Electromagnetic war games over the Olympic Peninsula

John Lace

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

A military incursion into the rainforest

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

“An ideal environment”

The US Navy stated in its Informational Dominance Readmap 2013-2028 that it seeks to ‘empower integrated information in warfare by expanding the use of advanced electronic warfare.” The Navy’s desire to expand its advanced capabilities require training grounds that mirror battlegrounds overseas, and the dense forests of Olympic National Park provide an ideal environment for testing electromagnetic radiation weaponry. These war games are meant to train Growler pilots in the use of radar jamming technology in an environment that reflects real-world combat situations.

Bringing the wars home

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

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

Radiation threats to human health

Research into the adverse effects of electromagnetic radiation is ongoing, but a plethora of this research confirms the toll of those who live throughout potential training grounds, that electromagnetic radiation can be hazardous to human and animal health. Human exposure to electromagnetic radiation can “vary from no effect at all to death, and can cause diseases such as leukemia or bone, breast, and lung cancer.” The journal Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy released a study that concluded that “a reasonable suspicion of risk exists based on clear evidence of bioeffects at environmentally relevant levels, which, with prolonged exposures may reasonably be presumed to result in health impacts.”

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

Providence nursing staff stands up for themselves and their patients

Matt Crichton

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

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

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

What kinds of nursing have you done?
All my work has been in ICU (intensive care) and CCU (cardiac care). I’ve taken care of neuro patients with cranio- matics. I really like doing cardiac stuff—open heart surgery recovery. I’m a charge nurse at St. Pete’s in the CCU.

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

The best and worst things about being a nurse?
I like helping people in a tangible way. When somebody comes in with a condition that’s treatable, we can get them back on their feet so they can get on with their lives. That’s a wonderful feeling. There’s a comradery among health care provid-

Nurse, continued on page 13
Workers in Progress (WIP), a community newspaper based in Olympia WA, has been published monthly since 1990.

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

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

To this end, we seek well-researched, serious analyses of issues that matter to our communities and account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also important.

Informed opinion pieces are welcome when accompanied by an informed point is stated as fact when it is not. While the views expressed are held by the author alone, WIP typically will favor material that is clearly defined. NoDerivs—CC BY-NC-ND

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What does keep us safe?

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

Assumptions I’m barely aware of

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

Then this happened...

Go on but not forgotten

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

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

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

The air seems pretty clean too.

Be careful what you wish for

It’s government that has made rules for the gas companies, the construction companies, food producers and processors to follow to ensure our safety. Unions and OSHA hold employers to account for workers’ lives. It’s become normal to condemn regulation—’it cuts into profits’—but remember the two 737 MAX planes that crashed and killed 146 people? In recent years, the agency that oversees airlines has been mandated to reduce regulation and give more and more control over the industry back to aviation companies. We’re all for deregulation until the lack of regulation bites us, sometimes fatally.

More thoughts about what safety really derives from

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

Other articles prompted reflection as to ‘who is the ‘us’ in ‘what keeps us safe’?’ Obviously, the reply depends on who’s asking. What keeps the people in the article about immigrants in Washington safe is very basic: treatment to their feet in favor of sending $738 billion of our tax dollars to the Pentagon – $22 billion more than last year Space Force! More nukes! Endless war!

Speaking of landlords

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

No bake sales for the military!

All but 44 House members leaped to their feet in favor of sending $738 billion of our tax dollars to the Pentagon – $22 billion more than last year Space Force! More nukes! Endless war!
Our Revolution Thurston

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

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

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

On December 6, ORT joined Olympia Climate Strikers calling for action from local elected officials to address the climate crisis. The same day, national climate strike organizers endorsed Sanders, who attended a climate strike in Iowa. Sunrise Movement—the youth-led organization working to get a Green New Deal passed—gave Sanders the highest score of any presidential candidate for his climate crisis platform.

Sanders’ role in the Congressional Progressive Caucus is another reason for ORT’s endorsement. Sanders co-founded this, the second-largest caucus within the Democratic Party, in 1991 and remains the only presidential candidate who is a member. Sanders, aka “The Amendment King,” is known for his ability to work across the aisle to get legislation passed that addresses the needs of working and oppressed people.

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


April: Will convenience destroy us? Submit material as a 600-1000 word document attached to an email to olywip@gmail.com. For more details on how to submit go to www.olywip.org.

Ballots arrive in mailboxes next month

Changes in voting procedure for presidential primary

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

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Cover photo by Ashley Strauss
Art pages 6 and 7 by Lee Miller
A toxic past that threatens our future

The latest real estate scheme for Green Cove Basin

The Port of Olympia made early efforts to put a housing development at 2200 Cooper Pt Rd. in the Green Cove Basin. The site, known for generations as the burial ground for hazardous waste, is now the focus of private efforts by well-connected insiders to make development possible.

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

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

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

Pollution from stormwater runoff was a major concern.

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

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

Free dumping of toxics and trash

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

The Port of Olympia made early use of this unregulated site just 4 miles distant in 1949, when an earthquake damaged Port pier and pilings. Wood transported from the Port and other polluting businesses had been treated by a processor in processes that involved creosote, chromated copper arsenic (CCA), and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Each of these chemicals has toxic properties that threaten health and safety when not properly disposed of.

The City of Olympia has had dumped material at the site. Sundberg’s policy of “bring a dump load and take a truckload of soil or gravel” was well-known to locals. According to 2005 staff emails, the City was aware that Sundberg accepted materials from off-site and admitted that it too had dumped excavation material from the cross-town gas main at the quarry. Its reputation as a dumpsite continues to this day. Jim Elliott, a longtime resident of the area, worked for Sundberg in the 1950s driving trucks of fill from the Port. He informed the City in 2007 that the property had been filled many times over the years.

Continued illegal dumping in violation of state law

Dumping didn’t stop after Mahan acquired the property. Mahan dispersed fill threatened from excavations at his other housing developments. Neighbors report seeing 400 or more truckloads of fill arriving at the site, aerial photographs on Google Earth confirm the dumping.

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

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

Annexation did not fix the fact that the Green Cove property is unsuitable for development. Underdetermined amounts of toxic waste, unstable fill, stormwater flows, infiltration to a critical aquifer all pose dangers to homeowners in the environment, and our water supply. As noted in a recent letter from the Squaxin tribe, “the presence of contaminated soils underlying the development would ensure that the continued contamination of soil, water, wetlands and ground-water would be made permanent.”

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

Now City insiders step in to help

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

Centralia Square Antique Mall

Antiques • Restaurant • Hotel

Directions from Olympia South on Interstate 5 Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust
Open 7 days 10am–5pm
The extraordinary hero of the nearshore tidal lands

Sue Joerger

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

A submerged aquatic hero

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

A formidable multitasker

Eelgrass protects the coastline using its extensive root systems to prevent shoreline sediments from washing away during storms. Eelgrass mitigates climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and methane gases. This can help reduce ocean acidification and help oxygen levels and Dungeness crabs with shell production. Eelgrass provides habitat and shelter for many taxa, including plankton, forage fish like herring. It feeds birds like Pacific Brant. Eelgrass improves water quality by absorbing pollutants, and trapping nutrients. And, finally, eelgrass strengthens coastal ecosystems by supporting tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries and Dungeness crabs with shell production.

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Eelgrass rhizomes and leaf bases and eelgrass with herring spawn are attached to two notable delicacies.

Establishing protections for eelgrass

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

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

Scientists at the Puget Sound Partnership use eelgrass as one of 22 indicators of ecosystem health. Changes in the number of acres of eelgrass habitat are a metric of overall health of native eelgrass beds in Puget Sound. The target for recovery is a 20% increase relative to the 2000-2008 baseline by this year, 2020.

Threats to eelgrass remain

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

Japonica was listed as a protected species by the Department of Fish and Wildlife until 2011 when it was declared a Class C noxious weed by the State Noxious Weed Board. Japonica's dense root system can impede harvesting of manila clams in Willapa Bay. As a result of the noxious weed determination the Department of Ecology allows the herbicide 2,4-D to be sprayed on commercial manila clam beds farms to eradicate japonica. Herbicides are not currently sprayed on eelgrass beds in Puget Sound.

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

Neglect back home at the Twin Harbors

What about eelgrass in the Twin Harbors of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor? The DNR monitors eelgrass beds in Puget Sound, but not Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. The Puget Sound Partnership uses eelgrass as a vital sign for Puget Sound restoration, yet there is no restoration plan for the Twin Harbors, no vital signs and certainly no NERR to protect eelgrass meadows. In fact, it is even hard to know where eelgrass thrives since there have been no long-term monitoring studies to understand changes in this critical habitat. There is much at stake.

The Ports of Grays Harbor and Willapa have a significant commercial fishery and shellfish industry that depend upon vital eelgrass ecosystems for bottom fish, crabs, oysters, salmon and other commercial species.

There is significant tourism generated by shore bird festivals and visits to the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Without eelgrass, there will be no birds, no fisheries, no sustainable aquaculture.

The first step is noticing

On your next walk on the beach, look for eelgrass. Is it on the tide line or tidal flat. Can you see the tiny crabs? Small fish? Do you see why it is called a meadow? The first step to solving the challenge facing eelgrass is awareness. Do we know where eelgrass is and don't monitor it extensively, as in Puget Sound, how will we be able to predict and forecast the long-term impacts of this aquatic hero?

Sue Joerger is Policy Director of Twin Harbors Waterkeeper.

Unsafe by any measure

Cresote

Cresote has been used since the 1920's to preserve railroad ties and utility poles. It degrades into soil and contaminates groundwater, where it can take years to break down.

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is impregnated into timber and other wood as a preservative. Containing compounds of chromium, copper and arsenic, it has been banned for residential use in the US since 2001. The chemical compounds in CCA are toxic substances in existence, a carcinogen that degrades into soil and contaminates groundwater, where it can take years to break down.

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is impregnated into timber and other wood as a preservative. Containing compounds of chromium, copper and arsenic, it has been banned for residential use in the US since 2001. The

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

Pentachlorophenol

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

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

The insecticide DDT and herbicides 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T are ingredients of Agent Orange. They are toxic. 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T are ingredients of Agent Orange. They are toxic. The second of the two herbicides in Agent Orange is 2-4-5-T. It was not produced until 1971, but it was not restricted until 1973. The second of the two herbicides in Agent Orange is 2-4-5-T. It was not produced until 1971, but it was not restricted until 1973.

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The second of the two herbicides in Agent Orange is 2-4-5-T. It was not produced until 1971, but it was not restricted until 1973.
The City of Olympia unanimously Trump and his Justice Department 2016. Last year, the State of Wash- munities, with heightened anxiety about people disappearing and families being separated. Clearly, a key purpose of cruel treatment is to discourage others from coming to the US and to encourage self- deportation. Even immigrants with DACA (Deferred Action for Child- migrants and restricting state and local migration & Customs Enforcement fees. These policies create a climate of fear in immigrant communities, with heightened anxiety about people disappearing and families being separated. Clearly, a key purpose of cruel treatment is to discourage others from coming to the US and to encourage self-deportation. Even immigrants with DACA (Deferred Action for Children) are threatened with loss of that status.

Legislative push-back against harassment, arrest and deportation State Senator, Washington, Oregon and California and some major cities are passing legislation or creating policies that will prevent local government cooperation (to the extent legally possible) with im- migrants, many of whom play vital roles in local and statewide econo- mies. Some communities have become official Sanctuary Cities, adopting policies to restrict local police from collaborating with ICE. The City of Olympia unanimously passed a resolution to become a Sanctuary City on December 13, 2018. Last year, the State of Wash- ington and passed and signed into law the Keep Washington Working Act, affirming the dignity and econom- ic value of Washington State im- migrants and restricting state and local police from providing assistance to ICE.

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

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

The presence of ICE, officials at courthouses around the west coast appears to be increasing, which is threatening for immigrants who ap- pear as witnesses, crime victims or defendants. In June of 2019, an im- migrants was arrested by ICE plain clothes officers on Thurston County Courthouse grounds and was driven off in an unmarked van. District Court Judge Brett Buckley com- mented at a County hearing on the arrest that it had the appearance of a kidnapping and that this should not happen in this country.

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

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

New bills aimed at securing immigrant rights

Wednesday, February 5 is immi- grant Rights Advocacy Day (see insert next month). At the Washington State Capitol in Olympia. The pub- lic is invited to learn more about proposed legislation, to be en- couraged to meet with congressio- nal leaders after the event. Some highlights of legislation being proposed include:

• Courts open to all, with restrict- ed ICE/CBP access to courthouses: Prohibit prosecutors, judges and court staff from sharing infor- mation with ICE/CBP.
• Require courts to collect data about when and why ICE/CBP agents will be at the courthouse. Require ICE/CBP warrants for civil ICE/CBP arrests on court- house grounds.
• Stop expansion of detention centers in the state, close the Tacoma Detention Center.
• Make Any High Level ICE Med- icaid available to undocumented immi- grants up to age 26. Other good immigrant bills that are likely to be reintroduced include:
  • Workplace Audit Protections similar to a California bill that requires employers to provide some protections, such as notification before an ICE audit occurs or if an employee’s name is flagged.
  • Require unemployment benefits for undocumented workers, or at least access to family emer- gency funds especially during deportation hearings.
  • Allow undocumented youth in college to work on campus.
  • Funds for immigrant domestic violence victims to have access to food and medical assistance.
A version of this bill passed the Senate unanimously last year, but needed least convincing to meet certain constitutional stan- dards.

Solidarity groups help meet immediate needs of immi- grants

Legislative advocacy matters, of course, but also the daily efforts of those who creatively and force- fully challenge xenophobic author- ities, ensure people safety and creatively forge ways to involve people from a range of back- grounds and experiences. Washing- ton Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) is a vital force, involving around 150 organizations committed to protecting immigrants and to strengthening our communities in a number of interconnecting ways. WAISN, in alliance with other orga- nizations, has just launched a pro- gram to support unaccompanied immigrant youth by advocating for their release from detention, find- ing safe housing, and supporting youth who are transitioning out of custodial conditions.

WAISN’s Fair Fight Bond Funds project provides urgently needed funding. The Rapid Response and Vanguards project is focused and dedicated to providing material support, incident tracking and verifying immigrant rights, and crisis groups with- out. The effort to "lift a case in the public sphere" involves careful, creative ways of telling the stories that too often are ignored or silenced.

WAISN’s movement-building momentum opens up space for organizations that have very focused purposes such as Advocates for Immigrants in Detention NW (AID Northwest), which maintains a steadfast daily presence at the gates of the Tacoma detention cen- ter; providing transport, housing, material support, and emotional sustenance to just-released folks. Olympia’s Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance also offers important accompaniment services, like workshops at schools on the needs of students and their families, strategizing to keep Olympia a Sanctuary community by learning about and challenging law enforcement practices, fund- raising, and working with CIELO, a vital educa- tional support for Olympia area immigrants.

Meeting shifting policies with renewed resolve

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

Working to release nine detainees in an ICE raid in an isolated, vul- nerable community such as Basin City, is clearly connected in mean- ingful ways to the at- the-gates approach of AIDSNW in Tacoma. WAISN works to teach each other in our varied communities, with the different opportunities, differ- ent roles that separate rural/urban places across the Cascade divide.

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

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

Bob Zeigler retired as a state biologist and has been active in peace, justice and immigrant rights issues in Olympia since 1976.

Lin Nelson is a retired Evergreen State College faculty member.

A message to our elected officials

Immigrants are welcome here

Bob Zeigler and Lin Nelson
US corporations have staked out Central America for fruit and coffee growing, metal mining and logging, and water for beverage processing.

Central American migrant families move north on a trail of tears

H. Patricia Hynes

There were many trails of tears all over North America of indigenous peoples forcibly removed by European invaders. Those who are making their way up from the southern hemisphere are a continuation of the Trail of Tears—Joy Harjo, An American Sunrise Prologue, xv.

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

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network and Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance* presents

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

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

For more information go to wason.org or olym- pia-sanctuary@gmail.com

Television coverage of immigrant rights advocacy will appear on Parallax Perspectives, local cable access program on channel 22, can be seen in January on Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 8:00 pm. Online coverage of immigrant advocacy and public policy is available at www.parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs.

El Salvador

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

El Salvador’s new president, Nayib Bukele, is giving the US Embassy a substantial role in the modern US presence in El Salvador. Bukele’s take over in 2019 is based on his support for the US defense sector and on his promise to crack down on organized crime. Bukele is backed by business elites, the military and drug traffickers.

One in ten Guatemalans is affected by hunger due to drought-related crop failures in 2018. Widespread deforestation in the last 40 years has resulted in floods, landslides and erosion of peasant farmland. Eighty percent of the coffee crop is grown in large corporate operations and in some regions, causing low-wage workers to lose their jobs.

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

The US response to economically desperate brown-skinned migrants at our southern border is multi-pronged: demonize them in the media, punish them by separating families, and discourage them by forcing long waits in Mexico while determining refugee status. Most recently Trump has cut humanitarian aid to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras while funding and training their border patrol police and military to Militarize their border and deport immigrants creating poverty by restricting fishing for locals.

The US rejects responsibility and repudiates migrants

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

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

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

The arc of expansion in the Pacific NW

The Winter 2018-19 program focused on the place-making processes inherent in each stage of expansion, and on the imprints they have left on the human and physical landscape. It examined imperial places that have been shaped by each era of expansion, and in turn have shaped each era.

The program covered the continuous historical arc of expansion, from the Indian frontier wars to colonialism in the Pacific and Caribbean, to occupations in Middle East “tribal regions.”

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

Making the interconnections

The program aimed to interconnect local and global scales, foreign and domestic policies, and past histories and present-day legacies.

It examined the lasting imprints of imperial control on real local places, in particular the network of US military bases and counter-insurgency campaigns around the world.

A placemaking approach to hierarchies

The program made a geographical contribution to the study of American Empire by examining the making and remaking of imperial places, and using place-based approaches to examine hierarchies of race, nationality, class, and gender. Imperial places also offer stories of cooperation and resilience, healing, and hope. The class heard from speakers about Iraq, Central America, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam (Guam), and Hawaii.

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

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

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

Your guide to Basewatch

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) (formerly Fort Lewis & McChord Air Force Base)

The Displacement of the Nisqually Tribe (Katie Dotson)

Fort Lewis Testing and Training (Donald Evans)

Fort Lewis and the Vietnam Era (Lincoln Koester)

Fort Lewis and the Wars in Iraq (Clayton Roessle)

Fort Lewis / JBLM’s Ground Forces in Afghanistan (Afghanistan Team)

Social Crises around JBLM (Breanna Stroble)

Civilian Dissent around Fort Lewis during the Iraq War (Carly Martin)

Military Dissent at Fort Lewis during the Iraq War (Zoltán Grossman)

Noise Pollution and HIMARS at JBLM (Jamie Klas)

Environmental Protection at JBLM (Zoltán Grossman)

The Public Face of JBLM (Eric Meyer)

Mapping Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Jade Francis)

Naval Base Kitsap (NBK)

Mapping Naval Base Kitsap (Jannica McCarty)

Trident Nuclear Submarines: Defense or Doomday? (Henry Rest)

Mapping the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific at Bangor (Brennan Stevenson)

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton (Harry Halsted)

Kitsap County: Military Dependenc y & Resistance (Conner Lyons)

Naval Station Everett (Seth Wright)

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) (formerly Fort Lewis & McChord Air Force Base)

History of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (Erik Matsen)

Water Contamination on Whidbey Island (Josh Miller)

Noise Issues and Growler Flight Expansion (Shonie Faguo)

Mapping Whidbey Island’s Noise & Accident Potential Zones (Ari Johnson)

Electromagnetic War Games over the Olympic Peninsula (John Lace)

Mapping the Olympic Peninsula Training Area (Kevin Givens)

Go to www.olywip.org for a version of this introduction with live links to the website.

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

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

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War games

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

Children and the world’s loudest jets

The noise pollution produced during this type of training has a better documented history of harming local populations. Growler jets are the loudest in the world, and a great deal of research details the negative health effects of jet noise on exposed populations. Higher rates of hypertension and heart attacks have been reported among those exposed to high levels of aircraft noise. Studies have linked high levels of noise with developmental issues among children. The adverse effects on children exposed to chronic noise exposure include “elevations in resting blood pressure, attention deficits…deficits in reading…diminished task motivation, poorer memory when high information processing demands are present, and deficits in infant cognitive development.”

Stress and disruption for wildlife

Noise pollution produced by Growlers could also negatively affect local wildlife. Chronic noise intrusions of young, increased risk of abandonment of young, habitat avoidance, diminished energy levels, and decreased life spans of subjected species.

Inroads into a precious public sphere

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

Their excuse was “it will keep us safe”

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

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

Ted Rall on Common Dreams

Rejecting pollution and degradation

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

A military overreach to be ignored at our peril

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

Rejecting pollution and degradation

The online version of this article with all citations and sources is at www.olywip.org

More information on US military activity in the PNW can be found at https://sites.evergreen.edu/basewatch/

Trying not to be a statistic when your days are numbered

Five disgusting portable toilets rest on my homeless mitigation ground, placed a quarter of a mile away from the 4th Ave party scene just to keep us out of sight.

People complain as they persist in hating the residents of my 125 tents, it’s a self-defeating stance in a town quickly inflating upwards of $1,250 rents.

One hundred twenty-five tents, 200 human beings, and not one shower to be found, located between State and Franklin as a constant reminder of our situation.

It’s a self-defeating stance in a town quickly inflating upwards of $1,250 rents.

But even a well-pitched plea for a fourth of the local average monthly income is not very rousing, located between State and Franklin as a constant reminder of our situation.

Inroads into a precious public sphere

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Whidbey-based EA-18G Growler Jets make 2,300 Flights over Olympic Park each year, coming and going from two Olympic Military Operations Areas. The Boeing Corporation will produce more of the jets to add to the existing fleet of 82 at Whidbey. The plan is for 5,000 flights each year, incomplete, and the Navy has refused to follow proper protocol when it comes to releasing public notices. These tactics of the military have not been well received by many Peninsula residents. Lina Sutton, a retired teacher in Port Townsend, said in an interview with Truthout that “most of the people who live here do so because we are free of this kind of militarism. And people who visit here, come here for the natural beauty and environment, and if we allow this place to be turned into a war-gaming area, it is reprehensible.”

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

Rejecting pollution and degradation

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John Luce is a former Evergreen student, writer, and conformist living in Olympia. The online version of this article with all citations and sources is at www.olywip.org

More information on US military activity in the PNW can be found at https://sites.evergreen.edu/basewatch/
Plating a new world in the shell of the old

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

We assert further the right of people to make this vision a reality. Through our working groups and partner organizations, like Vangardeners and Really Free Market, we advance strategies based on the principles of collective solidarity, direct action, and mutual aid.

The Vangardeners are a non-hierarchical collective that organizes around ecological justice, guerrilla gardening, and food sovereignty. Food sovereignty has been an element of many revolutions, including in Mexico, (tierra y libertad—land and liberty), Cuba, Nicaragua and others. These movements inspired Vangardeners’ formation, in tandem with the belief that food, being necessary for survival, should be a human right. The conditions under which we acquire this necessity shouldn’t be determined by corporations who exploit farmers and land.

Vangardeners launched in June 2019. Summer and fall were spent building relationships with veterans about their experiences and what they needed to feel as if a secret had been hidden from them. We learned that this idea needed to be shared with the greater community.

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

A VAF specialist visits with clients at the county jail every Monday and Friday. They often advise clients about the process of the court visit with a friend who was in the program for DUI and he expressed intense gratitude for the program, which helped him get back on his feet, and provided support from a volunteer who became quite successful at it.

The graduate visited the judge after session ended and could tell the bond made through the program was everlasting for both of them.

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

Veterns qualify for the program if they are homeless or within one month of becoming homeless. Very emotional journey for some of the folks. I witnessed a graduate of the court visit with a friend who was in the program for DUI and he expressed intense gratitude for the program, which helped him get back on his feet, and provided support from a volunteer who became quite successful at it.

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VAF was in the program for DUI and he expressed intense gratitude for the program, which helped him get back on his feet, and provided support from a volunteer who became quite successful at it.

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Veterans’ Hub

From page 1

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

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

At Providence, they are embracing veterans without judgment. The Veterans’ Hub was started by Clayton McCrary, younger brother of TV producer, Clay McCrary.

Clayton McCrary is a student veteran in the University of Washington’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. He is studying psychology and art therapy as alternatives to clinical settings. This program is being offered at Providence St. Peter Hospital in conjunction with the Student Veterans Association.

Evidence Based Practices

After researching several programs for veteran recovery (references available at olywip.org), I have found that these programs provide access to services beyond the walls of a clinic. Veterans need enough stability to navigate the transition, who have a sudden mishap with a bill, face eviction, or have a mental health concern.

The baseline for qualifying is low income, which has increased since the last report.
The Gonis of death returned to Bolivia, hand in hand with the OAS

Rafael Quintero López

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

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

For example, In 1989, Sánchez de Lozada was elected President of the country, although he only obtained 363,113 votes. That’s just 5.4% of the population! Lozada did not speak any of the 36 native languages in which the Bolivians communicate, and since he spoke Spanish with a foreign accent, they called him “GONI the gringo.” His nickname was apt also because he was the deliveryman of US policy to Bolivia, the fact that 45% of the vote and had an advantage of more than 10% compared to the next contender. He was an illegitimate proclaimed President.

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

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

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

A Bolivia volvieron los Gonis de la muerte, de la mano de la OEA.

Rafael Quintero López

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

Para ilustrar lo dicho, hasta un ejemplo. En 1989, fue declarado electo Presidente del país Sánchez de Lozada, aunque solo obtuvo 363,113 votos. Entonces, el 5.4% de la población! Ese señor no hablaba ninguno de los 36 idiomas originarios con los que se comunican los bolivianos, y como hablaba mal el castellano con acento extranjero, lo llamaban “GONI el gringo”. La represión fue brutal y hubo muchos muertos y heridos, hasta que este huyó a EEUU, y Carlos Mesa, posteriormente tuvo que renunciar, al carecer de legitimidad para gobernar a Bolivia, un organismo creado por EEUU para tratar de esconder sus injerencias en nuestra América Latina y el Caribe, ciudadano de un Estado de nacionalidad extranjera.

En ese “Departamento de Colonias” que es la OEA, se pretenden entonces las alianzas geopolíticas con intereses económicos de fraude por parte de Morales que obtuvo el 21% de los votos, mientras el binomio de Mesa, compuesto por Sánchez de Lozada y Carlos de Mesa Gisbert, obtuvo 22%, declarándose ganadores al ser el voto anulado.

Así, con la diferencia del 1% fueron encumbrados a la presidencia de la república. Heicieron un gobierno neoliberal y quisieron entregar el agua y el gas bolivianos a empresas extranjeras. Al gas querían enviarlo a California, construyendo un puerto gasífero en Chile, territorio extranjero. El pueblo se levantó contra “Goni”. La represión fue brutal y hubo muchos muertos y heridos, hasta que este huyó a EEUU, y Carlos Mesa, posteriormente tuvo que renunciar, al carecer de legitimidad para gobernar a Bolivia, un organismo creado por EEUU para tratar de esconder sus injerencias en nuestra América Latina y el Caribe, ciudadano de un Estado de nacionalidad extranjera.

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

Así, se dictaminó que, para ser electo presidente de Bolivia, se debía conseguir el 50% más un voto, en una Primera Vuelta, o en su defecto, construyendo el 45% de la votación válida, y exhibiendo una diferencia de, al menos, 10% con quien le siga en votación al ganador. En caso contrario se debía hacer una Segunda Vuelta. Evo Morales ganó 45% de la votación en 2005 y con más del 50% en la Primera Vuelta. En 2019, obtuvo el 48% de la votación y tuvo una ventaja de más del 90% respecto a su contendor. Fue legítimamente proclamado Presidente.

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

Sin embargo, se interpuso a ese proyecto de dignidad, un golpe de Estado, y, a pesar de estar apoyado por EEUU y sus aliados mundiales. Y de la mano de la OEA, quisieron imponer a los “Gonis de la muerte” Estoy seguro que no pasarán.

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

State of the Community Hotel R, Jan. 8, 11:30 – 1. Find out what local movers and shakers (officials from Thurston County, Tumwater, Yelm, Lacey and Olympia) say when they’re talking to one another in public. $15 for non-members of the Chamber.

Pipe Winter Formal Benefit Jan. 9, 7:00 pm. DJ Emile with comedians Chocolate the Entertainer and Khadijah Hassan. Comedy talent at 7:30. https://www.facebook.com/events/590855314974696/

Brave in the attempt Jan. 10, 7:30 – 9 pm. Traditions, 300 5th Avenue, SW. Playground Theater presents stories of surviving. $7-$12 at the door.

Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors has announced the seat formerly held by Richard Markamyer is up for a permanent election. Nominated conservationists, David Iyall of the Nisqually People, is running for the seat. Voting is Tuesday, January 14, 10 am – 8 pm at the TCD offices, 29.18 Ferguson St. SW, Suite A, Tumwater, WA 98512.

Thurston Conservation District Election Jan. 14, 10-8 pm. Vote for a new board supervisor. See Spotlight for details of how to vote.

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

Classic movies with a message Jan. 26, 6:30 pm, OUUU, 2315 Division St. NW. Check the Olympia Unitarian website for the specific film. Free.

Nominations Sought for 2020 Peacemaker Award The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County (DRC) is seeking nominations for the 2020 Evan Ferber Peacemaker Leadership Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in promoting peaceful dispute resolution and civility. The DRC welcomes and encourages members of the community to submit nominations for this award. Established in honor of Founding Executive Director Evan Ferber, the award will be presented at The Toast, the DRC’s annual fundraiser, on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Deadline for nominations: February 21st. The nomination form is available at www.Media4 Thurston.org. For more information, call 360/956-1155 or e-mail info@media4thurston.org.

February 5th to advocate for pro-immigrant policies to support ALL Washington residents. Last year, with the passage of Keep Washington Working, we got to see all the power we have when we come together. The proposed bills and conversations with elected officials are essential to our organizing in 2020. The day’s schedule will include: Welcome & Orientation, Advocacy Training, Community Rally, Wrap-up and Debriefing.

To participate, sign up here. More information at ywcaofolympia.org or contact the Interultural Foundations team at If@ywcaofolympia.org or 360-352-0593.

Homeless Housing Hub meets Jan 20, 12-30-1:30, 705 4th Avenue, Comprise of several groups working on housing and homeless issues. Thurs and at Asset Building Coalition.

Immigration Engagement with your Union Jan. 29, 5-7 pm – noon. Washington State Labor Council, 906 Columbia. Unions offer a unique opportunity to work with fellow workers to shift the focus of economic policy. Workshop with union members and allies.

From forest commons to carbon commodities Jan 28, 6:30-8:30. A talk on Lessons from REDD+ in Ne- pal, by Shangria Joshi, Member of Ev- ergreen Futures. https://www.facebook.com/events/478492986946787/
What keeps us safe?

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

Free, take one! January 2020 ¡Gratis, toma uno!

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

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

One trillion = 1,000 billion in US accounting dollars

What does $21 trillion buy?

$11 trillion, roughly HALF the missing Pentagon money