



# Cops, “victims,” “criminals” and missed opportunities

Bethany Weidner

**A case of beer.** Around midnight on May 21, 2015, two men carrying skateboards attempted to steal a case of beer from the Safeway at Cooper Point Road in Olympia. Confronted by a clerk, they threw the case toward her and ran out of the store. Two Olympia police officers dispatched to respond to the 911 call interviewed the clerk about the confrontation. They said they'd return in the morning to get the surveillance video showing the two culprits and “cleared the call.”

In the meantime, another officer, Ryan Donald, assigned to patrol downtown, decided to drive to the Westside and look for the would-be thieves. Traveling down Cooper Point Road, he spotted two men matching the description on the police radio. He stopped, exited his vehicle and ordered the two men to sit on the ground in front of the car.

*What took place over the next three minutes changed some lives forever and set in motion a process whose outcome seems all too inevitable.*

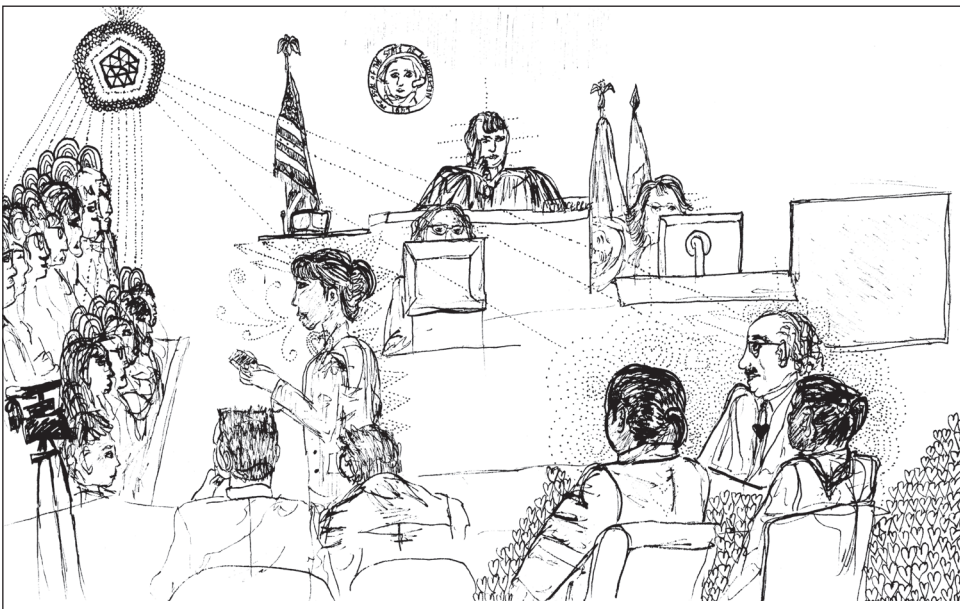
Now, two years later, a jury has convicted both men, Andre Thompson (25 ) and Bryson Chaplin (22) of 3rd degree felony assault, punishable by up to 5 years in prison. The men await sentencing. Officer Donald, who shot the two men, spent time on paid leave but is now back with the Olympia Police Department (OPD). Andre Thompson recovered from his wounds but Bryson Chaplin is partially paralyzed and in a wheelchair. The County Prosecutor found Donald's use of deadly force justified. The OPD's Internal Review Board found that their officer had adhered to policy and procedure. They also determined that none of his actions had precipitated the course of events that led to the use of force.<sup>1</sup>

**The 3 minutes.** The only contemporaneous account of what happened during those three minutes comes from the police radio and Officer Donald.<sup>2</sup> At 1:15 a.m. Donald ordered the men to sit down as they passed his car. They didn't sit, but waved a skateboard toward the car, prompting Donald to pull his gun. When they simply continued walking faster, Donald holstered his gun and decided to head them off at the rear of the patrol car. There, according to Donald, one man (Thompson) grabbed him and the other raised his skateboard over his head as if to strike him. Donald pulled his weapon and fired several shots at Chaplin (the man with the skateboard). Both men turned and ran. Donald calls in “shots fired!” and says the men are running

north. It's just 1:16. Donald catches his breath and takes off running to the spot where he lost sight of the men. A half-minute later, he sees one of the men hiding in the bushes beside the road and radios “I got one at gun-point” and then, his voice rising “I got both of them, I need assistance!” Seven sec-

ing two big men whose every gesture he saw as threatening. He'd already felt it necessary to have his gun in the ready position.

Had he waited for back-up, which appears a tactically sensible choice, a tragedy could have been avoided. The original 911 call had been cleared. Two



Defense attorney Sunni Ko addressing the jury.. “There was so much support in the courtroom. I too took some time off work today to attend the trial & pay witness.” Drawing by Liz Egan. #justiceforandreandbryson – at Thurston County of - Courthouse Complex Information.

onds later: “Shots fired, one down!” 30 seconds later, he shoots the second man. Officer Donald fired at three separate points, 11 shots in all. Most of the shots went into the two men; some through the window of a nearby house and some into the ground. At 1:18 and 23 seconds, Officer Donald is standing in the road. Both men lie on the ground, wounded but alive.

**Justified use of force and perception of a “deadly threat.”** The decisive action in this series occurred when Officer Donald decided to approach the two men – even though he thought they had assaulted someone at the Safeway; and he saw them as “taller, heavier and bigger” than him; as acting in a threatening manner that had already spurred him to draw his gun. At this point, however, the men had not committed a felony, nor was there cause to believe that the men, if not apprehended, would pose a threat to anyone. As Donald stated, the men were walking quickly away.

Under these circumstances, why did Donald decide to engage the two men on his own? He was alone, confront-

ing two big men whose every gesture he saw as threatening. He'd already felt it necessary to have his gun in the ready position.

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men in a defensive stance “in case I [was] assaulted,” “watching for a future movement.” One man (Thompson) turned toward Donald in a way that made Donald think he was going to be assaulted, so when the man appeared to reach for his shirt sleeve, Donald tried unsuccessfully to grab hold of him. The other man (Chaplin) raised his skateboard over his head “in a fast aggressive motion with both hands.” Here is the moment that justified deadly force: fearing serious injury or death, Donald pulled his gun and shot. Somehow, Chaplin was able to stop the “fast aggressive motion” of the skateboard in mid-swing, and both men again ran away. Officer Donald was not hurt.

Did this indicate an intent to harm

Officer Donald—or to avoid him? Why not follow through with the skateboard if the intent was harm? (It so happens that the earlier surveillance video at Safeway shows Chapin entering, swinging his skateboard wide and freely about in the empty foyer—foolish rather than aggressive. The Prosecuting Attorney cited this as an aggressive act that corroborated Donald's interpretation of Chapin's deadly intent. It could more easily be seen as a random behavior.)

**A misdemeanor becomes a felony.** Under Washington law, use of deadly force is justified when necessarily used by an officer to apprehend someone who has committed or is about to commit a felony. In deciding to use deadly force, the officer must have probable cause to believe that the suspect if not apprehended poses a threat of serious harm to the officer or others. In other words, the justification for the use of deadly force arising from the 911 call comes solely from the interaction between the officer and his suspects—it could not be justified in relation to the shoplifting incident. This reinforces a question about Officer Donald's judgment—why put yourself in a position you have determined is dangerous, when it is not necessary and could actually lead to further danger? In fact, Officer Donald has a note in his file raising concerns about an incident in 2013: “Officer Donald did not wait for backup and placed himself in a position where the use of force was inevitable...”

Now, instead of a misdemeanor, Officer Donald has probable cause for third-degree assault “based on my contact with them.”<sup>4</sup> Third-degree assault is a felony and Officer Donald thought about calling for a canine unit to help search for the men. About 10 seconds after the first “shots fired” Officer Donald ran after the men. Standing at the side of the road, he saw one of the men (Chaplin) who was crouched in the bushes stand up and come at him with the skateboard. Donald “had no doubt he was gonna try and hit me in the head with the skateboard,” whereupon he shot him. He reloaded and saw the second man (Thompson) coming toward him and “target glancing at my firearm” which Donald perceived to mean that the man “was going to disarm me and...possibly cause me serious injury or death,” so he shot him as well.

**The trial.** The Thurston County Prosecutor, following the recommendation of the OPD, charged Thompson and Chaplin with two counts each of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony assault, punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Neither man spoke at the trial, nor earlier. Officer Donald was the principal witness for the prosecution—confirming in direct testimony details from a 10-page



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established in 1990 by the  
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Submission Deadline

Sunday, June 18  
[olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 1 pm  
Lacey Timberland Library  
(Group study area)

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# Acting to protect Thurston County’s Water Resources

Grace Lenger

Thank you to all of our allies who rallied in support of water protectors fighting DAPL in North Dakota. We are now in need of that same spirit of activism in our very own Thurston County, which is facing several issues related to water quality and use. We need YOU to act locally in defense of our precious water resources right here at home! Several members of The League of Women Voters are looking for community members to advocate for clean water issues. We need people to research these issues and lobby our Thurston County Board of Commissioners. We have identified several areas of concern now facing the Board related to water.

**On-site septic system monitoring.** The Commissioners just rescinded a \$10/year fee that would have been used to monitor septic systems and educate the public. Diminished water quality in Hammersley Inlet and Summit Lake are two recent examples of problems that may have been avoided by active monitoring.

The Hirst Decision by the WA Supreme Court—requires counties to ensure new wells will not adversely affect those with senior water rights and in-stream flows. Thurston County is still issuing well-drilling permits without any guarantee of water flow in the future.

**Lakeside Industries in the Nisqually Valley is trying to get a permit to process recycled asphalt.** When it's processed and ground up it can leach toxic chemicals into the groundwater. The asphalt site is close to the Nisqually River where flooding is possible and the groundwater table is shallow. This could not only endanger salmon runs

but also nearby aquifers that supply drinking water to residents of Olympia and Lacey.

**Mineral lands inventory**—the County is in the process of creating an inventory of mineral lands (i.e. possible gravel mine sites) whose development would potentially affect water quality in adjacent areas.

**The County is considering substantial increases in development,** which will mean paving over land and creating additional impervious surfaces. The untreated storm water runoff can negatively impact our lakes, streams and inlets.

There are many other related issues, and there's sure to be more coming in the near future, including those related to aspects of the Growth Management Plan.

We would like to collaborate with all interested community members so that we can continue to pressure the County Commissioners to act responsibly and as good stewards of our water resources. This collaboration could involve speaking up during the public comment time at the Tuesday 2 PM Board meetings and/or phoning and emailing the Commissioners. We need to help them recognize the seriousness of the present and future impacts of their decisions. We would also appreciate those interested in researching these important issues.

We welcome all concerned residents and encourage you to get involved in this grassroots effort to speak up to protect our water. Please feel free to circulate this message. You can contact us at [lwwthurston.org](http://lwwthurston.org)

*Grace Lenger's granddaughter is a community-minded resident of Thurston County*



## Join the march of the Witches

We who will march together, on the day of June 3rd, from Heritage Park in Olympia to the Capitol steps, seek to proclaim and invoke Peace, Unity, and Solidarity with every being's right to Freedom of Religion and Sacred Clean Water. Therefore, we have elected to gather in Harmony in Order to Listen to Each Other, Make Music, and to Break Bread.

We wish to express Gratitude for Olympia as a Sanctuary: a Shared, Sacred, Safe Space for everyone. We invite all who Believe in the Values of this March to join us as we Celebrate Life Lived Together. There will be Native-led opening prayer and blessing at 10 a.m. then we will march at 11 to the capitol where we will have speakers from 11:30 to 2 followed with various presentations 3-7 in Heritage Park, including divination, flow arts, music by Rowan Katz and Qi gong from Benjamin barkowski.

Bring your drum, a chair or blanket and a snack and an open heart. There is still limited space available if you'd like to speak or perform. Contact [witchesmarch@gmail.com](mailto:witchesmarch@gmail.com) and join the Olympia Witches March Facebook group.

Lennee

Blessed be mni wiconi

We are one

Ever mind the rule of 3  
What you put out  
Comes back to thee  
Wish no harm  
On those so bad  
Pray they receive  
What you already have  
Wish awakening on 45  
Pray for his sanity  
So we all stay alive  
Wish no harm on anyone  
For karmas a bitch  
Who likes to have fun  
So look inside your bag of tricks  
To defeat 45 or 666  
The spell is simple look find  
A heart of gold  
Cup of thunder  
Broken arrow  
Peace of mind  
360 and 9

## Special events

**Olympia Witches March.**  
Saturday June 3, 10 am – 8 pm,  
Starts at Heritage Park (see story in this issue).

**“Health Care for All: Alternatives and Resistance to Trumpcare.**

Wednesday, June 7, 7-9 pm.  
The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. See ad and graphic in this issue. Hosted by Economics for Everyone.

**Campaign Kick-off for Fishburn 4 Port.**

Thursday June 8, 5:30-8:30.  
Lacey Community Center in Woodland Creek Park, 6729 Pacific Avenue. A family-friendly event everyone is welcome.

**Olympia Equality March for Unity and Pride.**

Sunday, June 11, 11am – 2:30 pm. Meet at Sylvester Park and march to a rally at the Capitol. Sister to the national march.

**Race in Film Series.**

Thursday June 15, 6:30-9:30.  
Olympia Universalist Unitarians Sanctuary, 2315 Division NW. “African-Americans: Many Rivers to Cross.” Films in the series reflect the portrayal of African-Americans in US cinema from slavery to Obama. The free showing is followed by discussion. All are welcome. Hosted by Black Alliance of Thurston Co., OUUC and Unity Church of Olympia

**Capital City Pride Street Party and Parade.**

Friday June 16, 7:30 pm street party@olyunderground.  
Saturday, June 17, 12 noon parade “Resist Hate, Celebrate Love,” Festival from 1-6 pm followed by a dance at the Eagle’s Hall. <http://www.capitalcitypride.net/>

**GrUbuation.**

Friday June 16, 5:30- 7:30 pm.  
2016 Elliott Ave., NW Olympia. Celebrate local students as they transition from their tenure at Garden-Raised Bounty program to take their place in the community as engaged leaders and good food advocates.

**“The Coming War on China,”**

Thursday, June 22, 7pm – 9:30 pm. Traditions Café at 5<sup>th</sup> and Water. Back by urgent demand this rescreening of expert film-maker John Pilger's new documentary. This gripping documentary by expert film-maker John Pilger tells the secret history of America in China and environs. Witness the film and join a discussion with Bernie Meyers and others afterwards.

**Free**

**Olympia Industrial Workers of the World Field Day Celebration.**

Tuesday, June 27, 4 pm – 8pm,  
Bigelow Park at 1294 Bigelow Avenue NE. Celebrate 112 years of IWW with games, good conversation and a potluck meal

**Recurring Governing Meetings.**

**Thurston County Commissioners.**

Tuesdays at 2 pm at the Courthouse

**Port of Olympia.**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 5:30 and 1st Thursday before the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 2:30

**Olympia CityCouncil.**

Tuesdays at 7 pm

**Lacey City Council.**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays through October.

**Tumwater City Council.**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7 pm.



# Would \$10 have been enough to monitor septics at poisonous Summit Lake?

Emmett O’Connell

Late in 2016, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners passed a new plan to manage septic systems. It would have assessed a flat \$10 annual fee on septic systems throughout the county to fund education, monitoring for contaminants and data collection. This January, a new set of county commissioners was seated – and a few months later they voted to strip the ability to actually fund the plan. A \$10 annual fee was just too much to help ensure clean, drinkable water.

I feel like this should be a light-your-hair-on-fire moment for this county commission and their constituents. I can’t believe people aren’t screaming at the commissioners demanding to know why they didn’t stand up for public health and institute a measly \$10 annual fee. This seems like a steal compared to toxins in your drinking water.

Then there was an outbreak of poisonous algae in Summit Lake. According to the state Department of Health, malfunctioning septic systems are one of the likely causes of a poisonous algae outbreak. The problem on Summit Lake is that the same residents who live along the

lake and use septic systems to deal with their human waste also depend on the lake for their drinking water. Do we know for sure that septic sys-

“..the same residents who live along the lake and use septic systems to deal with their human waste also depend on the lake for their drinking water.”

tems are the cause of excess nutrients in Summit Lake that caused a poisonous algae outbreak? Well, no, we don’t. But the fact that we don’t know this is the main problem. Any sort of expanded monitoring or education that could do something to prevent a situation like the one at Summit Lake will now go wanting because there will be no funds to pay for it. In the approved, but apparently now unfunded septic plan, the county specifically called out Summit Lake as a very vulnerable spot for mis-managed septics. Said the plan:

“Summit Lake, which is used by most residents for their drinking water source, shall be designated as a Sensitive Area. All wastewater disposal systems in the Summit Lake

watershed shall have required operational certificates and dye testing to assure that routine inspection and maintenance is completed at least every three years and failing systems are identified and repaired.”

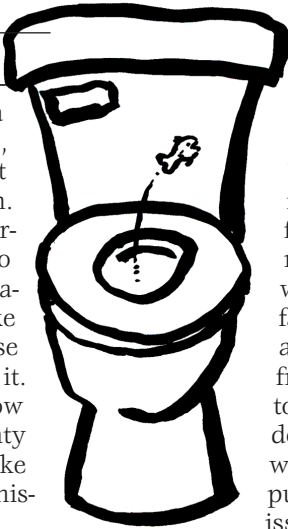
The plan also pointed out that Summit Lake, despite being the source for drinking water for people living on Summit Lake, presents some real issues about how exactly septic tanks would keep from polluting that source:

Its steep slopes, shallow soils, and generally small lots sizes make siting and functioning of on-site sewage systems around the lake difficult. A 1992-1997 sanitary survey found 58 systems failing (18%) – the majority of which were repaired. Surface waters cannot be adequately protected from contamination to be safely used as a domestic water supply without treatment. A public health advisory issued in 1987 advises against consumption of untreated lake water at Summit Lake. A comprehensive program would ensure routine inspection and maintenance of all OSS within the Summit Lake basin and

identification and correction of failing systems. The Summit Lake watershed should be considered for special area designation due to the serious threat posed to the drinking water supply by failing septic systems.

Twenty years ago they knew that 18 percent of the septics were failing because they went out and looked. Just like when they found 14 percent failing on Henderson Inlet. Here’s the underlying point: Since 1997 the county hasn’t gone back to take another look at septics around Summit Lake. Now the water has too many toxins to drink. The reason we can’t rule out septics as the source for algae with toxins is because we haven’t looked—we aren’t monitoring and analyzing the data. Nothing that I’ve seen from the county says that they can do anything to track down the source of the algae. The very least you could say is that \$10 a month could have gone to a small bit of dye testing to see if in twenty years any septics around the lake had begun to fail. Right now what the county is doing is waiting – hoping that sunlight and time will deal with the algae. A more progressive approach would be get out there and start figuring out why we have a public health crisis on Summit Lake to begin with.

Emmett O’Connell lives in Olympia and blogs about the region at [Olympiatime.com](#)



# Fishburn announces for Port of Olympia

Bill Fishburn

My name is Bill Fishburn, and I’m running for Port Commissioner. I was born and raised in Spokane. My mom is from Panama, and my dad was an electrician for the railroad, and member of IBEW for more than 20 years. I’ve been married for more than 26 years, and we have three grown sons and one granddaughter. I’ve lived in Rainier since 2003, and before that we lived in Lacey.

Last year’s Presidential election left me feeling like I need to do something more; to be a part of the solution instead of complaining about the problems. With my experience, skills, and values, it felt like the right time to step up and serve.

Over the years I’ve been involved as a volunteer in numerous community non-profits. I was a den leader and then a pack leader for my sons’ Cub Scout pack when we lived in Lacey. I was PTA president at their grade school, and I started a non-profit booster club for the band parents at Timberline High School. I became involved in the Intel DuPont Community Garden in 2009, first as a volunteer, then as the program manager and operations manager. I’m now President of the Board. I was the co-founder of the non-profit that governs the garden. I became involved in the Hispanic Roundtable in 2008 as a representative of Intel. I became the Treasurer in 2012, and I was elected President in 2014. Educationally and professionally, I have a BS in Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering from the University of Washington. I have a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from UC-Berkeley. I worked at Intel for 21+ years, first in Hillsboro, then in DuPont since 1996. During my time there, I was a manufacturing supervisor, an installation/qualification engineer, a technical marketing engineer (product development interface to customers), a human resources representative, and a technical program manager. I became a certified Project

Management Professional in 2011.

Last year, I watched the presidential campaign with increasing frustration. First, we had the issue with super-delegates in our state not representing the

I realized how innovative the people of Washington state were when they made our ports publicly owned enterprises with direct election of Commissioners representing an entire county.

will of the majority with their results in the primaries. I wasn’t as concerned with who they voted for as I was with how they voted. Then there was the presidential election, and I watched a small minority select an obviously unfit man to the Presidency. Throughout, I became more and more frustrated. I finally decided to do something about my frustration, and looked for ways to involve myself in local government. I wanted to be a part of the solution.

As I was considering open positions in the community, I was asked if I had looked at the Port. I held discussions with several people and the problems the Port presented piqued my political curiosity. I began researching ports and their history, and I realized how innovative the people of Washington state were when they made our ports publicly owned enterprises with direct election of Commissioners representing an entire county. I also realized how disconnected the Port of Olympia is from its own heritage of public enterprise.

I think elected officials must be responsive to the entire electorate, in this instance, all of Thurston county. I also think the Port should be run in a way that is fiscally and environmen-

tally responsible; in ways that are open and transparent to the public. I have been impressed with the efforts of Commissioner EJ Zita to do exactly this and I hope to join her next year and bring many of her efforts to fruition.

I see the Port as having the potential to be an economic engine for our county. I see it as being able to do that by engaging and listening to the people it serves. Having more forums and more frequent forums where the public can share its perspective would be a benefit to how the Port conducts business. Exploring clean energy solutions for our county and innovative ways of using that energy to generate jobs and revenue would benefit all of Thurston County. Investigating public internet could be another forward-looking business for the Port, and one that would be welcomed by many county resi-



dents. Done correctly, such internet services could fund and sustain free municipally-provided wi-fi in public areas of all of the county’s cities and towns. Our Port could provide a real benefit to the area’s farmers and food producers by helping to develop more food infrastructure at the Olympia Farmer’s Market, providing a more sustainable food ecosystem, and possibly even trade opportunities.

There are many reasons I decided to run for Port, but the bottom line is the Port is due for new leadership. I have the experience and the vision to provide that leadership. Together we can make the Port of Olympia the People’s Port of Thurston County.

Email: [fishburn4Por@gmail.com](mailto:fishburn4Por@gmail.com); Tel: 4F4PORT-002 (434-767-8002); Fishburn for Port, PO Box 7441, Olympia WA 98507; Facebook: @FishburnForPort; Twitter @Fishburn4Port

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# TESC President responds to demands for equity on campus

In recent weeks, students at the Evergreen State College have engaged in an escalating number of protests culminating in the occupation of the campus library on Wednesday, May 24. The protests focused on specific incidents of mistreatment of students of color on the campus, and more broadly on continuing, unaddressed racism and anti-blackness. During the occupation, students escorted college administrators into the office of TESC president George Bridges, where the administrators remained until they heard the concerns of the students., and received a set of demands put forward by students. Immediately after the occupation, Bridges emailed students a promise to address the demands before June 2. Below is the statement Bridges made to students gathered in the Longhouse on May 26, in response to the demands.

I'm George Bridges, I use he/him pronouns.

I begin our time together today by acknowledging the indigenous people of the Medicine Creek Treaty, whose land was stolen and on which the college stands. I would like to acknowledge the Squaxin people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to elders past and present of the Squaxin Island Tribe. I extend that respect to other Native people present.

In response to Native Student Alliance requests, we commit to opening every event with this acknowledgement.

We also received requests from our Native students late yesterday. We discussed many issues they seek to have addressed. We are working on these requests, too. In our meeting, I committed that Native American students, staff, and faculty can sustainably collect, gather, and harvest the natural resources from any of The Evergreen State College's lands for ceremonial purposes with legal impunity and asking no permission. Their additional requests include but are not limited to important items such as: funding and resources for the recruitment and retaining of Native students; paid positions to support the Native Student Alliance; a pre-orientation retreat for new and continuing Native students; funding for a Native American graduation; exemption from the catering and cooking prohibitions so that Native students may cook and eat Native foods in freedom.

These will be the focus of much work and commitment in the weeks ahead.

We are grateful to the courageous students who have voiced their concerns. We understand that the demands presented are evolving. We have worked intensely on this in the past two days. Our responses, too, will evolve to ensure we are attending to the needs you present. Our documents must live and be living, changing with additional issues and concerns as they arise. This work never ends.

We have heard from students very clearly that they experience racism on campus that interferes with their education. We acknowledge that the status quo isn't acceptable. We don't know all the answers. We want to come together with you to learn from your experience, to build solutions, and to take action. We are grateful for this catalyst to expedite the work to which we are jointly committed.

For a long time, we've been working on the concerns you've raised and acknowledge that our results have fallen short. We should have done more to engage students in our work on equity and inclusion. This week, you are inviting us into the struggle you have taken up. We share your goals and together we can reach them.

I'll present this afternoon on our responses and action plan. Following our gathering, a message with the details that I present today will be sent via email and posted on the web. I hope you will read, digest, reflect, and come back next week for further dialogue. I invite you to respond in writing, individually, and in group meetings. We'll create space for your input. Let's keep the conversation alive.

We acknowledge that students want action, not just conversation. In this room we can only talk. I will talk about actions that are being taken immediately. We'll have some food available around 6 pm; we'll eat together and I hope the conversations will continue informally.

To ensure that students are able to enjoy an Evergreen education free from discrimination or bias, we commit to taking the following actions. I'll structure my comments under the headings in the list of demands provided on May 24.

***"We demand that no changes to the student code of conduct be made without democratic student consent."***

**Immediate actions:**

As of today, we're not contemplating any action associated with the demonstrations of the last two weeks, but we can't control what complaints we might receive. If we receive complaints, we'll need to follow up on them.

**Next steps:**

We reaffirm our commitment to continuing our work to revise the student conduct code, with significant contributions from students at the center of the process.

Students will work on the code with staff over the summer, as well as work on other strategic initiatives. Students will be paid for their labor. Further consultation will occur with students in the fall.

All changes being made will be accessible and transparent to the campus community and the document will be a living document that will be adapted over time in order to serve evolving student needs.

By the end of next week, we will identify the time commitment requested of the students involved in this summer work as well as the compensation for this work.

Students will select the peers that will be involved in the process.

The current code of conduct remains in place until a revised code is developed. With this timeline in place, a revised code would be submitted that adheres to state law and our campus needs by winter 2018.

***"We demand that Officer Timothy O'Dell be fired and suspended without pay while an investigation take place." "We demand the immediate firing of Andrea Seabert Olsen from all Evergreen State College positions." "We demand Bret Weinstein be suspended immediately without pay but all students receive full credit."***

We do not and will not fire any employees in response to a request. We do take complaints seriously. We have a college non-discrimination policy which applies to all members of our community. Following any complaint of discrimination, we will conduct a full investigation. If it is found that discrimination occurred, action is taken. The nature of that action is not released in order to protect the privacy of those involved. We recommit to the progressive discipline processes established with our union bargaining units and the State of Washington.

**Immediate action:**

We must increase our capacity to investigate instances of alleged discrimination. Therefore, we have decided to increase the college's Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Officer to full time today. In addition, if we need to hire outside investigators, we will. We will provide information about how this process works and who to contact on all aspects of the college's website pertaining to students, faculty, and staff. We commit to communicating the process for reporting discrimination to all students at the start of every quarter and at the beginning of very academic year.

***"We demand the immediate disarming of police services and no expansion of police facilities or services at any point in the future."***

**Next steps:**

The Police Services Community Review Board will review police response to calls and complaints received on May 14 and May 16. A timeline for this review will be finalized by the end of next week. As you know, the Review Board doesn't include individuals from the President's Office or Police Services. Many of whom on the board are people of color. Annual training for police officers will be expanded because of the responsibility they hold and the critical services they provide to the college. The training will include techniques for safe and non-threatening engagement with students, addressing anti-black racism, de-escalation, minimizing use of force, serving trans and queer students, sexual assault response and responding to the access and special needs of students with disabilities. Private funding will be sought to support training.

We intend to retain a campus police force that understands and is responsive to the unique needs of our college campus.

# Renata Rollins Announces for City Council Position 6

Olympia community organizer Renata Rollins announced her candidacy today for Olympia City Council Position 6. Her campaign asks, "Where Can We Go?" and will focus on embracing what's possible during times of transition.

"In Olympia we face rising population, rising home prices, rising rents, rising homelessness and rising sea levels," Rollins said. "But we also have a rising movement for justice, access, and accountability. A movement to align the needs of the people, the land and the water. A movement to reconcile our diverse and intersecting histories as we move toward a shared future."

As a council member, Rollins says she would emphasize collaborative approaches to Olympia's challenges and opportunities—especially by engaging stakeholders from marginalized communities who haven't been called in to the process.

Since coming to Olympia in 2001, Rollins, 34, has spearheaded and organized for a number of prominent local and state organizations and initiatives. She was one of the first Olympia Downtown Ambassadors, where she built strong connections with downtown business owners, residents, workers, visitors, and the street community.

"Being an Ambassador had everything to do with hearing and learning from people with diverse experiences and needs, and honoring them as valid and real, even if they differed from my own," Rollins said, who was the program team lead from 2013-14. "It made me aware that what's at stake is survival—whether we're talking about someone running a storefront or someone sleeping in front of one."

After organizing to save the Artesian Commons Park from a looming shutdown in 2014, she served on the City of Olympia's Artesian Leadership Committee in 2015, and is a board member and past president of Partners in Prevention Education, a nonprofit organization serving young survivors of violence who are homeless, queer/trans, or otherwise marginalized. Most recently, she co-founded Just Housing, a civil rights action group centered on the rights and safety of people living homeless in Olympia.

"People for Renata Rollins" For more information, contact: [renataforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:renataforcouncil@gmail.com) and [facebook.com/RenataForCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RenataForCouncil)



► EQUITY, page 12



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# Letters to WIP

## Assad’s Chemical Weapon?

Dear WIP: In his article in the May 2017 issue of *Works in Progress*, Peter Bohmer claims that “there is close to but not 100-percent proof” that Assad carried out the recent sarin attack on Khan Shaykhun in Syria. He further suggests that “those who deny or cast doubt on Syrian government responsibility would not accept any evidence that challenges their preconceived notions and ideology.”

Peter is welcome to dismiss those who disagree with him in this way, but I myself would be very surprised if it turned out that Assad was responsible for the attack. However evil he may be, Assad is no fool, and so far as he goes, that attack made no sense militarily or politically. Rather, it looks very much like a false flag operation designed to provoke and justify the United States’s attacking Assad.

Here is a link to a fourteen page *Assessment of White House Intelligence Report of April 11, 2017* by Theodore Postol, Professor Emeritus of Science, Technology, and National Security Policy at Massachusetts Institute of cTechnology: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Vs2rjE9TdWtR2F-3NFFVWDExMnc/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Vs2rjE9TdWtR2F-3NFFVWDExMnc/view).

From this report: “Analysis of the debris as shown in the photographs cited by the White House clearly indicates that the munition was almost certainly placed on the ground with an external detonating explosive on top of it that crushed the container so as to disperse the alleged load of sarin,’ rather than dropped from a plane” (in the al Qaeda held area).

It would be very good if Peter could provide solid information to back up his claim that Assad was responsible for this sarin attack, for those of us who are saddled with preconceived notions and ideology.

Best wishes,  
Dave Jette

## Response to letter on May article by Peter Bohmer

To WIP, A good summary of the strong evidence that the Syrian air force used Sarin Gas in bombing the civilian population In Khan Shaykun in Idlib Province, Syria is the May 1, 2017 report by Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/05/01/death-chemicals/syrian-governments-widespread-and-systematic-use-chemical-weapons>. In this report, they cite the highly respected Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which concluded that the gas used in the April 4th attack was Sarin. Several eyewitness accounts testified that the deadly gas was dropped on that morning by a Syrian Air Force, Russian made plane. The Human Rights Watch report also documents three other uses of poison gas by the Syrian government against its own population since December 12,

2016. Although the politics of Human Rights Watch is often questionable and not sufficiently critical of the United States foreign policy, their facts are for the most part accurate

The letter questioning my claim also mentions the refutation by Professor Theodore Postol that the government of President Bashar al-Assad used Sarin in this recent attack and in the earlier and even more deadly one of 2013. For a refutation of Postol, see the commentary by Louis Proyect, <https://louisproyect.org/2017/04/17/going-postol-how-an-mit-professor-ended-up-in-bashar-al-assads-camp/> Proyect's refutation is not totally conclusive but he correctly points out that there have been no claims whatsoever of prior use of Sarin by the armed organizations opposing the Assad regime. This was one of the possibilities

## Seeing Red? There’s a slow but steady seep throughout Thurston County

Dear WIP: Nice-looking and well spoken, Glen Morgan seems to be the puppet master behind the conservative red streak bleeding across our Thurston County government. Is his employment as an activist for the conservative Tea Party-ish Freedom Foundation, or now, for the Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR,) causing historically liberal blue Olympia and its environs to swing the other way?

At the first County Board of Commissioners meeting this year, Morgan was almost giddy as he said he wanted to be first to address our new Board. He mentioned his five years of involvement and did not quite claim credit, but came close, for the new Board's election victories.

*Morgan is a prolific writer* and is self-assured about the importance of his mission, which seems to be to fight for individual rights or corporate interests at the expense of the common good.

Apparently various state conservatives recruit him for their battles also. And at a recent Tea Party-leaning Republican Party meeting at Panorama City in Lacey, Morgan's book was featured as a must-read handbook.

He's made himself the spokesperson for many landowners who feel slighted by the existence of minor impediments, like the Endangered Species Act. A battle is brewing to fight the recent WA Supreme Court Hirst Decision that ensures new homes will have adequate water into the future. In another anti-public good act, Morgan and his allies fought to rescind the very reasonable \$10 /year septic fee, apparently to appease their “no new taxes” supporters. Sure enough, the County Commissioners rescinded it. One of their supporters bragged that he had not pumped his septic tank for almost 40 years. (The reader might imagine an undetected leak feeding an aquifer all those years!) Morgan's fingerprints are left on many other issues, including anti-union activities and anti-government regulation, with a special distaste for all things environmental.

Take a look at Morgan's CAPR and We The Governed websites, and the Freedom Foundation website. Peek at the [whatisthefreedomfoundation.org](http://whatisthefreedomfoundation.org) site. Your toes might curl as you consider who is bankrolling our opposition. They are organized and great at marketing their lies and misinformation. Morgan is quite clever about disguising the corporate interests for which he lobbies.

Please, help staunch the flow. If you are able, go to the Board of County Commissioner meetings and/or write emails and letters. Stand up, show up, speak up for progressive values in our Thurston County.

Sincerely,  
a concerned citizen

## “Why did those anarchists destroy downtown Olympia?”

*A letter to the community*

As the smoke from May Day clears, we hear many people asking, why? Why did what happened happen? We also hear many people throwing around baseless accusations and assumptions: it was a bunch of angry white men, there was no message, they weren't really anarchists, it was just mindless vandalism. We are writing this to address some of this and to counter the narrative of the police, business owners, and main stream media. We cannot speak for everyone there, but as some participants we can speak for ourselves.

We also want to stress that critiques of the black bloc and what we as anarchists do is good and valuable. The problem is when these critiques are A) based solely on the narrative of the state, the police, business owners, and the like. They're going to lie about us because as anarchists we are fundamentally opposed to the existence of hierarchies like the state, the violent enforcers of the social order known as the police, bosses, landlords, business owners, and all manner of capitalists – big or small, local, national, international, or intergalactic; and B) based on baseless accusations like “it was all mindless vandalism” or “a bunch of angry white men”, points we will address later; and C) not done in good faith, coming from a place of solidarity and wanting us to sharpen our theory and be more strategic and imaginative in our actions and communications, but instead coming from a place of misunderstanding, purposeful ignorance, and tearing us down in order to build up yourself.

With that out of the way, let's be-

gin with the long-standing myth of the white anarchist. The crowd that assembled on May Day was far from all white or male. People of all different ages, races, and genders – and some who cast aside gender altogether – assembled to celebrate May Day in the streets. It's very easy to levy the charge of being all men and all white on a group using a tactic meant for anonymity against police surveillance and repression, and perhaps that speaks to it working if a group like the one that assembled can be cast as all male and all white. But on another level, this charge speaks to a failing in social justice discourses that says people who are white or who are male are not ever to go on the attack, never to wield violence against the system that wields an unimaginable amount of violence against us every day – from the violence of working our lives away for scraps to try and pay for the bare necessities of life to the police that enforce this system to the courts and prison system, to the violence enforced by capitalism, racism, hetero-patriarchy, settler-colonialism. The position that people who are white or male are to never levy violence against these systems and their defenders, even next to people of color who do, is mind-boggling and a recipe for constant failure.

The next point we'd like to address is the claim that there was no message, that it was just mindless vandalism. To address this in its full, we need a short history lesson about the origins of May Day. May Day has been a special day for Anarchists for over 150 years, starting with the wrongful execution of eight Anarchists accused

of throwing the bomb that kicked off the Haymarket riot in Chicago in 1886

in which four people and seven cops  
*Continued on page 5*

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# Time to Reflect on “Success” and “Failure”

J. Glenn Evans

What is success? Is it beating down a corporate opponent or outshining another human being in the game of life? Is it to become a CEO of a mega corporation that makes huge amounts of money, yet devastates our environment? Is it being the head of a company like Boeing or Lockheed and others like them who make killing machines that destroy villages in other countries, killing men, women, children who have done us no evil?

Or is success the small farmer who feeds his family and many others from his production, even though he may hardly be able to make his mortgage payments? Or is it the writer or movie producer that makes a block-buster success in money terms, showcasing a shrewd crime or offering lots of killing? Or is it a writer or moviemaker with a worthwhile story, who may hardly recover their costs, because they do not have a block-buster budget to promote their creation, though they have made a great addition to the literary bank for all-time?

In life what is more important – a person's success or their failures? Their failures often lead to their greatest success. Their failure may have been a bump that redirected them to a much more worthwhile activity

Looking back at my own life, my earliest ambition was to be a great rich writer, but I redirected my efforts to getting rich as a stockbroker on the advice of a rich uncle. He said, if you want to make money you go where the money is. I became what most people would have described as highly successful. From a one-man brokerage firm I grew to three offices with 40 brokers. I made big money, much more than I ever dreamed I could.

And by overexpansion or growing

too fast (my fault), plus a couple of brokers who disobeyed the rules by dealing with clients outside of Washington State I “failed.” That gave the SEC the opportunity to come in and say you are operating without a SEC license and put me out of business. I lost everything.

Then gathering up my energy and determination that was about all I had left, I set out to fulfill my earlier ambition to be a writer. Since then I have completed three novels, and am working on a fourth one. I have 1400 poems in the computer with many of them published, plus many published essays. No bestsellers, but some pretty good writing that has been added to the literary bank. Yet I deem this a far greater success than stacking up a great fortune as a stockbroker if I had continued on that trail.

No, I believe the greatest successes of this world are often those who go about their lives, not necessarily out-doing their fellow citizens or building up a great stack of wealth, but those who spend their days doing the most good for others. They may be a small businessman serving their local community, or a teacher providing inspiration to young folks, or a hard-working father providing his family with life's necessities and with love.

When evening calls, we all leave this world with nothing, but how we have lived our lives and how we stand in the hearts of others. So what is success and what is failure? Both success and failure can be stepping stones to broaden our knowledge to make us better people.

*J.Glenn Evans is part Cherokee, and he started out on a small farm in the Dust Bowl. He has also worked in a lumber mill, operated a mining company and the stockbroker he writes about. He currently hosts Poets West at KSER 90.7.*

## Cops, “victims”

From page 1

second-by-second specific narrative that he worked on over 5 days prior to an official interview. On cross-examination, Donald's memory proved less certain, and the reliability of some details was cast into doubt. Possibly recognizing this, the prosecutor told the jury that if they couldn't convict on 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault, they should go for 3<sup>rd</sup> (which has a sentence of up to 5 years). The jury decided on 3<sup>rd</sup> degree assault.

**Other countries, other possibilities.** It is well-known that the US far exceeds any other western country in the number of people killed annually by police. In 2015, police killed 989 people and injured many more. This contrasts with England (55 fatal killings since 1995); Canada with 22 in 2015 or Australia with less than 24 in 2015. There are other contrasts as well: Police in European countries attend national academies for 3 years, which alters the nature of the profession. In Washington (as in most states), recruits spend 19 ¼ weeks basic training at the police academy before joining the force. Another distinction is that in Europe, the standard for use of deadly force is only when “absolutely necessary.” In contrast, the US Supreme Court has held that it is legitimate when an officer “reasonably perceives imminent and grave harm.” Our state standard is similar.

**Is training the answer?** Officer Donald had training in practices that seem germane to the situation: during 6 years as an Army MP (deployments to Kosovo and Iraq), Donald trained “constantly” in self-defense tactics, ground- and fist-fighting, how to retain a weapon when someone is trying to

take it, to be ready for the unexpected situation, and more. Yet Officer Donald was unable to defend himself in the Cooper Point Road encounter—except with his gun.

In recent examinations of officer-involved shootings in the US, the observation is that “instinct takes over.” If instinct is going to determine an interaction, as some experts assert, then training must be so continuous and repetitive that it becomes instinct. The average recruit in the US spends almost 20 times as many hours of training in using force as in conflict de-escalation. If the most continuous and repetitive training involves firearm use – the instinctive response will be to rely on your weapon – remember: Officer Donald drew his gun before he even approached Thompson and Chaplin.

**Will anything change?** As in too many cases nationally, Olympia's police shooting involved a white officer and unarmed black men. The City of Olympia and police department responded to the immediate community outcry with a series of public conversations and private out-reach to black leaders and others. Among other things, these produced specific recommendations for particular kinds of training, along with a grant of \$300,000 from the City treasury. Those dollars paid for courses on “Fair and Impartial Policing,” “Crisis Intervention,” “Reality-based Training” and “Blue Courage.” OPD has on-going training as well: in-service sessions as well as regular practice with firearms.

Will such training make any difference? Alter the course of another incident that starts with a minor infrac-

### My grandfather spoke

When I was young my grandfather spoke  
Told me things I did not understand  
We sat cross-legged and faced each other  
Under a blackjack oak tree out in the field  
Day was warm and sunny under blue sky  
Red bird in the tree chirped its song  
Grasshoppers and butterflies flew about

As we sat there my grandfather said to me  
My son I am old, I will not be long  
The earth cries for our wisdom  
Most of the bear are now no more  
No Buffalo roam free  
Fox and Wolf have no place to go  
These things were many when I was young

My grandfathers were unwise men  
They welcomed invaders as friends and gods  
When they came to know this was foolish  
They fought and argued among themselves  
The enemy grew stronger and we grew weaker  
Many died from white man's sickness

Now too late to fight we are beaten  
We are few and they are many  
Bear and Buffalo are gone  
Fox and Wolf have no place to go  
I hear the earth cry for our wisdom

Time will come when only the foolish rule  
And their foolish ways destroy  
Away from their foolish ways that destroy  
And Bear and Wolf have no place to go  
I hear the earth cry for our wisdom

You must learn to lead these people my son  
Love and protect this place that is our home  
Room for Bear and Wolf and all people  
I hear the earth cry for our wisdom

Years have passed since my grandfather spoke  
I know what he was trying to tell me  
They cannot her my grandfather's voice  
I hear the earth cry for our wisdom

J. Glenn Evans

Publication Credits: All Night Diner, 18Oct 05; Buffalo Tracks, SCW Publications, 2003

tion but goes out over the radio as an assault that pulls in highly-motivated officers to catch the culprits? Will any benefit flow from putting Andre Thompson and a crippled Bryson Chaplin in prison? The jury is still out on these and other questions that were not addressed in any visible way in the aftermath of this tragedy.

*Bethany Weidner is a resident of SW Olympia and a former Deputy in the Office of the Insurance Commissioner of Washington State. She retired as Director of the SeaMar Medical Clinic on Olympia's Westside some years ago.*

#### Endnotes

1 The Prosecutor's Office issued a 15-page report of its findings. The OPD posted a brief summary of its

decision online.

- This account and statements attributed to Donald come from a transcript of the police radio; Officer Donald's 10-page account of the night's happenings; a transcript of Donald's interview by Det. Claridge, and his statements on the stand during the trial. Other documents reviewed were the Prosecutor's Report, Reflections by Community Conversation participants, and viewing of the Safeway surveillance tape.
- Saxby Rogers at the close of Det. Claridge's interview of Donald.
- From Det. Claridge's interview of Donald.

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# Anarchists

from page 3

were killed, and many more wounded. From there on out, it became a day to commemorate our fallen and to strike against the police, the state, and capitalism.

May Day has historically been celebrated by anarchists, communists, and socialists around the world since then with strikes, walk-outs, occupations, and riots. The main message of the day was that we are not protesters not activists; we are revolutionary anarchists against hierarchies, capitalism, the state, the police, white supremacy, settler-colonialism, antisemitism, hetero-patriarchy, uncompromisingly against all forms of oppression and hierarchy. We are not asking for reform, we are not asking anything from our enemies because the only things we want—total freedom for all peoples—they cannot grant. We carry out our critiques in action; we pelt the police with rocks to declare they are not welcome or wanted, we smash the windows of banks and businesses to declare we want a world without bosses or capitalism. We occupy the train tracks to signify our opposition to the port and its perpetuation of ecocidal resource extraction and fossil fuel industries.

As for the businesses which were targeted, US Bank, Goodwill Boutique, and Starbucks could hardly be called local. The only place that could be called local, Olympia Federal Savings, enjoys evicting homeless people who are completely out of the way and not bothering anybody from their property. On that note of small businesses, we wish to offer the words from the zine Smashed Up: Young Service Workers on the Sanctity of Small Businesses

“The defense of small businesses in the Bay Area relies on a misplaced liberal morality which contrasts “good” local businesses and “evil” corporate ones. This dichotomy has become dogma for many people, who amount their consumer choices to brave political acts. Feel bad about sweat shops? Purchase your next gift at a local boutique! Recession got you down? Shovel dollars into your local economy and dad just might get his job back. But are local businesses actually better for the majority of us?

The dominant image of small businesses as Mom and Pop stores run by

elderly couples who work long hours as a labor of love is not reflected in the local economy. The reality is closer to a young, wealthy owner who does not work in their own store but instead employs a small group of wage laborers.

And since small businesses don't have the profit margins of large corporations, they often rely on sweatshop discipline and poverty wages to make ends meet. Most anyone who has worked in the industry can attest to a repressive atmosphere: workers are not allowed on breaks, are scolded for talking to co-workers and punished for showing up five minutes late. Furthermore, even service workers who make tips frequently earn below a living wage and are subjected to unpredictable work schedules that necessitate finding a second or third job. When these practices happen at large corporate chains, they become the themes of documentaries, muckraking articles in the liberal press, and bumper sticker slogans. But when they're used by local businesses, they're written off as necessary evils.

In higher-end establishments, employers frequently justify poor treatment by trying to instill pride and artistic ambitions in their employees; workers are all but required to do extra learning, research, and labor outside of the workday to satisfy the employers' need to serve the coolest new cocktail or coffee bean. At a recent mandatory meeting for an East Bay-based organic catering company, workers were told by the CEO: “This is not a job; it's a craft. You are all artists, and you should treat your job as such. If you don't, you won't succeed in this company.” What he was saying was that if you do not invest hours off the clock in becoming a more efficient and valuable worker, we won't employ you.

By romanticizing small businesses like the hip restaurants, cafes and bars currently springing up all over Oakland, we gloss over the experiences of the low wage workers who make them possible. When compared to the horrendous treatment that service workers must endure, the shattering or spray-painting of a few windows does not even the score.

In a city that is being rapidly gentrified, the attack against property is an action which attacks gentrification. We are rapidly being drowned in the rising rents of Olympia, and homeless people, queer and trans people, and people of color are being

increasingly harassed by the police in an effort to ‘clean up’ the city's image to bring wealthy investors to create niche shops that are full of over-priced bullshit that most of us can't even afford.

All the while, it is the voice of the business owners that is constantly hailed as the voice of ‘the community’ when in reality they are nothing more than a wealthy, land owning majority that doesn't give a shit about poor and houseless people. The city, the developers, and the business owners have shown themselves to be completely accountable and act like there is real community involvement in the development of Olympia when in reality they just put together bullshit surveys and ‘community’ meetings where we are told about predetermined choices, where if we're lucky we can vote on things we had no power in choosing. If we're not happy with that, we can go to city council meetings where we can voice our displeasure that gets logged in meeting minutes and filed away, never to be looked at or thought about again.

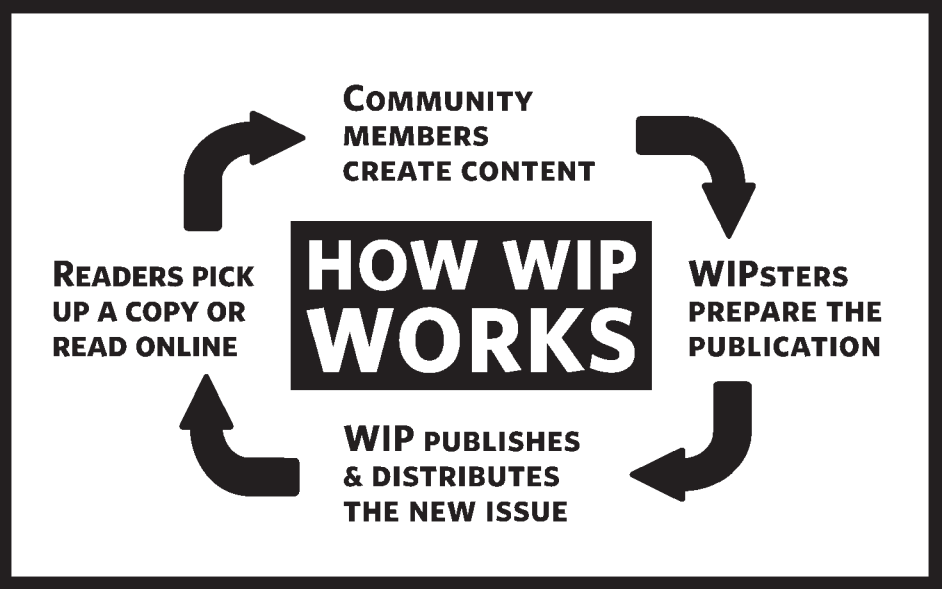
We also aimed to show through our actions that the police are not omnipotent and all powerful, that we are not powerless, that we can attack and get away with it (although it's worth noting that not every riot is an attack and not every attack is a riot). You, too, can get together with your friends, dress in black, and throw rocks at cops. Maybe try it sometime, it's fun. So yes,

there was a reason, there was a message, though for sure our methods of really getting that message out need work.

And finally the charge that we're not really anarchists is...ridiculous. We are anarchists and we throw rocks at cops just as much as we feed people and house people and put together community projects. There are some anarchists who don't or can't run around in the streets and throw rocks at cops and break windows, and that's great and we love them. We're all anarchists and you probably know some of us. We might be your cashier, your neighbor, your child, sibling, or parent. There's a lot of us and we do a lot of different things.

But we riot, and it's fun, but it's not just for fun. We put our freedom and physical safety on the line to fight for our freedom because we know reform doesn't work and we know capitalism is killing us and the world and the state is kidnapping and killing us and our loved ones and we cannot continue to let this go on. We are not asking everyone to run around in the streets with it, the riot isn't the revolution. We are also not asking for people to agree with us, to never critique us, to uncritically support us. All we want is for you all to know why we did it and to give a counter-narrative.

For Total Freedom!  
For Anarchy!  
-Black Autonomy Action Faction



**Health Care for All: Alternatives and Resistance to Trumpcare**  
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7-9pm



Come join us as we discuss the limitations of Obamacare and Trumpcare and devise a strategy and articulate the details of a real Health Care for All plan. Speakers include health care organizer and Seattle City Council candidate **Teresa Mosqueda** and Coordinator for the Western Washington Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program **David McLanahan**.

**Presented by Economics for Everyone**

Teresa Mosqueda, longtime health-care organizer and advocate, and candidate for Seattle City Council, and Dr. David McLanahan, Coordinator for the Western Washington Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, will be explaining the limitations of the existing, Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the significantly worse proposals by the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress. The focus of this Economics for Everyone event will be on what a universal health care program would look like

and the strategy to achieve it on a local, State and national level. There will be plenty of time for discussion at this informative program. There is no charge. Health Care is a basic human right!

**Where: The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Room 101-102**

**Date and Time: Wednesday, June 7th, 2017, 7-9 P.M.**

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a new nuclear arms race! It's bad enough that our government continues its decades-long intentions to use nuclear weapons. But now our government wants to replace our thousands of nuclear weapons with all new ones. Some of these are designed to be more “usable.” The rest of the world is outraged and is taking historically unprecedented action to stop this madness.

Our government says it cannot

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afford to provide health care or education or safe drinking water —and cannot afford to end homelessness or poverty. But it plans to spend more than **one trillion dollars** on these new nuclear weapons!

Fortunately, people are organizing against that! People are organizing globally, nationwide, here in Washington State, and right here in Olympia. Our guests are two experts from Seattle. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has created a committee to work locally to abolish nuclear weapons. Contact **Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093** [nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org](mailto:nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org)



# Reflections on a paradox flowing down a culverted creek

by Harry Branch

I watched an edition of *Frontline* on the computer last night. Normally, this is an excellent series. This edition was about fish as a food source. They got a few things right. We raise salmon in nets and feed them ground up anchovetas from Peru. As it would probably be more efficient for us to eat the anchovetas, the argument that this type of aquaculture is going to feed the world is somewhat illogical. Salmon raised in pens spread lice and disease to wild salmon and mix with them—and native species in the area decline.

But then the show fell apart. It failed to mention the idea that restoring and enhancing natural systems would produce more, better quality protein for human consumption. And there were the usual claims that shellfish aquaculture is across the board, always good because among other things shellfish clean the water. Since shellfish clean the water of phytoplankton, and phytoplankton are water cleaners, the logic again is flawed and not universally supported by good science.

The show also failed even to mention ecosystem-based management. The introduction of shellfish can be a

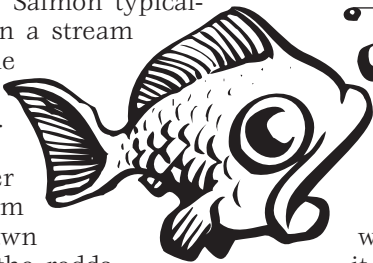
good thing if it's done in a way that's consistent with ecosystem function. But if we're disrupting the ecosystem by doing things like growing geoducks in the intertidal zone where they don't normally proliferate—spreading plastic debris in the process—that's arguably not going to produce more high quality protein in the long run.

If we want more fish, the first step should be to look for limiting factors. Salmon typically spawn in a stream until all the good spots are taken. Then fish that enter the system later spawn on top of the redds [spawning nests] of previous spawners, to a large extent destroying them. So it's a good guess that under ideal conditions, the limiting factor is the area available for spawning. If we want more fish, we need to create more spawning habitat in stream beds.

I decided a couple of years ago to take on the issue of Moxlie and Indian Creek, in downtown Olympia. Here we have what was once one of the

major stream systems in Budd Inlet which is heavily culverted. Removing the streams from culverts would provide spawning habitat and greatly improve oceanographic parameters like

## If we want more fish, we need to create more spawning habitat in stream beds.



dissolved oxygen. I confess that I didn't hold out much hope given the political climate in the town of Olympia, but I thought I'd give it my best effort for as much as any reason to document just how foolish we are. And we are plenty foolish as it turns out.

Which brings me to the Fermi Paradox. Sometimes summarized by the question "where are they?" the paradox is this: given the billions of stars in the galaxy and the probability that many (and even perhaps most) have planets similar to earth, why do we see no signs of life out there? Why no radio waves that aren't random? Why no space ships landing in Times Square?

This has been the subject of consid-

erable debate. Maybe random naturally occurring radio waves drown out those coming from intelligent life. Maybe travel through deep space is simply impossible. Or maybe, intelligent life forms always do themselves in as soon as they develop the means of communicating through deep space.

Which gets into some pretty metaphysical stuff. There's a lot we don't understand. We know what light looks like and how fast it travels, which in galactic terms is pretty darned slow, but we really have no idea what it is. The same holds true for electromagnetism, gravity and other very basic things. We can measure brain electricity and know it corresponds to thought. What's the relationship between thinking and electricity? Is there more of it going on out there than we see or understand? Is it all part of some greater design? Something we're not supposed to understand? And when we start to understand it the great spirit in the sky pulls the plug?

Maybe it's all random or maybe there's some order to things. Maybe we're at that point where we just need to self destruct as a species. And it's OK. I'm going to go out today and enjoy this wonderful gift of life.

*Harry Branch is a long-time sailor and community member who has been working for decades on ecological issues in the Pacific Northwest.*

# 14 arrested honoring Mother’s Day in a demonstration at Trident nuclear submarine base

At around 3:30 pm on Saturday, May 13, six demonstrators entered the highway carrying a large banner stating, *"The earth is our mother—treat her with respect"*, and briefly blocked traffic at the Main Gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. They were removed from the highway by the Washington State Patrol.

After a short period of time, eight other demonstrators entered the highway with a full-size replica of a Trident D-5 missile and were removed by the Washington State Patrol.

During the event, some demonstrators were threatened by the Washington State Patrol with arrest and a weekend in jail with an arraignment in court on Monday. In the end, 14 demonstrators were cited for violating RCW 46.61.250, Pedestrians on roadways, and released within an hour. In all, 55 people were present at the demonstration.

Those cited by the Washington State Patrol: Margarita Munoz, Kim Loft-

ness, and Paul Kikuchi of Seattle; Elizabeth Murray of Poulsbo; Ed Digilio of Shoreline; Ramon Nacanaynay of Lynwood; Lisa Johnson and Mack Johnson of Silverdale; Chris Rogers and Tom Rogers of Keyport; Cliff Kirchmer of Fircrest; James Brecht of Tacoma; Michael Siptroth of Belfair; and Susan Crane of Redwood City, California.

Mother's Day in the United States was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe as a day dedicated to peace. Howe saw the effects on both sides of the Civil War and realized destruction from warfare goes beyond the killing of soldiers in battle.

Susan Crane stated, "We are here to act for the next generations, and we are here for active nonviolent solutions and actions. And we are not alone. There are many signs of resistance, signs of hope around the world. Every nonviolent action, no matter how small, creates hope. And together, these small instances of hope are precursors, a taste, a glimpse, of a nonviolent world."

Ground Zero member Tom Rogers stated, "our kids deserve to grow up in a world without nuclear weapons. It is a failure of our generation that they

must live in fear of nuclear annihilation and bear the cost of a massive modernization of our nuclear weapons complex."

The Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble provided demonstrators a strong voice and music for the day. Members of Veterans for Peace, the

on SSBN submarines based at Bangor or stored at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) at the Bangor base.

Trident SSBN submarines at Bangor are estimated to carry about 108 nuclear warheads. The W76 and W88 warheads at Bangor are equal respectively to 100 kilotons and 455 kilotons of TNT in destructive force. Each of the eight submarines deployed at Bangor is capable of producing a destructive force equal to more than 1,400 Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs.

At the demonstration on Saturday, Susan Crane, a longtime anti-nuclear peace activist, spoke of Daniel Berrigan and his warning—that a nuclear war will be legal; that the courts and judges will approve. But our faith and conviction reminds us of the command: no killing, and no war.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system.

“There are many signs of resistance, signs of hope around the world. Every nonviolent action, no matter how small, creates hope. And together, these small instances of hope are precursors, a taste, a glimpse, of a nonviolent world.”

Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order, and other peace groups in the area provided additional support for the event.

Throughout the day, Ground Zero members were mindful of the recent passing of friend and colleague Mira Leslie. A small redwood tree was planted near the Gendai Hoto in honor of Mira.

The next planned demonstration will be the annual Ground Zero Peace Fleet demonstration on August 2, 2017 in Elliott Bay.

The next planned demonstration at Bangor will be on August 12, 2017, a Boats by Bangor event in Hood Canal. The next planned direct action will be on August 14, 2017 at Bangor in commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. More than 1,300 nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles

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# Reach In, Reach Out: Our sonic artists host labor-of-love Experimental Music Festival in Olympia

Strange Music Society

Olympia's sonic-art enthusiasts prepare to host another round of experimental sound performances at the 23rd Annual Olympia Experimental Music Festival June 23 to 25. The Festival calls upon 24 diverse experimental music projects to grace Olympia's downtown for a full weekend of unpredictable audio-visual adventure. "It's about allowing for whatever and releasing convention," said Ashley Shomo, festival organizer and experimental musician. "We reach in, we reach out. It's like one experiment at a time and there's no real way to explain it. So, let's see what happens when we gather in the same place and share." This year's lineup is fully Pacific Northwest, with 12 of the featured perfor-

"When this festival began in 1995, we had just two nights in one tiny room," said Festival Flounder L. Jim McAdams. "But, it was magical because everybody there wanted it to happen and wanted to watch and listen to it happening. Each act was completely different from the one before and the musicians all sat and watched every note the other acts played." McAdams prefers the name "flounder" to "founder" because, "my role has always been to flop about and accept the currents that the Festival chose for itself. The event started itself, and I was just a willing conduit with an email account and a staplegun."

Now, the festival has grown into five blocks of performances spanning a variety of venues: Obsidian, Le Voyerur

and the Brotherhood Lounge. In addition, there is a free all-ages outdoor matinee show at the Olympia Artesian Well Commons on Sunday. It's a chance for people of all ages to check out the festival for free in the literal and spiritual heart of downtown Olympia.

This year's Festival also adds some visuals to the adventure with a 360-degree video display by Olympia musician and artist d.a. terence Friday night and another video work-of-art by Seattle's Eric Ostrowski on Saturday night. In addition, a 25-minute film crafted by Festival musician Hathor Vergotis, of Hammer of Hathor, features sounds from Lincoln Options Elementary School:

"We had each kid explore sounds made by ordinary objects, and recorded the sound of their choosing," Hathor said. "We organized the sounds in a graphical score, which every kid had a part creating, and then we went into the studio and realized the score using the sounds the kids recorded." Hathor worked together with sound artists Pual Krogh and Direct Animation artist Devon Demonte to complete the film. " It's pretty epic," she said.

The Film will play as a kick-off to the Saturday matinee block of performances at Le Voyerur.

23rd Annual Olympia Experimental Music Festival

June 23 to 25, 2017

Full Freakin' Pass \$23

Information on Facebook at: /OlyExperimentalMusicFest

## Full schedule:

- 8 p.m. Friday, June 23, Obsidian
- 8 p.m. - Xapchyk - (pdx)
- 8:45 - L.A. Lungs - (oly)
- 9:30 - KGD - (oly)
- 10:15 - d.a. terence - (oly)
- 11:00 - King Tears Bat Trip - (sea)
- 1 p.m., Saturday June 24, Le Voyerur, all-ages, \$3 at the door
- 1 p.m. - Burning Spirits - (oly)
- 1:45 - Cyclopsycho - (oly)
- 2:30 - Hammer of Hathor - (oly)
- 3:15 - Dolphin Midwives - (pdx)
- 8 p.m., Saturday, June 24, Obsidian, \$8 at the door
- 8 p.m. - Eric Ostrowski (sea) & Fischkopf Sinfoniker (bellingham)
- 8:45 - Wilson Shook (sea) & Dave Abramson (sea) & Greg Kelley (sea)
- 9:30 - Mulva Myasis (pdx)
- 10:15 - Existence Habit (astoria)
- 11:00 - Angell (pdx)
- 1 p.m., Sunday, June 25, Artesian Well, free, all-ages
- 1 p.m. - Four Dimensional Nightmare (sea)
- 1:45 - MK Ultramegaphone (salem)
- 2:30 - Kole Galbraith (sea)
- 3:15 - Dead Air Fresheners (pdx/oly/sea)
- 8 p.m., Sunday, June 25, Brotherhood Tavern, \$8
- 8 p.m. - Cop Fetish (oly)
- 8: 45 - K.O. SOLO (sea)
- 9:30 - Zach Zinn with Rebekah Zinn (ply)
- 10:15 - Liquid Letters (oly)
- 11:00 - Bortnichak Johnson Love (oly)
- 11:45 - oretta ynn (oly) - w/ r. carns & co.

Festival organizers believe that people making music that challenges the listener and redefines society's perceptions of art can be a powerful catalyst, making fertile ground for sowing the seeds of cultural change.

mances coming from Olympia artists, such as Rachel Carns, Derek Johnson Love, Kevin Doria and China Faith Star. "This seems like a nice year to keep it close to home," said Shomo. "There is a vibrant community of unbound, passionate musicians and artists among these trees, these mountains and this rain. It feels good to notice this." Of course, despite the common geography, Festival artists bring a wide-array of instruments, techniques and moods to the table and there is simply no way to predict what will happen. And, that's part of the magic. "When we are in the zone, we will often find ourselves picking up a new instrument and magically landing on the same note as another," said Kyle Stant, one of three Portland musicians opening the Festival Friday night at Obsidian. Stant, Jerry Soga and David Morgan comprise the group Xapchyk, named after a rattle made of a bull's scrotum and lamb knuckles...

"In the zone, the sounds of a passing car are likely to be incorporated, and all such other ambient sounds entering our ears," said Stant. "We often blend sounds, creating new timbres among each other. We like to stay nestled deep in the line between noise and music, but this potent zone is the primordial origin of all music, so typically we will blast into random songs and melodies from who knows where, before reigning it back in." Also from Portland, Noa Ver brings her home-built electronic oscillators to the Saturday Evening block of the Festival. Her project's name is Mulva Myasis. "Playing with the oscillators is a listening and reacting game," said Noa. "They are unstable and are always doing things that surprise me, which is a part reason I love them so much! They are surprisingly dynamic and produce a wide range of sounds, despite their simplicity." Still growing from the ground up, the festival has always been a labor of love for a handful of volunteers and countless artists who believe that Olympia, and the greater Pacific Northwest, is fertile ground for creative meandering and connection. Festival organizers believe that people making music that challenges the listener and redefines society's perceptions of art can be a powerful catalyst, making fertile ground for sewing the seeds of cultural change.



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# Six Tacoma residents participated in a direct action on May 17th in protest of Puget Sound Energy’s (PSE) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Plant.

Lydia Denee-Lee

The six residents chained themselves to a piece of machinery called an auger that was located on the 30-acre private property. By 5:40 am the residents had already locked down and settled into their positions on the property, walking right through the front gates, which were not bound by any locks. A PSE worker noticed the individuals within 15 minutes and called the Tacoma Police Department. Authorities took around 30 minutes to respond to the call, with work being halted until everyone was removed from the property. On the outside of the PSE property lines activists gathered in support with signs and posters opposing the project.

The LNG plant will be built in the heart of Port of Tacoma, only miles away from the Puyallup Indian Reservation. The storage facility will be slightly shorter than the Tacoma Dome. The property is located on Alexander Avenue East and East 11th street, less than a ten-minute drive from the downtown area, and an ICE government detention center is less than five miles away. If anything were to happen at the plant, people at the detention center will be the first to be affected.

Authorities started by unlocking

one of the protestors who was locked higher on the auger than the others in order to record the events taking place. After he was detached and arrested, the remaining five protestors remained attached to the auger for around three hours. All six were taken to Pierce County Jail with three felony charges of first degree: trespassing, malicious mischief, and obstruction according to Loretta Cool of the Tacoma Police Department. Some of the residents were part of groups such as

leave if they were not employees of the port. Some workers passing by the protestors outside the PSE property limits, yelled profanities as well as other negative remarks while other cars stopped to try and find out what was being opposed.

LNG is an alternative to other fuels like diesel or oil, and the LNG produced in Tacoma will be used for companies like Totem Ocean Trailer Express (TOTE)– a private cargo company that operates between the Port of

Tacoma and Anchorage, Alaska.

Residents of Tacoma and the Puyallup tribe have opposed the LNG plant since 2014. LNG plants have had accidents in the past, that if repeated could endanger the lives of people living and working in the close vicinity of the plant.

In 2014 there was an explosion at an LNG site in Plymouth, WA that caused hundreds to evacuate and five major injuries. The damages from this project cost approximately \$69 million dollars. After natural gas ignited within the LNG processing equipment, the plant exploded in a mushroom cloud sending out 250 pounds of debris.

The LNG plant will be used to cool natural gas to approximately -280 degrees Fahrenheit where it is converted into a liquid state that is more condensed and easier to store and ship. The plant will also vaporize LNG back into natural gas. Two cryogenic pipelines will come out of the plant and connect to the existing pipelines that litter Pierce County along with the TOTE site where the LNG will be used for their ships.

The property is surrounded by other big businesses, and the Port of Tacoma is one of the largest in the country. Since 1921 when the port was created, over \$160 million has been spent in projects aimed to improve the environment in the surrounding area. Being so close to the water any kind of accident could ruin the marine ecosystem, endangering the lives of salmon and other endangered animals.



Rising Ride, Redline Tacoma, and Direct Action Tacoma.

Tacoma Police Department blocked entry to cars on Taylor Way, only allowing workers to pass by their blockade. Car by car individuals were stopped and interrogated on what business they had on the public road. Cars were told to turn around and



## Localize This! Action Camp

Most of the focus at *Localize This!* Action Camp is on exploring social change strategies that earn media and build power for campaigns outside of the traditional channels of redress (like electoral politics). Concentrations of skill-building workshops at *Localize This!* Action Camp include artful activism, community organizing, non-violent direct action tactics, blockading techniques, climbing, kayaktivism, anti-oppression practices, working in affinity groups and designing creative actions that build pressure on decision-makers and propel us toward collective liberation. Apply here for the **2017 Localize This! Action Camp**, July 25th - August 1st on Vashon Island, WA.

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# Meeting up with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters at the Quality Inn

for Kabby Mitchell III, (1956-2017)

by Sandra Yannone

In Seattle at the Quality Inn off Aurora and John, I greet an elder brother with a particular train cap perched on his head, a Pullman porter whose stepped out of time while we wait to ride the elevator with my grief and gratitude and whatever else he has brought from his travels. I can see how he punches tickets, memorizes routes and timetables in the way he cares for me in this moment. I tell him about you, how you'll be gone in an hour or so, but how you'd really left life's station a night ago in the arms of a beloved as we rise up the spine of the hotel. And even though it's just the Quality Inn, nothing ornate or special or flashy, I think about how this unadorned mechanical crate might transform into Charlie's Great Glass Elevator and deliver me to the highest floor of the sky just to be with you a bit longer, knowing I would need to return, and not entirely sure why the divine chose this timetable at the appointed hour on this specific day nestled inside this week tucked inside this year in this crazed century. Kabby, at the Primo Grill two weeks ago on my last night before leaving for Limerick, we flirted at the bar with disaster, you reluctantly, when I suggested that I might not see you again if fate would choose to take me away. You, wide-eyed, incredulous, almost scolding me for even suggesting such a possibility. So I returned, and now you are gone. Strange. It will take the rest of my strange life to get used to this strangeness, like meeting a train porter in front of a modest Quality Inn elevator who steps off on my floor and leads me down the hall to his hotel room door, stands there with me for half an hour reciting from John:1, imploring me to consider how I am here and that you are now everywhere

as you always have been with your moonlight eyes and incandescent smile. He stands there no stranger to me than a stranger I feel ready to know like the first time I met you two days after 9/11 while we ate a catered fried chicken lunch from the Southern Kitchen. the hospitality on the Tacoma campus that day never lost to me after all these years. He stands there in front of that Quality Inn door, room 223, never inviting me in. The train porter just opens his wallet, removes his business card, writes his name and his phone number on the back, hands me his Breaking Bread Ministries card like a train ticket receipt, sends me off down the hall to find my room where we'll both open our respective wooden doors and fall into our separate feathered beds, sleep hard and wake to break bread with the day's breaking news of your leaving spreading across time and these cities you've inhabited like a love train not entirely desperate to stay true to its scheduled departure. Later, back on campus in Olympia, my students and I marvel at the unannounced thunder for a full two hours. There is nothing else we can do after the emergency alert system promises hail. We wait. The hail does not come. They turn in their reflections for the week slightly disappointed. They leave. I walk across campus alone almost taking a detour to your office to see who might reside there now then drive home through the city expecting your lightning to strike me dead. And I admit that I almost wish for this, rather than make it home safely to go to bed only to wake to my first day without you, to wonder whether grace can find me if I'm not standing before the elevator at the Quality Inn in Seattle on John Street with Brother Will looking out for me looking everywhere for you.

## O.J. Simpson and D. J. Trump: Pied Pipers of Blind Mice

Might the “J” stand for jack-ass? O.J was acquitted of murder for the same reason Trump was elected. In the former instance black people were taken advantage of, the community was used as leverage to instill fear, O.J. escaped an otherwise certain fate and went free; not because of any flaws in the investigation but to prevent another riot, a la the recent Rodney King trial (white officers acquitted, O.J. let go to balance the equation despite overwhelming evidence). In the latter instance Trump managed to play the race card and beat the drums of resistance to immigration, fan the flames of xenophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. O.J. didn't care about the struggling of the black community, he spent most of his time with rich white people (he attended Trump's wedding) and Trump does not care about poor whites. Once again, the people were duped by rich and powerful celebrities. The people ignored the evidence, policies (or lack thereof), and histories of the men they endorsed and supported. And I believe these jerks (maybe that's what the “J” stands for) are murderers and sociopaths. Trump's little hands, poised above the proverbial button that will launch a nuclear weapon no less bloodied than those that stabbed Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman. The O.J. trial split the world in two: black and white. Trump's rise to power is splitting a country in two: socialists and fascists...with a whole lot of confused souls stuck in the middle, yearning for a third option. O.J. eventually ended up behind bars for different crimes. We can only hope Trump trips himself up in the same fashion.

—broKEN

# The People’s Budget: A roadmap for resistance

## The National Priorities Project

We all know: when it comes to improving economic prosperity, too many hardworking Americans have been left behind. Our economic and political system has lost sight of what matters most: We the People. *The People's Budget* is the alternative to the status quo or the disastrous Trump budget. It's a budget based in our values of peace, shared prosperity and economic security for all.

**The People’s Budget:**

**Invests** \$2 trillion in America's infrastructure to transition to a 21st Century economy and transform our energy, water and transportation systems;

**Reduces** military spending by elim-

inating unneeded weapons and reducing rather than increasing the US nuclear arsenal, to fully fund badly needed social programs rather than the profit margins of giant military contractors;

**Curbs** special interest and dark money influence in politics by ensuring public financing of campaigns.

The last time it was up for a vote, 96 members of Congress supported this vision for our country. We need more. Sign on here: <https://action-network.org/petitions/peoples-budget-citizen-cosponsor>. Let Congress know that a budget that reflects our values is possible.





# Equity

From page 4

***“We demand mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees.”***

**Immediate action:**

The United Faculty of Evergreen and the College have executed a memorandum of understanding committing to mandatory training. I'd like to Invite Grace Huerta to speak about the agreement we've reached today. It reads:

“Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

“We share a mutual interest in ensuring that all Evergreen students receive an education that is culturally competent, culturally relevant and free from the negative effects of bias.

“To achieve this, we recognize that Evergreen faculty members must have access to, and take advantage of, professional development opportunities to address subjects including but not limited to institutional racism, and the needs of students of color, LG-BTQIA students, undocumented students, victims of sexual assault, and students with disabilities.

“We commit to annual mandatory training for all faculty beginning in fall 2017.

“This agreement was ratified today by both parties”.

**Next steps:**

Required training for all staff currently includes a review of the college's non-discrimination policy. We commit to providing cultural competency, sensitivity, and anti-bias training in the training required of all staff. By requiring this training for all staff, we will also ensure that all search committee members are trained. We're launching staff training in the fall and offering it throughout the year.

***“We demand the creation of an equity center.”***

**Immediate action:**

Today we commit to establishing a new and expanded equity and multicultural center with design plans finalized for student review by the beginning of fall quarter this year. You will have the space that you seek and deserve.

**Next steps:**

The design of the center will be informed by students. Over the summer, we seek to hire students to design and plan for a new equity and multicultural center in collaboration with staff. They will be compensated for their time. A final plan for implementation

will be developed following the work completed this summer.

***“We demand for the coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center to be permanently hired full time.”***

**Immediate action:**

Prior to this week's events, we had initiated the process to appoint Amira Caluya on a permanent basis as Coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center. We expedited this process and confirm that they have been appointed on a permanent basis effective today.

***“We demand the creation of a position that will support undocumented students.”***

**Next steps:**

We have requested funding for a retention specialist to serve undocumented students from the Legislature. Once this is funded, we will recruit for this position immediately.

***“We demand that the video created for Day of Absence and Day of Presence that was stolen by white supremacists and edited to expose and ridicule the students and staff be taken down by the administration by this Friday.”***

**Next steps:**

Based on conversations with the Attorney General's office, the most likely course of action requires an investigation. We commit to launching an extensive forensic investigation of the theft of this video and to determining who stole it from the student. If that investigation yields a suspect, we will seek criminal charges against the individual in consultation with the Attorney General.

**Other personnel decisions:**

We have heard you about your concerns. We truly have. In order to fulfill our commitment to you, the knowledge and life experience of our leadership team needs to change. We acknowledge the lack of diversity among the college's senior leadership team and affirm that people of color must be involved in decisions that affect the college and our community.

**Immediate action:**

We've welcomed three talented candidates for the role of Vice President/Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion to campus. I'm glad you participated in conversation with them and I seek your recommendations on whom we should hire.

I'm announcing today that in addition to the VP/VP, we will be recruiting a new leader to oversee student enrollment and retention at the College. Our longstanding Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services, Steve Hunter, has served Evergreen for 41 years in many ways. His retirement creates an opportunity to recruit new leadership.

The person we hire will be appointed to the senior leadership team and will focus, among other things, on student retention across all aspects of the college from the moment a student comes into contact with Evergreen to the point at which they graduate. I seek your involvement in the recruitment and hiring of that person so that we are assured we appoint someone whose attention is directly focused on the needs and success of underrepresented students at Evergreen.

We are hiring Dr. Stone Thomas as a senior advisor to the President and a member of the senior leadership team of the college to begin next week. Stone was among the first African American leaders of Evergreen, as well as the president of another institution. For 40 years, Dr. Thomas diligently supported learners in a number of roles including Coordinator of Upward Bound, Director of Educational Support Programs and Dean of Student Development, Vice President of Student Development and Campus President. In 2011 Dr. Thomas retired as Campus President from Tarrant County College South Campus. In tandem with his administrative appointments, Dr. Thomas served as an adjunct faculty for 12 years at The Evergreen State College.

**Next steps:**

We will increase the budget in First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services to address student wages and staffing and to ensure that the scholar's pre-orientation program is accessible to more students. The resources will be available for use effective July 1. It is critical to have student voice involved in a variety of initiatives over the summer including the conduct code, summer hiring, new student orientation, developing a communication plan for next year, and work on the equity center. We will hire for three to four positions by the end of the academic year.

**Closing**

In closing, I want to invite you to re-

flect and we will reconvene next week for additional conversations. What I've shared today will be circulated electronically.

Free speech must be fostered and encouraged. Every faculty member, every student, every staff member must have the freedom to speak openly about their views. We are an institution dedicated to learning. Unless we continually seek to listen and to understand, rather than listening to react, we will not fulfill the mission of The Evergreen State College.

Discrimination of any form is not acceptable or tolerated on our campus. We must treat each other with respect and care. Let's acknowledge the unique, individual roles that each of us plays at Evergreen.

Let me reiterate my gratitude for the passion and courage you have shown me and others. I want every one of you to feel safe on this campus and be able to learn in a supportive environment free from discrimination or intimidation.

I welcome your questions. I hope we can break bread together and continue the conversation informally.

*Reprinted from the Cooper Point Journal.*

## Nature Always Bats Last

David Smith

A polar bear paid me to protest.  
Don't be a fossil fool.  
There is no Planet B.  
Separate oil and state.  
Shit is meltin'.  
If the environment was a bank,  
It would be saved already.  
May the facts be with you.  
Give bees a chance.  
Air pollution  
Is a chemical weapon.

Jesus said,  
“Follow me.”  
Buddha said,  
“Follow the middle way.”  
Trump said,  
“Grab ‘em by the pussy.  
Punch ‘em in the face.”

Resistance is not futile.  
Out of the White House –  
back to your penthouse.  
The oceans are rising  
and so are we.  
Act now and save!  
Change the President,  
not the climate.  
Save the EPA from the SOBs.

Consume less.  
Frack Trump.  
Clean power to the people.  
Make America great again.  
Nature always bats last.

*David Smith is a retired English teacher and publisher of Dead Parrot, a Facebook political blog. This poem was inspired by signs at the April 29, 2017 Climate March in Washington, D.C.*

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True patriotism. “To criticize one’s country is to do it a service and to pay it a compliment. It is a service because it may spur the country to do better than it is doing; it is a compliment because it evidences a belief that the country can do better than it is doing.

In a democracy, dissent is an act of faith. Like medicine, the test of value is not in its taste but its effect, not how it makes people feel in the moment, but how it makes them feel in the long run. Criticism in short is more than a right, it is an act of patriotism, a higher form of patriotism I believe than the rituals of national adulation.”

J.William Fullbright, Senator from  
Arkansas 1945-1974



# A chorus of breaths: on poetry, grief, and grace

Sandra Yannone

For the better part of a year, I've been sharing essays and poems about poetry's prismatic capacities to cast light on how humans live in a dominant culture depleted of deep meaning. I've shared how poetry connects us in time and space to historic events like the Pulse nightclub shootings, the presidential elections, and the women's marches, alongside my personal experiences of travel, poetry readings, love, grief, and grace.

This essay is no different. It isn't an obituary. It isn't a tribute. This essay is about poetry's capacity to hold space as I grieve the loss of my dear friend and brilliant Evergreen colleague Kabby Mitchell III, a ballet dancer of extraordinary talent, an African-American scholar, a choreographer, a teacher, a mentor, who died in early May, and celebrate his magnificent life.

Since Kabby's rendezvous with death, I've continued to consider all of death's facets. Death is attending the end of breath. Similarly, poetry always has held the ability to take my breath away – in graduate school in Boston, my friends and I would measure a poem's brilliance by its capacity to “kill” us – and yet, in that split-second moment I know of something or someone to be dying, poetry also can restore my sense of knowing life, restore my own breath with a pause, a sigh, a literal inhalation of air.

Death's constant companion for the living is grief, and grief, too, can render us breathless. No contemporary poet I know since Elizabeth Bishop wrote the villanelle *One Art* has reached into my heart and lungs to teach me more about life's fragile balancing act than Marie Howe. A follow up to her 1993 debut collection *The Good Thief*, chosen by Adrienne Rich for the prestigious National Poetry Series, Howe's second collection *What the Living Do* astonishes with its plain, long lines that when read out loud remind one to attend to the drawn-out breath.

Poems like *The Last Time*, *The Promise*, and *One of the Last Days* push toward what we can comprehend as we approach the death of a beloved, but no poem prepares us to live with the extensions of grief better than the title poem, *What the Living Do*, a poem that Howe has said in interviews originated as a letter to her brother John because she could find no other way to write her experience of living without him:

But there are moments, walking,  
when I catch a glimpse of myself  
in the window glass,  
say, the window of the corner video  
store, and I'm gripped by a  
cherishing so deep  
for my own blowing hair, chapped  
face, and unbuttoned coat that  
I'm speechless:  
I am living. I remember you.

It is finally in the aggregate of keen observation of her daily existence, heightened in that way that grief gifts us insight into the spaces between the dead and the living, that Howe's last line, the enduring gift of grief, transcends.

I had the unfathomable good fortune to study with Marie Howe for ten weeks in a private workshop she offered out of her home in Cambridge in the fall of 1990. Standing inside the threshold of Marie's apartment after workshop one night, I initiated an intimate conversation about wanting to write a poem about an uncle who had died of AIDS. I wasn't ready to bring it to the group, I told her, as I pulled the draft from my pocket, unfolded it carefully, then offered it to her, an unspoken request. She read quickly but carefully with a knowing I was learn-

ing to recognize in her as she shook her head a few times, then looked up at me. “The poem is too restrained,” she said, “It's holding something back that no one can put a finger on. You need to go there.”

And she was right—what I needed in that poem in that moment was to acknowledge my subject position, my genuine solidarity with my uncle, not simply my biology. I couldn't go to the depth of the grief in the poem because I couldn't name myself as Uncle Jack's ally, as a woman wanting to be with other women. I feared the repercussions of living in a family that would not acknowledge that Jack was gay, had a long-time partner, and had died of AIDS. Until I could speak that truth, Jack's life and death remained just out of poetic reach, the critical electric current between us still switched off.

I know beloveds who were with Kabby as he surrendered his last breath, an inaudible sigh, and then he was gone. So simple the line each of us will cross between one honey breath and the one that doesn't follow.

The first night that Kabby died I was at a poetry reading in Seattle. Months before, Kabby and another beloved had agreed we'd go together on my recommendation. By the night of the reading, it was clear that I would be the lone attendee to bear witness to Carl Phillips whose gestures of language are so exquisite that they can double as the luminosity of the moon, hard to do in language. Phillips achieves this poetic feat with syntax, white space, breath, and pause—the moment of truth always on the verge of collapse like a precious lung. You can hear the air in his poems rush in and out like breath. The very life force that keeps each one of us alive keeps his poems moving at all costs.

Phillips read two dozen poems that traversed the agony and the grace of living as an African-American gay man. He described how he composes most of his poems as one, long sentence using punctuation to navigate the movement of the narratives' twists and turns, which to me feel like driving dangerous, precarious curves at high speeds while holding my breath as in “The Strong by Their Stillness:”

. . . I've driven hard into  
the gorgeousness of spring before; it fell hard behind me:  
the turning away, I mean, the finding of clothes,  
the maneuvering  
awkwardly back into them . . . why not drive  
forever? Respect or shame, it's pretty much your  
own choice, is how it once got explained to me.

In their devastation, Phillips' poetry bends grief into beauty:

In the stories it's different: grief,  
like the dark, lifts eventually—  
an abandonment inside which, with all  
the clarity of bells when for once they  
ring like nothing but the ringing bells  
they are, . . .

(*The Length of the Field*)

On the second day that Kabby died the late afternoon sky broke open for what seemed like forever with raucous thunder, then crisp cracks of lightning. I couldn't help but be reminded of Phillips' three-line poem, “Thunder:”

Thunder

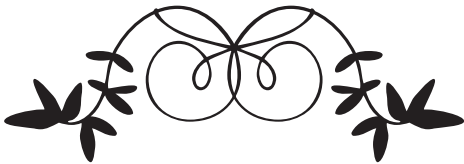
Maybe not ourselves, for once, but each other

\*

Not the wilder doves;  
not their blurred machinery leaving the less wild doves behind.

Kabby's death, as with Phillips' poem, has left me with the profound sense that I am a “less wild” dove without him. And, I also feel that within the swell of grief there is communion, a chorus of breaths to meet whenever we gather to remember the ones we love and never lose. And within poetry, I find this communion, too.

Sandra Yannone's poetry and book reviews have appeared nationally in *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, *Women's Review of Books*, *Calyx: A Journal*, *Lambda Book Report*, and *Weave*, among others. She currently is a Member of the Faculty and directs the Writing Center at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA.



## Federal judge rules in favor of NWIRP, protecting NWIRP and others’ right to advocate for unrepresented immigrants

Seattle, WA – Friday, May 26, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Department of Justice from preventing the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project from providing legal assistance to unrepresented immigrants facing deportation. United States District Court Judge Richard A. Jones issued his ruling after hearing oral arguments in a lawsuit brought by NWIRP.

Nine days ago, NWIRP and partner Davis Wright Tremaine LLP filed NWIRP v. Sessions in district court. The suit challenges an order from the Department of Justice instructing NWIRP to “cease and desist” from providing limited services to unrepresented immigrants in deportation proceedings.

There is no right to a public defender or appointed counsel in immigration court. Consequently, the majority of people do not have attorneys to represent them in deportation proceedings. Given this grave need for legal representation and NWIRP's inability to provide full representation to all who seek legal assistance, the cease and desist order threatened to pre-

clude the a significant number of immigrants in deportation proceedings from receiving any legal assistance in their cases.

Judge Jones agreed that NWIRP was likely to succeed on the claim that the Department of Justice's action would violate NWIRP's constitutional right to freedom of speech, as it would limit their work-resulting in many immigrants having to face deportation proceeding without any legal help. He temporarily enjoined DOJ from enforcing its cease-and-desist order against NWIRP and from similarly targeting other nonprofit organizations around the country.

In response to the judge's decision, NWIRP executive director Jorge L. Barón said, “We are pleased by today's ruling from Judge Jones and pleased that he issued this temporary restraining order on a nationwide basis so other non-profit organizations can continue their work without the threat of being sanctioned.”

Oral arguments for Northwest Immigrant Rights Project were made

by Davis Wright Tremaine lawyers Jaime Drozd Allen and James Harlan Corning. They stated that the DOJ's regulation, which purportedly seeks to ensure that people receive ethical counsel, would actually make them more vulnerable to notario fraud.

“Immigrants will be deprived of legal services and they will have no place else to turn,” Corning said. “Of course the ideal would be to provide full representation to every immigrant in every setting . . . We don't live in that world.”

The temporary restraining order will remain in effect until the court rules on a motion for a preliminary injunction. The parties involved in the case are required to propose a briefing schedule for this motion within two days.

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# Three minutes to midnight no time to rebuild Trident missiles

By David C. Hall

*[Ed note: Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility is leading a statewide campaign to develop public opposition to the proposed "modernization" of US nuclear weapons. They have formed the Washington Coalition to Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race, which already has over 25 organizations across the state and is rapidly adding members as public concern about nuclear risks rekindle under an ill-informed and impulsive US president.]*

Over a year ago the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved its Doomsday Clock to 3 minutes to midnight, responding to “entirely insufficient” global efforts to check nuclear weaponry and global warming or to address the risks inherent to both. “Midnight” means the end of 2.4 million years of human civilization. This week the organization kept the clock at 3 minutes to midnight, sending “an expression of dismay that

world leaders continue to fail to focus their efforts and the world's attention on reducing the extreme danger posed by nuclear weapons and climate change.”

I am a psychiatrist who has served

Everything I work for and my father, uncles and grandfathers served for in the World Wars goes for nothing if we ever allow nuclear weapons to be used again.

severely stressed children and families for decades while haunted by what I learned as an intern about the horrors of atomic bombs on Japan. Everything I work for and my father, uncles and grandfathers served for in the World Wars goes for nothing if we ever allow nuclear weapons to be used again. This is especially true now that these weapons are seven to 30 times

more powerful, nuclear nations keep their launchers on hair-trigger alert, and the climatological threshold for nuclear famine is in the hundreds of nuclear weapons.

There are still 15,000 weapons in nine arsenals. Global warming left unchecked will desiccate some of us and drown others, making millions of refugees. Nuclear war could incinerate millions in a flash and starve out billions by blocking out the sun. The scientists with BAS are asking us to squarely face these potentialities.

Current modernization plans for U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons come at a time when Russia is economically strapped while facing pressure on its western border, like the pressures America faced during the Cuban Missile Crisis with Soviet nuclear weapons 90 miles away.

Planned for 2020 are twenty U.S. B61-12 nuclear dial-a-bombs (delivering 0.3 to 340 kilotons of destruction) for deployment on German fighter bombers, and Russian nuclear-armed

drone submarines capable of traveling 6,200 miles underwater to evade U.S. missile defenses.

Most troubling to me locally is “modernization” (rebuilding) of the Trident nuclear submarine fleet that is based on Hood Canal. What's missing in the current conversation? Each Trident warship is designed with the capacity to end civilized life on Earth. Each of the 12 new Tridents now planned for replacing the current fleet will be built to launch within minutes on presidential command 128 hydrogen bombs carried in packs of eight on 16 missiles with a 7,000 mile-range and pinpoint accuracy.

The W-76 warhead is built to explode with 100,000 tons of dynamite equivalent (100 kilotons); the W-88 warhead, 455,000 tons (455 kilotons). The Hiroshima atomic bomb that killed outright about 100,000 human beings exploded with about 12 kilotons. That was an ugly time that we as a human community have fortunately managed to grow beyond. We no longer have Hitler, Hirohito, Stalin or Mao Tse-tung. Germany, Japan, Russia and China are vastly different countries. Germany and Japan are allies. Russia fought al Qaida with us in Afghanistan and is fighting ISIS. China is a major trading partner.

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Washington, holds a key vote on rebuilding Trident and has yet to speak out. He's hearing “deterrence” from military contractors and military advisers who fail to tally U.S. provocations, but reap contracts returning 1,000 to 1 on their political investments.

Our adversaries see us with ever expanding conventional and nuclear military capabilities. Nuclear weapons help them, not us, level the military playing field. America is fueling a new nuclear arms race. Trident warships are first-strike weapons of mass murder. Horrible idea, immoral jobs. We can (and must) do better. Mr. Larsen?

David C. Hall, M.D., lives on Lopez Island and works in Anacortes. Past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, he currently leads the state chapter's nuclear abolition task force.

# Judge denies climate activist’s necessity defense, restricting right to defend protest at trial

Mount Vernon, WA — A Washington state judge has ruled that Ken Ward, a climate activist who who helped to temporarily block the flow of tar sands oil from Canada to the United States in an October protest, cannot present the climate necessity defense at his trial scheduled to begin on May 22. The decision — which limits Mr. Ward's constitutional right to defend himself in court — bars Mr. Ward from from arguing to a jury that his actions were necessary, and prohibits him from calling expert witnesses to testify about the ongoing harms of climate change and the need for grassroots civil disobedience to impel policy change.

Mr. Ward, who has worked in the environmental movement for decades, faces charges of sabotage and burglary after admitting that he entered a Kinder Morgan pipeline facility near Anacortes, Washington and turned a valve to shut off the flow of tar sands oil from Canada. He acted in conjunction with other “Shut It Down” valve turners in Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota, who were responding to a call for action from the Standing Rock pipeline protest in North Dakota.

The controversial order by Judge Michael E. Rickert of the Skagit County District Court granted the State's request to block Mr. Ward's proposed evidence and arguments after its first, failed attempt to convict him in a criminal trial earlier this year. In February, a jury deadlocked on Mr. Ward's charges, allowing him to walk free. Judge Rickerts denied Mr. Ward's climate necessity defense prior to that trial as well, although Mr. Ward was able to tell the jury about the motivation for his actions.

The State decided to try Mr. Ward again. His is the first of five trials of the Shut It Down defendants anticipated to take place this summer.

The denial of the necessity defense represents a troubling restriction on the right to defend protest actions in court. In a lengthy motion to the court, Mr. Ward's defense team — which includes attorneys from the Civil Liberties Defense Center and the Climate Defense Project, as well as Seattle

attorney Ralph Hurvitz — provided ample evidence of the imminence of climate change and the need for immediate action to address it. Relying on centuries of legal precedent, the defense argued that Mr. Ward had the right to justify his act of civil disobedience, noting that a jury had already failed to convict Mr. Ward even when it was barred from hearing his full defense.

“The Constitution guarantees the right to a complete defense, and juries are supposed to decide whether or not a defendant's conduct was justified,” said Kelsey Skaggs, a staff attorney at the Climate Defense Project and a member of Mr. Ward's defense team. “It's disconcerting to see a judge impose his own opinion about the value of protest so as to limit these fundamental rights.”

Judge Rickert's ruling — which was delivered orally and without a written opinion — followed a court filing by the prosecution that criticized climate activists for trying to change the law and lambasted their attempts to use civil disobedience and courtroom activism to reform climate policy. The prosecution also cast doubt on the science of climate change, writing that “[s]ome would even argue that it is not a true threat to begin with, as there are clearly different sides to the issue.”

The effort to depict climate science as controversial is in tune with Trump Administration efforts to delegitimize years of consensus about the seriousness of global warming, and follows Judge Rickert's statement in a prior hearing that “there's tremendous controversy over the fact whether [climate change] even exists.”

“While presenting a necessity defense in court would enable Ken Ward to tell the full story of his act of conscience, this is not a setback,” said Marla Marcum, Director of the Climate Disobedience Center. “Ken's poise and determination in taking decisive action to avert climate cataclysm was the necessary thing to do, and is still the necessary thing to do. He will continue to inspire people across the country to do what's need-

ed in the face of government inaction.”

Mr. Ward will proceed to trial on May 22.

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# FIGHT FOR \$15

## Patty Murray signs on to Raise the Wage Act for a \$15/hour minimum wage

Washington, D.C. - Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), and Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) released the following statement May 25 after the introduction of the Raise the Wage Act, led by Ranking Member of the Education and Workforce Committee Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and CPC Member Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) in the House, and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and CPC Member Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in the Senate.

The Raise the Wage Act would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024. Last Congress, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, led by Rep. Pocan and Sen. Sanders, introduced the Pay Workers a Living Wage Act to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

“The federal minimum wage has been a stagnant \$7.25 for far too long,

forcing workers to juggle multiple jobs while barely making ends meet. For years, the CPC and progressive groups like Fight for \$15 and Good Jobs Nation have fought for workers' right to a living wage and have continued to show how low wages impact the daily lives of working families.”

“The Raise the Wage Act shows the Democratic Party is unified in committing itself to workers and addressing the economic hardships families are facing every day. While the rich get richer, working people have been stuck with stagnant wages that keep them in poverty. If this bill passed, it would not only lift millions out of poverty and increase the standard of living, but it would also begin to address wealth inequality in America. It's long past time to give working families a raise.”

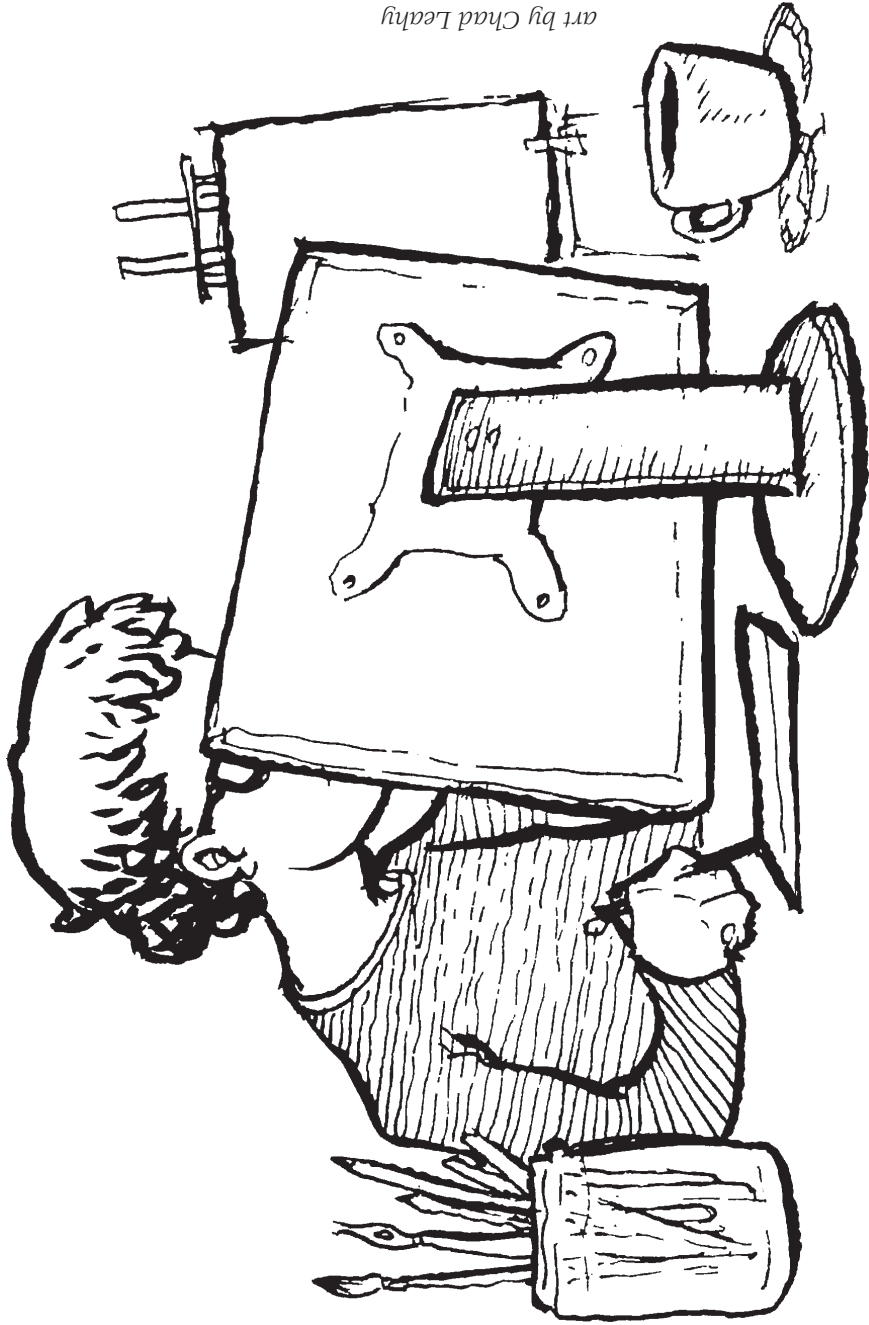






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[ \*We are a volunteer organization that prints in greyscale/black & white! ]



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