. We are not gods. We are human beings who have evolved from an animal nature. We are still part of nature. Nature will have the last word.

As I was writing this essay, Amy Goodman interviewed Noam Chomsky about this very subject. Chomsky paraphrases Trump as saying: "Let's race to the precipice as quickly as we can." But Trump is not the only threat. The next day, Chomsky stated that "today's Republican Party is a candidate for most dangerous organization in human history."

Humanity faces a situation incomparable to anything in its existence. Our actions must speak louder than our words.

Bernie Meyer, a resident of Olympia, is a long-time peace/anti-nuke/social justice activist and the author of The American Gandhi.

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► **Activists**, cont. from page 1
and me!

Bob Zeigler's notes

We began the March to Water Blessing Site at the tip of March Point with a moving call from Swinomish, Tulalip, Lummi and Lakota Climate Leaders on the deep need to protect our Mother Earth. They sang songs and told us that violence against women and violence against the earth were part of the same dynamic. Approximately 1000 Native and non-Native activists marched toward the water blessing site to the beat of Native drums and songs led by Swinomish Ronald Day. A Native flute player also accompanied the journey with songs about the Sacredness of the Water and also a song about the birds in which you could hear the actual songs of various birds. The songs of all the Native peoples made the long journey very rich as we walked along the edge of the coastal estuary on one side and estuary and oil trains and pipeline and refinery on the other.

Jewell James, Lummi Elder, Master Carver and Native Climate Activist Leader, told how it was the Native women who first felt the pain experienced by Mother Earth and told the Native men they needed to “Warrior-Up” and join them in placing their bodies in a way to protect the earth and stop the destruction. He issued the call for more Native peoples to “Warrior-Up” and join the movement to protect the earth and its climate. He said, Pope Francis issued a great letter on climate (Laudato Si) and everyone should read it. He said Catholics need to follow the Pope and Stand Up to protect the earth as well as all people of all religions need to stand up now to protect the earth.

The Tulalip held a Water Blessing Ceremony at the estuary edge as eagles circled overhead at 2 PM. This was at the same time water blessing ceremonies were carried out by indigenous peoples around the world. A Lummi Canoe pulled by young Lummi men and women came to the shore and had a landing ceremony in which they asked the Swinomish for permission to come ashore. They asked for assistance in lifting the canoe to the stage and two young non-Native women deeply moved went racing over to assist. The young Native canoe team had attended the Paris Climate accords last December to give witness to the need for action. They spoke on why they did this and sang and danced.

I spoke to one young non-Native woman, a student at Fairhaven at Western Washington University, who told me that May 14 was her mother’s birthday and that is why she was there for her mother and knew her participation would make her mother proud.

Notes from Bourtai Hargrove

Day One: After numerous meetings in the hot sun at Finney Farm near the Skagit River, we left at 5:00 PM in a



Native March leaders, Ronald Day on right. Photo: Bob Zeigler

caravan to blockade the railroad track. The site was excellent, a raised track clearly visible to traffic traveling into Anacortes on Highway 20. We had to park and quickly scramble up to the track with all our gear—sleeping bags, pads, chairs, and provisions, to occupy the track before we were stopped. Bev Bassett, Don Coughlin and I sat next to the Seattle Raging Grannies at the head

on and Break Free organizers as they finished setting up camp.

We erected an information table, ten or twelve sleeping tents, and three small pit-stop tents in the tall grass with makeshift composting toilets inside. At 11:00 PM, all the law enforcement vehicles, except one, left simultaneously.

The sharp-edged gravel around the tracks did not look very inviting to sleep on, so Bev, Don and I decided to sleep in our folding chairs. As night fell, it became cold, so we pulled sleeping bags around our legs and up to our shoulders. Bev gave her sleeping bag to a young activist without one, so she was exposed all night to 40 degree temperature and colder winds. She tried to ignore the cold by conversing with the many people walking by our site.

It was impossible to sleep. The flashing street lights, laughter and voices, drum beats from someone’s boom box, and our cramped legs kept us from dozing. Since law enforcement had apparently decided to let us stay until the next train was due, barricading the tracks became

an exercise in endurance. By morning, Bev was too cold to stay longer, so we decided to leave for our rented house in Anacortes to recuperate.

Special thanks to Sue Langhans, our support person at Finney Farm and for the invasion of the tracks. She tirelessly helped us with heavy bags and gear, drove my Prius to the invasion site, helped us up onto the tracks and then stayed parked within sight for several hours to be sure we were safe.

Day Two: Indigenous People’s Day. Break Free’s plans for family-friendly activities on Saturday were successful. KOMO News has great photographs of the four mile procession to the end of March point which show the colorful marchers against a backdrop of the formidable industrial structures of the refineries—smokestacks, cylindrical cooling towers and storage tanks, and the ubiquitous round waste water and sludge settling basins. [KOMO News: “Anti Oil Protests” and “Break Free: May 14”] Thanks also to our excellent photographers, Bob Zeigler and Bill Copeland. Kayakers had a difficult two mile trip across open water to the end of

Approximately 1000 Native and Non-Native activists marched toward the water blessing site to the beat of Native drums and songs led by Swinomish Ronald Day.

of the line; Rod Tharp was helping erect a large metal structure and our striking Break Free banners further down the track. It was exhilarating! Break Free had planned well; we had enough food and water to feed 150 people for three days.

Sixteen law enforcement vehicles with flashing red and blue lights arrived almost immediately. State Patrol Officers and Skagit County Sheriff’s Officers in full riot gear—ballistic helmets with tear gas visors, control batons and padded protective suits—stood conversing in groups, deciding what to do. As the sun set, we watched traffic on Highway 20 slow to get a glimpse of what was going

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March Point and an even more difficult trip fighting the currents on the way back. Kudos to Donna Albert, who made it all the way and was exhausted when she arrived back at the rental house. All the kayakers arrived safely, thanks to our kayak master, Jeff Snyder. Jeff conducted many of the kayak training sessions and planned the kayak safety measures. After the salmon dinner and the speakers, we had a magical luminary procession through downtown Anacortes, with glowing salmon and globes held high to illuminate the night. Rod’s beautiful Orca was part of both processions—the Indigenous march in the afternoon and the luminary procession at night.

Day Three: At 6 AM Sunday morning, Sue Gunn received a call that the rail blockaders were being arrested. All ten of us in the rental house scrambled to get dressed and out to the blockade site, hoping to join a support group or get arrested ourselves. We arrived too late, everyone and everything had been removed and law enforcement officials prevented access to the site. As our jail support person, Sue Gunn, went to the jail to see that our three arrestees—Scott Yoos, Scott Goddard and Todd Davison—were cited and set free. A meeting was held later in the morning at the Deception Pass camp site to decide on further actions. Those of us who still wanted to risk arrest drove in a bus and cars to the March Point Park and Ride. We marched as the thin green line, five in a row with locked arms, dressed in transparent jump suits each with a big green X on the back. All entrances to the refinery side of March Point were guarded by a phalanx of armed police and security officers. We sat down at the first gate, singing and chanting. Break Free has some great songs, including Rising Tide’s theme song, “We must rise like the tide”. Here is one chant I remember:

*We have a duty to fight,
We have a duty to win,
We must love one another and protect
one another,
We have nothing to lose but our chains.*

Later we traveled farther up March Point, stopping once on a bridge to wave at the kayakers coming to meet us, then sat down again at the second entrance gate. Members of the group rose to speak about the climate emergency, but it was the wrong audience—we were already committed to the cause. Maybe the rows of heavily-armed security guards and

officers listened. Finally, we were told that the plan had been to sit-in at one the security gates until we were arrested, but the officers told us they would not arrest us that day and probably not for several days. We left, somewhat dispirited, to plan for greater demonstrations another day. But we can be proud—all of the members of our small affinity group participated and we did our best. There was a debriefing on Wednesday night, 4:30 at Rod’s house.

Notes from Becky Liebman on the final day

Sunday came. Cops cleared the tracks shortly after 5:00 am that morning. Arrests were made. So a new plan emerged under the big firs at Deception State Park: to exercise a civil disobedient protest at the tracks closer to the refineries. We got our instructions, signed our forms with emergency contact information, made arrangements for our gear and cars, and readied ourselves, in body and mind, for possible arrest.

About 150 or 200 of us met at the park and ride near the refineries, locked arms in groups of five, and set off, not exactly clear of what to expect.

As we approached, we discovered we were blockaded from our goal. So... there we sat. We sang, we shared, we listened, clueless about what would happen next.

I burst into tears when, in the shadow of hulking cops in full black riot gear, the organizers said, “Let’s declare victory and head back.”

Why the tears? In part, it was relief. Those police dressed in bullet proof vests and shields; we wore (over our clothes) papery white jump suits. They were burly middle-aged men, with a few women among them; we ranged in age from babies to octogenarians. They held batons, guns, cans of pepper spray; we held each other. They were there to protect the oil refineries; we came, as one protestor said to “put our bodies in the gears of the fossil fuel economy to demand a just transition to the post-fossil fuel economy.” Gears can be painful.

But I like to think the tears gushed gratitude for the young organizers who worked for months for this moment, who somehow, in the fast pace of the day, had, behind the scenes, invented a plan, agreed upon it, and asserted it.

They juggled so many variables that day, like the diversity among us, not only in age but also in experience and tolerance for the unknown. We ranged from anarchists to law-abiding rule



Rod Tharp’s Orca and Lee Miller in March. Photo: Bob Zeigler



The raging grannies. Photo: William Copeland

followers. The organizers needed to plan on the spot. Their choice? To celebrate what had been accomplished and look to the future.

They deserved to celebrate! They had drawn participants from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, and Alaska, an estimated 2,000 of us during the course of the weekend. Tracks were held; people were educated and emboldened to act. All this during a weekend of volunteer food brigades, organized transportation, strategically placed composting toilets, solar panels for cell phone recharging, trained legal and medical at the ready. Throughout the weekend, participants were encouraged to “self-organize” for certain tasks as needed. Artwork and music lifted and unified.

We are not oblivious to the fact that we all used fossil fuels to get there. Life as we know it moves by gears powered by fossil fuels. Nor are we oblivious to the data on climate change: record breaking temperatures; swings of drought and floods; ocean acidification levels.

Was it effective? Well, that depends on your criteria.

But I can definitively report that it made this old, retired librarian well with gratitude for the hearts and minds that planned the Break Free actions, for those who held the tracks on Friday and Saturday and allowed themselves

to be arrested, for the company I kept throughout the weekend, all of whom made me want to stand a little straighter, walk a little longer, speak a little louder, and be a little braver.

All of which I will use as I work to pass the initiative on this fall’s ballot, I-732, putting a truer price on industrial carbon emissions and reducing the state sales tax by one percent. (The campaign is already a success, for it is generating heart to heart conversations on doorsteps.)

Civil disobedience and shoe leather: both are needed to deal with this inconvenient truth of climate change.

Olympia Confront the Climate Crisis is the Direct Action Committee of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation. Bob Zeigler, Bourtai Hargrove, and Becky Liebman are long-time Olympia activists and members of the Olympia F.O.R.

The Break Free from Fossil Fuels in the Pacific Northwest at the March Point refineries in Anacortes, Washington was part of a mid-May week of climate action across the globe initiated by 350.org in conjunction with a large number of groups.

For more information on the action: breakfreepnw.org or contact Sue Gunn at 360 918-8012; Olympia Confront the Climate Crisis e-mail: olyccc@earthlink.net; web: www.olyccc.org.

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Enrique Quintero

Aprender de otros es Anti-Americano, incluso si esto pudiera beneficiar a las mujeres.

De vez en cuando, Hillary Clinton, se inclina a decir la verdad. Una de esas ocasiones dispersas fue a principios de los años 90 cuando aseguró a Larry King que políticamente “la izquierda no existe en la Casa Blanca de los Clinton”. Otro ejemplo más reciente, que ilustra la longevidad ideológica de sus valores neoliberales, ocurrió en febrero de este año cuando descartando la idea de Bernie Sanders de que los EE.UU. podría aprender de otros países industrializados que son capaces de proporcionar servicios sociales de mejor calidad; afirmó que a pesar de su amor por Dinamarca, “No estamos Dinamarca, somos los Estados Unidos de América!”

Las implicaciones de declaraciones como esta oscilan, y en última instancia cubren todo el espacio territorial de la arrogancia política, la estupidez acerca de los procesos de aprendizaje social, y los delirios sin fundamento acerca de la superioridad del capitalismo estadounidense y la excepcionalidad norteamericana. La organización progresiva de noticias “Common Dreams”, al comentar sobre la declaración de Clinton nos recordó que dentro de dicha “excepcionalidad” de los Estados Unidos del siglo XXI, aparecen distinciones dudosas como: la violencia armada, las emisiones de carbono, el encarcelamiento en masa, la desigualdad de la riqueza, las desigualdades raciales, la pena capital, la pobreza infantil, y exorbitantes gastos militares. “Una lista aleccionadora destinada a disipar la mente presumida y olvidadiza de quienes creen en la asunta superioridad estadounidense.

Desde una perspectiva feminista, Dinamarca, entre otras cosas, tiene uno de los más altos niveles de indicadores positivos en relación con los derechos de la mujer y la igualdad de género. En efecto, Dinamarca tiene incluso un Ministerio de Igualdad de Género, el cual supervisa la aplicación de políticas progresistas en áreas tales como: la igualdad de participación en la toma de decisiones políticas y económicas; igualdad de promoción de la mujer y de las minorías en el mercado laboral; cuestiones relacionadas con grupos LGBTQ; de género, de igualdad salarial y de pensiones de jubilación; de la conciliación de la vida privada y profesional es decir pensiones y tiempo libre por maternidad, paternidad y progenitudo; y la erradicación de la violencia de género. Creo que para muchos hombres y mujeres estadounidenses la experiencia danesa presenta muchas ideas y practicas de beneficio social que valen la pena ser consideradas y emuladas.

Es bien sabido que la retórica de la excepcionalidad estadounidense ha tenido graves y dolorosas consecuencias para hombres y las mujeres de color en todo el mundo, en particular cuando este concepto es parte de la lógica de la expansión continua del capitalismo estadounidense y de los intereses del complejo militar industrial y su estado de vigilancia. En todas estas áreas, actuando como senador o como el mas alto diplomático de su país

en la Secretaria de Estado, Clinton jugó un papel central de soporte, por no hablar de sus declaraciones abiertamente belicosas tratando de desestabilizar a Rusia así como gobiernos los legítimamente elegidos



en América Latina y el Medio Oriente. Todo esto mientras mantuvo un silencio cómplice y colaborador en relación con los regímenes opresivos en Israel, Egipto, Arabia Saudita y Kuwait, los tres últimos nefastamente famosos por su tratamiento represivo de las mujeres.

El feminismo ha sido conocido desde su inicio por luchar por la igualdad de género y siempre se ha inclinado

...su argumentación feminista se ha reducido a pedir a las mujeres y los hombres el inmolarsse ante su identidad de mujer, como si esta condición fuera el clasificador central de la teoría feminista y la práctica ideal del electorado estadounidense.

hacia la izquierda del espectro político. También, históricamente, el feminismo ha sido capaz de aprender de otras experiencias feministas, progresistas y revolucionarios de todo el mundo. En otras palabras, el feminismo siempre se situó a la izquierda, y nunca ha sido parroquial o mirado con desdén a experiencias culturales diversas. El autoproclamado feminismo de Clinton tiene la función de ‘dorar la píldora’ en orden de prolongar la perpetuación de estructuras existentes de poder que, a lo largo de su carrera política, Hillary Clinton, ha sido incapaz y mal dispuesta a desafiar. Parecería que para ella el eje del feminismo se centra exclusivamente en su persona.

Así que, ¿Cuál es el Aroma de esta mujer?

Es importante diferenciar aquí entre el ‘aroma’ hacia el cual Clinton se siente atraída, y el “aroma” que transpira como resultado de sus acciones políticas y la compañía que mantiene. Creo que el fallecido Christopher Hitchens capturó la esencia de Hillary Clinton cuando declaró que su principal delito consistía en “la transmutación de los cargos públicos en el interés privado y viceversa.” Su buen amigo y compañero del alma Henry Kissinger, sin duda aprueba comportamiento ya que por tanto para el como para Clinton, poder y dinero constituyen el último afrodisíaco. Ha habido numerosos artículos

escritos sobre los estrechos vínculos entre el ascenso económico de los Clinton, sus carreras políticas y sus asociaciones con Wall Street. Según Forbes, Hillary y Bill Clinton tienen un valor económico de \$ 45 millones

de dólares (esto es sin contar el valor de sus inversiones indirectas manejadas por instituciones financieras independientes). Robert Yoon, analista de la CNN, informa que entre 2001 y mayo de este año, los Clinton ganaron más de \$ 153 millones de dólares por discursos pagados, con un promedio de \$ 210.795 por cada presentación. Los principales ‘donantes’ de estos elevados

salarios no son por supuesto instituciones filantrópicas, humanitarias, o de caridad; pero los sospechosos habituales de poderosas organizaciones especulativas y financieras como Goldman Sachs, UBS, Morgan Stanley, Bank of América / Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank, y City Group, entre que se cuentan entre los principales benefactores de los Clinton.

De acuerdo con el Centro para una Política Responsable (Open Secrets), desde el comienzo de la búsqueda de la nominación por su partido, la campaña de Hillary Clinton ha recibido más de \$ 289 millones de dólares, la mayor parte como consecuencia de las acciones de Súper PACs y híbridos de la misma naturaleza. Como dijera el senador Sanders, “Clinton está financiada por Wall Street!” Sería absolutamente ingenuo suponer que estas contribuciones son simples actos de generosidad y no forman parte de las reglas de un juego destinado a perpetuar el poder existente y articular la codependencia entre el poder y el dinero, entre política y economía.

Los estrechos vínculos de Hillary Clinton con corporaciones cubren su pasado y su presente, desde Wal-Mart a Goldman Sachs y estos vínculos son difíciles de conciliar con los valores feministas verdaderos. Liza Featherstone sugiere en su libro “Hillary Clinton’s Faux Feminismo” “Si el feminismo sólo se ocupa de las mujeres de las clases altas de nuestra sociedad, no es en absoluto el feminismo. Es sólo el elitismo.” En su libro, Featherstone señala los siguientes eventos de la carrera de Clinton que indican el verdadero carácter de su política, y el impacto negativo en las mujeres, entre otros:

- La presencia de Clinton en el consejo de administración de Wal-Mart no refleja ninguna medida por

parte de ella para hacer frente al sexismo sistémico que caracteriza a dicha corporación. Vale la pena recordar que en 2002 *Betty Dukes v tiendas Wal-Mart* fue la mayor demanda legal colectiva de acción contra la discriminación sexual en la historia Americana.

- Clinton declaró explícitamente durante la campaña que \$12 por hora debería suficientemente como salario mínimo federal (comparar esta cifra con la cantidad que los bancos pagaron como promedio por cada uno de sus discursos ante los miembros de la clase privilegiada);
- Clinton rechazó el sistema de atención medica de un solo contribuyente, el cual reduciría los costos y aseguraría que todos pudieran tener acceso a asistencia medica. En otras palabras, se opuso a la medicina social, que proveería servicios para todos independiente de empleo o de condición matrimonial;
- Ha sido bien documentada su activa campaña para reprimir y silenciar las distintas mujeres que han acusado a su marido, Bill Clinton, de abuso sexual y de violación, a pesar de haber declarado en una ocasión que “Cada sobreviviente de asalto sexual merece ser escuchado, creído y apoyado.”

El esencialismo simplista de Clinton

Un punto clave de la campaña de Clinton ha sido su feminismo auto-declarado. No obstante, a falta de una plataforma política capaz de enlazar dicho feminismo contra las múltiples opresiones que padecen las mujeres o los objetivos emancipatorios verdaderamente sociales del feminismo socialista como en el caso de Bernie Sanders; su argumentación feminista se ha reducido a pedir a las mujeres y los hombres el inmolarsse ante su identidad de mujer, como si esta condición fuera el clasificador central de la teoría feminista y la práctica ideal del electorado estadounidense. En otras palabras, si usted está a favor de la igualdad de género debe votar por mí, yo soy su modelo! Soy tu musa!

Afortunadamente, no todos están de acuerdo con este sentido de “tener derecho por que si” de Hillary Clinton. Esto es particularmente evidente entre las generaciones jóvenes de mujeres y hombres, un grupo demográfico que en números abrumadores tiende a favorecer Sanders. Sin embargo, ella tiene algunos seguidores feministas en su nueva peregrinación hacia la Casa Blanca; estos son en su mayoría socialmente prósperos, de clase alta, y baby boomers de raza blanca. Junto a estos existe además un pequeño grupo de intelectuales liberales desorientados como Katha Pollit, quien en un artículo para la Nación, “¿Por qué estoy preparada -y Excitada- por Hillary”, después de recordarnos en la primera línea que asistió a la universidad de Radcliffe, presenta como su principal argumento de por qué debemos apoyar a Clinton, lo que equivale a un caso de simple reflejo mecánico de solidaridad de género. Pollit señala que “Las minorías raciales y étnicas pueden ser extremadamente leales entre miembros de su grupo, pero las mujeres son criticas de otras mujeres” y apela a las mujeres a superar esta resistencia porque “Hillary será la primera mujer presidente - y eso

es importante” y además, “Hillary es una feminista y está funciona como tal”. Esos son, literalmente, sus argumentos. Teniendo en cuenta los párrafos anteriores de este artículo, resulta claro que la identidad de género del presidente tiene poco peso si tal individuo es un participante activo y enjaulado en favor del capitalismo como un sistema de relaciones sociales y de poder político específico. Irónicamente, en la elección actual, ha sido un hombre, Bernie Sanders, el candidato con la plataforma feminista más avanzada. Por supuesto, sería genial el elegir una verdadera mujer feminista progresista a la Presidencia, pero Hillary Clinton es claramente no progresista y su feminismo es en el mejor de los casos oportunista y poco profundo. El feminismo no definitivamente el aroma de esta mujer!

Si hemos de tomar la lógica defectuosa de género y el esencialismo de minorías hasta sus últimas consecuencias, la gente como yo, un hombre, de origen y antecedentes culturales Latino-Americano, debería ser primordialmente y ante todo leal a mi condición de minoría y apoyar a candidatos de la talla de Marco Rubio y Ted Cruz, ambos de los cuales resultan ser no sólo los hombres, sino también hombres de ascendencia latinoamericana. Después de todo, parafraseando los argumentos de Pollit, uno de ellos podría convertirse en el primer presidente latino, y “eso es importante.”

Por otro lado, el feminismo es muy importante y debe ser tomado en serio. No debemos permitir que sea manipulado en las manos de mujeres u hombres que solo buscan beneficiarse a si mismos.

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.

► **Clinton**, cont. from page 1
from the Danish experience.

The rhetoric of American exceptionalism has had painful consequences on men and women of color around the world, particularly when wrapped around the logic of continuous expansion of American capitalism and the interests of the military industrial complex and its surveillance state. In all of these areas, as senator and Secretary of State, Clinton played a central supporting role, not to mention her openly hawkish statements trying to destabilize Russia as well as elected governments both in Latin America and the Middle East, while keeping the accomplice silence of the collaborator regarding oppressive regimes in Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—the last three notoriously famous for their repressive treatment of women.

Feminism has been known since its beginning for fighting for gender equality and it has always leaned towards the left of the political spectrum; also, historically, it has always been able to learn from other feminist, progressive, and revolutionary experiences around the world. In other words, feminism has always placed itself on the left, and has never been parochial or culturally dismissive of others. Clinton’s self-proclaimed feminism has the function of giftwrapping the perpetuation of existing structures of power which, throughout her political career, Hillary Clinton has been unable and unwilling to challenge. It seems that for her the axis of feminism is exclusively centered in her persona.

Hoo-hah! So, what is the scent of this woman?

It is important to differentiate here between the ‘scent’ that Clinton is attracted to, and the ‘scent’ that transpires as result of her political actions and the company she keeps. I

believe the late Christopher Hitchens captured the essence of Hillary Clinton when he stated that her main crime consisted in “the transmutation of public office into private interest and vice versa.” Hillary’s good friend and soul mate Henry Kissinger would certainly approve her behavior since for both, power and money constitute the ultimate aphrodisiac.

There have been numerous articles written about the close ties between the economic ascendance of the Clintons and their political careers and associations with Wall Street. According to Forbes, Hillary and Bill Clinton are worth \$45 million (this is not counting the value of blind investments handled by third party financial institutions). Robert Yoon, an analyst for CNN, reports that between 2001 to May of this year, the Clintons combined earned more than \$153 million in paid speeches, averaging \$210,795 for each address. The

...her feminist argumentation has been reduced to ask women and men to immolate themselves upon her identity as a woman, as if this condition was the central classifier of feminist theory and practice for the American people.

main ‘donors’ paying the fees are not of course philanthropic, humanitarian, or charitable institutions, but the usual suspects of high financial speculative organizations such as Goldman Sachs, UBS, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America/ Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank, and City Group among other Clinton benefactors.

According to the Center for Responsible Politics (Open Secrets), since the beginning of her search for her party Presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton’s campaign has been the recipient of over \$289 million dollars, most of it a result of the agency of Super PACs and hybrids of the same nature. As Senator Sanders put it, “Clinton is funded by Wall Street!” It would be utterly naïve to assume that these contributions are simple acts of generosity and not part of the rules of a game meant to perpetuate power and articulate the codependence between power and money, between politics and economics.

Hillary Clinton’s close ties with American corporations—past and present, from Wal-Mart to Goldman Sachs—are hard to reconcile with true feminist values, as Liza Featherstone suggests in her book *False Choices: The Faux Feminism of Hillary Rodham Clinton*. “If feminism only concerns itself with the women at the very top of our society, it is not feminism at all. It’s just elitism.” In her book, Featherstone points out the following events of Clinton’s career that indicate the true character of her politics, and the negative impact on women, among others:

- Clinton’s presence on the Wal-Mart in the board of directors never reflected any measures on her part to address Wal-Mart systemic sexism. In 2002 *Betty Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores* is the largest sex-discrimination action class suit in American history;
- Clinton explicitly stated during the campaign that \$12 per hour should be fine enough as a federal minimum (compare this to the amount the banks paid on average for each of her speeches before the members of her privileged class);
- Clinton disavowed the single-payer care system, which would lower costs and ensure that everyone could have access to health care. In other words, she opposed socialized medicine, which would insured care independent from employment or marriage;

- The well documented, active campaign on her part to repress and silence the various women who have accused her husband Bill Clinton of sexual abuse and rape, in spite of having stated once that “Every survivor of sexual assault deserves to be heard, believe and supported.”

3. Clinton’s Simplistic Essentialism

A key point of Clinton’s campaign has been her self-declared feminism. Nonetheless, lacking a political platform able to link her claims against the multiple oppressions that women endure or the truly social emancipatory goals of socialist feminism as in Bernie Sander’s case, her feminist argumentation has been reduced to ask women and men to immolate themselves upon her identity as a woman, as if this condition was the central classifier of feminist theory and practice for the American people. In other words, if you are in favor of

gender equality you must vote for me, I am your model! I am your muse!

Not everybody agrees with Clinton’s sense of entitlement. This is particularly evident among young women and men, a demographic group that in overwhelming numbers tends to favor Sanders; however, she does have some feminist followers on her new pilgrimage to the White House; they are mostly

socially prosperous, upper-class, white baby boomers, plus a small group of disoriented liberal intellectuals like Katha Pollit, who in an article for the Nation, “Why I’m ready—and Excited—for Hillary”, after reminding us in the first line that she attended Radcliffe College, presents as her main argument for why we should support Clinton what amounts to a simple knee-jerk case of gender solidarity. Pollit tells her readers that “racial and ethnic minorities can be extremely loyal to their own, but women are hard on other women” and appeals to this group to overcome their resistance because “Hillary will be the first woman president—and that is important”, and “Hillary is a feminist and is running as one”. Those are literally her arguments. Given the previous paragraphs in this article, it seems clear that the gender identity of the president bears little weight if such an individual is an engaged and active participant in favor of capitalism as a system of social relations and specific political power. Ironically, in the current election, it has been a man, Bernie Sanders, who is the candidate with the most advanced feminist platform. Granted, it would be great to elect a true progressive feminist woman to the Presidency, but Hillary Clinton is clearly not socially progressive and her feminism is at its best opportunistic and shallow. So, to parody a line of the famous Hollywood movie with name similar to this article’s title, Hoo-hah! Feminism is not the sent of this woman!

If we are to take the faulty logic of gender and minority essentialism to its last consequences, people like me, a man, of Latin-American origin and cultural background, should be first and foremost loyal to my assigned minority condition and support the likes of Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, both of whom happen to be not only men, but also men of Latin American ancestry. After all, to paraphrase Pollit’s arguments, one of them could become the first Latino president, and “that is important.”

On the other hand, feminism *is* very important and it matters. We must not allow it to be manipulated in the hands of self-serving women, or men.

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

Why Am I Voting For Trump?

Is it because I’m an idiot?
(See previous poem entitled “I’m An Idiot”)
Key word: entitled (sic?)
Or is it that I’m a racist, sexist, bigot?
No, were life so simple...
I’m afraid the dimple that belies my smirk
Does not suggest I am a crazy jerk
But that I’m lazy and refuse to do the work
I’m the opposite of an activist
Hell, I can barely raise my fist
I’m a lousy poet but an honest artist
And a depressed one at that
So not only am I ignoring the problem
I am hastening its festering, its progress
Toward the inevitable conclusion:
Trump’s version of Fascism
What symbol will he utilize to match or surpass the swastika?
I am “simply” obeying the Holocaust call
The urge to drag down as many with me as I can
Since I was already sinking anyway
I support Trump because I don’t care about tomorrow
Let alone today
I can only hope my lack of action leads to the
Fall of my fellow man
Only then will I be able to say I’m proud to be an American
Who says a bad poet has no power?
Hey, Saudi Arabia, two words: Trump Tower
If this is to be the “new boss”, I look forward to being fired
For being such a lazy apprentice I sat on my ire

by broken

by Wes Prang

We pay more to watch someone play with a little round ball than for teachers to educate our children. We care more about a stranger playing make-believe in front of a camera than those who sit right next to us.

Consider Reaganomics. The idea that if we give rich people enough of our money, they'll give it back to us.

Giving more to the wealthy in the hopes that it will trickle back down to us doesn't work because it never rains money. All it does is make us envy the rich and blame the poor.

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