



Volume 28, No. 6

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

November 2017

Constraints of justice: Report from the valve-turner trial in North Dakota

Emily Lardner and Enrique Quintero

"Marx said that revolutions are the locomotive of world history. But perhaps things are very different. It may be that revolutions are the act by which the human race travelling in the train applies the emergency brake." (Walter Benjamin)

Cavalier, North Dakota: Work doesn't stop at sunset

Fall was just beginning to settle in when we arrived in Cavalier, North Dakota, a rural town with a 2010 census of 1,302 people. Six years later, Cavalier's population had decreased by 61. Maybe it's the economy or maybe it's the weather—hard to tell. In *Invisible Cities*, Italo Calvino argued that each city receives its form from the city it opposes. In North Dakota, the vastness of the rural landscape doesn't offer any such opposition.

But Calvino also realized that cities, like languages, can be deceptive, and the deceptive nature of Cavalier lies

in the contrast between the dormant atmosphere of empty streets and the nonstop harvesting and transportation of beets from fields to processing plants. We are staying in the town of Grafton, south of Cavalier, for the five days of the valve-turner trial.

As we drive to and from Cavalier, we see beet-filled trucks rumble by, clusters of vehicles parked in fields, growing mountains of beets in lots along the highway. Beet harvest ensues at a relentless pace, day and night, belying the quiet streets within the boundaries of Cavalier proper. The highway between Grafton and Cavalier is muddy. Loose beets decorate intersections and informal roads created by trucks leaving the fields. We look up "beet harvesting" on the internet, learning about big ventilation tubes under the mountains of beets, the demand for seasonal labor, the opportunity to earn \$2500 in two weeks.

The trial of Foster and Jessup

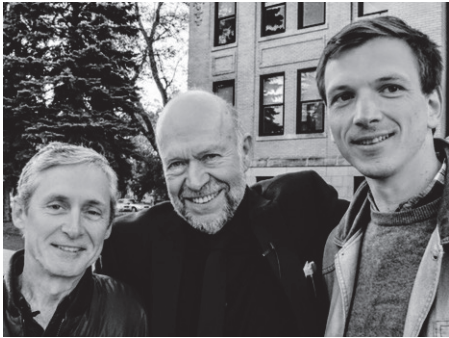
Last October, as part of a four-state

act of civil disobedience, Michael Foster closed a valve on an oil pipeline in Pembina County, ND. The pipeline, owned by TransCanada, carries oil from the Bakken tar sands. TransCanada had been notified in advance that the valve would be closed so the pipeline could be shut down. When law enforcement arrived, Foster turned himself in. Sam Jessup was present to live stream the valve turning and the ensuing arrest.

The Pembina County Courthouse in Cavalier is a stately old building with ornate murals depicting justice in its many forms. It will be the site for the trial of Foster and Jessup. In this building, the duplicity of North Dakota

law will become visible as the State exercises its right to act as both victim and executioner.

Jessup and Foster face a range of charges, but in a North Dakota twist, the charges are wrapped in the language of conspiracy. Conspiracy is loosely defined by law, amenable to wide application, a powerful weapon for state prosecutors. It requires two people—one who knew what the other person planned to do; one person who in some way supported, or did not try to prevent, the other from acting. Conspiracy bumps the charges higher—into felony territory. A defense attorney describes conspiracy to prospective jurors as "an old law used to prosecute unpopular people."



Dr. James Hanson, Tom Hastings, and Sam Jessup

Carpenters want contractors to meet area standards

Jose Perry

On Wednesday afternoon, October 25, Carpenters conducted an informational picket in front of the offices of Olympia Construction at 1303 4th Avenue East in Olympia. Our picket was an effort to educate the public about the fact that **some** contractors in our construction industry are willing to pay a fair wage with a medical insurance package and a pension.

Olympia Construction doesn't pay area standard. Contractors like Olympia Construction who don't meet this standard have an unfair advantage over those that do. It also means that the lives, families and communities of working carpenters get hurt when carpenters are paid substandard wages. It can also mean unsafe working conditions on the job as carpenters are often asked by such contractors to bring their own tools and gear to the work site.

These unfair contractors also belong to entities like Master Builders or sit on the city's planning organizations, which gives them undue power and influence. For example, Mike Auderer, the owner of Olympia Construction, is a member of the Olympia Planning Commission.

The Carpenters Union has always been an advocate for workers and the voiceless. All we ask is that Olympia Construction pay its employees the area standard wage and benefit package.

Jose Perry is an organizer with the Pacific Northwest Council of Carpenters. You can get more information about area standards by calling him at: 360 480-4200.



Carpenters bringing the word on 4th Avenue. Photo by Dan Leahy

Geology, economics and politics: a fossilized mix

The geology of North Dakota puts it in the middle, almost literally, of the struggle to halt the spread and limit the use of fossil fuel infrastructure. At this exact moment the fossil fuel industry is the most significant factor driving economic growth in the state. Writing for *US News* in March 2017, Mark Silva observed that oil and gas production accounted for nearly 16% of the state's economy in 2014, as compared with 2% ten years earlier. The catalyst for that change was the advent of fracking, and the possibility of horizontal drilling into the Bakken formation.

In terms of North Dakota politics, the current US Attorney for the District of North Dakota, Christopher C. Meyers, uses the acronym V.O.I.C.E. to highlight the top priorities of that office:

V is for violent crime: The U.S. Attorney's Office promises to use all available resources to prosecute violent crimes.

O is for organized the crime: Mr. Meyers promises relentless pursuit of criminal organizations and specifically calls out criminal activity in the Bakken region, including "drug, firearm, and human trafficking."

I stands for Indian Country, and here Mr. Meyers articulates a commitment to public safety in tribal communities.

C stands for children—the US Attor-

► **Constraints**, continued on page 8

Works In Progress

Works In Progress is a free, 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: The aim of WIP is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, social, and environmental realms and across races and genders. WIP does this in part by providing a voice for those most affected by systems of inequity and the exclusionary practices that seek to silence the victims of injustice and the powerless.

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: Attach your work in a separate word document attached to an email that goes to: olywip@gmail.com. Please use Calibri (body) 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

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

- Workers in Progress**
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- Graphic Design,** Advertising, Layout: Lee Miller
- Photography and Artoons:** Amy Shull, Don Swanson
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- Subscriptions:** Jeff Sowers
- Website and Social Media:** Anna Zanella

Submission Deadline Next Issue
Sunday, November 19
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading Meeting
Sunday November 26, 1 pm
Buck's 5th Avenue Loft

How WIP is supported. WIP is volunteer run, but essential expenses must be covered by donations, subscriptions and some generous advertisers. We also receive support from the Workers' Defense Fund whose purpose is to strengthen organizations that engage in struggle against the powerful for the empowerment of the powerless. Subscriptions are \$35 per year. Advertising rates are approximately \$10 per column inch, with discounts for long-term advertisers (see below). To donate, subscribe or advertise: Contact us at olywip@gmail.com, or write to Works in Progress, Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Advertising Rates
Quarter page \$135
2 column square (5"x5") \$90
2 columns x 3 in \$60
Business card size \$30
Have a subscription mailed to you or friends: \$35/yr

Help keep WIP in print – donate at Works in Progress, Box 293 Olympia, WA 98507

Special rate for nonprofits and small businesses*

On the front cover –
mural by Ira Coyne based on Leonard Peltier's prison painting. See page 5.

The Works in Progress mission and guidelines

Our purpose
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Guidelines for writing for WIP
Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media. To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local authors. We also consider poetry, graphics, cartoons and articles that challenge conventional journalism.

We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. Articles that relate to the theme will have preference , but other topics are also welcome, as usual. Editing that extends beyond that needed for clarity will be reviewed with the author.

Theme for the December issue: The Environment (a broad topic that can encompass everything from a descent into Secretary Pruitt's activities at the EPA, to climate disasters in all their guises, to local issues, to workplace dangers, to saving the planet). We want to hear from you.

- Submissions should:**
- ▶ Offer a unique progressive perspective
 - ▶ Appeal to local and regional readers
 - ▶ Range between 750-1200 words
 - ▶ Be sent as an email attachment in Word (see formatting specs at www.olywip.org)
 - ▶ Include a one- or two-line bio of the author
 - ▶ Include an email address for contacts if you wish

Send submissions to Olywip@gmail.com with the word "SUBMISSION" in the subject line.

Theme for this issue: Punching Back
Capitalism as a social order held together by the promise of boundless collective progress is in critical condition. In the face of this crisis, governments have ceded their ability to govern. They are putting everything onto the market chopping block—labor, nature, money, education, social life—our very future.

In this issue WIP is offering some instances of people and groups "punching back" against this. Faced with a government that that has shifted the burden of providing security and stability to individuals and communities, people are creating their own social arrangements.

These kinds of local, dispersed and uncoordinated attempts to organize communally to address social needs—housing, food, health, safety, justice, education, income—may be our best hope for bridging the transition from an imploding capitalism to a new healthier and more durable order.



Photo by Amy Shull

I awaken in a calm foggy meadow at daybreak with a massive herd of white buffalo. They all have different vibrant blankets on their backs. Their faces shape shift but are wise and kind. A spirit woman stands up in and rides one buffalo. As others join I see the ancestors are coming. Some buffalo some become white deer or giraffe, a white camel even an elephant. Ancestors shamans grandmothers and chiefs from all time manifest into the herd to give them direction and make them stampede through a beautiful vision of smoke fog steam on a field of ethereal white tan grey mysts everything melts together as one. Their eyes turn fierce red focused and they run through the meadow, all with the same calm red eyed white buffalo face now. I turn around and somehow am riding in a stampede of ghost buffalo angry at something for very good reason. I wonder why when by nature they are so gentle and kind. I am unafraid yet my mind screams "*why?*" All I notice are blankets of every design floating on the mists like a quilt of hope ready to cover a great darkness on the horizon and the distinct smell of fresh clean spring water. The first spirit women she comes to me and for one moment the whole world stops and I hear the softest whispers answer, "life".

Lennee Reid

Special events

Public Hearing. Millennium’s Shorelines Project Permits
Thursday, Nov. 2; hearings at 1:00 PM, community dinner 5:00 PM
Cowlitz County Conference Center, 1900 7th Ave SW, Longview.
Add another nail to the coal export coffin. RSVP on the Power Past Coal website.

Democracy School
November 3-4, Bellingham
Residents and activists learn to reframe often discouraging single issue work (eg., opposing pipelines, fracking, GMOs) so communities can confront corporate control and state preemption on one front: people's inalienable rights. Contact Stoney Bird at 360-647-6696

Western Washington FOR Fall Retreat
Sat, Nov, 4, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Main Lodge, Gwinwood Conference Center, Lacey
Theme “Will we survive the climate crisis and nuclear weapons?”
Details and registration at <http://www.ww-for.org/fall-retreat-2/>

West African Spirituality Presentation
Sat, Nov, 4, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Media Island, [816 Adams St SE](#) Olympia
Lecture and discussion on Yoruba spirituality and culture from SW Nigeria. Connecting with nature's feminine energy can heal women and men and social justice work.

Economics for Everyone Book Discussion
Sat Nov 4, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Mixx96, at State & Washington, downtown Olympia.
Discuss first half of *October: The Story of the Russian Revolution* by China Miéville (pp. 1-166). Sponsored by Economics for Everyone; Contact Matt Lester at lester.s.matt@gmail.com

The Evergreen State College’s Alumni Weekend
Friday-Sunday, Nov. 3-5
TESC Campus
Activities offered to TESC alumni, friends and family. Schedule and registration at <http://www.evergreen.edu/return/2017>
Field trip to the Olympian Peninsula (Quinalt Lodge) on Sunday.

Final Hearing, Zahid Chaudhury Immigration Case
Nov 7, 8:30 AM See story in this issue
1000 2nd St, Suite 2500, Seattle
Carpooling: van departs Martin Way Park & Ride at 6AM To arrange your ride, call [\(360\) 529-1109](tel:3605291109)

Book Signing and Oral History
Tues, Nov 7, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Orca Books, 509 4th Ave E
Crazy Horse family members and author W. Matson discuss and sign “Crazy Horse: The

Lakota Warrior's Life and Legacy,”
Zoltan Grossman Reads from “Unlikely Alliances”
Thurs, Nov 9, 6:00 PM
Orca Books, 509 4th Ave E Olympia

See story in this issue
FairVote Statewide Planning Retreat
Sat, Nov 11, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
First United Methodist Church of Tacoma
Free. Lunch on your own FairVote WA at 206-552-3287, or info@fairvotewa.org

Economics for Everyone Presents: Understanding and Fighting Gentrification
Tues, Nov 14, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Traditions Fair Trade, Fifth Avenue & Water St, Olympia
This workshop will identify the root causes of gentrification and suggest methods for resisting displacement. Special attention to the relationships between gentrification, racism, public space and the police as well to the specific nature of gentrification in Olympia.

Balancing the Scales Fund-raiser
Wed, Nov 15, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Women’s Club, 1002 Washington St. SE
Eliminate small financial barriers for people facing court. Appetizers and Wine Bar.—see announcement in WIP Hosted by Thurston County Public Defense. Contact 707-696-3691

Events continued on page 5

Mazaska talks: The largest protest ever of banks’ investment in fossil fuels

Mary Jo Dolis

Olympia's Raging Grannies pictured here delivering a letter (very politely, despite their name) to the managers of Wells Fargo Bank on the Westside as part of the Divest the Globe day of action October 23. It was the same letter that was delivered to bank managers all over the state and nation, promising to boycott banks investing in fossil fuel projects. Wells Fargo's location at the intersection of Black Lake Boulevard and Auto Mall Drive makes it impossible to ignore our ruinous dependence on fossil fuels. And Raging Grannies are the very Elders you expect to find at protests led by indigenous peoples.

Divest the Globe grew out of indigenous people's opposition to construction of a new oil pipeline (Dakota Access Pipeline—DAPL) at Standing Rock, in North and South Dakota. After the Defund DAPL Seattle Action Coalition convinced the Seattle City Council to remove \$3 billion in municipal funds from Wells Fargo, organizers saw the potential for a much broader movement.

The right of “free, prior and informed consent”

The Divest actions were timed to coincide with protests at the meeting in Brazil of 92 international banks. The banks were there to discuss their “Equator Principles,” which relate to the management of “environmental and social” risk in their financing decisions.

The global protests are intended to draw attention to the futility of the Equator Principles in upholding the principle of “free, prior and informed consent” as a right of indigenous peoples of sovereign nations. This principle is routinely overlooked, as in the case of the Dakota Access Pipeline and other desecration projects

“Follow the mazaska”
Matt Remle, a member of the Hunk-

papa Lakota tribe (Standing Rock) speaking at SPSCC at the Rachel Corrie Foundation PeaceWorks Conference earlier this month described how he and others decided to “follow the money” and nationalize their effort.

He and Muckleshoot tribal member Rachel Heaton then started “Mazaska Talks” which now connects with groups in cities and countries around the world. “Mazaska” is the Lakota

word for...money.

Ending the desecration of the earth
“Divest the Globe” is part of the Mazaska Talks strategy to deprive new fossil fuel projects of bank financing in service of the larger aim of ending the desecration of the earth's communities and interrupting climate catastrophe. Expansion of the movement has led to many more fossil-fuel-related divestitures, including nearly \$85 million in individual accounts and over \$4 billion in municipal accounts moved from banks funding DAPL.

Mazaska Talks, according to Remle, has learned and gained confidence from successes in Seattle and experiences at the Standing Rock encampment. They are formulating a set of criteria by which lenders can be scored in seeking contracts with cities. They plan to match disinvestment with reinvestment, looking toward financing for affordable housing and low-interest lending. Tribes are initiating a feasibility study to look at the possibility of tribal-owned banks. They are also building relationships with people in other countries, sending mainly native women to Europe's hidden towns to see first-hand the destructive exploitation of resources by globe-spanning corporations there.

Mary Jo Dolis is an on-again off-again local writer and accommodating granny..



Olympia's Raging Grannies picket Wells Fargo. Photo by Bethany Weidner

To find out more about the movement and the boycott go to www.mazaskatalks.org

Homeland Security’s dirty war on a US soldier

Marco Cheney

Since 2002, US Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been conducting a war, sometimes a covert one, on a disabled US military veteran. The Homeland Security service has worked zealously to deny the Olympia resident the expedited naturalization that President George Bush Jr promised in 2002 to foreign nationals serving in the US military during his war on the Iraqis.

“Zahid submitted his first Naturalization application, called a “N-400”, in 2002 while he was still in the service, after Bush Jr’s executive order, and before he was honorably discharged.”

A never-ending, unilateral and secret process

USCIS' dirty, unrelenting war on the veteran, Zahid Chaudhry, might have come to a conclusion at an October 16 hearing. Judge Paul DeFonzo wanted it to be the final hearing of this long process. But the government's attorney won an extension to continue the case to another hearing November 7. And it may not end there.

The 15-year war on Zahid has already lasted four times as long as US involvement in World War II. USCIS' weapon is a program that Homeland Security unilaterally and secretly initiated in 2008. It's called CARRP (Controlled Application Review and Resolution Process). According to the American Civil Liberties Union, CARRP “prohibits USCIS field officers from routinely approving an application with a potential ‘national security concern.’ They must instead deny the application or delay a final determination, often indefinitely.”

The privileges of a spy agency
CARRP operated covertly for five years until an August, 2013 report by

immigration advocates blew the cover off the operation. Even though CARRP is now publicly acknowledged, it still operates with the privileges of a spy agency, not having to reveal to its victims that they are under investigation. CARRP doesn't have to give its reasons for delaying applications nor

do they seem to surrender when their initial suspicions don't prove reasonable—they simply delay resolution.

Delaying indefinitely the determination that Zahid earned with his military service appears to be their ongoing mission.

Zahid submitted his first Naturalization application, called an N-400, in 2002 while he was still in the service, after the Bush Jr executive order. and before he was honorably discharged. USCIS cashed the \$400 check for the application fee -- but claimed they lost the paperwork. In 2003, Chaudhry applied again. Again they collected the fee but allegedly lost the paperwork. The next year, Zahid tried again with the same result. (Repeated requests of USCIS to return the fees have not delivered a refund.)

The constitution violated
The larger issue is constitutional. The ACLU filed suit on behalf of a number of other victims of this dirty war. According to the ACLU the suit charged “that the program violates immigration law, and is unconstitutional because it

was adopted without any congressional approval and violates the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of due process.”

It appears that USCIS has taken their mission to be 3 Ds: Delay, Deny, Deport. Delay has been the prime tactic, between “losing” applications and stringing together many hearings. If, via CARRP, an agent cannot readily disqualify an applicant, the agent cannot authorize qualification for citizenship, and is encouraged to go above and beyond to look for (or to create) anything to disqualify the applicant.

The broken tail-light ruse
There is a well-founded perception that immigration authorities routinely target people seeking naturalization with small, non-immigration violations. For example, a police officer looking for a way to apprehend suspected aliens might find a reason to pull over a driver for, say, a tail-light being out. This exact situation has led to the arrest and even deportation of many undocumented individuals for the most minor of equipment violations.

Continued on page 4

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Report from a threatened forest

Dear WIP and WIP readers,

The following plea was transmitted in a phone call from a 20-year old tree sitter perched 80 feet up in the branches of a douglas fir in the Willamette National Forest, near the McKenzie River.

Cascadia Forest Defenders are present in the woods to save trees and animals in the forest from being destroyed as part of the “Goose Project” timber sales. The sales involve about 2000 acres of heavy timber, including old growth.

An Environmental Impact Statement related to the sale contains a section detailing the presence of spotted owls

and bull trout in the forest. According to the tree sitter, the logging companies have permission to destroy the owl under an [outrageous] practice known as “incidental take.”

Like the spotted owl, bull trout are also on the endangered species list. Bull trout in this forest depend on the shade of dense trees to cool the rivers and streams they need to survive and reproduce.

Cascadia Forest Defenders are out there, right this minute, high in the trees, freezing cold, helping to keep our precious living forests alive. Please go to the Cascadia Forest Defenders website! Please give a donation if you can (they need more ropes, more equipment in the trees to be a “tree sitter”, and more supplies to maintain themselves in the trees). Even a small donation is appreciated!

A friend of the forest

Vote NO on Olympia ballot Prop 1

Dear WIP,

I got this letter from Jim Lazar about Olympia ballot Proposition 1—suggesting we vote NO. Prop. 1 would increase city property taxes by about 20%. While the measure says it's dedicated to public safety, in fact it is an unrestricted levy lid lift in the property tax. There is nothing that would prevent the City from using this new money to replace existing tax funding for public safety and then redirect the existing public safety budget to other purposes. That's exactly what happened when the Parks and Sidewalks tax was approved by voters in 2014. The city diverted over \$5 million of previously committed parks funding to non-parks purposes through a process called “supplantation,” replacing it with the newly voted money. That could happen again if Prop. 1 passes.

The city budget has grown sharply. We have voted for many new taxes, includ-

ing a “Public Safety” sales tax in 2012 that promised to fund the downtown walking patrol—a promise broken this year. The city is engaged in clever deception, calling this a “public safety” tax increase. There is no guarantee whatever that the “new” money will be added to existing public safety funding. Unless they draft an unambiguous measure, that guarantees existing public safety money cannot be diverted...I recommend a NO vote. Jim Lazar is an economist and Olympia resident since 1977.

He included a table, too.

Recent Olympia Revenue Increase Measures

2004	3% Utility tax for Parks & Sidewalks
2008	Fire Station Bond Property Tax
2009	\$20/vehicle registration fee
2010	Property tax levy lid lift (public safety)
2012	Public Safety 0.1% sales tax
2015	Metro Parks District (property tax)
2016	Additional \$20/vehicle fee
2017	Proposed additional levy lid lift

Homeland Security

From page 3

Through the Chaudhry hearings, it seems the USCIS’ attorney was trying for the courtroom equivalent of the broken tail-light. He questioned many of Zahid’s witnesses, and it seemed he was trying to catch them or Zahid in small discrepancies USCIS could use to assert Zahid had lied—giving them cause to reject his application. This didn’t work.

At the October 16 hearing, USCIS won the right to defer the judge’s decision another three weeks by introducing more uncertainty about “biometrics,” attributes such as DNA and fingerprints intended to prove who an applicant is. Zahid has submitted these and they have been accepted by the government—but the USCIS attorney at the hearing suddenly claimed that the biometric evidence hadn’t been completed, arguing that the government needed to do background checks on names Zahid was alleged to have used at some point in the past. Hence another delay.

Staving off a constitutional challenge

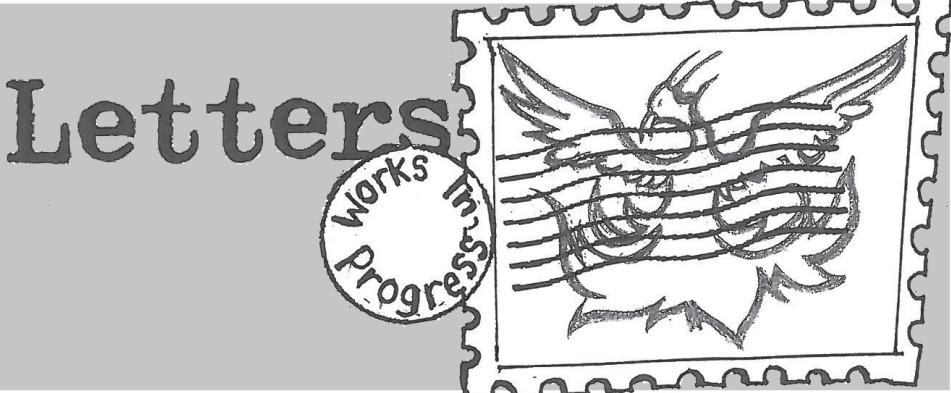
The CARRP program’s continuation, even after being publicly exposed, has relied on not having its constitutionality tested in the courts.

Recent cases (like one in the 9th Circuit) are challenging the legality of CARRP. USCIS has attempted to get

these cases dismissed as “moot” by quickly giving citizenship to all plaintiff/petitioners in all such lawsuits. When 20 aspiring Americans joined a class suit, their applications quickly got adjudicated and their citizenship granted. USCIS then argued the suit was no longer valid since the plaintiffs’ applications had all been adjudicated. USCIS seeks to prevent judges from



Zahid (right) at a local peace vigil in September.



County fires their expert on habitat preservation

Dear WIP,

The Thurston County Commissioners recently fired Mr. Brent Butler as Resource Stewardship Director. Butler has done an excellent job explaining complicated county rules and regulations.

In public meetings Butler spoke to the issue of the gophers and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). His Power Point presentations furthered the interests of Thurston County with thorough, unbiased, and simple explanations. Butler attended Harvard University and is African-American.

The county has to resolve the “gopher issue,” but instead, the Commissioners have fired the expert who is their point person on this issue.

Thurston County is dragging its feet on the Habitat Conservation Plan issue, while they receive tons of grant money from the federal government on this issue. So now the Thurston

County Commissioners have fired the man that was in charge of this process for the past 16 months. Now the County Commissioners will have to hire someone new. Now this new employee will take six to eight months to “get up to speed” to understand these complicated rules and regulations regarding the gopher and critical area issues.

The Thurston County Commissioners are not acting “in good faith.” They have lost the trust and respect of the community, of the people with property in this area who want to build a home, of the builders of this community who want some direction and some leadership to go forward to put this problem to bed.

L Riner

The writer is a 30-year resident of Olympia and long-time worker for progressive change.

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the Zahid Chaudhry case as one that could become a precedent, and not only for this current unconstitutional assault on immigrants’ rights. A decision against Zahid could encourage those sectors looking to devise secret policies and covert programs to use

against all Americans. If authoritarian government employees can strip immigrants of legal protections established by the Constitution and by a president’s executive orders, what’s to stop them stripping all US citizens of those protections, too? If Zahid loses, one of you could become their next target.

Marco Cheney is a refugee from InfoWorld. He works

To see more, please visit the websites of Ann and Zahid Chaudhry: www.keepzahidhome.org and www.justice4chaudhry.info

Note: Ann and Zahid wish to thank their many faithful supporters: the stalwart witnesses, those who gathered and spoke at rallies; drivers who took people to and from Seattle; those who traveled from elsewhere; those who were unable to attend but wrote support letters, and the many who prayed and held Zahid and Ann, as Quakers say, “in the light.”

KAOS

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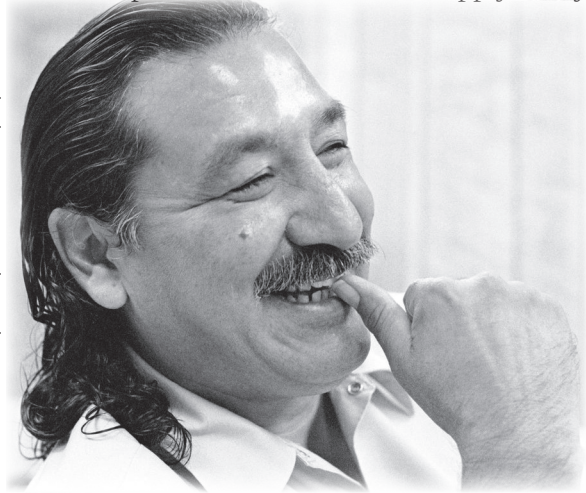
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Leonard Peltier: Long time passing and far from home

Bethany Weidner

September 2017 marked Leonard Peltier's 73rd birthday and 42nd year in prison. He is currently held in a high security federal prison in Coleman, Florida –as far as possible in the continental US from any family or community. Peltier has been seriously ill with diabetes and other medical conditions for the past 15 years. In 2016, as Barak Obama was engaging in an exercise commonly conducted by US presidents as their term in office ended, dozens of officials, human rights activists, religious leaders and community members petitioned him to grant Peltier clemency so he could finally leave prison.



A photo of Leonard Peltier a decade ago.

Peltier's 1977 conviction of murdering two FBI agents has since been seen as a miscarriage of justice. James Reynolds, the US Attorney who was a lead prosecutor in Peltier's trial wrote in the Chicago Tribune arguing in favor of clemency that “although no trial is perfect, Peltier's was unusually troublesome... it was a very thin case that likely would not be upheld by courts today.”

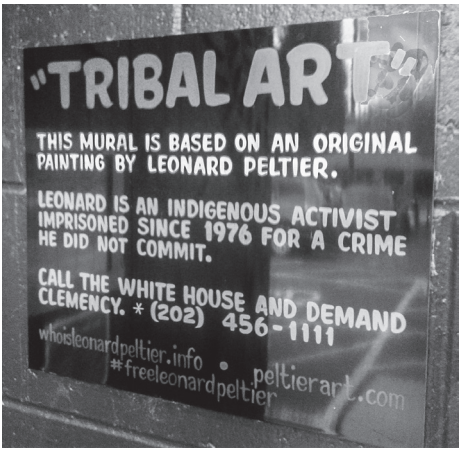
The Center for Constitutional Rights in supporting the clemency application detailed Peltier's exemplary con-

duct in prison and humanitarian work that had brought him recognition and awards over the years. But in the end the CCR focused on prison policy norms, arguing that principles of compassionate release should apply. They

cited AG Eric Holder's support for compassionate release of elderly prisoners who had served significant parts of their sentence and do not pose a danger to the community, as well as international protocols that call for consideration of age and health in deciding on release.

None of this availed in the face of – what could only have been Obama's fear of backlash from the FBI and others for whom Peltier was no longer a

distinct individual but a symbol of defiance: Peltier has always maintained that he did not kill the FBI agents. Prosecutors even in court conceded the lack of direct evidence that Peltier participated in the killings – and those who condemn Peltier don't argue the point. Maybe he was not the one who shot them, but Peltier was convicted of murder—fd”?BN nm and keeping Peltier behind bars forever is payback for two dead FBI officers.



Our cover photo is of a portion of the mural by Ira Coyne based on Leonard Peltier's prison painting, at the Olympia Food Coop. Washington officials removed four paintings by Leonard Peltier from a small state-sponsored lobby exhibit of Native Art in 2015, because of complaints by ex-FBI officers. Photo by Amy Shull.

Lock them up and throw away the key: old men growing older in prison

2.3 million people are behind bars in the US—the biggest number in the world. In the 30 years between 1980 and 2010, thanks to the cynical “tough on crime” and “war on drugs” policies implemented in the 1980s the overall prison population grew 11 times faster than the general population.

According to an ACLU study, “Mass Incarceration of the Elderly,” within that embarrassing figure there are 125,000 prisoners aged 55 or older. And thanks to an increasing fondness for life sentences, the number of elderly prisoners grew even faster —from 8853 to 124,800 over 30 years.

The focus of the ACLU study covers the fact that mass incarceration of these people is unnecessary, unjust and extremely expensive. Recidivism rates for older offenders are very low. In any case, many in this population were sentenced for low-level crimes. Many were sent to prison as young men and they have grown old in prison. Like every aging person, they have medical problems—often much more extensive than otherwise, due to poor health to begin with and worse conditions in prison. The study likens some prisons to nursing homes.

Inevitably, they focus on the expense because the fact that things are unnecessary and unjust in the US carries little weight. State and local governments spend about \$77 billion annually to run their prisons and jails. This represents an increase of 674% over the last 25 years. Could the shift to for-profit prisons help explain this? The cost to house an average prisoner is about \$34,000—while a prisoner age 50 and older costs \$68,000. Contrast that with the \$40,000 annual income of the average American household and you begin to wonder who's running the country?

While Leonard Peltier is unique in that the role he has been made to play in our society dishonors us, he is not unique in that he is one of a hundred thousand old men whose imprisonment makes no sense.

Sustenance: A poem for Leonard Peltier

All you wanted was to feed
The People, and a hunger entered
your Spirit. All you wanted
was to end the pain, and the pain
of your Sundance entered your heart.

“Where are our warriors?” a Grandmother
asked and the small boy in you rose up,
a sweet smoke offering. You gave
your life, but all you wanted was life
on Earth for all your starving relations.

You spoke for the young as a young man
and your Spirit-Song answered. You stoked
the fire for The Elders, until now, an Elder,
you fan the flames of Freedom in our lifetime,
keeping the fire of all our dishonored treaties.

You studied Liberty while they waged war
upon us, and upon those who looked like us,
the flower of your Spirit opening to let us all
inside your cell. You wanted the many colors of
the Rainbow, your warrior-Spirit becoming you.

You gave us your life, your words,
your Rainbow on the whitened page.
You fed us all. They locked up your Light

but not your fire. It blazes like sage, smolders
in the concha, the smoky prayer of your resistance.

All you wanted was to feed, to end the hunger—
of the flesh, of the the Spirit, of conscience.
Now, with starvation all around, a mold that
just won't wash, you feed us, The People, with
your fasting, your writing, your glowing example.

Here, in this sacred circle of Earth, fed by
the Sundance that is you, may you walk
and love among us once again, telling
the Truth of the Old Ones, of the ones not yet
born. We are fighting for your freedom still.

Well fed by you, we know,
we tell, and we demand:

Free Leonard now!
Free Leonard now!
Free Leonard now!

Lorna Dee Cervantes
Sept. 12, 2010
for Leonard Peltier's 66th birthday
and for peace with dignity and justice

Special events

Continued from page 2

Global Days of Listening
Nov 21, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Live conversation with Afghan citizens (Peace Volunteers) in Kabul, Afghanistan. To join this conversation, send email through website, globaldaysoflistening.org/livestream

Trial of Valve-Turner Leonard Higgins
Tues, Nov 21
Ft Benton, Montana
Leonard defied the Tar Sands pipeline authorities to interrupt the flow of oil from Canada to the United States. He faces felony charges with up to 35 years.. To arrange carpooling and a homestay: Bonnie McKinlay, 503-705-1943

See WIP Facebook page for events not listed here

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PunchBack:

Barbara Love gives a training: Building relationships across race and cultural boundaries

[Ed note: Our staff writer reflects on the advice offered by Dr. Barbara Love at the Citizens' Climate Lobby's monthly online meeting october 14. Dr. Love is the Professor Emeritus of Social Justice Education at U. Mass-Amherst, recognized internationally for her work on issues of diversity, inclusion and liberation.]

Dr. Love spoke on how to build relationships with those she called “Persons of the Global Majority” (PGM)—that is, people of African heritage—what white people in the US would consider a minority.

We summarize her points because anyone in the progressive movement (white or PGM) can benefit from using the tips and strategies she outlined.

To build a relationship, be prepared for some uncomfortable moments. The culture of PGM is different from yours, but the difference is what

makes the relationship worthwhile, so stick with it. Try to make the relationship long-term. Be prepared to talk about race issues, even when the conversation is difficult. If you can talk about problems, the relationship is that much more authentic and real.

Mind your manners! Get the name of the other person right. Don't try to substitute an Anglicized version or a nickname. Practice saying it at home, if it's hard. Be able to recognize the other person—don't confuse him/her with another member of that group. Don't go on about someone else in that group that you knew years earlier. There are lots of Black people in Detroit; why should your current Black companion know, or care about, one you knew earlier? Be present in this moment, with the person you are talking to.

Be prepared to make mistakes. If

you do, acknowledge it; don't try to continue in hopes everyone will ignore it. Clean it up: ask the PGM what would be a good way to make amends. Don't downplay it. For race issues that come up in conversation, don't accuse the PGM of being “overly sensitive” or “playing the race card.” The race card is in play already. Have confidence the issue is something we can manage.

A question came up: what if the PGM is concerned about waste issues, but downplays climate change? Dr. Love said to remind them that they will be affected as much as white people (or more). We all breathe the same air, we all suffer in the hot spells.

A homework assignment: get a partner and have a conversation with him or her. Take turns describing your own race and culture, and the earliest memory you have of a relationship with someone of a different race or culture. End by listing one thing you can do to build a relationship with a PGM. Talk for 5 minutes each.

Don't expect your organization to be responsible for building a bridge between cultures. An organization can supply opportunities for interaction, but in the end, relationships will always be person-to-person. Only individuals can build them. It's up to you.

PunchBack:

Cross-cultural movements to protect land and water

Zoltán Grossman

Often when Native nations assert their treaty rights and sovereignty, they are confronted with a backlash from their neighbors, who are fearful of losing control of the natural resources. Yet, when both groups are faced with an outside threat to their common environment—such as mines, dams, or an oil pipeline—these communities have unexpectedly joined together to protect the resources. Some regions of the United States with the most intense conflicts were transformed into areas with the deepest cooperation between tribes and local farmers, ranchers, and fishers to defend sacred land and water. *Unlikely Alliances: Native Nations and White Communities Join to Defend Rural Lands* explores this evolution from conflict to cooperation through place-based case studies in the Pacific Northwest, Great Basin, Northern Plains, and Great Lakes regions during the 1970s through the 2010s. Examples are the Cowboy Indian Alliance opposing the Keystone XL pipeline in the deep-red states of South Dakota and Nebraska, and the tribally led alliances against

coal and oil terminals in Washington and Oregon. These stories suggest that a deep love of place can begin to overcome even the bitterest divides.

The Native organizers in these alliances understood how to reach white farmers, ranchers, and fishers, and enlist them in a populist anti-corporate movement that cut across racial lines. In this way, they successfully connected identity politics and unity politics. They overcame the challenges of anti-Indian hate groups spreading a white nationalist message very similar to today's alt-right. In fact, the areas where Native-white conflict over natural resources was the most intense were ironically the areas where the alliances to protect the same resources were the earliest and easiest to form.

Zoltán Grossman is a Professor of Geography and Native Studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. He has been a longtime community organizer in Wisconsin and Washington.

PunchBack:

Post 9/11 veterans join together to dial up pressure

Penelope Dexenjaeger

In this moment of heightened political tension, fear, uncertainty, and mass protest, it is important to get our bearings through the work of leaders and organizations who have been in the struggle to end poverty, militarism, racism, and ecological devastation for many years. They will still be in the struggle long after the Trump administration has ended (though, for the good of our communities and the world, we do hope that time will come sooner rather than later). About Face (AF) is an organization of veterans that reflects that understanding.

About Face: Veterans Against War sent a contingent of veterans and faith leaders to Senator John McCain's Congressional office with the request to meet him and demand that he vote NO on the confirmation of Rex Tillerson for Trump's Secretary of State. After hours of waiting and testifying, most of the About Face members were arrested by

DC police (they have since been released).

AF saw this action as an opportunity to draw a line in the sand and let Congress members know post 9/11 veterans won't sit by idly as decisions are made that will devastate our country and our planet for generations to come.

AF is ready to take the fight to their doors, offices, and the halls of power. AF is persevering this year with a renewed commitment to push back on decision-makers in and outside of Congress and to provide the training to our veteran community to enable them to take the risks that are needed to raise awareness and dial up pressure through actions that are aligned with our experiences and moral code.

If you are a post 9/11 veteran, regardless of deployment or discharge, please visit www.ivaw.org to sign up to meet like minded veterans today. **You are not alone.**

BALANCING THE SCALES
a fundraiser for Community-Assisted Resources for Equity
hosted by Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD)
Wednesday, November 15 — 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Woman's Club of Olympia, 1002 Washington St. SE



Poverty is a common denominator among the accused in our local criminal justice system and the CARE Fund can help by eliminating small financial barriers.

WITH
Patrick O'Connor, Director, TCPD & Tammy Shuffield, Defense Attorney, TCPD
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communitycarefund@gmail.com • Facebook: Balancing the Scales



PunchBack:

Rural Organizing Project and Willapa Bay Resistance team up to support immigrants, fight ICE deportations

Rural Organizing Project

Rural Oregonians have been responding to attacks on immigrant neighbors and family members by taking action, organizing our communities, and opening challenging and necessary conversations about what our communities need for every person to truly feel safe. In this way, we counter the constant news of anti-immigrant rants from the White House and the passage of new punitive laws targeting those who are not from the “right” country. At ROP we hear every day about brilliant ways rural communities are getting together and organizing for the safety of all of our neighbors.

In August and September, Rural Organizing Project talked to immigrants and non immigrants about how the deportation business hurts our communities and profits from the suffering of

people of color. **Although constitutional rights apply to every single person on US soil, we continue to see Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents along with rogue police officers tearing families apart.** We gathered in living rooms, churches, libraries, movie theaters, and community centers to discuss various ways each one of us can make a difference in this time when both vigilante and state violence are bluntly directed at immigrants and refugees.

During a “Know Your Roles” workshop in Astoria, almost every hand in the room went up as people shared a stream of ideas around relationship-building and mutual support. It ranged from having events to assist undocumented families in filling out their Family Preparedness Packet, to meeting with agricultural employ-

ers to share resources about protecting their undocumented workers and building a coalition of employers as allies. We learned that in Astoria, when local police officers pull over someone without a license, they wait with that person until someone can come pick them up; no arrest, no ticket, no tow truck. This is the result of community conversations between local law enforcement and community members. Others in the room were enthusiastic to start building relationships with their local law enforcement, while others proposed to strengthen their local rapid response team or create a new one.

ROP also met members of the Willapa Bay Resistance in Washington who shared their powerful work around immigrant justice and supporting families affected by deportations. ICE detains people in Pacific County almost weekly, arresting individuals as they leave their car to go to work; showing up at people’s houses early in the morning; even tricking people by setting up fake deliveries for business owners through Facebook—then having ICE on the scene to detain them instead. (See story this issue from the Chinook Observer)

This article is adapted from a report by the Rural Organizing Project. ROP is an Oregon-based group whose—mainly women—leaders have been on the forefront of challenging right-wing movements in rural areas. Read their “Ground Rules and Tips for Productive Engagement with the Right” in the July issue of Works in Progress.

Also story this issue, page 14.

PunchBack:

Building long-term homes outside the distortions of the marketplace

Lopez Community Land Trust was created almost 39 years ago to meet the need for affordable housing for island residents. Since then, the Trust has purchased land and built homes in five separate and distinct communities on the island. Each of the projects is built with sweat equity and the support of local skilled tradespersons and many dozen construction interns. The homes are financed through mortgages, foundations and individual donors and funds from Community Development Block Grants, the Washington State Housing Trust Fund, private banks, churches and other entities. In all of the developments, the goal for the design and construction is sustainability and elegance—under the crite-

rion of *affordable*. Once occupied, the homes are governed according to a set of principles developed to protect the families and the properties from the distortions of the market.

The Land Trust’s most recent development is a net-zero energy producer that consists of eleven single family residences neighborhood, the office of the Trust, and two studio rental apartments. The development relied on strawbale construction, and has a rainwater system, rain gardens, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. More information and pictures of warm, beautiful homes can be found at <https://www.lopezclt.org>

PunchBack:

CIELO and immigrant rights network strengthen Olympia’s sanctuary city status

Lin Nelson

WIP’s September issue led with the story “Strengthening Sanctuary in our communities”. This Olympia-area network began to take shape after the November 2016 election. People were enthusiastic about Olympia Council member Jessica Bateman’s proposal that Olympia declare itself a Sanctuary City: at a minimum this means that local officials and law enforcement officers will not inquire about anyone’s immigration status. After the resolution passed on December 13, the network formed to strategize how to make sanctuary a reality. One key element has been to shape and support “Know Your Rights” workshops. There have been several KYR workshops in the area—in schools, meeting halls, and churches and other faith institutions. These involve short talks, role-plays, informational support and discussion about specific problems that families are facing.

A key partner in this network is CIELO (www.cieloprograms.org) which is a dedicated bilingual, bi-cultural organization, supporting immigrants in

Thurston and Mason counties. Their website Resources section provides vital information on KYR and planning for Family Safety. CIELO and Strengthening Sanctuary, under the guidance of attorney Steffani Powell, are working to stay current on the ever-changing landscape in immigration law (threats to DACA – Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals – is one key area). CIELO now has a second office, in Shelton, and both groups are working on creating closer relationships with immigrant rights organizations in nearby communities. They are also connecting with regional efforts through networks like the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (www.waisn.org) which is building a hotline and text alert system on ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) actions. A group taking on the broad policy arena is the Dignity Campaign (www.dignitycampaign.net) which proposes immigration reform grounded in human rights principles.

Want to get involved in Strengthening Sanctuary? Contact Lin Nelson lin-nels@gmail.com for more information.

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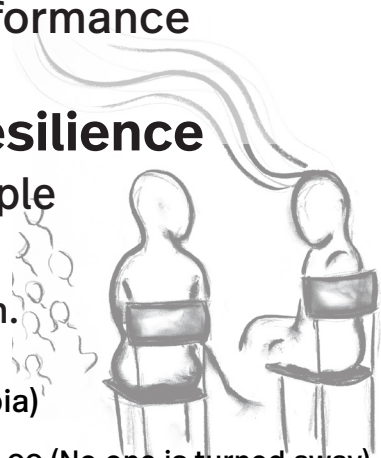
An evening for young people and adults

November 10, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Traditions Café
300 5th Ave. SW (downtown Olympia)

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

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community. This month we collaborate with Pierce County AIDS Foundation Olympia. Through education and service they work to prevent HIV infection, assist persons affected by HIV/AIDS, address related health problems, and combat stigma and discrimination.



Constraints of justice

From page 1

ney’s office is committed to protecting children from “all forms of abuse and exploitation.”

E stands for—and here the acronym gets a little wobbly—“environmental crime and protecting the public treasury.” In the blurb that follows, Mr. Meyers declares that natural resources are precious, and that the civil division will “aggressively defend lawsuits and use affirmative civil enforcement tools to protect the public treasury.” Aggressively protecting the public (and private) treasury seems like a better description of Mr. Meyers’ commitments. Unlike forty-six other states’ US Attorneys, North Dakota’s US Attorney was allowed by Trump to stay in place. In exchange, Meyers appears to support the administration’s view that environmental crimes are those committed by environmental activists, rather than crimes committed against the environment.

The line between the public treasury and environmental crime is blurry in ND. In a September 2017 article for the Associated Press, James MacPherson reported that the builder of the Dakota Access Pipeline sent the state of North Dakota \$15 million dollars to help pay costs of law enforcement operations against protestors at Standing Rock. In a report released in December 2016, the Center for Biological Diversity lists 85 pipeline spills in North Dakota since 1996, six of them in 2016. In asserting his commitment to protect the public treasury and prosecute environmental crimes, Meyers appears not to recognize the contradiction between protecting the rights of fossil fuel producers and shippers and his espoused goals of protecting children and native people.

Localism as a convenient myopic virtue

The prosecutor’s opening remarks had a two-fold objective: first, to reduce the legal narrative by reinforcing the state’s decision to deprive the defendants of use of the “necessity defense” in response to the critical ecological conditions derived from climate change. By prohibiting any discussion of motive or purpose, the state of North Dakota constrained the scope of the trial to the narrower issues of trespassing and committing economic damage—potential or imaginary—against corporations. In doing so, the state of ND implicitly *judged and sentenced in advance* the defendants, while censoring and silencing the scientific validity of climate change as a reality that humans and the planet must face.

Second, the prosecutors put special emphasis on the fact that Sam and Michael were “foreigners”—(one had come from Vermont and one from Seattle). This kind of parochialism is untenable from the perspective of two people concerned about their nation, their human species, or the planet that we all inhabit. More importantly, it showed the duplicity of the state and its prosecutors. They made no reference to the outside status of TransCanada — a foreign company— which owns the pipeline and transports tar-sand oil from Canada to refineries in Texas where it is sold on to other countries. Nor was mention made of the presence in ND of foreign capital originating from the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, and France, among others.

Don’t confuse the jurors

A key motive for the coordinated valve-turner actions in October 2016 was to put the fossil fuel industry on trial by using the necessity defense: actions taken to stop the flow of oil were necessary in order to prevent a harm larger than the harm caused by

the act itself.

Judge Laurie Fontaine ruled that Foster and Jessup could not use the necessity defense, because testimony “could confuse or mislead the jury into believing the legitimate concerns regarding climate change are an excuse or defense to the crimes charged.” That was exactly the case the valve-turners had hoped to bring before the jurors.

Civics 101: jury selection

Jury selection took almost two full days. Fifty prospective jurors were called; forty-seven were questioned; twenty-four made it to the final pool; twelve were selected.

Some of the defense attorney’s questions revealed the limits of one of the most sacred principles in our criminal justice system: “Can you presume the defendants are innocent?”

“No. We must be here for a reason.”

“These people are not from the area. If they made the effort to drive here, they meant to do something.”

“I believe in law enforcement. The defendants wouldn’t be here if they hadn’t done something wrong.”

A less common response: “These fellows are presumed innocent, and I’m not going to make a judgment until I hear all the information.”

Another line of questioning focused on whether potential jurors could distinguish the valve-turning action from the longer-lasting Dakota Access Pipeline demonstrations in the southern part of the state: “Can you separate this incident from the events at the Dakota Access Pipeline?”

“Not really. I just have feelings...”

Yet another line of questioning probed prospective jurors’ views on the protest. When asked whether they had heard of the sit-ins during the Civil Rights Movement and the Freedom Riders, or seen the movie “Selma,” jurors shook their heads no. When asked to describe their views on protest, prospective jurors’ comments tended to run along these lines: “It’s OK to protest, but when you break the law, you have to pay the consequences...” “It’s

environmental crimes are those committed by environmental activists, not crimes committed against the environment.”

“OK to protest but we have to follow the law...” The sanctity of private property trumps public interest, public good.

No territory for mothers

Everyone involved in this four-state action consciously broke the law, as a defense attorney tried to explain to the jury, in order to “change the narrative, to get people to think differently about oil and about climate change.” The prosecutor told the jury that, “If you don’t find these people guilty, chaos will ensue.” He drew a crude diagram on a white board, showing how the valve-turners’ actions were at the top of slippery slope leading from Ted Kaczynski to Sharia Law. “Liberty is the right to do what the law allows, and without laws we have chaos.”

In closing argument, a defense attorney compared today’s climate denial with yesterday’s tobacco cover-up. He walked the jurors through a Congressional hearing in 1994 where seven CEOs of tobacco companies were

asked whether or not nicotine was addictive. One by one they answered “No. Nicotine is not addictive.” We know now, the attorney said, that they knew and they lied. The story about tobacco’s dangers changed, and that’s what these gentlemen are trying to do. They are trying to change the narrative about the dangers associated with burning fossil fuels.

Well, said the prosecutor in response, this would be like blowing up the trucks carrying cigarettes, and who would think that was OK? Pipelines themselves don’t make the oil—they just move it. How are they at fault?

E pur si mouve


Two men must now face the consequences of their actions — sentencing will take place January 18 of next year. Michael is a former mental health counselor who conducts conferences in schools about the importance of trees. Sam is a student of algebra at the University of Vermont. They are aware of the physical reality and social implications of climate change; they understand their actions to be necessary and urgent.

In this context, unfair and ill-informed as the sentence may be, it does not matter. Michael and Sam both know, as Galileo knew in MDC, that the shallow lucubration of the Inquisition could not alter the scientific reality of planetary movement. In the same fashion, the contemporary inquisitors of the modern state and their narrative of denial cannot eliminate the reality of climate change.

Emily Lardner and Enrique Quintero are Sam Jessup’s mom and step-dad. They live and write in Washington state.

bold action to defend a livable future.”

Trials remain in two states for the 2016 tar sands pipeline valve turning action. Leonard Higgins is scheduled to stand trial in Fort Benton, Montana November 21st (see Special Events for details and carpooling) for his closure of Spectra Energy’s “Express” pipeline. Trial is scheduled for defendants in Minnesota on December 11th. For more information visit <http://shutit-down.today>



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Minnesota judge okays use of necessity defense in pipeline case

Ed Note: On Oct. 17, Judge Debra Hayes of Spokane District Court will allow the use of a climate necessity defense in another case involving direct action against fossil fuel projects. The trial for Reverend George Taylor on charges of trespassing and obstructing an oil train is expected in January 2018. See Direct Action Spokane for more details.

Oct. 17, 2017, Climate Disobedience Center

One year after Emily Johnston and Annette Klapstein entered a valve site to manually shut down the flow of oil through two pipelines near Leonard, Minnesota, District Court judge Robert Tiffany granted a motion brought by the “Valve Turners” and two supporters to present a necessity defense at trial.

The case is the result of coordinated “Shut It Down” actions to halt the flow of all tar sands pipelines in the country on October 11, 2016. Johnston and Klapstein shut off the flow of Enbridge Corporation’s pipelines 4 and 67 near Leonard, Minnesota, while fellow activists manually engaged the emergency valves on pipelines in Washington, North Dakota, and Montana. Documentary filmmaker Steve Liptay and support person Ben Joldersma were also arrested in the Minnesota action, and they join Valve Turners Johnston and Klapstein in this landmark effort to present a climate necessity defense.

A climate necessity defense offers a jury a novel scenario: the defendants freely admit to taking the actions for

which they have been charged. Instead of seeking to plant doubt in the minds of jurors, the defense provides context for the action, calling expert witnesses to offer testimony about the urgency of the climate crisis, the imminent danger posed by tar sands pipelines, and the historic role of civil disobedience in transforming unjust systems.

Courts in the United States have not yet allowed a complete necessity defense in a climate activist case, but Judge Tiffany’s ruling offers the latest opportunity for activists to use this method of dissent to focus on the failure of government and industry to protect the public and ensure a stable, livable climate system.

Kelsey Skaggs, Executive Director of Climate Defense Project commented, “By recognizing the strength of the defendants’ arguments in favor of direct action, the court acknowledged both the scope of the climate crisis and the people’s right to act when their leaders fail them. This decision will make it easier for other courts to follow suit.” The Climate Defense Project, a public interest lawfirm that supports innovative legal defense strategies for climate dissidents is coordinating expert witnesses for the Valve Turner trials.

Climate Disobedience Center founder Tim DeChristopher is heartened by the Minnesota ruling: “This ruling means that a fully informed jury will have the opportunity to come to their own conclusion about whether the severity of the climate crisis and the failure of the government’s response necessitate

Creating a future through civil disobedience: Keystone Pipeline Valve-Turners give their reasons

Adapted from the website http://www.shutitdown.today/action_strategy

"If people are not acting as though there is an emergency, people don't believe that there is an emergency." —Leonard Higgins, Oregonian and grandfather

For many of us engaging in work to avert civilizational collapse, there comes a point when it becomes clear that the one thing left for us to do is to put our bodies in the way of the machine.

Each of the tar sands Valve-Turners has had a point of personal moral reckoning, having worked on climate change from various angles for collective decades. Annette Klapstein is a retired lawyer, and knows what it means to work within the system. Ken Ward has tried to steer US environmental institutions to take climate seriously. Michael Foster has been helping kids plant millions of trees to sequester CO2, and working on the effort to sue governments for failing to protect inalienable rights. Emily Johnston has been building the grassroots movement 350 Seattle. Leonard Higgins has been opposing fossil fuel extraction and transportation infrastructure by organizing lobbying efforts, lawsuits, and civil resistance.

The political context

Those personal motivations are not the whole story: this action occurred in a political and historical context.

In the summer of 2016, it was readily apparent that decades of climate campaigning in the United States had had practically no effect. The 2015 Paris emission reduction pledges are not nearly sufficient to stave off climate cataclysm, and no current policy proposal targets the dramatic emissions reductions necessary for a stable future. Climate strategies premised on an insider political strategy and complex bureaucratic mechanisms had failed.

What's needed to bring a strong movement to life and power requires visceral and energizing acts of conscience that embody the change we seek.

Immediate goals

[Closing the pipeline valves] was an attempt to try a different strategy. One action won't be sufficient to solve the climate crisis, but might it achieve something meaningful? We had two kinds of goals for this action. The first was direct and political—and also unlikely. The second included longer term movement-building goals.

The immediate goals are obvious: could such an action have provided President Obama an opportunity to keep the tar sands valves closed? We knew this was unlikely, but such actions, with others, arguably persuaded Obama to abandon KXL. Could a se-

rious and bold action break climate change into the media cycle and perhaps even the presidential campaign discourse? Might it be possible to have a case stemming from such an action in federal court where we could make a strong public trust argument that would be a necessity parallel to the ongoing Children's Trust litigation?

Movement goals

If we are to build a powerful movement that can create the substantial change necessary, we need to experiment with ways of building energy and focus among those who care about climate. In her recent book, "Why Civil Resistance Works," and an article in The Guardian, Erica Chenoweth describes extensive research showing that peaceful, nonviolent civil resistance is the most effective method to bring about social change. The research shows that such change requires that only 3.5 percent of the population remove their consent through civil resistance.

The intrinsic value of the act

Shutting down five tar sands pipelines is not only a symbolic act. The Valve-Turners, according to reporting by Reuters, shut down 15% of the US oil supply on October 11, 2016. Every minute of pumping tar sands towards the atmosphere is one too many. Every hour that we deny the fossil fuel industry their profits is a success.

It was no mistake that we shut down tar sands oil - the most dirty liquid fuel in the world. If we are to have a habitable planet, we must close down tar sands operations and coal production first. If we're going to shut something down, we should start here.

We showed that it *can* and *must* be done—over and over, until the fossil fuel companies get the message that they are no longer going to profit by destroying the planet we need to live on.

The symbolic value of the act

The value of an action is not merely in the hours that pipelines are shut down, or the financial cost to pipeline companies. It is also in the hope lifted in the hearts of the climate movement.

The more-than-literal value of the actions tells a story about the type of action, and the type of life, that is needed in these times: about the scale and sense of urgency of the crisis, and about individual and collective responsibility. The Valve-Turners decided early that their approach would be transparent—they would tell the stories of their personal moments of decision and accept responsibility for the actions they took, so that others might also find their way into action.

Although the Valve-Turners have diverse spiritual backgrounds and be-

liefs, they share a sense of moral duty to act, even when there is no certainty of stopping the harms of climate change.

Why go to court?

The decision to take our defense to a jury trial, and attempt to use a climate necessity defense is a logical outgrowth of this approach. If we can stand without fear and explain in cogent language the catastrophe before us and the necessity to act, in front of a jury of our peers, we can help set the example of personal strength and responsibility we believe is critical to

winning this fight.

If we can convince a jury of random citizens to agree that shutting off a pipeline is excusable, it will be a vindication that telling the truth about the dire situation we are in, and backing it with personal commitment, is a winning strategy. That outcome, we know, is unlikely.

But if convicted, the Valve-Turners will be a powerful example of the moral fortitude required in the face of this challenge.

For want of a dollar, the job was lost...

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 be available for 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.

You can attend a fundraising event, Balancing the Scales, for CARE on Wednesday, November 15 at the Women's Club, 1002 Washington SE. There will be appetizers and appealing, helpful human beings to talk to.



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To be poor or to be wealthy in Trump’s America

A very short explanation in a few words

if you are poor: Ain’t Nobody Going to Pay Your Way!
If You Are Rich: Congress Will Give You \$ 1.9 Trillion Tax Break!
The Largest increase in income inequality in American History.

Ain’t Nobody (A Song by Dorie Friedman)
Well the boss man said you better get up coal
Way down in the belly of the earth below
Get it up quick and get it up strong
‘Cause the walls of the mine don’t hold that long

Chorus: I said I work all night, I work all day
Well, I work all night, I work all day
Said I work all night, I work all day
‘Cause ain’t nobody gonna pave my way

Well, a young little mama she stands at home
With a big fat baby on her old hip bone
Four little youngins just a-running around
And their daddy’s laying six feet underground

Well, the warden said you better pick up speed
You better break those rocks ‘til your knuckles bleed
Swing that pick, bend your knees
You got twenty-nine years ‘til your chains are free

Well, a young little mama, she’s walking home
From a twelve hour day at the factory dome
Hands in her pocket and a knife in one
‘Cause every catcaller’s trying to have his fun

Well the farmer said you better get up hay
You better break your back and earn your pay
Two cold dollars in my empty hand
And five in the pocket of the white young man

Ain’t nobody, ain’t nobody, ain’t nobody
Gonna pave my way
Ain’t nobody, ain’t nobody, ain’t nobody
Gonna pave my way

Enrique Quintero
Now the Voice of Congress
Congress voted a budget measure this month that will accelerate income inequality exponentially across the nation.

In this new budget, Congress will provide \$1.9 trillion in tax breaks for the top 1 percent of the population, mostly mega-millionaires and corporations. How will they pay for this? Cutting \$1 trillion from Medicaid, for starters.

All this in a country where individuals in the top 1% earn an average of \$ 1.3 million a year while people in

the bottom 50% earn the same average pre-tax income as in 1980, which is \$16,000.

Even more instructive: eight hyper-rich Americans today own as much as the entire bottom half of the nation’s households (from James C. Scott writing in the current issue of the *London Review of Books*).

Final Words
Was Joseph De Maistre right when he observed that every country gets the type of government it deserves? Or is it time to bring to an end the shameless accumulation of wealth by the elites?



Olympia’s housing crisis cannot be solved by market capitalism

Robert Gorrill
Density is heralded as the key to Olympia’s future. With density, so the argument goes, Olympia’s housing crisis can be resolved and the projected influx of some 20,000 people over the coming decades can be accommodated.

Density, in theory, entails ecological and social benefits to cities. However, the rhetoric of ‘density,’ as it is deployed in Olympia serves to justify gentrification, while failing to contend with real concerns surrounding housing and the environment. On the basis of density, city politicians and Olympia residents have supported major market-rate developments in downtown, such as the Views-on-Fifth project.

Projects like these won’t solve Olympia’s housing crisis or address Olympia’s expected growth. They will, however, further gentrify Olympia, contributing to the housing crisis by fueling displacement and increasing rents. The evidence of this pattern can be found in major cities across the US. Research shows that large proportions of luxury housing sit empty, challenging notions that these projects will

increase density. The wealthy hoard units as vacation homes or as forms of investment to be resold as the price increases, while no one actually lives in them.

Olympia’s housing crisis and expected growth are significant problems, but the capitalist market can’t solve them.

Gentrification under the guise of “density” is a charade benefiting developers, landlords and banks – but with devastating consequences for marginalized and working-class people. Strong housing justice and environmental movements are the only hope for dealing with Olympia’s housing/growth issues.

Robert Gorrill lives in Olympia and is active in a variety of social justice causes.

If you’re interested in organizing against the Views-on-Fifth project, get in contact with Olympia Assembly or the Olympia Solidarity Network.

olympiaassembly@gmail.com or facebook.com/olyassembly

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Will big money derail the move toward direction of public resources in the interests of a wider public?

Staff writer

It is normal in the US for self-seeking corporate interests to determine the disposition of public resources without much public attention. This situation is changing.

Oil money to support the extraction and transit of more fossil fuel

At the Port of Vancouver oil giant Tesoro-Savage has proposed what would be the largest oil terminal in the US . The terminal is opposed by a broad collection of officials, groups and individuals ranging from the Attorney General of Washington state to “101 Vancouver” a group of local businesses, the Longshore Union, the SW Washington Sierra Club, and many individuals.

Tesoro-Savage has poured over a quarter million dollars into the 2017 race for Vancouver Port Commission, intending to defeat Don Orange, who has said he will not support the terminal. The cost of the race is closing in on \$1 million.

Tesoro-Savage started small by giving \$5000 to candidate Kris Greene who had expressed support for the terminal. As the race heated up, the corporations gave Greene \$75,000 in early October. Another infusion from backers of the project brought their total contribution to Greene's coffers to \$370,000 as of October 19.

The \$370,000 from the oil developers accounts for 87% of the money Greene has raised. Greene is also benefitting from about \$160,000 spent on ads by a PAC funded mainly by Tesoro, BNSF railway and Chevron.

Opponent Don Orange has received \$100,000 in cash contributions – 95% of it from individual donors. His success in raising local money is viewed as a reflection of community opposi-

tion to the terminal as contributing to the expansion of fossil fuel development. Orange recently began to get in-kind support from Washington Conservation Voters totaling about \$260,000.

Money to maintain Port of Olympia subsidies for timber companies

In Thurston County timber interests have for some time commanded a

large share of Port expenditures: In 2017, payments for leases and services by Weyerhaeuser, Port Blakely Tree Farms and some smaller timber interests covered only 68% of the Port's Marine Terminal operating costs (see Port of Olympia 2017 budget)

Weyerhaeuser and Port Blakely have upped the ante in the 2017 races for Port Commissioner: cash contributions in one race approach \$100,000

and in the other \$60,000 – both record-breakers for this small port. Weyerhaeuser and Port Blakely put \$10,000 each into a PAC opposing two grassroots candidates, Bill Fishburn and E.J. Zita. These two promise to diversify the Port in ways that reflect its public mission. An irony in the Port race is that the original impetus for the creation of Port districts was to counter corporate power (of the railroads) by subjecting decisions about public resources to the vote.

But money need not overcome the move to reassert public purposes

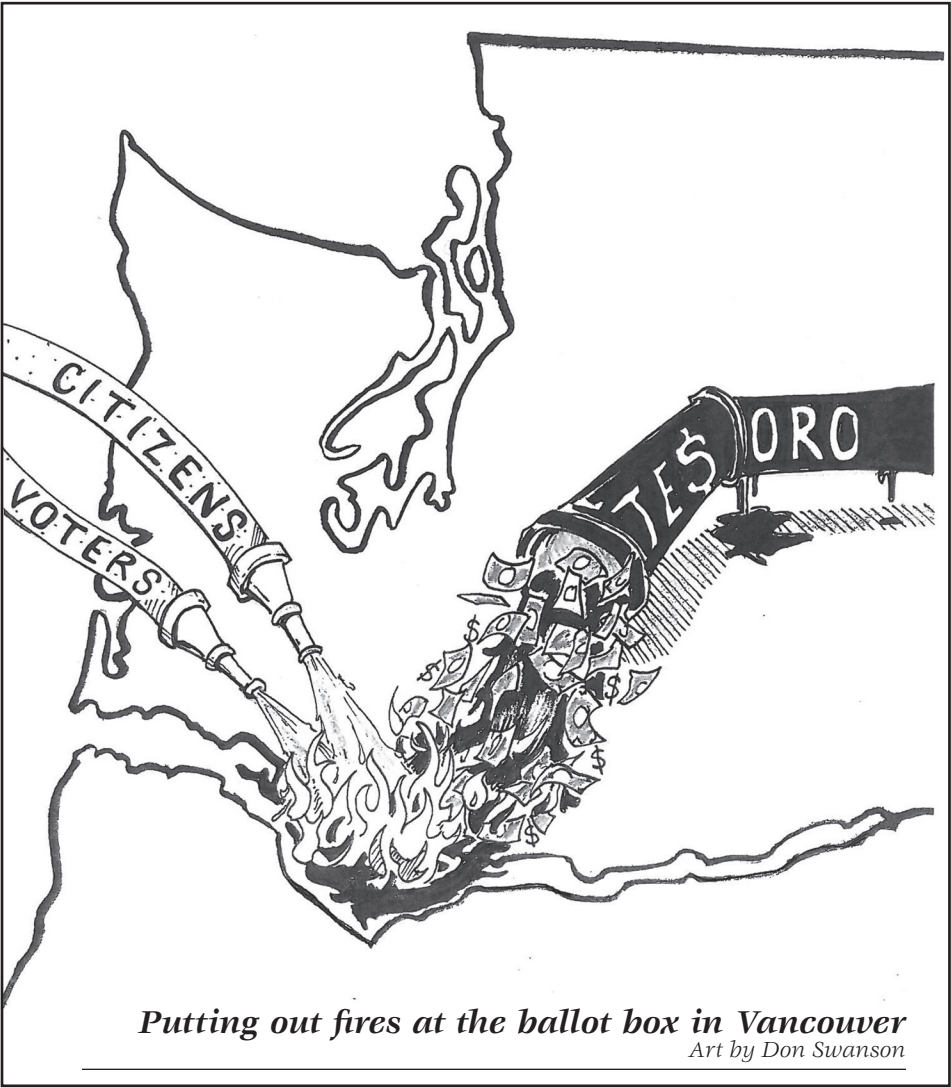
The upstart candidates in each instance are far outmatched in terms of money. Yet the ability of corporations to override revived interest in having resource decisions reflect the needs of a broader public may be drawing to a close.

Richmond California is the poster-child for a new consciousness of what a healthy community needs. Richmond's politics, air, economy and social life were long dominated by the Chevron Corporation whose refinery was the city's largest employer. In the 2008 election, a slate of progressives presented voters with a new vision of Richmond – and despite massive expenditures by Chevron, they were voted into City Hall.

Determined to reassert its control over city politics, Chevron spent \$3 million promoting new candidates in the 2014 Council elections, buying every billboard in town. Underfunded progressive candidates spent a tiny fraction of that amount – and swept the election with a massive door-to-door campaign involving hundreds of volunteers.

In the 2016 municipal elections, the same progressive activists consolidated their position in city government. Over the course of a decade, these new leaders have improved the life of Richmond's residents and forced Chevron to become a better citizen.

Steve Early's book *Refinery Town* tells the story of Richmond's progress.





Women of Color in Leadership Movement



Monthly Potluck Brunch

Second Saturday every Month,
11am-2pm
816 Adams St. SE, Olympia

The Women of Color in Leadership Movement is a group that is being cultivated as a safe space for women of color to discuss issues, events, and experiences that uniquely affect us. Some of the topics include women's sexual, emotional and physical health and happiness, reproductive rights, and other issues that concern these life choices. Spiritual empowerment and finding and using our voices is not always possible in male/white or white passing spaces. We also talk about issues such as colorism within our communities and much more.

For questions or assistance contact Shawna Hawk
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Fighting the alt-Right with feminist economics: reproductive labor in the spotlight

Matt Lester

Matt Lester recently asked Savvina Chowdhury to talk about gender inequality in the US economy, especially considering the alt-Right claim that it doesn't exist in any meaningful way. Chowdhury teaches feminist economics at The Evergreen State College.

ML—Instead of wading into the debate over the best method to challenge white supremacy in its alt-Right form, I want to ask you about how to oppose a particular aspect of the alt-right program. Certain alt-Righters like Milo Yiannopoulos deny that gender inequality exists in the workplace. If they acknowledge it, they blame the victim. How does a feminist economist see patriarchy and gender inequality in the economy?

SC—Well, when I started learning about economics, I was struck by how economists tell the story about the economy. I started thinking about what is defined as “the economy”, what activities are considered economic, what activities are considered productive, and the other side of that: who or what is then seen to not be part of the economy or of economic well-being? If you look at what is called the dominant paradigm in neoclassical economics, much of the story focuses on how households and firms interact with markets. Well, in most of the world, especially in the global south, many people do not necessarily interact through markets.

If you look, women are involved in work on a non-market, non-monetized basis: taking care of the household, neighborhood, and community. It is unpaid work.

So I started questioning why the dominant paradigm doesn't talk about this part of the economy that is necessary for capitalism to function. The work involved in taking care of people, taking care of family members, neighbors, and the community—feminist economics literature calls this reproductive labor. As a feminist economist, I see reproductive labor as the fundamental basis for all other activity. It is the daily and generational work involved in caring for people who work.

ML—What is reproductive labor?

SC—The economy produces goods and services, but it also produces people; so reproductive labor is done on a daily basis. When the worker comes home, you have to feed, clothe, and take care of that worker. To work we need a place to sleep, warm meals, but also we need affection and nurturance, so that is the daily reproduction of labor.

Then there is the generational reproduction of labor—the raising of children. Someone needs to take care of your children, to socialize them in the customs of your society and your culture. Primarily women do that.

Much of this work is not accounted for

in formal measures of the economy such as Gross Domestic Product or the unemployment rate. In fact, women who are doing all this work in their communities, neighborhoods, and families are not considered part of the formal workforce. Because they are balancing this non-market work, this unpaid work, with their formal sector jobs they have to balance what is called a “second shift.” For example, a working woman works 9-to-5, a full day of work in the formal economy, then comes home and has to work another 5-hour shift. In the evening she has to pick up her children, make them meals, help them with homework, put them to bed, pack a lunch for the next day, clean the kitchen, and so on.

ML—I think this is a great introduction to how a feminist economist looks at the economy differently than your average economist. More importantly, this is an insight into how we can challenge people on the alt-Right when they say there is no wage gap. What you're saying is that there's a disproportionate amount of unpaid work done by women, so it's not just comparing “person a” with “person b” within a profession. Still, there is a difference in the wages of men and women, right?

SC—For every dollar that a man makes women make about 81¢. A number of factors drives this: one factor is that women tend to work fewer hours so they can balance their family responsibilities with their paid jobs.

If you look at the statistics on part-time job holders the majority of them are women. If you look at the statistics on minimum wage workers 2/3 of minimum wage workers are women. Not only are they more likely to work part time, but they're also more likely to be working in lower paying jobs.

I wanted to clarify and emphasize that the gender pay gap is driven by the fact that women exhibit part-time work patterns because they are balancing reproductive labor with paid jobs. Feminist economists call this the gendered segregation of occupations, whereby women are over-represented in what is called the caring economy.

Child care workers, receptionists, preschool teacher, secretaries, nurses, domestic work are overwhelmingly women. Men, on the other hand, are over-represented in higher paying masculinized professions such as auto mechanics, truck drivers, firefighters, airline pilots, mechanical engineers, and computer software engineers. Lastly, there is discrimination in the workplace, so that even within the same occupational categories, women are paid less than male workers.

ML—How would you respond to the claim that if you look at how unhap-

py women are since entering the workforce it's clear they should go back to the kitchen and family?

SC—What I am struck by is how difficult it is to condense all of this. It is like what Noam Chomsky said, “It takes one minute to tell a lie, and an hour to refute it.” The truth is complex.

Milo Yiannopoulos would say that it is women's choice to try to balance reproductive labor at home with their paid jobs. But this misses the context. In the post-World War II era the structure of the economy changed towards what we call neoliberal capitalism. There was a decline in blue-collar manufacturing jobs, and a concurrent downward trend in the percentage of men who are in the paid workforce. On the other hand, the service sector of the economy expanded and became the dominant sector of employment. Service sector jobs tend to have this bi-modal distribution, which roughly means they can be separated into high paying service sector jobs—management consultants, financial analysts, hi-tech jobs—and low-paying jobs—maids, nannies, wait staff in restaurants, and retail jobs.

If you look at big cities like New York, San Francisco, LA, and Seattle, women who have entered these higher-paying jobs have to modify a lot of their reproductive labor: more meals out, hiring Merry Maids, house cleaners, hiring live-in nannies because they work 60 hours a week. So now, we no longer live in a context where you have the male breadwinner/female caregiver roles—well-defined gender roles that we associate with the nuclear, heteronormative, patriarchal traditional family. Now we live in a society that is more accurately described as the universal breadwinner society where everyone is expected to work and we take it for granted now that both parents are working.

For Milo to say that women should go back into the care giving role overlooks the fact that even if some women want to—and I think some women do want to—I don't think they have that luxury because we have to make ends meet. Secondly, there is a history of the caring economy seen in a feminized way that ghettoizes that sector of the economy.

ML—I think your point is that people on the alt-Right have taken a grain of truth about dissatisfaction with the economy and put forth a solution that would make our situation worse. Maybe a way to challenge the alt-Right is to expose the full truth of how reproductive labor is a necessary component of any economy but is particularly frustrating and exploitative under capitalism. Maybe social movements can anchor their activity by sharing reproductive labor as they attempt to create a better future and build toward an

economy that is not capitalist.

SC—Not only is reproductive labor not seen as a valuable part of the economy, it is not seen as part of the economy at all! It is often seen as a private sector—hidden in the privacy of the family, even though it is the bedrock on which all economic activity rests.

I think we need to move toward a universal caregiver economy where everyone participates in taking care of the community, the neighborhood, the family, and the home. That means gender roles have to change so we socialize young boys to learn how to empathize with others, take care of others, spend time with grandparents; and we design work places with on-site daycare.

We need to consider organizing our economy along the lines of what are called balanced job complexes. Everyone takes turns doing reproductive labor whether it is preparing communal meals, arranging collective daycare facilities, or making elder care arrangements. If we look back at history, early socialist communities designed homes and work places with communal kitchens and daycare

Early socialists, like Robert Owen said both men and women have to take care of our children and our elderly. If elders live with us, they can also participate in taking care of our communities—not being lonely and separated from family members

There is a grain of truth to what Milo Yiannopolis is saying: our families and communities are under duress in the neoliberal period.

But he doesn't address the fact that if we continue to feminize reproductive labor it will continue to be devalued in a sexist patriarchal society. We need to break the gender binary, in part by changing gender roles. This means rethinking masculinity. We need to move society away from a self-centered individualistic way of being a man into one where caring for others, empathy, and solidarity is also part of masculinity. If we address the reproductive sector according to the prescription of the alt-Right, then we will continue to exclude women from important participation in the public sphere of society where many decisions are made—in city councils, political institutions, and in the workplace. Understanding and addressing reproductive labor through balanced job complexes and communities will help guide us toward an equitable society and a more humane one where we value caring for each other—where we all participate in this work because we think it is important.



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The Battle of Cable Street: antifascism’s intimate community roots

By Kelly Miller

A wave of activity from white supremacist and fascist groups has accompanied the Trump administration’s rise to power. From the burst of reported hate crimes immediately following election day to the violent Charlottesville clashes this August, such groups have been emboldened by Trump’s openly nativist, nationalistic and militaristic rhetoric.

Debate around the best way to resist these dangerous far-right demonstrations has been heated and unceasing. The Left seems divided over what an effective “antifascist” is or should be and what tactics they should embrace. Knowing our history might help resolve that debate by reminding us what people have done in the past in the face of the unthinkable.

The “Battle of Cable Street” that took place in London’s East End in 1936 indicates that inter-community cooperation can be a powerful means of countering fascist actions. During this historic antifascist stand, immigrant Jewish and Irish communities, labor unions and radical leftists collaborated to stop the British Union of Fascists, or “Blackshirts,” from march-

ing through their neighborhoods.

Today, the Battle of Cable Street is regarded as an influential antifascist victory, as well as a testament to the strength of collective community action. Because these groups forged strong organizational links, they were able to mobilize a mass of people large enough to physically block the fascist parade from proceeding. These links survived long after the battle, and continued to serve cross-community needs in the form of tenants’ rights campaigns.

As Nazism gained steam in Germany in the 1930s, an active fascist movement emerged in England as well. Led by Sir Oswald Mosley, an admirer of Hitler and Mussolini, the British Union of Fascists (BUF) pushed an agenda of virulent anti-Semitism, nativism and nationalism. Using language that has an echo today, a pamphlet distributed by the BUF claimed “Fascism alone [would] deal with the alien menace because fascism alone [put] ‘Britain First.’”

The “alien menace” referred to the large immigrant communities of Jews living in London’s impoverished East End. By 1932, more than 60,000

Jews of mostly Eastern European origin lived in the East End borough of Stepney. The BUF, in step with Hitler, blamed them for much of the economic hardship of the Great Depression.

In 1936, Mosley planned to celebrate the fourth birthday of the BUF with a uniformed march through the East End. For years, the BUF had instigated anti-Semitic violence and street fights in these very communities. The march was to be a show of force that could foreshadow violence on an even larger scale. Despite this serious threat, the British government refused to ban the march and even gave the BUF a thousands-strong police escort.

Communists, anarchists, socialists and trade unionists had been leading antifascist organizing efforts in the East End since the emergence of the BUF in 1932. To oppose and prepare for Mosley’s march, these groups teamed up with the Jewish People’s Council against Fascism and Anti-Semitism (JPC). Many of the trade unionists were Irish dockworkers – immigrants themselves – who had received support from Jewish unions and community groups during previous strikes. Together they planned for a mass mobilization of people to block the BUF from entering the East End.

On October 3, 1936, the day before the march was to take place, its proposed route was published in the communist paper The Daily Worker, along with a call to block the march at several key points.

Tens of thousands of East End residents answered that call when the BUF approached the next day. Antifascist protestors greatly outnumbered both Mosley’s fascist Blackshirts and the mounted police escorts. Though police tried to hold them back with baton beatings, the antifascists managed to erect effective road blockades with

overturned trucks. Women, children and elders who were not in the streets participated in the action by throwing glass bottles and jars, marbles, rotten food and waste from chamber pots out of their apartment windows. This rain of debris made it difficult for police on horseback and BUF marchers to advance. The Communist Party organized on-site medical care for the wounded. Free legal support for arrestees was arranged by the JPC.

Eventually the police informed Mosley that the BUF would have to turn around without marching through the East End. The mobilized opposition had been able to halt the parade, thanks to the broad participation of an array of different groups within the community.

While the “Battle of Cable Street,” as the mass confrontation came to be known, did not put a definitive end to all anti-Semitic violence in the East End, it did forge lasting connections between participants. Leftist radicals, Jewish community groups and labor activists united by the antifascist struggle soon formed the Stepney Tenants Defence League, a political group that advocated for better housing conditions and fair rents. The mass antifascist mobilization in 1936 was borne of deeply connected community organizing traditions and was followed by more community-centered projects and efforts, carried out by the same people and groups.

The Battle of Cable Street is commemorated with a vibrant mural in London’s East End. It depicts the events of the battle, including the shower of objects thrown from the apartment windows and a banner reading “Mosley Shall Not Pass; Bar the Road to British Fascism.” It is a moving tribute to community power and solidarity.



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Burning up the future: Fossils on the offensive

“Who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind.”

Staff writer

Last June, President Trump announced that the US will achieve “energy dominance”—by turning back the clock. He would free fossil fuel companies from all environmental, safety, and geographic constraints. Via his America First Energy orders Trump 1) dropped the Paris Climate Accord, 2) ended the Clean Power Plan, 3) approved the Keystone XL Pipeline, 4) reopened coal leasing on federal land, 5) ended the requirement to protect streams, and 6) called for freedom to fracture. Full steam ahead to the fossil-fueled past in a landscape transformed to serve the needs of extraction, while fire, flood and hurricane already dominate our daily news.

Yet despite these new freedoms, players in the fossil fuel sector can sound eerily defensive: proclaiming the “overwhelming benefits of fossil fuel to us all” yet naming the threat of greenhouse gases to our health as well as the looming climate apocalypse.

A letter from the Heartland Institute lays out the dream of an oil-fueled future but raises the possibility of failure. To succeed, these “fossils’ must get rid of the scientific conclusions that justified limits on oil development and replace them with “sound science and economics.” They must “educate” the public. They need fired-up advocates for their bold plan. They need donations for their conference .

Read the Heartland Institute’s letter below:

“The fulsome development of our oil, natural gas, and coal will ensure better and longer lives for all Americans. As we secure energy independence – then rapidly evolve into a net exporter of energy – all Americans will live better lives thanks to a growing and thriving industrial economy.

President Trump’s America First Energy Plan is only seven paragraphs long. But it shows that we finally have a president in the White House willing to act on the free-market environmentalism agenda many of us have been working on to develop and promote for three decades...

Achieving it will not be without challenges, and it could fail if current EPA policies aren’t dramatically changed.

EPA’s CO2 Endangerment Finding is a Threat to Us All

Trump won the election, but the legacy of the Obama administration using the EPA as weapon to abolish the use of fossil fuels to stave off a looming (but phony) climate apocalypse remains in place. Without ending EPA’s ability to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant, President Trump’s energy vision for our country can never be truly achieved.

The Obama Climate Action Plan and the Clean Power Plan are a part of this legacy. Of primary importance is the EPA CO2 Endangerment Findings which hold that “current and projected concentrations” of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere “threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.” All of the EPA CO2 plans and conclusions must go if we are to have a truly successful future and reach the great potential of the US as articulated by President Trump.

About the Conference – the Use of Fossil Fuels Is Beneficial, but at Risk
We plan to examine – one year and one day after Trump’s Election Day victory

– the following questions: What does the America First Energy Plan call for? How realistic is it? How much progress has been made in implementing it? What remains to be done?

We will review the scientific and economic evidence that exposes the fraud inherent in the Obama-era regulation regime. We will also discuss the overwhelming benefits of fossil fuels to us all.

We expect between 300 and 400 people to attend. In particular, we are inviting state legislators, think tank leaders,

Pacific County neighbors raise funds to help families raided by ICE

Amy Nile

Peninsula – Neighbors are trying to come up with cash to help families of immigrants who’ve been rounded up in federal raids across Pacific County.

A newly-formed local group, the Immigration Assistance Committee has given more than \$4,000 to help eight affected families with expenses, such as rent, food and moving costs, volunteer Sandy Nielson said.

Now, the advocates are asking for help.

Pitch in, people

So far, the group’s donations have gone to mothers and fathers who are struggling to raise children with little to no income after their spouses were taken from Pacific County by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, Nielson, of Nahcotta, said.

Many worked in the shellfish industry. Their families relied upon their incomes. Employers were counting on them too, Nielson said.

Volunteers hope to raise at least \$10,000 for affected families through donations at gofundme.com/immigrants-long-beach-washington.

Snapped up in ICE sweeps

The committee counts 35 immigrants who have been picked up on the Peninsula in 2016 and 2017, volunteer Ann Reeves said on Friday. The advocate from Long Beach said the group has learned in the past few weeks of at least four others who were taken around South Bend and Raymond.

Pacific County has at least 23 open cases in US immigration courts, according to a 2017 analysis of records obtained from federal agencies and courts by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. The data shows 15 pending cases from around Raymond and six from the Peninsula.

Some of those who’ve been arrested are locked up at the for-profit Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, leaving their families without income for meals and housing, let alone money to post bond for their loved one, Nielson said. Others want to reunite their families after being split up by deportations. They need help with travel documents and expenses.

“These families have been torn apart,” another advocate Robert Brake said. “We can’t sit by and do nothing.”

A Fed-fighting fiesta

Brake, and his wife, Gwen, are organizing a celebration of Hispanic culture to help raise money for immigrant neighbors. The Ocean Park couple plans to auction colorful pinatas filled

energy executives, Trump administration political appointees and staff, and policy analysts who write and speak on environment and energy topics.

Confirmed VIP speakers include Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, who will discuss the future of energy exploration on federally controlled lands; Joe Craft, CEO of Alliance Resource Partners to talk about the future of coal; and Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry. We expect every attendee to leave this event “fired up” about the America First Energy Plan and become effective advocates for it.

Please Join Us—In Person, as a Sponsor, or Both!

with Mexican candy and other items, and donate the proceeds to affected immigrants and their families.“It’s the right thing to do,” Brake said. “We’ll make it a little bit of a fiesta in the midst of a tragedy.”

Gwen Brake acknowledges that the people being picked up did commit a crime by coming into the country illegally. But, the Ocean Beach after-school program teacher said, arresting and deporting parents punishes children. Families, including those who’ve been part of the community

During the 2016 budget year, 1,395 foreign nationals were deported from the region with no prior convictions.

for decades, and businesses that rely on the work of immigrants are also suffering.

“They’ve been our friends and our neighbors,” she said. “They’re the people who’ve held up our little corner of the world.”

Cracking the ICE block

ICE does not have arrest and deportation counts by county “readily available,” spokeswoman Virginia Kice told the Observer in August. She provided combined counts for her agency’s three-state Pacific Northwest region.

In Washington, Oregon and Alaska, ICE picked up almost twice as many immigrants with no criminal history from October to June than during the previous 12 months.

During the 2016 budget year, 1,395 foreign nationals were deported from the region with no prior convictions.

Agency aims for criminal aliens, or not

Of the 84 foreign nationals who were arrested during a federal immigration raid in the Northwest earlier this year, about a quarter had clean criminal records, according to the agency’s March 30 news release. It listed no arrests in Pacific County during the three-day operation. Officials said agents were targeting criminals, immigration fugitives and people who’ve come into the US illegally more than once.

The agency released the “most serious” past conviction of each person arrested. About a third were convicted of driving under the influence, the release said. Offenses included assault, marijuana possession, sex crimes and traffic violations, among others.

You will want to be there as the groundwork is laid to support and promote a bold, forward-looking, and pro-America energy policy. And your financial support at the highest possible level – either personally or corporately – is vital to make the conference a success.

We need your help to continue educating the American people on climate and energy policy based on sound science and economics. The window of opportunity to make a real difference is now open—but can close at any moment.

Fred Palmer, Senior Fellow, Heartland Institute (Details for the Nov. 9, 2017 conference are at www.AmericaFirstEnergy.org)

The authorities were back in the region late last month. They nabbed almost three dozen immigrants around Seattle during a four-day sweep.

Freeze: Waiting for word

Sheriff Scott Johnson said ICE gave his requests the cold shoulder for months until the newspaper raised questions about why federal officials weren’t sharing information with local law enforcement.

The agency has recently started to provide at least some details about arrests, Johnson said. The sheriff said ICE last reported making an arrest in the county on Friday [October 4].

The Observer has requested public records under the Freedom of Information Act that could reveal more details about the federal agency’s local activities. The sheriff’s office is also expected to provide information.

Poof, immigrants out

Despite the recent step towards transparency, immigrants on the Peninsula aren’t counting on shadowy enforcement relenting anytime soon, Nielson, the Nahcotta volunteer, said.

She knows one man who’s saving money in case he needs to bail himself out.

“He expects to be picked up anytime in a raid,” she said. “Most of the people have been here a long time. Their families and employers depend on them, then – they’re gone.”

Reprinted by permission from The Chinook Observer, October 10, 2017
anile@chinookobserver.com

Links:

- ICE provided numbers: www.chinookobserver.com/co/local-news/20170830/local-police-shut-off-from-ice-info

- For profit Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma: www.ice.gov/detention-facility/tacoma-northwest-detention-center

- March 30 release: www.ice.gov/news/releases/19-arrested-northern-washington-ice-operation-targeting-convicted-criminal-aliens

- Amazing map of immigration cases by county and area: trac.syr.edu/php-tools/immigration/addressrep/

In Washington, Oregon and Alaska, ICE picked up almost twice as many immigrants with no criminal history from October to June than during the previous 12 months.



The essence of organizing is relational

[Ed note: this interview is excerpted from one in a series called "Interviews for Resistance" conducted by In These Times with organizers and others in Indiana fighting inequality in all its forms. Sarah Jaffee is on the staff of In These Times and writes on labor, social movements, gender and media among other topics. Jesse Myerson is an organizer with Hoosier Action; she also hosts a podcast "From the Heartland," which covers others organizing in the interior of the US.]

Sarah Jaffe: Give people the lay of the land of what is going on in Indiana.

Jesse: Indiana is thought of differently from the other states in this area because it is almost never included when people talk about swing states. It is often thought that it is just too far gone and too reactionary here. But, in 2008 Barack Obama won the state. Of the nine people that we sent to the U.S. House, five of them were Democrats. It was very much a swing state at that point.

In the interim, because of the Tea Party insurgency in 2010 and the super-ruthless gerrymandering, things changed dramatically in the last 10 years. You have electoral maps where places that were blue in 2008 are now salmon, and places that were salmon are now red, and places that were red are scarlet. Donald Trump won it, and now both state legislature houses are super-majority Republicans. The governor is a Republican. We still have a split between the Senators, but the Democrat Joe Donnelly is up for a very, very tough re-election next year. The Koch brothers are already running ads up against him. He is definitely

the most vulnerable Democrat coming up. He voted for Gorsuch and has not done very much to endear himself to the Democratic votership.

I think that underneath a lot of these things, the state is still very much a swing state the way that it was in 2008. With some diligent organizing of the working class, that can be reflected much more in the coming two cycles of elections.

Sarah: Organizing that working class around working-class interests was the reason that you moved to Indiana. Tell us about Hoosier Action.

Jesse: Hoosier Action was founded by a remarkable woman named Kate Hess Pace who is from Bloomington, Indiana. Her family stretches back five generations in New Albany, Indiana. After the cataclysm of the 2016 elections, she felt very strongly the urge to come home and start something here in southern Indiana. The state of organizing in Indiana has been greatly debased, but probably nowhere more than southern Indiana where there was never particularly high union density in the first place.

She is a visionary organizer and is ex-

cellent at relating to people and moving them on a path toward greater leadership for themselves. We have been building this thing now for three months. We have got a small but growing base of dues-paying members. We have teams around operations and administration and around fundraising and around politics. We have been

..the essence of the organizing we are doing is relational. The idea is that any organizing that takes place absent the building and deepening of relationships between people is going to be basically facile.”



running a test canvas program to gear up for our first big canvas. We did a day-long boot camp training for organizers in Indiana and people from all over the southern half of the state came. We did one action on Donnelly's office around Medicaid cuts and infrastructure. We have been collecting Medicaid stories, getting videos of them, the first person accounts that people, mostly mothers in the region, have written and trying to get them in national press outlets.

As Kate says, “Power is organized people plus organized money.” That is what we are trying to do: collect a lot of people and a lot of money. It is the only way we are going to make an impact in Indiana or nationally.

Sarah: You got one of those stories in *The Washington Post*, right?

Jesse: Yes, from a woman named Audi McCullough. I went to a die-in protest at Bloomington Town Hall that was sponsored by a bunch of groups, including the Monroe County chapter of National Organization for Women. It is a college town, so there is a bunch of expertise. The way that they expressed it in the press conference was in statistics and things and I couldn't pay attention to or remember.

But then, Audi got up with her child, Kaden, and told her story of his extremely complex medical needs and the health scares that they had both faced and the absolute necessity of Medicaid in their lives as a basic pillar for either of them to be able to live free and dignified lives. I was like, "You are a natural leader." She wrote up her story, and we got it placed in *The Washington Post*.

Sarah: I would love you to talk a little bit more about the way this storytelling does and doesn't fit into your organizing strategy.

Jesse: It is definitely integral. It is not sufficient unto itself, but basically, the essence of the organizing we are doing is relational. The idea is that any organizing that takes place absent the building and deepening of relationships between people is going to be basically facile. It is one thing if you can get twelve people in a room to talk to us, and it is another thing if you get four hundred. That four hundred really only comes when people have deepened their relationships with one another.

A lot of this organizing is based on having long one-on-one discussions with people about what their lives are like, what they are interested in, what they are concerned about, what they are afraid of, what they are angry about, what they are hopeful for. Those sto-

ries are important in the actual day-to-day organizing. Really, what we hope to do is to mobilize people with that, but ultimately that mobilization should turn into becoming a dues-paying member, coming to monthly member meetings, joining a team and taking on work. That can be going and knocking on doors, it can be doing data entry, it can be helping to promote issues or taking on a shift at the farmer's market or at a county fair, flyering or taking petitions. Ideally it is not a high-temperature sort of organizing, such as you and I saw at Occupy Wall Street where it is lots of marches, lots of heat, lots of intensity.

Sarah: A lot of people will say, “Is this movement dead?” or “Is this movement gone?” when, actually, a lot of important work is the work you can’t see.

Jesse: Absolutely. We sort of think of Hoosier Action as a vessel or a basket that we are all collectively weaving so that it can be strong and hold all of the people and money that we are trying to bring together to create power. Weaving that basket or making that vessel watertight, that requires doing lots and lots of behind the scenes work that doesn't seem glamorous. It may not look like this is actually waging class struggle in the way that we want to imagine it cinematically unfolding, but it is vital for building the kind of power that we need. If it is a weak basket or a vessel with some holes in it, the power that we will be able to accumulate will be greatly diminished.

Sarah: The Carrier plant stunt that Trump pulled very much is taken as his concern with the “white working class.” You and I know what the reality of the workers at the Carrier plant looks like, which is that it is not all white and is not all male. When you thought about moving some place to do organizing work and this obsession with the white working class was in the air, what were you thinking in terms of who and where and why and how you wanted to be organizing?

Jesse: I think that what is necessary is an interracial, working-class movement that links up the urban, working class and poor, who tend to be Black and Latin@, and the rural, small-town working class and poor, who tend to be white (but also increasingly are Latin@ and Black).

What I didn't see very much of, which I think is increasing now and what I am trying to emphasize by connecting these various projects through the podcast that I host, is more attention being paid to the kind of small-town and rural areas of the country. Jesse Jackson's campaigns in 1984 and 1988, and Bernie Sanders' campaign to an extent, were sort of predicated on this urban/rural linkage of people who have really similar concerns: Medicaid, food stamps, housing affordability and water contamination.

Basically, I wanted to go to a place that had voted for Obama and then voted for Sanders in the primary and then went to Trump in the general. Indiana is definitely one of those places, and we are organizing working class people across race together in the state. I think that is the best hope we have at a realignment of the political forces in the state. I think, partly for the reasons that I identified earlier about why the state is a little different from the rest of the Midwest, if we can unlock that here, then we have unlocked the rest of the Midwest, as well.

“Urge Local Governments to Meet Climate Goals”

You've heard the smart advice: "Think globally. Act locally." This pertains very well to the climate crisis. Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's November 2017 TV program

encourages people to push our local governments to take strong actions to protect the climate.

We approach this from several angles. We'll consider specific actions local governments anywhere can take to meet bold goals to protect our climate. Ordinary people can help!

One guest is a great expert on the technical aspects. Another guest provides cultural and personal approaches. Our third guest is a local artist who has engaged kids and adults in making art that deals with the climate.

All three guests are active in the Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT, www.thurstonclimateaction.org), a non-profit organization that works directly with local governments and businesses in Thurston County WA to raise awareness about climate change – and the opportunities for economic development, cost savings and improved health through clean, renewable energy.

TCAT's new campaign -- "People for

a Carbon Free Olympia" -- urges strong local support for the City of Olympia's climate and clean energy goals.

Recently the City of Olympia committed to achieving dra-

matic community-wide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are the human-driven cause of the climate breakdown and destruction we're seeing in hurricanes and wildfires. Olympia is also talking with Lacey and Tumwater about developing a common climate action plan that would cover all three cities. Let's urge our county government to take strong actions too.

People anywhere can watch Olympia FOR's November 2017 TV program at any time and also read a thorough summary of what our guests said (including links to sources of more information). Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click "TV Programs," and scroll down to November 2017. It will air 14 times during November (every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County.

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



Women of Achievement

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER

NIKKITA OLIVER



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

2017 Women of Achievement

Friday, November 10

YWCA's Tickets are \$45.00 per person (discounts for seniors, students & military).

Doors open for the Award Celebration at 6:00 pm at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts (512 Washington St SE, Olympia). A very limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$125.00 per person and include a delicious catered pre-event reception in the WCPA Black Box Theatre at 5:30pm, a meet & greet with the Honorees and our special guest speaker Nikkita Oliver, and entry to the WOA Award Celebration.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

November 2017

Serving the Olympia community and

Free, take one!
the cause of social justice since 1990.

Works In Progress



November 2017 – Works In Progress – November 2017