



In whose pocket...

By F. R. Knell

Is the threatened species of Mazama pocket gophers really ruining Thurston County and costing us all millions? The current County Commissioners seem to want us to think so. Based on various public comments, the Commissioners blame: the Federal Government; US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); EPA; former Commissioners; the Governor; and any environmental group that's handy, but in particular Futurewise, etc.

Popular lies or misleading statements made by Commissioners and their election supporters:

- The Endangered Species Act that protects the ecosystem of the pocket gopher and several associated species will cost all of us taxpayers \$150 million
- This issue is holding up all permits, and is impacting all of our properties
- The Feds are going to inspect everyone's properties and impose retro-



- active restrictions
- The USDA is killing pocket gophers, while the USFWS is protecting them
- It's up to the Federal government to make sure all retirement property investments are worth as

much as each person thinks they should be.

The Habitat Conservation Plan (The HCP)

A Habitat Conservation Plan that will satisfy USFWS requirements is to use mitigation cost funds to buy land (clustered in large tracts) for ecosystem protections for Mazama pocket gophers and several associated prairie

species. Each building permit seeker who happens to be part of the 1% of permit seekers affected does not have to set aside a small portion of their individual property, and then pay to have it inspected annually. They pay an upfront fee only. County Planning Staff, with input from the USFWS, have already told the Commissioners what they need to do. They need to approve the HCP that spells out the de-

The developers, builders and large landowners (of the 1% affected properties)—who contributed money to the elections of our current Commissioners—do not want to pay mitigation fees outlined in the HCP.

The Commissioners can instead propose a tax for all of us. The problem with that is they know their Freedom Foundation/Tea Party supporters may rebel and they risk losing those constituents. They could also lose support from the general citizenry since many might not understand why they're being taxed for someone else's building permits.

Response to the conflict?

It appears the Commissioners intend to stall, holding onto hope that the new Federal Dept. of the Interior administration will do away with the

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tails of the arrangement. The County has already received \$1.8 million from the USFWS (and they are asking for \$600,000 more) to make this HCP.

The Commissioners' Dilemma: Fees for a few, or taxes for all

Having courted both the "no fees" and the "no taxes" camps, how do they choose who pays?

Endangered Species Act. Meanwhile, this becomes a blame game that challenges environmental protections in our County, and also vilifies the integrity of those trying to plan for and enforce those protections.

F. R. Knell, longtime resident of Thurston County, is a fan of protecting threatened and endangered species.

Trident Three: "Guilty"

Leonard Eiger

On April 12th, The Trident Three were found guilty of trespassing in Federal Court. Larry Kerschner, Gilberto Perez, and Bernie Meyer appeared in United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Tacoma. Magistrate Judge David C. Christel presided over the proceedings. A large number of supporters witnessed the trial.

The defendants had their cases consolidated; their cases were all tried at the same time. Attorney Blake Kremer, who has supported and represented many nuclear resisters, represented Larry Kerschner and acted as standby counsel for Meyer and Perez. All parties had already agreed to and signed the "statement of facts" that defined the events that occurred.

On May 7, 2016, during a vigil held by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, the three demonstrators engaged in a peaceful protest. They entered the main highway and briefly blocked traffic on the federal side of

the main gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. The three demonstrators carried an illustration of Fr. Daniel Berrigan, revered anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons priest, with a statement by him which read, "Know where you stand and stand there." They also carried a colorful banner with symbols linking nuclear weapons and climate change.

The nonviolent direct action was held in honor of Mother's Day. In 1872, Julia Ward Howe suggested that Mother's Day should be dedicated to peace. Howe saw the effects on both sides of the Civil War and realized that destruction from warfare goes beyond the killing of soldiers in battle.

The three resisters were arrested by base security, booked, and released. They received citations pursuant to Title 18 USC Section 1382 for trespass on a military installation.

The court, as it has done in every case involving nuclear resisters at the Bangor base, granted the government's motion *in limine*, which disallowed

presenting any defense involving the necessity defense, international law regarding the use of nuclear weapons, or the policies of the US government

Kremer noted to the court that the defendants have lived lives of service to humanity and that they are united in the belief that nuclear weapons are illegal and immoral.

On the stand, Gilberto Perez spoke of how he prayed as he and the other defendants crossed the blue line onto the Bangor base. When asked by Kremer what he would do for the cause of peace, he replied, "I would be willing to give my life, to spend the rest of my life in jail." Perez noted that he is willing to sacrifice himself to get across the message that we can use diplomacy with Russia, North Korea, and China to prevent nuclear war.

Larry Kerschner said that people do not consider the implications of the use of nuclear weap-



The Trident Three after their trial—left to right: Larry Kerschner, Bernie Meyer, Gilberto Perez.

regarding the use of nuclear weapons. At Blake Kremer's request, however, the court agreed to give some leeway in the defendants' testimony.

► Trident, continued on page 18

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. Art-work and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

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

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

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

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

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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.

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Submission Deadline

Monday, May 22
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday, May 27, 1 pm
Lacey Timberland Library
(Group study area)

Advertising Rates

quarter page.....\$135
2 column square.....\$89
3" by 2 columns.....\$57
business card.....\$30

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Open letter to Gen. H.R. McMaster

General H.R. McMaster
National Security Adviser
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 2006

Dear General McMaster:

I just finished your book, *Dereliction of Duty*. Your book was a courageous indictment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) for their refusal to give President Johnson the benefit of their military advice in 1964 and 1965 as civilian policy makers Americanized the Vietnam war.

You state their refusal to advise silently endorsed a flawed policy leading to the Americanization of the war and the deaths of over 50,000 US soldiers and over one million Vietnamese.

You state the Vietnam war was lost in Washington, D.C. Now you are in Washington, DC, our National Security Adviser. *Dereliction of Duty* must be on your mind as you watch civilian policy makers Americanizing war in Iraq, Syria and probably Iran that could lead to another massive misuse of those brave soldiers you have commanded in the field.

The analogies between what you recorded in your Vietnam history and today are many and alarming, are they not?

You know the Iraq war of 2003 was based on a lie, just like the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

The US installed the Catholic Diem as South Vietnam's Prime Minister. He started killing Buddhists. The US installed the Shi'a al-Maliki as Iraq's Prime Minister. He started killing Sunnis.

When the US civilian policy-makers overthrew Diem, the replacement Prime Minister dismantled the governing institutions, just as US Proconsul Bremer did in 2004, making Iraq ungovernable.

US military advisers were sent to "train" the army of an illegitimate South Vietnamese government, just as US advisers were sent to train the army of an illegitimate government headed by Iraq's al-Maliki. US advisers couldn't counter the governmental corruption that led to the Viet Cong gaining support in the countryside, anymore than US training prevented a Sunni insurgency in Iraq, or kept al-Maliki from abandoning Mosul in June 2014 without firing a shot.

The current President fits your description of LBJ, "a profoundly insecure man who craved and demanded affirmation." President Trump's civilian advisers have a messianic purpose to defeat Islam, just like LBJ needed to defeat "communism." LBJ's ideology blinded him to the reality of the Vietnamese resistance, just as Trump's will blinds his.

You criticized LBJ for hiding what was going on in Vietnam in order to save his Great Society. Now President Trump proposes a \$54 billion budget increase, not to strengthen the military but to hide a domestic assault on all the governmental constraints to corporate profits.

You have a President who says kill "radical Islamic terrorists," just as LBJ said "kill more Viet Cong." You said in your book that such a demand was simply "a tactical mission" and, without a clear political purpose, a waste of military equipment and soldiers' blood. In your book you denounced the very things happening today... "graduated pressure," "hit and run," "pinprick" "limited war," advisers in combat situations, and combat troops being introduced "without consideration of its long-term costs and consequences."

I know you are in a difficult spot. There is no one equivalent to a Mike Mansfield pushing President Trump to clarify his war policy, no anti-war movement teach ins, no frightened white kids facing the draft or Black conscripts dying for a country that killed Malcolm, Medgar and Martin and no equivalent to the Vietnamese boat people. Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are warehousing refugees from our wars. If Americans saw them, as I have seen them in refugee camps, they might rethink our bombing campaigns.

Still, there are soldiers and families of soldiers who are being placed in harm's way by a destructive Chief Strategist. I hope you can call for a halt to this build-up until the military objective is clarified for the American people and explicitly sanctioned by Congress.

You quoted a passage written for LBJ by his civilian adviser, McGeorge Bundy, in 1965. It is eerie how closely it mirrors the US experience since we invaded Iraq in 2003.

"For 10 years every step we have taken has been based on a previous failure. All we have done has failed and caused us to take another step which failed. As we get further into the bag, we get deeply bruised. Also we have made excessive claims we haven't been able to realize."

Bundy continued: "We are about to fight a war we can't fight and win, the country we are trying to help is quitting. The failure on our own to fully realize what guerrilla war is like. We are sending conventional troops to do an unconventional job... aren't we talking about a military solution when the solution is political."

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Leahy
1415 6th Avenue SW
Olympia, Washington 98502



Special events

May the Fourth

May 4, 6 pm

Gallery Boom

520 Adams St SE, Olympia

2017 marks the 40th Anniversary of Star Wars. We're celebrating our favorite day of the year, May the Fourth (be with you)! And our costumed friends will be there! Consider yourself a friend AND you ARE invited! Bring the kids, dress up, hang out, and have a good time. This will be an out-of-this-world improv of all things sci-fi and fantasy!

- Sci-fi and fan art
- Sci-fi/Fantasy Collection Displays
- Dr Who Pinball
- Musical performances
- Photo-ops with Captain Kirk Chair & Giant UFO
- Community photo in the street in lieu of a parade...

Community photo at 7 pm

Free! All ages! See you there! And may the force be with you always...Olympia.

Hosted by A UFO-Reverse Engineering & Scheduled Sightings, Gallery Boom, and May The Fourth - Olyplus more TBA Starts at 6pm, but Gallery Boom will be open from noon for all of your viewing and buying needs [display up through the weekend]. Community Photo 7pm.

Immigration Celebration

Sunday, May 7, 1 – 5 pm

Heritage Park

330 5th Ave SW, Olympia

Indivisible Thurston County and Our Revolution invite you to our First Annual Immigration Celebration. We celebrate our community as a place that respects, values, and welcomes immigrants. Join us as we gather at Heritage Park in Olympia to celebrate the rich heritage of our community members. Enjoy a day of speakers, performers, and community activities. All are welcome to join us to support and celebrate together.

May Day 2017 Olympia

Monday, May 1, Noon ·

Sylvester Park · Olympia

The Olympia branch of the Industrial Workers of the World invites the community to observe May Day AKA International Worker's Day on May 1st from noon to 5pm at Sylvester park. There will be food, speakers, poems and music and you will be able to meet other workers. Performances by: Le-nee Reid Nomy Lamm Kaitlyn Smith And more.

Oly May Day March

Monday, May 1 at 6 PM

Percival Landing Park

405 Columbia St NW, Olympia

This May Day, we march against the City of Olympia's complicity with the fracking industry. We march against the brutal police repression of the anti-fracking protesters of the Olympia Stand encampment. We march against the City's continued support and employment of officer Ryan Donald, who shot and attempted to murder the brothers Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin for the crime of shoplifting. We march against the false charges still being pursued against these brothers, while officer Ryan Donald has faced no consequences for his reckless and violent actions. We march against the City's continuing sweeps, harassment and police brutality directed at vulnerable homeless populations If you agree with these demands, then join us in the streets on Monday, May 1st, 6pm at the kissing statue. Bring friends, bring banners, bring noise.

Free Radio Olympia May Day Benefit Show

Monday, May 1 at 6:30 PM

Olympia Film Society

206 5th Ave SE, Olympia, Washington 98501

Free Radio Olympia 98.5 FM is throwing a relaunch benefit show at the Capitol Theater Backstage on May Day! We'll be splitting our booty with Just Housing, because we believe that direct action gets the goods, and we believe every scallywag deserves access to the airwaves and housing. Rooster Crow • Mudcat • Erica Freas • Angel Food • Oh Rose • DJs **All ages!** \$8 OFS Members, \$10 General

Grant Nathanson Memorial Fundraiser Show

Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 PM

910 Frederick St SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1929, United

It's time for serious conversations in silly hats as we remember our dear friend Grant Nathanson. We are raising money for a scholarship that will allow others with an interest in journalism and creative writing like Grant to pursue their dreams. Plus we got some great bands playing! Trona The Loud Potions • Cedar Sap. • The Black Hills 5\$ at the door. This money is all being donated and also enters you in a raffle for a chance to win some cool gift cards to places around Oly. We'll also be selling some really dank food! (tacos... Grant would find it appropriate).

Olympia Slam Poetry Contest winners

Thursday, April 13 Olympia's eight top-ranking performance poets went head to head in Olympia's biggest poetry event for one of four spots on the 2017 Olympia Poetry Slam Team.

The winning team of Dan Evans, Rachel Greene, Brian McCracken and Taylor Bereiter will travel to the 2017 National Poetry Slam in Denver, CO. Olympia People's Mic sponsors a weekly spoken word poetry community, and the Olympia Poetry Grand Slam highlights accomplished poets who have competed in slams throughout its 2016-17 season.

For three years, Olympia People's Mic has nurtured the creative writing and performance skills of Olympia poets and sent representatives to national poetry events. Old Growth Poetry Collective is raising money to help send the Slam Team to Colorado—a

link to contribute is www.paypal.me/ogpoetrycollective.

—Brian McCracken,
Olympia People's Mic Slammaster

Carry your keys

by Rachel Greene

If there's a mini van parked next to the driver's side of your car, crawl in through the passenger seat. There might be someone behind the dark glass waiting to open the door and snatch you.

When you're walking through an unknown place, hold your keys in your fist with the point sticking out between your fingers. Unlike a knife or gun, your keys are less likely to be turned against you.

Always be aware of your surroundings. You never know who might be hiding in the forgotten alley. Be alert when you walk alone, make sure you pay attention.

My mom teaches me what all mothers must teach their daughters in this ongoing assault on our bodies.

When it happened to me, I checked a box in the list of experiences that make woman. It was just enough of a salty, noxious taste to let me relate to all those rape poems.

When it happened to me, it didn't run at me from out of the dark, all muscle and grab. It came from the familiar. It came with an ask, but not the right ask. It came with other people in the room. After being trained to act like prey for wolves, I wasn't ready for boa constrictor.

Sexual assault is four times more likely to give you a birthday present, discuss social justice, be invited into your home or even your bed, than it is to run at you from out of the dark. It's easier to fear the monster under

your bed than the one sitting on your living room couch.

We teach our children not to take candy from strangers, but at the same time teach them to ignore their own boundaries. "Don't be shy sweetie, give Auntie a kiss. Give Daddy a smile. Say please, say please, please, please, thank you." He gave me a ride home afterward.

If I have a daughter, I will teach her everything she needs to know in this ongoing assault on our freedom. Sweetheart, know that you are so much more than someone else's prey. It's not our job to be prepared, but I'm sorry I have to tell you that it is our necessity.

Make sure you carry your keys when you walk through unknown places. You will discover doors to new opportunities you will need to unlock.

Always be aware of your surroundings. You never know what sweet, ripe mysteries might be hiding in the forgotten spaces all around you.

When you climb into your car, remember you are the driver. You've got to know who you are and where you're going.

Most importantly, know that there is nothing more sacred than your own blissful aspiration, so when someone else's desire tries to consume you in unholy ways, let your own self love burn through

Rachel Greene, a member of the Old Growth Poetry Collective, has been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Vanishing Point.



Hunger strike at the NW Detention Center in Tacoma

Tacoma, WA—At noon on April 10, over 100 immigrants incarcerated at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) refused their lunch, launching a hunger strike to protest their treatment inside the immigration prison. The Tacoma, Washington facility, located on a superfund site, is the largest immigrant detention center on the West Coast, caging over 1500 immigrants who are facing civil deportation proceedings. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contracts with the GEO Group, a multinational private prison corporations, to run the facility, and hunger strikers aimed their demands at both the federal government and the private contractor. The NWDC has been a frequent target of immigrant activists since a March 2014 hunger strike involving 1200 detainees first brought international notoriety to the immigration prison. A demand letter that circulated around the facility prior to the launch of the strike echoed many of the concerns raised in the 2014 strike, and includes demands for more expedited hearings, improved quality of food, improved access to medical care, and lowering of exorbitant commissary prices (strikers note that already over-inflated prices on commissary items have recently doubled). Additionally, hunger strikers are asking for an increase in the \$1 a day they currently receive for running all of the prison's basic services. Some have even been denied the \$1/day payment, and have been given a bag of chips in exchange for several nights of waxing the prison's floors.

—the NWDC Resistance

People's Tribunal against the immigration system and the NW Detention Center

On February 26, 2017, a tribunal, sitting in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, heard testimony pertaining to the detention and deportation process, conditions of the detention center, and treatment of the detainees.

People's Tribunals have a long history of being used anytime legal or political systems do not provide adequate remedy for harm in cases of abuse or injustice. The testimony [in February] demonstrated the importance of using the People's Tribunal, because our systems are clearly failing.

Based upon the testimony of the detainees, the Tribunal submits these written Findings of fact:

II. General Findings:

A. The immigration and detention system is a part of a broader dehumanization of migrants.

B. There is no distinction between good and bad immigrant: we are all human and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

C. All migrants are economic, political, and/or social refugees of some kind.

D. Trade agreements allow for the free flow of capital and products, but not human beings.

- E. The tribunal finds on all evidence presented before it that the United States Government, including DHS – ICE/CBP, Trump Administration, State of Washington, City of Tacoma and all counties and cities and GEO Group and all contracted agencies are responsible for gross, widespread, and systematic violations of human dignity and human rights.
- F. The immigration and criminal system are one in the same and directly target people of color, immigrant communities and indigenous communities of this land whose bodies are used for labor and profit.
- As it concerns to the United States Immigration and Customs Service (hereinafter "ICE") and GEO Group, City of Tacoma and the State of Washington:
- A. The two organizations (ICE and The GEO Group) passing the responsibility for inmate safety makes accountability more difficult to achieve;
- B. There are currently inadequate food/calories provided during meals;
- C. There is no access to soap and clothing
- D. Medical care is atrocious and people have died in detention and after they are released or deported because of it.
- E. The use of retaliatory solitary confinement is a common practice;
- F. The subcontracting of phone and commissary services is at exorbitant rates for a captive population.
- G. There is no adequate complaint system

As it Concerns only ICE:

A. Wages of \$1 a day for "voluntary work" is an ongoing practice.

B. Toxic Environmental Impacts: the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center is located on a superfund site (abandoned drums) in an industrially polluted zone, where the administrative detainees are drinking the tap water without the knowledge of the long term effects of this exposure. They are also breathing in the toxic fumes of wet paint

and floor wax because they cannot move to a different location when those tasks are completed.

Second People's Tribunal against the Immigration System and The Northwest Detention Center.

Statement of demands by hunger strikers

The motive that we write this is to ask you by favor that we all participate united, and on Monday April 10, 2017, from noon and on we will not eat, or use the phones, neither will we bunk up on the late night count or lights out. The objective is to reach some changes in the institution which are the following:

- 1) Change the food (menu)
- 2) Lower the commissary (reasonable pries)
- 3) Better hygiene (with the clothes)
- 4) Increase rec-time
- 5) Bring programs such as: school and program to keep our heads occupied and avoid depression mentally
- 6) Better medical attention
- 7) Increase wages for working detainees (waxing floors, painting, cleaning, cooking, laundry)
- 8) Facilitate court proceedings (speed up the process).

Please we ask for our help and participation. Because it is not just for them to treat out the way they want without them respecting our rights! And if we speak up we don't speak up we'll always be the same.

NWDC Resistance is a volunteer community group that emerged to fight deportations in 2014 at the now-infamous Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA as part of the #Not1more campaign, and supported people detained who organized hunger strikes asking for a halt to all deportations and better treatment and conditions. (www.nwdcresistance.org 1-800-357-3196)

Denny Heck does not represent the people

Jeff Sowers

If we are ever going to get the kind of progressive change our society so desperately needs, we are going to have to elect representatives who will stand up to corporate power and fight for the progressive agenda that the majority of Americans want. We want things like a living wage for all, universal single-payer health care, serious criminal justice reform, transition to a clean energy economy, and no more endless wars and regime changes. Unfortunately, our congressman in Washington's 10th District, Denny Heck, is far from progressive. He is a corrupt, establishment Democrat that consistently puts corporate interests over the people's needs on the most crucial and pressing issues of our time. He is a quintessential example of why increasing numbers of people are losing confidence in the Democratic Party and why the Democratic Party is increasingly losing to Republicans (who get even more money from big corporations). The Democrats have historically depended on the support of working-class people, but, it turns out that consistently selling out your constituency—while good for bringing in PAC money—is a losing political strategy in the long run.

Follow the money

Denny Heck's campaign finance information reveals who he really represents. This information is easily accessible thanks to the website opensecrets.org. What really stands out is that his largest source of funding, over \$500,000, comes from the banking, finance, and insurance industries. It is also notable that 78% of his total PAC donations come from business interests vs. 18% from labor and only 4% from single issue groups. This campaign finance record stands in stark contrast to progressive representatives like Bernie Sanders and Pramila Jayapal, the newly elected representative from Washington's 7th District. Jayapal's largest sources of funding come from single issue groups and labor, and she gets comparatively less from banking and insurance. Only 4% of Jayapal's PAC funding comes from business groups, while 62% comes from labor and 33% from single issue groups.

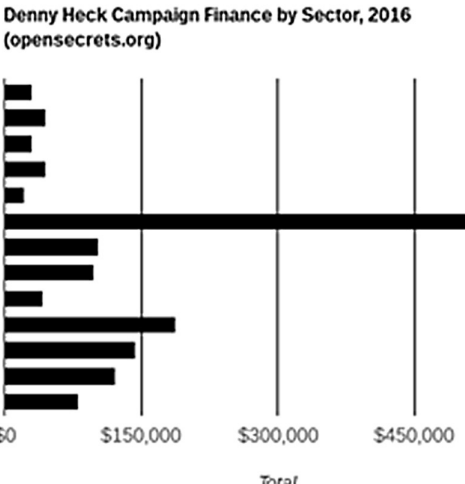
Selling out the people

So, what do all these campaign finance dollars buy for the corporate interests bankrolling Heck? The answer is, they buy them a congressman who will vote for corporate interests over the people's interests on a consistent and ongoing basis. Denny Heck has sold the people out

ing defense spending at the expense of social services, for arming groups in Syria fighting to overthrow the Syrian government, for at least three banking deregulation laws, in an early vote



to the corporate interests on a wide range of critical issues. He has failed to support progressive bills in Congress that would enact Medicare for All, cre-



ate a \$15 per hour living wage, reduce mandatory minimum prison sentences for nonviolent and drug offenders, increase social security benefits to keep up with the cost of living, stop the US from providing arms to terrorist groups in Syria, end marijuana prohibition, renegotiate NAFTA to include stronger environmental and labor rights standards, and strengthen worker's rights to recover lost wages and increase penalties for wage theft among other important progressive measures.

During this same time, he has helped to enact a number of regressive laws. He voted to reduce food stamps by \$8.7 billion, to expedite natural gas exports from fracking, in favor of federal subsidies for fossil fuel research and development, for building more nuclear weapons, against a 1% reduction in defense spending, for expand-

ing defense spending at the expense of social services, for arming groups in Syria fighting to overthrow the Syrian government, for at least three banking deregulation laws, in an early vote

Denny Heck's town meeting

In a recent Town Meeting, Denny Heck was challenged by a number of his constituents on a few of these issues. Before the meeting, some of us handed out flyers listing many of Heck's anti-progressive votes and positions.

Medicare for All

One audience member asked why Heck was not supporting the Medicare for All bill currently in the US Congress. With 93 representatives now co-sponsoring it, which is almost half of all Democrats currently in the House,

disingenuous. His documented votes speak for themselves. I also brought up his failure to support the Stop Arming Terrorists Act, a bill, introduced by progressive Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, to stop the US from providing arms to al Qaeda and other terrorist groups in Syria who are fighting to overthrow the government. He did not respond to this at all.

Campaign financing and corruption

Tamborine Borrelli, a progressive "Berniecrat" who has stepped forward to run against Denny Heck (see below), asked Heck whether he thought his source of campaign funds affected his decision making. He said he believes he represents the people well and, "he sleeps well at night." Unfortunately, the same probably cannot be said for the thousands of Muslim children living in endless war, or people with serious medical conditions and no health insurance, or those whose water has become unsafe due to fracking.

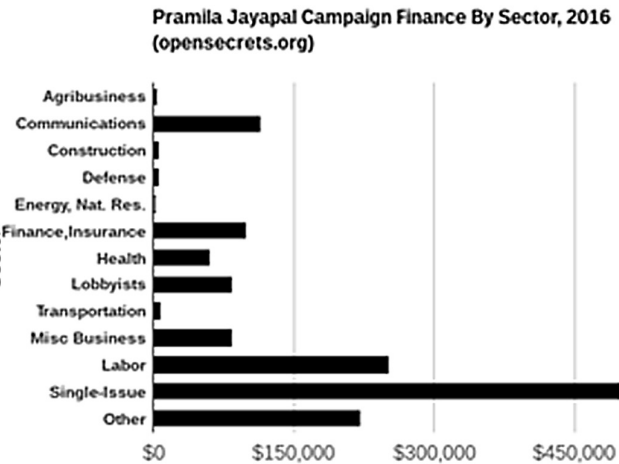
Time for progressive change

Unseating Denny Heck and electing a real progressive representative who refuses to take corporate money will not be easy. It would be an extraordinary political development. But are we not in extraordinary times? From growing inequality to grotesquely bloated prison populations, unchecked climate change to endless war, the crises we face are real, the human suffering is genuine, and the situation is continuing to get worse. The success of the Bernie Sanders campaign needs to be our wake-up call, and the election of Trump our snooze button. The majority of the American people are frustrated with government and thirsty for progressive change. But for people power to beat corporate power, we will need more than having public opinion on our side. An organized mass movement will be required. We will need tens of thousands of small donations and thousands of people stepping up to help with a campaign. We must mobilize the progressive majority in our district and get them to vote in the Primary election in August, 2018.

Tamborine Borelli steps forward

Former state senate candidate and national Sanders delegate Tamborine Borrelli has stepped forward to run as a progressive independent candidate against Heck in the 2018 Congressional election. She has declared that she will take no corporate money. She has the courage to stand up to corporate power and fight for real progressive change. We will have the opportunity to hear more about Tamborine's vision at an upcoming Town Hall Meeting at Traditions Cafe in Olympia on Tuesday, May 16th from 7-9pm. This event will be an opportunity to discuss Denny Heck's voting record, what real progressive representation looks like, and what people want from their congressional representatives. I hope to see you there.

Jeff Sowers is a high school teacher at East Grays Harbor (alternative) High School, a volunteer with WIP for more than a decade, and a long time nonviolent peace and democracy activist from Olympia, WA. He was active in organizing against the first and second Gulf Wars. Last year Jeff joined the Thurston County Democrats to support Bernie Sanders' campaign, and is currently serving as a progressive, "Berniecrat" precinct committee officer.



this bill has substantial support. But Heck refuses to support the bill. Could it be because his largest single source of campaign funds comes from the insurance industry which gave his campaign more than \$100,000 in 2016?

Heck's justification for not supporting the Bill is that it has several flaws and is not "fully formed." Even if this is true, he did not say that he would support Medicare for All with some improvements or whether he supported the idea of single payer healthcare in general. He did not offer an alternative vision for how we are going to make sure everyone has full access to complete, high quality health care which is a basic human right in modern society. His focus, he said, was solely on preserving Obamacare.

Regime change in Syria

I challenged Denny Heck on his votes in favor of regime change in Syria and asked why he was supporting the regime change war. He has voted at least two times in favor of bills to authorize the CIA to arm and train groups fighting to overthrow the government of Syria. This policy has played a major role in fueling the horrific war there. His response was that I "misconstrued" his votes and that he opposes regime change. But this is

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Denny Heck: The candidate of Wall Street, banking and insurance industry, big oil, big pharma, endless war, and neocolonialism.

If progressive voters of Washington's 10th Congressional district want a real progressive to represent them, they should be thinking about replacing Denny Heck. Following is a list of 16 anti-progressive votes Heck has made in the U.S. Congress. Solid progressive Congressional reps like Bernie Sanders, Barbara Lee, Raul Grijalva, and Keith Ellison voted the opposite way as Heck on these bills. Contact Jeff Sowers(jsowers1@gmail.com) if you want to help elect a real progressive from WA Dist 10.

1/11/2017 Heck votes for deregulation of investment industry, removing protections for unsophisticated investors who may be lured into risky investments by promoters of investment products.

12/2/16 Heck, in another vote for the US regime change war in Syria, votes to escalate the war by arming Syrian insurgents with anti-aircraft weapons.

11/30/16 Heck bows to Big Pharma and votes in favor of "21st Century Cures Act."

This bill includes a grab bag of goodies for Big Pharma and medical device companies that would undermine re-

quirements for ensuring safe and effective drugs and medical devices. In opposition to this bill Elizabeth Warren stated, "when American voters say Congress is owned by big companies,

developing new long range nuclear cruise missiles.

6/17/2016 Denny Heck votes yes for endless war on terror with approval of Authorization for Use of Military Force.

tion. (115th Congress). Requires strong labor and environmental standards be added to NAFTA for it to continue in force. 21 cosponsors, including Ellison.

H.R.608 - Stop Arming Terrorists Act. (115th Congress). Prohibits training and arming groups in Syria linked to al Qaeda or other designated terrorist groups. Introduced by Tulsi Gabbard. 10 cosponsors. **H.R.3164 - Pay Workers a Living Wage Act.** (114th Congress) Raises minimum wage in stages to \$15 over five years, and then increased annually based on the consumer price index. Introduced in House by Keith Ellison, Senate by Sanders. 56 cosponsors, including Jim McDermott and Adam Smith of WA.

H.R.2798 - Strengthening Refugee Resettlement Act. (114th Congress). Refugee-friendly bill supported by congressional progressives. Introduced in House by Keith Ellison, 27 sponsors. **H.R. 4763 - Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act** (114th Congress, 2015-16), 38 sponsors. **H.R. 2302 Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2015** (114th Congress), 100 cosponsors, including Adam Smith(WA) and Jim McDermott (WA).

H.Res.708 - Protect immigrants rights resolution. Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the immigration policies of the United States should reduce automatic removal and detention, restore due process for immigrants, and repeal unnecessary barriers to legal immigration.(114th Congress), 34 cosponsors. **H.R.1391 - Social Security 2100 Act** (114th Congress), 105/188 cosponsors, including progressives, Kilmier, but not Heck. Increases Social Security benefits and links further increases to cost of living index. **H.R.3713 - Sentencing Reform Act of 2015** (114th Congress), 79 cosponsors, including McDermott, Ellison, and Lee, Larsen (WA), and DelBene (WA). Increases judicial flexibility to reduce sentences below mandatory minimums for nonviolent and drug offenders.

H.R.258 - Half in Ten Act of 2015. (114th Congress). This bill articulates a Congressional finding that individuals and families in poverty are more socially vulnerable to natural disasters, extreme weather and impacts of climate change and have greater difficulty preparing for, responding to, and recovering from such events. Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) (introduced 1/9/15). 39 sponsors.

An audience member asked why Heck was not supporting the Medicare for All bill currently in Congress. With 93 representatives cosponsoring it, which is almost half of all Democrats in the House, the bill has substantial support... Could it be because his largest single source of campaign funds comes from the insurance industry which gave his campaign more than \$100,000 in 2016?

this bill is exactly what they are talking about."9/9/2016 Heck serves Wall Street and votes yes to weaken The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act by supporting HR 524, the Investment Advisors Modernization Act, a bill that eliminates government oversight of private equity and hedge funds.

6/18/2016 Denny Heck votes yes to

6/17/2016 Denny Heck votes yes for arming and training Syrian rebels

6/16/2016 Denny Heck votes no to 1% reduction in defense budget.

6/29/2016 Denny Heck votes for neocolonialism and the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).

5/25/2016 Denny Heck votes for continued federal funding for fossil fuel research.

5/24/2016 Denny Heck votes for CIA, NSA, and FBI "black budget."

12/18/2015 Denny Heck votes for "big oil, dark money, surveillance stuffed omnibus bill," This bill, opposed by Sanders and other progressives, overturned 40-year-old US oil export ban, weakened campaign finance disclosures, authorized more surveillance of Americans, and encouraged more exporting of US jobs overseas.

12/9/2015 Denny Heck approves discrimination against middle east refugees in bill condemned by ACLU and Human Rights Watch.

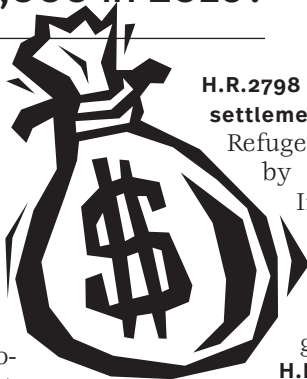
6/12/2015 Denny Heck votes for Fast Track on Free Trade

1/28/2015 What the frack? Heck joins GOP in vote to expedite natural gas exports.

1/29/2014 Denny Heck votes to Cut \$8.7 Billion from food stamps (Farm bill)

12 Progressive Bills Denny Heck Does Not Support:

H.R.676-Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act. (115th Congress), 94 democratic sponsors. **H.R.1227 - Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017.** (115th Congress), 10 sponsors, including Tulsi Gabbard. **H.Res.132 - NAFTA renegotiation resolu-**



Bernie Sanders: Pied piper for the Democratic Party

by Chris Stegman

Bernie Sanders' call for a 'political revolution' against the establishment brought out over 12 million supporters who voted for him in primaries and caucuses. I joined his campaign in January 2016 and left on the day he publicly endorsed Hillary Clinton. What he didn't make clear to most of his new followers throughout his campaign was that he had always tipped his Democratic Party establishment—Clinton, Gore, Obama—and 2016 would be no different.

Once Bernie endorsed Hillary, his supporters had several choices. The millennial neighbor I had recruited to help lead my precinct caucus tore up her t-shirt and sign and threw them in the garbage. Most of those who remained active followed Bernie's lead. They stayed in the Democratic Party to fight to change it from a neoliberal party controlled by corporate/wealthy donors to a 'party of the (working) people.' They are the 'Berniecrats'.

In Thurston County, Berniecrats took over the local Democratic Party in December with the election of new officers. Key leaders of Thurston Progressives, formed after the primary, helped with the "takeover" but their group includes independent members. Greens, Democratic Socialists and progressive movement activists of all types participate with Thurston Progressives in local committees focused on various issues. Locally there is one bright light of principled independence on the horizon: Tamborine Borelli, who was a national Bernie delegate, has joined the Green Party and recently announced that she will be running as an independent against the DP incumbent, Denny Heck, for Congress in 2018.

Nationally, Bernie's supporters didn't all become Berniecrats. Some

joined the Green Party or stayed loosely aligned with various outgrowths of the campaign: Progressive Independent Party (PIP), Brand New Congress, Justice Democrats, Our Revolution or 'Draft Bernie: For a People's Party'.

PIP hopes to unite the Progressive groups that are independent of the Democratic Party. PIP seeks to bring all the disparate Independent forces together occasionally for 'Progressive Unity Summits.' Summit1 occurred on January 22nd in Philadelphia, the day after the post inaugural women's marches. Summit2 is scheduled for August 18-20 in Seattle.

The Brand New Congress (BNC) has the goal of replacing the entire congress by running candidates against establishment incumbents in 2018 and beyond. They are working with the Justice Democrats (JD) in this effort. BNC came out of the Berniecrat movement and JD came from Cenk Uygur, founder of The Young Turks and Kyle Kulinski, host of Secular Talk. BNC and JD have raised close to \$1million to support candidates in the 2018 congressional races.

Finally, Nick Brana, former national outreach coordinator for the Bernie Sanders campaign, founded the 'Draft Bernie for a People's Party.' This movement hopes to win Bernie over to lead that effort, a fairly long shot given Bernie's 25-year history of working inside the Democratic Party.

For more information on Tamborine Borelli's independent candidacy for congress please contact her at: TamborineBorrelli@gmail.com.

Chris Stegman is a founding member of the Green Party of South Puget Sound who has been an independent leftist activist since 1971. Your comments are welcome: send to cstegman007@gmail.com

Primum Non Nocere

An ugly soul does more harm than a mean spirit.

A mean spirit derives joy from sobs and wails.
An ugly soul consolidates power against good.

A mean spirit ruins your meal and "high-fives" a friend.
An ugly soul become fat off your meal and leaves you to starve.

A mean spirit laughs heartily as it punches down.
An ugly soul seeks to eradicate your existence entirely.

Mean spirited people you can ignore.
An ugly soul must be confronted.

—Greg Wells, 18 April 2017

The eco-terrorists among us

The fossil fuel industry and the distortions of language and justice

When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all."

(Lewis Carroll:
Through the Looking Glass)

By Emily Lardner &
Enrique Quintero

The duplicities of capital

If Alice from *Through the Looking Glass* could see Sean Spicer's daily verbal contortions, she probably would think of him as Humpty Dumpty's reincarnation, equally scornful, but in a less talented presentation. The White House press briefings conducted by Sean Spicer constitute the distressing quotidian proof of how those in power try to control the communicative process in American society by distorting facts and meaning. As Press Secretary, Spicer's main role is not to disseminate the truth, but to construct narratives that fit the political interests of this administration and its wealthy allies.

At the same time, Spicer is an example of how capitalism isn't limited simply to the reproduction of exploitative relations of production in a given society (i.e. the economic apparatuses, located in the places where we work, which are owned primarily by a minority of capitalists who are also the main beneficiaries). Capitalism is also interested in reproducing the conditions that make possible the continuous renewal of the economic domination capitalists enjoy. In other words, capitalism is interested in putting into place a series of mechanisms that justify and perpetuate its interests and conditions of privilege. We call these the functions the Ideological and Repressive State Apparatuses (ISA and RSA)

Within the ISA, we find those institutions whose function is to manufacture the hegemonic discourse of the system. They encompass the government at all levels, from politicians to public servants; the judiciary systems; the educational institutions from kindergarten to universities; political parties; religious organizations; and the media in all its forms, etc. In the second group, the RSA, we inevitably find those who operate by the use of violence, such as the police, the army, the courts, prisons, and the large variety of national security agencies. There is a simultaneous acting and organic intersectionality of all these three state apparatuses (the economic, the ideological, and the repressive) which make possible the functioning of the state under capitalism both by consent and repression. To paraphrase John Lanchester from the *New Yorker*, for capitalism "the desire to make money is sincere, not everything else is."

March 30, 2017 Pembina County Courthouse
State of North Dakota vs. Sam Jessup
Judge: "The original complaints have been amended. The purpose of this hearing is to review the amended complaints and to hear the prosecutor's case for these charges..."
Prosecutor: "what happened?"
Sheriff: "we got a call about a potential terrorist threat against the pipeline..."
Defense attorney: "When the technician from TransCanada called you to report

that a call had come in about shutting the valve on the pipeline, did you and he have any discussions of danger?"
Deputy: "No."
Defense attorney: "Did he indicate any risk of rupture?"
Deputy: "No."
Defense attorney: "Did you have any conversation about what to do when you got to the site?"
Deputy: "No."
Defense attorney: "You used a digital camera and a digital phone at the wellhead scene?"
Deputy: "Yes."
Defense attorney: "No one told you to be careful about using your cell phone at the site?"
Deputy: "No..."

Prosecutor: "But is it possible that a pipeline with safety measures in place could become a dangerous weapon? Does it mean there are no risks just because TransCanada's system worked? Isn't it the case that an emergency shutdown can create unintended risks? Doesn't this demonstrate extreme indifference to human life?"

Pepsi-Cola and eco-terrorism

Language is not neutral. The use of language is part of the greater battle of class and social struggle conducted in the field of linguistics, semiotics, communication and the production of knowledge. The ideological apparatuses of the state, when facing an oppositional critical discourse, strategically react by assimilating and neutering the dissonant message in order to subsume it into the mainstream narrative of the time.

Language is not neutral. The use of language is part of the greater battle of class and social struggle conducted in the field of linguistics, semiotics, communication and the production of knowledge. The ideological apparatuses of the state, when facing an oppositional critical discourse, strategically react by assimilating and neutering the dissonant message in order to subsume it into the mainstream narrative of the time. For example, in terms of popular culture, we recently witnessed the attempt by Pepsi to increase their sales by appropriating the symbolism of acts of protest and resistance around the world, including reminiscences of the occupy movement and the Black Lives Matter imaginary in a video-commercial. In this example, political action is represented back to us, formatted like advertising; rebellion and resistance cease to be revolutionary acts, transformed instead into an act of collective libation of a carbonated soft drink, absorbed and assimilated into consumerism. (The commercial was quickly criticized by viewers and pulled out by Pepsi.)

Conversely, a parallel perverse distortion of language is currently taking place within the Repressive Apparatuses of the State. Many courts, judges, prosecutors, and police departments, acting in coordination with the fossil fuel industry across the nation, have initiated a synchronized campaign of vilifying civil disobedience directed to stop the negative impact on the environment by the fossil fuel industry. For example, members of the **shutitdown.org** campaign, a direct action, civil

disobedience group that turned off the valves on four tar sands pipelines last October, are facing felony charges with potential sentences of decades in prison and ten of thousands of dollars in fines. Courts and state prosecutors are actively trying to frame the **shutitdown.org** valve-turning actions as eco-terrorism.

Pembina County Courthouse

A call went into the TransCanada operations center at 9:02 am on October 11, 2016, to warn that someone intended to shut the pipeline down in ten minutes. The op person at TC called their local rep Lonnie Johnson, to report this call. The op center person described the caller as an "eco-terrorist." When TC's local rep Lonnie Johnson called the Pembina County sheriff office, he described the person as a "terrorist." Under questioning, the sheriff admitted that after he arrived at the site of the valve turning, he arrested Sam Jessup even though Jessup was not committing a crime.

Defense attorney: "What facts did you have? (Jessup) was videoing you and the defendant Mr. Foster. He picked up the camera equipment. He was walking on a gravel road."

Sheriff: "I deemed it to be trespassing."
Defense attorney: "He was walking on non-fenced, non-posted road, taking pictures. Neither of those is a crime, right? You arrested him anyway, right?"

Who really are the eco-terrorists among us? Those who profit from its destruction or those who, given the critical conditions of the planet, try to protect it in order to avoid a catastrophic end for humanity and other species?

Labeling people who engage in nonviolent civil disobedience as terrorists is not fortuitous, particularly in the current political-ideological conditions created by the security state and the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001, which among its numerous provisions seeks to:

Deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, and for other purposes.

Needless to say, these conditions have been exacerbated by the current Trump administration. Using the language of terrorism is a calculated political move aimed at eliminating any form of dissent against the fossil fuel industry and its nefarious relationship with nature. It intends to suppress criticism against those who simultaneously appropriate the products of soci-

ety and nature, subjugate the labor of others, and endanger the planet and society by means of that appropriation.

Contrary to the symbolism usurped by the Pepsi commercial, the videos posted by **shutitdown.org** clearly show older, middle aged and younger civil activists shutting down the emergency valves on pipelines in Washington, Montana, Minnesota, and North Dakota. According to *The Nation* (Feb.13-2017), through this action, the valve turners "successfully shut down the flow of tar-sands oil into the United States from Canada". The **shutitdown.org** videos create images and symbolic acts difficult—although not impossible—to be directly assimilated and absorbed by the cultural illusions of the media. Consequently, for the time being, these actions are being dealt with directly via the Repressive Apparatuses of the State, its laws, its courts, its police departments, and its prisons.

"The remaining charges for Michael are felony criminal mischief, misdemeanor reckless endangerment, and misdemeanor trespass, with maximum penalties of 24 years. Sam is charged with felony conspiracy to criminal mischief, misdemeanor conspiracy to reckless endangerment, and misdemeanor trespass, with a maximum sentence of 12 years." Jay O'Hara, <http://world.350.org/eugene/valve-turners-update/>

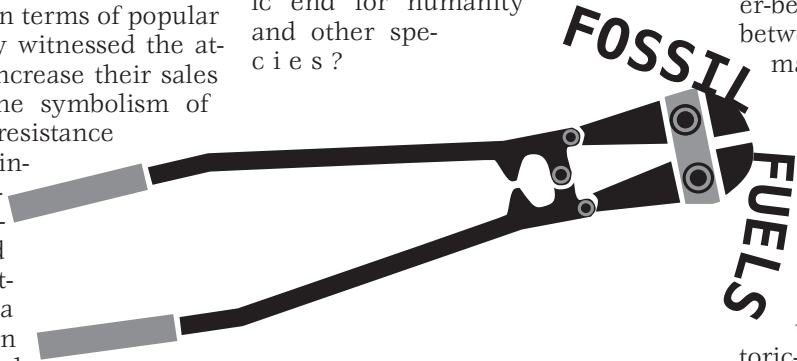
The future may not last as long as we expect

A brief overview of the forms of economic development since the second half of the 20th Century—a period known as The Great Acceleration—shows the perverse impact of capitalism on the planet. The great majority of scientists agree that we no longer live in a geological time period determined by the earth's natural processes. Rather, this moment in geological time is one that has ultimately been conditioned not by nature but by human agency. We live in the Anthropocene.

The critical situation posed by the Anthropocene has created a sense of historical immediacy related to the survival of the human species. Nonetheless, our scenario is complicated by two factors: first, the business-as-usual mentality of capitalism in general and the fossil fuel industry in particular, which persist in —let's call them what they are—terrorizing and irresponsible practices against the planet and life on earth. Second, new conditions of interdependency between nature and culture, are taking place within a never-before experienced dis-alignment between nature's time scale, and human time; between geological and political time. This misalignment creates for many people the false impression that we have plenty of time ahead to solve the current ecological crisis. Yet, evidence suggests that the future may not last as long as we expect.

Consequently, it's time to act, time to address the current historic-geological conditions of emergency with a sense of urgency, fueled by a sense of the morality in our actions. This is precisely what the 'valve turners' of Shutitdown.org are doing. The State, on the other hand, uses language to deliberately distort reality, misrepresenting nonviolent activists as eco-terrorists and absolving the real culprits. Justice is distorted as the prosecutors for the state protect those who actions endanger all of us, and persecute those whose actions threaten private profit.

As Sam Jessup's parents, and as people who appreciate the high-risk, well-organized, and much needed direct action aimed at keeping fossil fuels in the ground, Emily Lardner and Enrique Quintero plan to be present at the trial of Sam and Michael Foster, currently scheduled for October 2-6 at the Pembina County Courthouse.



The need for Radical Progressivism

“We must be willing to make fundamental changes”

By Boudicca Walsh

I have been running ragged lately. I work a full-time job that has a lot of surprise overtime. I have activist projects and now a partisan position as well. All of these things are different, but I view them as interrelated. We are facing a humanist crisis and have been for some time. I can't mollify my anxiety with cool reason as it too compels me to do all I can, more than I should, to stay stable. If there ever was a time to throw oneself onto the gears, it is now.

Currently, our lives are being commodified and measured according to our respective abilities to produce labor as well as how monetarily validated that labor can be. We have been codifying classes based on their members' ability as well as their appearance, beauty, whiteness, thinness, extroversion, charisma, and ability to maneuver gracefully within the social paradigm matrix (which is sometimes referred to as the Kyriarchy). This matrix was not set up by any one individual, and there is no unified managing body that enforces it. Rather, it is produced by market forces, law enforcement, the government, and social power figures and groups. These all affect each other and the bodies around them almost as if they were interstellar bodies swaying with gravity through the void.

To frame it in a metaphorical way, while the sun did not create the individual bodies of our solar system, its continued presence, its solar weather, its constants, and its epochs of change have both good and bad consequences for the various bodies around it. These

bodies effect each other as well. The sun's heat and light enables life on our planet. Jupiter's gravity well protects Earth from foreign astral bodies, like asteroids, that could destroy that life. But this balance is tenuous. It is also, seemingly, singular. How many other solar systems have we found that have intelligent life? How many have even the potential for life on any poisonous,

ate they become.

We need to hold true to the progressive ideals of social progress, scientific advancement, and economic development. We must also be willing to make fundamental changes and create new ways of pursuing those objectives. This is Radical Progressivism. Traditional methods of social work revolve around helping those who need social services navigate the labyrinth of legal, social, charitable, and private organizations and entities. Many organizations provide temporary sustenance and housing while maintaining strict codes that are designed to manipulate people. All of this takes a lot of effort, and while it does help some, many are still left out in the cold.

There is also the urgency of global warming and drastic climate change. It will be here within 100 years if not even sooner. There will be eight feet of sea-level change which will mean millions of dollars in damage or construction. Not only will there be local displacement, but, understanding that our bioregion will be one of the least effected, many of those displaced from far away will be refugees heading here. We have declared Olympia a sanctuary city, but what will happen to the refugees of Californian desertification? Will they have sanctuary here? Currently, homelessness and survival are both criminalized while the majority interests in local lawmaker decisions seem held up by New Left capitalism. Gentrification and new condos are favored. The wealthy know a smart investment, and they are seeking to put a strong hold in before it fills up with the displaced poor.

We need change, big, radical change, and we need it to support even the

least of us. A lot more of the tired and poor are coming. These huddled masses yearning to breathe free, clean air, the wretched refuse of a teeming American shore, more homeless, more tempest-tossed are coming to our state, our city, and many will come with nothing but what they could fit in their car, boat, or backpacks. Many of us long-term residents in this city, will be displaced by construction to prevent climate change damage or by the effects of climate change itself.

We need heroes who can think dynamically, come up with effective and fair solutions, and do what must be done to ensure a better tomorrow. Our humanity is being put to the test now. We have crossed the threshold into climate change. What we do today and each day thereafter will make or break our future.

Boudicca Walsh is a local progressive activist and writer.

We need to hold true to the progressive ideals of social progress, scientific advancement, and economic development. We must also be willing to make fundamental changes and create new ways of pursuing those objectives. This is Radical Progressivism.

barren rock surrounding their novular stars?

The sun of our current situation is the combination of corporatism and exploitation. These forces push minority interests apart, pull bodies into unnecessary competition for controlled resources, and then irradiate anyone left out on the open surface. Anyone working a below-living-wage job, where they are paid above the minimum wage but below the level needed to maintain a stable, safe, and healthy place for their family, is feeling the strain of steep capitalism. However, they continue to work extraordinary hours due to the fear of homelessness. Meanwhile, those who are homeless struggle to find work while they are forced into unsanitary conditions with nowhere to sleep, rest, or even shower. Often getting cut off from needed services, homeless people are cruelly punished should they stray from sobriety or Christianity. The fewer alternatives people have, the more desper-

How and what to tell a neoliberal

Don't look for physical differences when you try to spot a Neoliberal. Neoliberals are all kinds of people in all walks of life and of all classes.

A Neoliberal is anyone who believes in Wall Street and politicians' ability to accept corporate moneys to fund political campaigns, whereby those with great wealth are able to unduly influence all levels of government and control information given out by the corporate media.



When a Neoliberal goes to work on you, just tell her/him/them that you are on to her/his/their message and you "ain't buying it."

Furthermore, say that it is your patriotic duty to let others know of her/his/their activities and how you won't stay silent on what's wrong with this country, the government, and the DNC (and its campaign of neo-McCarthyism).

Tell her/him/them that you know no tactic is too low for a Neoliberal—lying, cheating, betrayal, ruin, and even regime change. More importantly, be sure to say that America is on the alert and that the Neoliberal scheme for undermining the Working Class can only have limited success and is doomed to failure.

"The rights of the Working Class to healthcare and a peaceful, livable planet shall not be abridged or made impotent."

Based on a 1950's propaganda advertisement archived by Humboldt State University

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On the two bombers of Syria: Bashar al Assad and Donald Trump

Some possibilities for the future

Peter Bohmer

The needs of Syrian people come first

The evidence has continued to mount that the Syrian Air Force dropped Sarin gas on Khan Shaykhun in Idlib province in Syria on April 4th, 2017 killing at least 80 people and seriously wounding hundreds. Evidence includes eyewitness accounts, statements by doctors and other medical personnel in Turkey who treated the wounded, statements by various scientific organizations that it was Sarin gas dropped from the air, the past use of Sarin by the Assad regime in 2013 gas and the implausibility and obvious falsehoods of the Russians and Syria's President Bashar al-Assad about the attack. It is disheartening that so many on the left deny that Syria did these horrific killings or say we have no idea who did it. Although there is close to but not 100% proof of the Syrian government carrying out this horrendous attack, I fear that those who deny or cast doubt on Syrian government responsibility would not accept any evidence that challenges their preconceived notions and ideology.

I also disagree with many people who reduce Syria and the war there to geopolitics and begin and end their position by being opposed to any U.S. military intervention in Syria. The arguments against U.S. military intervention in Syria and other countries are very strong but they are not absolute nor is the U.S. the only aggressor in other countries. The U.S. is the major aggressor globally and given that we live in the United States, it is our main responsibility to oppose our interventions. Nonetheless, for people or organizations, which are committed to global solidarity, we should not ignore extreme oppression and repression of people in other countries. This is not saying the United States government should intervene militarily but that we, the people, should carefully examine what is going on and consider ways that social movements can be in solidarity with democratic and left struggles; that intervention although almost always wrong is not an absolute.

My starting point in thinking about Syria and suggesting actions and demands is the needs of the Syrian people, realizing they are important differences among Syrians. We should ask ourselves if there is anything that can be done by people in the United States or that we can demand of the U.S. government to reduce their suffering and increase their possibility for justice and peace? With a quarter of the Syrian population refugees in other countries, desperate enough to risk their lives in transit and knowing that they are usually not welcomed

in the countries they seek refuge in. Another quarter are internally displaced by the war and at least 250,000 Syrian civilians have been killed since 2011. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://SN4HR.org>, a credible source, 90% of the documented deaths of civilians in Syria since 2011 have been caused by the Syrian government or by the



Follow Eric J Garcia at [@garciaink](https://twitter.com/garciaink) or friend Eric J Garcia on Facebook.

Russians bombing in support of Assad, i.e., I am excluding Russian bombing attacks on the Islamic State. The Syrian regime is an extremely murderous government. As I will explain below, I do not support increased U.S. military involvement in Syria but that should not be the starting point of the analysis.

I have no tolerance for those who visit Syria for a week at the invitation of Bashar al-Assad and come back praising his government or talking about the liberation of Aleppo in December, 2016 or Syrian stability. What kind of stability is there with half of the population displaced, with torture as state policy, with 13,000 people put to death in Saydnaya prison alone, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/syria-investigation-uncover-governments-secret-campaign-of-mass-hangings-and-extermination-at-saydnaya-prison/>. For those who claim Bashar al-Assad is an anti-imperialist, why did he work closely with the George W Bush administration to torture prisoners that the U.S. sent to Syria such as Maher Arar in 2002. The enablers of the al-Assad regime deny the democratic uprising in Syria in early 2011 that was met with murder, torture and repression by the Syrian state and the subsequent increasing militarization of the opposition to Assad. It is false that outside arms and intervention by the conservative Gulf States caused the Syrian government's attacks on its own people; their military interven-

tion followed. As the struggle got increasingly militarized the Gulf States including Saudi Arabia, also Turkey and the United States have gotten increasingly militarily involved but on a smaller and less lethal level than the Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah alliance with the Bashar al-Assad regime. This is another rewriting of history; they deny the mass uprising in 2011 of the Syrian people in order to claim the murderous rule of the Syrian government is a response not to a popular uprising but to invasion by outside countries and local and foreign jihadists. A related reason that we are supposed to accept the Assad regime is that we are told that they are the only alternative to the Islamic State and other jihadist groups such as al-Nusra. Assad and the various jihadist groups are both horrible alternatives but this also denies any agency of the Syrian people including the struggle in the mainly Kurdish area of Rojava for autonomy and self-governance, led by the PYD/YPG. Although weaker than in 2011, opposition to the Assad regime and the jihadist organizations continue inside Syria and by Syrian exile groups.

The United States military attack of the Syrian airbase

On Friday morning, April 7th, 2017, the United States military attacked the Shayrat Airbase, where the Syrian Air Force planes that bombed Khan Sheikhun in Idlib province had left from

The U.S. is the major aggressor globally and given that we live in the United States, it is our main responsibility to oppose our interventions. Nonetheless, we should not ignore extreme oppression and repression of people in other countries.

three days earlier. The United States attacked with 59 Tomahawk Cruise missiles, killing according to the Syrian government six or seven people, two of whom were civilians. I do not support this April 7th bombing by the United States although I find very hypocritical those in the U.S., who are horrified and continually denounce this recent bombing while not strongly opposing the 8000 bombing attacks that the U.S. has launched in Syria against the Islamic State and other opponents of Assad, killing a few thousand Syrian civilians since the fall of 2014. This April 7th bombing was the first U.S. bombing directed against the

Assad regime. Also and even more important, why do these enablers of Assad not show outrage at his massive killing, wounding, torture, imprisonment, disappearance and displacement of Syrians?

It is clear that the Trump administration has no concern about the lives of Syrians, for example his barring from the U.S. of all Syrian refugees. Note also Trump's further loosening of restrictions on the killing of civilians by U.S. bombing in the Raqqa region of Syria. In Syria and Iraq, U.S. bombing is killing even more civilians than under Obama. The attack on the Syrian Air Force base on April 7th was most likely an attempt by Trump to gain popular support in the U.S. by demonstrating that he is a decisive leader, to divert attention from his administration's daily attacks on the people of the United States and the environment and to demonstrate that he is independent of Putin and Russia. Just a few days before the Assad's regime use of nerve gas, two of the leaders of the Trump administration said they could live with Bashar al-Assad as the president of Syria, which may have further encouraged Assad to use Sarin. Demonstrating his hypocrisy and instability, Trump strongly denounced any possible use of military force by President Obama in 2013 when Syrian military use of Sarin killed 1300 people in Eastern Gouta, near Damascus. I am against further escalation of the war by the United States in Syria as it likely to increase Russian military involvement, to increase the number of Syrian casualties, possibly increase support for Assad, and finally, any Syrian leader and government put in power by the United States will probably be another repressive and oppressive one with the likelihood that the Syrian security state apparatus will continue.

The Trump administration is a very dangerous one for the people of the United States and the globe and its actions must be strongly resisted. However, we cannot reduce U.S. military involvement and war only to its intent; we must also consider the likely outcome of its actions. For example, it was right to critically support the U.S. war against fascism in World War II, although its reasons for

entering the war were not primarily to save the Jews, Roma people and others from extermination. Much of the criticism of the recent bombing of the Syrian air base by the Trump administration criticizes correctly its motives. The United States government is also using a double standard when it condemns Syria for using chemical weapons when it used them on a much larger scale against Vietnam. Still, if increased U.S. military involvement in Syria would bring peace and the possibility of economic and social justice to Syria, I would support it. However, U.S. military escalation against the Assad government is likely to only further Russian escalation against the Syrian population, thus increasing casualties and not bringing Syria closer to peace.

The United States bombing of the Syrian Shayrat airbase will not reduce the killing and destruction caused by the Assad regime and his allies. It may make President Assad hesitate to use nerve gas again but even that is not definite and the barrel bombs, torture, disappearances, hunger and deaths will continue.

Demands, solidarity, the future

If all military equipment including arms were kept out of Syria and also

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Indigenous Climate Justice Symposium planned at Evergreen Longhouse on May 4-5

The 2nd annual Indigenous Climate Justice Symposium will be held on Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5 in The Evergreen State College's Longhouse Education and Cultural Center (10 am-4:30 pm). The evening's keynote speakers (7-9 pm) will be key leaders of Native-led alliances to stop oil pipelines: Faith Spotted Eagle on Thursday and Rueben George on Friday. The event is free, and open to the public. For more information see the Climate Change and Pacific Rim Indigenous Nations Project at <https://sites.evergreen.edu/indigenoussclimate/>

This year the Symposium theme is "A Time for Gathering." Its focus will be twofold—resistance to fossil fuel infrastructure, and resilience in the face of climate change, with a focus on Indigenous communities in the Pacific

Northwest and beyond. The 1st annual Indigenous Climate Justice Symposium drew hundreds to the Longhouse in November 2015. Please find below the tentative schedule of the 2017 Symposium.

Thursday, May 4
10:00-10:30 Welcome
10:30-12:30 Student presentations on fossil fuels, and tribal youth ambassadors

1:30-3:00 Panel on Fossil Fuel Resistance, including Quinault stand against Grays Harbor oil terminal, Lummi stand against Cherry Point coal terminal, and Puyallup stand on Tacoma LNG plant

3:00-4:30 Discussion on the Reverberations from Standing Rock

7:00-9:00 Keynote by Faith Spotted Eagle (Ihanktonwan or Yankton Dakota/Nakota), who has been a key leader in alliances to stop the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines, and recently received one electoral vote for President. <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/meet-faith-spotted-eagle-the-native-elder-voted-for-president-by-a-washington-state-electro/>

Friday, May 5
10:00-10:30 Welcome
10:30-12:30 Panel on Climate Adaptation and Resilience
1:30-4:30 Student Presentations on resilience; Presentations (skyped in) on resilience in global context; Workshop on Respectful Allyship in the Environmental Movement, Sweetwater Nannauck (Tsimshian/Haida)

7:00-9:00 Talk by Rueben George (Tsleil-Waututh First Nation) and his

son Cedar George-Parker (Tsleil Waututh/Tulalip), leaders in the alliance to stop the KinderMorgan tar-sands pipeline expansion in B.C. https://thetyee.ca/Video/2013/08/02/Rueben_George/

Evergreen faculty in the "Catastrophe: Community Resilience in the Face of Disaster" program are co-hosting the Symposium with the Nisqually Tribe, as part of the Climate Change and Pacific Rim Indigenous Nations Project, with support from the Nisqually Charitable Fund, Nisqually Environmental Team, and Evergreen's Clean Energy Committee, President's Equity Fund, Native Programs, Native Student Alliance, and South Puget Sound Community College. The Nisqually Tribe is also inviting Native youth to a Sunday, May 7 Northwest Indigenous Youth Day on Climate Justice; see the website for details at <https://sites.evergreen.edu/indigenoussclimate/>

For background and updates, see the *Climate Change and Pacific Rim Indigenous Nations Project*: <https://sites.evergreen.edu/indigenoussclimate/>

YWCA Olympia launches inaugural racial justice summit

(OLYMPIA, Wash.) –YWCA of Olympia invites the community to the first-ever YWCA Racial Justice Summit "Intent vs. IMPACT" to be held on Saturday, May 6 at SPSCC. This multifaceted event will engage our community in deeper dialogue and understanding about the experiences of People of Color in Thurston County, and beyond. Workshops will give participants a chance to explore their own personal work and potential skills to strengthen their community through fostering a deeper awareness. Come prepared to have a meaningful experience. Attending this beautiful event will also financially support important Racial Justice work in our community.

According to YWCA Racial Justice Director Lanessa Inman, "This First Annual Racial Justice Summit will provide a point of engagement for everyone. From those who want to listen or dialogue about race and racism for the first time, to seasoned allies and activists who have long been involved in racial justice, to People of Color of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds, this event is not to be missed."

This daylong event will include a series of workshops, a panel discussion, and spoken word. The featured keynote address will be delivered by Nikkita Oliver, a Seattle-based creative, teaching artist, and anti-racist organizer. Her writing has appeared in the South Seattle Emerald, Crosscut, and the Stranger. She holds a J.D. and Masters of Education from the University of Washington. She is a writer-in-residence with Writers in the Schools and the case manager for Creative Justice—an arts-based alternative to incarceration.

tion.

Nikkita is the 2015 recipient of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights Artist Human Rights Leader Award, the Seattle Poetry Slam Grand Champion 2014, has been on and coached numerous national poetry slam teams at both the youth and adult levels. She opened for Cornel West and Chuck D of Public Enemy and performed on The Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert. [MEDIA ADVISORY: Photo attached and Ms. Oliver is available for interview by contacting CR Sperr]

Registration for the Racial Justice Summit is \$75 (\$60 for students, seniors, veterans) and needs-based scholarships are available.

For more information about the Summit, contact Lanessa Inman at 360.352.0593 or linman@ywcaofolympia.org

When: Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 – 5:30pm

Where: South Puget Sound Community College -SPSCC (Student Union Building)

Registration: \$75 (\$60 for students, seniors, veterans) and need-based scholarships available

For ticketing info: YWCA Olympia at 360.352.0593 or ywca@ywcaofolympia.org

PS: A new YWCA Racial Justice ZINE will be produced as part of the event. Deadline for art submissions was Friday, April 14th.


YWCA Olympia is On a Mission to eliminate racism and sexism, to advance the political, social and economic status of all women and girls. Our vision is a world where all people are valued, live free from oppression and thrive in a just society.

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

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we collaborate with **Window Seat Media**, a non-profit that gathers stories to build community resilience, cultural identity, and human connection.

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



eliminating racism
empowering women


ywca

2017 RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

"Intent vs IMPACT"

Saturday, May 6 - 9:00-5:30
SPSCC

Register:
ywcaofolympia.org, under NEWS



President Trump’s “targeted reductions” and our Thurston County communities

A Preliminary Report

Dan Leahy

The core of my first Budget Blueprint is the rebuilding of our Nation's military without adding to our Federal deficit. There is a \$54 billion increase in defense spending in 2018 that is off-set by targeted reductions elsewhere. – President Donald Trump. (America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again, March 16, 2017, page one).

I reviewed President Trump's Budget Blueprint. Part of his proposed “reductions” to shift \$54 billion to the military, are eliminations. I noted and “charted” all the independent agencies marked for elimination and all the programs marked for eliminations. These eliminations do not include other proposed budget reductions.

I then began to ask local governmental agencies, non-profits and unions in Olympia and Thurston County what these eliminations might mean to our communities. So far, I have barely scratched the surface of the implications of these eliminations. Thanks very much to all those people who responded to my requests for information.

Community Services Block Grant

Elimination of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) of the Office of Community Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, a targeted reduction of \$4.2 billion dollars.

Senior Services of South Sound, operating out of the Olympia Community Center, depends on federal funding from CSBG from the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other federal sources. The proposed 17.9% cut in funding for this Department would mean a loss of \$73,829 dollars for Senior Services. This would force a decrease in meal service to seniors, a closure of two or three rural meal sites, 800 fewer meals/month for 100 seniors and the need to begin a waiting list for new Meals on Wheels clients.

National Endowment for the Arts

Elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). NEA distributed \$5 billion in 128,00 grants between 1965 and 2008. It had a \$146 million dollar budget in 2015.

Some of the recipients of NEA grants via the Washington State Arts Commission (Arts WA) in Thurston County over the last several years include: Tenino and Yelm School Districts, Harlequin Productions, Rachel Corrie Foundation, Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia, Ballet Northwest, Masterworks Choral Ensemble, Olympia Film Society, Olympia Chorale Society, the Evergreen State College Foundation and the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

Corporation for National and Community Service

Elimination of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). With a budget of \$1 billion dollars (2013) and 485 staff (2006),

Continued on opposite page

Proposed program eliminations by federal department

On March 16, 2017, the Office of Management and Budget released President Trump’s document entitled, “American First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again.” In the chart below, I’ve listed by federal department those programs that this budget has identified for elimination. These eliminations totally \$54 billion dollars is intended to offset the \$54 billion dollar increase to the Department of Defense.

See if you can identify a program that directly effects you and our community.

DEPARTMENT	PROGRAMS ELIMINATED	RATIONALE
Agriculture	Water & Wastewater loan and grant program, a savings of \$498 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Rural communities can be served by private sector financing or other federal investments such as the EPA’s State Revolving Fund.
Agriculture	The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program.	Lacks evidence that it is being effectively implemented to reduce food insecurity.
Commerce	The Economic Development Administration, a savings of \$221 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Limited measurable impacts, plus duplicative of Rural Utilities Service of Agriculture & DOT grants to States.
Commerce	The Minority Business Development Agency	Duplicative of efforts such as SBA’s district offices and development centers.
Commerce	The Manufacturing Extension Partnership that provides consulting services to small and medium size manufacturers, a savings of \$124 million.	Eliminating federal funds transitions solely to non-federal sources as originally intended when established.
Commerce	Sea Grant & other coastal and marine management, research and education at NOAA, a savings of \$250 million.	These programs are a lower priority than core functions such as surveys, charting and fisheries management.
Defense	NONE MENTIONED	
Education	Supportive Effective Instruction State Grants program, saving \$2.4 billion	It is poorly targeted and spread thinly across thousands of districts with scant evidence of impact.
Education	21 st Century Community Learning Centers program, which supports before and after school programs, as well as summer programs, a savings of \$1.2 billion	Lacks strong evidence of meeting its objectives, such as improving student achievement.
Education	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program that delivers need-based grants, a savings of \$732 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Less well targeted than the Pell Grant program and reduces complexity in student aid.
Education	Eliminates or reduces over 20 categorical programs including Striving Readers, Teacher Quality Partnership, Impact Aid Support Payments for Federal Property, and International Education Programs.	These programs do not address national needs, duplicate other programs or are more appropriately supported with state, local or private funds.
Energy	Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program and the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program	The private sector is better positioned to finance disruptive energy research and to commercialize innovative technologies.
Energy	The Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program.	These eliminations and focused funding at the Offices of Energy Efficiency, Nuclear Energy, Electricity Delivery & Fossil Energy Research save \$2 billion from the 2017 annualized CR level.
Health and Human Services	The Fogarty International Center. (One of the 27 component organizations of the National Institute of Health. It is the only arm of NIH whose sole mission is global health. Founded in 1968. wikipedia)	This elimination as well as budget reductions at the National Institutes of Health saves \$5.8 billion from 2017 annualized CR level.
Health and Human Services	Eliminates \$403 million in health professions and nursing training programs.	A lack of evidence of that they significantly improve the Nation’s health workforce
Health and Human Services	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grant program of the Office of Community Services, saving \$4.2 billion from the 2017 annualized CR level.	These two programs are both limited-impact programs. The LIHEA can’t demonstrate strong performance outcomes and CSBG is duplicative of other federal programs.
Homeland Security	Eliminates or reduces unauthorized and underperforming programs administered by the TSA, a savings of \$80 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	To strengthen screening at airport security checkpoints.
Homeland Security	TSA grants to State and local jurisdictions.	Local enforcement patrols should already be a high priority for State and local partners.
Housing & Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant program, a savings of \$3 billion from the 2017 annualized CR level.	The program is not well targeted to the poorest populations and has not demonstrated results. The Budget devolves these activities to the State and local level.
Housing & Urban Development	HOME Investment Partnership Program, Choice Neighbors and Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program, a savings of \$1.1 billion from the 2017 annualized CR level.	State and local governments are better positioned to serve their communities based on local needs and priorities.
Housing & Urban Development	Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing, a savings of \$35 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Duplicative of efforts funded by philanthropy and other flexible private sector investments.
Interior	Abandoned Mine Land grants, National Heritage Areas and National Wildlife Refuge fund payments.	These three programs overlap with other grants, should be funded locally or are duplicative of other payment programs.

DEPARTMENT	PROGRAMS ELIMINATED	RATIONALE
Justice	Eliminates approximately \$700 million from programs including the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.	These programs are either outmoded, met their goal, or exceeded their usefulness.
Labor	Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). With this elimination and other grant reductions, there is a savings of \$434 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Ineffective in meeting its purpose to transition low income seniors into unsubsidized jobs.
Labor	Eliminates grant funding of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, saving \$60 million from the 2017 annualized CR level	Largely noncompetitive and unproven.
Labor	Job Corps Centers for the disadvantage youth. that do a poor job educating and preparing students for jobs	(It does not say all such centers, just those doing a poor job).
Labor	Eliminating technical assistance grants from the Office of Disability Employment Policy	The Budget launches an early intervention demonstration project allowing states to evaluate methods to help.
Labor	Eliminates the training grants from OSHA, a savings of almost \$11 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	These grants are unproven and will focus the agency on its central work of keeping workers safe on the job.
State, USAID, Treasury Int'l Programs	Global Climate Change Initiative and US funding of Green Climate Fund and its two precursor Climate Investment Funds	Fulfills President's pledge to cease payments to US climate change programs.
State, USAID, Treasury Int'l Programs	Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance account	This is a duplicative and stovepiped account.
State, USAID, Treasury Int'l Programs	Complex Crisis Fund and direct appropriations to the East-West Center.	Programs like the Complex Crisis Fund are overlapping and duplicative and the East West Center can continue with other funding sources.
Transportation	Eliminates Federal support for Amtrak's long distance train services	Inefficient and incur the vast majority of Amtrak's operating losses.
Transportation	Essential Air Service (EAS) program that subsidizes commercial air service to rural airports, a discretionary savings of \$175 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Flights not full, too high a subsidy/passenger, close to major airports, other modes available.
Transportation	TIGER discretionary grant program, saving \$449 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	Unauthorized and awards are available from existing surface transportation formula programs.
Treasurty	Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund grants, a savings of \$210 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	The industry that CDFI was intended to jump start 20 years ago is now mature.
Veteran Affairs	NONE MENTIONED	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Eliminates federal funding for the Clean Power Plan, international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, a savings of \$100 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	The Budget reorients EPA's air program to protect the air we breathe without unduly burdening the American economy.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Eliminates federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Chesapeake Bay and other geographic programs, a savings of \$427 million.	Returns responsibility to state and local entities and allows the EPA to focus on its highest national priorities
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Eliminates Energy Star, Targeted Airshed Grants, the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, infrastructure assistance to Alaska Native Villages and the Mexico border and more than 50 EPA programs, a savings of \$347 million.	Lower priority and poorly performing programs.
National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)	No funding for a multi-billion-dollar mission to land on Europa. (Dan: smallest of the four Galilean moons orbiting Jupiter.)	Other missions more important according to the science community.
National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)	Cancels the multi-billion-dollar Asteroid Redirect Mission. (Dan: robotic visit to near-earth asteroid, collect a multi-ton boulder and use in deflection demonstration.	To accommodate increasing development costs.
National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)	Terminates four Earth science missions (PACE, OCO-3, DSCOVR Earth-viewing instruments and CLARREO Path Finder.	
National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)	The Office of Education, for a savings of \$115 million.	Has experienced challenges in implementing a NASA-wide education strategy and has functions that are duplicative.
Small Business Administration (SBA)	PRIME technical assistance grants, Regional Innovation Clusters and Growth Accelerators. Eliminating these and other grants save \$12 million from the 2017 annualized CR level.	The private sector provides effective mechanisms to foster local business development and investment.

Chart compiled by Dan Leahy (danleahy43@yahoo.com) March 22, 2017

Targeted reductions

from previous page

CNCS engages five million Americans via AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, VISTA & US Freedom Corps.

In an April 13, 2017 letter addressed to member of Washington State's Congressional delegation, Tumwater Pete Kmet wrote the following about the

importance of the CNCS to Thurston County:

In Thurston County, specifically, the five AmeriCorps services are performed across the cities of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Rochester. These services are performed by 121 AmeriCorps members at 67 sites, representing five distinct programs. These programs are Community

Youth Services, Vet Corps, Washington Conservation Corps, Washington Reading Corps and Washington Service Corps.... The total value of these services is over (\$) 25 million." The Mayor continued, "If the CYS (Community Youth Services) Youth in Services program was discontinued, 650 youth and families would not receive individualized educational and life skills support.

The elimination of this program

would mean no more AmeriCorps volunteers for these programs: Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Center for Community-Based Learning and Action, Crisis Clinic, CYS' Rosie's Place, Family Support Center, Mercy Housing, Pear Blossom Shelter, ROOF Community Service, South Sound Reading Foundation, Thurston County Food Bank, TOGETHER and YWCA- Girls without Limits.

Loss of CNCS funding would also mean no more AmeriCorps volunteers for these schools: Garfield, Hansen, LP Brown and Madison elementary, Olympia High School and Wa He Lut Indian School.

Department of Labor's YouthBuild
The elimination of the Department of Labor's YouthBuild program at Olympia's Community Youth Services would eliminate the workforce for these completed affordable housing projects: Homes First (Tumwater), Emanuel Lutheran Church (Yelm) Disaster Preparedness Center, Habitat for Humanity (Lacey) storage sheds and fencing for a 30 unit housing development, Panza storage shed for 24 unit homeless adult community, Veterans Assistance Fund (Yelm) Tiny Home for a homeless veteran.

The elimination of the National and Community Service and Department of Labor funding at Community Youth Services of Olympia would mean a \$1.4 million dollar decrease in its budget.

Legal Services Corporation
Elimination of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). With a budget of \$375 million (2015), the LSC is the largest single funder of civil legal aid. It distributes 90% of its funding to 134 independent, non-profit legal aid programs.

Here in Washington State the Legal Services Corporation funds the Northwest Justice Project (NJP). NJP works with clients by challenging institutions and practices that disproportionately affect low-income communities and perpetuate poverty. It's main office is in Seattle with 17 offices around the state including one located here in Olympia. In 2015, NJP celebrated its 20th anniversary. In the same year, NJP closed 14,858 cases, helping 32,987 individuals including 14,546 children, 2,605 seniors and 1,642 veterans. The Olympia office closed 205 cases last year in the areas of public housing, domestic violence, return of drivers' licenses, and termination of public services.

The Community Development Block Grants

The elimination of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)—a program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development—will mean a “targeted reduction” of \$3 billion dollars.

Olympia is the only city in Thurston County that receives CDGB grants directly from the federal government. It does not receive CDBG grants via Thurston County. The City receives approximately \$350,000. Federal CDGB funds have provided: training and coaching of small business entrepreneurs, acquisition of derelict buildings (e.g, Griswold's), Alley lighting and ADA sidewalks, trash compactors for solid waste, and the downtown Ambassador program.

Thurston County became a direct CDBG recipient in about 2007 when it reached the 200,000 population threshold and thus became an Urban County. In 2015 and 2016, the County received about \$1.1 million each year in CDBG Grants. In 2016, CDBG grants help fund a Bucoda water line repair (210K), a Yelm Splash Park (\$305K), a single family repair via Habitat for Humanity (\$272K), and Tenino Boys and Girls Scholarship (\$81K).

The City of Lacey, like all cities in Thurston except Olympia, receives

What will it take to break away from this juggernaut?

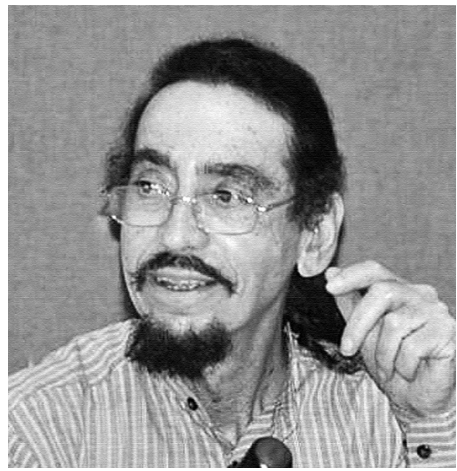
Minnie Wipster

The “insane and dangerous” campaign

In late January, Glen Ford of the Black Agenda Report was interviewed on The Real News Network. In response to the question of his thoughts on the transition to the Trump administration, Ford stated the following:

“I think that, to the extent that this outpouring of anti-Trump sentiment is also all caught up and all tangled with the Democratic Party’s insane and monstrously dangerous pro-war and anti-Russian propaganda campaign, that it is actually poisoning the well for any progressive movement under a Donald Trump presidency.

“So I think we should be very clear. There is no such thing as a progressive movement that is also pro-war. And there is no such thing as a progressive movement that is aligned with the CIA. And yet, that is exactly, exactly the position that the Democratic Party is taking, including its black lu-



Glen Ford

minaries, such as Congressman John Conyers, and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and even Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who is considered to be the most left-wing person on Capitol Hill. All of them are busy attacking from the right, the very right-wing president, Donald Trump. And any fool should know that countering right-wing politics with even more right-wing politics can only lead to a disastrous and definitively right-wing result. You cannot create a progressive movement out of a McCarthyite, anti-Russian, pro-war propaganda campaign such as the Democrats are waging now and in which they have now enlisted the support of lots of people who call themselves progressive. And even some who consider themselves to be radical.

“Any movement that takes its cues from the CIA is a danger, not only to world peace, but it is a danger to itself. It’s a danger to the very civil liberties that a progressive movement claims that it’s trying to defend from the likes of Donald Trump. And, frankly, it’s just plain stupid and it’s stupid in a very peculiar and very American imperial kind of way.”

Should there be a Tea Party movement on the Left?

It has been mentioned that progressives should consider creating something similar to the conservative Tea Party. Articles have been written, suggestions made, and lists of the successes of the Tea Party in revitalizing and pushing the Republican Party to a more conservative position. In an interview in Monthly Review Magazine, Anthony DiMaggio of author of The Rise of the Tea Party: Political Discontent and Corporate Media in the Age of Obama (lauded by McChesney, Chomsky, and others) revealed the unpleasant reality of the Tea Party. Below is a list of his main points.

- “This is the dirty little secret of the

Tea Party; it’s not really a social movement, but a cluster of elitist interest groups operating locally and nationally variety.”

- The Tea Party has failed “to systematically organize at the local and national level... Very few people actually turn out for rallies and planning meetings, compared to the large number of people who claim to be participating in these events according to national polling data.”
- The leadership in Tea Party groups comes “from the highest levels of local and national Republican Party chapters and the business system.”
- “The alleged Tea Party ‘insurgents’ who have led the Tea Party ‘revolution’ in Congress are extremely elitist in their policy positions and in terms of their economic backgrounds and their voting records are identical to non-Tea Party Republican members of Congress.”
- The Tea Party organizers were largely autocratic, only interested in directing the agenda from the top down, with the help of local “Tea Party” candidates, who were really just Republicans running for office.
- Their primary goal was returning a largely discredited and extremely unpopular Republican Party to power, contrary to the public rhetoric of the Tea Party that the “movement” had “nothing to do” with partisan politics.
- “This ‘movement’ is—for all intents and purposes—a mile wide and an inch deep.

DiMaggio suggests that, instead of considering the Tea Party as a template for response, those on the Left should revisit Occupy Wall Street (OWS). He described OWS as having “Greater transparency in the political process” with expectations that “political officials make serious efforts to promote the common interests of the American public over expansive corporate power.” He stated that the public needs to “redirect their rage in more productive ways. Unlike OWS, DiMaggio recommended that new efforts “will need to develop a far more specific agenda with regard to how we will move forward in promoting a more democratic future...” as well as “a set of demands that are separate from the corporatism being offered by the Democrats” He goes on to say that the “general rage” directed against Trump and his administration “is a good start, but it won’t get you very far.”

The DNC vs. Gabbard thing

Sometimes I am amused to read conservative writers’ perspectives of the Left, especially the situation between progressives and the neoliberal-controlled DNC. In April, Monica Showalter in The American Thinker shared her thoughts on the DNC talking heads’ attack on Rep. Tulsi Gabbard’s questioning last month’s bombing of Syria.

“The recent comments by prominent Clinton-supporting Democrats calling for the head of Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii for not toeing the party line on U.S. airstrikes against Syria... calls to mind that they have been hostile to her ever since she supported Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary, that same primary Tanden and company went to such lengths to rig against Sanders and for Hillary Clinton according to WikiLeaks. Worse still, she met and talked with Donald Trump after the 2016 election, once again, doing her own research – and for them, in full Trump Derangement Syndrome, an unforgivable sin. Now they are calling for Gabbard’s head, for

not following the Hillary Clinton party line – Hillary is on record as supporting the strikes.

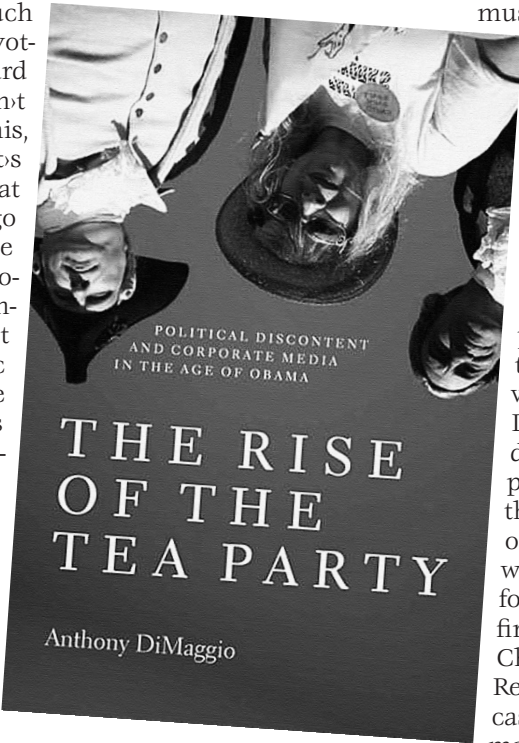
“The Democrats have impressed us mightily by their party discipline in getting legislations accomplished. [obvious sarcasm] The flipside is this disgusting tendency to purge for the slightest deviation. If ordinary Democrats, such as those who voted for Gabbard in Hawaii, can’t wise up about this, then perhaps it’s time to break that party up and go third party. The enforced orthodoxy of the commissars against the Democratic Party’s Bernie Sanders types is pretty darn disgusting.”

What we have in common

- A Quinnipiac University survey, found that 72% of respondents said the government should not cut funding for scientific research—something proposed by the White House.
- 74 percent of those surveyed believed that most poor people work hard, but aren’t able to work their way out of poverty due to the lack of economic opportunities. (SPARCC)
- Overall, 47 percent of Americans now worry about hunger and homelessness “a great deal,” tied with 2016 as the high in the trend. Previously, concern had been as low as 35 percent in 2004 and as high as 45 percent in 2001, the first year Gallup asked the question.
- Among Americans making \$30,000 or less a year, 67% worry “a great deal” about hunger and homelessness—highest percentage going back to 2001.
- A poll conducted by the Campaign for Free College Tuition found that state-level programs to make college tuition-free enjoy 69 percent support in red states and 78 percent support in blue states
- 71% would prioritize developing alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power over the production of oil, gas and coal. (Gallup)
- 72% favor spending more government money on solar and wind power. (Gallup)
- 68% believe global warming is caused by human activities (Gallup)
- Dissatisfaction with the way things are going in the U.S. (Gallup)
- States Clinton won – 68%
- States Trump won – 73%
- Require companies to provide family leave for parents after the birth of a child – 81% (Gallup)
- Enact a \$1 trillion program to improve U.S. infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and tunnels – 76% (Gallup)
- While members of all party groups are more likely to say paper bags are less harmful to the environment than plastic ones, slightly more Democrats (77%) and independents (74%) than Republicans (67%) consider paper the better choice. (Gallup)

“Come together” and send money

On the first day of what the press is



calling a “unity tour,” I received one of those mass-email messages from DNC Chair Tom Perez. In it he writes that he “couldn’t be more excited to talk to Democrats all across the country about how we’re coming together as Democrats and fighting back.” For most of the rest of the email he complains about Trump—“unmitigated disaster”, must “stand up to Donald Trump and his lackeys,” etc. Then he asks for money.

Not once does he mention anything about mending fences between the DNC and Sanders supporters for all that WikiLeaks revealed about the DNC manipulation during last year’s primaries. Add to that the weird case of why Tom Perez was urged to run for DNC chair in the first place. As Clio Chang of the New Republic puts it, “the case for Tom Perez makes no sense. If Perez is like Ellison—in both his politics and ideology—why bother fielding him in the first place?” According to Glenn Greenwald, it was “the Obama White House that worked to recruit Perez to run against Ellison.” Does this sound like an organization trying to



James Thompson

create “unity?”

And then just last month the DNC failed to adequately support Democratic candidate James Thompson in Kansas’ 4th Congressional District where Republicans outnumber Democrats almost two to one.

Thompson, a veteran and civil rights attorney, ran for the House seat vacated by CIA Director Mike Pompeo. With only last minute help from the DNC in the form of DNC voter files and robo-calls (his request for \$20,000 from the DNC denied), Thompson came within a little under seven percentage points of the Republican candidate even though the National Republican Congressional Committee pumped close to \$100,000 in campaign ads during the final days of the campaign. When one considers that Pompeo received 61% of the vote in the November election to his opponent’s 29%, Thompson’s success in pulling that number of votes, with little DNC support (read no money), is impressive.

Minnie (Sylvia Smith) is a long-time Wipster, Evergreen grad, and resident of Thurston County, who is not really all that radical.

“Identity Politics” as the scapegoat for 2016 Democratic Party defeat

By Linda Burnham

The first two weeks of the Trump presidency ought to be engraved in our memories as if in granite. Politics is a blood sport and the far right takes no prisoners – except, apparently, those it intends to torture. The Republican Party has demonstrated for a very, very long time now that it has no use for a single one of the niceties of bipartisanship. Yet most Democratic politicians dib and dab around as though living in a different political era altogether.

We are witness to three simultaneous crises: a crisis of the working class, which is fractured by race, by region, by citizenship status and, increasingly, by religious belief, and which lacks political cohesion or organizational representation. A crisis of the ruling class, which was bullied and backed into a corner by a megalomaniacal kleptocrat who stole their candy and who has no respect for the core institutions of class rule or for the stories his class brothers and sisters tell each other about the delights of the prevailing world order. A crisis of the state, in which far-right ideologues, autocrats and theocrats, having captured the governing apparatus, are rapidly concentrating power in the executive while bureaucrats scramble toward either dissent and defiance or appeasement and accommodation.

A highly consequential debate about the future direction of the Democratic Party rages among academics, pundits and politicians. This debate is most active among liberals, but it ranges both rightward and leftward as well. For two months now liberals have been ruminating on the role of “identity politics” in November’s defeat of Hillary Clinton. Essentially the debate turns on whether the Democratic Party and Clinton, in their embrace of racial, religious and sexual minorities, forsook working class whites, who responded by casting their votes for Trump. According to this point of view, the journey back from the devastation of 2016 requires that the party take an indefinite break from identity politics to concentrate on winning back economically squeezed white workers. There’s a leftist version of this line – an economic fundamentalism that posits that pocket book issues trump all others. And a classic liberal version that, seemingly reasonably, demands the subordination of the part to the whole, the interests of particular groups to the national interest. Both boil down to the same thing: it’s time to subordinate the rights claims of various “interest groups” to an economic agenda that prioritizes the distress of white workers. Only this adjustment will create the conditions for Democrats to make gains in congressional and statewide races and to retake the White House in 2020. (Or, in the leftist version, only this adjustment will set the foundation for building a successful workers’ movement.)

Where will the Democratic Party land?

The degree of traction this post-election analysis gains will, at minimum, impact the direction of the flow of attention and resources of the party, liberal think tanks and liberal philanthropy, as well as the focus of progressive organizations. It will likely determine how the Democratic Party positions itself relative to 2018 and 2020, and whether that positioning has the intended effect of creating a sufficiently broad electoral coalition to roll back Trumpism. With the tenor

and thrust of liberal and left politics hanging in the balance, it is worth taking a moment to examine what might be problematic about analyses that lay 2016’s rout of the Democratic Party at the feet of “identity politics.”

It’s never a good idea to enter willingly into a frame your opponent has constructed to entrap you. The last I heard, “identity politics” was the terminology of the right, deployed to disparage and dismiss social justice movements that seek to expand the democratic rights of marginalized and excluded groups. Implicit in the term is the notion of placing the concerns of the part over the common good – of selfishly advancing narrow, particularistic agendas rather than the broader national interest.

The terminology of “identity politics” is part of a whole vocabulary including “thought police,” “politically correct,” and “liberal elites,” whose main intention is to undermine the legitimacy of liberal and left politics. In my experience, advocates and organizers for racial justice don’t think of themselves as purveyors of “identity politics.” Nor do immigrant rights organizers, advocates for LG-BTQ rights or women’s rights activists. Rather, in fighting for the expansion of democracy for particular groups they rev the motor for the renewal and expansion of democracy for the whole. And they know from experience that purportedly universalistic solutions often work to make already embedded inequalities even more rigid.

Uncritically adopting the “identity politics” language of the right is the equivalent of dropping our guard and waltzing onto their terrain. Master’s tools, master’s house anyone? We need to recognize a toxic frame when we see one and refuse to be a party to its proliferation.

White identity and nation building.

But let’s set aside the questions of language and framing for a moment. Because there is, in fact, an expression of identity politics core to the evolution of our nation and critical to how we understand the current juncture. White identity and nation building have been bound together as though co-terminus since way before the founding fathers and the drafting of our framing documents. The rest of us have had to fight our way into the body politic. Or, in the case of Indian nations, make the best of a spectacularly unequal and uneasy standoff. The conceptual contrast between white Christians and red savages underwrote relentless territorial expansion and genocide. Between white Christians and Black savages, the

enslavement of Africans and the appropriation of their bodies, their labor, their progeny. Between brown savages and white Christians, the taking of the Southwest. Between the yellow peril and white patriotic Americans, various exclusions, internments, property appropriations and ghettoizations. And the colonial interventions in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines were rationalized by way of the contrast between people who were brown, backward and incapable of self-governance versus white Americans who were enlightened and masterly nation builders.

One could go on, but who really wants to track back through the catastrophes and follies of U.S. national formation perpetrated, in substantial part, the name of whiteness? This is not about projecting the racial sensibilities of today back onto social and political environments that operated on completely different sets of assumptions. It is about reckoning with the degree to which the nation-building project has been, at the same time, a white identity formation project. This fusion of white identity and American identity, the bedrock of white nationalism, has such a long history that it has been internalized and naturalized. Only since the Civil Rights movement has it begun to be somewhat disrupted. Until we collectively “get” this, some will continue to deny or be confused by the white rights subtext of “Make America Great Again,” and surprised at how powerfully it resonated. The shaping of white identity, premised on exclusion, is a central thread in the national narrative, bound up with capitalist development in general and manifested, in one way or another, to one degree or another, in every political, social and cultural institution.

Which brings us to an essential difference between white identity and the identities of groups forged in the experience of exclusion and subjugation. There is a reason that “Black Power!” and “Brown Power!” reverberate on completely different frequencies than “White Power!” And that “White Lives Matter,” or “Blue Lives Matter,” or even “All Lives Matter” are misguided rejoinders to “Black Lives Matter.” An assertion of existential urgency by the marginalized and scorned cannot simply be inverted without carrying the connotation of both a rebuke to demands for justice and inclusion and a reassertion of the primacy of white lives.

Obama’s presidency was bracketed by two especially noxious racist tropes: the “birther” lies that first surfaced during the 2007-08 campaign and the

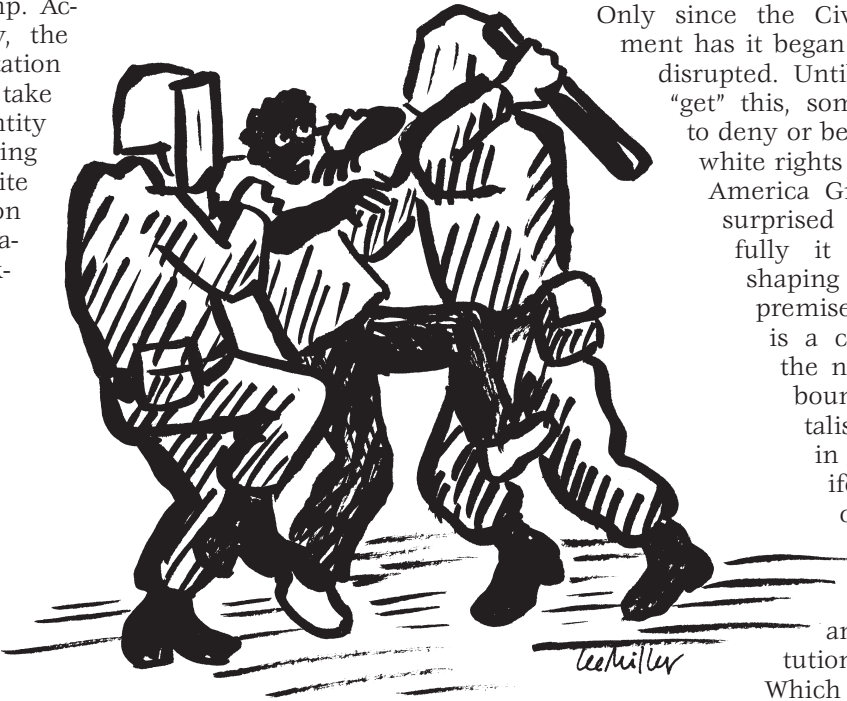
vile “ape in heels” slur cast at the first lady in the waning days of Obama’s second term. Trump’s birther charge is a reinforcement of white identity by way of asserting that the Black president is not and never will be a “real American.” The “ape in heels” insult is, obviously, a resurrection of the never-far-from-the-surface characterization of Blacks as sub-human, primitive, uncivilized. These may seem like extremes of a coarse, atavistic racism – a good distance from current concerns about implicit bias and micro aggressions. And no morally grounded person with an interest in reinforcing our sense of shared humanity wants to spend much time contemplating such racist poison. But the point here is that the extremes of anti-Black racism still find a hearing among a substantial segment of white Americans, and that a master at reinforcing the exclusivity of the claim of whites to the national identity now prowls the Oval Office. He of multiple Eastern European wives knows full well that the son of a Slovenian will never be subject to challenges as to his national identity in the way the son of a Kenyan was.

This take on white identity is blunt and broad. It doesn’t take into account class, gender, regional variation or the infinite expressions of identity at the level of the individual. Nevertheless, Trump’s victory is virtually incomprehensible without a reading on the dynamics of white identity and national formation. The liberal inquiry into the role of “identity politics” in Clinton’s loss is pointed in a direction diametrically opposite to where it might find some answers.

The back and forth among pundits over whether Trump voters should be tagged as racist has been especially frustrating. Allegedly, some voters claim that they chose Trump despite his racism and misogyny, not because of it. Or there’s the view that all these voters couldn’t possibly be racist, because, back in 2008 and 2012, Obama won many of the same overwhelmingly white counties that Hillary lost in 2016. But a majority of white voters cast their ballots for a man who is furiously and floridly racist, and they are apparently thrilled that he won. Black Americans standing on the planet today are here due to the vigilance of forebears, close in and long gone, who were keenly attuned to the lethal consequences of white fury. While there’s surely room for debate about the misuse or overuse of the language of “privilege,” it does seem a signal marker of white privilege to doubt or minimize the racial animosity of Trump’s base.

The national interest equates to white interest.

The conflation of white identity and national identity ripples out into the further conflation of white interests with national interests. In the current debate about “identity politics,” this takes the form of maligning Black politics, feminist politics, LGBTQ politics, etc., as fragmentary and divisive while, evidently, a politic built on the economic woes of white workers would be unitary and representative of national interests. There are so many things wrong with this view that it is hard to know where to begin—not least the howling hypocrisy of the sudden attention to the plight of white workers whose precarious economic status has been decades in the making. But to note just two issues, we have here a problematic conception of U.S.



Haven't we had enough?

J. Glenn Evans

In recent elections, the Electoral College has circumvented the will of the majority of those who voted. It is time that we people here in the United States exercise our sovereign right to self-rule and retake the freedoms granted by our constitution. Our rights have been stolen from us by the passage of such laws as the Homeland Security Act, the USA Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, and now the National Defense Authorization Act. Our Extreme Court, once known as the Supreme Court, does nothing about declaring such laws unconstitutional.

You will note that above I said, "voted." Laws, rules, regulations, and customs deny some people their right to vote. Why should anyone who is denied the right to vote owe allegiance to the government or community that denies this right? No citizen of legal age should ever be denied the right to vote. Whether someone is in or out of prison or is burdened with any other encumbrances, legal or otherwise, should not matter. Sure, some people may have been caught committing crimes, but they are paying for it by being in prison. What about all of those who commit crimes but do not get caught? What about those who bribe government officials? Or those who accept such bribes? Aren't they still voting? Furthermore, permanent residents who have resided in a country more than five years should also have the right to vote while they remain there. They, like all citizens and residents, must obey the laws that have been passed. Therefore, all people affected by laws must have a say in who is elected to make such laws.

The resources of this world are here for all life and are not reserved exclusively for the few successful exploiters, speculators, and leeches. The present system of capitalism is creating too much inequality among the peoples of the world. Capitalism, like feudalism, has run its course. It is time to move on to a more earth-friendly and people-friendly system. These problems must be addressed, or there will be dire consequences in the future that may not be pretty. A just way to solve this inequality problem is to make corrections as generations change with inheritance taxes and income taxes during the acquisition period. If resources are here for all life, why are those with excessive wealth allowed to pass on all their goods to their kids and give them an unfair head start over all the rest of the children in the world? Based on today's average living costs, \$10 million should be the maximum legacy allowed to be passed on to a single person or institution.

Those with concentrated wealth are circumventing our right to govern ourselves. Our elected representatives are controlled by the power of corporations and wealthy individuals who use big money to unfairly control our elected offices. With this monetary control, they staff government positions with their toadies. Qualified individuals, in many cases far better than those holding the positions, are denied the opportunity to serve their country in the interest of the people. Greed for super wealth is corrupting our political parties and is driving our country to ruin. Look at the froth the two major political parties have selected as the top candidates. We have little choice but to vote for one or the other of them. This winner-take-all approach is circumventing democracy. We the people can mend this by not voting for the two major political

parties' unwise choices. As said many times before, if we accept the lesser of two evils, we still get evil. Only we can change it by not going along.

We must amend the Constitution to do away with the Electoral College as it is destroying our democracy. Our election system must be changed so that we get a first, second, and third choice for each office. This way, the

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people, instead of political parties that have become corrupted by big money, select their own candidates. Election Day should be declared a national holiday for those voters who have a receipt showing that they voted.

Elections should be modestly funded by the government and the active campaign time should be limited to the sixty days prior to the election. Broadcast firms that utilize our public airways must devote 20% of each timeslot for thirty to sixty days before each election as a royalty to the public for the use of our airways. All registered candidates must fairly share the timeslots with their broadcast

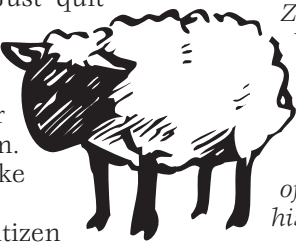
periods designated by the luck of the draw. The obscene waste of money on elections must be stopped. Funds can be put to better use for the common good. The big donations invested in elections are used to curry favor with the government for selfish benefits. If these changes are not brought about by our elected representatives, we must quit voting for and supporting them. We must withdraw our support for the corporations that have been in collusion with the government and against the best interest of the people. We must quit voting the same old party hacks back into office. They take no action to correct these unjust procedures.

Our justice system must be revised. We must quit unnecessarily incarcerating our citizens. Private prisons must be outlawed. Incarceration is a state function which must be carried out by officials who are elected by the people. Police brutality against citizens who peaceably exercise their right to free speech by protesting must be eliminated. If our elected representatives do not correct these problems, they must be replaced. Just quit voting for them, and vote for others who promise to take corrective action. If they do not keep their promises, replace them. Let's quit being herded like sheep.

We demand more citizen oversight and more Inspectors General to monitor unjust police and gov-

ernment actions. We must take corrective action on government corruption by holding accountable both the bribers and those who accept bribes. A thoroughly researched study must be made on current practices. Various forms of bribery must be identified for what they are. Those who do the bribing and those who accept the bribes must be exposed and severely punished. Remember history. When people have had enough, as Matt Hanauer so well stated, the pitchforks come out. When that starts, it will be too late. There will be no turning back. This was a lesson that monarchs and nobles were slow to learn.

Part Cherokee, J. Glenn Evans spent his early youth on a small farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl days of the Great Depression. Lived in Seattle 54 years and now resides in Olympia, Washington since December of 2014. Worked in a lumber mill, operated a mining company and co-produced a movie, Christmas Mountain-the Story of a Cowboy Angel, with Mark Miller and co-starring Slim Pickens. Early on he wanted to become a writer, but was side-tracked for twenty years by the advice of a wealthy uncle to "go where the money is." He pursued the career of stockbroker and investment banker and became owner and president of a securities firm with three offices and forty brokers. Founder of PoetsWest and Activists for a Better World, currently hosts PoetsWest at KSER 90.7FM, a nationally syndicated weekly radio show. In addition to five books of poetry and three novels, Broker Jim, Zeke's Revenge, Wayfarers—Where No One is An Outcast, his latest novel just published, Evans has written numerous political essays and is the author of several local community histories. Current work in process is a novel to be called The Last Lumber Baron.



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Fishburn enters race for Olympia Port Commissioner

By Janine Gates

WIP note: The following is a small portion of a much larger article by Janine, which can be found on her Little Hollywood blog. (janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com)

Bill Fishburn, 47, of Rainier, has formally announced that he is challenging Port of Olympia Commissioner Bill McGregor for his District 2 seat. He made the announcement in front of a group of community members active with port issues at a meeting on Sunday night in downtown Olympia. About 35 people were in attendance.

According to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, McGregor has raised \$24,600 to date for his reelection campaign. The filing deadline for the position is May 19.

For Fishburn, the decision to run wasn't rocket science, but luckily, he is a rocket scientist, having received his bachelor of science in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from the University of Washington, and his master of science in mechanical engineering from University of California, Berkeley. Employed for 21 years with the Intel corporation in a variety of capaci-

ties, Fishburn was a senior technical program manager in DuPont until he was downsized out of his job during a recent restructure.

While at Intel, he earned a division recognition award for creating two

new processes that saved the division an estimated two million in time and resources.

Unemployed since October 2016, he recently decided to go into business for himself as a consultant.

His business, Six Pennies Consulting, now consults on project management, human resources, team development issues, executive coaching and the performance management of employees. He says many people don't know that the Port of Olympia serves all of Thurston County. "I want to strengthen the idea that led the people of Thurston County to create a public port in the first place: exploring new, forward looking, pioneering ways of developing our economy for the good for the county's residents."

Train tracks sabotaged to stop fracking equipment

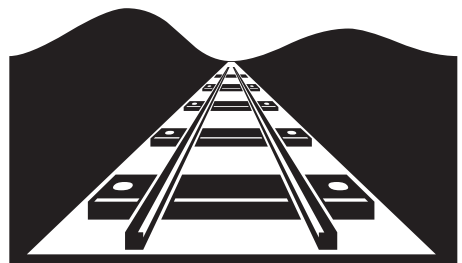
WIP note: The following is a portion of an article posted anonymously on the Puget Sound Anarchists' news website (pugetsoundanarchists.org). As of April 24, this incident has not been reported in the daily Olympia newspaper. WIP has put out feelers and reliable sources have verified the article's claim of action taken.

"Early in the morning of April 20, 2017 we poured concrete on the train tracks that lead out of the Port of Olympia to block any trains from using the tracks. We took precautions to notify BNSF (the train company) - we called them and we used wires to send a signal that the tracks were blocked. We did this not to avoid damaging

a train; nothing would bring bigger grins to our faces, but to avoid the risk of injuring railway workers.

"This action was done to disrupt the movement of trains carrying prop-pants used in natural gas fracturing. These train tracks are part of a system of pipelines, fracking wells, mines, clearcuts, control centers, fiberop-tics, dams, highways and factories that cover the planet and are physical manifestations of a process that is destroying the ecosystems, cultures, and inhabitants everywhere. Behind this network of infrastructure there are politicians, CEOs and bureaucrats who have private security, cops, prison guards, non-profit directors, PR con-

sultants and the legacy of 500 years of colonization to back them up. We oppose all of these manifestations, in-frastructural, personal and ideological. We blocked the train tracks because we want to blockade the entire web of domination that is slowly killing us."



Identity politics

from page 13

national interests and a problematic conception of the U.S. working class.

Apart from soaring campaign rhetoric and outright propaganda, there is no idealized national interest. Every expression of U.S. national interest is actually the expression of the more or less stable, more or less contradictory, more or less politically coherent interests of different classes, economic sectors, geographies, demographic groups, etc., as projected onto domestic and international politics. The two political parties do their best to contain and manage these divergent interests and to present, each of them, a version of the "national interest" most effective at keeping their amalgamated electoral coalitions aligned. In other words, the content of what's understood by the term "national interest" is not abstract, unitary and ideal but rather highly politicized and reflective of the relative strength of contending political actors. All interests are particularistic and fragmentary. There is no reason to countenance the view that any one of the constituent elements is more representative of a unitary national interest than any other. That is to be fought out in the arena of politics, and is determined not only by demographic weight, but by the capacity to craft a vision and political agenda capable of unifying and stabilizing a coalition that is sufficiently powerful to project its worldview and political priorities as the "national interest."

The larger story of the working class.

As to the conception of the U.S. working class, the belated focus on the abandoned white worker traffics in a worn out motif that posits a white guy in a hard hat on a construction site or a factory floor as a stand-in for the working class in general, while declining to recognize that Black, Latino, Asian, female and LGBTQ workers have been battered by the same economic and social trends, that white male workers started at a higher baseline, and that

there's a racial and gender differential in the forms of and responses to the economic assault and battery.

Alarm bells have been rung, repeatedly, about rampant opioid abuse, rising suicide rates and detachment from the labor market in white working class communities. It is beyond question that political responses to these crises, by either party, have been inadequate, verging on criminally neg-

winning the white working class away from thoroughly reactionary politics is not principally an issue of crafting the best messages to produce results in the next election cycle, but a long-term, no-short-cuts proposition to which a battalion of people and organizations will need to devote their lives.

ligent, and that these communities deserve the compassion, social and medical services, and jobs programs that could begin to turn these trends around. And yet... I remember the 1980s, the cruel terminology—"crack babies" and "crack whores"—that accompanied that epidemic, and the unyielding resistance to naming the extended episode of drug dependency and addiction that tore through families and poor communities as a problem of the class. No, it was the "culture of poverty" and failure of character. Meaning poor Black people were simply inclined to do dope. So too the current wave of Chicago shootings is not read as revelatory of bottomless layers of desperation on the part of young working class men who are stripped, practically from birth, of access to lives that nurture their human potential, is not seen as a problem of class formation in the U.S., but is rather interpreted as inexplicable Black pathology and wielded politically to reinforce both class and race division. So yes, empathy and understanding for stricken white working class communities, along with a better understanding of how the extension of empathy and understanding, like everything else in our society, is deeply racialized.

These notes should in no way be read as an argument against addressing the concerns and economic anxieties of white workers. It is an argument for

(1) addressing those concerns as part of a larger story about the declining fortunes of the class as a whole; (2) refusing to make concessions to racism, xenophobia, Christian supremacy, misogyny or heterosexism while

addressing those concerns; (3) being clear that the displacement of white economic anxiety onto Black people and immigrants is neither warranted nor wise; (4) being clear

that the post-war deal of expanding economic fortunes for a wide swath of white workers is completely off the table; what is on the table is the search for new forms of multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-gendered worker organizing that applies itself to the riddle of extracting significant concessions from 21st century capital; (5) understanding that winning the white working class away from thoroughly reactionary politics, is not principally an issue of crafting the best messages to produce results in the next election cycle, but a long-term, no-short-cuts proposition to which a battalion of people and organizations will need to devote their lives.

We've only just begun.

Fortunately there are organizations doing the hard on-the-ground work in counties and states that are overwhelmingly white and/or red. They

know the importance of place and how history and culture shape their neighbors' thinking. They know how many conversations it takes to get a first-time or infrequent voter to the polls. They know that race and gender bigotry, while tough to eradicate, are not immutable. They have mastered the art of building complex coalitions in which no constituency feels abandoned and all can move forward together. We all need to learn from these organizations and make sure their lessons are widely shared, their efforts resourced and replicated, rather than throwing buckets of money to Democratic Party consultants and operatives whose actions have much to do with the crisis we're in today.

The liberal imagination has become perversely fixated on the alleged excesses of "identity politics," forgetting that social movements of the marginalized are the spark and spur of democracy. The abolitionist and Civil Rights movements extended democratic rights to the formerly enslaved and perpetually reviled, removing a deep moral stain from the nation. The women's movement unleashed the talent of half the Country's population. While the smallminded argue about bathrooms and pronouns, transgender activists, at great risk to themselves, have gifted us with a more capacious understanding of the evolving spectrum of gender identity and expression. None of these movements is "done." Each has advanced not just the interests of a singular identity group, but also the ambit of freedom for all. Most assuredly, the generation that stepped forward in the wake of Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown will not stand down just because some liberals are having a panic attack.


Linda Burnham is an activist and writer whose work focuses on women's rights, racial justice and national politics.

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Obamacare repeal raises fears in local transgender communities

By Kit Gertje

As the Republican-dominated federal government bickers about how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), concerns about losing both healthcare and protection from discrimination are rising in the transgender community.

When asked if anybody was afraid of losing coverage if Obamacare is repealed, several people at the February support meeting of the Gender Alliance for the South Sound (GASS) said, “Who isn’t?” GASS is a confidential, Tacoma-based organization that supports local transgender people. The group offers a space to discuss the process of transitioning, to offer solidarity, and to feel accepted and validated. At the mention of health care coverage, several people explained that Obamacare is crucial to their ability to access the care they need.

Until July of 2016, when Section 1557 of the ACA came into effect, trans people had little protection from discrimination. This provision specifies that, “individuals must be treated consistent with their gender identity, including in access to facilities,” making healthcare more attainable for many trans people.

Without this anti-discrimination policy, many trans people struggled to get insurance companies to cover their medical needs. In a small, local survey conducted by this reporter, participants described instances of gender-based discrimination by healthcare providers. One trans woman said that until the non-discrimination clarification, Apple Health denied coverage of her hormone replacement therapy (HRT), which is a part of medical gender transition. Another respondent wrote, “Most healthcare providers do not know much about transgender people, and many would prefer to find other patients than to learn. Of course, the lack of hard information makes it difficult. There needs to be more research and more material for MD’s

[sic] to learn from.”

These experiences echo the national data. According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey Report on Health and Health Care, survey participants reported, “very high levels of postponing medical care when sick or injured due to discrimination (28%) or inability to afford it (48%),” and, “50% [...] reported having to teach their medical providers about transgender care.”

Transition-related medicine is an important part of treating the dysphoria many (though not all) transgender people experience. According to the American Psychiatric Association, gender dysphoria, “involves a conflict between a person’s physical or assigned gender and the gender with which [the person] identifies.” Gender-confirming medical treatment can reduce or eliminate gender dysphoria which can be a major barrier to living a full, happy, and healthy life. However, despite the importance of medical transition for many trans people, it is not a part of most medical school education programs, and many insurance companies prefer to see hormone replacement therapy and gender-confirming surgeries as non-essential.

Some practitioners, however, are working to support trans patients. “I would often see [trans patients] pro bono,” said Julie Dybbro, an ARNP, hormone expert, and owner of Complete Women’s Health Care in Olympia. “Oftentimes they were homeless, they didn’t have any money. I’d give them samples, I’d do whatever I could, but when insurance started paying, all the sudden it was a viable part of my practice.”

In addition to the fear of losing both healthcare and protection from dis-

crimination, many members of the trans community are now worried about a leaked draft of a “religious freedom” executive order that may al-

In addition to the fear of losing both healthcare and protection from discrimination, many members of the trans community are now worried about a leaked draft of a “religious freedom” executive order that may allow providers to refuse care based on religious belief.

low providers to refuse care based on religious belief.

Nancy Armstrong, an ARNP in Olympia, expressed concern that religious freedom legislation would allow providers to deny patients care. “There are people who are really uncomfortable with [treating trans and gender nonconforming people],” said Armstrong. “I’ve been a nurse for thirty-six years and I was never taught that way. I took care of people no matter what.”

Trans individuals are more likely to experience gender-based discrimination in medical settings than cis (non-trans) people. In the same local survey, 56% of trans participants reported facing discrimination based on gender identity compared to 20% of cis people. All of that 20% were women who reported experiencing sexism.

However, some clinics, like the Rainbow Health Center in Olympia, actively seek to be welcoming. This is evidenced by the rainbow flag flying on the front of the building. It’s impossible to miss from 4th Avenue.

Dr. Matt Goldenberg, a clinical psychologist who works in the Rainbow Health Center, makes it a priority to accept Medicare and Medicaid. “As a provider,” Goldenberg said, “that’s a commitment I make to make sure that I’m seeing people who may not be eligible for service anywhere else.” Many providers don’t take Medicaid and Medicare which have much lower reimbursement rates than other insurance. “From a business perspective, there’s not much incentive to take half a payment for the same work,” Goldenberg explained, “but from a social justice perspective, it is really important to do it.”

Dr. Goldenberg also co-owns ReLearn LLC whose mission is, “to build safer and more inclusive environments by training and educating healthcare professionals, employers, parents, and educators about gender identity and gender bias.”

Many providers are determined to continue serving trans patients. “If Obamacare gets repealed,” said Dybbro, “I’m going to have to get very creative again. We’ve been there before, and we’ll figure it out.”

Kit Gertje is a recent graduate from the Evergreen State College and a nonbinary member of the Olympia LGBTQIA+ community. They graduated in March 2017 with a degree in Communications.

Special events

Continued from page 2

Opening Day! West Olympia Farmers’ Market
Tuesday, May 9 at 4 PM
West Central Park Westside Olympia

West Olympia Farmers’ Market is your neighborhood market! Open 2nd Week Of May until the 2nd week of October on Tuesdays.

From Apathy to Action through Art
Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM
Thurston Climate Action Team

Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) has joined forces with Carrie Ziegler, Earth Art and several environmental organizations to create a multi-faceted, collaborative Art and Action Project. This Art and Action Project is a powerful strategy we will use to address climate change issues in our community. Presented by Carrie Ziegler and TCAT, this May forum will include:

- A presentation on how art can be used to inspire change in our communities.
- Information on the current status of the Climate Art and Action Project.
- A project design workshop. Join us for this terrific forum for the opportunity to learn how we can come together to collaborate on various art projects to inspire and create deeper meaning for us all to reflect and learn from. Learn more about Carrie’s previous Art and Action project by visiting www.CarrieZiegler.com or www.plasticwhaleproject.org.

May Makers Market at Obsidian
Sunday, May 28, 12 PM
Obsidian · Olympia

The Obsidian Makers Market is a local craft fair in the back of Obsidian. We want to help micro businesses find an audience and get started. We have an emphasis on hand-made, organic, or locally sourced products.

Media Island Benefit Brunch for Stonewall Youth!
Sunday, May 7 at 11 AM - 2 PM
Media Island International
816 Adams St SE, Olympia, Washington 98501

This is a benefit brunch for Stonewall Youth, help bring awareness the their organization and the work they do. Come out and support

Watch Your Laing-Wedge

ICE V. ISIS
Who are the real terrorist?
What do they have in common?
I: the ego, fearful ego, is the blinder blocking eyes
Once again the Nazis cannot see
Ukraine but cannot see
It’s now hip to be a hypocrite

If you voted for Hilary
were disappointed but now are happy
to see Trump throw fits...Putin on the Ritz!

I’d advise to stop saying “ISIS”
(though she is a beautiful goddess)
It’s too close to “ice us”: a self-programming mantra
resulting in deportation or death
Because our brains are stupid (too smart for their own good)
and respond automatically to subversive language
Who knew the antifas/anarchists/liberals are the actual
fascists themselves?

The right has so much to teach me...from a cell

If you want the world to end
Could never accept a Commie friend
You decide which dictator this shoe fits
Putin on the Ritz!

Trump’s handshake is a terror wrist
Put a shirt on, Putin
Something about golf could go here
Not sure if I wanna put it in

Years from now our stupid grandchildren will attempt to elucidate barely conjured memories
They’ll talk of the “Muslim Bannon”
The attack on cannabis by Jeff Sessions, he of the beer barons (ger it? “Sessions”?)
Or the preserved remains of T-Rex Tillerson in the Siberian Tar-pits, amongst other dinosaurs and the Anti-Christ that rode them to our doom

by broKEN

Recycled asphalt is still a threat to the Nisqually Valley

by L. Riner

The Lakeside Industries plant was built in the Nisqually Valley area of Thurston county. This Nisqually Valley area has zoning regulations prohibiting RAP (Recycled Asphalt) in asphalt manufacturing. Now the Thurston County Commissioners, this GOP Tea Party group, is going to change all of this, and allow Recycled Asphalt into the Nisqually Valley.

Recycled asphalt is more polluting than regular asphalt. The recycled asphalt has more facets than regular asphalt. These facets of the rock are what dissolve in exposure to water.

Environmental and public hazards

The bitumen binder used in asphalt paving applications contains a relatively high concentration of a family of organic compounds that has the potential to pose human health and environmental concerns in certain circumstances, especially when asphalt material is ground into very small particles that easily blow off of or wash

from the surface.

These compounds, known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are present in RAP at higher levels than the criteria established by the NJDEP's Site Remediation Program guidance for general use in a loose fashion on land. RAP used alone without a paved top surface has the potential to significantly migrate from the roadway through the actions of water, wind, and physical displacement and possibly contaminate surrounding soils and/or surface water sediments. Traffic traveling on the unpaved RAP could generate dust containing the compounds referenced above and the dust would be a major migration route of the RAP to the surrounding environment.

Lakeside production manager Bill Dempsey, who wants this polluting Recycled Asphalt, said the company knew about the restrictions when they built the plant off Durgin Road Southeast, in 2008. This industry is inside the Holroyd gravel mine, which sup-

plies rock for Lakeside's asphalt.

"We were opposed to them doing the asphalt in the first place," said Jan Pigman, owner of the 10-acre Pigman's Organic Produce Patch, which is about a half a mile away from the asphalt plant. She sells her farm's corn, strawberries and other produce at the Olympia Farmers Market, and she is concerned that recycled products run through the plant could carry toxic materials and cause pollution. If that happened, her farm could be at risk of losing its organic certification, she said.

"We don't want RAP because we don't know what kind of pollutants are apt to be in that," Pigman said, "we do not want the capability to produce 300 tons of asphalt per hour."

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Two bombers

From page 8

foreign troops including the fighters for ISIS, most of whom are not Syrian, left Syria, I believe the Assad regime would collapse and the jihadist forces would be weakened. The Syrian people would have the opportunity to create their own future and type of society they wanted. This call for leaving Syria includes but is not limited to the United States. While the U.S. has played a horrible role in the Middle East, more than any other country, it is not the main cause of the plight of the Syrian people at this moment.

I support U.S. military aid and training of the YPG/PYD in Rojava in northern Syria. Although we should not romanticize and be uncritical of their society and rule, what is going on is positive and impressive in terms of women's major role in the struggle and governance there, the centrality of economic cooperatives, somewhat democratic decision-making and a level of sectarianism and repression far less than in most parts of Syria. Although the U.S. motives for military aid to the government of Rojava are not for humanitarian reasons much less to support an alternative to capitalism, United States. support helps them survive against ISIS. The People's Protection Units (YPD) have played a major role in defending Kurds and other Syrian people in this region against ISIS and with support from the United States have won several victories against ISIS. Very positive is solidarity and aid by grassroots groups around the world for the Kurdish people and their organizations in Rojava.

We, the people of the United States and our organizations, should also demand that the U.S. accept all refugees from Syria and from other places such as Somalia who want to come here and urge European countries to do the same. We should welcome the refugees and demand that they be treated with dignity and respect and have access to jobs, education and social services.

We should also demand although very, very difficult to achieve, the end of U.S. support, military aid and sales of military equipment to reactionary regimes in the Middle East such as Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc. The murderous military campaign, waged by Saudi Arabia, supported by the Unites States in Yemen, is also horrific, causing mass hunger and mass murder and we should organize and act against it as we oppose the current Syrian government and their international supporters' role in Syria.

People in Syria are hungry, wounded, sick and unemployed. We should support non-military, humanitarian aid that gets to the Syrian population. There is a case to be made for U.S.

Currently the Lakeside Industries company has tried to get Thurston county's regulations, which are part of the Nisqually Sub-Area Planning Area, amended to allow recycled asphalt. This is happening right now, April 2017. Lifting Thurston County's RAP prohibition would open the door for the company to recycle shingles, which are 99 percent oil, and could be crushed and added into the asphalt mix. That is the bottom line, we are talking about an industry using oil based products, in the Nisqually Valley, this valley that floods every few years here in Thurston County.

"The Nisqually Valley is zoned for agricultural use," the farmers say. There are many farms in this fertile area, as was mentioned above.

Lakeside's asphalt plant was approved in April 2001 by a hearing examiner, but foes appealed the decision to the Thurston County Commission, saying it conflicted with the county plan adopted in 1992 to protect the

Targeted

From page 11

CDGB grants on a rotating basis via the County. In 2017, the City of Lacey will receive \$867,000 in CDGB grants. These funds could be used for housing, capital improvement, community facilities and public services that benefit low and moderate income residents of the city.

HOME Investment Partnership Program

Elimination of HOME Investment Partnership Program, a program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program and two others (Choice Neighbors & Homeownership Opportunity) will mean a "targeted reduction" of \$1.1 billion dollars. HOME funds can only be used for affordable housing programs.

The HOME consortium is an advisory body to the Thurston County Board of Commissioners. It distributes federal HUD HOME funds, federal HUD Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), as well as State funds, to Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, Tenino, Bucoda, Rainier and the County. In the year September 2015 to August 2016, this Consortium expended \$3.3 million for affordable housing and homeless activities including the shelter system, rental assistance, and transitional housing.

Some of the recipients of this \$3.3 million in mixed federal and state funds were: Catholic Community Services (\$65,3910), Community Action Council (\$850,998), Community Youth Services (\$167,350), Family Support Center (\$325,293), Interfaith Works (\$172,588) Panza (Quixote Village), (\$20,250) SafePlace (\$40,500), Salvation Army (\$48,700) and Sidewalk

(\$192,711).

Federal HOME funds accounted for \$528,594 of this total. This is the program explicitly eliminated by the America First budget. Some of these funds went to Habitat for Humanity (\$160,000), Homes First (\$115,735) and Housing Authority of Thurston County (\$274,293 with some ESG \$).

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Institute is the main source of federal support for libraries and museums within the US. It had a \$227 million dollar budget in 2015.

The Institute awarded a \$148,488 grant in fiscal year 2015 to the Hands On Children's Museum of Olympia to increase meaningful math and science experiences for young children, including those from at-risk and under-served families, their parents and caregivers and preschool and early elementary teachers. The Institute has also funded an extraordinary number of "Native American Library Services" including grants to the Nisqually Indian Tribe: \$7,000 (2016), \$7,000 (2015), \$40,492 (2015) and \$7,000 (2014).

Dan Leahy is a retired Professor of Political Economy and Social Movements from The Evergreen State College and founder and former Executive Director of Washington State's Labor Education and Research Center.



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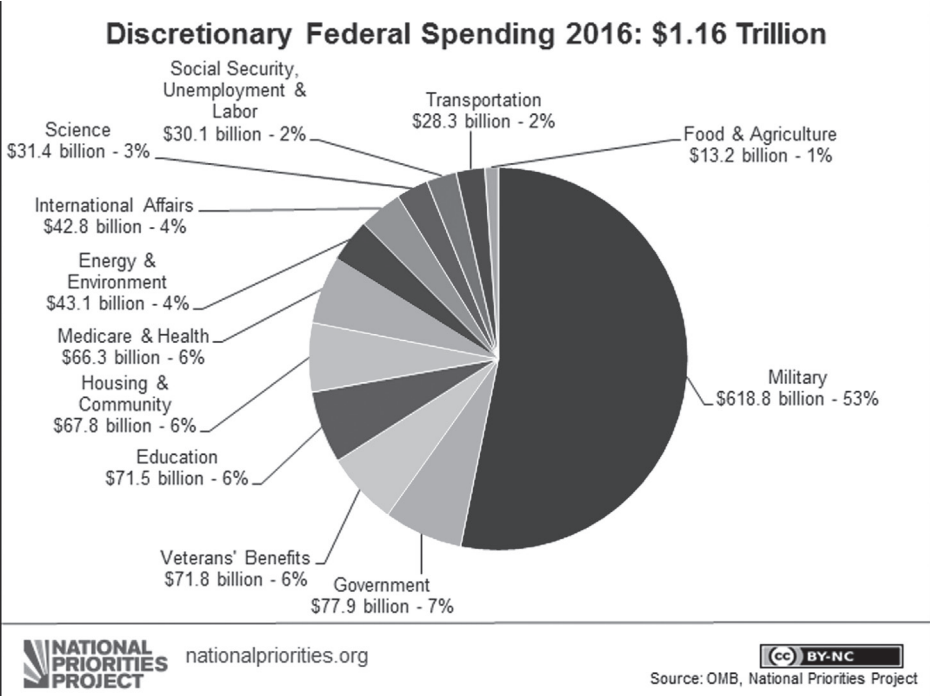
More money to make war on people far away – and at home too

“When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarization are incapable of being conquered.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “Beyond Vietnam” speech, condemning the “giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism.” One year to the day after that speech, he was assassinated. Fifty years later, we still face the same demons. National Priorities Project has released its first analysis of the U.S. “militarized” budget, showing how use of force abroad and at home limits our

capacity to realize human potential. The United States is the single biggest military spender in the world. But there is an analog here at home: spending on policing, incarceration, immigration enforcement, and the war on drugs. In 2016, the militarized budget was \$741 billion, amounting to 64 percent of discretionary spending. Our report shows how U.S. spending on federal prisons and immigration enforcement has skyrocketed in recent decades, all while the military machine churns along.

For the report, go to <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/analysis/2017/militarized-budget-2017/>



Trident Three: Guilty

From page 1

ons and their effects. “We tried to wake people up to what Trident can do—the indiscriminate killing of mass numbers of people.”

On the stand, Bernie Meyer said, “The experts are warning us. We have to give up business as usual.” He said there must be trust among world leaders in order to solve the existential problems we face, particularly nuclear weapons and climate change. He also quoted former Secretary of Defense William Perry who recently said that it is up to the people to speak out and demand action on nuclear weapons.

During Blake Kremer’s closing statement he said, “These defendants have knowledge that some courts and legal scholars believe they have a right and even an obligation to bring their message of peace and nonviolence to the base commander and the government and that the importance of this message makes it necessary and legally justifiable for them to stand on base while attempting to deliver this message.” Sadly, the court made it impossible for the defendants to use any defenses that have been recognized in other courts! Kremer’s full closing statement can be found at www.gzcenter.org.

When all was said and done, the judge ruled against the defendants based on the “facts” and found all three guilty of trespassing. Referring to the defendant’s “unrepentant” atti-

tudes, the government asked for one year of supervised probation and one hundred hours of community service. The judge agreed with the sentencing request, and, in addition to probation and community service, assessed the

In a final irony, Judge Christal also noted, in accordance with the government’s request, that the one hundred hours of community service must be completed in organizations “unrelated to the prevention of nuclear proliferation.” The judge did, however, note before handing down his decision that the defendants are “highly principled people with deeply held values.”

defendants a \$10 mandatory court assessment plus a \$25 processing fee.

In a final irony, Judge Christal also noted, in accordance with the government’s request, that the one hundred hours of community service must be completed in organizations “unrelated to the prevention of nuclear proliferation.” The judge did, however, note before handing down his decision that the defendants are “highly principled people with deeply held values.”

As much as the defendants attempted to bring light to the real crime—the

continuing threat of use of Trident against other nations—justice was not served in the courtroom on this day. Instead, the National Security State protected its narrow interests rather than upholding the Constitution of the United States along with the rights of all humanity to live free from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor houses the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US and is the home port for eight of the Navy’s fourteen nuclear powered submarines. More than 1,300 nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on SSBN submarines based at Bangor or are stored at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) at the Bangor submarine base.

One Trident SSBN submarine at Bangor is estimated to carry about 108 nuclear warheads. The W76 and W88 warheads at Bangor are equal, respectively, to 100 kilotons and 455 kilotons of TNT in destructive force. One submarine deployed at Bangor is equal to more than 1,400 Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs. The nuclear warheads at SWFPAC and on submarines based at Bangor have the combined explosive power equivalent to more than 14,000 Hiroshima bombs.

A March 2017 report from the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* shows that the US has been upgrading the W76 warhead and has developed a “super-fuze” that makes the refurbished warhead three times as lethal as before. This huge increase in kill capability makes it appear as if the United States is preparing for a decapitating nuclear attack.

Before the trial, supporters held vigil in front of the Tacoma Union Station Courthouse carrying signs that read, “Abolish Nuclear Weapons,” and handed out leaflets about the trial.

Prior to their trial, each of the Trident Three made a statement describing the reasons for their collective action against nuclear weapons.

Bernie Meyer: “We are at a juncture, a juncture that we created, that is of our own doing. We created nuclear weapons, nuclear power, a whole system of radiation dispersal. We created a way of life that spews carbon dioxide, methane, and more chemicals into the atmosphere which circulates into the oceans and onto the continents and heats them up beyond our accustomed tolerance. What do we do? What will you do?”

Gilberto Perez: “A moral consciousness is needed in realizing love and compassion for all. The revolution of the heart melts away the walls of hate and war. We must love each other or nuclear annihilation is inevitable. We

are not alone.”

Larry Kerschner: “Twenty miles west of Seattle is the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. It is clear that the actual use of nuclear weapons would grossly violate the international laws of humanitarian armed conflict under any conceivable circumstances. How can the US threaten the use of nuclear weapons without violating international law? The Nuremberg Principles absolutely proscribe crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. How can the US Government lawfully establish a threat to commit such heinous offenses?”

May we all know where we stand, and stand there.

Leonard Eiger is a member of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolence. The Ground Zero Community launched itself in 1977 with inspiration from Robert Aldridge, who quit his job at Lockheed directing the development of the Trident system’s sea-launched first-strike capability, and in response to the US Navy plans to expand the Bangor base to accommodate Trident-class nuclear weapons warships.

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The Suits

I joined the army and they gave me a suit

Said kill those who wear different suits

I ran with the bulls and the bears

I too wore a suit a shirt and tie

All my friends on the grab wore a suit

Those talking heads in law courts

Who strip you clean always wear suits

Even those who would lock you up wear suits

That siren behind you heralds a suit or two

You see the suits on the talk shows

Republicans will sometimes smile

Through pinched lips like it hurts

Democrats smile too

They look like they’re on your side


But they too have their eyes on big bucks

But always be wary of those in suits

When they come to plant you

They’ll wear suits too

J. Glenn Evans, Poet, Novelist and Political Activist



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Exposing fear and anger so we can make progress

By Glen Anderson

Expose politicians’ exploitation of fear

Throughout the 2016 election campaign season and after his inauguration, Trump was provoking fear and anger. He provoked fear of various groups of vulnerable people and urged people to retaliate against them. He exploited people's fear of economic and social insecurity then directed people's antagonism at the wrong targets. After making people afraid and angry, the remedy he proposed was to elect him – the big, strong man – to protect us from Mexicans, Muslims, uppity blacks, feminists, gays, Iran, and so forth.

Trump's provocation and exploitation of fear is exactly what dictators do. Make people afraid of “the other” and assert that only he—the dictator—is strong enough to protect people from those dangers. Trump created and promoted his public image as a strong business leader, a tough negotiator, the strong man who will protect us from whatever frightens us. Other dictators have used this same approach to target Jews or Communists, and now Trump has used it against the targets that he chose. The dynamics are the same.

Notice that nothing that Trump has said or done would actually solve problems. It's all about provoking fear, anger and blame targeted at vulnerable people. It's all negative. The few remedies he has proposed are all baloney.

EXAMPLE #1: The Trumpcare/Ryancare alternative to Obama's ACA was incredibly cruel to people and was actually a scam offering massive tax breaks for the richest Americans.

EXAMPLE #2: Trump's proposed wall along our Mexican border is a phony remedy intended to hype fear and anger toward Mexicans – and to distract white Americans from reality. Actually, most of the people—who are in the U.S. without documentation—arrived here legally and simply overstayed their tourist visas, student visas or work visas . They came from many different countries. Immigration from Mexico has declined sharply in recent years. So Trump's wall would not solve any real problems, but it served as a political gimmick for inciting fear and anger. Of course, such a big project would need to be built by big businesses, so that would enrich his cronies.

EXAMPLE #3: His radical trashing of governmental “regulations” actually is a radical elimination of protections for people and the environment. Big business has been polluting our environment, so government has passed laws and regulations to protect the environment and public health. Big banks and credit cards have been ripping off consumers, so government has passed laws and regulations to protect

ordinary people from financial and legal abuse. I remember the 1950s and 1960s when very serious coal mining accidents occurred frequently and killed many people, and we used to have more passenger airplane crashes (source?) and automobile accident deaths, so the government passed laws and regulations to improve safety in various ways. When right-wing politicians denounce “regulations,” they are denouncing protections for people and our environment.

Throughout history other politicians of both parties have cynically provoked fears too. In 1960 Democrat John F. Kennedy—running against Republican Richard Nixon, who was finishing his second term as President Eisenhower's Vice President—claimed (contrary to the truth) that there was a “missile gap” in which the U.S. was lagging behind the Soviet Union, and Nixon should be blamed. In 1968 George Wallace and Richard Nixon ran presidential campaigns that exploited white fears of African Americans and older people's fears of young people who opposed war and social injustices.

Wisely, Franklin D. Roosevelt said in 1933—immediately after becoming President during the Great Depression – “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” He took many bold actions to activate the federal government in solving various aspects of our nation's most serious economic crisis. His positive actions and his repeated statements against fear gave the nation confidence that we could indeed solve problems.

Trump and the right-wing Congress are doing the opposite. They utterly refuse to solve problems. They are disempowering federal agencies in order to prevent the government from solving problems. They threaten state and local governments that want to solve problems (e.g., related to the environment, immigrant rights, women's health, economic justice, reducing harm from drug use).

Our organizing efforts should explicitly expose how Trump and Congress are promoting fear, trying to disempower people, and cynically refusing to solve problems.

Fear tends to disempower people

This article's first two paragraphs point out that politicians promote fear for two reasons: (1) they focus people's negative emotions against a vulnerable target population; and (2) they position themselves as the strong man who is the only person who can save the public from the dangers posed by “the other.” Indeed, during the campaign Trump kept saying that only he could save us from the dangers he was exploiting.

Decades ago Abraham Maslow devised a model that identified people's “Hierarchy of Needs.” Self-actualiza-

tion and esteem were near the top, but people could pay attention to meeting those needs only after they had met their basic survival needs (food, housing, security, safety, etc.).

A civilized nation recognizes these basic survival needs as inherent human rights, so a civilized nation works to meet these needs for every person. Having achieved that, a civilized nation helps people meet the higher needs in various ways. Tyrants and abusive economic systems push people downward on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Tyrants disempower and oppress people by—among other methods—threatening people's basic survival needs in order to extract labor from them under unjust conditions. Tyrants threaten those basic survival needs in order to unjustly force people to become loyal to the oppressive regime in order to seek basic survival and safety.

We see this happening now with the right wing slashing services for poor people, reducing workers' rights, concentrating economic power in big business's hands, “de-regulating” and stripping away the government's protections of people and our environment, etc.

All of these put the basic survival of ordinary people at serious risk. Insights from Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs suggest that these right-wing threats to people's survival push people downward on the hierarchy so people will have less self-esteem and be less able to “self-actualize;” people will have to scramble harder for mere survival, which saps their energy and self-respect so they will be less able to organize to protect their rights. This in turn makes people even more dependent on the right-wing oppressors.

When people are trampled upon in these ways, they can feel disempowered. We have an alternative.

Let's strategize to expose and dismiss fear, so we can make progress.

Many of the issues that politically progressive people work on—climate, racism, nuclear weapons, death penalty, etc. – have emotional complexities that we must address, in addition to educating the public about the facts.

For example, if somebody is so deep-

ly afraid of crime that they demand knee-jerk “tough-on-crime” laws, they will not be psychologically open to learning about how unjust the death penalty is. Their fear of crime is a psychological barrier to solving the problem and abolishing the death penalty. So besides presenting the facts, we must simultaneously devise strategies to reduce fear and other psychological barriers that prevent people from learning about the death penalty and pushing to abolish it. In fact, even the very topics of murder and death are unpleasant for most people to deal with, so we must figure out how to reduce those barriers too.

Likewise, we need to recognize the fears and other psychological barriers that make people avoid acknowledging problems of racism, nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, etc. We can make progress on these issues only if we devise smart strategies to deal with fears and other psychological barriers, in addition to devising ways to educate the public and politicians about the facts. No amount of facts can penetrate a person's psychological defenses, so we must strategize about how to deal with psychological factors before people will be able to hear and absorb our facts.

This psychological factor is a crucial “missing link” in progressive movements' organizing. Recognizing this may help us have compassion for people who are stuck in their psychological defenses compounded by a lack of factual knowledge. In order to move the grassroots toward organizing remedies for solving problems, we must start where people are now, understanding the psychological factors that can become traps, and compassionately help people get unstuck and move ahead.

Most organizing neglects this crucial first step.

Profound nonviolence and compassion are absolutely vital parts of strategies for helping our nation recognize the cruelty and oppression of Trumpism and right-wing politics. If we are strategically and psychologically savvy together, we can turn things around!

See interesting and useful writings and resources about nonviolent grassroots organizing at the “Nonviolence” part of www.olympiafor.org

Glen Anderson is a longtime peace/ social justice activist in the Olympia area and a founding member of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Watch powerfully informative interviews through your computer

Watch the May 2017 program:

Protect Immigrant Rights

The current regime in Washington DC is seriously threatening the human and legal rights of immigrants in a number of ways.

Fortunately, many people nationwide and locally are aware and organizing in good ways. The Olympia FOR's May 2017 TV interview program will feature four guests who know a lot about immigrant rights and are working hard to personally protect those rights in practical hands-on ways. Our guests are Joanna Bryan, Steffani Powell, Eder Núñez and Anne Fischel.

You have two ways to watch this



program. See information at the top of this article.

To watch it online, visit www.olympiafor.org, click the “TV Programs” link, and scroll down to May 2017. Click the “Protect Immigrant

Rights” link to watch this program, the Word link next to it for a thorough summary of what our guests said during the interview, including references and links to many information resources. Also, we'll include a link to a short video from a “Know Your Rights” training that our guests conduct in various places throughout our community.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, the Olympia FOR TV series' producer/host at (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Asphalt

From page 17

valley. This Thurston County Plan to protect the Nisqually valley used many different groups working on it, particularly the Nisqually Tribe that relies on the fish from the Nisqually River. The old Thurston County commissioners overturned the approval of the RAP Plant, from the hearings examiner. Lakeside Industries appealed their decision in Mason County Superior Court in June 2002.

A Mason County judge ruled against the county, saying the plan did not prohibit asphalt plants. The county and opponents appealed that ruling to

state superior court which ruled that an asphalt plant could be built in the valley, but it would not be allowed to process RAP. So that is the law right now. The GOP Tea Party commissioners will probably get their way, and allow RAP in the Nisqually Valley. Please get involved. Please help us with this issue, email us with your comments; zharbor@cs.com.

L. Riner is a supporter of WIP, a lover of Thurston County, and a worker for a clean Thurston County for future generations.

Standing with the trans community

Below is an editorial from the April-May issue of Freedom Socialist newspaper.
When the Supreme Court refused to hear a case brought by a young trans man and in fact overturned his victory in a lower court, they sentenced trans youth to continuing harassment, beatings, illnesses, suicides, and murders!
This deplorable decision was engineered by the Trump regime when they overturned the nationwide guideline requiring schools to allow transgender students to

use the bathroom matching their gender identity.
Bigoted claims of “religious freedom” or false stories of threats to the safety of cis-gender people in bathrooms are ludicrous in the face of the documented epidemic of violence transgender people face on a daily basis. Especially trans women of color who are being murdered in increasing numbers each year — they are at the dangerous intersection of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia.

The Supreme Court even refused to deal with trans rights, which let loose each state’s right to decide about the issue. Wrong. trans people are entitled to basic civil rights, dignity and safety no matter where they live, and at school or work, in housing and healthcare, or at leisure.
Human rights don’t change at every state’s borders or every city’s limits! And what could be more basic than the right to be yourself and live your life?
-*The Freedom Socialist*



Coffee with Amy Goodman

Saturday, May 13, Capitol Theatre
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Doors at 10 a.m.

Tickets
\$20 General Admission
\$15 Students/Seniors/Veterans and Members of TC Media, KAOS, and Olympia Film Society

A \$3 convenience fee is added to each ticket purchased which supports restoration and maintenance of the historic Capitol Theatre.



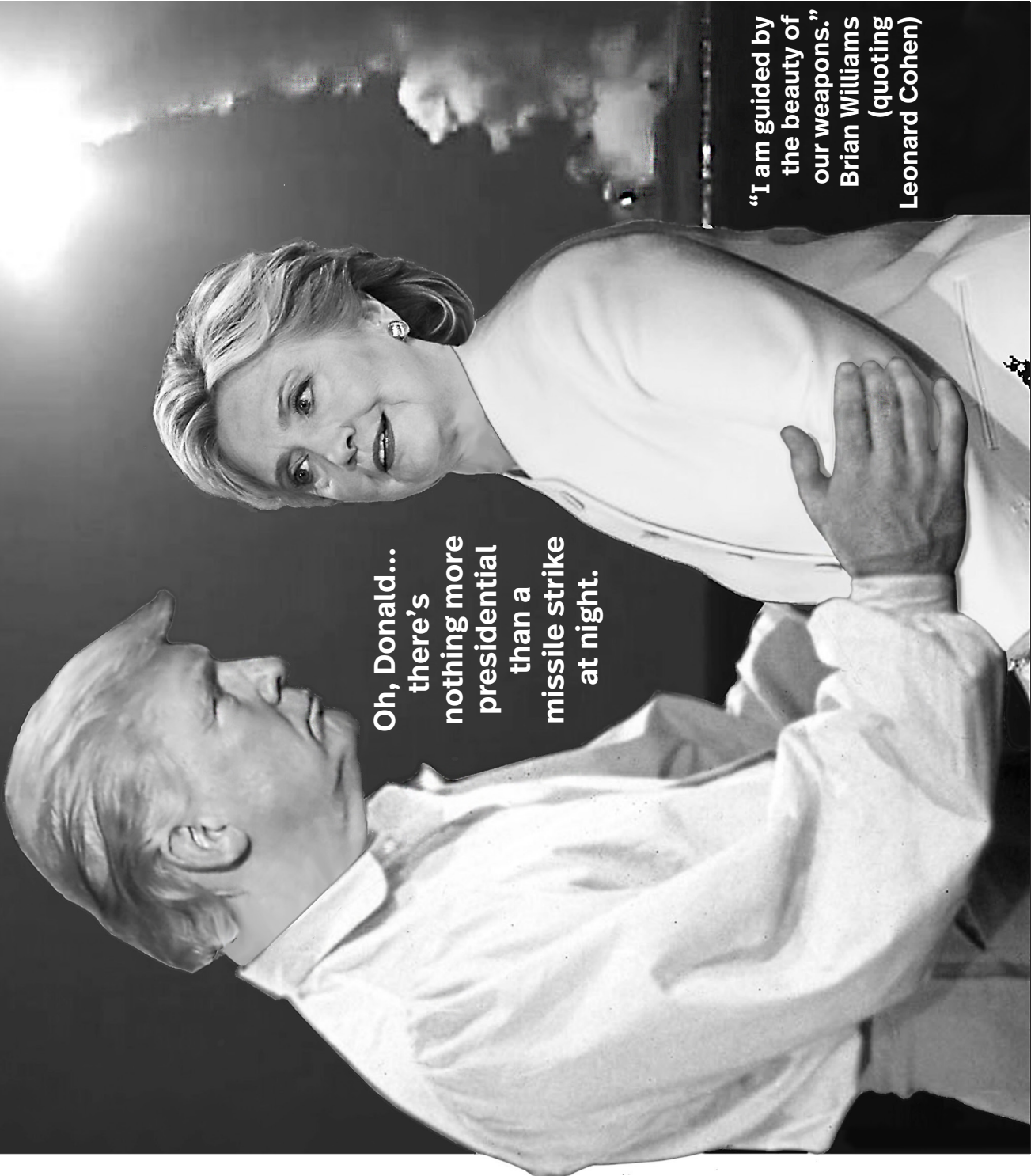
Proceeds benefit
Thurston County Media
and KAOS 89.3 FM

Independent journalism is needed now more than ever.

May 2017
Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

Works In Progress

Inside...
Pocket gophers
Denny Heck does not represent the people
The eco-terrorists among us



Oh, Donald...
there's
nothing more
presidential
than a
missile strike
at night.

"I am guided by
the beauty of
our weapons."
Brian Williams
(quoting
Leonard Cohen)

May 2017 – Works In Progress – May 2017