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

September 2017

Strengthening sanctuary in our communities

On August 15, the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program turned 5 years old with a sword hanging over its head. A group of 10 attorney generals has threatened to file a court challenge to the program, seeking to force President Trump to make a decision: will he eliminate the program, as he promised voters he would?

In the meantime, Trump and his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, have continued to use polarizing rhetoric accusing undocumented people of being gang members and criminals, while blasting city governments that have declared themselves welcoming to immigrants. So far, this rhetoric has failed to result in a wholesale change to immigration policy, but in the words of local immigration lawyer Steffani Powell, “something huge is coming.”

The crime of being undocumented

After years of telling parents it was safe to enroll their children in DACA, Powell now lies awake at night thinking about what will happen to her clients. In the meantime, the wheels of the deportation machine put in place under the Obama administration continue to churn on, but with an added layer of intimidation. The Homeland Security Memo signed by General Kelly in February, a follow-up to the Executive Order issued in January, effectively declared it a crime to be undocumented. There are currently 930,000 people living in the United States who could be separated from their families if these mandates were fully enforced.

Here in Olympia, Powell and other activists organizing with the group Strengthening Sanctuary are doing their best to prepare for the worst. Their efforts began in November, when they urged the City to make a strong statement of solidarity with immigrants at risk.

Olympia adopts a statement of solidarity

They lobbied the City Council to support the Sanctuary City resolution drafted by Councilwoman Jessica Bateman. The Council unanimously adopted the resolution on December 13th, declaring that Olympia officials “will not inquire upon a resident’s immigration status in providing municipal services or in the course of law enforcement.”

This is crucial: if local police do not ask about place of birth or immigration status, both of which are typically irrelevant to the nature of the arrest, they cannot provide that information to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Activists quickly realized that they needed to understand more

about how local law enforcement agencies collect and disseminate data. For instance, people arrested in Olympia are sometimes sent to jails in other jurisdictions—so the group needed to know the policies of surrounding municipalities, as well as those of county sheriffs and the State Patrol.

Understanding law enforcement policies

In the simplest terms, this was the first phase of the group’s work: to understand the various policies of each law enforcement entity. The second phase was to make a case for change, as they did with the Olympia resolution. That case begins with a simple question: why would officials want to collect information about a person’s place of birth? In many cases, there is no good answer other than longstanding practice nor is there a state law mandating the collection of that information.

According to Sessions, it is the responsibility of every government entity to cooperate with ICE. But as Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson points out in “Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement,” issued in April 2017, “local jurisdictions have a great deal of discretion” in cases where there is no explicit state law governing

a particular form of cooperation. Even Sessions’ claim that he has the power to withhold federal reimbursement dollars from agencies that refuse to cooperate fully with ICE is currently being contested by the city of Chicago.

Maintaining trust—with ICE or with the community?

In the meantime, there are several other factors at play in the policies adopted by local law enforcement. Some state officials are worried they might be blamed for failing to detain an undocumented person who goes on to commit a highly publicized crime. Others, like Thurston County Sheriff John Snaza, are invested in maintaining a working relationship with agencies like ICE and the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency). In conversations with members of Strengthening Sanctuary, Sheriff Snaza mentioned past assistance he has received from those agencies in cases involving drugs or human trafficking. On the other hand, several of the law enforcement officials who attended a listening session hosted by the Hispanic Roundtable on June 25th seemed genuinely concerned about the possibility of eroding trust between themselves and members of the community.

Minimizing harm to immigrant families

In other words, the politics of immigration enforcement, like the law itself, are incredibly complex. The Strengthening Sanctuary activists don’t accept at face value everything they hear from police chiefs, but that’s not the point—the point is to minimize the potential harm done to immigrant families. As Scott Goddard argues, “federal law and ICE are constantly going to be putting pressure” on our local officials. If we push in the opposite direction, “we can at least keep them in the middle.”

Sheriffs, mayors, and city councilors are elected, making them potentially receptive to public pressure, while appointed chiefs are sensitive to pressure from the public bodies to which they are accountable. Captain Monica Alexander, from the State Patrol’s Office of Government and Media Relations, has expressed a particularly strong commitment to ensuring that officers are not violating policy guidelines. The group is still working to establish a line of communication with the Nisqually Tribal Council, whose

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Why Guatemalans come to Mason County and what happens to them there

Mason County is a unique community, in that indigenous Guatemalan families have found a place in our forest and shellfish industries, have enrolled their children in our local schools and have become involved in our community. According to a survey by Columbia Legal Services, the indigenous worker population in Washington includes about 1,500 Guatemalans of Maya descent, approximately 1,200 of whom live in Shelton, Bremerton, Belfair, and Forks. (Geyman, 2011)

Along my journey this summer, I met Miguel who was born in the U.S., but whose father immigrated from Guatemala. He owns a landscaping company who employed other Guatemalan immigrants. Miguel told me he would never be able to own such a lucrative business in Guatemala, and he told me he was happy to be able to give other Guatemalans jobs as well. Miguel told me the men are the first to come over, hoping to start their families here because they know their children will have a better chance

than if in Guatemala.

We have children in our county who are scared of losing parents who have already risked everything to come here and start a family. Now, more than ever, we are seeing immigration-related detention of people in our county who lack legal support. Many face deportation as well as the fear of leaving behind their family.

Mason County citizens support immigrants

Immigration policy seems to be evolving by the second. Regionally across America, states are becoming divided in how they are reacting to the deportation of countless undocumented residents. In Mason County Washington a small group of citizens is addressing a complex set of challenges. They are operating as volunteers in hopes of supporting local migrant workers, hoping also to re-

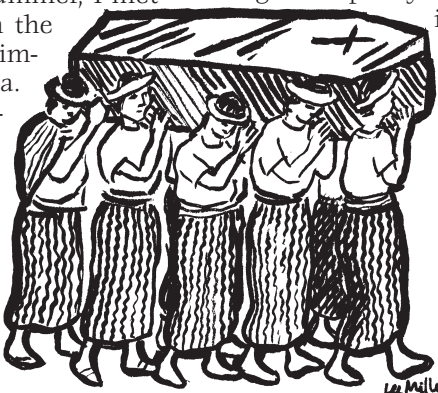
lieve new pressures due to reports of large scale deportations.

Through exposure to our local immigrant rights group, Elevate Mason County and especially their Immigrant Support Committee, I have been able to witness the beauty of seeing one neighbor helping another, and have felt the desperation resulting from the changes in immigration policy enforcement. This grassroots group of volunteers, meeting after work on a consistent basis, organized an immigrant rights march on April 30th in Shelton. They have shown me why immigration policy needs to be closely watched, and should be a priority to those of us who do not have to worry about being deported.

Who would want to leave such a beautiful country?

It was research on the streets of Shelton Washington that guided me specifically to our local Guatemalan population. I have learned a relatively unknown story of American involvement in Guatemala that helped me understand more about migration to Mason County. The intent of this work

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Works in Progress

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Established by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, the paper published its first issue in May 1990.

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 practices that seek to silence the oppressed.

Submissions: Our goal is to publish stories that are ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media. We seek local, well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities, and accounts of personal experience or reflections by local authors. Informed opinion pieces are also welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We are also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism. WIP reserves the right to publish any material submitted in whole or in part.

Submit writing in the following format: In a separate word document attached to an email that goes to: *olywip@gmail.com*. Please use Times New Roman 12 pt. type, no paragraph indents. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically. Include your name and phone number and a brief bio. WIP's volunteer editors will contact authors if there is any significant editing proposed. If you wish to submit an article to be reprinted, include the permission and original location.

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

Governing Tool: The following statements are part of our Editorial Policy: WIP will make an 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 refrain from printing any material submitted.

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

Back Issues. WIP is archived by the University of Washington Library. The last 5 years are online at *www.olywip.org*

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Buck's 5th Avenue Loft



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Sea level rise: learning from California

By Helen Wheatley

When I transferred to Santa Cruz to study as an undergraduate in the Winter of 1982, I didn't realize that I was about to witness the future. The Storm of 1982, which combined two days of torrential rains with high tides, killed 22 people, flooded the coastal town of Aptos, and caused power outages, infrastructure damage and private property losses of over \$100 million. With the lights out, knowing nobody as I had just moved to town, I strolled alone along the levee of the swollen Santa Cruz River, watching logs toss about and half-searching for cracks. I hoped it would hold fast to protect the low-rent Boardwalk neighborhood, which appeared lower than the river.

Useful principles based on experience.

I immediately signed up for a Hydrology course and spent the quarter taking a first-hand tour of the storm damage led by Gary Griggs, an expert on California coastal geology who became an influential voice in environmental policy. In 2012 he co-authored (with Nicole Russell) an important guidebook: Adapting to Sea Level Rise – A Guide for California's Coastal Communities (funded by the California Energy Commission and the California Ocean Sciences Trust). The guide provides useful principles based on hard experience like the disaster that befell Santa Cruz County. It can easily serve any coastal community, including Olympia, that faces the profound challenge of planning for an uncertain future. Griggs and Russell set the stage by explaining how to approach the problem.

"In order to adapt to future change, coastal communities need to have an understanding of vulnerability and risk, because adaptation to sea level rise is a risk management strategy, somewhat like an insurance policy, against an uncertain future."

How can a vulnerable community adapt?

While the entire county should be looking at risk, at least Olympia planners have taken steps to gather the information needed to perform a "vulnerability assessment" to understand the probable impacts of climate change. Yet as a community we face the problem of defining another aspect of assessing vulnerability-- the ability of the community to actually adapt or respond to the effects. This requires a broader view than just asking what will happen in the flood zone.



Who should join in the conversation about vulnerability and adaptation? One suggestion Griggs made is to create a Preparedness Team, put together in a way that will assure buy-in to whatever recommendations may come out of the assessment process. Ideally this would include not just agency representatives, but also representatives of relevant community organizations, as well as consultants or scientific advisors as appropriate. Olympia is now entering this assessment phase, having taken the wise step of hiring outside experts to do the data gathering and compiling.

Develop an adaptation plan.

The next phase should be planning, which means development of an "Adaptation Plan." This is not just a matter of describing all of the possible options for responding to future hazards—including doing nothing—but also developing clear criteria for how the options should be evaluated and recommended. After that, effective adoption of a plan can then only happen if there is ample opportunity for review, including a plan for involving the public. After all, a big part of choosing options must be deciding what the community wants to prioritize, and especially what the community most wants to protect.

Community values must be considered

It is relatively easy to think in terms of infrastructure, but there are also questions of community values. What happens to public access to the waterfront? Are the burdens and benefits of dealing with climate change to be shared fairly? Will those individuals who are most vulnerable, and those with the least resources to adapt without help, be given reasonable priority?

How do communities slammed by the hazards of climate change, prioritize and plan for ecosystem protection? After all, the ability to find ways to work with nature, instead of paying increasing costs to engineer for change, will likely prove to be the most important long-term factor influencing human adaptability to climate change.

Stark new realities and maximum adaptability

Above all, how can communities develop strategies that will make them as adaptable as possible, including the very worst scenarios scientists

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Photo by Amy Shull

Special events

Signature gathering for Initiative 940.

Every day in Sept. See story p.7 To help, contact Leslie Cushman, 360-280-0087 Sponsor: De-Escalate WA

“Enter into Stillness”

Every Friday from 10 am to

7 pm See p. 13

Brigid’s Well, 1604 Union Ave SE, Olympia.

Strengthen loving vision and transformative practices Selena Kilmoyer - k.selena@gmail.com

Community Workshop on Nonviolent Communication

Wednesday September 6, 5:30-7:30 pm

OUUC, 2315 Division St. NW

Authenticity in communication, increased understanding, deepening connection and conflict resolution. Free with pre-registration: 360-956-1155 Presented by Liv Monroe

Closing the Hunger Gap: From Charity to Solidarity Tues-Wed, Sept 12-13.

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

Next steps in the movement to end hunger. More info at <https://thehungergap.org/2017-conference/> Host: Northwest Harvest & CTHG National Network.

Thurston County Candidate forum with Q&A

Thursday Sept, 14, 7-9 pm

Traditions Fair Trade Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia

Candidates: Port of Olympia: Bill Fishburn, Gigi McClure, Bill McGregor, E.J.Zita. Olympia: Max Brown, Jim Cooper, Clark Gilman, Allen Miller, Lisa Parshley, Renata Rollins. Lacey: Michael Steadman. Sponsor: Thurston Climate Action Team, info@thurstonclimateaction.org

“Birds of Costa Rica” slide show

Thursday Sept 14, 7 pm

Temple Beth Hatfiloh, 201 8th Ave SE.

Sam Merrill describes habitat and species of Costa Rica birds Sponsor: Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS) msg ph 360-352-7299

Steve Shunk “How woodpeckers can save the world”

7:30 pm in the Edmonds Plaza Room

Speakers, walks, field trips, exhibits, educational activities. BHAS msg ph 360-352-7299

“Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” series

Tuesday, Sept 19 & 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24. 10-11:30 am

Olympia Senior Center, 222 Columbia Street NW

Learn to effectively organize at the grassroots level. Cost: \$62 to Sr. Center members; \$68 general public Info: Glen Anderson 360-491-9093

Building the Affordable City

Wednesday, Sept 20, 7-9 pm

Rainier Arts Center (Near Columbia City Light Rail) Leading voices on urbanism, Kim-Mai Cutler of San Francisco and Daniel Kay Hertz of Chicago discuss their cities' struggles and successes with growth with insights for Seattle. Free with RSVP thru Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com/e/building-the-affordable-city-tickets-36763716265

Annual International Day of Peace

Thursday Sept 21/Worldwide.

Organizations (yours?) encouraged to engage and mobilize in behalf of refugees and migrants.

“Straight Outta Comptom” Race in Film Series

Thursday Sept 21, 6:30-9:30 pm

Free. Discussion and refreshments after the film Olympia Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, 2315 Division St. NW Sponsor: Interfaith Works

INSPIRE – Women’s Business Conference

September 29, 8 am – 2 pm

SPSCC Lacey campus, 4220 6th Ave Lacey

For women who seek to overcome the business challenges and build confidence Sponsor: Thurston Economic Development Council-register at https://fs26.formsite.com/Thurston_EDC/form13/index.html

Look for late-arrived September events on the WIP Facebook page

Denny Heck and most House Democrats say yes to Trump’s deportation machine

By Jeff Sowers

Last July, when few people were paying attention, Denny Heck, along with most House Democrats, failed to stand up for immigrant rights. They instead voted in favor of continuing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), Trump’s deportation machine. Only 32 House Democrats, including House progressive leaders Raul Grijalva, Barbara Lee, Keith Ellison, and Washington’s Pramila Jayapal opposed the measure. This was an opportunity for the Democrats in Congress to stand up and say we will not sign off on Trump’s xenophobic and brutal campaign against immigrants. But, sadly and predictably, herded along by corporate lobbyists with buckets of campaign cash, most House Democrats said nothing and voted yes. Soon, we will see which Democratic Senators are willing to back Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign when the bill comes before the Senate.

Democrats’ lost opportunity to challenge Trump

The fact that the ICE reauthorization is part of the larger DHS reauthorization bill is no excuse to support it. The intent of the bill is to update and modernize the laws that govern DHS, which was originally created in 2002 in the wake of 9/11. The ICE section can be separated out of the DHS authorization bill, allowing the reauthorization of other DHS agencies to move forward unhindered by a fight over ICE policy. If the Republicans were to allow a defeat of the entire DHS bill because of a showdown over ICE, they would have only themselves to blame. The Democrats have an opportunity here to demand reforms to ICE and to issue a challenge to Trump’s escalating campaign against immigrants. Unfortunately, after the House Democrats’ shameful vote of complicity with the Trump anti-immigrant campaign,

most Senate Democrats are likely to do the same. The complicity of most Democrats on this issue is yet another testimony to the intractable corrup-

tem is the detention quota, adopted in 2009 as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. This unprecedented policy,

An unprecedented policy, known as the detention bed quota, requires by law that ICE maintain a daily detention quota of 34,000 beds at a cost of over two billion dollars per year. This means that every day ICE is required by law to keep at least 34,000 immigrants locked up in prison.

tion infecting the establishment wing of the Democratic Party.

ICE routinely violates immigrants’ rights

The US government’s vicious campaign against the more-than 11 million undocumented workers and their families in the US inflicts grave injustice on a massive scale. The institution through which this injustice is carried out is ICE. Using deceptive and aggressive tactics, ICE routinely violates immigrants’ due process rights, tears families apart, and imprisons people in what can be horrific conditions, including spoiled food, moldy showers, and 24-hour solitary confinement. Here in our own backyard, as reported by the Stranger, Representative Adam Smith (9th Congressional District) said conditions at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma were “shocking” and “very, very tough” when he visited the prison in the wake of a hunger strike by hundreds of jailed immigrants.

ICE must show it has 34000 immigrants locked in its jails every day

Another dark feature of the ICE sys-

tem is the detention bed quota, known as the detention bed quota, requires by law that ICE maintain a daily detention quota of 34,000 beds at a cost of over two billion dollars per year. This means that every day ICE is required by law to keep at least 34,000 immigrants locked up in prison. No



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American businesses profit from the immigrant labor pool

The scale of violence and injustice in the immigration detention system is mind-boggling. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people are caught up in this ugly system, including thousands who have never been convicted of any criminal offense. Trump is escalating this campaign. Most of these immigrants are hard-working people with families. Today, about 5% of the US workforce consists of undocumented workers, many of whom have worked in the country for more than a decade and have raised families here. American businesses profit enormously from this underpaid and exploited labor pool. Attempting to imprison and deport these people and tear families apart is not only inhumane, it is impractical. Most Americans understand this, which is why a majority of people support creating a pathway to citizenship for these workers and bringing them into the legal workforce. But instead of adopting meaningful immigration reform and stricter employer accountability enforcement, the US government is waging its campaign of and deportation on a massive scale.

The more people they arrest, the more money they make

What sinister force lies behind this government-created humanitarian catastrophe? One major factor is the private prison industry which makes millions of dollars off their prisons and jails. As progressive Congressman Raul Grijalva explained in a recent speech, this is a “money making scheme.” The private prison industry, he says, has their lobbyists, their former employees, and their top management personnel scattered throughout the Federal government where they are dictating policy. They have been a singular force that has consistently fought criminal justice reform and im-

migration reform at every level. “For them,” Grijalva emphasizes, “it’s about the bottom line. The more detention beds that are filled, the more people who are incarcerated, the more money they make.”

Currently, about 65% of ICE detention facilities are owned by private corporations who profit directly from the detention bed quota that they heavily lobbied to pass. This compares to about 18% of all federal prisons. Given the high rate of private prisons in the ICE system, private prison corporations stand to profit enormously from Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign. As reported by Bloomberg, “Trump’s pledge to clamp down on illegal immigration and deport millions has given the private-prison industry its biggest boost in years.” Following the election, the stock of CoreCivic, the largest of the US corrections companies, jumped 78 percent, while rival company Geo Group Inc., who owns the immigration prison in Tacoma, WA, was up 53 percent.

Investing in prisons and in politicians

If you look at who controls the private prison industry, you find the major investment firms Vanguard, Blackrock, and others. For example, the investment firm Vanguard Group is the largest shareholder of the Geo Group, who owns and operates the Northwest Detention Center at the Port of Tacoma. The Vanguard Group, a major contributor to Heck’s political campaigns, is also a major beneficiary of the private prison industry. Beyond prisons, the Vanguard Group holds shares in almost every major bank and corporation in the US, including Bank of America, Boeing, Honeywell, and General Electric, all of whom have also donated large sums to Heck’s campaigns. While it is impossible to trace the maze of corporate ownership back to actual individual persons, we know from the distribution of financial wealth in the country that the lion’s share of investment assets are held by the wealthiest 1% of the population.

As Bernie Sanders explains, prison corporations have lobbied via the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) for more draconian criminal laws, with the two largest companies spending more than \$25 million on the effort. “A rise in lobbying and direct campaign contributions,” Sanders reports, “has correlated with dramatic growth in private prison population, greater overall spending on corrections and a sharp increase in private company profits.”

The result of this is government law and policy that puts investor and corporate profits over people, with disastrous consequences for our society on numerous fronts. Many of the crises our society now faces, including immigration and criminal justice policies, are a direct consequence of this core political problem.

The Justice is Not for Sale Act

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Most Americans do not support this gross injustice and this is not the kind of society that most people want. In the current Congress, a small, but significant number of progressive congressional representatives, including leaders Raul Grijalva, Barbara Lee, Pramila Jayapal, and Keith Ellison are refusing to go along with this insanity, and are instead fighting for social justice.

Sanders and Grijalva have introduced

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360.956.3870

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The problem with a cops’ bill of rights

by Janet Jordan

Law Enforcement Officers’ Bills of Rights (LEOBORS) came into general use in the 1970’s. Police departments had come under scrutiny in the 1960s as part of the civil rights movement. Many police officers were investigated, and the police unions worked hard to ensure that those officers were treated fairly. Some states adopted LEOBORS in their constitutions for the protection of their police officers, and many more such protections were included in contracts between police unions and the cities where they were employed.

In the state of Washington, police enjoy additional legal protection beyond the LEOBOR - a police officer in Washington cannot be prosecuted for killing a citizen unless it can be proved they acted out of malice. As this subjective test cannot be proven, in effect police officers can’t be prosecuted. (An attempt to remove this threshold test was defeated in the legislature last year.)

Even without the malice clause, however, LEOBORs offer the police protection against any effort to hold them accountable.

The city of Olympia has a version of the LEOBOR. You can find it in Appendix D of the contract between the City of Olympia and the Olympia Police Guild. There are sixteen provisions. This article won’t examine all of them; they are not all controversial. For example, no one would say a cop should not be given written notice of an investigation, or of the outcome of the investigation.

Olympia’s version actually avoids several problematic provisions. One common provision in LEOBORs across the nation says police may not be forced to answer questions in an internal investigation (5th Amendment protection).

Our local LEOBOR makes a distinction for an internal supervisory investigation: In such an investigation, a failure to answer a question is punishable by dismissal. The officer is an employee, entrusted with power over other citizens’ lives. Failing to answer means failing to give a reasonable basis for such trust.

In a criminal investigation, the cop is protected by the 5th amendment. He-or-she should not be exposed to jail for something only he-or-she knows about, something that would not be in evidence if they didn’t speak, any more than any other citizen. That’s our common right.

If the internal supervisory investigation bleeds over into a criminal investigation, the officer’s statements will not be passed on. This seems like a valuable distinction. So in this case, our LEOBOR holds up as reasonable and fair.

There are a few other common pitfalls that Olympia’s LEOBOR avoids. It does not require that any accused officer be interrogated only by other sworn officers, as in Maryland. That provision makes it impossible to use a Citizens’ Review Board. Again, some LEOBARs require an investigation be expunged from the officer’s records after a time, but Olympia’s requires retention. Indefinitely.

The Olympia version, however, does contain a specific controversial provision, which is that a police officer cannot be required to submit to an investigation immediately after an incident. In our case, officers have 48 hours to collect their thoughts and find legal counsel. (Ed note: In the May 21, 2015 police shooting in Olympia, Officer Ryan Donald was not interviewed until five days later – May 26 – in the office of his attorney. By that time Donald had prepared a 10-page narrative justifying every action he took during the 3-minute incident.) Additionally, the police union (the accused officer’s counsel) must have access to any evidence collected by the investigatory team.

As the Public Interest Law Journal (PILJ) notes, no investigator or prosecutor would ever hold back for 48 hours in the case of a civilian suspect, especially if the suspect were free to consult with other suspects in that time or to review the city’s case against them. To get at the truth, we need unvarnished recollections, without rehearsal or collusion. The PILJ recommends that the investigation be immediate, or if 24 hours is granted

for him-or-her to get a lawyer, they should be sequestered for that time.

HuffPost comments that officers might give false exculpatory statements if forced to speak without having had an opportunity to examine evidence. Such false statements could be a basis for conviction after the forensic evidence was presented.

In the May 21, 2015 police shooting in Olympia, Officer Ryan Donald was not interviewed until five days later—May 26—in the office of his attorney. By that time Donald had prepared a 10-page narrative justifying his actions during the 3-minute incident.

When a LEOBAR offers significant prep time for an officer involved in an incident or accused of a crime, it can serve to impede arriving at the truth, and result in an abusive officer remaining on the force, putting citizens at risk.

The problem crops up in citizen trials as well as the trials of police officers. Citizens on trial often testify to the behavior of an officer, including accusations of undue use of force as part of their defense.

The citizen in these trials may come off as less prepared and less confident than the police officer testifying

against him-or-her. The superior preparation of the police officer gives them that confidence. In citizen trials, the police officer can take the time he-or-she needs to prepare before the trial as a matter of course, so it’s not because of the LEOBOR. But the LEOBOR enshrines that right to preparation in a contract, and makes it even harder to question.

Equal treatment of the accused, whether it is a police officer or a citizen, should be the standard. The authors of the PILJ article argue that it’s best that both give testimony untainted by knowledge of other people’s testimony or of the forensic evidence. The

next time the Police Union’s contract is negotiated, the city should remedy this inequality. As the employers of the police, the citizens of Olympia can and should insist on this.

This article is largely based on data from the article “An Impediment to Police Accountability?” in the Public Interest Law Journal (PILJ) Vol 15 #2 but also includes thoughts and observations of the author.

Janet Jordan is a resident of Olympia and a Green Party member. The Green Party has been following police accountability for several years.

Sentencing of Bryson and Andre

Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, arrested in an officer-involved shooting two years ago, were sentenced August 1 in Thurston County to be imprisoned for 2 months and 10.5 months, respectively. Andre is in Yakima and Bryson is in Olympia. Supporters report that the young men would appreciate letters, printed articles (with no staples), photos, and funds for phone calls and commissary. Books (no hard cover) can be ordered for delivery to them through a publisher or a bookstore. You can put money on their books directly, instructions for how are on the Yakima Jail website 866-232-1899 for Andre or through the Thurston County ARC website for Bryson.

The young mens’ family is trying to raise funds to move into a house that will be wheelchair accessible. To make this happen, they need to come up

with \$3000 by September 1. Donations can be made via the Olympia SURJ fundraiser or directly to their family by **downloading the square cash app and donating to “purplered-2sons”**

Andre Damon Thompson #318532
YJC Yakima Co. Dept. Corrections
111 N Front Street
Yakima WA 98901

Bryson Tyler Chaplin
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

For shipping Books: UPS or Fed-Ex only

Bryson Tyler Chaplin
3491 Ferguson Street SW
Tumwater, WA 98512

This information was obtained courtesy of Puget Sound Anarchists’ website at pugetsoundanarchists.org.

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Activists blockade West Coast nuclear base in plea to de-escalate nuclear crisis with North Korea

Activists blockaded the West Coast nuclear submarine base that would likely carry out a nuclear strike against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) should President Donald Trump give the order. Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. More than 1,300 nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on the eight ballistic missile submarines based at Bangor or stored at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) at the Bangor base. Activists with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor base on August 14th, several days after the 72nd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Participants briefly blockaded the base during the morning shift change by carrying banners onto the roadway at the main entrance gate.

All were removed from the road by Washington State Patrol Officers, cited for being in the roadway illegally, and released on the scene.

Those cited were Philip Davis, Bremerton, WA; Susan DeLaney, Bothell, WA; Ryan DeWitt, Olympia, WA; Sarah Hobbs, Portland, OR; Mack Johnson, Silverdale, WA; Ben Moore, Bainbridge Island, WA; and Charles (Charley) Smith, Eugene Catholic Worker, Eugene, OR. One of the banners implored the Trump administration to stop its incendiary rhetoric toward North Korea. It read, "No Nuclear Strike On N. Korea!" Ground Zero spokesperson Leonard Eiger said, "No one knows where this escalating rhetoric of President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will end. To take either leader at his word, a nuclear holocaust is an acceptable event. There is no acceptable military solution to this nuclear standoff. Diplomacy is the only way out of this mess."



The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Wash-

ington. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system.



Photo credit: Leonard Eiger, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Ground Zero—a day with the true heroes of our time

by J. Glenn Evans

On July 30, 2017, I was honored to spend the day with some of the truly outstanding heroes of this world. By the grace of God they are still alive today. I had heard the words Ground Zero, but I had no idea what they were about. A friend invited me to attend their 40th anniversary. I rode up to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, a short distance from Poulsbo, located right across the fence from the Naval Submarine Base Kitsap-Bangor, home of the Trident Submarines with their nuclear missiles.

These world heroes didn't look like heroes, but like ordinary citizens struggling to survive on this planet like you and me. But 40 years ago a small group of people recognized the danger of nuclear arms to the very existence of life here on earth. They set out to wake up the world to the folly of building a nuclear arms race. They risked their lives, their total being sitting on tracks of trains bearing supplies that were used in the making of nuclear power, a form of energy that might well make the world uninhabitable for life as we know it.

Celebration of their 40th anniversary was a potluck lunch and dinner. Between the meals, we listened to several panels of 4 to 6 people telling their stories of how they tried to wake up the world to the dangers we face headed toward a nuclear holocaust and global warming. To hear the stories of middle-aged and sometimes elderly tell of their arrest and spending time in jail rather than back down, reminded me of the ancient prophets who often ended up in dark dungeons while trying to bring improvement to the world.

There was a middle aged matron who smiled as she told of how honored she felt spending three months in jail for such a cause. There were some interesting insights about some of those trapped by the industrial machine into making a living who couldn't help, but who showed sympathy to those trying to bring the message of danger to the world. An example was a train crew who passed out cold water to those who had been sitting on the tracks in the hot sun for hours.

The Ground Zero facilities include a clubhouse with 3 acres in the natural setting of the forest right next to the

submarine base. I saw the spot where their first building had once stood before two Marines burned it down. On a table next to the fence that separated Ground Zero from the submarine base, there were some paper peace swans with thread to tie them to the fence. I tied one to the fence myself, but made sure that the swan's head stuck through the fence to the other side, my safe invasion of the submarine base.

It was truly an honor to spend the day with these people who risked so much to wake us up to the folly of what we're doing in the name of power and wealth of the Empire. Instead of building more killing machines we should be building trust among nations and our fellow peoples of the world. These people we are preparing to kill are just like us. We have more in common with them than with those crazies at the top who are leading us all to our doom. I salute these heroes at Ground Zero, people making an effort to help us save ourselves from the course of action the climbers and empire builders have put us on.

J. Glenn Evans is a poet, novelist, political activist and author of Wayfarers—Where No One is an Outcast

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The war

Love and hate is the dance of this world
Life has pranced to that tune since first of days
Christ the warrior of love they quickly killed
Mahatma Gandhi the spokesman of peace
Had a day on the world stage then curtains
Caesar Napoleon Mussolini
And that vile viper Adolph Hitler
Swam in the world's blood the river of hate
Love cleans up that mess never takes a rest
World of hate beats the drum time marches on
Will there ever be peace in this world
Only when men love instead of hate



From The Feast by J. Glenn Evans

Strengthening sanctuary

From page 1

jail houses people arrested for misdemeanors in Lacey and Tumwater, as well as some of those arrested by the State Patrol.

Insert pdx table here

The goal of all of this data gathering is to minimize the chances that an officer will ask a question that is not merely unnecessary but potentially harmful. But what if the question does get asked? This is where the third phase of the group's work comes in. Along with dozens of other activists across the state, they have been offering “Know Your Rights” trainings for parents, children, and anyone else who will listen. Many immigrants don't know that if you're arrested you only have to give the police your name, not your place of birth. In many recent cases, including that of Seattle Dreamer Daniel Ramirez Medina, legal residents are swept up as “collateral” damage when ICE raids a family's home; such “collateral” arrests represent the one area in which the Trump administration has significantly increased the overall number of detentions and deportations.

Learning legal rights and when to say ‘no’

Because of what happened to Medina (who was later released on bond) it's important not just to know your rights, but to practice saying “no.” Accordingly, Powell, her colleague Alejandra Hunt, and other activists have developed a flexible curriculum that allows them to alternate between information delivery, Q&A sessions, and interactive skits. During one recent training in Aberdeen, a latecomer generously volunteered to participate in a skit without having had heard Powell's presentation,

and received shouts of warning from his neighbors when he unwittingly fell into the trap set by the make-believe ICE agents. It's this kind of active learning that allows immigrants to feel more confident exercising their legal rights when confronted by law enforcement.

What's next for Strengthening Sanctuary? The group hopes to increase its connection with local schools, offering more “know your rights” trainings for parents and working with school districts to change their data collection policies. Meanwhile, they will continue filling in the gaps in their

knowledge of the complex web linking arrests, information gathering, and funding for local jails. Powell says she would love to get a “Know Your Rights” card into the hands of everyone in the state. All the activists agree that candidates running in 2018 should be urged to come out strong on behalf of our immigrant neighbors. Members of the group know they can't track every arrest, but if residents are willing to lodge a complaint when an officer violates policy, activists can use such complaints to put additional pressure on the agency in question.

Strengthening Sanctuary is fully committed to both short- and long-term goals, but they are not naïve: they realize that the waiting game set in mo-

tion by the Trump administration's threats is making immigrants more fearful and allies more complacent. But that's exactly what makes Hunt so passionate about the group's “Know Your Rights” work—“we have to let immigrants know that people care,” she says.

Want to get involved? Strengthening Sanctuary includes a variety of different ongoing work groups, and meets regularly in the Olympia area. Contact Williamson.elizabeth@gmail.com for more information.

Links for Homeland Security Memo:
<https://www.dhs.gov/publication/enforcement-immigration-laws-serve-national-interest>

Link to Executive Order:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/25/executive-order-border-security-and-immigration-enforcement-improvements>

Link to City Council resolution:

<http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/city-council-and-mayor/resolutions.aspx>

Link to “Guidance” document:

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/immigrationguidance>

Link to coverage of Chicago lawsuit:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-immigration-sanctuary-idUSL1N1KT09R>

Link to Op-Ed by Ramirez Medina:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/03/13/im-a-dreamer-immigration-agents-detained-me-anyway/>

Elizabeth Williamson is a Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College. More experienced members of Strengthening Sanctuary contributed all the policy and interview information contained in this article.

Thurston and Lewis Counties Police Jurisdictions and Cooperation with ICE—as of July 5, 2017

Jurisdiction	Will participate in 287g?	Will honor 48-hour detainer request?	Will ask about place of birth?	Will ask about immigration status?	Will honor ICE driver license banner?
Olympia	No	No	No	No	No
Lacey	No	No	No*	No	Yes—officers have discretion
Tumwater	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Thurston County	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Centralia	No	No	No*	No	**
Chehalis	No	No	No*	No	**
Lewis County	No	No	Yes	No	**
State Patrol	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

287g: INA 287g governs agreements that permit state and local police to perform federal immigration functions.

48-hour detainer: DHS (Department of Homeland Security) issues these to local jails and prisons to hold an individual beyond a scheduled release date, allowing ICE to take custody.

Immigration status: A person's immigration status is irrelevant to criminality and to the protection of public safety, and may lead to racial profiling.

Driver's license banner: When running a driver's license, officers may reveal a request (banner) prompting the officer to contact ICE.

* These jurisdictions do not have their own jail or do their own booking, so they do not collect this information.

** It is not yet known how Lewis County, Centralia and Chehalis handle ICE banner requests.

Guatemalans

From page 1

is to help explain how American interests have affected the indigenous people of Guatemala, and how American corporate interests and immigration policy today have kept the indigenous people of Guatemala disenfranchised for many years.

To visit Guatemala as someone who is simply there to enjoy the diverse variety of life as a tourist is a luxury compared to the lives of Guatemala's indigenous people. To a tourist life seems brilliantly vibrant and colorful. Its natural beauty is presented by the country's botanical wonders, such as the local fruit, Pitaya—a brilliant pink and purple vine fruit. One can find wonderful food thriving in the wild, such as avocado, papaya, pineapple. There are giant mahogany trees, and 288 endangered species still surviving harsh environmental changes felt throughout Guatemala.

The scenery in Guatemala is unmatched as the ocean waters shine crystal blue on pale white beaches. The country is bounded by the Caribbean Ocean to the north and the Pacific to the south. The average temperature on the beaches of Guatemala varies between 77 and 84 degrees. In Guatemala you will find world-class restaurants specializing in local poultry and beef, as well as European dishes. Another benefit for a tourist is the dollar-to-quetzl ratio at 1 to 7.3. Top-of-the-line hotels are under one hundred dollars per night.

Life might seem perfect in Guatema-

la—until you learn the stories belonging to the people who have decided to leave with nothing—leaving their lives behind for a chance at a better life somewhere else.

Building an economy on the backs of indigenous people

There are vast class disparities in Guatemala: according to a recent study by the Ministry of Agriculture, 4% of producers control 80% of the land. There is a stark difference between the lives of the struggling indigenous Mayan peoples of Guatemala, and those have come to own the land and businesses. Over 90% of the indigenous people of Guatemala live in extreme poverty. The majority of Guatemalan residents of Belfair and Shelton migrated from Todos Santos, a city high in the Cuchumatan Mountains, deep in the heart of Guatemala's beautiful coffee country. It is difficult to understand what it is like to have to leave to escape oppression, only to find yourself at risk of deportation in

your new homeland.

To understand the journey our neigh-



bors have undertaken to get to this point we need to take a look at what happened to the indigenous people of Todos Santos, and those of Guatemala historically from before the Guatemalan Revolution until now.

The ideology of the Guatemalan government prior to the 1944 Guatemalan Revolution was to grow the economy

on the backs of the indigenous people who descended from the Mayans. Rafael Carrera is responsible for passing Decree #170, the Day Laborers' Regulations in the 1870's. The countryside and land once held by indigenous communities were quickly turned into coffee and banana plantations; mostly owned by an American corporation, the United Fruit Company. Oppression toward indigenous people intensified as the government strengthened labor regulations while continuing to act in the interests of their political party donors—further weakening popular support of government.

A democratic revolution and land reform in the 1940s

At the height of oppression, a police state was instituted and maintained under Jorge Ubico—dictator from 1931 until a democratic group, led by university students and labor organizers forced him to resign in 1941. They called for an immediate open election.

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Heck

From page 3

a bill into Congress, the Justice is Not for Sale Act, which would put an end to the private prison industry in the United States at every level of government, from local jails to state and federal prisons. This bill is being promoted by Our Revolution (OR) as part of the “People’s Platform,” which contains eight progressive bills that OR is calling on Congressional Democrats to support. Yet, as usual for progressive bills that challenge corporate profits, only a small minority of House Democrats, currently 16, are co-sponsors. In Washington State, only Pramila Jayapal, the newly elected progressive Congresswoman from Seattle, has signed on.

On the other hand, Denny Heck and most other Washington Democrats have failed to show support for a number of other bills meant to protect immigrant rights, including:

- H.R.1236**—PROTECT Immigration Act of 2017 (115th Congress), 26 co-sponsors.
- H.R. 1608**—ICE and CBP Body Camera Accountability Act. (115th Congress), 37 co-sponsors.
- H.R. 708**—Protect Immigrants Rights Resolution. (114th Congress), 34 co-sponsors.

While establishment Democrats like Denny Heck pretend that they care about immigrant rights and act like they are fighting the Trump agenda, the fact is that they quietly gave their stamp of approval to Trump's

campaign. At the same time, they are failing to support, let alone fight for, reforms that address some of these injustices. We must expect more from the people elected to represent us.

People have lost confidence in their government
From the immigration crackdown, to growing disparities of wealth, from unchecked climate change, to endless war, the time for complacency is long over. The country is in a crisis, the system is not working, and people have lost confidence in a government that is so obviously drowning in money and corruption. Trump is but one symptom of this reality.

Now, more than ever, we need to mobilize to elect political leaders who will reject corporate money, stand up to corporate power on bills that hurt people, and fight hard for the progressive revolution that most Americans now support. This is a revolution to not only change government policies for the better, but to change the Constitution and the structure of government itself. We must get money out of politics and establish a genuine democracy that will really work for the people in an ongoing and sustainable way. The lives of millions of immigrants along with millions of other people in the US and around the world depend on it.

Jeff Sowers teaches at East Grays Harbor (alternative) high school, and has been for many years a peace and democracy activist. Last year he joined the Thurston Co Democrats to support Bernie Sanders' campaign. He currently serves as a progressive "Berniecrat" precinct committee officer.

Initiative 940—providing for policy accountability and restoration of trust

De-Escalate Washington has launched a signature gathering campaign for Initiative 940, which would strengthen training requirements for local law enforcement in Washington State in order to resolve conflicts without resorting to deadly force. Statement from OneAmerica Executive Director Rich Stolz: “OneAmerica joins the De-Escalate Washington Campaign, which will work to gather signatures to take Initiative 940 to the legislature in 2018, and potentially to the ballot. I-940, if enacted, would establish new training requirements for law enforcement, a requirement to render first aid, and common sense standards to ensure accountability in circumstances when law enforcement officials use excessive, lethal force.

Following the death of Charleena Lyles and too many people of color at the hands of the police, it's clear that Washington State needs to de-escalate interactions between the police and community residents. We stand and mourn with the families who have lost loved ones and are ready to fight to ensure that more lives will not be lost. We must come together as a community—police, community residents, organizations and elected officials - to build trust between law enforcement

and the communities they are charged with protecting, and I-940 would be an important step in the right direction. We join with the De-Escalate Washington Campaign, and with immigrant and refugee communities throughout Washington State, to call for an approach that embraces the principle that Black lives matter and that protecting the lives of people of color and other community members is not in conflict with protecting the lives of our police.”

Pavan Vangipuram, OneAmerica Communications Manager, pavan@weare-oneamerica.org

Guatemalans

From previous page

A popular professor of philosophy, Juan Jose Arevalo, won an overwhelming victory, and was the country's first democratically elected president. He began historic land reform, and remained in power for seven years until losing an election to Jacob Arbenz who continued the much-needed land reform, and social reformation of Guatemala. President Arbenz's reforms included the right for people to vote, and continued the “ten years of spring,” which further strengthened people's freedom of speech. Under Arbenz, the government took unused prime land from the corporations and gave it back to over 500,000 poor agricultural laborers. The United Fruit Company was dramatically affected by the newly instituted land reform under Arbenz. His policy changes, which benefited displaced indigenous people, were taken as acts of war by the American-backed United Fruit Company.

The US subverts Guatemala’s democracy on behalf of the United Fruit Company
Pressured by United Fruit, the United States government decided to disrupt the growth of democracy that was happening in Guatemala. Denouncing Arbenz as a communist, the U.S. supported a guerrilla force led by Carlos Armas in 1960. The support from the U.S. was quite extensive, and included tactical training, and intelligence-related operations. This spark ignited a thirty-six year civil that resulted in over 200,000 dead among indigenous Guatemalans fighting for their freedom. According to a 1999 U.N. backed study titled “Guatemala: Memory of Silence,” 83% of the people killed in the Guatemalan Civil War were Mayan.

In order to re-establish American influence and in order to retain interests in the profitable business of fruit propagation, Dwight D. Eisenhower began to use his military might to put power

in Guatemala back into hands with American interests. Calling it a stronger stance against communism, and citing Communist influence among Arbenz's advisors, operation PB Success was set in motion to take out the popular leader. The reality of the situation was that Arbenz was redistributing power to the poorest people. This bold change was seen as a threat to U.S. interests. The U.S. backed guerrilla force was instructed to topple the popular government and install a dictator who would return the ripe land of Guatemala to the United Fruit Company.

The people of Guatemala needed freedom and they knew they deserved better. 1960 was the starting point of a long and bloody civil war between the people and the government. For 36 years, from 1960 to 1996 Guatemala was ripped apart. There were an estimated 200,000 casualties, with the Guatemalan Government being responsible for over 90% of the civilian deaths. Since the Civil War began, economic impossibility, lack of civil freedom, violence, and a thriving crime rate have forced immigration from Guatemala to skyrocket.

The legacy of American intervention and our friendly dictators
Todos Santos Cuchumatán sits at over eight thousand feet in elevation, nearly as high as Mt. Baker. In the past, people from Todos Santos did seasonal work picking coffee and bananas, but as the population grew, the work available failed to grow with it, and people are now forced to look for supplemental income somewhere other than the coastal plantations that had supported them for so long. Although Guatemala sounds beautiful, Miguel, my landscaping friend, told me stories of how the indigenous people are living with no running water, dirt floors, and surviving off of beans and rice. The journey to America would not have been necessary if American interests in

Guatemala had not interrupted President Arbenz and his much needed land reform.

My recent work has brought me closer than ever to people who are saying enough is enough. They are becoming people of action, trying to create a safe place for those who live and work in our community. Our policies specifically affect our Guatemalan friends and neighbors on a local level, and now an already disadvantaged population is having to live in utter panic and fear—not knowing when, or if their husband, wife, or child will ever come home. Life for undocumented workers in America was always hard. The men coming across are working jobs at the lowest possible wage and living in overcrowded homes, having a hard time surviving without the threat of ICE knocking at their door in the middle of the night.

Mason County will work to build bridges, not walls
Legal support for these families is one need among many—at the top of the list with everyone at *Elevate Mason County*. Another major issue we face is how best to support a family when the father/husband gets deported. *Elevate* has also stepped in to help with the process of obtaining passports for the children. Legal services were very much in need as people have so many questions. People have also mentioned a need for translators at this time.


The March for Immigrant Right Support in downtown Shelton was intended to send a message that there are many people in Mason County who would rather see a system that encouraged building bridges, not walls. Although we are a very rural county, our community is not as separated as it seems.

Now, after finally establishing a safe home in America, people from Guatemala are again facing fear—fear of


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being deported by our government. In our next piece, we will be looking at how immigration enforcement has changed—and how local communities are rallying to protect their immigrant members [see also *Strengthening Sanctuary in our Communities* in this issue.]

People are not a partisan issue. There should be better solutions to help people who want to come here to work and become legal citizens. We can all benefit by supporting people who are as motivated to live out the American dream as our hard-working neighbors from Guatemala.

Loren Bailey is a father, son, student, veteran who is studying social work in order to help veterans at the V.A. He enjoys drum and bass music and being outdoors.

Mistake on the lake redevelopment plans underway

The nine story building in downtown Olympia is not going away. It's going to be redeveloped and it's going to be great.

That was the message by local developer Ken Brogan and his architect, Ron Thomas, who presented their land use plans and architectural drawings at a city organized community meeting held [last July 12] at Olympia City Hall.

The project at 410 5th Avenue is bounded by 4th Avenue West, 5th Avenue SW, Simmons Street SW, just south of Bayview Market, and Sylvester Street NW, which is next to the Heritage Park Fountain.

It is planned to provide 138 new residences and a mix of ground floor restaurant and retail spaces. A vacant single story structure will be demolished and two new mixed use buildings will be built with onsite parking.

City staff kept a tight lid on [the event], allowing plenty of time for questions and answers, but also making it clear that the meeting was not a visioning process or a conversation about whether or not the city should buy the building from Mr. Brogan.

About 75 people were in attendance, many of whom seemed to be supportive of Brogan's plan, but certainly not all. "When will you be taking reservations?" a man enthusiastically asked Brogan. After considerable laughter, Brogan responded that he hopes to break ground by the end of the year, and have construction complete by the end of 2018.

The project will be subject to a State Environmental Policy Act review, a multi-permit process, and decided by a hearings examiner, which can be appealed.

Brogan's architect, Ron Thomas, did most of the speaking, showing conceptual drawings, and answering questions. He quickly preempted known community concerns about sea level rise and risks of liquefaction in the event of an earthquake by highlighting the building's features to address those issues up front.

City staff made the point of stating at the outset of the meeting that the project was not within the city's shoreline jurisdiction. The area is zoned Waterfront Urban – Housing.

The project will have to plan to accommodate a 16 foot sea level rise, the city's new standard for new construction for projects that are in a flood zone. The elevation in that area is 14.85 feet, said Thomas. The area is currently known to flood during minor storm surges.

Thomas said that in the event of flooding, a rapidly deployed barrier called a Flex Wall that rises up out of the ground 24 to 36 inches will be installed to protect the building. Steel pilings up to 70-80 feet deep will be needed

to support the new buildings, and the tower building is currently undergoing seismic upgrading, said Thomas.

For nearly an hour, Thomas presented his drawings, pointing out the obvious for any new construction, such as access for refuse and fire trucks, and public transit opportunities that already exist in the area, and all the "very Olympia things to do," such as long term bicycle storage and colored pavers to delineate pedestrian walkways, without acknowledging the most obvious: that the nine story tower building is staying.

In response to that observation, he assured the audience that the "psychology of the building" will change with the application of a special glazing that will appear to reduce the size of the tower. A drawing on one side of the tower showed Native inspired salmon



Photo by Amy Shull

artwork that he said he hoped could be designed in collaboration with local tribes.

He also said that Brogan is committed to creating a vertical green wall and seek a LEED Silver certification, making the building highly energy efficient. "I'm sitting here trying not to scream at the fact that we're not even talking about the elephant in the room, which is that people in Olympia have been working for years to make this area a park. A green wall does not compensate, and enclosing the tower does not hide what's there," said Ann Holm, a member of Friends of the Waterfront.

Community questions included how the flood barriers and automated compact parking mechanisms will work in the event of an earthquake or a loss of electricity, whether or not the building will get a multifamily residential tax credit (it will not), whether or not the building can accommodate low income individuals (it will not), the building's impact to stormwater systems, the difference between the use of steel vs. wood pilings, estimated traffic patterns and impacts, the process of assessing impact fees, job creation and overall tax revenue to the city, and the

possible regulation and code enforcement of blighted commercial property. City planner Nicole Floyd said staff has received about 70 comments so far. The first deadline for public comment was July 7, but comments will be taken throughout the land use process, she said.

A city advisory committee, the Design Review Board, will review the plan's designs to determine if it meets the city's design criteria on August 10, 6:30 p.m. at Olympia City Hall. Pub-

Open letter to an Olympia City planner regarding the "Mistake"

Dear Ms. Floyd,

These are my official comments on the current "Views on Fifth" proposal for the Capitol Center Building on the Isthmus, a.k.a., Mistake by the Lake.

My primary concern about any built structure proposed for the isthmus is the inappropriate participation of the City as the approving agency. This area is in the highest jeopardy for sea level rise-based flooding and earthquake-induced liquefaction. The City potentially assumes severe liability by not exercising its restrictive permitting authority and thereby enabling development that could lose most or all of its value as the result of predictable natural processes. At the very least, the City should require that any party choosing to invest by developing in this area be able to prove that their improvements are fully covered with private* flood and earthquake insurance. Restricting "development" to parks and other open space would minimize the at-risk property and accommodate the public's preference for passive recreation and historic views.

The public has voiced and written its opinion on this stretch of downtown many, many times. They want the Mistake gone and the land left relatively undeveloped. They appreciate the opportunity at hand, that some other cities are taking advantage of, e.g.,

lic comment will not be taken at that meeting.

Little Hollywood wrote a detailed article on October 19, 2016 at <http://janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com/2016/10/new-plans-for-olympias-mistake-on-lake.html> about Brogan's plans to purchase the building, its history, and his initial plans. Some ideas, such as a swimming pool, have gone by the wayside. The article also features an interview with Jerry Reilly, chair of the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation.

By Janine Gates, Little Hollywood
<https://janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com>

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New York, reclaiming large areas of the urban core for much needed open, living, green space as an economic as well as environmental benefit.

Historically, our state capitol campus included a designed view corridor between the Capitol building and the water, especially the Olympic mountains. Building here would preclude that.

The City's own Parks Plans from two previous eras talk about replacing this building with civic space. Most recently, the anticipation of its removal helped to pass the Metropolitan Park District measure. Provision for sufficient funding is written right into it.

The public should be specifically asked what they want to happen. Back just after the turn of the century, many of us rallied with signs asking the City Council to **let us vote!** on the conference center. Ensuing elections changed the make-up of the City Council as a result of that issue and waterfront controversies.

I hope the public process for this proposal is extensive and inclusive and I look forward to participating.

* not relying on FEMA or other public insurers to bail them out

Walt Jorgenson

Walt Jorgenson has long been active in local planning issues. Ms. Floyd is the Olympia planner assigned to the current proposed project involving the Mistake on the Lake.

Thoughtless building blights downtown

Dear WIP,

The prospect of more thoughtless building blight in downtown Olympia looms smack-dab in the middle of the oldest and most significant historic civic vista in Washington state. There is no more perfect place on earth to showcase the state's most impressive attributes than the civic vista that stretches from the state capital to the Olympics beyond. It is like our state's version of the National Mall, exemplifying our natural beauty, vast distances, and embodies the soul of our community.

Today, private developers plan to intrude into this grand civic vista by redeveloping the 50-year-old Capital Center Building (CCB). They hope that appearance peddling of new masses and exterior decorations will reshape public preconceptions of the CCB by disguising it as something other than the "Mistake by the Lake". But the CCB

redevelopment project can not disguise the urban problem of being in the wrong place, which can only be eliminated by removing the CCB from the urban landscape.

We must protect our state's most important civic vista by purchasing and removing the Capital Center Building from the earth. Stuart Ewen wrote that large scale urban vistas establish a cohesive ordered environment that is a unifying image of livability and prosperity for the community. Olympia's city council can ensure the qualities of this image by using an open public process that allows the public to vote on the fate of the CCB and represents the citizenry of Olympia and the state of Washington.

Tear it down.

Paul Christian Ingman,
Olympia

Trump: not an anomaly, but the result of America’s dysfunctional democracy

By Enrique Quintero

Twitter tongued and alt-right minded

The recent public statements by the president of the United States attributing moral parity to a neo-Nazi, white supremacist rally and counter-protesters in Charlottesville last month have generated well-deserved rejection and condemnation internally and abroad. Most of the criticism — understandably so — has been directed against the twitter tongued and alt-right minded persona of Donald Trump. His critics have pointed out his badly concealed racism and right wing proclivities, as well as his ‘non-presidential’ uncouth style, perceived as a faulty attribute for a leader of the nation. Justified as these critiques are, I would argue that by limiting our criticism to condemning Trump ‘the individual,’ this line of analysis has unintended serious consequences.

The political stance revealed in many of these critiques of Trump’s racist comments perceives the individual as detached from the different forces operating within a given society. If we are—as many of us maintain to be—truly interested in changing society for the better, our analysis must begin with society, not the individual. We must keep in mind that the individual—no matter how eccentric his/her personality may be—is socially constituted.

Consequently, all individuals exist fundamentally as ‘social types,’ for whom modes of behavior and ideological positions are hard to separate from class interests and motivations. This should be particularly clear when discussing individuals in positions of haute-power like the president of the United States. If we operate with a world view and a habit of the mind that separates Trump the person, from the totality of social and power relations currently existing in the nation—which in turn made possible his election—and ignore the specific ways in which president Trump places himself within those relations, we risk missing the central purpose of any serious critique, which is to change society (American society in this case), rather than the behavior of single citizen Donald Trump.

An aberration he is not

Centering politics on Trump the individual is not new. In fact, this perspective permeated the views of the Democratic Party throughout last year’s presidential campaign. From the lower echelons of its membership, to Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and the majority of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Democrats characterized Trump as an aberration of a yet-to-be-defined ideal American political persona. Trump was portrayed as an incompetent, misogynist buffoon.

This ‘personality centered’ characterization incapacitated the DNC from seeing Trump the candidate as an individual placed in historical specific circumstances that could enable him to agglomerate forms of legitimate popular discontent. This individual-oriented analysis also prevented many from seeing that given the internal crisis of the Republican Party at the time, Trump would become the best fit intermediary for big corporate capital in the White House.

With the exception of Bernie Sanders, no other Democrat understood the aspirations of the American masses during the campaign. The Democrats’ misreading of the social needs and material conditions of the electorate, added to their arrogant (Clintonesque) detachment from the masses, as well as their undeniable ties with corporate America, brought us Trump as president not as a buffoon.

In strictly political terms, this meant that Americans had put in charge of the nation an individual who merited not to be characterized primarily by his physical, verbal and ideological histrionics, but fundamentally as a ‘social type’ individual ready to deepen even further the already existing social inequalities in favor of the ruling classes of America. Historically, this has been the ‘class attribute’ most common among past American presidents. Within this context, Trump constitutes hardly an aberration vis a vis previous American past presidents, but rather the quotidian diet of the unbalanced menu of American Democracy served to the nation and the world since 1776, albeit a diet enhanced by steroids.

American national identity and the incestuous love for the Founding Fathers

For most Americans, determining what constitutes their national identity is a difficult task. Most nations have constructed their identities as a semi-cohesive whole, based in a claimed common history, shared ethnicity, or communal language. But when the same three indicators—history, ethnicity, and the evolution of a hegemonic language (English in our case) — are examined in the context of the historical past of the Unites States, these categories suggest not public symmetry but acute frictions obstructing the construction of a cohesive social whole as national identity.

In fact, the study of history, ethnicity and, the evolution of language(s) in America reveals the existence of drastically opposed socio-historical narratives in which the general interests of a mostly white population have forcefully prevailed over the interests of other human groups of color. The violent displacement of indigenous people and the birthmark of slavery upon which the nation was built, along with its transmutation into present day racism,

coupled with vast immigration movements, make sustaining any ethnic-based national common ground difficult.

It’s equally worth noticing that the economic expansionism of ‘white’ capitalism from East to West was accompanied by cultural expansionism of English in the linguistic domain. Nowadays, although English continues to be the ‘language of official business,’ the United States continues to be a linguistically diverse nation. Official US Census Bureau projections (presented at the Federal Forecasters Conference, Washington, DC, April 21, 2011) predicted a growing and significant increase of LOTE (Languages Other than English), particularly Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

So, if history, language, and ethnicity fail to provide cohesive grounds for the constitution of American identity, where does the source for such construction lie? Historically, the answer has been given by an unquestioned sense among large numbers of Americans, particularly but not exclusively in its dominant classes, of the absolute superiority of American Democracy. Reverence for American Democracy has been elevated to a level of quasi-religious dogma, producing a frame of mind in which abstract belief in the grandeur of American Democracy blinds people from seeing the existing living material conditions of most people in America.

National identity based on the idealized grandness of this political system emerges from its incestuous political proximity to a fetishized, uncritical version of the founding fathers’ role in shaping the legacy and structure of American democracy and its functioning. This form of political cathexis has permeated credulous American minds for over two hundred and forty years. It derails critical analysis — as in the case of many critics of Donald Trump—from historically located socio-economic factors, to real or imaginary personal attributes of individuals. In other words, the historical and material problems with American

Democracy are obscured—and the performance of an individual, even a blatantly racist one, gets measured against idealized standards of leadership.

Omme ignotun pro magnifico

It was Tacitus, senator and historian of the Roman Empire, who centuries ago noticed how anything little known is assumed to be wonderful. In his words: Omme ignotum pro magnifico. In this context, so long as American Democracy remains little known, it can continue to be presumed to be wonderful. However, as we examine the lofty image of American Democracy in relation to non-white, non-European cultures and people, internal contradictions become visible. As we systematically contrast the idealized versions of American democracy with the historical reality experienced by racial and ethnic minorities and low-income people under such democracy, perhaps we can alter the unexamined beliefs that inhabit the minds of too many proud but ill-informed citizens about the unquestioned splendor of the republic.

Overall, current American democracy is the result of a political system pigmented by the birthmark of slavery and exploitation. Neither the Civil War of the 1860’s nor the Civil Rights Movement nor the election of a black president have solved the problem of racism and discrimination in America. After all, this is the nation where we still need to be reminded that the lives of black people matter. Racism and discrimination are two forms of ancestral behavior of American democracy; these forms have now morphed into contemporary white-supremacy movements such as the Neo- Nazis, the Alt-Right, and the New KKK, as well as the twitters, phonemes, and utterances of the president. Upon closer examination, the Trump ‘anomaly’ is not such; it can be traced to the long-standing political legacy and structural malfunctions of American Democracy and American capitalism.

Enrique Quintero lives and writes in Washington state.



Some voting machines still have a few “bugs” to work out

Cartoon by Don Swanson

Little Hollywood

A blog about the local news and events of and around Olympia, Washington.

Fishburn Enters Race for Port Commissioner ♦ Olympia Starts Sea Level Rise Planning ♦ Olympia’s Star of David Returns Home ♦ Mistake on the Lake Plans Underway ♦ Chambers Prairie Grange May Be Saved ♦ Lacey City Council Hears Homeless, Advocates ♦ Seniors Denied Safe Access to Trail System

Tip or story idea? Email Janine Gates at Ja9gates@aol.com

Sea level

From page 2

can now imagine? In California's 2017 Guidance Document, a stark new reality receives very strong emphasis: the melting of the ice sheets, especially in Antarctica, makes it virtually impossible for scientists to make good predictions past the year 2030. The “probabilistic” models that have guided policy makers in the past, begin to diverge significantly after that.

The California coastal scientists proposed the following set of principles:

- Protect human life.

- Development and protection decisions made now, must not compromise the needs of future generations.
- Adaptation measures should be fair about who pays and who benefits.
- Environmental justice should be incorporated into adaptation planning.

In very practical terms, two issues come forward in the 2017 guidelines. First, no decision can be final. Both the situation and the science are changing so rapidly, it is essential to keep looking at the latest modelling. Adjustment based on new information must be built in. Planners must now plan to keep planning.

Second, lifecycle has become a very important concept. Projects should be

considered on the basis of how they, and the world, will look at the end of their planned lives, not just the beginning.

Hard experience with punishing storms, as well as California's more familiar acquaintance with dangerous earthquakes, informed other practical guidelines:

- Plan to phase relocation away from hazard areas.
- Don't build public works in known zones of sea level rise.
- Don't subsidize development in hazardous areas.
- Get on with retrofitting critical infrastructure.
- Consider removing barriers to landward migration of beaches and wetlands.
- Governments should acquire property strategically to discourage development in hazardous areas, encourage relocation, and support habitat migration.
- Encourage alternatives to shoreline armoring.
- Encourage human settlement in low risk areas, in ways that least compromise future generations.

None of these recommendations help with some of the hardest problems, such as how to get short-term office holders to think about long-term solutions, how to cope with the fact that so much of the Puget Sound shoreline is in private hands, how to get agencies to cooperate, where to find funding, or how to allow communities to move nimbly when the regulatory apparatus is already so cumbersome

or peculiar that it often doesn't work very well even without the stress of climate change.

Giving up old categories and ways we do business.

One thing is certain. We have to be prepared to give up on old categories and old ways of doing business. Inter-agency cooperation, with the city of Olympia, LOTT and the Port working together, is a good start. But under the principles of adaptive strategy, “Protect Downtown” is a misguided concept. A study focused only on downtown is no substitute for an assessment of the area as a whole. Downtown is vulnerable, that's for sure. But there are other vulnerabilities, and other goals. As a broader community, we need to talk about that.

Disaster hit Santa Cruz County with just two days of crazy heavy winter rain and king tides. Even as I walked the levee in 1982 with a kind of abstract but thrilling dread, I could not have imagined the scale of the horror that would hit New Orleans. Now we know. And we should know what's going to happen here.

It has also provided a basis for an even more recent, inevitably more complex State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document just published in April of 2017.

Helen Wheatley is a historian, activist and writer who lives in Olympia. She serves on the Hanford Advisory Board on behalf of the citizen watchdog group Heart of America Northwest.

Amorphous

An organism
As if alive
Cleanses quenches ebbs
Seeps into every space
Liquid tentacles reaching for perch
Upon an impervious land
That won't let it settle

This creature
Inviolable they used to say
Purity now eroded
Poisoned by greed
Forced into grimy action
Pumped and fracked
Wasted and defiled

A soul
Freed from its frozen barges
Melts drips cracks
Pure molecules tainted by salty ions
Nauseated by brackish bitter taste

Creeps beneath a parched earth
Spawning drought and thirst
Heat and levels rise
Vaporizing temperamental liquid
Into a cloying mist

A force
Placid no more
Its glacial speed revved up
Unleashed interplay
Matter energy fury
Precipitating deluges
Swapping torrents
Violent surges
Hell breaks loose
As this abused servant
Phases now so fickle
Fights back

Maureen Canny

Outsiders claim victory in getting Burien’s Prop 1 on the ballot

In January of this year, the members of the Burien, WA City Council adopted Ordinance 651 to clarify that city police not ask residents about their immigration status. The ordinance codified current practice in Burien to keep from entangling local law enforcement in the federal government's immigration jurisdiction. It also addressed the need to ensure that individuals who might otherwise interact with the police do not avoid doing so out of fear that their families might suffer.

Passage of such ordinances by local officials has attracted the attention of organizations seeking to make life impossible for immigrants to the US. One—the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI)—has been behind most local anti-immigrant efforts over the past few years. As an attorney for IRLI, Kris Kobach, litigated around the country “in defense of laws aimed at restricting the ability of people without papers to go about daily life, such as renting an apartment and seeking employment.” (Brennan Law Center statement, May 11, 2017) Kobach currently leads Trump's Voter Fraud Commission, but as Kansas Secretary of State oversaw voter suppression efforts in that state.

IRLI is the legal arm of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) which has been designated by

the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. FAIR's Director Dan Stein can be seen on the internet in a 2015 video telling viewers that without a moratorium on immigration “we’re going to lose everything about what it means to be an American.”

This summer, IRLI worked with Craig Keller, a Burien resident, on an initiative to repeal the law. In mid-August, IRLI “announced its victory in getting the City Council of Burien to place the city's dangerous sanctuary ordinance on the November ballot.”

IRLI's Executive Director commented that “with out extensive experience in the field of local enforcement of immigration law, IRLI was able to advise Mr. Keller in the initiative process, as well as assist in reviewing the proposition.” In other words, outsiders with an anti-immigrant agenda were able to pursue that goal via Mr. Keller.

The residents of Burien now must devote time and energy to educating voters about the organization behind Proposition 1, and its intent to cleanse America of people who live and work here but have not been granted legal status. One America, among other groups, is organizing to defeat the ballot initiative.

From news services

Political despair or empowerment? It’s your choice!

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's September 2017 TV program recognizes the anxiety, fear and despair that many Americans are feeling about our nation's current political crisis—and what we can do about that.

People are justified in feeling alarmed by the cruel attacks coming from the federal government and other right-wing sources. As a result, some people feel overwhelmed with anxiety, fear and despair. Besides doing things to take care of our own selves, many Americans also are choosing to empower themselves, work together with other people, and use nonviolent organizing to solve the problems at local and nationwide levels.

Three guests (Kathy Pruitt, Bob Zeigler, and Kathleen O'Shaunessy) help us explore this topic. All three of our guests have their ears to the ground, so they know what people are feeling and thinking. Our guests also have positive “can-do” attitudes about how to solve the problems. They suggest some remedies to help individuals in their own lives and also some remedies for helping our society overall to solve the problems that are being imposed upon us.

Please watch the program and/or read the very informative summary of what we said, plus some additional information. Visit the “TV Programs” part of www.olympiafor.org. Click the program title—“Political



Despair or Empowerment? It's Your Choice!" to watch the program. Click the Word document next to it to read a thorough summary of what we said and see a list of resources at the end.

Watch Powerfully Insightful and Important TV Program Through Your Computer or on TCTV

For 30 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has been producing powerfully informative TV programs on important issues. You can watch our current program and more than 160 of our previous ones through the Olympia FOR's website at your convenience, even if you don't watch our current program on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County (Mondays 1:30 pm, Wednesdays 5:00 pm, Thursdays 9:00 pm).

Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click the “TV Programs” link, and scroll down past the brief description of the current month's program. Previous programs are listed chronologically. Click the link for the program you want to watch. Also, next to each program's link is a link to a thorough summary of the program. Read that by clicking the “Word” and/or “pdf” link. You can watch more than 160 programs through www.olympiafor.org.

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

Janus v. AFSCME “Right to work” moves to US Supreme Court

In this season of budget cuts and privatization, unionized public workers are finding themselves on the front lines of defending a vast array of endangered programs. Likewise, as unions in the private sector shrink, government unions are more important than ever in providing an organized champion of the working class.

Another right-wing assault on working people

There are two reasons the right wing has its guns trained on the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), one of the largest U.S. public sector unions. This year, the National Right to Work Foundation is pushing Janus v. AFSCME, hoping to impose so-called “right to work” on all public unions.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to take Janus in late September. The justices probably will, and could rule by June 2018.

Trying to kill unions

Since the 1960s, public sector unionism has outpaced the private sector. Of 14.6 million unionists today, almost half are government workers, and their unionization rate is five times higher.

Making it easier for public unions to survive is the “agency” or “union shop” system.

When a work site is unionized, labor law requires that all bargaining unit workers be represented. Because this is a financial burden, many states require all public employees to contribute money for the benefits they receive. Workers don’t have to join the union, but must pay an “agency” or “fair share” fee. Some states also allow union shops, where all bargaining unit members are in the union. Typically these shops are stronger and bargain better contracts.

Legality of agency shop established

The legality of the “agency shop” and “fair share fees” for public unions was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark ruling, Abood v. Detroit Board of Education, in 1977. Janus seeks to overturn Abood and impose the open shop on all public sector unions.

Many states have open shop laws already for the public and private sectors, and they are a means to bust unions. Under open shop for public unions, every worker is represented when a union becomes the bargaining agent

for a work site, but no one is obliged to pay the union’s bargaining costs!

This divisive system encourages “free ridership.” Dues-paying members are set against those who don’t contribute. And since employers are free to reward or punish employees based on their views, membership typically declines.

Where unions perish, wages also fall. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports

Labor leaders must give the ranks a reason to “stick with the union” – by taking the offensive against all the attacks coming down on the working class.

the median weekly income in 2016 for non-union workers at \$802, compared to \$1,004 for those in unions.

Open shop in the South termed “right to starve”

Since the 1940s, open shops have ruled the U.S. South, creating a low-wage hell for workers. In the last decade, open shop laws have spread north, fueled by right-wing think tanks funded by corporate America. Proponents of Janus hope to push the open shop by pretending to defend the First Amendment rights of workers. The Right to Work Foundation suggests that unions deny workers “their right to bargain for themselves.” But most workers know individual negotiations with the boss go nowhere. Collective action is what gives them power.

In addition to the open shop, Janus supporters are in favor of rolling back minimum and prevailing wage laws, privatizing public education, eliminating pensions, gutting Medicare and more. It’s why these laws have earned the name “Right to Starve.”

The right depends on antidemocratic methods

Now in 28 states, most of these laws came on the books through anti-democratic methods. For example, Kentucky’s legislature rammed through its “right-to-work” bill as an “emergency” the first week of January 2017 – along with a law banning abortions after 20 weeks, and attacks on prevailing wage laws.

In Janus, the plaintiff is a child protective services worker from Illinois. But the lawsuit originated with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, who tried to bankrupt his state’s public unions by putting all workers’ “fair share fees”

in escrow until a court could rule on his power grab. A court did rule that Rauner had no standing to take money that wasn’t his, and so Mark Janus became the plaintiff.

Organize to defeat Janus

Unlike private sector unions, which gained federal recognition under the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, public unions won legal standing in the 1960s through militant strikes. But the fortunes of public and private sector unions are tied. For example, in 2011 Wisconsin’s Governor Scott Walker used Act 10 to deny collective bargaining rights to public unions. This severely weakened labor in Illinois.

By 2015, Walker rammed the open shop onto private sector unions. Today, Wisconsin’s labor ranks have shrunk 70 percent. Clearly, public and private unions stand or fall together.

In preparing for Janus, many public unions are starting internal organizing campaigns to “stick with the union,” or join it. What is disturbingly lacking are plans to actually fight Janus. A search of the AFL-CIO’s website turns up nothing on the subject.

Some unions are passing resolutions to oppose the case, but so far there is no publicized plan to mobilize mass

heat on the Supreme Court. Organized labor desperately needs a fighting strategy against Janus and the open shop on a national level.

Strengthen the rank and file!

Whether unions win or lose this round, the ranks must develop muscles for battles to come. The playing field is not level for unions under U.S. labor law, and as reactionary forces gain steam under Donald Trump, it will tilt against them even more. Labor leaders must give the ranks a reason to “stick with the union” – by taking the offensive against all the attacks coming down on the working class.

If public sector unions stand up, they won’t be alone. Millions of U.S. residents are feeling the pinch of austerity, and many are already rising to protest everything from Medicare cuts to government shutdowns. Organized labor is in a great position to coalesce with this beleaguered public. And if union heads won’t lead, the ranks must.

When the working class is fired up, unjust laws are knocked down. And bosses make concessions to secure the “labor peace” they need to make profits. Will this be easy? No. As Frederick Douglass said, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” This includes class struggle, so let the fightback begin!

Linda Averill writes for Freedom Socialist – A Feminist Journal . This article is reprinted from the 2017 August-September issue, Vol. 38, No. 3. Send feedback to the author at Avlinda587@gmail.com

Labor leadership responds to racists

In response to the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, to President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crissy Field on Saturday, August 26th, members of the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 made a decision not to work on the day of the event. Instead they chose to march to Crissy Field to “stop the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown.”

The Crissy Field rally was organized by Joey Gibson of Vancouver, Washington, leader of the so-called “Patriot Prayer,” who came to The Evergreen State College this past June. The Local’s complete resolution, passed on August 17, 2017, is below:

Resolution by members of Local 10 ILWU out of San Francisco

Whereas, the fascists, the KKK, Nazis and other white supremacists rallied and marched by torchlight in Charlottesville, whipping up lynch mob terror with racist, anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic slogans, and

Whereas, that attack resulted in one anti-racist counter demonstrator murdered and many others injured when one of the fascist bullies ran them down with a car, and

Whereas, President Trump’s whitewashing this violent, deadly fascist and racist attack saying “both sides are to blame”, and his attacking anti-racists for opposing Confederate statues that honor slavery adds fuel to the fire of racist violence, and

Whereas, the Klan, Nazis and other racist terrorists represent a deadly threat to African Americans, Latinos and immigrants, as well as Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people among many others, and directly to members of our

union and the labor movement as a whole, and

Whereas, the fascist “Patriot Prayer” group that staged violent racist provocations in Portland, Oregon and elsewhere, attracting Nazi and other violent white supremacists, has announced it will rally on Crissy Field on Saturday August 26, and

Whereas, far from a matter of “free speech”, the racist and fascist provocations are a deadly menace as shown in Portland on May 26 when a Nazi murdered two men and almost killed a third for defending two young African American women he was menacing; and our sisters and brothers in the Portland labor movement answered racist terror with the power of workers solidarity, mobilizing members of 14 unions against the fascist/racist rally there on June 4, and

Whereas, ILWU Local 10 has a long and proud history of standing up against racism, fascism and bigotry and using our union power to do so; on May Day 2015 we shut down Bay Area ports and marched followed by thousands to Oscar Grant Plaza demanding an end to police terror against African Americans and others; the San Francisco Bay Area is a union stronghold and we will not allow labor-hating white supremacists to bring their lynch mob terror here,

Therefore, ILWU Local 10 in the best tradition of our union that fought these rightwingers in the Big Strike of 1934, will not work on that day and instead march to Crissy Field to stop the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown and invite all unions and antiracist and antifascist organizations to join us defending unions, racial minorities, immigrants, LGBTQ people, women and all the oppressed.

I.T. wants your poems by Sept 8

Olympia’s Poet Laureate, in conjunction with the City of Olympia and Intercity Transit, seeks submissions of poetry that will inspire and encourage positivity and celebrate community for an upcoming project to publish 12 poems at bus stops and possibly on buses around Olympia.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submit up to 3 poems that you feel carry a message or image of positivity and vision of our best community.
- Type submissions into the body of an e-mail.
- Title the e-mail: Poem Submissions-[Your Full Name Here]
- E-mail submissions to: poetlaureate@ci.olympia.wa.us

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a bus
A bus that comes to carry us
To school or work—for me a must
But if on the bus a poem
I should spy
I wouldn’t really question why
Instead I’d let my wandering eye
Rest on it til I came to my stop!

Submissions will be accepted until September 8, 2017, 11:59 p.m.



Political assaults on higher education: The Evergreen State College experience

Ed note: Three Evergreen faculty members recently published a long article about the crisis at the college in Huffington Post. Their piece connects the dots between conservative attacks on diversity and equity programs, the far-right nationalist resurgence, retrenchment of government diversity programs and the events at Evergreen. WIP here reprints an excerpt that refutes reports that focus on white professor Bret Weinstein's claim that whites were "ordered" off campus, that he faced an unruly crowd of student protesters, had to leave the campus in "fear," and is now suing the college for \$3.8 million. You can find the full article at HuffPost Aug 11, 2017

The student protests were not just about one professor.
The spring-quarter protests at Evergreen were a long time in coming, and have multiple origins, just like student of color protests at other campuses around the country. Students, staff, and faculty of color have been trying for years to have their perspectives and experiences heard and respected by the administration (including former Provost Zimmerman), but have not been listened to. In the words of one African-American staff member, the protests “didn’t appear out of nowhere.”

In May 2015 two young African American brothers were shot by police in Olympia, not far from campus, after they allegedly shoplifted beer from a grocery store and assaulted a police officer with a skateboard. One man is paralyzed for life and both were sentenced to prison, while the officer was exonerated. This incident brought the message of the Black Lives Matter movement home to Evergreen in a particularly urgent way. Some students had participated in the Black Lives Matter movement before arriving at Evergreen, while others joined a community group that provided support to the wounded men. The event and its troubling aftermath focused community attention on problematic behavior by campus police, student conduct officers, and faculty.

In spring 2016, African American students and their allies brought their concerns about racism to the administration. The administration responded by forming the Equity Council and pledging to focus institutional resources on dismantling institutional barriers. In fall 2016 African-American students challenged a Convocation speaker to once again call attention to their concerns about institutional racism. In winter 2017 students objected to disciplinary action against black trans students, protested for equal pay for student employees who work in the diversity office and denounced the behavior of campus police who responded to a complaint against two Black students by rousting them from their beds and confining them in the police station for hours.

A proposal to address Latinx student recruitment and retention resulted in promises but little action. Many students of color felt disrespected and not listened to. Bret Weinstein came to symbolize a dismissive attitude that was being enacted in multiple areas of the college. By the time students disrupted Weinstein's class, in May 2017, they had been waiting for over a year — more than a quarter of their time at the college — to see their concerns addressed.

These bottled-up resentments are visible in the infamous May 23rd video of students confronting Weinstein over his Day of Absence claims, and the May 24th occupation of the president's

office. The students used tactics of disruption and confrontation that often occur in social movements, whatever their political orientation. They were far less unruly than protests of the 1960s that are remembered and romanticized by some of the same people who criticize students' actions today.

Weinstein's sensational claims that the president, faculty and staff were “kidnapped,” and that “mob rule” and “anarchy” ruled the campus have been vigorously denied by Evergreen President George Bridges. They certainly don't mesh with the reality of the negotiations we witnessed. Some disruptions were problematic and counterproductive, as the May 23rd video began to go viral, giving right-wing groups a meme they had been looking for to hammer Evergreen.

Still, a series of meetings attended by faculty, staff and hundreds of students produced welcome promises for reform. Many of us supported the proposed changes, and most of us thought the crisis would be resolved through a renewed commitment to dialogue and institutional change.

The Tucker Carlson interview unleashed a flood of hate toward Evergreen.

All that changed on May 26th, when Weinstein appeared on Tucker Carlson's show on FOX. The segment was labeled “Campus Crazyness” and appeared under the banner that Evergreen had ordered “All White People Leave Campus OR ELSE!”

Weinstein failed to correct Carlson's sensationalist distortions of the Day of Absence. He did not explain the larger reasons for the Evergreen protests, characteristically putting himself at the center of the story. Weinstein had the right to do the interview, but that didn't make it the right decision. His interview, and the subsequent tweets he sent about “black supremacists,” were judgment calls he knew full well would unleash vitriol and far-right threats against his colleagues.

Zimmerman would have us believe that for Weinstein's detractors, appearing on a conservative network should be taboo. He has argued that this is the mark of a culture that is intolerant of free speech. But the problem was never simply appearing on FOX; it was the show's use of a false message to mobilize a specific virulent audience. Although Tucker Carlson used to be a genuine conservative, in recent months he has become a darling of the alt-right (as documented by Haaretz, “How Fox News' Rising Star Tucker Carlson Is Winning Over White Supremacist America”). Media-Matters has written, “the neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer has been regularly posting clips of Carlson's interviews... the site's founder, calls Carlson ‘our greatest ally’.”

We feared the interview would be followed by a dramatic escalation in hate mail and far-right threats, and it was. Weinstein is entitled to voice his opinions, however ill-informed we consider them to be. But his participation in such a toxic forum demonstrated complete lack of interest in the safety and well-being of our community. Even after the Carlson interview went viral, Weinstein continued using Twitter and any media outlet available to push his extreme misrepresentations of the college — in the words of one faculty member, “pouring gasoline on the fire.” Continually casting himself as the victim, he ignored the violent counter-reaction created by right-wing media.

Evergreen was targeted by a far-right terrorist threat and rally.
On May 26, the same day Tucker Carlson aired Weinstein's interview, far-right activist Jeremy Christian slashed the throats of three men who had intervened to protect two African American women (one of them Muslim) from his assault on the Portland MAX train. Two of the men died. A month earlier, Christian had attended a protest of “Patriot Prayer,” an anti-Communist, anti-Muslim anti-immigrant group led by Joey Gibson. Only five days after the fatal attack, on May 31, Gibson appeared on the program of Seattle right-wing radio talk show host Dori Monson, promising that his group would come to the defense of Weinstein's “free speech” by protesting at Evergreen.

The toxic and intimidating atmosphere created by right-wing media inevitably led to a physical threat to Evergreen the next day on June 1st, when an anonymous person called to say he was on his way to “Evergreen University” to “execute as many people on that campus as I can get a hold of... You communist, scumbag town.” When law enforcement officers and the FBI decided the threat was credible, campus was evacuated for two days. It was closed on a third day when new threats were received.

Fears of a school massacre, just a week after the Portland slayings, permeated the campus. While most students left campus, students who lived in the dorms could not leave and did not trust campus police to defend them. The students reported hearing trucks gunning their motors on the back roads behind the dorms, and drivers shouting racist slurs. They describe holing up in dorm rooms for safety and finding it impossible to sleep.

In response, they organized a “Community Watch” and armed themselves with baseball bats. Like the disruptions of the previous week, the baseball bats were problematic and counterproductive, and after conversations with administration and faculty, the students put them down. But the threat of a massacre (never even mentioned by Zimmerman) offers some context to understand why some students might have seen the bats as a way to protect themselves. (A New Jersey man was later charged with “making terroristic threats” against the college.)

Two weeks after the terrorist threat, on June 15, Joey Gibson carried out his promised alt-right rally at Evergreen. Gibson and the media usually portray his “Patriot Prayer” group as merely pro-Trump “conservatives” or “libertarians.” But Gibson's rallies not only supported President Trump, but have served as cover for far-right ultranationalists and white supremacists gathered around his “Warriors for

Freedom” gang.

The college responded to the disruption by closing its doors; in the name of campus safety, staff were let out early and buildings were locked. The rally drew about 75-100 people supporting Weinstein and opposing campus equity and diversity programs. They were met by a counterpresence of more than 200 campus members and Olympia community supporters who carried banners opposing fascism and supporting “Community Love,” a slogan of the recent student of color protests.

A huge force of riot-clad Washington State Patrol officers separated the two sides with metal barricades. Gibson's followers displayed all the covert “dog whistle” expressions of fascism understood within the far-right movement, including the “Kekistan” Nazi flag symbol, and the alt-right frog meme Pepe, along with other fascist symbols. The Nazi “Atomwaffen Division” had put up posters around Evergreen the previous week. As Evergreen student Jacqueline Littleton headlined her *New York Times* op-ed, “The Media Brought the Alt-Right to My Campus.”

Devin Burghart, president of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights observed, “As someone who's monitored white nationalist activity for the last 25 years, I can state without reservation that the evidence of dangerous far-right activity at the Olympia rally is incontrovertible... The flags, banners, hats, t-shirts and other paraphernalia in the crowd represented a melding of white nationalists and Alt-Right activists with the far-right paramilitaries of the Three Percenters and militia-types.”

One of Zimmerman's HuffPost articles displayed a photo of the riot police without any context, implying they were there only because of the student protests. Other media outlets have repeated the untrue assertion that student protests were responsible for riot police presence, and for the closure of the campuses.

Far from defending “free speech” Gibson's rally intimidated members of the Evergreen community from remaining on their own campus to exercise their free speech rights. Any fascist demonstration on a progressive campus is calculated to intimidate those practicing social change and free speech. The far-right could have cowed the community into silence and invisibility — fortunately, it didn't.

The next day, due to security concerns, Evergreen held its annual graduation in a Tacoma stadium 40 miles from campus; during the ceremony elected student speakers of color and first-generation students celebrated their achievements and those of their peers. Acknowledging the urgency of

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Assaults

From previous page

the student protests, the faculty graduation speaker urged reflection “on the community we have not yet accomplished and are now being asked to accomplish, a community that has justice and inclusion at its center.”

Racist hate mail and threats targeted free speech at Evergreen.

As Littleton observed in her *New York Times* op-ed, Weinstein’s interview “became a call to arms for internet trolls and the alt-right. Online vigilantes from 4chan, Reddit and other forums swarmed to unearth Evergreen students’ contact information. They have harassed us with hundreds of phone calls, anonymous texts and terrifyingly specific threats of violence that show they know where we live and work.”

An anonymous poster on the 4chan “Politically Incorrect” page asked on May 31, “I live in the same town as evergreen college, does /pol/ have any special requests?,” and received numerous responses such as “Fertilizer bomb, “Burn a cross on the campus,” “Put some signs up that say we support our white professors, ni**ers get out,” “Swastika and 14/88 [white power] graffiti on campus,” and “100 4chan points for every dead student, 200 for professor, 500 for administrator,” and “Mustard gas please... Burn the entire fu**ing place to the goddam ground.” This was only one example of many, many such pages on far-right social media, which inspired numerous emails such as one received by two white women faculty on June 2: “You radical bit**es need to rein your asses in... The days of anti White male hatred, intolerance and bigotry are over.”

Many faculty who signed a statement in solidarity with student demands received similar emails and posts.

African American staff members and faculty were particularly singled out for racist abuse online and in emails. One black faculty member was called a “gorilla” and received numerous hate mail messages along the lines of “I hope you get fu**ing lynched you fat piece of ni**er sh*t.”

Enter into stillness

A little more than a year ago, a small group of women began to meet in silence at **1604 Union Ave SE Olympia** to “listen” for the goodness that desires to emerge in the eastside neighborhood. As insights coalesced, the community of **Brigid’s Well** was formed. We opened the property to the public for participation in the World Day of Prayer for Peace on the summer solstice last June. This opportunity for peaceful stillness was gladly embraced and well attended. It was apparent that a regular offering of this type was in order. Now, on a weekly basis, all are welcomed into the unifying wisdom of silence through Enter into Friday Stillness.

Come for five minutes, an hour, or spend all day, anytime between 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



For more information contact Kathleen **kbr.urbanfarmer@gmail.com** or 360-943-6264.

This professor was one of those who held their classes off campus after the shooter threat.

On July 22, alt-right agitator Milo Yiannopolous targeted the same faculty member in a Facebook video with 290,000 views. As per his usual tactic, he published contact information to explicitly direct harassment and violent threats toward her. She was deluged with 40-50 racist hate mail messages per day, including “no one owes you a fu**ing thing you fat c**t. Certainly not white people. The only thing you deserve is for someone to punch you in your fu**ing head.”

As Weinstein and the media complained about the students who yelled and called him “racist,” there was a deafening silence about the system-

alt-right agitator Milo Yiannopolous targeted the same faculty member in a Facebook video with 290,000 views. As per his usual tactic, he published contact information to explicitly direct harassment and violent threats toward her. She was deluged with 40-50 racist hate mail messages per day...

atic, directed intimidation of Evergreen faculty, staff, and students of color. The administration and Board of Trustees made no official statements condemning it, nor did the national media report on it, beyond a *New York Times* report of African-American staff and faculty “being mercilessly ridiculed online”—an understatement that masked the full reality.

What about the free speech of those who are part of the campaign to create greater equity and diversity on our campus?

What about their ability to do their jobs and express their academic freedom without fear of intimidation and violence?

What about the education of the students whose faculty and advisors have been forced to go into hiding or hold their classes in secret?

Throughout this crisis the viewpoint of one white professor and his supporters has outweighed the experience of a large community of students, staff, and faculty who have been deliberately terrorized, threatened, and demonized. Furthermore, the recent Portland murders, school shooter threat, and violent backgrounds of some of the alt-right activists who rallied at Evergreen, confirm the physical reality behind the threats. It is no accident that many readers of this article are hearing the other side of the story for the first time—because so many at Evergreen fear the emails, online abuse, and threatening calls they would have to endure if they speak out.

Evergreen is a target of political assaults that could affect all of higher education.

The drama unfolding at Evergreen quickly intersected with state and national efforts to constrain public colleges and universities. On May 31, State Representative Matt Manweller (political science professor at Central Washington University) submitted a “request for investigation” to the Washington State Human Rights Commission. He reiterated Weinstein’s assertion that he was subjected to race-based exclusion; the Commission chose not to take up the request. Manweller also sent a letter to Evergreen’s Director of Government Relations, stating, “Evergreen students are an embarrassment.” He called the college leadership cowardly and complicit, adding, “My colleagues and I have had enough of this ridiculous behavior fostered at our public institutions.” A few days later, with the support of 14 Republican representatives,

he submitted House Bill 2221, proposing “transitioning The Evergreen State College to a private four-year institution of higher education.” Senator Fortunato introduced the companion Senate Bill 5946 to reduce state support for the college in a planned regression of funding over five years, culminating in a sale to a private party, echoing similar proposals from the 1970s and ’80s.

Manweller’s bill sends a message to public higher education in our state that it is being scrutinized, and threatened with budget cuts, privatization, receivership or closure. This is not Manweller’s first attempt; last year he introduced a bill to “protect free speech” in Washington’s public colleges that was characterized by higher education advocates as “legislative overreach.”

But this spring’s drama at Evergreen provided another occasion to go after public higher ed. Four days after Evergreen’s graduation, the State Senate’s Law and Justice Committee convened a work session on “Safety at The Evergreen State College.” Besides Manweller; invited speakers were President Bridges, a faculty member who spoke as a proxy for Bret Weinstein, and representatives of the campus, county and state police.

The session framed the Evergreen story as a crisis of law and order, with scant attention directed to racial equity, educational mission, or the safety and well-being of all students, staff and faculty. Yet none of the faculty, staff or students who have been put at risk by threats to the campus were invited, and public comment was not permitted. Although the “Evergreen bills” were never brought to the floor, they reflect a readiness on the right to summarily discipline colleges and universities with invasive scrutiny, if not full-scale penalties or even dissolution. Still Rep. Drew Hansen, Democratic chair of the House Higher Education Committee signaled that “We’re not going to end public funding at Evergreen, or any other public university, because of student protests.”

Higher education’s struggles to overcome institutional barriers to equity are taking place in an increasingly hostile environment at the federal level as well. On July 27 the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform convened a hearing on “the undermining of free speech in higher education.” The committee heard from several invited witnesses, including Michael Zimmerman.

Committee Chair Representative Jordan stated that his committee was “committed...to help colleges reinstate freedom of speech as an important protection.” Although Zimmerman argued against the “historical silenc-

ing” of marginalized people, he also singled out for criticism a ‘radical left’ among college professors, and the rise of “a post-modern agenda,” which is “causing great harm.” He called on college administrators to show “strength,” echoing groups such as Campus Reform that are positioning Evergreen as a test case for what happens when progressive campuses are not properly disciplined.

Free speech works both ways.

The double standard has been astonishing, as we watch people who claim to be “even-handed” in their politics uphold the “free speech” of white supremacists, while condemning as “intolerant radical leftists” those who exercise their own free speech to challenge hate speech. What has been happening at Evergreen is a conflict between different parties and beliefs, with both sides exercising free speech. Nevertheless, some media have equated having an unpopular political opinion on a campus to being a marginalized racial or gender “minority.” Radio host Bryan Fischer lionizes Bret Weinstein as “Rosa Parks” for “refusing to go the back of the diversity bus.”

A diversity of ideological viewpoints is not the same as diversity of identities. Having a political viewpoint that doesn’t match the majority viewpoint on a campus does not lead to a shorter life span, nor does it create fear of being assaulted in a routine police stop, or lead to higher suicide rates. Identities connected to race or LGBTQ status do all these things in 21st-century America.

As one Evergreen staff member described the student protesters’ decisions, “it is clear that if you are not a white college student, you will certainly pay for your mistakes long after the 30 minutes have passed and be described in terms that cement the fear people have about angry or insistent people of color. No one will ever focus on what the reasons for that anger might be, but rather the fact that they dared to voice it.”

Evergreen is not the first place where white moderates have criticized people fighting against injustice more than the injustice itself. These words from Martin Luther King’s 1963 “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” were never truer than today:

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can’t agree with your methods.’

The full article is available at [HuffPost Aug 11, 2017.](#)

Real help with small legal challenges

Community-Assisted Resources for Equity (CARE Fund) was formed a year ago primarily to help people pay small fines to get their drivers’ licenses reinstated. The fund’s purpose has expanded to many other court-related expenses that, if not paid, interfere with a person’s ability to get on with life.

To date, the Olympia CARE Fund has distributed about \$3,000 and has paid for:

- court fines so cases can be closed
- x-rays for an inmate who might need surgery

- monthly bus passes for dozens of people so they can get to their court appointments; and
- remaining fees and fines for a dozen people who were able to get their drivers’ licenses reinstated.

Small amounts of money can make a HUGE difference in someone’s life!! If you would like to be part of the group that maintains the Fund, helps it grow, and authorizes disbursements, please get in touch with Wendy Tanowitz at 360-915-9035. You will help to mitigate the cruelty of the system and learn a lot about how the criminal injustice system treats people with few resources.

Putting the climate necessity defense in front of juries

by Ted Hamilton

By denying climate activists the right to present their cases to a jury, judges are cutting democracy out of political trials

Political activists challenging the ascendancy of President Donald Trump are increasingly availing themselves of the criminal legal system as a means of defending their ideas and confronting government repression. From Inauguration Day protesters who have pledged to go to trial to combat unprecedented felony charges to climate campaigners seeking ratification of their anti-fossil fuel industry actions through the climate necessity defense, courtroom activism has become an important front for the grass-roots opposition. But cases from the climate movement suggest a worrying trend: judges are denying climate activists the right to present their cases to a jury, effectively banning discussion of the world's most pressing crisis from the courtroom.

A new wave of protester-defendants

Building on a healthy tradition of criminal trials as political showdowns and relying on American's fascination with the criminal process, the new wave of protester-defendants seeks to use the jury trial as a supplement to our broken electoral and lobbying systems. They're in good company. In 1733, a jury refused to convict New York newspaper editor John Peter Zenger for violating a law that made it a crime to criticize the royal governor; the case was foundational in developing freedom of the press. In 1969, the infamous Chicago Seven conspiracy trial against political activists involved in protests at the Democratic National Convention served as a crucial dramatization of the cross-cutting political and cultural attitudes of the day.

In political trials as in others, juries play an essential role. They provide a check against the bias of prosecutors and judges. They democratize an otherwise elitist and hard-to-understand forum. They give citizens the opportunity (or at least the obligation) to engage in a major part of civic life.

The 6th Amendment guarantees trial by jury

Crucially, juries guarantee that defendants, including political activists, will be judged by their peers rather

than by faceless bureaucrats or punitive authoritarians. The Sixth Amendment requires that “in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury.” In *Chambers v. Mississippi*, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to present evidence to a jury was a basic requirement of due process. Availing themselves of this right, protesters can ask their neighbors judge the value or criminality of their activism.

At least, that's how juries are supposed to work.

Steadily eroding the guarantee of a jury trial

The reality is much less inspiring. In a country that claims to have invented modern democracy, more than ninety-five percent of criminal cases end in guilty pleas. In other words, for every twenty times that a prosecutor accuses someone of a crime, she might have to go to trial once. The jury trial is thus a feature of a tiny minority of the many millions of charges that pass through federal and state courthouses every year. So juries may be essential, but they're also ornamental. Their democratic function has been nearly eliminated from the process of proof and punishment in modern America. (That function, it should be noted, has always been compromised by structural racism in the criminal legal system and the weakness of rules guaranteeing a fair cross-section of the community in the jury pool.)

And even when defendants do demand a trial—as is the case with the current crop of climate advocates turned courtroom activists—judges often do their best to suppress jury participation, reserving important questions of proof for their own discretion.

This is scary for political protesters, and it's bad for the last traces of democratic participation that still remain in our criminal legal system.

Using the climate-necessity defense

Two recent cases from the world of climate activism illustrate the bad faith and weak arguments behind courts' suppression of juries. Both involve attempted use of the climate necessity defense: a legal argument that protester-defendants use to justify their actions by showing that it was necessary to commit an act of civil disobedience

to avert the threat of climate catastrophe. It's a relatively new strategy for climate activists, but political necessity defenses have succeeded in the past for anti-nuclear power protesters, AIDS patient advocates, and critics of American foreign policy. Because the climate necessity defense requires decisions about the seriousness of the climate crisis and the appropriate means of addressing it, it naturally invites the participation of the jury, which in our legal system is tasked with deciding questions of fact and in making the final assessment of guilt.

Washington's “Delta 5” argue the necessity of their actions

Last January, climate activists known as the “Delta 5” brought a climate necessity defense after blocking an oil train in Bellingham, Washington. They argued that their protest was necessary to prevent the safety risks associated with oil-by-rail and to inspire grassroots action against climate change, which government regulators had failed to adequately address. At trial, the activists called expert witnesses on rail safety and climate science and made a compelling argument that legal alternatives to civil disobedience had failed because of government intransigence and corruption

Even though evidence of necessity had already been presented, the Delta 5 jury would only be allowed to acquit by reason of necessity if the judge decided to include the necessity defense in his jury instructions (which typically describe the charged crimes and guide the jury on how to follow the law in their deliberations). It didn't seem a high bar to clear: in Washington, defendants must offer “substantial evidence” of necessity in order to have a jury instructed on the defense. As in other jurisdictions, this threshold test is simply designed to ensure that courts don't waste their time by asking juries to consider any and every justification that a defendant might come up with. A defense is barred only if no reasonable juror could possibly accept the evidence offered to support it.

The judge excludes consideration of necessity – “no juror would accept it”

But in the Delta 5 case, the judge decided — after four days of testimony — that the defendants had failed to present sufficient evidence to merit a necessity instruction. Recognizing that the defense had amply described the realities of climate change, the

judge nonetheless ruled that “[t]he evidence presented from the defendants fails to establish that there was no reasonable legal alternative to their acts.”

Maybe he was right. Maybe no reasonable juror could have believed that the protesters' actions were necessary, and it was okay for a judge to make that decision for the jury.

Except — well, journalists and defendants spoke to jurors after the trial. And they confirmed what the judge had refused to believe. According to Earth Island Journal: “In the halls outside the courtroom, three members of the jury admitted they would have acquitted the defendants had they received a necessity instruction from the judge. They also thanked the defendants for giving them an education on climate change, agreed to support the Climate Disobedience Center [a climate activist group] in future cases, and signed up with defendant Abby Brockway to lobby the state on oil trains.”

Jurors share defendants' concern over climate change

Other sources likewise reported how the jurors agreed with the defendants and came to share their concern over climate change. Put simply, the judge's ruling was incorrect: reasonable jurors did believe that the defendants had no legal alternative to their protest, and they would have acquitted by reason of necessity. There was no reason to withhold the necessity instruction.

(The Delta 5 are currently appealing their conviction. My organization, the Climate Defense Project, plans to file an *amicus* brief supporting their argument.)

This sad story repeated itself this month in another Washington climate activist case. Ken Ward stood trial on felony charges of sabotage and burglary for entering a Kinder Morgan pipeline facility in Anacortes, Washington last October and turning a valve to cut off the flow of tar sands oil. He acted in coordination with other so-called “Shut It Down” protesters, who together succeeded in temporarily blocking all tar sands oil flowing into the United States from Canada, and whose trial will unfold over the course of the summer and fall. (Read more about Ward's decision to participate in the Shut It Down event in his essay for Earth Island Journal.)

Another judge prohibits use of necessity defense as failing the “reasonable person” test

In January, Ward's judge ruled that evidence of climate necessity would be prohibited at trial, making the same call that no reasonable juror would

Working towards health and equity in Sierra Leone

Monday, Sept 11, 2017, 7 pm, Traditions Fair Trade Café
No admission charge but contributions to PIH welcomed

This will be an opportunity to hear stories regarding the fight for better access to health care, and a more equitable world, from Sierra Leone, West Africa. Mara Kardas-Nelson is the Director of Community-Based Programs at Partners in Heath (PIH) in Sierra Leone. She will speak about PIH's work in the country, from its initial efforts in the fight against Ebola to its current work strengthening the country's health system.

PIH's work is rooted in social justice, with the belief that the world's poorest also deserve the world's best healthcare. Mara will speak about the organization's commu-

nity-based work with Ebola survivors, people living with HIV and TB, and the country's poorest and most marginalized. PIH's project in Sierra Leone is part of the organization's work in many different regions to support equitable health care at a time when international health care is being defunded and undermined.

There will be ample time for discussion. Snacks will be offered. There is no admission charge, but people wishing to contribute financially to PIH will be able to do so.

Contact: Lin Nelson or Peter Kardas 360-956-1358

Guam

- Give us an “M”: for Mass incineration
- Give us an “A”: for Ask me no questions, fake news
- Give us a “K”: for “Keep Yourself Alive” (by Queen, great song!)
- Give us an “E”: for Empire
- Give us some space, already
- Give us another “A”: for Another civil war
- Give us another “M”: for Money. What else matters?
- Give us another “E”: for Expendable. Who isn't?
- Give us an “R”: for Racism. No room for black and brown in the red white and blue
- Give us an “I”: for Narcissism
- Give us a “C”: for Capitalism
- Give us a third “A”: like a Canadian at a baseball game
- And space, a little more space
- Give us a “G”: You know where this is Going
- Give us an “R”: An “R”, eh? Repeat it, like a semi-automatic
- Give us the third “E”: Thirty years ‘til the fall of the first?
- Give us another damn “A”: for the Alt-Right. Not the brightest Barts in the basket of deplorables
- Give us a “T”: for Trump, but only in between the I and MFA
- Space Space Lebensraum Space
- Give us an “A”: Again?
- Give us a “G”: God, not again!
- Give us an “A”: At least it will end soon
- Give us an “I”: I know...the end of the world
- Give us an “N”: Nuclear

by broken (Give me a hiss...for satire, Stupid)

As Yemen endures catastrophe, Saudi exit may offer hope

By Tom Wright

While Syria's civil war has dominated our media's reporting from the Middle East, Yemen's grave and multifaceted crises have escaped the attention of most Americans. As the country enters a humanitarian and environmental calamity, a new signal from Saudi Arabia may offer a glimmer of hope in Yemen's civil war.

As in Syria, Yemen's pro-reform Arab Spring demonstrations in 2011 were attacked by the government, and escalated to civil war. This brought outside intervention from regional and world powers. And like Syria, the country has endured widespread suffering and destruction. The U.S., as one of the players, shares some responsibility: its sometimes-murky role may be getting even more complicated, as the Trump Administration is now reportedly dispatching ground troops to the conflict.

A strongman supported by the U.S.

Necessity defense

From previous page

buy Ward's argument. (At the same hearing, the judge also called into question the reality of climate change). Despite the severe limitation that this put on Ward's ability to defend himself, the jury in Ward's first trial was unable to reach a verdict on either charge, resulting in a mistrial. This should have been a clear signal that reasonable people might find Ward's argument compelling. Nonetheless, the judge refused to allow necessity evidence in a second trial, which ended last month with a conviction for burglary and another hung jury on the sabotage charge. (My organization assisted in Ward's defense.)

Jurors again look for reasons to acquit

Just as in the Delta 5 case, post-trial polling of the jurors in this case immediately revealed the error of the judge's rulings. Members of the jury told Ward that in deliberations they had sought, but failed to find, a legal way to acquit him — precisely the purpose of the necessity defense. Like the Delta 5 jurors, they had learned a great deal about climate change and intended to take action to address it — precisely the purpose of courtroom activism.

These two cases clearly demonstrate that judges in necessity cases are ruling incorrectly when they assume that the defense's elements cannot be met because reasonable jurors would not accept them. That judgment is incorrect as a factual matter. Going forward, advocates must press judges to be more honest in their necessity assessments, and judges in turn must consult the evidence from past cases to see that climate necessity defenses are not the fanciful exercises they imagine them to be — they're accurate portrayals of what many Americans feel about the seriousness of the climate crisis.

(The only case in which a jury has been allowed to consider the climate necessity case came in Britain in 2008. The jury acquitted the protester-defendants).

The political role of juries

Just as importantly, courts need to stop suppressing the political role of juries in the criminal process. Juries have a right to hear and defendants have a right to have heard the ultimate questions in these activist trials,

Yemen, the region's poorest nation, had long been controlled by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a corrupt military strongman who enjoyed U.S. support. Major demonstrations in 2011, led by the Islah party, a Sunni faction backed by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, demanded reform of social conditions and an end to Saleh's corrupt rule. As in Syria, police responded by shooting down protesters in the streets. Escalating protests led to Saleh's removal, and the presidency passed to the Vice President, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

But conflict persisted. The Shi'i-led Ansar Allah, or more commonly the Houthi movement, named for their leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, had been battling President Saleh for a decade, but repaired their relationship with the now-ousted leader, who joined their armed forces in resisting the government. The Houthis eventually seized the northern capital of Sana'a, and President Hadi fled to the southern city of Aden.

no matter whether those questions are politically rife. Judges must stop making arbitrary rulings to avoid testimony or deliberation on controversial topics. By preventing juries from making judgments on difficult political propositions, judges are deciding those questions themselves — a slap in the face of the legal system's democratic ideals. Even if juries are imperfect vessels of popular deliberation, they're better barometers of public opinion than highly educated, professionally risk-averse jurists.

As we see more activists taking their campaigns from the streets to the courts, it's more important than ever that the jury system work. If criminal trials are prevented from acting as a venue for political debate, we will have lost yet another erstwhile civic forum to elite control.

“A wholesale failure of the legal system...”

Not all judges place themselves above the jury. In 2015, Alfred Goodwin, a judge on the federal Ninth Circuit, issued a clarion call to his fellow members of the bench to address climate change. Reviewing a history of climate change cases decided on technicalities and arcane doctrines, Goodwin wrote: “The current state of affairs . . . reveals a wholesale failure of the legal system to protect humanity from the collapse of finite natural resources by the uncontrolled pursuit of short-term profits. “

The legal system is a necessary, but by itself insufficient, part of our response to the climate crisis. And the way in which we address climate change is intimately related to how we tackle other social issues, many of which will also find their way to criminal courthouses as activists resort to civil disobedience. The stakes of these cases are simply too high for them to be decided by judges splitting hairs.

Let the juries back into the courtroom — and the let the activists stand in front of them, making their best case for the future.

Ted Hamilton is a writer and co-founder of the Climate Defense Project, a non-profit organization that provides legal support to the climate movement. This article is reprinted with permission from Earth Island Journal, July 17, 2017.

Saudi Arabia invades, supported by the U.S. and U.K.

At this point, Saudi Arabia, with U.S. and British support, launched a military invasion. The U.S. objective had focused on the elimination of Al Qaeda's powerful forces in Yemen (Al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula, or AQAP), which had attacked the U.S. Cole in Yemen's Aden harbor in 2000 and killed 17 servicemembers. The U.S., like the Saudis, also feared that success for the Shi'i-dominated Houthis could give the Iranians a foothold in the Gulf.

With the armed intervention of outsiders, Yemen's problems multiplied. The Saudis undertook large scale bombing attacks, more than a third of which struck civilian, not military, targets, according to human rights groups. With weapons supplied by the U.S. and Britain, the Saudis have bombed targets such as farms, schools, hospitals, markets, mosques and water infrastructure.

Shifting approach from the U.S.

Direct targeted assassinations (including of American citizens) were a notorious weapon used by the Obama Administration, which produced many civilian casualties. Obama finally restricted U.S. weapon deliveries to the Saudis after they bombed a funeral procession in Yemen, killing and injuring 150 people. Trump has revised U.S. sales and announced a \$110 billion arms deal with the kingdom after his recent visit; the Senate narrowly confirmed Saudi arms sales in June. In Britain, the High Court last month defeated the efforts of human rights groups, by affirming British weapons sales to the Saudis.

Although the U.S. has supported the Saudis in the war against the Houthi, some in the American government reportedly favor supporting the Houthi, as they are also fighting Al Qaeda, as well as the Islamic State forces operating in Yemen. Regardless, the Houthi, who are sophisticated and battle-hardened, appear to have made major advances in their effort to take over Yemen. They have launched missiles deep into Saudi territory, and worn down Saudi enthusiasm for continuing its war. Widespread public revulsion at Saudi and American attacks have also contributed to Houthi success. Although as Shi'i they constitute a slim minority, they appear to have gained the upper hand in a Sunni-majority Yemen, while still trying to defeat a secessionist movement in the country's south.

An end to devastation from the U.S.-supported Saudi bombing?

This week, Saudi Crown Prince Salman has reportedly leaked to two former U.S. officials his desire to abandon the Saudi war. This news has led many in Yemen to celebrate, in hopes that at least the largest source of outside armed attacks will come to an end, violence which has blocked world efforts to alleviate major food, health and environmental crises.

Fully 70% of Yemen's population, some 14 million people, are now in need of humanitarian aid. 17 million face food insecurity, with 7 million people relying entirely on food aid. And the destruction, sometimes intentional, of the nation's water infrastructure has led to what the World Health Organization calls “the worst cholera outbreak in the world.” As of August 14, WHO reported an astonishing 500,000 cases.

Saudi airstrikes escalate the humanitarian crisis

With help from the U.S., England, France, and others, Saudi Arabia has carried out aerial strikes that have killed **over 10,000 people** in Yemen's civil war. The number includes nearly 4000 civilians, and over 3 million people displaced. The US has provided Saudi Arabia with intelligence and refueled the planes making the strikes. In April of this year President Trump authorized a disastrous raid into central Yemen, killing civilians, including several children, and a Navy Seal.

The war has been catastrophic for the people of this small country not only due to the death and devastation visited on them courtesy of US bombs delivered by the Saudis. As repeated bombing and fighting have destroyed bridges, roads, hospitals, sewage systems, and factories, malnutrition is rampant; garbage is everywhere and wells relied on for drinking water are increasingly polluted. In this environment, an outbreak of cholera has already killed nearly 2000 people and infected 500,000. In more than a decade of seemingly unending humanitarian crises, the crisis in Yemen is now deemed the world's worst.

According to researchers writing in the Lancet, “Houthi-controlled areas have been disproportionately affected by the conflict, which has created conditions conducive to the spread of cholera.” They explained, “Saudi-led airstrikes have destroyed vital infrastructure, including hospitals and public water systems, hit civilian areas, and displaced people into crowded and insanitary conditions. A Saudi-enforced blockade of imports has caused shortages of, among other things, food, medical supplies, fuel and chlorine, and restricted humanitarian access.”

The worst of the humanitarian crisis, in other words, is on our conscience as suppliers of the Saudi attack. And cholera isn't the only water-related crisis, as an outright water shortage is looming as an even worse problem.

Yemen's water crisis, which predated the war but which was greatly exacerbated by it, may lead it to become, in the words of the Times of London, “the first nation to run out of water”—and the capital city of Sana'a could be the first capital to run dry. The city's water supply is obtained entirely from groundwater, which is being rapidly depleted, with climate change contributing to a decline in the rainfall that replenishes it. in Sana'a, according to U.N. research, “the water table was 30 meters below surface in the 1970s but had dropped to 1200 meters below surface by 2012.”

The fate of the people of Yemen

Yemen's civil war is not over yet, despite the hoped-for Saudi moves. Houthi forces still face the opposition of the Sunni Islah party (with which they had briefly allied in the Arab Spring); as well as that of Hadi's ousted government in exile (still backed by the Saudis) ; of southern secessionists; and of AQAP and ISIL forces in Yemen. Crises of poverty, unemployment, refugees, disease, and food and water shortages will then confront them should they take power. Whether the people of Yemen could then begin to emerge from the calamities of war remains to be seen.

Tom Wright lives in Olympia and does a lot of interesting things besides writing about issues from the perspective of someone who reads books that were published before the year 2000.

Works In Progress

America at war today

Country	Deaths in 2016*	Deaths in 2017
Syria	49,742	17,537
Iraq	23,898	11,145
Afghanistan	23,539	6257
Somalia	5,575	2603
Yemen	1375	932

America at war tomorrow?

Pakistan • North Korea • Iran • Venezuela

None of America’s wars today meet the legal criteria for our country to take military acation against another country. Our leaders have freed themselves from any constraint on using military force anywhere – everywhere - in the world.

Since Vietnam, United States military actions have taken place as part of UN ac-tions, pursuant to congressional resolutions, or within the confines of the War Powers Act passed in 1973, over the objections (and veto) of President Richard Nixon. The War Powers Act restricted a President’s power to send troops into combat without Congressional approval. The President can send troops into battle only for 60 days without a declaration of war or specific authorization by Congress.

The only other authority is the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force that gave a President authority only to use “force against those nations, organiza-tions or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided terror-ist attacks that occurred on Sept 11, 2001.”

* Figures for deaths are from Wikipedia, Deaths from on-going armed conflicts, by country for 2016 and 2017. They do not convey the level of devastation and deaths to come.

