



Works in Progress

Volume 29, No. 9 Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990. March 2019

Displacement in the name of safety

Tye Gundel & Bobby Gorilla

After a long pause in enforcement against camping, the City of Olympia is resuming the practice of sweeping encampments on public property, particularly those which are most visible and near downtown. The city originally halted its practice of sweeps in September, after the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals determined that it is unconstitutional to criminalize people for performing life sustaining activities, like sleeping and resting, on public property when they have no other legal alternatives (Martin vs Boise).

When enforcement against camping in public was first paused, homeless advocates had questioned whether the city was pausing the sweeps in order to genuinely pursue more just and compassionate alternatives or simply to use the time to find a way for the city to return to “business as usual” without exposing themselves to the same legal risk.

Actions like the creation of the first mitigation site and the finalizing of the tiny home village on Plum Street provided some reassurance that the city was committed to pursuing the former. Further, the city council remained consistent in their public commitment to finding legal alternatives for encampment residents before carrying out sweeps, even while receiving enormous pressure from many to clear the camps downtown. However, recent events have again raised serious questions about the commitment to this more just and compassionate response to encampments.

On January 29th and 30th, the City of Olympia executed the sweeps of the B Avenue, 7th and Jefferson homeless encampments. The city justified the removal of the B Avenue encampment by claiming that a nearby construction project would be endangering the safety of the residents. The reason given for the removal of the 7th and Jefferson encampment was to “mitigate ongoing public health and safety concerns.”

Now, the city has announced its intention to sweep the remainder of the encampment in the Billy Frank Jr. Apartment parking lot by February 29th, after months of reassuring service providers and encampment

residents that the camp would not be swept until after the creation of a second mitigation site. As with the recent removals of other encampments, the justification is based on mitigating



Photos by Lindsey Dalthorp

public health and safety concerns.

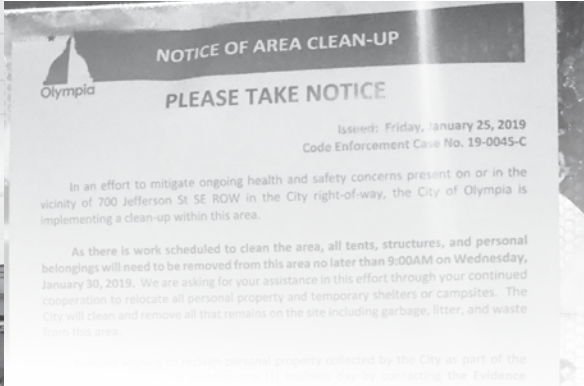
Governments invoking various codes, ordinances or laws pertaining to safety and public health to justify the removal of poor and marginalized residents from urban cores has been commonplace in the history of this country.

A sweep by any other name

During the mid-twentieth century about one million city residents across the U.S were displaced in slum clearances and urban renewal schemes af-

ter working class neighborhoods and communities of color were labeled as “blighted”.

Additionally, around the time of the Great Depression, here in Olympia, a large informal community of unemployed, poor, and



elderly people was erected on the edge of what would later become Capitol Lake. Known as Little Hollywood, the community was part of the wider Hooverville encampment movement that erupted amidst the Great Depression, both protesting federal economic policies and directly housing those in need. In the late 1930s, the city government began condemning the dwellings, unit by unit, subsequently evicting residents and burning the structures in the name of public health and safety.

The striking similarities between the B Avenue and 7th/Jefferson evictions and evictions of the past is testament to how little progress has been made regarding the systemic treatment of poor people by governing bodies and

institutions. That the highly vague rationale for camp removals could be applied so liberally to any other encampment in Olympia is particularly concerning.

There is good cause to believe that the city carrying out sweeps in the name

of public safety is an attempt to resume “business-as-usual” sweeps, while skirting the implications of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals determination. In other words, the city appears to be resuming sweeps without being required to ensure that all encampment residents have legal and accessible alternative places

to go to. While the court's determination made it clear that it is unconstitutional for people to be criminalized for sleeping in public spaces when they have no legal alternatives, the court's decision is not as clear if the pretext for a sweep is health and safety concerns, rather than violation of ordinance x, y, z.

This may be why recent notices of sweeps are titled as “Notice of Area Clean-up” instead of “Notice of Trespass” and why they avoid any language alluding to the threat of trespass, citation, or other forms of criminalization for those who do not leave the encampment by the given deadline.

At this point, the City of Olympia has

► **Safety**, continued on page 6

They’re all life sentences:

What it means to send drug addicts to prison in Washington

Bethany Weidner

Of the 18,000 people in Washington state prisons, maybe as many as 30-35 percent are there because of drug addiction. They could have been arrested for possession of a “controlled substance,” convicted of buying, selling or even sharing drugs; there because they lived in a “drug house,” or forged a prescription, or if they’d written bad checks or stolen to pay for drugs, etc.

An addict is not a criminal

Jail time for these individuals can be surprisingly long. Washington legislators in 2003 created a grid for judges to use in calculating sentences that could reflect the severity of a drug crime. The intent appears to have been to recognize the fact that the offender is

an addict, not a criminal; as well as to provide for consistency and fairness in sentencing.

In practice, this intention is routinely ignored by prosecutors. It turns out that it's the police and the county prosecutor whose charging decisions determine whether a drug offender goes to prison and if so, how much time they'll spend there. The prosecutor defines the crime and sets the starting point for the judge's calculation. What's more, the way the prosecutor defines the crime varies depending on who and where the prosecutor is. As a result, the idea of treating addicts differently from other offenders has failed to affect the idiosyncratic and punitive charging practices indulged in by many prosecutors.

Disparate dispensation of justice

Let's look at an example of how this might work out in reality here in Washington. Say “Tyler” was arrested for violating the use-of-controlled-substances act. Under state law, as a first-time offender Tyler could be offered a waiver, a short sentence, referral to treatment...or sentenced to five years in jail. It's entirely in the prosecutor's discretion as to how many charges Tyler will face. In some counties she would be offered the waiver or diversion to a treatment program; in others, she would be charged with several felony counts: for example, possession of a controlled substance, delivery of a controlled substance, maintaining a drug house, among other. If a minor

► **Addicts**, continued on page 10

Works In Progress

Works in Progress (WIP) is a community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington and published monthly. The paper was established by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition which published the first issue in May 1990.

Our mission. The aim of WIP is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, political, environmental and social realms and across classes, races and genders.

How WIP is produced. WIP depends on a volunteer managing editor, supported by the Publishing Committee, to see to the accomplishment of nearly all organizational, administrative and editorial tasks.

How WIP is supported. First and foremost, WIP depends for survival on the contributions and participation of writers, activists, students, organizers, and other members of the community, broadly defined. 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.

Guidelines for writing for WIP. Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate directly to our mission.

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 writers. We also consider poetry, graphics, cartoons and articles that challenge the boundaries of conventional journalism.

Submitting your writing: Send an email to olywip@gmail.com with the word SUBMISSION on the subject line. Attach your submission as a word document. Include your name, a brief bio and contact information. WIP volunteer editors will contact you if there is significant editing needed. Send pictures etc as attachments. Pictures should be high resolution with dimensions in relation to the content. Generally 300 pixels is one inch.

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Subscription rates. Annual subscription is \$35/year. Purchase one for yourself or an incarcerated person mailed first class each month.

Contact WIP. Online at olywip@gmail.com or via snail mail to: *Works in Progress*, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Submission deadline next issue Sunday, March 17
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting To be announced
Buck's Fifth Avenue, upstairs

On the cover:
photo by Lindsey Dalthorp



An invitation to join the WIP team: become a WIPster!

Want to get your name in the paper? There's an easy way: contribute to Works in Progress! There are lots of ways, big or small, we need them all. (Even poetry is welcome, you see.) Since Works in Progress (WIP) is a free, all-volunteer community newspaper with a mission to publish news that is ignored or misrepresented, we rely on submissions from you, as well as articles we solicit.

Just now, WIP is looking for help in a number of areas. Writing, of course, is the big one. If you look at the column on the left side of this page, you'll see what our publishing mission is and how to submit your writing, along with some indications of the kind of writing we hope for. We also need people to help with the myriad tasks that don't involve writing.

- ▶ You could sign up for a job, either “on-call” or as a regular part of the team:
- ▶ we are in serious need of graphics, photographs & doodles
- ▶ we're always in the market for poetry
- ▶ if you are adept at Photoshop, we need you
- ▶ have an idea for the cover? Tell us. it needs to print at 7.5 x 8”
- ▶ we need detail-oriented proofreaders—one Sunday a month—willing to learn
- ▶ take responsibility for our regular feature—“then this happened”
- ▶ contact us about doing a book review
- ▶ liaison with an advertiser—bring in a new advertiser
- ▶ distribute the paper or hand it out to groups you're part of,

WIP is just about the last print medium standing in Thurston County and surrounding area. We print and dis-

tribute 3000 copies every month, and post the paper online at olywip.org. (We're working on a major upgrade of that website.)

We can help you edit your work—especially if you send it in timely. Deadline is the Sunday before the last Sunday each month. If you're an experienced editor, we need those, too. Not just copy-editing, but serious good old-fashioned structural work.

If you're interested and want to find out more, email us at olywip@gmail.com with a little bit about yourself, your skills, your interests. Or write us a letter and send it to WIP, PO Box 295, Olympia 98507.

Bethany Weidner, Managing Editor

Theme for this issue:

For March, we invited articles on justice in all its dimensions. Inside these pages, you'll find articles that question the basis of actions and proposed actions at the local, state and international levels: evictions, sentencing, invading Venezuela, surrendering Julian Assange to the US for prosecution. You'll also find accounts of how people are trying to use the current political/electoral systems to enact more just policies.

Theme for April:

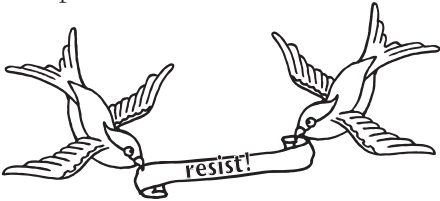
The food issue: production, consumption, transformation.

Warming temperatures, green shoots and swelling buds bring many of us out to garden. Farmers are already selling subscriptions to community supported agriculture projects. And a focus on food pushes past local food sheds to include issues of zoning, land use planning, food deserts, actions taken with an eye towards mitigating the effects of climate change and structural inequality. Send articles and photos to olywip@gmail.com by March 17, 2019.

Upcoming themes

May: International Workers' Day and the evolution of work

June: housing and houselessness



And then this happened #Unchecked executive power ... is deadly

Federal officials have disclosed that they secretly shipped radioactive plutonium to Nevada in spite of the state's vehement opposition

In a federal court filing on January 30, 2019, National Nuclear Security Administration General Counsel Bruce Diamond stated that the agency sent about half a metric ton of the substance sometime before November 2018, prior to Nevada suing over the proposed move. The transfer was done after a US District Court in South Carolina ordered the material be removed from that state because the DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration's failed to meet a deadline to complete construction on a “repurposing” facility there.

Nevada's Attorney General, Aaron Ford pointed out that Federal Judge Miranda Du had even said during a recent court hearing that she hoped the government was not shipping the plutonium while the case was pending in front of her.

“But they have already shipped this plutonium,” Ford said, describing the government's actions as deceit and subterfuge. “And now they stand before the court saying that our motion for preliminary injunction no longer needs to be heard, that it is moot.”

—information from the Nevada Independent

Special events

Conservation District Election

The Thurston Conservation District will hold an election for one of the Supervisor's positions sometime in March. Keep your eyes open.

UFO Summit 2019

Saturday-Sunday, March 2–3, 9 am to 7 pm each day at Quinault Beach Resort

Annual research conference with renowned researchers presenting their theories and evidence. Vendors,, speakers, packages. \$45. Contact Margot, 360-289-6007.

Water for People, Water for Fish, Meeting 2 of the League of Women Voters 5-part study, Where’s The Water?

Tuesday, March 5 at the Olympia Center, 5:30 pm (program starts at 6)

New state policies on water rights/watershed planning; results of the WA water resource inventory areas planning effort in the Nisqually watershed.

Olympia Lobby Training

Tuesday, March 5, 6 to 8 pm, at Planned Parenthood of Olympia, 402 Legion Way SE

Learn to lobby your legislator about any issue of importance to you.

Thurston County Democratic Women Annual Brunch

Saturday, March 9, 11 AM – 1 PM, Hubers Gasthaus, 2312 Friendly Grove Rd NE

Honoring Shirley Chisholm, “she had guts.” Speaker, food, raffle, live music. Elect great candidates, women of color. No cost mentioned. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/TCDWC/>

FOR’s annual Fundraising Concert with Tom Rawson

Saturday, March 9, 7:30 pm at Traditions Cafe

Tom has a banjo and is not afraid to use it. Rollicking songs and stories. Raging Grannies will have a spot on the program too. Tickets \$15, \$10 for students and low income. Tickets sold at door.

Robotics for Kids!

Saturday, March 16, workshops at 11 and 2, at WET Science Center Hands-on activities for all ages; “Robot Garage” for 4th grade and up (sign up at <https://robotgarage.eventbrite.com>). Free.

STAY WOKE Rally featuring Dolores Huerta

The Washington Center March 18, 2019 Tables from 5:30-7:00, Program in Main Stage 7:00-9:00

Join us for an evening dedicated to promoting youth voice to end oppression in our community and help raise funds for the Dolores Huerta Foundation. The evening starts at 5:30 where non-profit groups from the Thurston County area will

Rural Water Challenges and Solutions, Meeting 3 of the League of Women Voters’ 5-part study: Where’s the Water?

Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 pm, at the Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St SE

Speaker Nora White, Thurston Conservation District. Focusing on water run-off and ground water recharge; including the role of the Thurston Conservation District. Free.

Spring Forage and Feast

Wednesday, March 20, 6 to 8:30 pm at the GRUB Farmhouse, 2016 Elliott Ave NW

Make delicacies including nettle soup, spring pesto, flower fritters, dandelion biscuits and energizing drinks. Embrace the gifts of the land. \$30. Register online at Grub's site, or call 360-753-5522.

“Love for a Change” Fundraiser Gala for SideWalk

Thursday March 28, 6 to 9 pm in Building 27, South Puget Sound Community College

Cocktails, raffle prizes, stand-up comedy, and a specially prepared meal, all to raise money to end homelessness. To inquire about purchasing a table or becoming a table captain, please e-mail Kento@WalkThurston.org. Single tickets available March 1.



▶ **SPECIAL**, continued on page 3

Outdated tenant laws: Promoting homelessness one eviction at a time

Sarah Stockholm

Even if you've never been evicted, we can all agree that three days is not enough time to access housing assistance resources or find a new place to live. None of us want to see another family or individual in the traumatic situation of housing instability. Yet the reality is, evictions are a leading cause of homelessness.

Our current outdated tenant and eviction laws protect the financial interests of the few over the fundamental needs of the many. Tenants have only three days to catch up on back rent, regardless of the reason they fell behind. Judges do not have discretion to consider the full facts of the situation. As a result, tenants are facing the trauma, expense and long-term destabilization of eviction for as little as \$2. The leading reason Washington tenants face eviction is for falling behind only a month or less in rent after experiencing setbacks we can all relate to: medical emergencies, temporary loss of income, or a death in the family. These temporary hardships that are beyond our control should not push families out of housing and onto the streets.

Passing legislation to reform the eviction process (SB 5600 / HB 1453) creates low-cost solutions to immediately stem the flow of families falling into homelessness. The common sense approaches in these bills, such as extending the notice to pay or vacate to 14 days and allowing judges to fully consider the facts of a situation, have been implemented in much of the country for decades, in states ranging from Tennessee to Ohio to Vermont.

We also need to protect renters from arbitrary tenancy terminations by passing SB 5733 / HB 1656. Currently, month-to-month tenants can receive a 20-day notice to vacate for any reason and because landlords don't have to provide a legitimate business reason, tenants are not protected against discrimination or retaliation. Local government attempts to require cause are weakened because landlords can get around local protections by terminating the tenancy at the end of a fixed term lease agreement.

We all see the evidence of inaction as more and more people are forced to survive on the streets, couch-surf, sleep in cars or settle for unsafe housing. There is no denying that Washington is in a housing crisis that for thousands of people is life threatening. We know that people of color, women, seniors, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, veterans, low-wage workers, and families are disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis. If our legislators follow the lead of much of the country, we will be able to set higher standards to keep people housed and help all communities in our state.

Once housing is lost, there are cascading consequences. While we all believe that every one of us should be treated equally under the law, everyday criminal justice policies and ordi-

nances penalize people for not having housing. HB 1591, dubbed the "Homeless Bill of Rights" seeks to decriminalize homelessness.

People without a better option sleep on the streets, in cars, or in an encampment and risk authorities confiscating their property, being banned from public spaces, or ending up in jail. Fines, fees, and a criminal record only increase barriers to well-being, housing and stability for the individual and the whole community. Taxpayers want to see real comprehensive

“Yet the reality is, evictions are a leading cause of homelessness.”

solutions, not expensive constitutionally questionable approaches that do nothing to address the reasons why so many people in Washington end up homeless.

Further, when we are caught in legal proceedings that could cause us to fall further from the solid ground we need, we should have access to an attorney who can stand up for our most basic rights. In fact, 82% of Americans be-

Ranked choice voting: where every vote can count

Becky Liebman

By the time you read this, you will know which film won Best Picture of the year from the Academy of Motion Pictures. Personally, I have my fingers crossed for Black Panther. But while I don't yet know the winner (I'm typing this with 14 inches of February snow on the ground), I know how the 7,902 voting members of the Academy chose it! They used ranked choice voting, a system currently used in cities and counties throughout the U.S., along with the entire state of Maine. Collectively, over 4 million U.S. voters currently use ranked choice voting to choose some of their elected representatives.

The ranked choice system is surprisingly simple. Voters are given a ballot with a slate of candidates. They indicate on their ballot who is their first choice, their second choice, third, etc. When the votes for everyone's first place choice are tallied, whichever candidate receives 50% of the vote plus one (a majority) is declared the winner. A majority, you say? That's pretty unlikely if there are more than two candidates isn't it? Not really. Let's look at an example.

How ranked choice voting works

In the case of the Academy of Motion Pictures, there are eight nominees for 2019.

For the sake of this example, let's limit it to just five: BlackkKlansman,

A Star is Born, *Roma*, *Black Panther*, and *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

I fill out my ballot: *Black Panther* is my first choice, *Roma* is my second choice, *BlackkKlansman* my third, *A Star is Born* my fourth, and *Bohemian Rhapsody* my fifth.

The votes are counted! Alas, as you expected, no nominee has received more than 50% of the vote in the first round of counting. In our ranked choice voting example, the film with the least number of votes is eliminated from the competition. Let's say that was *Black Panther*. Drat! The votes are recounted, but this time, those of us who voted for *Black Panther* as our first choice will now instead have

their second choice counted. In my case, my vote would now go for *Roma*.

The votes are counted again. Again, none have over 50%. This time *Bohemian Rhapsody* has the least, so it too is eliminated. (Another one bites the dust!) The votes are tallied again; any-one who had chosen *Bohemian Rhapsody* as their first choice on their ballot will now have their second choice counted as their vote.

We Americans continue to hold elections where only a plurality, i.e. the most votes but not necessarily a majority, determines the winner

Finally, in this imaginary next count, somebody DOES emerge as the clear winner! I'm not going to embarrass myself and invent an answer, especially since you already know. The point is that the Academy of Motion Pictures has been using this method since 2009, San Francisco since 2004, Minneapolis-St. Paul since 2011, and the state of Maine since 2018. The Utah State Legislature, in a recent and popular bi-partisan effort, voted to allow extensive experimentation with ranked choice voting throughout the state. These are only a few of the examples in play. A full and fascinating list can be seen at **FairVote.org**.

Ranked choice voting offers voters more choice

With ranked choice voting, voters can always vote their conscience and not have to worry about voting "strategically" in order to avoid what's known as "vote splitting." That occurs when two candidates with similar appeal may together garner a majority of votes, but they both lose to a third candidate who doesn't have to split the vote with anyone else. So-called spoiler elections are also eliminated, in which a weak third-party candidate siphons off just enough votes to throw the election to the lesser of two other candidates. Ranked choice voting allows people to vote with their hearts and minds without worry about vote splitting or spoilers.

lieve everyone should have access to legal help or representation in civil legal matters—this is a fundamental American value. We can advance justice in the civil legal system across Washington by increasing access to legal aid services for people experiencing homelessness as is done in HB 1591.

In this critical moment in Washington, we need our lawmakers to advance common sense solutions to one of our state's biggest problems: the housing crisis. Pass SB 5600 / HB 1453; SB 5733 / HB 1656 and HB 1591 without delay.

Editor's note: the session is unfolding as you read this. To track bills, visit the WA Legislature bill tracker at <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Sarah Stockholm is a community organizer and Popular Educator working with Showing Up for Racial Justice and Washington Community Action Network at the intersections of race & class and community & legislation. Contact her at sastockholm@gmail.com.

Ranked choice voting also lowers the vitriol in campaigns. If you and I are running against each other, I'm not going to gratuitously slam you because while voters may choose you for their first choice, I want them to choose me as their second choice. Reports clearly indicate that ranked choice voting makes negative campaigning less effective, and greatly increases the importance of what is often referred to as "retail politics". This means more canvassing and more town-hall meetings, but fewer attack ads on TV.

Majority vs. plurality

One of the most important things about our democratic form of government is that we believe in majority rule. Few Americans would argue with that. But then we have to wonder why, when other possibilities exist, we Americans continue to hold elections where only a plurality, i.e. the most votes but not necessarily a majority, determines the winner. The winner in a ranked choice election will always have a majority of the votes cast. The fact is, better elections are possible. So what's stopping us?

A growing network of activists around Washington State, under the banner of FairVote Washington (fairvotewa.org), is currently trying to pave the way for the use of ranked choice voting. Right now the group is lobbying State legislators on behalf of what's known as the Local Options Bill (HB 1722; SB 5708), the passage of which would make it easier for cities, counties and other jurisdictions around the state to debate and experiment with ranked choice voting.

As voting activists, we're seeking creative ways to deepen our own understandings and also to educate others. We invite you to come and join us in this hopeful, doable, and non-partisan quest when we next meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 5th at the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church, 2315 Division Street NW. For more information call (360) 280-7389.

And may the best candidate—(and film)—win!

Becky Liebman, retired librarian, is a member of FairVote Washington.

Special events

From previous page

Washington Environmental Council's Annual Gala
Saturday, March 30, from 6 to 9:30 pm; Washington State Convention Center, Ballroom 6E
Focuses on forest carbon sequestration policies and on Community Forests, a program that allows people that live in rural areas to have a say in the working of "working forests." Single tickets—\$150, Tables of 10—\$1,500. Cocktail reception 6 pm – chat with friends, make new ones, enjoy appetizers, purchase a Mystery Bag, or bid on a premium silent auction item. Guest speakers starting at 7:30pm, with dinner and dessert. To register, go to WEC online.

Run Like a Fool
Saturday March 30 at 7:30 am at Heritage Park, Water Street side
9th Annual Run Like a Fool 5k Run – two laps around scenic Capitol Lake. Cost \$30, sponsored by the Club Oly Road Runners. Contact them at clubolyroadrunners@gmail.com

For a comprehensive listing of events and activities of interest to the South Sound's politically active community and friends, go to the Community Calendar at LocalMotive.org. For WIP listings visit our FB page.

Returning the Thurston Conservation District to its purposes: Removals and renewals

Esther Kronenberg

On February 20, the Washington State Conservation Commission held a hearing and unanimously decided to remove two supervisors of the Thurston Conservation District Board (TCD) who had been charged with “neglect of duty and malfeasance” as the result of an official investigation in July of 2018.

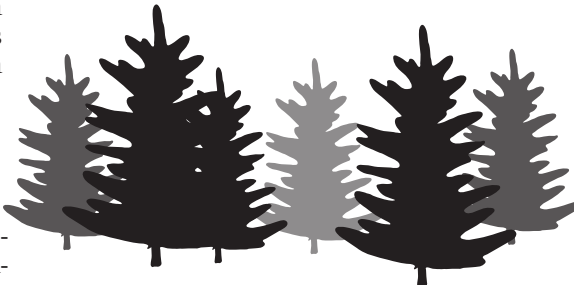
Programs essential for the environment, the economy and the future

For decades, TCD provided programs and services essential to farmers and landowners, and for the benefit of schoolkids and other members of the community. It leveraged grant monies and has acted as the lead entity in conservation efforts to protect water quality and restore fish habitat, among many other services.

Intentional crippling of programs

Actions by the two supervisors, Eric Johnson and Richard Mankamyer, had crippled the programs of the TCD and contributed to the loss of about

\$990,000 in funds. With \$325,000 of grants in jeopardy, and \$240,000 frozen by agencies reluctant to disperse funds while the District was being mismanaged, this amounted to about 91 percent of the District’s budget.



A strong community and country response

The community rallied this fall to restore TCD funding through a system of rates and charges amounting to about \$5 per year per landowner in the county. County Commissioners passed the resolution after hearing from about 200 people in November 2018 in support of the resolution. A handful of people testified against the resolution, including Supervisor Johnson.

An opportunity to elect new leadership

The next step to restoring the integrity of the TCD comes via a Supervisors’ election this March.

It is critical that residents who want a functional Conservation District in Thurston County rally their friends and neighbors to vote by March 26. (See instructions, box right column.)

The one candidate announced as of this writing is TJ Johnson. TJ Johnson is a full-time farmer and owner of Urban Futures Farm LLC in Olympia. He has been a local food activist since earning a Master’s in Environmental Science from The Evergreen State College (TESC). The open position is currently filled by Linda Powell who was appointed to fill the seat in November of 2017. Powell, as a consistent supporter of Johnson and Mankamyer provided these two recently-removed supervisors with a majority on the Board. She has not at this time an-

nounced whether she will run for the seat.

A candidate with key experience

Johnson is the founder of the Thurston Food System Council and served as Chair of the Council for two years. In 2011, he was the primary organizer of Come to the Table–Food Summit South Puget Sound, an event that marked the emergence of an organized local food movement in the County. He also served two terms on the Olympia City Council, chairing the Finance Committee and Intercity Transit Authority. He has held professional positions in the public sector and with various non-profits working on energy conservation and supporting public agency whistleblowers.

Rebuilding to meet economic and environmental challenges

Asked what he hopes to accomplish on TCD, Johnson said “I am running to restore public trust and rebuild board/staff/community relations in order to position TCD to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. As a former agriculture and food policy faculty at TESC, I understand the economic and environmental challenges facing farmers, and the need for TCD to collaborate with local, state and federal agencies, community organizations and private landowners. I am committed to preserving our remaining farmland, supporting the next generation of farmers, protecting the environment and addressing the challenges of climate change.”

An opportunity for renewal

If TJ Johnson was elected to the Board, he would join another new supervisor, Paul Pickett. Pickett was elected overwhelmingly last March, on a promise

to begin rebuilding TCD. With a new majority of supervisors eager to renew the work of the District, the community would regain an important resource to help meet challenging times ahead.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the League of Women Voters and a frequent contributor to Works in Progress

You must request a ballot to vote! Here’s how*

Conservation Districts have their own special election. All registered voters in Thurston County that live within Conservation District Boundaries are eligible. Parts of Yelm, Rainier and Tenino do not qualify.

Those eligible may vote in person at TCD’s poll-site election on March 26. The poll-site will be open between 8 am and 8 pm at the Thurston Co. Auditor’s Ballot Processing Center (2905 29th Ave. E., Suite E, Olympia, WA 98502)

Absentee ballots may be requested to be mailed to your mailing address beginning March 6 through March 21 at 4:30 pm from the Thurston County Auditor’s Office (360)786-5408.

Absentee ballots may also be requested in person through March 25 at 4:30 pm from the Thurston County Auditor’s Office (2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502)

All absentee ballots must be postmarked by March 26, 2019, or dropped in the ballot drop box at the Thurston County Court House (2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502).

Note, Other drop boxes throughout the county will not be open. Also you cannot request or pick up a ballot from the Thurston Conservation District Offices.

**As of this writing, the TCD Board had not yet passed the Election Resolution, but it is anticipated the information is accurate. Please check with the County Auditor.*



Safety

From page 1

declined to explain or clarify their reasons for changing the language used to justify sweeps, why they are resuming sweeps after such a long pause, whether or not people can expect sweeps to continue without alternative places for people to go, or how they see their interpretation of Martin vs Boise justifying these actions and decisions.

Meanwhile, Just Housing is continuing to advocate for the City of Olympia to:

- Release a public statement clarifying how the City is interpreting Martin vs Boise and how the City will or will not be changing its policies and procedures related to encampments and encampment sweeps accordingly.
- Work with stakeholders- including Just Housing, encampment residents, service providers, business owners, and other invested community members-to amend policies and procedures related to encampments and sweeps so that they are more just, compassionate, humane, and effective.
- Pause the enforcement against unsanctioned camping on city property, until these interpretations, policies and procedures have been amended and publicly/transparantly clarified
- Pause the sweep of Smart Lot and give Just Housing time to bring together a work group of stakeholders to seek humanitarian solutions to current challenges that work for all.
- Support a major community cleanup of the camp and redirect resources that would be used to pay for the eviction towards covering the cost of additional bathrooms, garbage, recycling, and handwashing stations

Community members can support these asks by emailing Olympia City Council Members at council@city.olympia.wa.us



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Since Parkland: 1,200 children fatally shot meant 1,200 lives to document. Every one deserves your attention

Madison Hahamy, Allie Kelly, Joe Meyerson, Nadia Ngom, & Jimmy Rodgers

Allie told the story of Owen Propes, a toddler in Tesuque, New Mexico, pictured on Facebook stuffing a tiny fistful of cereal—or maybe Goldfish crackers—into his mouth.

Joe wrote about 16-year-old Loyd Drain III from Brooklyn, New York, who died in his home alongside his father and niece after being shot by his half-brother.

Madison reported on Tarique Morris of Youngstown, Ohio. Only three months old: It's likely he hadn't even said his first word yet.

Nadia told the story of 18-year-old Hunter Black, who was murdered in Kennewick, Washington, months before the birth of his child.

Jimmy wrote about Shana Lorraine Fisher, a 16-year-old who was shot alongside nine others at Sante Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, after rebuffing the romantic advances of the shooter weeks before.

Their stories captured us, saddened us, and illuminated grave realities about the toll of gun violence among American youth. We've been shocked by the disproportionate homicide rates for young African-Americans in U.S. cities, troubled by the sheer number of domestic violence shootings, and devastated by tales of curious children accidentally shot by loose guns.

School shootings have been broadcast on our television screens, and we've taken it personally. We've been trained to memorize the exit routes in our classrooms, to think of our backpacks and binders not as school supplies, but as shields, to stress over whether or not a lockdown is a drill. Every day, roughly four children and teens un-

der 18 are shot and killed. Add firearm suicides, and the daily death toll rises to seven. Gun violence is ingrained in our consciousness. It's our normal. Born in the wake of Columbine, and sharing a nation with survivors of

Our goal is to shift the attention away from the numbness that seeps into the discussion around gun violence.

Parkland and Sandy Hook, young people in America today are so frequently confronted with murder in our schools and streets that we have a tendency to go numb. We've seen peers become victims, their lives reduced to statistics cited in political noise and cheap clickbait.

For every toddler caught in the crossfire, every fourth-grader gunned down in her home, every high school student murdered, we felt this consuming hopelessness. We were frightened. Angry. Frustrated. Powerless.

With "Since Parkland," a yearlong editorial project timed to the anniversary of the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018, we've channeled those feelings into an effort to honor those young victims. We joined more than 200 other teenage journalists to work with editors at *The Trace* and the *Miami Herald* to document the toll of gun violence among American youth.

At Parkland, 17 people were killed,

14 of them students. School shootings—their increasing frequency and the clustered loss of young lives—are unfathomable tragedies. But the gun violence affecting young people in our country is much broader. This project includes more than 1,200 profiles spanning a single year. Most of these young people were not shot at school, but at home, on the street, with friends, or while riding bicycles.

With 100-word profiles, we've told the victims' stories. We searched online databases, Facebook pages, police reports and news-feeds to understand whom we lost. Sources were often scarce, but whether we found multiple articles on the victim's life, or merely a birthdate—sometimes, we didn't have a name—we searched for the personhood.

We wanted to humanize the children and teens beyond the tragedies, beyond the gunshots in their final hours. We started with the details: nicknames, fashion sense, hobbies, and accomplishments. We emphasized how they lived, not how they died.

Our goal is to shift the attention away from the numbness that seeps into the discussion around gun violence. Names, faces, experiences, aspirations, even mistakes are what comprise the lives we lose every day. In telling their stories, we want to overwhelm you. We want you to feel that every child's gun death is unacceptable.

This project is necessary because it speaks for those who can no longer speak for themselves. This is not political. It's human. Children are dying. They should get to grow up: training wheels; skinned knees; middle school; graduation, first love, heartbreak.

Our country is mired in a youth gun violence epidemic. It affects all ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds, with especially disconcerting disparities among African-American and lower-income populations. These aren't isolated incidents. This is a pattern, a problem. Each victim deserves our attention.

We all remember Parkland. We're still frightened. Frustrated. Angry. But if this project has taught us anything, it's that we're not powerless. We can bring awareness to the true scope of the issue. Student journalists have that power. We refuse to stand idly by.

It's not lost on us that we can't account for the perspectives and situations of each and every young person in our country. What we can do, though, is try to find common ground.

This project is for all of us, no matter our circumstances or politics, who are bearing witness to the rash of gun violence that is continually destroying our communities, our collective sense of safety, and a big part of our national unity.

We wrote these profiles for every family who planned a funeral too soon; for the victims who've been buried, the tiny caskets. For a country littered with bullets.

The authors are among the 200 young people who participated in the project "Since Parkland" To read the story

How teen journalists profiled 1,200 kids lost to guns

Beatrix Lockwood & Carli Teproff

Kira Davis never met King Thomas III, but she felt a connection to him that she couldn't explain. "I just felt like he was there with me," she said. "We were the same age. He was a true kid with passion, just like me."

King was shot and killed during a home invasion in Fort Worth, Texas. He was only 15, the same age as Davis when she set out to write a portrait about his life. "I wanted his legacy to be something he would have wanted," said Davis, who lives in Los Angeles.

Davis learned about King, an aspiring rapper, by listening to music he performed and posted on SoundCloud. That research gave her the direction she needed to write something she thought would do King justice. She composed the profile in the form of a rap.

Davis's tribute was one of more than a thousand written by student journalists for "Since Parkland," a yearlong project by The Trace and The Miami Herald. In 100-word profiles, teen reporters memorialize young people fatally shot during the 12 months that began with the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The project grew out of the realization that the national gun debate had become a conversation with and about kids. Reporters and editors at The Trace and The Herald wanted to help readers understand the scale and contours of gun violence, beyond school shootings. And they wanted young people to be the driving force in their coverage.

Beatrice Motamedi, founder of the student journalism network Global Student Square and one of two senior editors on the project, positioned the concept to students as a way to take ownership of an issue that's come to define their childhood. "This is not my generation's story anymore," she told them.

"This is really yours."

of each child's life ended by a gun, as told by the 200 teen journalists: <https://sinceparkland.org>

The project "Since Parkland" was initiated by the Miami Herald newspaper, and "The Trace," a virtual newsroom that "shines a light on America's gun violence crisis." If you go to the website for Since Parkland, there is an extraordinary depth of information about the project and the students who are participating in it. "The Trace" (www.thetrace.org) is an independent source of information about gun violence spanning everything from legislation, to studies, to news coverage and more.

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Aggression against the legitimacy of the elected government of Nicolás Maduro

Rafael Quintero

Venezuela in context

When the worker Nicolás Maduro was re-elected as President of the country on May 20, the international right wing unleashed all its demons. It sanctioned dozens of officials of the sovereign state of Venezuela, dictated economic warfare measures against its energy companies, confiscated 800 tons of gold in the Central Bank of England; and last August these same forces attempted to assassinate the duly elected president. Lately, it has stolen more than 30 billion dollars in Venezuelan goods and companies in the US, reaching the point of threatening a war of aggression, and destruction against any country trying to emulate Venezuela's national freedom and sovereignty.

Indeed, in such an aggressive context, experienced by many countries in the region, it has been difficult to establish that the elective principle grants legitimacy to the head of State and / or Government. In theory, elections establish legitimacy for leaders in democratic societies. In political systems with kings or queens, following the doctrine of Divine Law, legitimacy is ideological and inherited or imposed by violence, where they have gained power through external invasions. But in our region, since we have not yet completely liberated ourselves from colonialism and still have colonial enclaves and weak republican states whose economies are dependent on the economy of the USA and Europe, we are subject to neocolonial harassment. This includes grating demands of an absolute surplus value of labor and the threat of force and violence that seek to destroy the legality and legitimacy of elections based on popular will.

In this way, the USA and Canada, along with some countries of the old Europe, separated from the common destiny that could have been shared regionally, across continents, among our republics. Moreover, since the last third of the 19th century, when the US became an imperialist power, we have endured its outrages against our national lives, particularly its openly colonialist and interfering Monroe doctrine. The current attack conducted by the USA and former colonialist countries of Europe against Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba and Bolivia is due to the fact that these countries propose, as an aspiration of the majority of peoples in the region, our Second Independence with respect to the European and American economic interests, eager for our riches. Historically, when governments appear in our region that potentially affect European and American economic interests, imperialism promotes crimes of aggression, dictatorships, coups of States, and even threatens to invade our countries to overthrow sovereign governments and impose puppet regimes.

Background to the May 2018 elections

In the context of the crime of international aggression perpetrated against Venezuela for years, a dialogue was facilitated in the Dominican Republic in 2017 at the request of the opposition to agree to a democratic coexistence in the country, and the parties formally agreed to advance the elections. The agreement ready for his final signature, with the certification of the Dominican President, the former President Zapatero of Spain and other observers, Mr. Borges—delegate of the opposition—received a fateful call from Bogota, ordering him not

to sign. Such was the displeasure of the Dominican President at this sign of bad faith that he declared he could no longer sponsor more dialogues in his country. The move on the part of MUD (*Mesa de la Unidad Democrática*) to withdraw from the negotiated agreement mocked the good faith of many. In these circumstances, the National Constituent Assembly of Venezuela resolved that the Electoral Council call elections, and so these were convened for May 20, 2018.

Legal and transparent elections

With an electorate of more than 20 million citizens qualified for the presidential vote and almost 19 million qualified to choose the 251 deputies of the Legislative Councils of 23 states, more than 14,000 electoral centers were organized. Six hundred and thirty-eight polling stations announced the electoral schedule eleven weeks in advance of the election, faithfully fulfilling the technical aspects of the electoral system. Likewise, elections were prepared for the 108,000 Venezuelans registered abroad, including the 120 cities of 14 countries with Venezuelan migrants.

There were initially five candidates for the Presidency of Venezuela (Henri Falcón, Javier Bertucci (an evangelical pastor), Reinaldo Quijada, Luis Alejandro Ratti (who was already on the ballot when he resigned his candidacy), and Nicolás Maduro. Falcón was the strongest of the opposition, as he was supported by 4 parties, among them, the Christian Democrats COPEI. All candidates accepted the current electoral rules and participated in the audits offered by the electoral system.

Seventeen audits were made to the electoral process. In Venezuela, the electoral system is submitted to audits before, during and after each election to verify transparency, with the participation of political parties, international observers and technicians. By the way, the guarantees given by the CNE are greater than those of Hugo Chávez in 1998. In these May 2018 elections, no candidate hesitated to sign the system of electoral guarantees, subject to the Electoral Council of Latin America (CEELA). There were more than 150 observers from all continents, including this writer.

However, accusations about the process were not in short supply. The first one came from an episodic circumstance. The candidate Ratti declined his candidacy in favor of Falcón after millions of ballot papers had already been printed. Critics shouted “fraud” because you could not impute those votes to Falcón automatically. The second appeared once the triumph of Maduro was proclaimed. There was talk of an “electronic fraud” by the MUD constituents, which in my view represents a gross slander against their country. I was there on election day and I could see how the process worked. The electronic vote is directly pressed on a keyboard where the candidates are chosen, with a trace of paper verified by the voter. The machines incorporate an elector authentication device, with a fingerprint reader. All this happens under the surveillance of international parties and observers.

Another security measure is the use of secure keys, generated from a shared key, composed of several contributed by the parties and the CNE. The Law allows the opening of 54% of

the boxes of receipts from the voting vouchers. This has been done and it was always found to work well. The system guarantees one elector, one vote; the secrecy of the vote; respect for the voter; the rapid transmission

If explicit military intervention of these imperialist powers and their lackey governments in the region occurs in Venezuela... this act of international aggression will be met with widespread resistance. And there will be no wall that contains it.

because at the end it is connected to a centralized system that receives the transmissions of all the machines and generates a bulletin of the result; and, it allows for audits, even by the voters themselves. Not surprisingly, former U.S President Jimmy Carter called the Venezuelan process “the best electoral system in the world.” In this electoral campaign, all five candidates recognized the Venezuelan electoral system as reliable.

The electoral boycott and the diversity of aggressions

There are countries where any action to boycott electoral processes is prohibited, or, failing that, it is proscribed to campaign for a null vote. In other countries, voting is mandatory. Ultimately, all these rules are inspired by Rousseau's opinion that “It is necessary to force human beings to be free”, and, therefore, those actions are considered aggressions to the elective principle. But in Venezuela the laws are permissive of all those actions: the vote is not obligatory; you can campaign for abstention and anyone who has lived there for years there can tell you that the hundreds of existing opposition newspapers rant and insult the government without repercussions.

Prior to the elections of May 2018, a segment of MUD—the oppositional front—was integrated into parties participating in street terrorism that in 2017 left more than 100 murdered, more than a thousand injured and ma-

terial losses of more than \$30 billion. This segment decided to abstain from participating in the May 2018 elections and threatened to boycott them. Henri Falcón, who was from the MUD, distanced himself from that organization and, in the face the terrorism which he himself denounced, decided to be a candidate. He was supported by three organizations, including a sector of the Christian Democracy. The MUD abstention was an opposition tool to disqualify the government of Nicolás Maduro, but as described by a center-right newspaper, *El Universal*, it only revealed the “weaknesses and lack of generosity among the opposition” (May 17, 2018).

The North American and European right interfered by supporting MUD and attacking the May 2018 elections. They induced the rise of inflation, supported a conspiracy against the transportation system, and sabotage to electricity, water and telecommunications services. Systematic media, financial and commercial aggressions were added to the “sanctions” imposed by the US and the EU and implemented daily against Venezuela. All this was designed to create anxiety and discomfort in the electorate. In spite of all this, the worker candidate triumphed.

Conclusions

The focus of foreign interference was to try to reduce electoral participation. Governments subordinated to Washington like the Canadian government “prohibited” the installation of electoral centers in that country, violating the human rights of thousands of Venezuelans there authorized to vote. However, even with this, and even while the financial and commercial blockade to the country worsened, electoral participation was within foreseeable parameters. In the elections there was a participation of 46.01 % of the electoral roll. The three candidates opposed to the government obtained 32% of the votes. The worker Maduro won with 68% of the votes, fully legitimizing his popular election.

► Aggression, continued on page 13.

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La agresión contra la legitimidad del gobierno electo de Nicolás Maduro

Rafael Quintero

Introducción

Cuando el obrero Nicolás Maduro fue reelecto Presidente del país el 20 de mayo pasado, la derecha internacional desató todos sus demonios. Sancionó a decenas de funcionarios de un Estado soberano; dictó medidas de guerra económica contra sus empresas energéticas, confiscó 800 toneladas de oro en el Banco Central de Inglaterra; intentó el pasado agosto el mismísimo magnicidio del obrero electo, y últimamente se ha robado más de 30 mil millones de dólares en bienes y empresas venezolanas en EEUU, llegando al colmo de amenazar con una guerra de agresión. Y destrucción a todo país que se le parezca en pretensiones de libertad.

Por cierto, en un contexto tan agresivo, vivido por muchos países en la región, ha sido difícil lograr que el principio electivo otorgue legitimidad al jefe de Estado y/o de Gobierno, mientras en otros sistemas políticos, con reyes o reinas, donde por la doctrina del Derecho Divino, la legitimidad es ideológica y heredada; o, impuesta por la violencia, donde han logrado el poder por invasiones externas. Pero, en Nuestra América, al no habernos todavía liberado completamente del colonialismo, y tener aún importantes

enclaves coloniales y Estados republicanos débiles, cuyas economías se volvieron dependientes de la economía de los EEUU y Europa., estamos sujetos a un acoso neocolonial, a la mayor exacción de una plusvalía absoluta del trabajo, y a la amenaza de la fuerza y la violencia que pretenden destruir la legalidad y la legitimidad basada en la voluntad popular.

De esta forma, los EEUU. y Canadá, compactados con algunos países de la vieja Europa, históricamente se separó del destino común que podría haber tenido con nuestras repúblicas. Además, desde el último tercio del siglo XIX, convertido EEUU en imperialista, soportamos sus atropellos contra nuestras vidas nacionales, al actuar según su injerencista doctrina Monroe, abiertamente colonialista. El actual ataque que los antiguos países colonialistas de Europa, con los EEUU le hacen a Venezuela, a Nicaragua, Cuba y Bolivia, se debe a que ellos plantean, como aspiración de la mayoría de pueblos en la región nuestra Segunda Independencia, con respecto a los intereses económicos europeos y estadounidenses, ávidos de nuestras riquezas. Por ello, al aparecer gobiernos que afecten sus intereses, el imperialismo promueve crímenes de agresión, dictaduras, golpes de Estados, e incluso amenazan con invadir

nos, e imponer regímenes títeres.

Las elecciones de mayo de 2008 se realizaron con legalidad y transparencia

Cuando en el contexto del crimen de agresión internacional perpetrado contra Venezuela por años, en 2017 se propiciaron los diálogos en República Dominicana, para convenir una convivencia democrática en el país, las partes habían acordado formalmente adelantar las elecciones, a pedido de la oposición. Listo el acuerdo para su firma, con la certificación del Presidente dominicano, del expresidente Zapatero de España y otros observadores, el Sr. Borges, delegado de la oposición recibió una fatídica llamada desde Bogotá, ordenándole no firmar. Tal fue la contrariedad del Presidente dominicano que afirmó ya no poder, futuro, auspiciar más diálogos en su país. Indudablemente, la MUD se había burlado de la buena fe de muchos. Sus planes no eran de elecciones, si no otros. En esas circunstancias, la Asamblea Nacional Constituyente de Venezuela, resolvió que el Consejo Electoral convoque a elecciones, y así éstas fueron convocadas para el 20-05-2018.

Las elecciones garantizaron la participación de la oposición y fueron realizadas con total transparencia

Sobre el cuerpo electoral y la participación efectiva de la oposición

Con un electorado de más de 20 millones ciudadanos habilitados para la votación presidencial y de casi 191 millones para escoger a los 251 diputados de los Consejos Legislativos de 23 estados, se previó también el voto indígena, usado solo en cuatro Estados, y se organizaron 14. 638 centros electorales, anunciando el cronograma con 11 semanas de anticipación, y cumpliendo fielmente con los aspectos técnicos del sistema electoral. Igualmente, se preparó comicios para los 108 mil venezolanos inscritos en el exterior, tal como lo harían en las 120 ciudades de 14 países con migrantes venezolanos.

Hubo inicialmente 5 candidatos a la Presidencia de Venezuela (Henri Falcón, Javier Bertucci (un pastor evangélico), Reinaldo Quijada, Luis Alejandro Ratti (quién ya estaba en la papeleta electoral cuando renunció a su candidatura), y Nicolás Maduro. Falcón era el candidato más fuerte de la oposición, pues lo respaldaban 4 partidos, entre ellos, la democristiana COPEI. Todos aceptaron las reglas electorales vigentes y participaron en las auditorias que ofrece el sistema electoral.

Con auditorias y observadores, no faltaron infantiles acusaciones de fraude

Efectivamente, se hicieron las 17 auditorias al proceso electoral convocado, pues en Venezuela, el sistema electoral es sometido a ellas, antes, durante y después de cada elección para verificar su transparencia con la participación de los partidos políticos, observadores internacionales y técnicos. Por cierto, las garantías que da el CNE son mayores a las que tuvo Hugo Chávez en 1998. Ningún candidato dudó en firmar el sistema de garantías electorales, supeditadas por el Consejo de Expertos Electorales de Latinoamérica (CEELA). Hubo más de 150 observadores de todos los continentes, incluido quién esto escribe.

Sin embargo, no faltaron las acusaciones. La primera provino de una circunstancia episódica. Y se dio cuando el candidato Ratti declinó su candidatura a favor de Falcón, estando ya impresas los millones de papeletas electorales. Se gritó “¡fraude!” porque no

se podía imputar esos votos a Falcón, automáticamente, sino unir voluntades en campaña. La segunda apareció una vez proclamada el triunfo del obrero Maduro. Se habló de un “fraude electrónico”, cantado por la MUD es una grosera calumnia contra su país. Estuve ahí el día de las elecciones y pude constatar como funcionaba. El voto electrónico es directo sobre un teclado donde se escoge a los candidatos, con una traza de papel verificados por el votante. Las maquinas incorporan un dispositivo de autenticación del elector, con un lector de huellas digitales. Todo esto bajo vigilancia de los partidos y observadores internacionales.

Otra seguridad es el uso de claves seguras, generadas a partir de una clave compartida, compuesta por varias aportadas por los partidos y el CNE. Esa, para reconstruirse, requiere del aporte de las claves usadas en su generación. La Ley permite la apertura del 54% de las cajas de resguardo de los comprobantes de votación. Esto se ha hecho y siempre se encontró que funcionó bien. El sistema garantiza: un elector, un voto; que ese voto sea secreto; el respeto al votante; la rápida trasmisión pues al final se conecta al sistema de totalización centralizado que recibe las transmisiones de todas las máquinas y genera un boletín del resultado; y, permite realizar todas las auditorías, incluso por los propios votantes. Con el uso de este sistema electrónico del voto, no solo ha ganado la alianza del gobierno bolivariano, y dos ocasiones el PSUV ha perdido las elecciones. Con tanta razón, el ex presidente Jimmy Carter, de EEUU, llamó al venezolano “el mejor sistema electoral de todo el mundo”. En esta campaña electoral los cinco candidatos reconocieron como confiable al sistema electoral venezolano.

El Boicot electoral y la diversidad de agresiones

Hay países donde se prohíbe toda acción de boicot a los procesos electorales, o, en su defecto, se proscribe hacer campaña por el voto nulo. Aún en otros países, el voto es obligatorio. En última instancia, todas estas normas se inspiran en el dictamen rousseauniano de que “hace falta obligar a los seres humanos a ser libres”, y, por lo tanto, se considera a esas acciones como agresiones al principio electivo. Pero en Venezuela las leyes son permisivas de todas esas acciones: el voto no es obligatorio; se puede hacer campaña por la abstención y quién ha vivido por años ahí puede decirles que los cientos de periódicos de oposición existentes, despotrican e insultan a mansalva al gobierno, sin que nada suceda.

Para las elecciones de mayo de 2018, una parte de la opositora MUD, --aquella compuesta por partidos participantes en el terrorismo callejero de 2017 que dejó más de 100 asesinados, más de mil heridos y pérdidas materiales por más de \$30 mil millones--, resolvió abstenerse de participar en las elecciones y amenazó con boicotearlas. Henri Falcón, que era de la MUD se distanció de esa organización y ante el terrorismo denunciado por él mismo, resolvió ser candidato, apoyado por 3 organizaciones, entre ellas por un sector de la Democracia Cristiana. En verdad, la MUD no participó en esas elecciones por su desprestigio, pues todo el pueblo venezolano vio a sus dirigentes con los terroristas en las calles, a quienes felicitaban y abrazaban de marzo a junio de 2017 y que por lo tanto fueron parte del crimen de agresión que le costó tanto a Venezuela. Esta abstención fue la herramienta opositora para descalificar al gobierno de Nicolás Maduro, pero como lo afirmaba un diario de centro derecha, El Universal, solo ocultaba “sus debilidades y falta de generosi-

► Agresión, continued on page 13.



Follow Eric J Garcia at El Machete Illustrated @instagram or friend Eric J Garcia on facebook.



Justicia y transparencia: Julian Assange, un mal ejemplo de periodismo?

by Esaud Osejo

Julián Assange es un personaje de su tiempo: concibe y practica su profesión el periodismo basandose en principios como la libertad de expresión e información, la transparencia del ejercicio del gobierno, y ademas utiliza los recursos tecnológicos que caracterizan a la revolución de las telecomunicaciones, revolución que ha transformado las formas de producir, intercambiar y gestionar la economía y la cultura planetaria.

De la información disponible en la Wikipedia, se desprende que, Assange fue investigador para que Suelette Dreyfus quien escribio el libro Underground, cuya primera edición en inglés se publicó en 1997. Como defensor de la transparencia en la información y del libertarismo mercantil, siempre fue promotor y desarrollador del software libre.

Es destacable recordar los galardones que le han sido otorgados:

En 2008, ganó el premio del Index on Censorship de la revista The Economist, y otros premios relacionados con los medios de comunicación. El 2009 Amnesty International UK Media Award (New Media), por exponer asesinatos extrajudiciales en Kenia distribuyendo y publicando la investigación de Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Kenya: The Cry of Blood – Extra Judicial Killings and Disappearances.

Ha sido reconocido como periodista por el Centre for Investigative Journalism. Al aceptar el premio, Assange dijo, «Es reflejo del coraje y fortaleza de la sociedad civil de Kenia que esta injusticia fuera documentada». En 2010, fue galardonado con el Sam Adams Award, lectores de la revista TIME escogieron, con una encuesta, a Assange como vicecampeón de Person of the Year.

En abril de 2011 fue nombrado en la lista Time 100 de las personas más influyentes. Una encuesta informal a editores en Postmedia Network lo nombró el más relevante del año después que seis de 10 encuestados han sentido que Assange ha «afectado profundamente el cómo la información es vista y entregada». Le Monde, una de las cinco publicaciones que cooperaron con WikiLeaks para publicar el documento Leaks, lo nombró persona del año con 56 % de votos en su encuesta online.

En febrero de 2011, Fue premiado con el Sydney Peace Foundation gold medal por la Fundación Paz Sydney de la University of Sydney por su «excepcional coraje e iniciativa en la búsqueda de los derechos humanos». Las cinco personas que han recibido el premio en los 14 años de historia de la Fundación han sido: Nelson Mandela; Tenzin Gyatso, 14º Dalái Lama; Daisaku Ikeda; y Assange. En junio de 2011, fue premiado con Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism. El premio es concedido anualmente a periodistas «cuyo trabajo ha penetrado en la versión de eventos establecidos y relatado una verdad impalpable que expone la propaganda establecida, o “mentiras oficiales”».

El jurado dijo, “WikiLeaks ha sido retratado como un fenómeno de la era de la información, lo cual es. Pero es mucho más. Su objetivo de justicia a través de la transparencia es el más antiguo y la mejor tradición del periodismo». En noviembre de

2011 recibió el premio 2011 Walkleys en la categoría “Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism”. Los premios anuales Walkley premian la excelencia en el periodismo desde 1994 en los medios de comunicación australianos. Snorre Valen, un parlamentario noruego, lo nominó para el Premio Nobel de la Paz 2011.

“parece que el gobierno de Correa no calculó bien los tiempos y la única salida honrosa que le quedó fue resistir la presión velada que hacían los EE. UU.”

Por qué EE. UU. se querella y quiere capturar a Assange?

A partir de la Filtración de documentos diplomáticos de los Estados Unidos el 28 de noviembre de 2010, relacionados con el ataque aéreo en Bagdad del 12 de julio de 2007, con los Diarios de la Guerra de Afganistán y los Registros de la Guerra de Iraq; en las que se describen las violaciones al derecho internacional y los crímenes de guerra cometidos por los EE.UU. El Pentágono quiere extraditarle y encarcelarle, y tal como actúa con quienes considera sus enemigos, el gobierno de los EE.UU. ha implementado acciones mediáticas, diplomáticas y legales (Se conoce que hay una acusación fiscal secreta) para perseguirle y capturarlo.

En esta misma dirección, políticos y personajes destacados, activan para silenciar a Wikileaks y para desaparecer o encarcelar a Assange, veamos algunos ejemplos:

Sarah Palin: El 29 de noviembre de 2010, la ex gobernadora de Alaska y ex candidata a vicepresidenta por el Partido Republicano, pidió a través de su página en Facebook a la Administración Obama que capturara a Assange ya que debe tener la misma urgencia que perseguir a Al Qaeda y a los líderes talibán.

Bill O'Reilly: Periodista de FOX, el 30 de noviembre de 2010 pidió la ejecución de los miembros de WikiLeaks y de quienes filtran los documentos.

Tom Flanagan: El asesor del primer ministro del gobierno de Canadá, en una entrevista a la BBC dijo que Julian Assange debería ser asesinado.

Problemas con empresas de pago por internet: la compañía de pago por internet PayPal clausuró durante los últimos años varias veces cuentas de la organización que dirige Assange porque se estaban utilizando para una «actividad ilegal». Por otra parte, la Wau Holland Foundation, creada por un hacker alemán que envía a WikiLeaks abundantes donativos, ha recibido dos avisos oficiales de las autoridades germanas por falta de información contable.

En 2010, Donald Trump califico a Wikileaks de “vergonzosa” y expresó su deseo de aplicar la pena de muerte a diseminadores de documentos.

Que representa Assange y Wikileaks?

A partir de sus principios y prácticas y de los enemigos que han acumulado, puede decirse Wikileaks y Assange constituyen una versión auténticamente democrática y liberal del periodismo y la comunicación que practica, a pie juntillas, la libertad de expresión y el derecho de la ciudadanía a conocer de forma transparente el accionar de los gobiernos y estados

que pretenden controlar el mundo y los mercados.

Qué es lo relevante en la labor de Assange y Wikileaks (y otros)?:

Assange describe y permite comprender que lo que está reconfigurando el planeta es la disputa por los mercados y territorios, y que este fenómeno se concreta a través de dos estrategias contrapuestas: alianzas con las clases dominantes y gobernantes de los países amigos; y guerras de invasión a países ricos en recursos naturales estratégicos cuyos gobiernos no les son favorables; y además –aunque no siempre, como el caso de Venezuela– que estén políticamente ubicados cerca de sus potenciales competidores como China y Rusia.

Qué este tipo de invasiones contempla estrategias comunicacionales, militares y políticas: previas, durante y después del conflicto armado; dentro de los países víctimas y en el mundo entero. Y que una de las puntas de lanza de la estrategia comunicacional de las potencias invasoras, es la difusión masiva de supuestos valores liberales como la democracia, derechos humanos, etc. Además dan a conocer la casi certeza de que estos gobiernos “hostiles” traman crímenes de lesa humanidad en contra de su propia población, y que son un peligro para la seguridad y estabilidad de la región y de los EE. UU.

Wikileaks a través de sus investigaciones ha develado dos cosas esenciales: 1) que los EE UU y sus aliados, especialmente la OTAN, tergiversan deliberadamente la realidad y mienten al mundo sobre los motivos por los que emprenden las invasiones; 2) que en las invasiones se comenten crímenes de lesa humanidad en contra de la población civil. Tambien han desenmascarado a los ojos del mundo, principalmente de la población más informada, una de las caras más brutales de la globalización neoliberal. Nunca como ahora, ha quedado claro cual han sido, es y será el rol de las conquistas de territorios y la manera hacer “infinitas” las ganancias que reportan las inversiones para la guerra.

Han mostrado que en esta cruzada por llevar la democracia del dólar, los gobiernos de las potencias hegemónicas son subsidiarios de las grandes corporaciones y transnacionales que son las que cosechan las ganancias. Ha demostrado que la internet y las TIC (Técnicas de Comunicación e Informacion), no sólo sirven para los negocios y la guerra, también son una arma poderosa –sub utilizada– en manos de sectores democráticos que luchan por la paz y la no intervención. El caso Assange y Wikileaks es emblemático y muestra claramente los límites de la libertad de expresión e información; esta libertad es tolerable hasta donde no afecte las estrategias de dominación y control

territorial.

Qué papel ha jugado y juega el Ecuador

Resulta complejo desentrañar las motivaciones precisas del Gobierno del Ecuador para recibir a Julián Assange como refugiado en su Embajada del Reino Unido. La información pública, favorable o contraria, es más propagandística que veraz; sin embargo hago una aproximación basada en la política exterior y en la coyuntura política interna. Pudieran exhibirse tres razones:

Rafael Correa, presidente de El Ecuador y la corriente progresista del Gobierno, se alineaban con Rusia y China en la defensa del multilateralismo. Esto daba un indudable protagonismo regional al Presidente Rafael Correa, quien intentaba apuntalarse como líder sudamericano dentro de la corriente de gobiernos y movimientos denominados progresistas. Le permitía al presidente Correa reforzar su liderazgo excluyente al interior del movimiento político Alianza País, pues arinconaba aún más a las corrientes de izquierda que le eran adversas, puesto que con esta audaz y valiente jugada diplomática mostraba que era capaz de enfrentarse al Imperio y a las fracciones de la derecha ecuatoriana que reventaron de vergüenza nacional cuando Correa concedió asilo diplomático a Assange.

En perspectiva, parece que el gobierno de Correa no calculó bien los tiempos y la única salida honrosa que le quedó fue resistir la presión velada que hacían los EE. UU. y sostener a Assange en la embajada. Correa sabía al final de su gobierno que era único papel que podía jugar, puesto que el destino de Assange está en las manos de los acuerdos entre los gobiernos del Reino Unido y los Estados Unidos. Un gobierno laborista encabezado por Jeremy Corbyn podría significar un giro favorable a la justicia, es decir a Assange.

Es bastante claro que actual presidente de El Ecuador Lenin Moreno, está empeñado en echar a Assange de la embajada y entregarlo a los EE. UU; como no dispone ni de la firmeza (lo demostró cuando su canciller María Fernanda Espinoza le otorgó a Assange la nacionalidad ecuatoriana) ni del liderazgo que tenía Correa, está buscando el momento y argumentos de todo tipo para cumplir con esta tarea que le ha sido encomendada y que gustosamente quiere cumplir.

Esaud Osejo is an Architect who lives in Quito, Ecuador.



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Justice through transparency: Julian Assange, a bad example of journalism?

Esaud Osejo

Julian Assange is a character of his time. He conceives and practices journalism based on principles such as freedom of expression and information, the need for transparency in the exercise of government, and the use of technological resources that characterize the telecommunications revolution, a revolution that has transformed the ways of producing, exchanging and managing the planetary economy and culture.

From the information available on Wikipedia, it appears that Assange was a researcher for Suelette Dreyfus's book *Underground*, whose first edition in English was published in 1997. As a defender of transparency in information and commercial libertarianism, he was always a promoter and developer of free software.

It is important to note the awards and recognition he has garnered for his journalism. He was awarded the prize on the Index on Censorship from *The Economist* magazine in 2008, and other awards related to the media. He recieved the 2009 Amnesty International UK Media Award (New Media), for exposing extrajudicial killings in Kenya by distributing and publishing the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Kenya report, "The Cry of Blood investigation—Extra Judicial Killings and Disappearances." Accepting the prize, Assange said, "It is a reflection of the courage and strength of Kenyan civil society that this injustice was documented." He has been recognized as a 'Journalist' by the Center for Investigative Journalism.

In 2010, he was awarded the Sam Adams Award and readers of *Time Magazine* chose Assange as vice-champion of Person of the Year. In April 2011, he was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential people. An informal survey of editors at Postmedia Network named him the most relevant journalist of the year after six out of ten respondents stated that Assange has "deeply affected how information is viewed and delivered." *Le Monde*, one of five publications that cooperated with WikiLeaks to publish the Leaks document, named him Person of the Year with 56% of votes in their online survey.

In February 2011, he was awarded the gold medal by the Sydney Peace Foundation of the University of Sydney for his "exceptional courage and initiative in the search for human rights". The five people who have received the award in the Foundation's 14-year history have been Nelson Mandela, Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama, Daisaku Ikeda; and Assange.

In June 2011, he was awarded with Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism. The prize is awarded annually to journalists "whose work has penetrated

the established version of events and related an impalpable truth that exposes the established propaganda, or 'official lies.'" The jury said, "WikiLeaks has been portrayed as a phenomenon of the information age, which it is. But it is much more. Its objective of justice through transparency is the oldest and the best tradition of journalism."

“The Assange and Wikileaks case is emblematic in clearly showing the limits of freedom of expression and information. This freedom is tolerable only in so far as it does not affect the strategies of domination and territorial control.”

In November 2011, Assange received the 2011 Walkley Award in the category "Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism." The annual Walkley awards have rewarded excellence in journalism since 1994 in the Australian media. Snorre Valen, a Norwegian parliamentarian, nominated him for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Why the US desire to capture Assange?

The Pentagon wants to extradite and imprison Assange for filtering diplomatic documents from the United States on November 28, 2010 related to the air strike in Baghdad July 12, 2007, and producing the War Diaries of Afghanistan and the War Records of Iraq, in which the violations of international law and war crimes committed by the U.S. are described. This is not a new response from the Pentagon towards those it considers its enemies—the U.S. government has implemented mediatic, diplomatic and legal actions to persecute and capture him. (It is also known that there there have been secret fiscal accusations levied against Assange.)

On this same path, politicians and prominent figures in the US constantly work to silence WikiLeaks and to imprison Assange or make him disappear. For example, on November 29, 2010, Sarah Palin, the former governor of Alaska and former candidate for Vice President for the Republican Party, asked through its Facebook page that the Obama Administration capture Assange with the same urgency accorded to persecuting Al Qaeda and the Taliban leaders. On November 30, 2010, Bill O'Reilly, the Fox News journalist, requested the execution of WikiLeaks members and those who filter documents. That same year, Donald Trump called WikiLeaks disgraceful and suggested the death penalty for releasers of information. Tom Flanagan, adviser to the prime minister of the Canadian government, in an interview with the BBC, said that Julian Assange should be killed.

The online payment company PayPal closed accounts of the organization

that Assange runs because they were being used for an "illegal activity". Around the same time, the Wau Holland Foundation, created by a German hacker that sends WikiLeaks abundant donations, had its tax exempt status rescinded by the German government. Ultimately, that status was re-instated.

What do Assange and WikiLeaks Represent?

Based on its principles and practices and on the list of enemies WikiLeaks has accumulated, one might reasonably argue that WikiLeaks constitutes an authentically democratic and liberal version of journalism and communication. It advocates freedom of expression and the right of citizens to know with transparency the actions of governments and states that seek to control the world and its markets.

Assange describes and allows us to understand that what is reconfiguring the planet is the dispute for markets and territories, and that this phenomenon is concretized through two opposing strategies: alliances among the ruling classes and rulers of friendly countries, and wars of invasion against countries rich in strategic natural resources, but whose governments are not favorable to them. And also—although not always, as in the case of Venezuela—the countries to be invaded are located close to their potential competitors such as China and Russia.

Assange and Wikileaks' journalism helps reveal that these invaders contemplate communication, military and political strategies before, during and after the armed conflict, both within the victim countries and throughout the world. As part of that, their work has revealed that one of the spearheads of the communication strategy of the invading powers is the massive diffusion of liberal sounding values such as democracy, human rights, etc. Another part of the communication strategy revealed by Assange and WikiLeaks is that the allegation that these "hostile" governments are plotting crimes against humanity, against their own population, and that they are a danger to the security and stability of the region and the United States.

Through its investigations, WikiLeaks has revealed two essential things: 1) that the USA and its allies, especially NATO, deliberately misrepresent reality and lie to the world about the reasons why they undertake invasions; 2) that in the invasions, crimes against humanity, against the civilian population, are committed. Through its work,

WikiLeaks unveiled to the eyes of the world, mainly of the most informed population, one of the most brutal faces of neoliberal globalization. Never as now, has it become so clear how the invasion of territories is a form of making "endless" the profits brought by investing in wars.

Assange and WikiLeaks have shown that the internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), not only serve for business and war, they are also a powerful weapon when used by democratic sectors that fight for peace and non-intervention. The Assange and WikiLeaks case is emblematic and clearly shows the limits of freedom of expression and information. This freedom is tolerable as far as it does not affect the strategies of domination and territorial control.

What has been and currently is the role played by Ecuador?

It is difficult to unravel the precise motivations of the Government of Ecuador to receive Julian Assange as a refugee in the Embassy in the United Kingdom. Public information, favorable or contrary, is more propagandistic than truthful. However, I present here an approximation based on foreign policy and the internal political situation. There could be three main reasons: Rafael Correa, President of Ecuador and representative of the progressive current within the government, aligned himself with Russia and China in defense of multilateralism. This move gave an undoubted regional prominence to President Correa, who tried to prop himself up as an important South American leader within the current of so-called progressive governments and movements. Internally, the decision to offer Assange asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London allowed President Correa to reinforce his exclusive leadership within the political movement Alianza País, and cornered even further the currents of the left that were adverse to him. This bold and courageous diplomatic move showed that he was capable of facing the Empire and the fractions of the Ecuadorian right that burst with 'national shame' when Correa granted Assange diplomatic asylum.

In retrospect, it seems that Correa's government did not calculate the global situation well. The only honorable way out was to resist the veiled pressure from the U.S. and keep Assange in the embassy. Correa knew at the end of his government that it was the only role he could play, since Assange's fate lies in the hands of agreements between the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. (As an aside, a labor government led by Jeremy Corbin could take a turn for justice and benefit Assange.)

It is quite clear that the current president of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, is determined to kick Assange out of the embassy and deliver him to the United States. As he has neither the firmness (which showed when his Foreign Minister María Fernanda Espinoza granted Assange Ecuadorian nationality) nor the leadership exhibited by Correa, Moreno is apparently simply looking for the right and the 'argumentation' to fulfill the task that has fallen to him—a task he clearly wants to fulfill.

Esaud Osejo is an Architect who lives in Quito, Ecuador.

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I read Marx at age 69

Fred Atkinson

I was a Marxist and didn't know it. A few weeks ago, my good neighbor told me he's a Marxist. When asked what that meant, he said among contemporary political figures, Bernie Sanders' viewpoint, though basically socialist, aligns well with Marxist philosophy. Supporting Bernie's platform but ambivalent about his run for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, I set out to learn about Marxism. At age 69, with no background in economics, I read Marx's *Capital* for the first time and like other workers over the last 170 years, I was moved by its relevance to current events, occasional humor, and accounts of labor conditions in 19th century England.

Reading *Capital* was tedious at first, due to terminology that's been out of usage since 1849. Commodity, value, labor power, means of production, and surplus value took on new shades of meaning. Commodities include all goods and services that fulfill a need in society; value is what we think of as monetary cost as well as the exchange of commodities for equivalent amounts of money or other commodities; labor power, a commodity itself, is labor for production of commodities; means of production represents land, buildings, mechanical energy, equipment, raw materials and all else needed for the production of commodities except labor power; and surplus value is value greater than the labor power and means of production needed to produce a commodity.

Gradually, a compellingly simple economic model of capitalism began to

take shape. Marx saw capitalism as the circulation of value derived from the production of commodities. The capitalist exchanges the value he controls to acquire the means of production and labor power to produce commodities. Capitalism perpetuates itself through the exchange of commodities with the goal of creating surplus value.

Eliminating extraneous influences like interest rate, market conditions, and governmental policy, Marx's model focuses on the underlying principles driving capitalism. Exhaustively analyzing the circulation and exchange of value under a wide range of assumptions, *Capital* is too detailed and abstract to be absorbed in one reading. On the other hand, patient reading reveals key points humorously amplified by the experiences of the hypothetical capitalist Mr. Moneybags, and when Marx draws conclusions about the nature of capitalism they are clear, simply stated, and apply as well today as they did in the 19th century. After a lifetime of working for wages and in view of recent history, some stand out.

Insights gleaned from reading Marx

As Mr. Moneybags discovered, labor is the only commodity that can be exchanged for more value than it takes to acquire it, i.e. for a profit. One result is an uneasy interdependence between capitalist and worker, each bound to the other in spite of conflicting needs. The capitalist aims to maximize profit and accumulate value (capital) while the worker seeks to maximize compensation for his labor and improve his quality of life. Marx showed that

arrested. It could range from a year or two, to 5, 6, or more years. Women imprisoned on drug charges spend those years at Mission Creek in Belfair, WA., or in Purdy outside of Shelton. Mission Creek, with a capacity of 300, and Purdy with 1000, are the two women's prisons in our state. The proportion of women incarcerated there on drug-related charges is probably much higher than the statewide figure.

Time reduced, time added

In state prison, a 25 percent "good time" reduction in sentence is available for those who avoid infractions. But even if Elizabeth gets the "good time" reduction, she will continue under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system even after her release. Her time under "community custody" is determined by the classification of her

charges and a complex scoring system that confounds understanding. (Prison officials may also play a role in deciding the length of this period.) Under community custody, Tyler's living situation has to be approved by her probation officer and she must produce urine for analysis weekly or monthly for the duration. Some years after she leaves prison, Elizabeth will finally be released.

But her sentence will not be over. We justify our punitive system with a shrug: "You did the crime, you do the time." But that's now how it works—a felony conviction with its many consequences follows you. It's not 5 years or 6 or 7 years. It's a life sentence.

Bethany Weidner lives in Olympia and writes often for Works in Progress

in a perfect market economy accumulation of value always overrides the needs of workers. Examples of intolerable working conditions during the industrialization of England are plentiful in *Capital* and Marx's accounts of child labor, unhealthy working conditions, and attempted labor reforms co-opted by industrialists are extreme

Marx thought that capitalism requires a workforce that believes the capitalistic system benefits them... In general, I fall into [that] category but I'm not sure same could be said for the worker who sews my shirts.

examples of that negative side of capitalism.

Today, for some of us at least, working conditions have improved in comparison to 19th century England. I've adjusted to working for wages and grown comfortable with the modest life style it provides. If my employer pays me \$30 for work I do and charges his customer \$90 for the product, allowing for overhead and profit, that seems like a reasonable arrangement. I make money, he makes money, his customer (perhaps another worker) receives a good product, and in the process my employer buys raw materials and equipment from other capitalists, and the circulation of value goes on.

At the same time, I'm aware that many of the commodities that make my life comfortable, not the least of which are clothing, furniture, and auto parts, are affordable because they're produced by workers who endure conditions little better than Marx described. The current trend favoring offshore manufacturing correlates to Marx's observation that because capital intensive pro-

cesses produce profit at a higher rate they are preferred over labor intensive processes. In Marx's time, England kept capital intensive textile manufacturing at home and relegated more labor intensive agricultural production of cotton to the US and other countries. Today we keep management of production and distribution of goods at home and relegate manufacturing to other countries. Marx thought that capitalism requires a workforce that believes the capitalistic system benefits them and/or a workforce constrained to work by circumstances. In general, I fall into the former category but I'm not sure same could be said for the worker who sews my shirts.

Another of Marx's conclusions about capitalism seems especially relevant today—ironically capitalism is self-perpetuating but it requires unlimited growth to sustain itself. One often publicized goal of the Federal Reserve is to maintain a healthy economic growth rate of a few percent per year. Marx pointed out that investing capital with the goal of creating more capital results in unlimited accumulation of value (economic growth). That implies a workforce of unlimited size as well as an unlimited supply of consumers. Current environmental concerns, world population projected to reach 8 billion in 2023 and 12 billion by the end of the century, and a US population growth rate of 0.62% down from 1.4% in 1992, suggest we may be reaching limits to unrestrained growth unforeseen by Marx.

Two more of Marx's theories seem to be validated by current events. One is that capitalism maintains itself by accumulating value while the workforce

► **Marx**, continued on next page

Addicts

From page 1

was present, she could face a "minor enhancement" that would add additional time to her eventual sentence.

If, while Tyler awaits trial, she relapses, she will find herself vulnerable to additional police and prosecutorial efforts. She quite likely could be the target of a "controlled buy." A controlled buy is where the police give someone who's already been arrested and charged the opportunity for a lesser sentence if they participate in monitored drug transactions with others of their acquaintance—who then are arrested and charged in their turn. The incentive for police and prosecutor to pursue these strategies increases during election years: ramping up arrest figures can solidify your "get tough on crime" identity.

At trial, the judge will put the prosecutor's charges into a "sentencing calculator" that scores the offender's behavior, locates a level of severity based on the charges, and calculates a sentence. If Elizabeth was the target of a controlled buy, she is no longer a first offender though there has been no real change in her situation. In a seemingly contradictory afterthought, the state statute says that a second offense can double the otherwise calculated sentence.

Tyler's sentence will thus vary according to the policies of the prosecuting attorney in the county where she was

...the idea of treating addicts differently from other offenders has failed to affect the idiosyncratic and punitive charging practices indulged in by many prosecutors.

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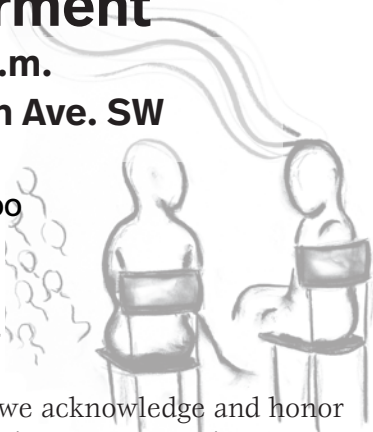
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How waitressing made me a better organizer

Sarah Stockholm

A couple years ago I found myself in the kitchen of a white working-class organizer with decades of food service and movement building experience. Airen's eye rolls, laughter, cursing, and ability to cook, strategize movement work and build relationship all at once offered me a place to reflect on the gifts working class folks bring to organizing.

Multitasking life, work and the movement

Grassroots organizations are often led by working parents, people with full time-jobs, no jobs, welfare recipients, part-time jobs, students, retirees, etc. Most of us are working for survival—for rent, bills, transportation, medical care—and all of us are working for liberation. We become organizers multi-tasking life, paid work and the movement.

Valued skills from undervalued work

Job experience outside of the movement is often of great use to the movement. Yet too often the professional middle-class people are seen as having the most valuable expertise. Years of working as a waitress made me an expert in switching from the shit-talking back-of-house camaraderie among workers to the language of customer service. I now see the valuable skills

I bring as an organizer come directly from the undervalued work I have done since I was 14 years old. I began talking with other organizers who also worked extensively in food service and noticed some common themes.

Holding our ground as women

The first element is our working-class feminism. As a teenage girl, I was subjected to patriarchy from customers, co-workers and bosses. I learned to hold my ground when men tried to push me around. I teamed up with other servers—who were predominantly women—to protect each other against predatory customers or bosses steeped in toxic masculinity. We understood the hand women were dealt, and we refused to accept that would be all we got. We noticed how men treated their girlfriends, wives and daughters—and on a number of occasions we found ways to ask if they were safe and offer some solidarity.

Learning from each other while serving beer and burgers

We worked hard for our tips knowing all our interactions could affect our monthly budgets. I learned to keep my power, shake off the bullshit and spin my words to uplift feminism and smash the patriarchy. I also learned that while capitalism hurts all workers, the added layers of race, gender and ability create very different experiences. While front of house employees tended to be white, I often worked with Native, Black or immigrant Women of Color. These women were subjected to racism every day at work and it was through building relationship with them that I began to develop a racial justice analysis in my Feminism. At the end of the day, there was no article to read about feminist thought that reflected our language or experiences. We learned from each other and co-developed an analysis of patriarchy and white supremacy while serving beer, burgers and pie.

Finding the sweet spot for all sorts of people

Good organizers and facilitators know how to read a situation and approach people where they are at. If you want to make any money serving food or drinks, you've got to be able to adapt to the needs of each customer. Whether it's how they want their food prepared or how much sass they want you to serve, you've got to aim to find a different sweet spot for each table. Effective

organizers talk to all types of people because everybody has got something to give and get from the movement. To build a broad-based movement we certainly can't spend all our time talking to people just like ourselves. We've also got to learn to prioritize who to spend more time with and how to create a welcoming space for a variety of folks.

Noticing and addressing needs

Timing is everything in a restaurant and in a movement. To be effective in both spaces, we have to notice when somebody needs something and address those needs. While waitressing I learned to notice whether people are ready for a check or to talk about desert. As an organizer, I learned to notice whether people are ready to hold a sign or talk to the press. A good server helps people move through the restaurant experience and a good organizer helps people move through the movement experience. How quickly can we figure out what people want to give or get from the movement and then, can we work with them to get there? Can we retain active membership in our organizations or do we have a base of occasional customers who stop in for one drink but don't come back?

The crucial importance of your team

A really good waitress or organizer cannot provide excellent service without an excellent team. The past few years in the movement have felt like working two weeks straight where every night is slammed. Seasoned organizers are trying to keep up while struggling to provide support to new organizers/activists who just joined the team and, just like a new restaurant worker, are asking important questions we don't always have time or patience to answer during “the rush.”

You can't shrug off responsibility and survive

The work is exhausting; the accelerated pace can sometimes trip us up. We have to have teammates who understand their role in the big picture, can manage their stress and follow through with their tasks. If someone didn't want to finish their side-work at the end of the shift, they just created extra work for the next person. In organizing when someone doesn't follow through with their commitments, they shrug their responsibility off onto others. In a restaurant you can't do this more than twice before you're definitely gonna hear about it. Somehow in the movement, you can do this for years and people will still work with you despite knowing your sloppy work ethic.

Your word is your character

This is where class culture really comes through. In the rural working class communities I come from, the work a person does is more valuable than the work they talk about. A person's work ethic and “word” (aka following through on what they say they will do) are how we evaluate people's character. Sometimes there's a bit of internalized classism wrapped up in these beliefs, but mostly there's a strong sentiment that if you don't work hard, you aren't gonna help yourself or anybody else.

A big project takes a lot of time

The realistic refrains around my house were usually “you don't always get what you want” and “life is tough; get used to it.” They may sound grim, but let's face it—we're trying to tear down massive interlocking systems of oppression—this isn't easy work. If we want to dedicate our lives to the movement, we have to contend with continually pushing against the power structure and making slower progress than we envision. We have got to have

a team that can persevere against the odds, keep our word and at the end of the day, shake off the bullshit and wake up with a sense of responsibility to continue the work. I certainly don't always want to follow through on the day to day organizing tasks, but if we can't figure out how to make time to send a few emails or make some phone calls, how the hell are we ever gonna figure out how to make time for the bold project of creating “another world”?

Systems of mutual aid are key

The poor and working-class organizers that I work with know what it means to struggle and support each other. We gift each other groceries, medicinal herbs, rides to appointments, child care, meals. We create systems of mutual aid that extend in our communities to fill holes left by neo-liberalism, tax cuts, shrinking social services, climate change. We manage 14 hours days that usually include demanding physical and emotional labor and are the first ones to sign up for a volunteer shift. When people say they don't have time for organizing responsibilities but manage to take multiple vacations, I see that our stake in movement work is different. Showing up in movement spaces is what keeps me alive and I know it is our work to fight for each other's lives. And sure, I've had to learn to pace my learned-Protestant work ethic. Some hard lessons have taught me that I'm not responsible for doing all the labor and joy is an essential ingredient to the good life—but I don't need a fancy vacation to practice that.

Making your skills visible

If you are in my “back of house” poor/working class organizing crew, I encourage you to name the ways you show up for the movement. Make visible the labor we have been trained in capitalism to keep invisible. Find each other, be with each other, build each other up and push your middle-class folks/spaces to build a more complex analysis of racialized capitalism and lift up poor/working leadership. We have such important hard-earned skills and perspectives to offer the movement – and right now, we need all of them.

Sarah Stockholm is a community organizer and Popular Educator working with Showing Up for Racial Justice and Washington Community Action Network at the intersections of race and class and community & legislation. Contact her at sastockholm@gmail.com.

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Marx

From previous page

maintains a stable standard of living. The result is an inequitable distribution of wealth. At the same time, the circulation of value favors concentration of wealth. Today the richest 1% hold about 38% of all privately held wealth in the United States, while the bottom 90% hold 73.2% of all debt, and according to *The New York Times*, the richest 1 percent in the United States now own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. The other theory, that the more technically advanced the society, the faster capitalism takes hold, seems to be borne out by fairly rapid movement toward capitalistic economies in Russia and China.

Marx and *Capital* have been studied, analyzed and written about extensively and much of the analysis and writing is as abstract and dense as *Capital* itself. But after some patient reading, I found that Marx's thoughts in the original form are accessible and seem to speak to the average worker as well

as to trained economists. It may be a personal bias resulting from a life of working for wages, but in spite of its short comings I think there are some good things about capitalism not the least of which is the technological innovation it fosters, and I doubt that it's going away any time soon. At the same time, I found *Capital* to be challenging but rewarding reading. Marx's philosophy is relevant to the causes of many environmental, political, and social problems today and it's a useful tool for predicting the success of their proposed solutions.

Now would I vote for Bernie or a candidate with similar views? Yes, I would.

Fred Atkinson, once an oilfield worker, civil engineer, and teacher. Retired for now he spends his time canoeing and stand up paddle boarding around Grays Harbor.

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What is the source of misery that drives migrants to brave the journey to the US?

Monica Hill

“We came to work. I know I’m not getting asylum because they don’t give you asylum for hunger,” a young migrant from Honduras told a reporter. “But us on the caravan would rather die fighting than sitting in Honduras waiting to starve or be killed.”

A history of US intervention

These stark words show the desperation of thousands of people, half of them women and girls, who have recently fled Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. What could force so many people to leave home and everything they know for a future that is uncertain at best? The history of US intervention in Central America largely supplies the answer.

Guatemala: coup, civil war, climate change

In 1954, the CIA engineered a coup against the government of Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz. A 36-year civil war ensued, during which the US militarily aided one bloody, right-wing regime after another. Each has conducted a genocidal campaign against the indigenous peoples, who are the majority of the population.

During the war, more than 200,000 people were killed and another 43,000 “disappeared.” More than 80 percent of the victims were indigenous Mayans. Prosecution of the main military and political figures responsible for mass murder is still rare 23 years after peace accords were signed ending the war.

Half of Central America’s people live in poverty. Global warming, caused mainly by carbon emitted by richer countries, is leading to drought and crop failures and making the situation even more dire. With hunger common across the region, Guatemala has one of the world’s highest rates of chronic malnutrition.

A new political upheaval is in the making today. Guatemalans take a dim view of President Jimmy Morales try-

ing to escape corruption charges by creating a constitutional crisis.

The legacy of exploitation in Honduras

The US has dominated tiny Honduras since the early 1900s, when the author O. Henry coined the term “banana republic” to describe countries run by tyrannical regimes on behalf of US fruit companies.

During the 1980s, Honduras was used as a base for counterrevolutionary warfare directed by the US against El Salvador and Nicaragua. It still houses US military bases designed to guard against rebellion anywhere in the region.

Honduras is the most impoverished and underdeveloped nation in Central America. Gang violence, drug wars and corruption are commonplace, and the country is notorious for having the world’s highest murder rate per capita. More than half a million of its people have been affected by severe drought.

In November 2017, Hondurans rose up against Juan Orlando Hernández’ theft of the presidential election, rubber-stamped by the United States. Hernández, who also “won” a fraudulent election in 2013, has consolidated his power over the judiciary, armed forces, and legislature. He has slashed social services, privatized public property, doubled the police budget, and sent military patrols into the poorest neighborhoods.

During his presidency, murders of LGBTQ advocates and other political activists have increased. Among those killed is Berta Cáceres, a renowned indigenous environmental leader.

In El Salvador, no relief from violence

El Salvador is one of the many Latin American countries that the US for

decades ruled by proxy through brutal generals and dictators. Resistance to repression and a 1979 coup spawned a devastating 12-year civil war, complete with death squads terrorizing civilians and strong US backing for the murderous Salvadoran government.

El Salvador today is scarcely less violent than during the war. Los Angeles Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) Organizer Karla Alegria, who recently visited her home country, reports, “Ruthless gangs

all its “national security” weapons against the current migrants whom the president infamously describes as a looming “invasion” of “drug dealers, criminals and terrorists.” He is also notorious for the Dec. 11 press conference at which he declared, “I am proud to shut down the government for border security.”

Trump’s government is tightening immigration laws, separating children from parents, stalling asylum procedures, and detaining and deporting people at breakneck speed. His actions are helping to exacerbate tension in Mexico over limited economic opportunities for Mexican workers and the poor who, despite everything, have been admirably kind and supportive to thousands of hungry migrants. Support was strong in southern Mexico, and individuals and organizations have offered aid in Tijuana.

Across the US, large and small solidarity protests have taken place, including at the border. A number of progressive religious groups and legal and social service organizations are providing the refugees with assistance and battling daily with immigration judges and bureaucrats.

Seeking a place simply to live

As part of these efforts, FSP activists Val Carlson and Norma Gallegos spent several days in January working with the National Lawyers Guild and the Border Rights Project of *Al Otro Lado*. They write, “We were profoundly moved by the determination of the migrants to find a place in the world where they could simply live, raise their children, and do productive work without fear and harassment.” In a world with economic democracy—socialism—people would migrate by choice, not compulsion. In a capitalist world, however, profit governs all. The ruling classes of richer nations have gained their wealth by plundering the less developed countries, whose people leave not because they want to, but in order to survive.

On the streets, at the border and in the courtrooms, battle lines are being drawn between human rights warriors and those who back the privileged. The times are calling out for labor organizations and social justice movements to join together to fight for the rights of migrant workers and their children.

Reprinted with permission from the Freedom Socialist, February 19, 2019. For more information, see “Volunteering at the Border” at socialism.com.)



rule supreme in certain places where safety from them is measured block by block. Gang membership is not necessarily voluntary, as many are forced to join under threat of death or injury.”

Women’s rights are taking center stage in El Salvador, where the Catholic Church and fundamentalist Protestantism are highly influential. Abortion is illegal, and women are jailed even for miscarriages. The rate of femicide is appallingly high, with domestic violence and murder largely ignored by the justice system. Last summer, women protesting domestic abuse and rape picketed outside the attorney general’s office with banners reading, “It’s not a crime of passion, it’s a crime of patriarchy.”

In solidarity with migrants, against the right-wing barrage

The Trump administration has aimed

Staff Sgt Cardenas Alban

This morning my roommate told me that people, when they are screaming, bleeding to death in Iraq, usually scream about their families. Their wives, children, parents. He says he saw it on the internet. A website with movies taken by soldiers over there. Shows what war really is, he said, how bad it really is. What people really see over there.

There is an article in the paper today, about a US soldier sentenced to a year in jail in Iraq for executing a 16-year old who was burning to death in a truck “set alight by fighting.” His name, the soldier, is Cardenas Alban. Another soldier, Johnny Horne, was sentenced to three years for the same killing. I don’t know where they’re from. I wonder what the kid was screaming about, covered in burns. And I wonder, at that moment, in the creaking lull

post-firefight, on a blackened road in Sadr City, listening to a child’s life end, what my roommate, myself, my brother or my boss would do, standing outside that truck, in the heat of the flames holding a still hot M-16.

And what would that make you, to be standing there, whether you did the same as Staff Sgt. Cardenas Alban did, or not.

As of Friday the 14th, at least 1360 members of the US military had died since the beginning of the Iraq War, according to an AP count. The latest identification was reported by relatives: Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez, 23, from Laredo, Texas. He was killed Thursday, in an explosion. It’s unclear whether he had time to scream, or not.

JD Ross Leahy
January, 2005

ABCs of the BOP is a personal account of doing time in a California prison, by Aberdeen author L. A. Johnson. Recommended reading for anyone pursuing a career in criminal justice; anyone who has an incarcerated friend or relative; anyone who believes it is time for criminal justice reform; and anyone who just wants to know what the heck goes on in women’s prisons.

La agresión

Continued from page 7

dad entre ellos” (del 17 de mayo de 2018). Pero, toda la derecha continental y europea se entrometió atacando a esos comicios. Indujeron el alza de la inflación, hubo conspiración contra el sistema de transporte y saboteos a los servicios eléctricos, de agua y telecomunicaciones. Las agresiones mediáticas, financieras, comerciales, y las “sanciones” de los EEUU y de la UE y de toda la derecha del mundo fueron diarias contra Venezuela. Todo ello para crear zozobra y malestar en el electorado. A pesar de todo ello, triunfó el candidato obrero.

Conclusiones

El objetivo de boicot y la campaña de abstención para deslegitimar los comicios, no tuvo éxito. Por las razones ya indicadas arriba las abstenciones medidas en esas elecciones no invalidaron sus resultados, pues éstas han sido de entre el 25 y el 30 por ciento en las elecciones presidenciales. Incluso la abstención se elevó al 30.46% cuando Caldera fue electo en 1993; y, fue del 43,69%, cuando ganó Hugo Chávez en 1998. Tanto fue éste el foco de la agresión y de injerencia extranjera para tratar de reducir la participación electoral, que gobiernos subordinados a Washington como el canadiense, “prohibió” la instalación de centros electorales en ese país, vulnerando los derechos humanos de los venezolanos ahí habilitados para sufragar. Por cierto, mermó también la participación la inducida migración económica al agravarse las medidas de guerra económica, el bloqueo financiero y comercial al país. Con todo ello, la participación estuvo dentro de parámetros previsibles y

hubo una concurrencia variable en los centros electorales.

En las elecciones, con una participación del 46.01% del padrón electoral, los tres candidatos contrarios al gobierno obtuvieron el 32% de las preferencias emitidas. El obrero Maduro ganó con el 68% de los votos, legitimándose plenamente su elección popular. No obstante, inconforme de haber perdido en los comicios, pues su candidatura no encontró suficiente eco en el pueblo, Henri Falcón cantó “fraude” acusando al gobierno de un decisivo ventajismo. Es verdad que el gobierno contaba con ventajas, pero éstas eran coyunturales y no creadas por el orden electoral: el descrédito de la MUD a la cual Falcón perteneció; la inexistencia de líderes civiles serios



que le acompañaran en su campaña, dada la división de su misma organización; la subordinación de la MUD a los gobiernos extranjeros; y, la incapacidad de la oposición para ponerse de acuerdo en un candidato único, obraron para que no encontrara ni tuviera suficiente apoyo. Falcón, además proponía un programa neoliberal poco atractivo para la concientizada población venezolana.

La victoria de Maduro se debió a que fue candidateado por partidos y frentes muy fuertes. Nótese que el PSUV tiene cerca de 5 millones de afiliados, y eso marca una gran diferencia. Pero además lo apoyaron 9 partidos más. Pero el candidato fuerte de la oposición –Falcón– tuvo también ventajas a través de la campaña mediática internacional a su favor y la que se hacía agresivamente contra el aspirante presidencial obrero, según Oscar Martínez (El Universal, 19 de mayo de 2018:1-2). Por indemostrable esa acusación, pronto se desvaneció, y los perdedores, expresamente o por su silencio, reconocieron el triunfo de Nicolás Maduro.

Maduro se juramentó para su nuevo periodo el 10 de enero de 2019, de manera legítima como resultado de un proceso electoral bien garantizado, con auditorías, apoyadas y vigiladas por los partidos opositores y presencia de técnicos y observadores. La grotesca autoproclamada presencia de otro “presidente de Venezuela”—del Sr. Juan Guaidó, que ni siquiera participó en el proceso electoral, pero sí en los actos terroristas de 2017 en Caracas—resulta entonces un cohecho parlamentario que solo puede hacer parte de un golpe de Estado, totalmente ilegítimo.

Para desventura de la región, los gobiernos de EEUU y otros desconocen la paz como valor supremo de las relaciones mundiales, e irrespetan la soberanía de los Estados, menospreciando las normas jurídicas nacionales e internacionales, y han puesto en peligro, con su doctrina del “Todo Vale”, la estabilidad de nuestro continente. No tengo duda alguna que si la intervención de esas potencias imperialistas y de sus gobiernos lacayos de la región, se da en Venezuela, lo cual no es improbable dados el irracionalismo y la

ignorancia con que dirigen sus políticas externas, la guerra llegará por primera vez al mismo territorio y poblaciones de los EEUU y esos países involucrados en este nuevo crimen de agresión internacional. Y no habrá muro que la contenga.

Aggression

From page 6

The campaign of abstention—the electoral boycott—which aimed to delegitimize the elections was not successful. For the reasons already indicated above, the abstentions measured in the elections did not invalidate the results, since the abstention rates have been between 25 and 30 percent in previous presidential elections. The abstention even rose to 30.46% when Caldera was elected in 1993; and it was 43.69%, when Hugo Chávez won in 1998.

However, dissatisfied about losing in the elections, Henri Falcón sang “fraud” and accused the government of a decisive advantage. It is true that the government had advantages, but these were not created by the electoral order. Instead, evidence points to the discrediting of the MUD to which Falcón belonged; the absence of serious civil leaders accompanying him in his campaign, reflecting divisions within his own organization; the subordination of the MUD to foreign governments; and the inability of the opposition to agree on a single candidate. Moreover, Falcón also proposed a neoliberal program unattractive to the conscious Venezuelan population.

Maduro’s victory was due to the fact that he was supported by strong fronts and political parties. Note that the PSUV—Maduro’s party—has about 5 million members, and that makes a big difference. Nonetheless he was also supported by nine different parties. On the other hand, the opposition’s strong candidate—Falcón—also had advantages through the interna-

tional media campaign and economic warfare in his favor. Under this light, the accusation of Maduro having unfair advantages became unsupportable and it soon vanished. Then, the losers, expressly or through silence, recognized the triumph of Nicolás Maduro.

Maduro was sworn in for his new term on January 10, 2019, legitimately as a result of a well-secured electoral process, with audits, supported and monitored by opposition parties and the presence of technicians and observers. The grotesque self-proclaimed presence of another “president of Venezuela”—Mr. Juan Guaidó, who did not even participate in the electoral process, but in the terrorist acts of 2017 in Caracas—is then a parliamentary bribery that can only be part of a *coup d’état*, totally illegitimate.

To the misfortune of the region, the US and other governments do not view peace as the supreme value of world relations. They disrespect the sovereignty of States, disregarding national and international legal norms, endangering, with their doctrine of “everything is for sale” the stability of our continent. I have no doubt that if explicit military intervention of these imperialist powers and their lackey governments in the region occurs in Venezuela—which is not unlikely given the irrationalism and ignorance with which they direct their external policies—this act of international aggression will be met with widespread resistance. And there will be no wall that contains it.

Rafael Quintero is an Ecuadorian academic and social scientist. He was the Ambassador of Ecuador in Venezuela from 2015 to 2018

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Toward a more just world

J. Glenn Evans

As truth seekers, we trudge through youth and try to learn the ways of this world. We see a messed up world and wonder how thinking humans continue to tolerate the ridiculous state of affairs. Our common sense tells us that we can have a much better world—a world where no one is hungry and unsheltered.

We breathed a sigh of relief when the UN was organized, thinking that at last we will have world peace, no more wars. We truly can settle conflicts without war. Such an arrangement has worked in the USA with their various states and a central power with clout to maintain peace and justice among the various states. Yet, we sadly watch as powerful nations ignore the UN if their wishes conflict with UN efforts to maintain peace.

We become heartsick when we see our own country that started out with such high ideals, become just another greedy empire builder, trying to rule the world through military and financial power. The world needs no more empires. Let us build a world of nations that live by the rule of law. We must organize an international institution with clout to enforce laws mutually agreed to by the majority of people of the various nations. Either amend the UN charter to give it the clout to hold trespasser leaders in check or replace it.

We start by changing our own mindset to cooperate and share rather than compete and beat. We must conscientiously try to love our neighbors, even those misguided souls who have become afflicted with the greed disease and who would destroy us to keep their power. We must build alternatives to provide for our vital needs, simplify our lives. We must get out of debt as that has become another means of enslaving us. We must escape the rent hogs by generating alternative housing such as community owned housing that charges only for depreciation and upkeep. By doing this we will break their power over us.

Organized commercial gangs must be brought under control for the common good. If corporations get too big for governments to control or we cannot afford to let them fail, they must be taken into public ownership, regulated for the common good like public utilities or broken down to manageable size. International corporations must be brought under control and regulated by an international institutions such as the UN or its replacement. Profits are not a sin. Look at nature with her abundant profits. One small seed creates a tree that produc-

es year after year and charges nothing. Nature does not create scarcity so that profits will rise. Ownership in the hands of a few over the many is the problem.

Personal initiative to create goods and services must be encouraged as it keeps our creative juices flowing. We must make some adjustments when quantity of wealth takes away from the many to benefit the few. We can bring this under control and it can be

it in trust. If this trust is abused to the loss of future generations, corrective controls must be taken. The future belongs to us all, not just those with money and power. We are all born with a sovereign soul, so let's take our power back and place some limits on the power of excessive wealth that becomes abusive.

Food, shelter and healthcare must no longer be treated as commodities to be manipulated for profit. They must be regulated like utilities to benefit the public or the public should own them. We need inspector generals, elected by the public, to oversee our public offices and to assure that our elected people are serving the best interests of the people, rather than large commercial interests.

Big private money invested in our political system has corrupted our democratic process and must be stopped. Excessive political contributions must be taxed severely for the common good and be shared by all candidates. Campaign time must be limited to 60 days prior to elections so we get full value of the work of our elected representatives. All entities that use our public airwaves must be required to designate 20% of each of their timeslots 60 days prior to election for public exposure of those running for office as a royalty for the use of our airwaves.

A system of Fascism, the partnership between big business and government that we do not openly admit, has crept upon us. This must be broken up. We cleaned up Hitler and Mussolini of their Fascism and is now time we must take on the Fascist partnership between our large corporations and our government.

We must develop a better system with right of recall and replacement of representatives who betray us once in office. We vote for and elect them, but once in power, they fall under the sway of lobbyists and their big money backers. We must check this by taking the power of money out of our elections. The Supreme Court changes this or we change the Supreme Court.

The US with only 5% of the world population has 25% of the world's prison population. It is obvious that our criminal justice system bears looking into. Incarceration, when necessary, is the duty of our elected representatives, not private enterprise for profit. We need inspector generals elected by the people to oversee police and prisoner abuse. Justice is not be a commodity to make a few lawyers rich. Lawyers and judges, as officers of the court, should be compensated as civil servants. There should be inspector generals, elected by the people that have the duty to assure that these officials are competently performing their duties. All legal problems should be settled by courts with the loser paying a modest filing fee for both. Our present for-profit legal system permits the rich to buy their way out and the poor go to jail, lose, or are executed. In a democratic free society this is obscene and must be changed. We all must stand equal before the law regardless of wealth, race or religion. We must put our best minds to work and start making the necessary changes, uncorrupted by big money. Life is sacred, money and wealth are but a convenience.

We must resolve in our own minds that a better world is possible. We will no longer accept an unjust system just because that is the way it is. We start by making changes in ourselves and doing the things within our own power to improve the world for all. We organize and put the pressure on our elected representatives and government officials to take action and start correcting the abuses against humanity and our environment, regardless of the power of big money. We will no longer tolerate their non-action if they want our continued cooperation and support and to be re-elected. They cannot rule an unwilling majority because without our support they are powerless. Sure, they may kill a few of us like the Czar did before the Russian Revolution. When they take this approach rather than correct their abuses their replacement will come. Remember the Bastille.

Some may say these ideas are unrealistic. All great movements and changes are considered unrealistic in the beginning. Look at the idea that humans might one day fly like the birds, let alone reach other planets, or we might see events taking place thousands of miles away while they are occurring. What secrets and mysteries of this vast universe we may yet discover if we do not let greed destroy us first, and that we must not do. We can and will have a just society.

J. Glenn Evans is the founder Glen Kay Evans Farms, Inc., a poet, novelist and former stockbroker. His full biographical statement is at olywip.org.

Part Cherokee, Evans spent his early youth on a small farm during the Dust Bowl days of the Great Depression in Wewoka, Oklahoma. Lived in Seattle 54 years and now resides in Olympia, Washington. Worked in a lumber mill and operated a mining company and co-produced a movie, Christmas Mountain—The Story of a Cowboy Angel with Mark Miller and co-starring Slim Pickens. Early on he wanted to become a great rich writer, but was sidetracked for twenty years by the advice of a wealthy uncle to “go where the money is.” He pursued the career of stockbroker and investment banker and became owner and president of a securities firm with three offices and forty brokers. Founder of PoetsWest, Activists for a Better World and Glenn Kay Evans Farms, Inc., currently hosts PoetsWest at KSER 90.7FM, a nationally syndicated weekly radio show. He has written six books of poetry, six community histories, three novels, Broker Jim, Zeke's Revenge and Wayfarers-Where No One Is an Outcast. Works in process consist of a novel, The Last Lumber Baron, plus a book of short stories and a book of essays. In addition Evans has written numerous political essays.



solved at change of generations and by a progressive income tax. Any legacy to an individual that exceeds \$10 million should be taxed at 99% to benefit the common good. Resources of this world are here for all life. Why should individuals own enough for a thousand lifetimes and other people go hungry and unsheltered? Foundations that are shams to retain family or corporate control of assets must be abolished.

As the old saying goes, “There is no free lunch on this earth.” Our right to be here is the service we render to each other. We cut out the frills until everyone on earth has food, shelter, healthcare and education worldwide. If world population has grown to exceed the ability of earth to sustain it, we must place limits on population. Until the excessive population can be brought to a sustainable level, no woman should be permitted to have more than one living child. Do this for two or three generations and we will solve the problem. Our communities must set aside resources to provide for older workers and those unable to work or for unseen emergencies. We must put more land back in the hands of individual farmers, who are willing to take steps to rebuild our soils in cooperation with nature. Mega agriculture with their chemical fertilizers and insecticides have been a disaster for mother earth and are destroying our soils in the name of temporary profits.

No one owns the earth; we only hold



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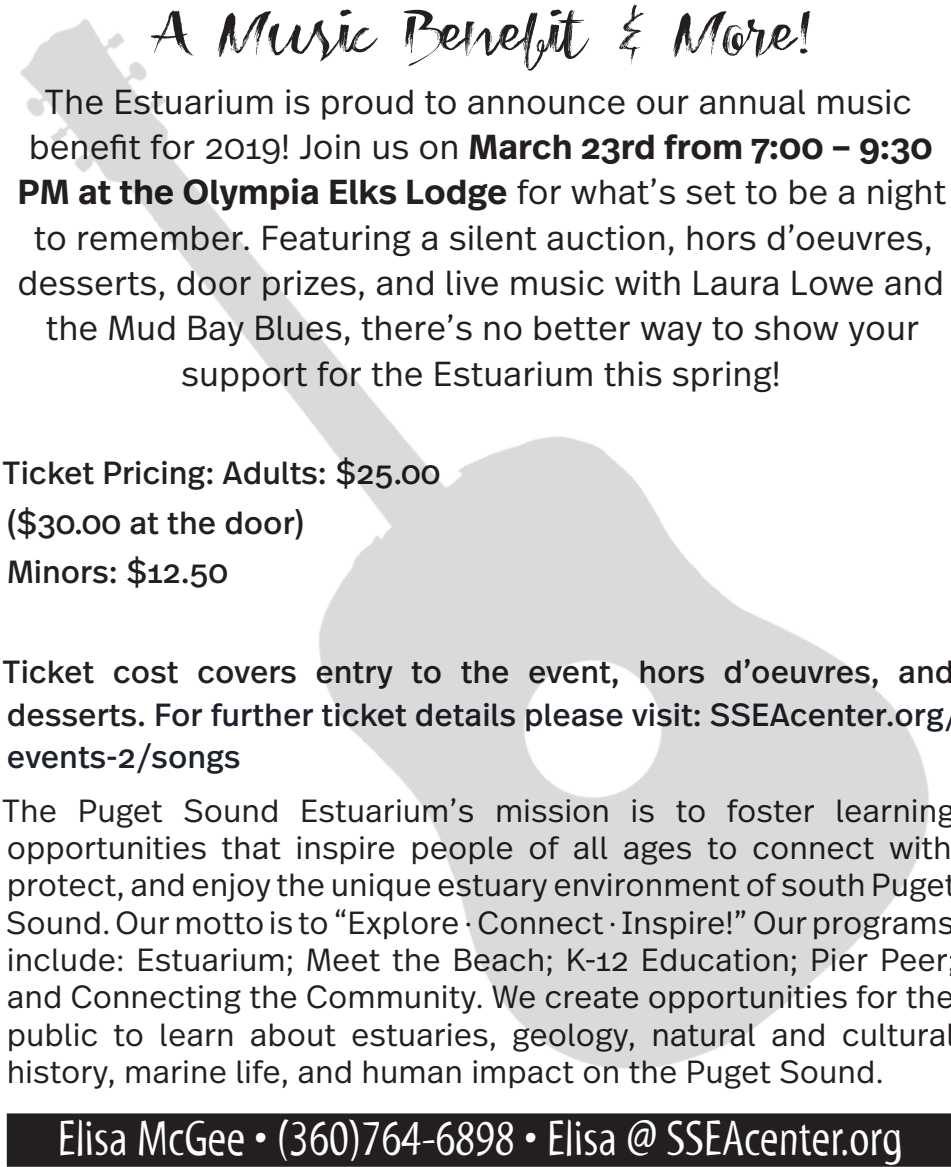
The Estuarium is proud to announce our annual music benefit for 2019! Join us on **March 23rd from 7:00 – 9:30 PM at the Olympia Elks Lodge** for what’s set to be a night to remember. Featuring a silent auction, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, door prizes, and live music with Laura Lowe and the Mud Bay Blues, there’s no better way to show your support for the Estuarium this spring!

Ticket Pricing: Adults: \$25.00
(\$30.00 at the door)
Minors: \$12.50

Ticket cost covers entry to the event, hors d’oeuvres, and desserts. For further ticket details please visit: SSEACenter.org/events-2/songs

The Puget Sound Estuarium’s mission is to foster learning opportunities that inspire people of all ages to connect with, protect, and enjoy the unique estuary environment of south Puget Sound. Our motto is to “Explore · Connect · Inspire!” Our programs include: Estuarium; Meet the Beach; K-12 Education; Pier Peer; and Connecting the Community. We create opportunities for the public to learn about estuaries, geology, natural and cultural history, marine life, and human impact on the Puget Sound.

Elisa McGee • (360)764-6898 • [Elisa @ SSEACenter.org](mailto:Elisa@SSEACenter.org)



What’s wrong with the “Missing Middle”

The March 2019 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series explains a scheme proposed by real estate developers and investors that will seriously hurt the Olympia area unless we stop it now.

Two guests—Judy Bardin and Jim Keogh—explain the so-called “Missing Middle” scheme (scam?) to vastly increase zoning and bigger buildings that would disrupt neighborhoods and our community in many ways. Judy and Jim share their knowledge and insights so the public can have the information and determination to prevent the City of Olympia from hurting us.

Olympia is one of many communities throughout the West Coast and beyond where the “Missing Middle” scheme is being imposed. It fails to deliver what it promises.

It does NOT make housing more affordable. It increases density at the expense of disrupting stable neighborhoods. It pretends to have no environmental impacts, but it destroys green space and views. It makes neighborhood parking more congested. The list goes on.

Olympia and local governments elsewhere are “greasing the skids” to implement “Missing Middle” without adequate environmental review or public participation. Transparency is denied. Normal procedures for making zoning decisions are ignored.

Although most people ignore these issues, the “Missing Middle” is such a threat to our community that ordinary people do need to pay attention, get the information and vigorously make the City of Olympia protect our neighborhoods and our community overall.

Watch powerfully insightful and important TV programs through your computer or on TCTV

Everyone everywhere can watch this interview – and read a summary of what we said – through the “TV Programs” part of my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Each program and thorough summary are also posted to one or more categories listed on the blog -- in this case to “Religion and Spirituality.” Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch this interview on Thurston Community Television (TCTV): Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and ThursdayS at 9:00 pm.

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

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

Industrial Workers of the World

South Sound General Education Union

On November 7, 2018, the Industrial Workers of the World South Sound General Education Union delivered a demand letter to the administration of the Evergreen State College calling for:

The immediate end to the hiring process of another campus police officer;

The immediate hiring of two full-time positions, one in Political Economy and one in Arts (either Theatre or Photography).

As of today, we are now proud to announce that Evergreen’s administration appears to be meeting our demands. A campus police position vacated in 2018 will no longer be filled, and although the hiring processes are obfuscated by university bureaucracy, we have it on good authority that new positions have been opened in Political Economy and Community Media. We extend our thanks to all the fellow workers and comrades who joined us in solidarity over the past three months. Furthermore, we call upon you to join us in vigilance, to make sure that the administration does not fall back into their old ways. If they do, we will be ready to resume our campaign until these demands are met.

The South Sound General Education Union continues to fight for popular control of educational institutions—not control by donors and the employing class, under whatever name they may go by. The police, acting as the military arm of the international program of austerity, have no place on this or any campus. A program of cuts and belt-tightening is the first prescription in a course of bad medicine, too often followed up by union-busting, political repression, and privatization.

We call on all members of the campus and surrounding community of the Evergreen State College to join us in a victory social on Wednesday, February 27th, to celebrate our victory and build towards our next steps. Location and time to be announced.

Solidarity Forever!
Facebook: [IWWsouthsoundgenedunion](https://www.facebook.com/IWWsouthsoundgenedunion)
Email: olyiwvgened@protonmail.com

115 Legion


115 Legion is a multi-use event space, print shop, and media lab in so-called downtown Olympia, Squaxin & Nisqually territory.

Do you need space for a meeting, fundraiser, workshop, reading group, etc? 115 Legion wants to host your event!



115 Legion Way SW

In Washington, you have the right to vote... Even with a criminal record.



As the Chief Elections Official for Thurston County, I empower all eligible people to vote. It's your right, and your voice is important!"

—Mary Hall
Thurston County Auditor


Vote

Thurston County Elections

Yes, you can vote!

- You maintain the right to vote with a misdemeanor conviction, or a conviction in juvenile court, even if you are still in jail.
- Citizens with felony convictions have their right to vote restored automatically when they come out of the criminal justice system.
- Individuals can register to vote once they are no longer under state-supervised parole or probation.
- You may register to vote if you have existing court-ordered legal financial obligations (LFOs), such as fines, fees, and restitution. If you do not comply with all the terms of your LFO, you may lose your right to vote.

Learn more about your right to vote at:
thurstonvotes.org/voting-rights



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WHERE'S THE WATER?

SERIOUS INFORMATION ABOUT A LIFE-SUSTAINING RESOURCE

Meeting 1—Where's the Water: Reality Check

Tuesday, February 5, Olympia Center

WEBLINKS: [KAREN FRASER](#) • [KEVIN HANSEN](#) • [DAVID TROUTT](#)

Meeting 2—Where's the Water: Water for People, Water for Fish

Tuesday, March 5 at the Olympia Center, 5:30 pm (program starts at 6:00 pm)

MAIA BELLON, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
“NEW STATE POLICIES ON WATER RIGHTS AND WATERSHED PLANNING,
FLOWING FROM RECENT JUDICIAL, LEGISLATIVE, AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS”

GEORGE WALTER, Environmental Program Supervisor,
Nisqually Natural Resources, Nisqually Indian Tribe
“THE PROCESS AND RESULTS OF THE WASHINGTON WATER RESOURCE
INVENTORY AREAS (WRIA) PLANNING EFFORT IN THE NISQUALLY WATERSHED”

MARC DAILY, Executive Director, Thurston Regional Planning Council
“LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: HOW NEW RULES AND PLANS FOR
SUSTAINABILITY WILL AFFECT THURSTON COUNTY”

Meeting 3—Where's the Water: Rural Water Challenges & Solutions

Tuesday, March 19 at the Yelm Community Center, 5:30 pm (program starts at 6:00 pm)

Meeting 4—Where's the Water: Storm Water & Toxic Runoff

Tuesday, April 2 at the Olympia Center, 5:30 pm (program starts at 6:00 pm)

Meeting 5—Where's the Water: Streams, Salmon & Orcas

Tuesday, May 7 at the Olympia Center, 5:30 pm (program starts at 6:00 pm)

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