

Vast stretches of airspace and diverse terrain

Electromagnetic war games over the Olympic Peninsula

John Lace

The Olympic Peninsula is a verdant mountainous region on the Washington coast. Lush rainforests brimming with old-growth trees sprawl forth to the sea from the slopes of the Olympic Range. It is truly a place of majestic beauty and untouched Pacific Northwest wilderness. Over a thousand square miles of this wild earth has been saved from clear-cutting and other development due to the creation of Olympic National Park, which has provided people from around the world access to this unique natural location for decades.

A military incursion into the rainforest

The US military has also taken an interest in the Olympic Peninsula and its lush forests. The US Navy plans to conduct war games over the Peninsula, using Growler jets to simulate electromagnetic warfare. Many residents and visitors feel that these exercises threaten local ecosystems and communities on the Olympic Peninsula, and that they set a dangerous precedent for military exploitation of public places.

“An ideal environment”

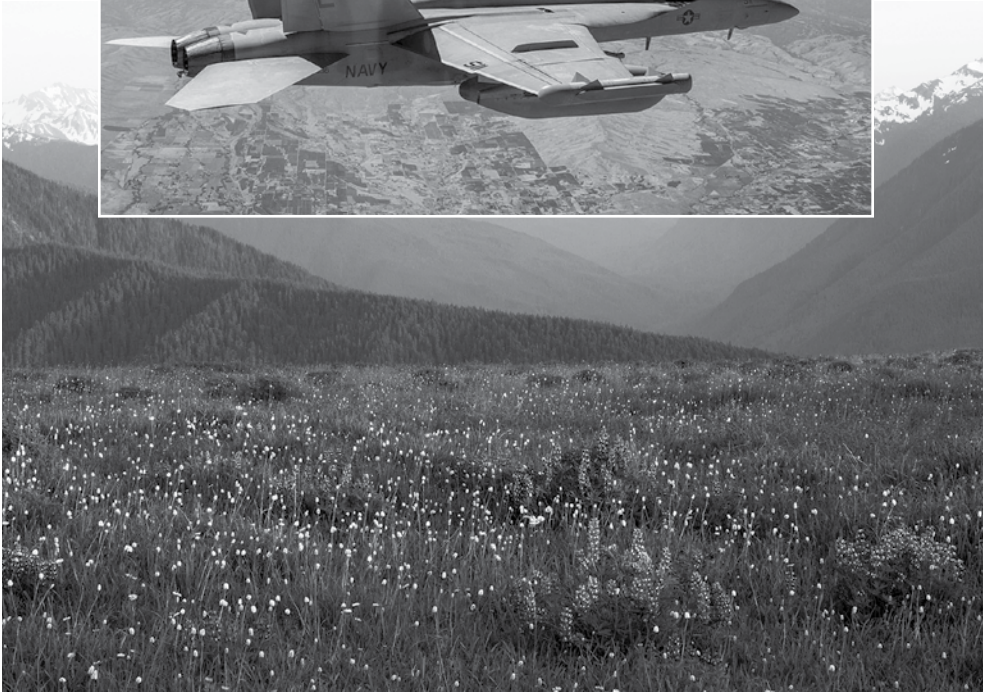
The US Navy stated in its Information Dominance Roadmap 2013-2028 that it seeks to “employ integrated information in warfare by expanding

the use of advanced electronic warfare.” The Navy’s desire to expand its advanced capabilities require training grounds that mirror battlegrounds overseas, and the dense forests of Olympic National Park provide an ideal environment for testing electromagnetic radiation weaponry. These war games are meant to train Growler pilots in the use of radar jamming technology in an environment that reflects real-world combat situations.

Bringing the wars home

The proposed training would park large trucks equipped with EMR emitters throughout the Peninsula to generate electromagnetic radiation that the Growlers could then lock onto in order to simulate the act of jamming enemy communication systems. The mobility of the trucks would make the targeting of their communication systems more difficult and therefore more effective as an exercise.

The US Navy’s use of the Olympic Peninsula comes on the heels of a variety of other attempts by the United States military to conduct war games outside the boundaries of military installations. These military exercises have a history of negatively impacting local ecosystems and alienating nonmilitary personal from public areas.



Radiation threats to human health

Research into the adverse effects of electromagnetic radiation is ongoing, but a plurality of this research confirms the fears of those who live throughout potential training grounds, that electromagnetic radiation can be hazardous to human and animal health. Human exposure to electromagnetic radiation can “vary from no effect at all to death, and can cause diseases such as leukemia or bone, breast, and lung cancer.” The journal Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy released a study that concluded that “a reasonable suspicion of

Growler jets make over 2300 flights over Olympic Park annually

risk exists based on clear evidence of bioeffects at environmentally relevant levels, which, with prolonged exposures may reasonably be presumed to result in health impacts.”

The Navy claims in its 2015 Environmental Assessment that its use of EMR weaponry will have no effect on the people of the Peninsula. This claim is not supported by a swath of studies that suggest the detrimental effects of electromagnetic radiation on human health is very much real.

► War games, continued on page 11

Providence nursing staff stands up for themselves and their patients

Matt Crichton

For over a year, health care workers at Providence hospitals across the state have been negotiating with their employer on staffing levels, sick leave and compensation. Hospital administrators, under directives from their multimillion dollar corporate executives, refuse to budge on staffing levels and seek to eliminate hours of earned leave. Jacob Kostecka is a charge nurse at St. Pete’s and a member of the union bargaining team.

MC: How did you get into nursing?

JK: I struggled with what to do with my life for a while. I have a

degree in environmental studies from Evergreen, and have been an environmental educator, but that didn’t pay well. I had a child and needed a stable career that could support my family. I thought about becoming a teacher but the idea of a classroom full of kids made me tired. My sister called one day and said, “Hey, I just got into nursing school,” and I thought, “I should be a nurse.” It made perfect sense. I was an environmental educator. I had my wilderness “first responder” certification. I was always fascinated with how the body works. I like being physically active. A lot of those things are involved in nursing, so it felt like a good fit.

How long have you been a nurse and where have you worked?

I’ve been a nurse for 13 years, and worked in critical care the entire time. After I graduated from nursing school in Maine, my family moved back to Olympia. I worked at Capital Medical Center for one year and the rest at St. Pete’s.

What kinds of nursing have you done?

All my work has been in ICU (intensive care) and CCU (cardiac care). I’ve taken care of trauma. I’ve taken care of neuro patients with craniotomies. I really like doing cardiac stuff—open heart surgery recovery. I’m a charge nurse at St. Pete’s in the CCU.

I’m a rapid response nurse. When I’m in that role, I wander through the entire hospital putting out fires, troubleshooting equipment, educating other nurses and running codes. I’m involved in leadership activities, including training new nurses.

The best and worst things about being a nurse?

I like helping people in a tangible way. When somebody comes in with a condition that’s treatable, we can get them back on their feet so they can get on with their lives. That’s a wonderful feeling. There’s a camaradery among health care provid-

► Nurse, continued on page 13

Works in Progress (WIP), a community newspaper based in Olympia WA, has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

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 account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also important.

Informed opinion pieces are welcome when accompanied by facts, examples, and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted for publication.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material print are those of the author alone, WIP typically will favor material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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What does keep us safe?

I made a list of the things I think keep us safe: I started the list on a Sunday, on a scrap of paper and I put it on the refrigerator together with the picture of our new grandchild, the neighbors' daughter, the current grocery list, and other random items. I wrote things like “a community where I know my neighbors and they know me”, and “requiring kids to take driver's training in order to get a license”. I wanted to be realistic. Over the next few days I added “A reliable car and a solidly-built home. Social security and a pension. Uncomplicated health insurance”. But as the week wore on, my thoughts evolved. These things, sure, but as I went about my days, other thoughts surfaced.

Assumptions I'm barely aware of

I realized that the fact that I confidently assume that tomorrow will be very like today is fundamental to my safety: a bus, train or plane takes me safe to my destination. I'm not worried that the gas lines snaking down my street will spring a leak and explode. I don't give a thought to whether the fish, meat and milk I buy will be uncontaminated. I thoughtlessly drink water from my tap. On a visit to the ER nurses were right there with reassurances and everything we needed.

The air seems pretty clean too.

Be careful what you wish for

It's government that has made rules for the gas companies, the construction companies, food producers and processors to follow to ensure our safety. Unions and OSHA hold employers to account for workers' lives. It's become normal to condemn regulation—it cuts into profits—but remember the two 737 MAX planes that crashed and killed 346 people? In recent years, the agency that oversees airlines has been mandated to reduce regulation and give more and more control over the industry back to aviation companies. We're all for deregulation until the lack of regulation bites us, sometimes fatally.

More thoughts about what safety really derives from

What about the articles people submitted for this issue: what keeps us safe? An article about migrants following the trail north shows the danger that grows when a society's leaders promote an economy of profound inequality. Reading the piece on the new primary voting system reminded me that how-ever often I complain about voting choices, making sure everyone can and does vote is crucial.

Other articles prompted reflection as to “who is the ‘us’ in “what

keeps us safe?” Obviously, the reply depends on who's asking. What keeps the people in the article about immigrants in Washington safe is very basic: treatment like human beings and protection from being grabbed off the street and sent to jail with neither due process nor time limits.

Jacob Kostecka talks about how hospitals can erode our safety, while the articles about the Lacey Vet's Hub and the Vangardeners highlight voluntary energy and commitment as ways our community enhances our safety.

It's not military prowess

The powers that be would have us accept that “what keeps us safe” is trillions of dollars of spending on weaponry—nuclear-armed submarines, a new Space Force. Invading Afghanistan and Iraq, bombing Yemen. Seal Team Six killing terrorists in Mali, Sudan, Syria. Police departments supplied with military cast offs, jails and prisons to the tune of more millions and on and on. Thurston County's own contribution is a new \$19 million jail facility which according to Sheriff Snaza is needed to take care of people with mental health and addiction problems!

Finally, a basic reality is that we have to have a world we can thrive in. The Green Cove article and the one describing the legacy of toxic chemicals are good examples of how we have to rely on elected leaders to step in when commerce might ignore the demands of safety. It turns out that in the case of climate catastrophe, we are all “us,” so we hope to present more thoughts on that in the rest of 2020.

Let us know what you think.

—B

Rev. Carol McKinley (left) received the 2019 Dispute Resolution Center Peacemaker Leadership, with DRC Board member Beth Hyer and founding director Evan Ferber.



Then this happened...

Gone but not forgotten

City Manager Steve Hall is gone but local residents continue to pay the price of his leadership. He created a city government run by staff and detached from the community, with elected council members serving as cheerleaders for actions they don't understand.

The staff acts as a law unto itself, funded by taxpayer dollars to pursue an agenda of their own.

When the Growth Management Board found elements of Olympia's Missing Middle zoning ordinance illegal, City Attorney Mark Barber told the Council to appeal the ruling rather than make the changes necessary to bring the ordinance into compliance. When the city's repeated and costly appeals failed, the council agreed with staff's recommendation to fund a trip to Superior Court to avoid fixing the ordinance.

Then there was the flier Steve Hall called for: an \$80,000 full-color blast urging local residents to vote “NO” on the car tab initiative. Supposedly, the Council members never saw the thing. It's illegal for a government to use taxpayer money to advocate a yes-or-no vote. Hopefully, the punishment for this illegal expenditure won't be a fine ...paid by taxpayers!

More recently the Council approved a property tax exemption for multimillion-dollar builder J. Brent McKinley's luxury apartment building. At the award ceremony, councilmembers voted in favor because “it's the law.” If it's the law, why does it call for Council to approve or disapprove? (Council-member Rollins had the temerity to vote no.)

The Council has a chance to show some leadership in hiring a new City Manager who recognizes the authority of our elected officials. Will they take it?

Speaking of landlords

Some Olympia landlords reacted to the possibility that renters might be able to pay so-called “move-in” charges in installments, rather than a lump sum. Said Mayor Selby, “...small landlords are going to step away and go ‘I can't handle this, I don't know how to do the paperwork, It's overwhelming me...’” (Gee, how can they handle Schedule E forms for expenses and depreciation to get federal tax deductions?) And then a landlord chimed in: “If they do anything that cuts profits, prices will go up. That's just how economies work.” No, that's how landlords work. Ask a farmer if prices go up when profits are cut.

No bake sales for the military!

All but 48 House members leaped to their feet in favor of sending \$738 billion of our tax dollars to the Pentagon – \$21 billion more than last year. Space force! More nukes! Endless war!

Ballots arrive in mailboxes next month

Changes in voting procedure for presidential primary

Our Revolution Thurston

If you're planning to vote in Washington state's Democratic Presidential Primary, be prepared for some big changes this year. The caucus has been replaced by a vote-by-mail primary. Ballots will arrive in mailboxes February 21, 2020, making Washington one of the earliest states to vote. That means your vote will play a big part in building momentum for the candidate who will face Trump in the general election.

To ensure your ballot arrives on time and is counted, Our Revolution Thurston (ORT) recommends you mail it back right away. The deadline to register to vote or update your registration for the primary is March 2. Although Washington doesn't require you to register your party preference to vote in the general election, for the Democratic primary you'll be asked to declare as a Democrat. The final deadline to get your ballot in is March 10.

ORT has endorsed Bernie Sanders and is working hard to get the word out. In addition to weekly events at the Olympia Farmers Market and Burial Grounds, they are building momentum with events both independent of and in coordination with the campaign, including "debate watch" parties and phone banking events. ORT is also active in the local Democratic Party.

On December 6, ORT joined Olympia Climate Strikers calling for action from local elected officials to address the climate crisis. The same day, national climate strike organizers endorsed Sanders, who

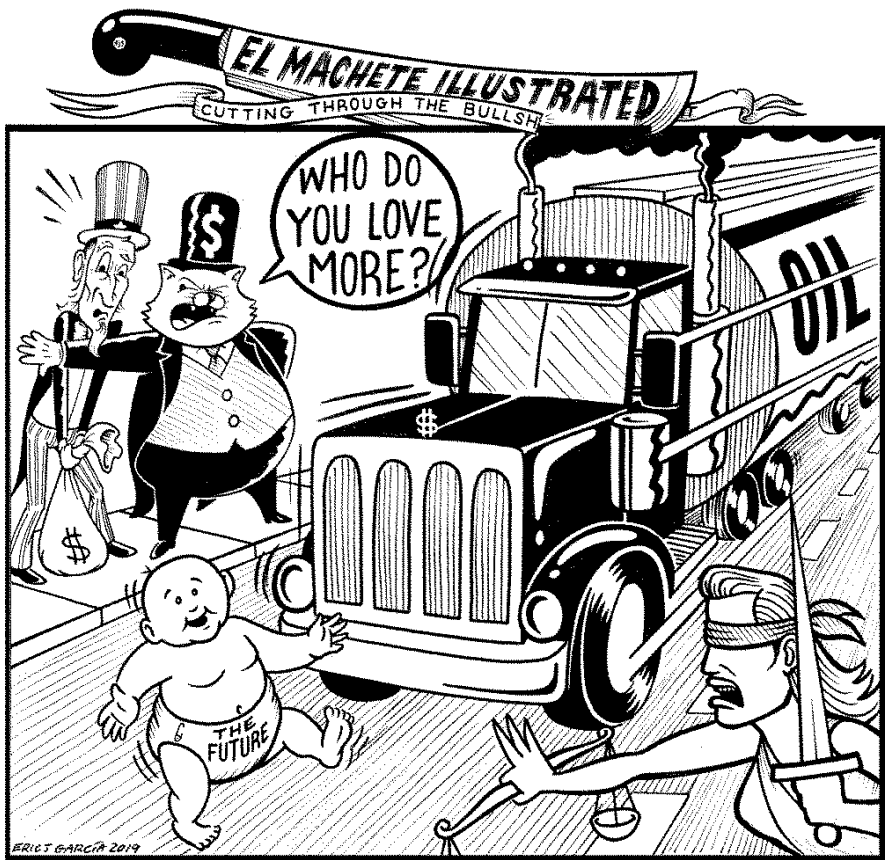
attended a climate strike in Iowa. Sunrise Movement—the youth-led organization working to get a Green New Deal passed—gave Sanders the highest score of any presidential candidate for his climate crisis platform.

Sanders' role in the Congressional Progressive Caucus is another reason for ORT's endorsement.

Sanders co-founded this, the second-largest caucus within the Democratic Party, in 1991 and remains the only presidential candidate who is a member. Sanders, aka "The Amendment King," is known for his ability to work across the aisle to get legislation passed that addresses the needs of working and oppressed people.



Friends of Rocky Prairie at the Olympia Food Co-op gathering signatures to petition Thurston County Commissioners concerning the industrial cargo center already underway near Millersylvania State Park. Friends of Rocky Prairie say the Port of Tacoma, working with a Missouri company on the 6 million sq. ft. "intermodal" (i.e., truck and rail) cargo center, needs to re-zone the area from rural to industrial status. For more details about the Prairie and the project, go to www.friendsofrockyprairie.org.



Friend Eric J Garcia on facebook or follow at [elmacheteillustrated](https://www.instagram.com/elmacheteillustrated) @instagram.

Upcoming themes

Deadline next issue:
January 15

Proofreading: Jan 26

Our lived values. Many American voters are said to be motivated by "family values," yet we don't demand that work and workplaces be shaped to support family life. We don't vote to fund quality public schools and a potent education for every child. If we lived by family values maybe there would be far less domestic violence. And so on. Submit stories about the values your life and experiences reflect. What do we value in making day-to-day choices: convenience? speed? novelty? money? Let's hear from you.

March: The Bill of Rights. Especially the First vs the Second Amendment. Deadline 2/16/20.

April: Will convenience destroy us?

Submit material as a 600-1000 word document attached to an email to olywip@gmail.com. For more details on how to submit go to www.olywip.org.



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A toxic past that threatens our future

The latest real estate scheme for Green Cove Basin

**Esther Kronenberg and
Jerry Dierker**

There is much hidden under the surface in the most recent effort to put a housing development at 2200 Cooper Pt. Rd. in the Green Cove Basin. The site, known for generations as the burial ground for hazardous waste, is now the focus of private efforts by well-connected insiders to make development inevitable.

Green Cove Basin is a unique piece of the South Sound ecology singled out for special protections in the City's comprehensive plan. It sits on a critical aquifer recharge area that tops the capture zone of the Allison Springs wellhead—a vital source of drinking water for the City of Olympia.

Yet a section of the Basin served for 65 years as an illegal dumping ground for toxic waste and debris from the Port and the City of Olympia, the Weyerhaeuser Corporation and others.

Now the City and a developer are looking for a way to cover all this up with a 181-unit housing development

earthquake damaged Port piers and pilings. Wood transported from the Port and other polluting businesses had been treated by a pro-

cess that involved creosote, chromated copper arsenic (CCA) and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Each of these chemicals has toxic properties that threaten health and safety when not properly disposed of.



An aerial view of the lumber industry at the Port of Olympia in 1946. The pond to the right is leaching into Budd Inlet.

A site identified for protection
Recognizing its complex and sensitive nature, Thurston County and the City of Olympia adopted The Green Cove Creek Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plan in 1998. The Plan prioritizes prevention of problems related to water quality and flooding, and protection of habitat. Pollution from stormwater runoff was a major concern.

The Plan recognized that future build-out conditions would result in stormwater runoff that would destabilize the Creek and destroy fish habitat. Recommended solutions included increasing forest vegetation and drainage design standards.

The Sundberg site is surrounded by and hosts 5 wetlands, all protected by the Clean Water Act. The wetlands on site are so degraded from mining activity, they cannot infiltrate runoff. Almost all stormwater travels off the site into the protected waters of Puget Sound, habitat for threatened winter steelhead and fall Chinook salmon runs, and the endangered Olympic mud minnow.

Free dumping of toxics and trash

Ted Sundberg owned the property from 1937 and operated it as a sand and gravel mine after logging it. Over many years, the Port of Olympia, Weyerhaeuser Corporation and other industrial firms, and the City of Olympia were among those who dumped garbage and toxic waste onto the site, leaving it to leach into the surrounding soil and water.

The Port of Olympia made early use of this unregulated site just 4 miles distant in 1949, when an

cess that involved creosote, chromated copper arsenic (CCA) and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Each of these chemicals has toxic properties that threaten health and safety when not properly disposed of.

Weyerhaeuser operated an export log yard on the site from the late 1960s until 1990. During that time, Weyerhaeuser sprayed its forests with the insecticide DDT and the herbicides 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T, ingredients of Agent Orange that contain dioxin, one of the most toxic substances in existence. (See sidebar for these and other specific hazards.)

The City of Olympia had also dumped material at the site. Sundberg's policy of "bring a dump load and take a truckload of soil or gravel" was well-known to locals. According to 2005 staff emails, the City was aware that Sundberg accepted materials from off-site and admitted that it too had dumped excavation material from the cross-town gas main at the quarry. Its reputation as a dumpsite continues to this day. Jim Elliott, a longtime resident of the area, worked for Sundberg in the 1950s driving

The City steps in to enable a real estate project

Olympia in 2004 accepted a plan from Jerry Mahan for "Sundberg Estates," and then informed him that the area was in Thurston County. Staff instructed him to file a petition for annexing the land to the City to get sewer and water service. Since the Sundberg property was assessed at a substantial portion of the 60% needed for annexation, the petition was completed. Even with help from City staff, the annexation still faced serious questions. One email indicated that the County would oppose annexation on the grounds that it didn't meet the requirements for urban growth and that it "would be bad for the environment and thus is inconsistent with GMA [Growth Management Act]."

Despite such questions and over the objections of many longtime residents, annexation was approved. City Manager Steve Hall congratulated staff in an email the following morning. Assured of access to the City water and sewer system, Mahan completed his purchase of the property in 2005.

Continued illegal dumping in violation of state law

Dumping didn't stop after Mahan acquired the property. Mahan dumped fill from excavations at his other housing developments. Neighbors report seeing 400 or more truckloads of fill arriving at the site; aerial photographs on Google Earth confirm the dumping. DNR reports from 2014 also corroborate the "illegal dumping of wood waste" at the site as well as piles of fill, soil and construction debris.

In 2015, trucks deposited garbage, sediment and numerous floating docks from the Swantown Marina on the site. Fumes from the waste burned the throat of Jerry Dierker, a neighbor whose Butler Creek pond and stream receive stormwater and groundwater runoff from the site. The incident led DNR staff to stop Mahan from dumping waste there.

Green Cove remains unsuitable for development, and yet...

Annexation did not fix the fact that the Green Cove property is unsuitable for development. Undetermined amounts of toxic waste, unstable fill, stormwater flows, infiltration to a critical aquifer all pose dangers to homeowners, the environment, and our water supply. As noted in a recent letter from the Squaxin tribe, "the presence of contaminated soils underlying the development would ensure that

the continued contamination of soil, water, wetlands and groundwater would be made permanent."

In January of this year, Olympia CP&D staff accepted a new application for "Green Cove Park," Mahan's latest project incarnation. Concerned citizens organized with local environmental and civic groups to impel the City to look closely at the proposal. After months of review, the staff noted numerous data gaps and stated that the project must comply with the Green Cove Basin standards. They wanted further testing for contamination of soil and groundwater and for impacts on sensitive offsite areas.

Now City insiders step in to help

Mahan's record of continued dumping and insufficient compliance with requests from the City, or even directives from the Department of Natural Resources, doesn't offer much confidence that this time will be different. Mahan's paperwork is full of discrepancies and his handling of permits lacking.

► **Green Cove**, continued on next page

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...even as seaweeds have inherent value for habitat and as economic commodities they may be in decline

The extraordinary hero of the nearshore tidelands

Sue Joerger

Walk on most any beach in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay or Puget Sound at this time of year and you will see green blades of eelgrass, the red raspy-textured Turkish Towel or the pinkish narrow branches of Succulent Seaweed washed ashore at the tide line. It is winter, and many seaweeds are perennials that senesce, or die back, leaving only root structures to survive the winter.

A submerged aquatic hero

Eelgrass is one of these seaweeds, and the extraordinary hero of the nearshore tidelands. Eelgrass is common in tidelands and shallow waters from Alaska to Baja. It lives in soft-sediment habitats and can reproduce through seeds and expand through below-ground rhizomes. It can form huge dense meadows that play critical ecological and economic functions by providing habitat for herring, crab, shrimp, shellfish, juvenile salmon and waterfowl. Eelgrass meadows exhibit high species abundance and diversity.

A formidable multitasker

Eelgrass protects the coastline using its extensive root systems to prevent shoreline sediments from washing away during storms. Eelgrass mitigates climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and methane gases. This can help reduce ocean acidification and help oysters and Dungeness crabs with shell production.

Eelgrass provides habitat and shelter for microorganisms, plankton, and forage fish like herring. It feeds birds like Pacific Black Brant. Eelgrass improves water quality by absorbing pollutants and trapping sediment. And, finally, eelgrass strengthens coastal economies by supporting tribal, commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish harvesting and as well as a wide array of wildlife that draws tens of thousands of visitors every year to coastal areas.

A Salish and First Nations saying tells us “when the tide is out, the table is set.” Seaweeds and kelp are on this table, and important to other cultural traditions as well. Eelgrass rhizomes

and leaf bases and eelgrass with herring spawn attached are two noted delicacies.

Establishing protections for eelgrass

In 1980, an 8,000-acre eelgrass meadow was protected from industrial development by the creation of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) located near the town of Bay View, in Skagit County. There are 29 NERRs located in sensitive coastal areas around the US. The goal for each NERR is to provide public education, monitoring, stewardship, research and training. Padilla Bay is managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology and NOAA.

In 1993, our legislature established new protections for seaweeds, recognizing that even as seaweeds have inherent value for habitat and as economic commodities they may be in decline. As a result, commercial harvest of seaweed was prohibited on public and private tidelands in Washington state except for the harvest of Macrocystis for the herring roe market. Personal harvest of up to 10 pounds per day are allowed with the proper license.

Scientists at the Puget Sound Partnership use eelgrass as one of 25 indicators of ecosystem health. Changes in the number of acres of eelgrass habitat are as a metric of overall health of native seagrass beds in Puget Sound. The target for recovery is a 20% increase relative to the 2000-2008 baseline by this year, 2020.

Threats to eelgrass remain

In Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor and Puget Sound there are native and non-native (japonica) species of eelgrass, the latter thought to have been introduced from Japan when the Pacific Oyster was shipped here for cultivation. The Padilla Bay NERR protects the non-native as well as the native eelgrass because both serve similar ecosystem functions, and the non-native appears to have no negative ecological impacts.

Japonica was listed as a protected species by the Department of Fish and Wildlife until 2011 when it was declared a Class C noxious weed by

the State Noxious Weed Board. Japonica’s dense root system can impede harvesting of manila clams in Willapa Bay. As a result of the noxious weed determination the Department of Ecology allows the herbicide imazamox to be sprayed on commercial manila clam bed farms to eradicate japonica. Herbicides are not currently sprayed on eelgrass beds in Puget Sound.

Worldwide there has been a 30% reduction in eelgrass since 1870 from human-based pollution, dredging, sedimentation, aquaculture and development and from climate disruption, which is raising air and water temperatures and sea levels. In Puget Sound current monitoring indicates that the eelgrass population is stable, there are local declines due to a variety of factors.

Neglect back home at the Twin Harbors

What about eelgrass in the Twin Harbors of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor? The DNR monitors eelgrass beds in Puget Sound, but not Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. The Puget Sound Partnership uses eelgrass as a vital sign for Puget Sound restoration, yet there is no restoration plan for the Twin Harbors, no vital signs and certainly no NER Reserve to protect eelgrass meadows. In fact, it is even hard to know where eelgrass thrives since there have been no long-term monitoring studies to understand changes in this critical habitat. There is much at stake. The Ports of Grays Harbor and Willapa have a significant commercial fishery and shellfish industry that depend upon vital eelgrass ecosystem functions to nurture crabs, oysters, salmon and other commercial species. There is significant tourism generated by shore bird festivals and visits to the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Without eelgrass, there will be no birds, no fisheries, no sustainable aquaculture.

The first step is noticing

On your next walk on the beach, look for eelgrass on the tidelands or tide line. Can you see the tiny crabs? Small fish? Do you see why it is called a meadow? The first step to solving the challenges facing eelgrass is awareness. If we don’t know where eelgrass is and we don’t monitor it extensively, as in Puget Sound, how will we begin to understand and value the long-term impacts of this aquatic hero?

Sue Joerger is Policy Director of Twin Harbors Waterkeeper.

Unsafe by any measure

Creosote

Creosote has been used since the 1920s to preserve railroad ties and utility poles. It decays into a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) that bioaccumulates in marine life, affecting the growth, reproduction and survival of aquatic animals. Creosote can also be released into soil and contaminate groundwater, where it can take years to break down.

Chromated copper arsenate

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is impregnated into timber and other wood as a preservative. Containing compounds of chromium, copper and arsenic, it has been banned for residential use in the US since 2003. The

European Union issued a complete ban in 2006. When treated wood decays in a landfill, copper, chromium and arsenic are released and leach into the water table. Both arsenic and chromium are classified as human carcinogens.

Pentachlorophenol

Pentachlorophenol (PCP) has been used as an herbicide, antimicrobial agent and disinfectant. The manufacture of PCP produces several contaminants, including dioxins that do not degrade. It is ubiquitous in the environment and in humans, where it accumulates in tissue, even those with no direct exposure. Researchers estimate 96.5% of PCP will end up in our soil, where it contaminates the food chain. In 1987,

the EPA restricted all uses of PCP other than as a preservative for utility poles and railroad ties.

2-4-D and 2-4-5-T

The insecticide DDT and herbicides 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T are ingredients of Agent Orange. They also contain dioxin, one of the most toxic substances in existence, a carcinogen that leaches into groundwater. 4-D is still in use, but 2-4-5T was banned in 1985 after toxicologists concluded it was a persistent toxin and concluded that soil levels in excess of 1 part per billion (ppb) might constitute a health risk to humans. Prior to the 70s, concentrations used were 30-50 ppm, a magnitude thousands of times greater than the recommended limit.

Green Cove

From previous page

But that might not matter. At a meeting this fall, Mahan indicated that he will request deviations from stormwater design and wetland protections otherwise required. The meeting excluded members of the community, but did include an A-list of Olympia power-brokers. On Mahan’s team were Doug Mah representing the Thurston Chamber of Commerce and Mahan’s new attorney, Heather Burgess.

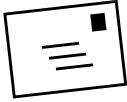
Burgess is the attorney for the Port of Olympia, as well as legal counsel for the Thurston

Chamber, and President of the Thurston Economic Development Council. Doug Mah was on the City Council when it voted to annex the Sundberg site. Soon after the Chamber formed its public policy division, the City of Olympia signed a contract to join its Legislative Partnership. Olympia Mayor Cheryl Selby is a client of Mah & Associates, as is the Port.

More to come

Like the site itself, there is more beneath the surface regarding the City’s actions to promote this project. Upcoming installments will clarify those issues, as well as the threat posed to the Green Cove Basin, to our water supply and to habitats —and offer clues to the fate of the rats who currently occupy the dumpsite.

Esther Kronenberg and Jerry Dierker are allies and residents of the Green Cove Basin



Call for cleanup

If a hazardous waste dump over the City’s aquifer concerns you, please call or email these government agencies: citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us; Director of the Department of Ecology, Maia Bellon, maia.bellon@ecy.wa.gov, and Lands Commissioner Hillary Franz at cpl@dnr.wa.gov

Immigrants are welcome here

Bob Zeigler and Lin Nelson

Since assuming office, President Trump and his Justice Department have continued to send a strong message: “Immigrants are no longer welcome here.” Cruel policies toward immigrant families have deepened, families and children are separated and imprisoned, people are blocked from applying for legal asylum as refugees. Financial support for many mixed status families is being denied and there are proposed increases in immigration fees.

Many presidential dictates and Justice Department policies violate immigrant, human and civil—and at times basic constitutional -rights. These policies create a climate of fear in immigrant communities, with heightened anxiety about people disappearing and families being separated. Clearly, a key purpose of cruel treatment is to discourage others from coming to the US and to encourage self-deportation. Even immigrants with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) designations are threatened with loss of that status.

Legislative push-back against harassment, arrest and deportation

States like Washington, Oregon and California and some major cities are passing legislation or creating policies to restrict state and local government cooperation (to the extent legally possible) with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) to prevent the arrest and deportation of non-criminal immigrants, many of whom play vital roles in local and statewide economies. Some communities have become official Sanctuary Cities, adopting policies to restrict local police from collaborating with ICE. The City of Olympia unanimously passed a resolution to become a Sanctuary City on December 13, 2016. Last year, the State of Washington passed and signed into law the Keep Washington Working Act, affirming the dignity and economic value of Washington State immigrants and restricting state and local governments from providing assistance to ICE.

The presence of ICE officials at courthouses around the west coast appears to be increasing, which is threatening for immigrants who appear as witnesses, crime victims or defendants. In June of 2019, an immigrant was arrested by ICE plain clothes officers on Thurston County Courthouse grounds and was driven

grant Rights Advocacy Day (see inset next page) at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia. The public is invited to learn more about proposed legislation and are encouraged to meet with congressional leaders after the event. Some highlights of the legislation being proposed include:



“America must welcome all—Chinese, Irish, German, pauper or not, criminal or not—all, all without exceptions: become an asylum for all who choose to come. We may have drifted away from this principle temporarily but time will bring us back us back . . . America is not for the special types, for the caste, but for the great mass of people—the vast, surging, hopeful, army of workers. Dare we deny them a home—close the doors in their face—take possession of all and fence it in and then sit down satisfied with our system—convinced that we have solved our problem? I for my part refuse to connect America with such a failure—such a tragedy, for tragedy it would be.”

Walt Whitman Speaks, 1889

off in an unmarked van. District Court Judge Brett Buckley commented at a County hearing on the arrest that it had the appearance of a kidnapping and that this should not happen in this country.

Washington State Supreme Court Judge, Mary Fairhurst, wrote the US Dept. of Homeland Security in 2017, challenging ICE and Border Patrol practices around local courthouses. “These developments are deeply troubling because they impede the fundamental mission of our courts, which is to ensure due process and access to justice for everyone, regardless of their immigration status.” ICE and Border Patrol have not honored this request.

Oregon, by contrast, has launched newly strengthened measures to protect immigrants in courthouse areas. The protection of immigrants in the courthouse arena will be a central feature of the 2020 public policy agenda by immigrants’ rights groups.

New bills aimed at securing immigrant rights
Wednesday, February 5 is Immi-

- ▶ Courts open to all, with restricted ICE activity at courthouses:
- ▶ Prohibit prosecutors, judges and court staff from sharing information with ICE/CBP;
- ▶ Require courts to collect data about when and why ICE/CBP agents will be at the courthouse;
- ▶ Require judicial warrants for civil ICE/CBP arrests on courthouse grounds.
- ▶ Stop expansion of detention centers in the state; close the Tacoma Detention Center.
- ▶ Make Apple Health (State Medicaid) available to undocumented immigrants up to age 26.

Other good immigrant bills that are likely to be encouraged include:

- ▶ Workplace Audit Protections similar to a California bill that requires employers to provide some protections, such as notification before an ICE audit occurs or if an employee’s name is flagged.
- ▶ Require unemployment benefits for undocumented workers, or at least access to family emergency funds especially during deportation hearings.
- ▶ Allow undocumented youth in college to work on campus.
- ▶ Funds for immigrant domestic violence victims to have access to food and medical assistance. A version of this bill passed the Senate unanimously last year, but needs modest retitling to meet certain constitutional standards.

Solidarity groups help meet immediate needs of immigrant populations

Legislative advocacy matters, of course, but so do the daily efforts of those who creatively and forcefully challenge xenophobic authorities, ensure people’s safety and creatively forge ways to involve people from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) is a vital force, involving around 150 organizations committed to protecting immigrants and to strengthening our communities in a number of interconnecting ways: WAISN, in alliance with other organizations, has just launched a program to support unaccompanied

immigrant youth by advocating for their release from detention, finding safe housing, and supporting youth who are transitioning out of custodial conditions.

WAISN’s Fair Fight Bond Funds project provides urgently needed funding. The Rapid Response and Deportation Defense projects are dedicated to providing material support, incident tracking and verification, and on-the-ground witnesses. The effort to “lift a case in the public sphere” involves careful, creative, and respectful ways of telling the stories that too often are ignored or silenced.

WAISN’s movement-building momentum opens up space for organizations that have very focused purposes like Advocates for Immigrants in Detention NW (AIDSNorthwest), which maintains a steadfast daily presence at the gates of the Tacoma detention center, providing transport, housing, material support, and emotional sustenance to just-released folks.

Olympia’s Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance also offers important accompaniment services, like workshops at schools on the needs of immigrant students and their families;; strategizing to keep Olympia a Sanctuary community by learning about and challenging law enforcement practices; fund-raising for immigrants’ needs, and working with CIELO, a vital educational support for Olympia area immigrants.

Meeting shifting policies with renewed resolve

All of these efforts and approaches have helped create an immigrants’ rights movement in a varied and challenging region. WAISN and allied organizations are astute observers of emerging and shifting national policies, while also offering real-time support for people dealing with ICE raids like the one in Basin City in Central Washington last summer. Due to the preparation, knowledge and courage of WAISN advocates, most of the Basin City detainees were quickly released.

Working to release nine detainees in an ICE raid in an isolated, vulnerable community such as Basin City has to be connected in meaningful ways to the at-the-gates approach of AIDSNW in Tacoma. We have a lot to teach each other in our varied communities, with the different opportunities, different risks that separate rural/urban places across the Cascade divide.

Nor can we take WA’s “sanctuary state” condition for granted. There are those in the legislature who have other things in mind, from Senator Phil Fortunato’s plan to reverse/obliterate WA-as-Sanctuary to Representative Matt Shea’s dream of merging of northeast WA and northern Idaho to create the white/Christian/separatist state of “Liberty.”

At the moment, the Northwest has a powerful immigrant-rights stance. Every day there is something new to grapple with and powerful challenges to strengthen our resolve. There’s a lot to learn and a lot to do. Learn more about protecting and strengthening the rights of immigrants and their families on February 5.

Bob Zeigler retired as a state biologist and has been active in peace, justice and human rights issues in Olympia since 1976. Lin Nelson is a retired Evergreen State College faculty member.



US corporations have staked out Central America for fruit and coffee growing, metal mining and logging, and water for beverage processing

Central American migrant families move north on a trail of tears

H. Patricia Hynes

There were many trails of tears all over North America of indigenous peoples forcibly removed by government forces. The indigenous peoples who are making their way up from the southern hemisphere are a continuation of the Trail of Tears.

—Joy Harjo, An American Sunrise Prologue, xv

Fleeing their countries

Children, families and caravans of brown-skinned people arriving at our southern border have been labeled “swarms,” “hordes,” “masses” and “threats to our national security”— epithets that degrade those fleeing poverty, violence and now climate crisis in their countries. For none of which are they responsible.

Why are they here?

In part, because our government has had a master hand in overthrowing their democratic governments and replacing them with right-wing, brutal dictatorships, which dispossessed the poor of human rights and land for much of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Why are they here now?

Increasingly, because they are driven from their land and livelihood by climate crises they have virtually no role in causing. Migration from Central American countries, specifically Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, to the US-Mexican border grew rapidly during the years 2007 to 2017, with even higher numbers expected in 2019. All three governments declared a national emergency for lack of food in 2017. In the same year, a World Food Program study found that nearly half of those who left their Central American countries left due to lack of food because their subsistence and small farms had failed from prolonged drought. Little if any government assistance has been forthcoming.

These three countries—referred to as the Northern Triangle countries— are some of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change. They are located in what is designated the Central American Dry Corridor where “hotspot” temperature increases, drought exacerbated by El Nino, and deforestation and sea level rise are driving poor people from their homes, small businesses,

subsistence farms and land.

For the rural poor and indigenous, losing their crops to drought two years consecutively causes immediate food insecurity and hunger, forcing them to migrate to cities, where rates of murder and rape are among the highest in the world— another factor driving them north.

Let us look with the briefest of snapshots at the plight of the poor in these three countries to understand why they seek refugee status here.

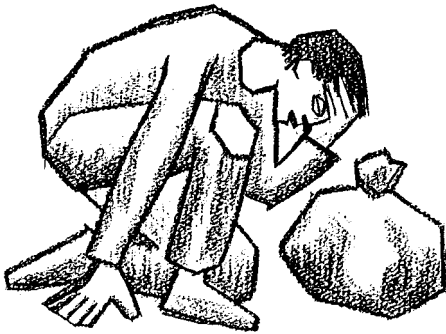
A source of land and resources for US corporations

Throughout the 20th century, US corporations have staked out Central America for fruit and coffee growing, metal mining and logging, and water for beverage processing—all at the expense of indigenous land and environmental rights. Protecting these corporate interests and ensuring they got the best land for agriculture, our government has overthrown and assisted in the removal of democratically-elected presidents, supported right-wing dictators, and armed their notably corrupt police and military with weapons and military training.

Guatemala

In 1954 President Eisenhower ordered the overthrow of democratically elected President Jacobo Arbenz in order to protect United Fruit Company’s land interests. Arbenz had issued the Agrarian Reform Law, which redistributed land to some 500,000 landless indigenous peasants. One recent president we championed, Efraín Ríos Montt, was convicted of genocide in 2013 for trying to eliminate Mayan peasants. Guatemala’s new president Alejandro Giammattei is from the extreme right, backed by business elites, the military and drug traffickers.

One in ten Guatemalans is affected by hunger due to drought-related crop failures in 2018. Widespread deforestation in the last 40 years has resulted in floods, landslides and erosion of peasant farmland. Eighty percent of the coffee crop has been wiped out by coffee leaf rust in some regions, causing low-wage workers to lose jobs. All while two percent of population control 70 percent of all cropland.



El Salvador

Over the last eight decades, US military support for right-wing coups and authoritarian candidates has strangled social movements for self-determination, worker rights and economic development in El Salvador.

El Salvador’s new president, Nayib Bukele, is giving the US Embassy a substantial role in government policies. He has fired public sector workers, following US policy there to challenge public sector unions. Bukele blames the poor for their poverty and is installing militarized border security with Department of Homeland Security funds to keep migrants from leaving.

El Salvador is projected to lose 10-28% of its coastline by the end of the century, destroying mangrove forests, marine life in them and the livelihood of fishermen and their families. The country is projected to run out of water in 80 years; yet the biggest industrial users and polluters (among them Coca-Cola company) are not affected by water rationing.

Honduras

In 2009 reform-minded President Manuel Zelaya, who had raised minimum wage, built new

schools, instituted school lunch programs, provided pensions for the elderly, and on the verge of signing land over to 300,000 small farmers to grow the working class base, was kidnapped by the Honduran military and flown out of the country to Costa Rica. The Obama Administration tacitly supported it. The US administration has continued to approve subsequent illegal presidents who have intimidated and violently suppressed rural and indigenous farmers’ land rights in favor of large agro-corporate land grabs and corrupt elections.

Drug traffickers infiltrate the Honduran government “from top to bottom,” including the police and military, according to historian, activist and author of *The Long Honduran Night*, Dana Frank. By 2016, Honduras had the highest murder rate and highest rape rate in the world.

The country’s Pacific Coast, once a thriving tourist destination, is losing approximately one meter each year to sea level rise. Tidal surges are wiping out businesses, homes and roads. Further, corporate shrimp industry is destroying mangrove forests along the coast protective of coastal erosion and needed for local fishing. The shrimp industry offers few jobs while increasing poverty by restricting fishing for locals.

The US rejects responsibility and repudiates migrants

The 1951 UN Geneva Convention on Refugees will not classify climate migrants as refugees, not wanting to diminish funds for those fleeing war, persecution and violence. In 2018 UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was signed by 167 countries, with the goal of creating humane conditions for migrants across the world. The US did not sign it.

The US response to economically desperate brown-skinned migrants at our southern border is multi-pronged: demonize them in the media, punish them by separating families, and discourage them by forcing long waits in Mexico while determining refugee status. Most recently Trump has cut humanitarian aid to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras while funding and training their border patrol police and military to militarize their borders and entrap those fleeing poverty, violence and climate crisis.

The UN-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has focused on climate resilience farming methods, including agroforestry, short cycle and drought-resistant crops (e.g., sorghum), water harvesting systems, planting grasses to hold soil in deforested areas, and community contingency funding. Tragically, FAO funding suffers shortfall—while US militarized border funding flows to the Northern Triangle countries.

Continuing extraction of land and labor by US corporations

US corporations cross borders into Central America daily where they profit, pollute, extort the best land and underpay workers with impunity. The same borders are weaponized (a new frontier for our weapons industry) and closed to citizens coming north, endangered by policies and climate crises not of their making.

On World Day of Migrants, September 29, Pope Francis excoriated countries that sell weapons to countries in conflict and turmoil, while refusing to take in refugees fleeing the same conflict and turmoil. Safe cities is a moral response to our government’s sins of injustice.

H. Patricia Hynes is a retired Professor of Environmental Health from Boston University School of Public Health and current Chair of the Board of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice. She writes and speaks on issues of war and militarism with an emphasis on women, environment, and public health. This piece is reprinted with permission from Portside. <https://portside.org/2019-10-07/trail-tears-refugees-central-america>

Washington Immigrant Solidarity
Network and
Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance*
presents

**Immigrant
Advocacy Day**
Wed., Feb. 5
Washington State Capitol
Rally: Noon
Visit to legislator’s offices: 1-4 pm

*in conjunction with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union, WA State Labor Council, other immigrant rights groups, Community Sustaining Fund, the Olympia Food Coop, and Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters.

For more information go to waisn.org or olympia.sanctuary@gmail.com

Television coverage of immigrant rights advocacy will appear on Parallax Perspectives, local cable access program on channel 22, can be seen in January on Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00 pm. Online coverage of immigrant advocacy and public policy is available at www.parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs.

Discover the physical and human imprint of Western Washington's military bases with a group of Evergreen students

“Basewatch” is an avenue to understand US military installations on our doorstep

In *A People's Geography of American Empire*, students at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington looked at US expansion from Manifest Destiny and overseas imperial conquests, to present-day resource wars.

The arc of expansion in the Pacific NW

The Winter 2018-19 program focused on the place-making processes inherent in each stage of expansion, and on the imprints they have left on the human and physical landscape. It examined imperial places that have been shaped by each era of expansion, and in turn have shaped each era. The program covered the continuous historical arc of expansion, from the Indian frontier wars to colonialism in the Pacific and Caribbean, to occupations in Middle East “tribal regions.”

This expansion has come full circle as immigrants arrive from formerly colonized lands, and wars at home are waged against occupied communities. In addition to the origins and rationales underlying each stage of expansion, students explored how and to what extent the world's landscape reflects and helps to (re)produce imperial power.

Making the interconnections

The program aimed to interconnect global and local scales, foreign and domestic policies, and past histories and present-day legacies. It examined the lasting imprints of imperial control on real local places, in particular the network of US military bases and counter-insurgency campaigns around the world.

A placemaking approach to hierarchies

The program made a geographical contribution to the study of American Empire by examining the making and remaking of imperial places, and using place-based approaches to examine hierarchies of

race, nationality, class, and gender. Imperial places also offer stories of cooperation and resilience, healing, and hope. The class heard from speakers about Iraq, Central America, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guåhan (Guam), and Hawai'i.

The class, taught by faculty member Zoltán Grossman (Geography and Native Studies), took field trips to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Base Kitsap in October 2018, and to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (guided by Army and Nisqually Tribe employees) in January 2019.

In the winter of 2019, students in the course researched and documented western Washington military installations. The resulting case studies of land acquisition, place-making, deployment and dissent at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Naval Base Kitsap (NBK), and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) are presented on the website BASEWATCH. <https://sites.evergreen.edu/basewatch/>.

A path to new awareness

Even though these bases are on our doorstep, we know little about how they got there, the impact they have had, and what activities originate there today. BASEWATCH offers an avenue to change that.

The hope is that the class website project contributes to the knowledge and debate around these local sites of global consequence. Participants in the class created the site in hopes that it will be a tool for the public to get an overview of the topics, and to get informed about military installations in our region. The references noted on each page are intended to assist public research.



US Virginia class attack sub deployed in 2011 at a cost of \$3.4-5.5 billion each.

Any opinions expressed on this website are those of the students, faculty, and/or their research sources, not of other students or faculty in the program, or of The Evergreen State College.

Your guide to Basewatch

- Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) (formerly Fort Lewis & McChord Air Force Base)
- The Displacement of the Nisqually Tribe (Katie Dotson)
- Fort Lewis Testing and Training (Donald Evans)
- Fort Lewis and the Vietnam Era (Lincoln Koester)
- Fort Lewis and the Wars in Iraq (Clayton Roessle)
- Fort Lewis / JBLM's Ground Forces in Afghanistan (Afghanistan Team)
- Social Crises around JBLM (Breanna Strobele)
- Civilian Dissent around Fort Lewis during the Iraq War (Carly Martin)
- Military Dissent at Fort Lewis during the Iraq War (Zoltán Grossman)
- Noise Pollution and HIMARS at JBLM (Jamie Klas)
- Environmental Protection at JBLM (Zoltán Grossman)
- The Public Face of JBLM (Eric Meyer)

- Mapping Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Jade Francis)
 - Naval Base Kitsap (NBK)
 - Mapping Naval Base Kitsap (Inanna McCarty)
 - Trident Nuclear Submarines: Defense or Doomsday? (Henry Best)
 - Mapping the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific at Bangor (Brennan Stevenson)
 - Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton (Harry Halsted)
 - Kitsap County: Military Dependency & Resistance (Conner Lyons)
 - Naval Station Everett (Seth Wright)
 - Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI)
 - History of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (Erik Matsen)
 - Water Contamination on Whidbey Island (Josh Miller)
 - Noise Issues and Growler Flight Expansion (Shoni Fuqua)
 - Mapping Whidbey Island's Noise & Accident Potential Zones (Ari Johnson)
 - Electromagnetic War Games over the Olympic Peninsula (John Lace)
 - Mapping the Olympic Peninsula Training Area (Kevin Givens)
- Go to www.olywip.org for a version of this introduction with live links to the website.

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War games

From page 1

There is still a good deal of research required to fully understand the impact of EMR war games on local people and animals.

Children and the world’s loudest jets

The noise pollution produced during this type of training has a better documented history of harming local populations. Growler jets are the loudest in the world, and a great deal of research details the negative health effects of jet noise on exposed populations. Higher rates of hypertension and heart attacks have been reported among those exposed to high levels of aircraft noise.

Studies have linked high levels of noise with developmental issues among children. The adverse effects on children exposed to chronic noise exposure include “elevations in resting blood pressure, attention deficiencies... deficits in reading... diminished task motivation, poorer memory when high information processing demands are present, and deficits in infant cognitive development.”

Stress and disruption for wildlife

Noise pollution produced by Growlers could also negatively affect local wildlife. Chronic noise

disrupts the ability of animals to detect sounds essential for breeding and habitation. These noises are no mere nuisance to local fauna, they can be seen as a threat and can disrupt the regular habits of birds and mammals. Studies have shown that this intrusion of chronic high-decibel sound overstimulates animal nervous systems, leading to instances of chronic stress, diminished attention to

Skirting the law and ignoring the public

Local communities have had to deal with a great deal of secrecy from the US Navy when it comes to these war games. The Navy has provided next to no public forums for local people to ask questions about the war games, a practice that is required by law. Environmental Impact Reports have been

a war-gaming area, it is reprehensible.”

A Lower Elwha Klallam artist named Linda said in a video interview for Olympic Peninsula Watch, “I’d rather listen to the beach. I would rather listen to the birds... Shooting all this radiation into our environment. I don’t want it here, and I don’t think anyone else does.”

Rejecting pollution and degradation

In October 2016, protesters presented to the Forest Service an online petition “with more than 110,000 signatures” in opposition to the Navy’s plans to conduct war games over the Peninsula. Local opinions on militarism shift on a person-to-person basis, but there appears to be a near-unanimous negative response to the potential of noise pollution and environmental degradation brought on by EMR warfare training.

A military overreach to be ignored at our peril

The Olympic Peninsula is a unique and cherished place to Washington residents and visitors. It is home to a variety of rare ecosystems that are not found anywhere else on Earth. Its preservation is of the utmost importance to those who dwell there. It is important to pay close attention to these developments because this expansion threatens not only the Peninsula’s ecosystems, but the foundations of American civic life as well.

John Lace is a former Evergreen student, writer, and conformist living in Olympia. The online version of this article with all citations and sources is at www.olywip.org. More information on US military activity in the PNW can be found at <https://sites.evergreen.edu/basewatch/>.

– ...the military’s coffers are burgeoning, its conflicts are unending, and its advanced forms of weaponry require vast stretches of airspace and diverse terrains for practice



young, increased risk of abandonment of young, habitat avoidance, diminished energy levels, and decreased life spans of subjected species.

Inroads into a precious public sphere

Perhaps the greatest ramification of these games is the precedent it sets for the military to peer over its fences for locations to practice war. The 1807 Posse Comitatus Act limits the Army’s ability to operate within the public sphere. Under its protection, common people should not be harassed by the military presence within United States borders. But the military’s coffers are burgeoning, its conflicts are unending, and its advanced forms of weaponry require vast stretches of airspace and diverse terrains for practice. And in most cases, wherever the military goes, the public cannot follow.

Whidbey-based EA-18G Growler jets make 2,300 flights over Olympic Park each year, coming and going from two Olympic Military Operations Areas. The Boeing Corporation will produce more of the jets to add to the existing fleet of 82 at Whidbey. The plan is for 5,000 flights each year.

incomplete, and the Navy has refused to follow proper protocol when it comes to releasing public notices. These tactics of the military have not been well received by many Peninsula residents.

Lina Sutton, a retired teacher in Port Townsend, said in an interview with *Truthout* that “most of the people who live here do so because we are free of this kind of militarism. And people who visit here, come here for the natural beauty and environment, and if we allow this place to be turned into

Their excuse was “it will keep us safe”

The Afghanistan Papers is a bright, shining lie by omission. Yes, our military and civilian leaders lied to us about Afghanistan. But they could never have spread their murderous BS—thousands of US soldiers and tens of thousands of Afghans killed, trillions of dollars wasted—without media organizations like the Washington Post, which served as unquestioning government stenographers.

Press outlets like the *Post* and *New York Times* weren’t merely useful idiots.disseminating pro-war propaganda. They actively censored the people who knew we never should have gone into Afghanistan and tried to tell Americans this.

*Ted Ralls in
Common Dreams
12/11/19*

Trying not to be a statistic when your days are numbered

Five disgusting portable toilets rest on my homeless mitigation ground,
One hundred twenty-five tents, 200 human beings, and not one shower to be found,
People complain as they persist in hating the residents of my 125 tents,
It’s a self-defeating stance in a town quickly inflating upwards of \$1,250 rents.

Many wish they’d burn my camp down and put up another 60-unit apartment tower,
Meanwhile, only 6% of my guests can regularly access a shower,
“Billionaires don’t have that much in liquid assets,” misguided enablers of the 1 % say,
Don’t talk to me about liquid assets when another 94% of my guests can’t bathe every day.

Located between State and Franklin as a constant reminder of our situation,
The state doesn’t care, and \$100 is a bill not often acquired in our station,
Placed a quarter of a mile away from the 4th Ave party scene just to keep us out of sight,
My friends asking for two dollars as you polish off another fifth might ruin your night.

A mere \$1,000 would afford my friends an upgrade to permanent housing,
But even a well-pitched plea for a fourth of the local average monthly income is not very rousing,
My friends’ life expectancies hover between ages 43 and 47 depending on gender,
Consistent medical access for more than 60 of my guests is a service not even Providence can render,

On average my friends suffer 30 years cut short from a life so encumbered,
I guess regardless of where we sleep, our days are all numbered.

Ryan Furbush is an Olympia resident and Evergreen State College student, interested in how art intersects with local issues in the Olympia area.

233 Division St NW

(360) 943-8044

Wildwood

(360) 688-1234

Planting a new world in the shell of the old

Olympia Assembly advocates a radical vision for our town – one which includes an emphasis on direct democracy and city governance by the people themselves, as well as cooperation amongst neighbors to meet our needs when the established system fails us. We assert the right of all members of our community to freely access the necessities of life, from food, water, and shelter to a healthy environment and social atmosphere.

Building revolutionary community Olympia Assembly

we advance strategies based on the principles of collective solidarity, direct action and mutual aid.

The Vangardeners are a non-hierarchical collective that organizes around ecological justice, guerrilla gardening, and food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the idea that people should have autonomy over what they consume and what they consume should be nourishing, culturally appropriate, and non-exploitative to the people and land on which it is produced. Food sovereignty has been an element of many revolutions, including in Mexico, (tierra y libertad–land and liberty), Cuba, Nicaragua and others. These movements inspired Vangardeners' formation, in tandem with the belief that food, being necessary for survival, should be a human right. The conditions under which we acquire this necessity shouldn't be determined by corporations who exploit farmworkers and land.

Vangardeners launched in June 2019. Summer and fall were spent building the community needed to create a movement. Some of the projects undertaken include making seed bombs, planting, distributing free food and hosting educational workshops. The project has brought together in community projects such as the Really Free Market.

The Really Free Market is a mutual aid project of Olympia Assembly that hosts free "stores" in downtown Olympia. The idea is to meet the needs of people where they're at, and anyone can freely give, take, exchange or trade items, clothes and other supplies.

Lacey Veterans' Hub

Helping veterans recover their dignity and their rights

Clayton McCrary

My first experience in a courtroom was filled with anxiety due to the punitive behavior of a judge who was harsh with everyone present. At the second hearing, after learning I was a veteran, the same judge completely flipped to a supportive role. This was comforting but also confusing.

Knowing that many veterans have similar experiences, I was pleased to learn a progressive court system exists to help vets recover their dignity and protect their rights. To see firsthand what the Veterans Assistance Fund specialist had described, I visited the Veterans Court (supported by Thurston County sales tax).

I became anxious waiting until it was time to enter the courtroom and the feeling didn't subside until the Judge began to talk with the Veteran about their experiences through the process of recovery. I felt as if a secret had been hiding inside me and the only way to really know it existed was to break through my own negative courtroom experience. I noticed that the group of attorneys and social workers maintained a therapeutic role with the Veteran, creating a

community of support, which was surreal and full of emotion. I knew immediately after court adjourned that this idea needed to be shared with the greater community.

This led me to join Lacey Veterans Services Hub, where I learned about the many services available to the Veterans community, while also navigating the Veterans health care system myself. The Hub provides vital connections in housing, health care, wellness and employment.

A VAF specialist visits with clients at the county jail every Monday to discuss the status of their discharge from service and what programs are available to help them clean their record and retain dignity. On Wednesdays, at the Thurston County Courthouse, the Mental Health/ Veterans Court serves folks whose charges meet the criteria of a mental health-related connected crime.

The program is designed to allow set up for 24 months for recovery, at which time the veteran has a graduation ceremony with all their staffers, mentors and friends. A local quilters art guild in Tacoma makes a large quilt for each veteran who graduates, and it is a

This project has attracted people who weren't otherwise involved in organizing efforts, and compelled them to become involved in other projects. Food and climate change are issues that impact everyone. Food and climate change intersect with struggles against hierarchy in its many manifestations. The struggle for food sovereignty is an aspect of one's struggle to stay alive and decide the terms under which one lives, not merely survives.

Many people aren't granted resources or skills to provide themselves with healthy and nourishing meals, nor the knowledge to cultivate foods to create such meals. Those skills have been fostered through this project. This project improves the lives of individual community members, while improving local living standards generally. Vangardeners has experienced successes in decreasing alienation between people, food, and nature—a goal of the project.

In spring 2020, Vangardeners plan to participate in the Many Trees/Build Soil project to plant thousands of chestnut trees. Chestnuts are an excellent food source that can be used to make flour. Planting trees also creates oxygen, directly combating climate change. In the case of a natural disaster, it is crucial to have localized food systems that are more reliable than food produced thousands of miles away in unknown conditions. For this project, the Vangardeners are looking for land near Olympia to grow chestnut trees. We plan to use our efforts to help these projects initiated by the non-profit, Build Soil, and an independent project, Many Trees.

To help with this project or to offer resources, contact vangardeners@olympia@gmail.com.

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very emotional journey for some of the folks. I witnessed a graduate of the court visit with a friend who was in the program for DUI and he expressed intense gratitude for the program, which helped him get back into society, start a business, and become quite successful at it. The graduate visited with the judge after session ended and I could tell the bond made through the program was everlasting for both of them.

The VAF, staffed by the county, works with veterans who are coming to the regular HUD/VASH and VHOG (Veteran Housing Option Group) meetings. Once the proper assessment is done, the individual can get assistance through the VAF, who can pay first and last month's rent and deposit fees for a rental unit, or cover a delinquent bill.

Veterans qualify for the program if they are homeless or within

► Veterans, next page

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Nurse

From page 1

ers and our staff. It really feels like a family. On a daily basis we deal with life and death situations. We connect on a level that can be much deeper than people working in cubicles. We care about each other.

On the flip side, medical technology has advanced faster than the ethics behind it. We deal a lot with unrealistic expectations. People watch television and think reality should be like TV, where everyone lives happily ever after. It almost never is. Many times family members aren't quite ready to accept that a loved one isn't going to make it.

The level of trauma we see on a daily basis is sometimes more than we can mentally deal with. If some providers have a dark sense of humor, it's not because we don't care. It's because we care too much. It's the mechanism by which we protect ourselves. That's one of the hardest parts for me.

Has Providence diverged from its stated mission? If so can you give examples?

Providence was started by Mother Joseph and her nuns. If you go to the state capitol there's a statue of Mother Joseph near the Governor's office. She is a hero in Washington because, from scratch, she built this hospital designed to help people in need. As the hospital grew, the Sisters of Providence realized they couldn't continue to run the organization themselves.

They handed it off to a more corporate model. Part of the agreement was that the CEO of Swedish, Rod Hochman, would become the CEO of Providence. Swedish was also a non-profit organization, but they were never "mission driven" like Providence. They had a whole different model and Hochman brought that corporate model with him. Being non-profit doesn't mean a company doesn't make a profit. They can reinvest the profit into the company; they can give themselves huge raises and bonuses.

Veterans' Hub

From previous page

60 days of becoming homeless. This program seems to be the most crucial for veterans in transition, who have a sudden mishap with a bill, face eviction, or have a mental health concern. The baseline for qualifying is low income, which has increased 50%.

Evidence Based Practices

After researching several programs for veteran recovery (references available at olywip.org), I have found that these programs increase access to services beyond the walls of a clinic. Veterans need enough stability to navigate the healthcare system, and when unforeseen events create a vulnerable gap in quality of life, the Veterans Assistance Fund can help decrease or eliminate the financial burden of maintaining a residence. The Veterans Affairs 2018-2024 Strategic Plan for our vets is to seize opportunities in the advanced telecare markets, provide best practices by examining past programs, and groundbreaking research to ensure anticipation of cultural changes as more troops come home.

Regional studies

In one study, a holistic model was implemented alongside interpersonal and mood regulation techniques. Once the mindfulness exercises started, each veteran participated sessions of trauma-informed yoga three times a week and completed a weekly art therapy class. An important demographic in the study identified active duty personnel who are in a balance between restricted duty and ready-for-duty status. This model could work for many clients who visit the Lacey Veterans Hub.

Veterans who work through trauma need help finding meaningful work. The leadership skills, ability to be led, and consistent work ethic are the best qualities of any veteran. There are not as many solid career paths to apprenticeships and trade careers as there used to be, and that needs to change. Careers are the main need for



Jacob M. Kostecka in his scrubs at Providence St. Peter Hospital. Read the full transcript of Jacob's WIP interview at www.olywip.org.

It doesn't mean they are required to break even every year either. In 2012, Hochman made about one million dollars. Over the next five-year period, his personal compensation ballooned 600% to \$10.5 million. Providence also hired a CFO from Microsoft who was known for

a Veteran looking for meaningful work, and not just any job, either. Most Veterans who leave service with 15-20+ years are not looking to sit around, especially if they have stayed fit enough to last that long in a combat occupation. The EN-abled Veteran program has a mission to provide vocational training and job placement. A sense of purpose can be nurtured by attending to the transitions of the veteran healing from trauma. Meaningful work feels good and a sense of accomplishment is achieved. Veteran experiences solidify work ethic

One factor crucial to the Veteran and their family is to work with an office of at least 30% veterans. This ratio helps keep a balance of staff who understand the needs of the many Veterans coming home from service. With this in mind, outreach programs with awareness of PTSD and other invisible wounds offer a career-minded skillset to the Veteran and their family.

When a veteran who is under stress from serving in combat comes home to a VA that doesn't seem to be keeping up, and the veteran refuses to ask for help, we have a huge problem. Entire families can benefit from partnership programs like the Road Home, EN-abled Veteran, and other organizations working to ensure education, mental health, and a therapeutic environment where veterans are embraced without judgement. For example, if a veteran minimizes their needs in the office or therapy visit, a family member who has been through the preparation for transition can actually speak up to keep the appointment on track. These evidence-based practices have helped many families and hold the promise that therapies help us learn to create a more resilient community.

Clayton McCrary is a student veteran in the Student Originated Studies Program with Zoltan Grossman at The Evergreen State College. He is studying psychology and art therapy as alternatives to clinical settings. References used in this article appear at olywip.org.

mergers and acquisitions. Providence has grown and grown since then. That growth, coupled with the growth of executive compensation. is far out of line with the mission that Mother Joseph envisioned.

What got you interested in being part of the nurse's union bargaining team?

Six years ago, we had a contract coming up. I knew there were issues, and I had concerns I wanted to see resolved. I joined the bargaining team, and learned a lot in the first round of negotiations. I was then asked by a bargaining team leader to join the labor-management committee, made up of union reps, a couple of union nurses, and hospital leadership. We talk about labor and contract issues, and how to put out small fires before they become big issues.

The best parts and worst parts of being on the bargaining team?

The best part is knowing that working hard; working together through unity. and vocalizing and organizing nurses will help us get good contracts. When I started. there was a lot of apathy I felt we were discombobulated and not organized. People didn't know who the union representative was, or how unions work.

I've spent about six years on a grassroots effort to mobilize people, and to get people to understand the importance of the union and to be involved. I encourage people to stand up for themselves; to understand how much power they actually have to take responsibility for themselves and to seize their power.

The worst thing about being on the bargaining team is the time involved. As I get older, I realize more and more that my time is the thing I care most about. The amount of involvement now is incredible, but it has taken so much of my time, and that's hard. If I'm spending all this time fighting for a fair contract, I don't have much time for my family. That's been tough.

Two or three reasons the union voted to strike?

One reason is the attack on our benefits—our paid leave program. Washington recently passed what's called the Washington Paid Family Medical Leave Act. We all qualify for PFML now. Providence is essentially trying to ride the coattails of that and say, "Oh, you've got this program now, so you don't need your time off."

The other big reason is staffing levels. We're dealing with a massive nurse shortage. In my critical care unit alone, we have 15 open positions we can't fill. No federal or state law in our state dictates what healthcare staffing levels should be. California has such laws, but nowhere else. Nurses are injured on the job at high rates.

How would patients be affected if the strike were to take effect?

We estimate the strike within Providence would affect 40% to 50% of the regional medical systems. All told, it's about 14,000 workers and about 8,000 nurses. Imagine what that would look like. It would be devastating, honestly. It would be a huge blow to our communities for us to go on strike.

We don't want to go on strike. I never thought it would come to this. I never thought that Providence would be so arrogant. Even if the hospital administrators wanted to settle right now, they could not. They are operating under a mandate from Rod Hochman and other executives, who basically told them "don't blink." The administrators aren't protected by unions. If they make a deal with us tomorrow, they're all fired.

We essentially feel like we're negotiating with a brick wall. The administrators have no power, which to us doesn't show they're truly bargaining in good faith. The only way this is going to end is if the Providence executives come to their senses and realize they've bitten off more than they can chew. If we end up striking, we're all going to do it together, and it will have a huge impact.

Jacob M. Kostecka BSN, RN, CCRN is a long-time charge nurse at Providence St. Peter Hospital, a member of the Labor Management Committee and a United Food and Commercial Workers' 21 steward. You can read the complete version of his interview with Matt at www.olywip.org

The Gonis of death returned to Bolivia, hand in hand with the OAS

Rafael Quintero López

[Ed note: “Goni the Gringo” was the nickname for a Bolivian president who fled to the US in 2003 after ushering in a brutal repression in that country.]

Special to Works in Progress. Until just 20 years ago, in our sister republic of Bolivia, the vast majority of its 6,723,045 inhabitants were excluded from all aspects of the so-called “national coexistence”, They were excluded from education, the benefits of its economy, of health services, social security and so on. Of course, most of the population was also excluded from the right to participate in political life, to determine its present and future.

For example, In 1989, Sánchez de Lozada was elected President of the country, although he only

obtained 363,113 votes. That's just 5.4% of the population! Lozada did not speak any of the 36 native languages in which the Bolivians communicate, and since he spoke Spanish with a foreign accent, they called him “GONI the gringo.” The nickname was apt also because he was the deliveryman of US policies that had transformed Bolivia into a US economic colony. Almost 90% of the population did not even participate at the polls. Nonetheless, back then, the Organization of American States (OAS) looked the other way.

In the 2002 elections, a great peasant leader appeared, brilliant and with extensive political experience in trade unions. He was an indigenous person, of Aymara father and Quechua mother.

He was Evo Morales Ayma, and in the “Department of Colonies” that is the OAS, the alarms went off. Morales claimed that he had obtained 21% of the vote, while a pair composed of two men, Sánchez de Lozada and Carlos De Mesa Gisbert, had together obtained 22%. Despite allegations of fraud, the duo representing foreign interests was declared winner. With a difference of only 1% these mean were raised to the presidency and vice-presidency of the country.

They established a neoliberal government and set about to deliver Bolivian water and gas to foreign companies. The gas was to be sent to California, via a gas port in foreign territory (Chile). The people rose against “Goni” and a brutal repression ensued. There were many dead and wounded, until

“Goni” fled to the US. Carlos De Mesa, lacking legitimacy to govern had to resign. The OAS, an agency created by the US to try to hide its interference in Latin America and the Caribbean, again looked the other way.

Evo Morales was elected President in 2005, bringing about an era of economic, social and cultural reforms carried out for the benefit of the entire population.

Among other things, the reforms included the participation of the 33 nationalities in a new “plurinational coexistence,” along with the establishment democratic electoral reforms. Thus, it became law that to be elected president of Bolivia, 50% plus one vote had to be obtained in the First Electoral Round. Failing that, the winner should have obtained at least 45% of the valid vote, with a difference of at least 10% more than the next highest vote-getter. Otherwise, a second round would be held.

Evo Morales won Bolivia's presidential elections of 2009 and 2014 with more than 50% in the first round. In 2019, he obtained 48% of the vote and had an advantage of more than 10% compared to the next contender. He was legitimately proclaimed President.

But Evo Morales was prevented from taking office. The US, the OAS, the EU, together with the racist oligarchies of Bolivia had other plans. They sought to destabilize Bolivia's new democratic system, created with such enormous citizen effort. Millions of US dollars printed in the US were brought in to pay for violence and terror against the first democracy that in Our America took firm steps to have a Pluri-national State. This state would cement its antiquity with its modernity, the well-being of all its people, and the exercise of sovereignty over its immense national wealth.

This project of national dignity has been brought to an end by a fascist coup d'etat, imported by the US and its world allies. Once again, hand in hand with the OAS, they want to impose the Gonis of death. I'm sure “they shall not pass”.

Rafael Quintero is an Ecuadorian academic and social scientist member of the FPN (Patriotic National Front). Translated by Enrique Quintero

A Bolivia volvieron los Gonis de la muerte, de la mano de la O.E.A.

Rafael Quintero López

Hasta hace apenas 20 años, en la hermana Bolivia la inmensa mayoría de su población (de seis millones 723.045 habitantes) estuvo excluida de todos los aspectos del llamado “convivir nacional”, es decir, de la educación, de los beneficios de su economía, de los servicios de salud, de la seguridad social, etc., etc., etc. Y, claro, era excluida también del derecho a participar en la vida política, para determinar, de manera cierta, su presente y futuro.

Para ilustrar lo dicho, baste un ejemplo. En 1989, fue declarado electo Presidente del país Sánchez de Lozada, aunque solo obtuvo 363.113 votos. O sea, el 5.4% de la población! Ese señor no hablaba ninguno de los 36 idiomas originarios en que se comunican los bolivianos, y como hablaba mal el castellano con acento extranjero, lo llamaban “GONI el gringo”, pues además era un entreguista respecto a las políticas de EEUU, que había convertido a Bolivia en una de sus colonias económicas. Casi el 90 por ciento de la población ni siquiera iba a las urnas. Entonces, la OEA mitraba hacia otro lado.

Pero, en las elecciones de 2002, apareció un gran dirigente campesino, brillante y con gran experiencia política sindical. Era un indígena, de padre aimara y madre quechua. Era Evo Morales Ayma. En ese “Departamento de Colonias” que es la OEA, se prendieron entonces las alarmas; y, a pesar de las denuncias de fraude por parte de Morales que obtuvo el 21% de los votos, mientras el binomio compuesto por Sánchez de Lozada y Carlos De Mesa Gisbert, obtuvo 22%, declararon ganadores al binomio de los intereses extranjeros.

Así, con la diferencia del 1%

fueron encumbrados a la presidencia y vicepresidencia del país. Hicieron un gobierno neoliberal y quisieron entregar el agua y el gas bolivianos a empresas extranjeras. Al gas querían enviarlo a California, construyendo un puerto gasífero en Chile, territorio extranjero.

El pueblo se levantó contra “Goni”. La represión fue brutal y hubo muchos muertos y heridos, hasta que éste huyó a EEUU, y Carlos

electoral.

Así, se dictaminó que, para ser electo presidente de Bolivia, se debía conseguir el 50% más un voto, en una Primera Vuelta; o en su defecto, obtener al menos el 45% de la votación válida, y exhibir una diferencia de, al menos, 10% con quién le siga en votación al ganador. En caso contrario se debía hacer una Segunda Vuelta. Evo Morales ganó las elecciones presidenciales de 2009 y 2014 con más del 50% en la Primera Vuelta. En 2019, obtuvo el 48% de la votación y tuvo una ventaja de más del 10% respecto a su contendor. Fue legítimamente proclamado Presidente.

Pero EEUU, la OEA, la UE, conjuntamente con las oligarquías racistas de Bolivia tenían otros planes para desestabilizar el nuevo sistema democrático de Bolivia, creado con tanto esfuerzo ciudadano. Millones de esos dólares impresos a precio de hojas en EEUU fueron llevados para pagar la violencia y el terror contra la democracia del primer país que en Nuestra América dio pasos firmes para tener un Estado Plurinacional que cimente las bases de la unidad de su antigüedad con su modernidad, del bienestar de vida para todo su pueblo diverso con el ejercicio de la soberanía sobre sus inmensas riquezas.

Pero, se interpuso a ese proyecto de dignidad, un golpe de Estado de carácter fascista, importado por EEUU y sus aliados mundiales. Y de la mano de la OEA, quieren imponer a los Gonis de la muerte. Estoy seguro que no pasaran.

Rafael Quintero es un académico y cientista social ecuatoriano miembro del FPN (Frente Patriótico Nacional).



De Mesa, posteriormente tuvo que renunciar, al carecer de legitimidad para gobernar. La OEA, un organismo creado por EEUU para tratar de esconder sus injerencias en nuestra América Latina y el Caribe, nuevamente miró hacia otro lado.

Desde que Evo Morales fue electo Presidente en 2005, además de todas las reformas económicas, sociales, culturales realizadas en beneficio de todo el pueblo, incluyendo la participación de las 33 nacionalidades en un nuevo “convivir plurinacional”, él se interesó en asegurar que se haga una reforma

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Special Events

State of the Community

Hotel RL. Jan 8, 11:30 – 1.
Find out what local movers and shakers (officials from Thurston County, Tumwater, Yelm, Lacey and Olympia) say when they're talking to one another – in public. \$35 for non-members of the Chamber.

PiPE winter formal benefit

Jan. 9 at 7:00 pm.
DJ Carefree with comedians Chocolate the Entertainer and Khadija Hassan. Comedic talent at 7:30.<https://www.facebook.com/events/590851311458466/>

Brave in the attempt

Jan. 10, 7:30 – 9 pm, Traditions, 300 5th Avenue, SW.
Playback Theater presents stories of striving. \$7- \$12 at the door.

Thurston Conservation District Election

Jan 14, 10-8 pm.
Vote for a new board supervisor. See Spotlight for details of how to participate.

Olympia Mutual Aid Partnership

Jan 16, 1-6 pm. Drop off supplies at 115 Legion.
Food, blankets, etc. to be distributed to houseless camps by the Partnership on Mutual Aid Mondays. We strive to build community and eliminate boundaries between our neighbors and community neighbors.

Classic movies with a message

Jan 16, 6:30 pm, OUUU, 2315 Division St NW.
Check the Olympia Unitarian website for the specific film. Free

Homeless Housing Hub meets

Jan 20, 12:30-1:30, 701 4th Avenue, Combination of several groups working on housing and homeless issues, Thursday Asset Building Coalition.

Igniting Engagement with your Union

Jan 25, 9am – noon. Washington State Labor Council, 906 Columbia.
Unions offer a unique opportunity to act with fellow workers and shift the focus of economic policy. Workshop with union members and allies.

From forest commons to carbon commodities

Jan 28, 630-8:30,
A talk on Lessons from REDD+ in Nepal, by Shangrila Joshi, Member of Evergreen Faculty<https://www.facebook.com/events/478492989691678/>

Uprisings: Chile and Colombia

Jan 29, Wed., 7-9 pm, Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Avenue, SW.
Speakers from those countries explain the political activities and outlook. No charge. See Spotlight for more details.

Global Days of Listening

Feb 21.
A monthly online conversation with people engaged in peace efforts living in war-torn countries. Participants will include peace activists in Kabul, Afghanistan. Check time and how to listen via livestream at globaldaysoflistening.org

Community Events Spotlight

Nominations Sought for 2020 Peacemaker Award

The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County (DRC) is seeking nominations for the 2020 Evan Ferber Peacemaker Leadership Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in promoting peaceful dispute resolution and civility. The DRC welcomes and encourages members of the community to submit nominations for this award.

Established in honor of Founding Executive Director Evan Ferber, the award will be presented at The Toast, the DRC's annual fundraiser, on Sunday, April 5th, 2020.

Deadline for nominations: February 21st. The nomination form is available at www.MediateThurston.org. For more information, call 360/956-1155 or e-mail info@mediatethurston.org.

Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors

has announced the seat formerly held by Richard Mankmyer is up for a permanent election. Noted conservationist, David Iyall of the Nisqually People, is running for the seat. Voting is Tuesday, January 14, 10 am – 8 pm at the TCD offices, 2918 Ferguson St. SW, Suite A, Tumwater, WA 98512.

Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the Conservation District. Contact the Election Supervisor if you need clarification about your eligibility.

Ballot voting may also be accomplished via absentee ballot.

The last day and time that voters can request absentee ballots to be mailed to their mailing address for this election is January 9th, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Request may be made by phone to (360) 754-3588 ext. 121, or via email to ballotrequest@thurstoncd.com.

Return postage is prepaid.

The last day and time that voters can request absentee ballots in person at the District offices is Monday January 13th, 2020 at 4:30pm. Thurston Conservation District Office is 2918 Ferguson St. SW, Suite A, Tumwater, WA 98512.

Questions or concerns may be sent to nwhite@thurstoncd.com.

2020 WAISN Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day

February 5, 2020

8 am – 5 pm

Washington State Capitol, Olympia, WA

The Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) is hosting the third Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day for the 2020 Washington legislative session. Join hundreds of organizations and individuals on

February 5th to advocate for pro-immigrant policies to support ALL Washington residents. Last year, with the passage of Keep Washington Working, we got to see all the power we have when we come together. The proposed bills and conversations with elected officials are essential to our organizing in 2020.

The day's schedule will include:

Welcome & Orientation, Advocacy Training, Community Rally, Wrap-up and Debriefing

Details on transportation, meals, childcare and language interpretation available at Brenda@waisn.org.

Día de Cabildeo de Inmigrantes y Refugiados

El 5 de Febrero, 2020

de 8am a 5pm

Olympia, Washington

La Red de Solidaridad de Inmigrantes de Washington (WAISN) auspiciará el tercer año del día de cabildeo de Inmigrantes y Refugiados para la sesión legislativa de 2020 en Washington. Únase a cientos de organizaciones e individuos el 5 de Febrero para cabildear en favor de políticas pro-inmigrantes para apoyar a TODOS los residentes de Washington. El año pasado, con la confirmación de “Keep Washington Working Act” tuvimos la oportunidad de ver todo el poder que tenemos cuando trabajamos juntos. Las propuestas de ley y conversaciones con los oficiales elegidos son esenciales para la organización de proyectos en 2020.

Por favor únase a nosotros/as! Haga clic para registrarse aquí.

El horario del día incluirá:

Bienvenida Y Orientación, Accion Comunitaria, Cabildear, finalización e informe, Cierre

Otros detalles transporte, comidas, interpretacion, accesibilidad, Cuidado de niños disponible, contacte Brenda@waisn.org.

Community Resources, Education & Volunteer Opportunities

YWCA Olympia has announced open registration for the agency's new Intercultural Foundations Community Institute, an opportunity for community members to go deeper in social justice education and practice through the Intercultural Foundations Program. IF equips organizations, businesses, groups

and individuals with skills, tools, and knowledge to shift culture towards true equity and inclusion through Intersectional Race Equity, Healing in Community, and Cultural Humility.

Learn more at ywcaofolympia.org or contact the Intercultural Foundations team at IF@ywcaofolympia.org or 360-352-0593.

Uprisings: Chile and Colombia

2019 was year of uprisings against authoritarianism, austerity and corruption across the world. Two major struggles are taking place in Chile and Colombia. In Chile, millions are part of a campaign that began by opposing a fare increase but spread far beyond. The people are challenging economic inequality, and fights for reproductive rights, self-determination of the Mapuche people and a new constitution written from the bottom up. In Colombia, November and December saw massive strikes against tax hikes and repression.

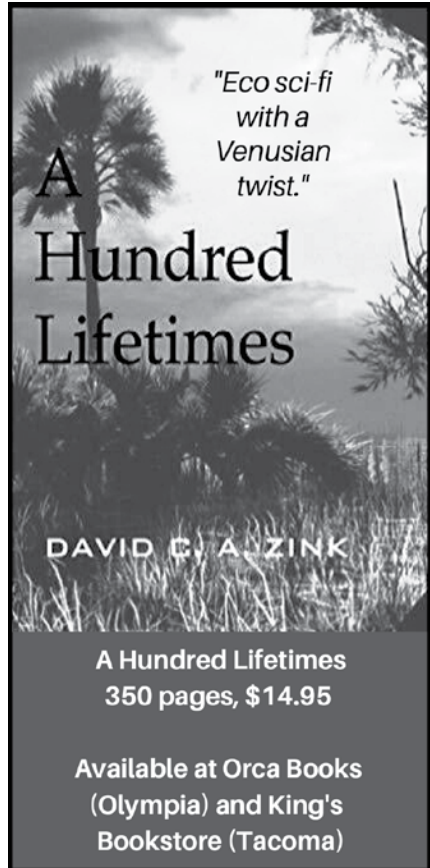
You'll hear from Chileans returning from that country as well as a solidarity activist from Columbia. Francisca Gomez-Baeza is a Ph.D. student at the Univ.of Washington. Felipe Lagos Rojas is a researcher at the Int'l. Institute for Philosophy and Social Studies and instructor at Seattle Central College. Speaking on Colombia is Yul Gamboa, a Colombian-American, and international solidarity activist.

7-9 pm Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Avenue, SW

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For more information, contact Peter Bohmer at peterbohmer@gmail.com



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WORKS IN PROGRESS

What keeps us safe?



Shane Sullivan receives a quilt commemorating his graduation from the Veterans Recovery Program and the Quilts of Valor project. See article on page 12.

Free, take one!

January 2020

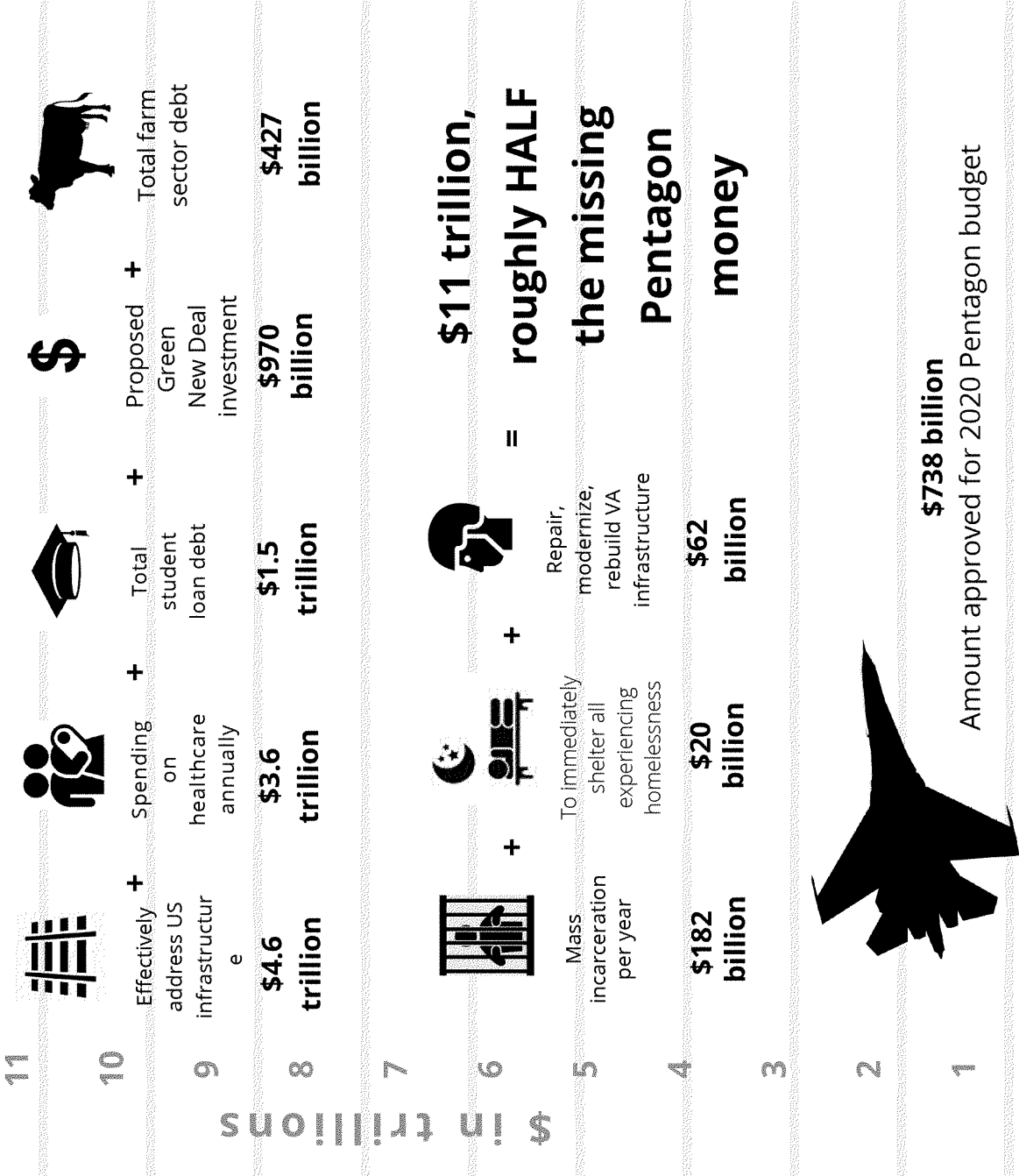
iGratis, toma uno!

A 2018 audit of The Pentagon revealed \$21 trillion in missing or unaccounted for funds, obscured through two sets of ledgers and other questionable accounting practices.

The Dept. of Defense failed the 2018 audit and has not accounted for the \$21 trillion.

One trillion = 1,000 billion in US accounting dollars

What does \$21 trillion buy?



Sources: American Society of Civil Engineers, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Federal Reserve Bank, Professor of Economics at Colorado State University, Edward Barbier, US Dept. of Agriculture, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Berniesanders.com, UN Environmental Program and Plastic Disclosure Project