Judy Bardin

What is the "Missing Middle"?

The City’s “Missing Middle” (MM) plan envisions one of the biggest land-use changes ever proposed in Olympia. Its stated goal is to increase housing variety and supply and, therefore, affordability. Will that be the result?

There are 43 provisions in the plan and it is complex. It is also being implemented very quickly. After a City Council charter and a behind-the-scenes workgroup process, it was formally introduced in November, 2017. It’s scheduled to shoot through the Planning Commission to the City Council for approval in March, 2018. It will cause a virtual up-zone of a quarter of Olympia’s single-family neighborhoods by allowing a greater intensity of use.

The MM covers ten different types of housing, ranging from small units such as tiny houses and accessory dwelling units (ADUs)—currently allowed in single-family neighborhoods—to multi-unit structures such as courtyard apartments (up to 12 units) and tri- and fourplexes that are not currently allowed in these neighborhoods (except on a limited basis).

The MM plan, these aforementioned multi-unit structures will be allowed in neighborhoods zoned single-family (now 4-8 and 6-12 units/acre) if they are within 600 feet on both sides of a bus route; within 600 feet of commercial areas; and in all R6-12 zones, which includes much of Northeast Olympia and parts of West and Southeast Olympia. Also newly proposed for R6-12 zones are single room occupancies (SRO’s)—otherwise known as rooming houses. To put these distances into perspective: 600 feet is about two blocks. In addition to our busiest streets, buses run down streets such as Decatur, Rogers, Bowman and Division on the Westside; Miller, 26th, Friendly Grove, Bethel, Pugent and Pine in the Northeast; and Boulevard, North, 18th, 22nd, and Eastside, in the Southeast.

Beyond multi-unit structures, a number of other mechanisms are proposed to increase intensity of use. Some include: allowing a 50% density bonus to increase intensity; requiring a 50% density bonus to meet density goals for Downtown, Mall. These nodes are envisioned as walkable near transit, and close to services such as grocery stores. The City is on track to meet density goals for Downtown, but has largely ignored the other two nodes which allow 25 units per acre. Given these realities, it’s important to ask ourselves, what’s really going on here? What’s the rush to infill old neighborhoods, and pre-empt neighborhood planning?

The MM plan also appears to supplant a city commitment to work with the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CNA) and help people develop sub-area plans to shape their neighborhoods. At a January Planning Commission meeting, CNA members expressed concerns about the MM and urged the Commission to slow down the process, emphasizing that most community members do not know about or do not understand this large-scale proposal.

Given these realities, it’s important to ask ourselves, what’s really going on here? What’s the rush to infill old neighborhoods?

Olympia’s close-in neighborhoods affected by the plan are largely built out and contain modest homes, many of them rentals. To build multi-unit structures, more than one lot would usually be needed, thus leading to tear-downs of existing homes. The first houses to go are the less expensive ones, the low hanging fruit. Beyond that, the economics of financing a property, tearing down a house, and building anew means that the new units will be expensive—eventually gentrifying a neighborhood and forcing lower income folks out. Additionally, there are environmental concerns such as loss of green space, more polluting storm water run-off, and excessive demand on existing sewers, roads and schools.

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Planning staff admit that Olympia has more than enough unused buildable land for its future population needs. Additionally, the city’s Comprehensive Plan designates three high density neighborhoods (“nodes”) for development: 1) Downtown, 2) by the Martin-Pacific Lilly triangle, and 3) around Capital Mall. These nodes are envisioned as being walkable, near transit, and close to services such as grocery stores. The City is on track to meet density goals for Downtown, but has largely ignored the other two nodes which allow 25 units per acre. Given these realities, it’s important to ask ourselves, what’s really going on here? What’s the rush to infill old neighborhoods?

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Puyallup Water Warriors & Redefine Tacoma

JAN 26, 2018 — On Tuesday, January 23, Northwest Tribes gathered at the Washington State Capitol for American Indian Lobby Day. A Puyallup Tribal elder prayed over your signatures and messages before they were delivered to Governor Inslee’s office.

Afterwards we gathered in the Rotunda for ceremony, drumming, and prayer. Standing Rock Rosebud Camp elders honored the Water Warriors with the gift of a Mini Wiconi tipi from Standing Rock. It was a powerful and beautiful day. On Wednesday the 24th we awoke to wonderful news. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) ordered a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to be prepared before they will review PSE’s permit for the proposed PSE LNG facility. The SEIS will analyze the project’s impact on air quality and greenhouse gases (GHG). The SEIS has to address emission impacts upstream and downstream of the facility throughout the entire fuel life cycle. This includes GHG impacts from fracking for the gas that will feed the facility, leaks along the pipeline, emissions and flares at the facility, leaks during fueling and transport, and finally emissions from burning. The Puyallup Tribe issued a press release repeating their request for an immediate Stop Work Order on the LNG facility. Go to Stand with the Puyallup Tribe at Change.org to see the petition.

Prayers, unity, and a small victory!

Puyallup Water Warriors & Redefine Tacoma
The Works in Progress mission and guidelines

Our purpose

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

Guidelines for writing for WIP

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media. To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experience or reflections by local authors. Included opinion pieces are also welcome. The published articles are accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We are also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that project messages of local, national, and international significance.

Submission deadlines:

- Submit work to olywip@gmail.com. Please use "Submission" in the subject line.
- Include an email address for communication with the author.
- Include an email address for contacting you if we wish to publish it or not. Articles that relate to the theme of the issue are preferred, but other topics are also welcome, as usual. 
- Artwork and photos can be sent as a PDF or a JPG.
- Word processor and mailer to the author.
- Word Processor:

Submission Deadline Next Issue

Sunday, Feb 18

The Water Protectors were right!

The Water Protectors were right! Their success on the Water Protectors protesting the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) crossing through Missouri River, and predicting that the pipeline would leak and eventually contaminate essential water resources. Nevertheless, the pipeline owners got the go-ahead from Donald Trump and began operating in June 2017. DAPL has leaked at least five times since then. The biggest was a 168-gallon leak near Dakota Access Pipeline's end point in Emporia, Illinois, on April 23. According to federal regulations, no wildlife was involved, although soil was contaminated. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) ordered the pipeline stopped at least three times in 2017. So far, the pipeline has been shut down for a significant amount of time. It has been shut down for a significant amount of time.

The Pursuit of Happiness

The Pursuit of Happiness. This is a right enshrined in our Constitution. We encourage a participatory democracy that seeks to redress the wrongs of our society and the exclusionary practices that seek to silence the victims of injustice. Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, social, and environmental realms and across races and genders. We do this in part by providing a voice for those most affected by these systems of inequity and the exclusionary practices that seek to silence the victims of injustice and the powerless.

Theme for March: The Pursuit of Happiness

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Theme for March: The Pursuit of Happiness

Our theme this month was "work." Our project is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media. To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experience or reflections by local authors. We also consider poetry, graphics, cartoons, and articles that challenge conventional journalism.

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“No one and nothing can be great unless it costs you something”

Viola Davis

In the word of my fellow American, Malcolm X. I’m gonna make it plain. In 1877, America, the greatest country, put in place laws called the Jim Crow laws. And the Jim Crow laws restricted the rights of quad- drons, octorons, blacks. Hispanics, Indians, Malays. Restricted medical, restricted relationships, restricted education, restricted life. It told us we were less than, and it came on the heels of 35 individuals, great Americans, writing the greatest docu- ment, called the Constitution of the United States, saying, “We the people.”

Now, the reason why those destruc- tive laws came into place I think can be greatly described by Martin Luther King [Sr.]. And what he said about time is, he said, I’m not ready to wait 100 to 200 years for things to change. That I think actually time is neutral. That it can either be used constructively or destructively. That human prog- ress rarely rolls on inevitability. It is through human dedication and effort that we move forward. And that when we don’t work, what happens is that time actually becomes an ally to the primitive forces of social stagnation, and the guardians of the status quo are in their oxygen tanks keeping the old order alive.

And so that time needs to be helped, by every single moment, doing right. The reason why Jim Crow laws were in place, that stifled my rights and your right, is because we fell asleep. We fell asleep when we’re mov- ing ahead and we don’t look to the left and right and see we’re not including people in this move ahead. Be- cause really, at the end of the day, we only move forward when it doesn’t cost us anything. But I’m hear to tell you that none and nothing can be great unless it costs you something.

One out of every five women will be sexually assaulted and raped before she reaches the age of 18. One out of six boys. If you are a woman of color and you are raped before you reach the age of 18, then you are 66 percent more likely to be sexually assaulted again. Seventy percent of girls who are sex-trafficked are girls of color. They are coming out of the foster-care sys- tem, they are coming out of poverty. It is a billion-dollar industry. When they go into the sex-trafficking business — and they call it a business, trust me — more than likely, they are gang raped.

I am speaking today not just for the “Me Too’s” because, I was a “Me Too,” but when I raise my hand, I am aware of all the women who are still in si- lence. The women who are faceless. The women who don’t have the mon- ey and don’t have the constitution and who don’t have the confidence and who don’t have the images in our media that gives them a sense of self- worth enough to break their silence that’s rooted in the shame of assault. That’s written on the Statute of Lib- erty is. Come you tireless, poor, yearning to breathe free. To breathe free. Every single day, your job as an American citizen is not just to fight for your rights. It’s to fight for the right of every individual that is taking a breath, whose heart is pumping and breathing on this earth. And like the originators of the “Me Too’s,” the Fannie Lou Hamers, the Scoey Taylors, who in 1944 was gang-raped by six white men and she spoke up. Rosa Parks fought for her rights. She was silenced. To the Tarana Burkes, to the originators, to the first women to speak up. It cost them some- thing. Nothing and no one can be great without a cost. Listen, I am always introduced as an award-winning actor. But my testi- mony is one of poverty. My testimo- ny is one of being sexually assaulted and very much seeing a childhood that was robbed from me. And I know that every single day, when I think of that, I know that the trauma of those events are still with me today. And that’s what drives me to the voting booth. That’s what allows me to listen to the women who are still in silence. That’s what allows me to even become a citizen on this planet, is the fact that we are here to connect. That we are as 324 million people living on this earth, to know that every day, we breathe and we live. That we got to bring up everyone with us.

I stand in solidarity of all women who raise their hands because I know that it was not easy. And my hope for the future—my hope, I do hope—is that we never go back. That it’s not just about clapping your hands and screaming and shouting every time someone says something that sounds good. It’s about keeping it rolling once you go home.

I was there marching for equality for women, to stand with those who are against sexual harassment on the job and in society at large. I marched also to demonstrate my allegiance to every minimum wage earner, to every biracial person, whomever they be—woman, man, sexual orientation, political party and world view, and marched for universal healthcare and a living wage and 30-hour work week and 3 months off for a vacation and to have some fun in life too, and most importantly, keeping church separate from state by standing in the way of this country becoming a theocracy.

—Darrell Barker
Indigenous occupation of state capitol ends after days of protest and ceremony

By Janine Gates
Little Hollywood

Ed. Note: This is an edited version of a story written January 11, 2018 by Janine Gates and published in her blog, Little Hollywood. The occupation ended at about 4 a.m. on Thursday, January 11 when law enforcement officers arrived and gave the women two minutes to leave. State workers dismantled the tarpee and told the occupiers that it could be retrieved later that week.

Drumming, singing, prayer and ceremony, along with the burning of sage and cedar, continued on Wednesday, January 10th as several indigenous women occupied the land and spent nights in a tarpee on the Washington State Capitol Campus.

Robert Satiacum, Puyallup, and others spoke with representatives of the government and showed them a copy of the Medicine Creek Treaty.

Eva Ingram, Santee Sioux Niibhra Nebraska, of Seattle had been sleeping in the tarpee. She runs her own company, Independent Two Spirit Media, and explained to Little Hollywood why she was there.

“We are here so we can pray over this land— as indigenous people we look to our women as life givers and life bringers. We as women teach our young ones the ways that we should live, and bring them up that this land is for you, and you are to respect it, the four-legged, the two-legged...and that’s the power that the life bringers hold. It’s more power than any male will ever understand. So that’s something that we needed here. There’s never been in history seven women to occupy a tarpee or teepee or any kind of structure in front of a Capitol Building in the world. No matter what happens, we made history,” she said.

Ingram and supporters say 2018 is the time for action against the climate crisis.

The occupation was also to bring awareness of the Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant being constructed by Puget Sound Energy at the Port of Tacoma on Puyallup Tribal land. The plant, which will serve natural gas customers and maritime transportation needs, does not yet have all the proper permits. Authorities say the permits will continue to be obtained until it is scheduled to open in 2019.

Dakota Case, Puyallup, explained how the LNG will further threaten the Puylup tribal way of life.

“We live there, right at the mouth of the river. The Tacoma City Council allowed PSE to do their own environmental impact statement and the site is on top of a 70 acre solvent plume—a Superfund site—that’s over an aquifer...I don’t know how they got the dirt samples clean enough to present them...it’s on top of a leaking arsenic site and they’re trying to figure out how to clean it up. How they got past the four-legged, the two-legged...and that’s the power that the life bringers and life givers hold. It’s more power than any male will ever understand.

“Enough is enough—we’re protecting the indigenous occupation, and the indigenous occupation of state capitol. We live there, right at the mouth of the river. The Tacoma City Council allowed PSE to do their own environmental impact statement and the site is on top of a 70 acre solvent plume—a Superfund site—that’s over an aquifer...I don’t know how they got the dirt samples clean enough to present them...it’s on top of a leaking arsenic site and they’re trying to figure out how to clean it up. How they got past the four-legged, the two-legged...and that’s the power that the life bringers and life givers hold. It’s more power than any male will ever understand.

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“Our elders are coming forward and saying it’s a salmon estuary, that’s stated in the land claim settlement. The pH balance is already off in our water – our fish are having a hard time accumulating at the mouth of the river before they head up stream. They’re not able to spawn so we have to gut them to get the eggs out of there and fertilize the river manually instead of them letting them do it the natural way...Only twenty five percent of our salmon run is original, the rest is imported. The fish farms and the LNG are a threat to us so we’re trying to set up a government to government to negotiate.

“Enough is enough—we’re protecting our part of the Salish Sea...”

As our interview concluded in the still of night, the rhythmic sound of rain and indigenous drumming and singing got louder.

Case encouraged Governor Jay Inslee to come out from his office or the nearby Governor’s Mansion to talk with them, hoping the drumming and singing was loud enough for him to hear.

For more photos and stories about the indigenous occupation, and a previous interview with Janene Hampton, go to Little Hollywood, www.janinealittlehollywood.blogspot.com

The first day of the Washington State Legislature’s 60 day session in Olympia on January 8 began with a climate justice rally organized by 350.org and other climate action groups. At the podium, Paul Cheoketen Wagner, Saanich First Nations of Vancouver Island, and Elizabeth Satiacum, Quileute. Satiacum is holding a framed copy of the Medicine Creek Treaty. Photo by Janine Gates/Little Hollywood Media.

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The historical truth of government’s alliance with coal companies against miners

Kelly Miller

Both during his campaign and his presidency thus far, Donald Trump has repeatedly referred to himself as a sort of rhetorical prop. To him, the coal miner represents the disenfranchised everyman he wishes to speak for: a struggling American worker whose livelihood has been stripped away by the liberal establishment in the name of climate change and clean energy. Many of his most extreme moves last year, such as withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement and taking aim at Obama’s Clean Power Plan, have been done supposedly in the name of “putting coal miners back to work.”

The Trump administration’s narrative of job-killing environmental regulations ignores the fact that the coal industry has been declining for decades. Many of the reasons are economic, such as the cheapening of natural gas. Coal mining processes have also largely shifted from the subsurface to aboveground mining to technology-intensive mountaintop removal. But as Trump continues to dub himself the “Coal President,” he has become increasingly popular with big coal executives such as Bob Murray of Murray Energy. Murray was present, applauding in the audience, when Trump signed an executive order mandating a full-scale reconsideration of Obama’s Clean Power Plan by the EPA last March. Photos of the occasion show Trump surrounded by a cohort of coal miners. Clearly, the miners were brought in for the photo op to further paint Trump’s deregulation agenda as good for workers. A consideration of the history of coal miners, coal companies and the federal government leading up to this moment, however, makes these photos seem much darker, even downright sinister.

Deregulation in such dangerous industries often increases profits for coal companies at the expense of coal miner’s lives.

Miners and their families lived and worked in an exceptionally deadly environment. Uncontrolled explosions, mineshaft collapses and work-related diseases like black lung made for high mortality rates among miners. Polluted air and water in mining areas often killed the spouses and children of miners as well. Because miners were often paid in company scrip—a sort of voucher that could only be exchanged for marked-up goods at company stores—and had to buy their own tools, poverty was endemic among mining families. The United Mine Workers (UMW) had successfully organized workers around these issues in several states by 1920, despite heavy company repression. When the UMW began organizing in the town of Matewan, West Virginia in 1920, Baldwin-Felt agents hired by the Stone Mountain Mining Company evicted union members from their homes. This led to a much- mythologized standoff in which the town’s union-sympathetic sheriff and two miners were killed. Miners then began to plan a mass armed campaign through Logan County and Mingo County to assert their union rights with force.

The Battle of Blair Mountain

On August 25th, 1921, 10,000 armed miners marched through Logan County until they reached Blair Mountain, where anti-union county sheriff Don Chafin had assembled his own forces. Chafin had the financial support of the Logan County Coal Operators Association and, eventually, the West Virginia National Guard and the federal troops sent by President Harding. Still, the miners were able to hold their ground until September 2nd. Only 985 miners of the 10,000 participants were indicted.

The Battle of Blair Mountain is often referred to as the largest labor uprising in United States history. Though the miners were initially defeated, the battle served as a galvanizing moment and many now believe that it strengthened organized labor in West Virginia in the long run.

Some people say a man is made outta mud
A poor man’s made outta muscle and blood
Another day older and deeper in debt
And the straw boss said “well, bless my soul”

A lotta men didn’t, a lotta men died
If you see me comin’, better step aside
I owe my soul to the company store
Muscle and blood and skin and bones

I was born one mornin’ when the sun didn’t shine
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal
I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
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“16 Tons” was written by Merle Travis at the request of Capitol Records, who wanted some “folksy” songs in a hurry. Travis immediately wrote three songs about life in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky’s coal mines, where his father worked. One was Dark As A Dungeon, the other, Sixteen Tons. [From the ever-lovin’ internet on the archive blog at www.ernieford.com]

What does a “pro-coal” president mean for miners?

The Battle of Blair Mountain undoubt- edly demonstrates the power of work- ers. Miners have long offered up sober- ing lessons about the willingness of government to intervene on the side of capital and business. Despite years of lip service to the well-being of coal miners, Trump’s actions have so far followed the logic of his “pro-coal reforms” have chipped away at the health and safety regulations that generations of coal miners have fought for.

Before the now-infamous EPA executive order photos, Trump signed another order with miners when he signed a bill repealing the Office of Surface Mining’s Stream Protection Rule. The bill reversed an Obama-era regulation that prevented mining companies from dumping toxic waterways with waste. In other words, Trump invited miners to stand smiling behind him while he put the very water sources that their communities use at risk.

Similarly, the Trump Administration has coal miners’ best interests at heart,” said Oppegard in an interview with Politico. “They’re aligned with coal mine operators as opposed to miners, and the only reason they would re-open these rules or revisit these rules are to weaken them.”

All of Trump’s pontificating about “ending the war on coal” to coal miners back to work” misses the fact that hazardous jobs and polluted environments won’t help miners and their families. Deregulation in such dangerous industries often increases profits for coal companies at the expense of coal miner’s lives. “Jobs” alone weren’t enough for the miners who fought in the Battle of Blair Mountain: they risked their employment to fight for safe jobs, better conditions, and fair treatment for themselves and their families.

The history of the Coal Wars reminds us that politicians who are so blatantly allied with coal companies are generally against the interests of workers. The notorious class struggle in the coal industry is far from over and miners likely hit a fever pitch again under the Trump Administration. Coal miners, now perhaps more than ever, need the mass support of people who actually care about their wellbeing, health and safety.

Kelly Miller will graduate from The Evergreen State College this spring.
The significance and lessons of student Palestine solidarity organizing under Trump

Matt Lester interviews
Sama Saliba

Tell me about the demonstration that you organized on December 10th.

It was in response to Trump's announcement about moving the capital and diplomacy to Jerusalem. There was a call to action that was made from Palestinian Civil Society for “three days of rage” to the international community. I felt it was important for the Olympia community to respond to that call—especially given the history we have with Palestine, the Olympia Rafah sister city project and Rachel Corrie’s death in Palestine. I contacted it with the help of the Rachel Corrie Foundation.

How did you organize that demonstration? Did you it with the help of the Rachel Corrie Foundation, but does that actually look like? Did you send out emails?

It was really last minute and that obviously posed a significant challenge because you want to get people out. You need existing political infrastructure in order to get a lot of people out, which is why I connected to the Rachel Corrie foundation and got in touch with other organizers I knew through friends and family. They have been doing political organizing in Olympia for a long time so they have contacts. The Rachel Corrie Foundation made a Facebook event so it was spread through their page and then they also sent out an email to their email list.

I also called Dan Leahy and other people who I knew had connections and they sent it out to their mailing list and that was just me posting an event on Facebook. I just tracked who was talking to each other and how people were connecting and then I just sent out an email to people who I knew from the Facebook event.

Tell me a little bit about Palestine solidarity at Western Washington University.

Western can be a difficult campus. It’s 80% white and not a lot of students care or care that much about Palestine. It’s easy to feel isolated and think the work you are doing is pointless. When you have a national community, you are all doing work together, you’re all sharing ideas, you know that even if you get 10 people on your campus to be interested in Palestine it’s adding to the national network.

Many college campuses are hooked up with the national Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organization and that is really effective. It allows people to share their work with others so people don’t have to redo the same work. We can cut down on our efforts.

All these BDS campaigns can work off the same template as a previous one. For example, blueprints from a mock apartheid wall can be shared with other campaigns. It cuts down a lot of work. Also it allows people to feel less alone.

A national network is really interesting because it could address the problems associated with students moving away from a place once they graduate. If you were a student at another school and you wanted to tap into that network, how would you do it? Do you talk to someone at another campus or do you go online?

Yeah they have a website, it’s NationalAlsp.org with resources and their conference information.

Anybody can go to their conference, but you have to show that you’re taking steps to do an SJP campaign because they don’t want people to infiltrate the conferences.

The network helps us keep institutions in check because we’ve set up an online folder that has institutional memory reports that we use to record any backlash we get from the face. It’s a way to keep the conversation going or something it goes on there too. The folder has all of our past work we’ve done and when people come in we can share that folder with them and they have all this information.

What were the impressive things you saw at that conference?

This conference had a real range of workshops. Some were about the histo-
ICE serves deportation notice on undocumented leader for organizing detained immigrants

The recent deportation notice filed against Washington-based immigrant rights activist and journalist Mora Vílalpando, is a clear sign that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is turning its focus away from Trump’s secret police and silencing immigrants who fight back. The Seattle office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has served a “Notice to Appear,” otherwise known as a deportation notice, to Washington-based community activist and mother, Mora Vílalpando. On Tuesday morning, Mora Vílalpando and her supporters will announce the launch of efforts to fight her deportation and bring to light ICE’s threatening actions. What if refugees told their own stories? The Last Earth by Ramzy Baroud

The Last Earth: A Palestinian Story

Mijente.com

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My son Sam Jessup will be sentenced in North Dakota in February for driving Michael Foster to a valve site so that he could turn off the pipeline bringing Alberta tar sands oil to the US. Sam filmed it. He’s been convicted of conspiracy charges because the action was planned in advance, and the prosecutor argued that Sam knew what Michael was going to do. I expect that Sam will be sentenced to a period of incarceration, along with living with the felony and misdemeanor charges he’s been saddled with.

Prior to sentencing, the “victim”—the oil company TransCanada—was allowed to express its “feelings” about the crimes committed against it. In that letter, excerpted below, TransCanada asks the judge to incarcerate both Sam and Michael in order to deter other protesters. They argue that the action was coordinated. They also cite Michael Foster’s quoting of Ghandi as a sign that he lacks remorse for his action. They imply that Sam and Michael’s aim to get the climate necessity defense admitted was delusional.

TransCanada’s request follows the trajectory laid out by ALEC (described in the January WPJ) to criminalize protests against the fossil fuel industry. It’s consistent with the “economic terrorism” bill re-introduced by Senator Doug Erickson this session in WA State. At the heart of the matter is whether the right of corporations to profit from fossil fuel extraction and production trumps our collective right to do all we can to stop it. Right now, the fossil fuel industry is工匠化. Coordinated legislative actions to criminalize climate protests are supported by ALEC’s “fill in the blank” templates so even newly elected legislators could draft comparable actions in other states, counties and cities. All this activity is funded of course, directly and indirectly, from the fossil fuel industry.

TransCanada’s request for the strong message of deterrence is of utmost importance to ensure of regret or remorse. We urge you to consider giving significant prison time to the two defendants because a significant period of incarceration would have had the effect of normalizing their behavior. One major hope of ours was to set legal precedent by using the “necessity defense” and bringing expert witnesses to testify that because of the egregious nature of tar sands crude oil and the urgency of the climate crisis, we’d actually been acting in accordance with higher laws. The classic example of a legitimate use of the necessity defense is when someone is arrested for breaking and entering after they hear a baby crying in a burning building, and rush to save her. Because it requires a high bar of proof — you must have tried everything else, the danger must be imminent, the action must be likely to be effective — courts even allow this defense to be argued, or expert witnesses to be brought to the bench. What are the rest of us going to do in this situation?

TransCanada: Corrective action letters—fines…or jail time?

Mary Jo Dolis
TransCanada’s letter urges “significant” prison time for Sam and Michael to “send a strong message of deterrence.” Because safe and reliable operation of our facilities “is of utmost importance” to TransCanada: “our pipelines are designed, constructed and operated to achieve very high standards.”

TransCanada’s record of ruptures, leaks, and violating construction codes gives the lie to their claim of concern for safety. It appears that they need “a strong message of deterrence.” If we follow their advice, that could be in the form of significant prison time for its officers. On the other hand, maybe

TransCanada:  corrective action letters—fines…or jail time?

TransCanada is supposed to prevent pipeline ruptures. It failed, just like it has failed in the other eight pipeline ruptures the corporation has had in Canada since 2009—more ruptures than any other pipeline company. These ruptures occurred on both recently built pipelines and pipelines that are decades old which raises serious questions about TransCanada’s ability to safely design, build and maintain pipelines.

Sam and Michael simply merit a Corrective Action Letter. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada issued a pipeline Investigation Report in 2013:

TransCanada: Integrity Management Policy is supposed to prevent pipeline ruptures. It failed, just like it has failed in the other eight pipeline ruptures the corporation has had in Canada since 2009—more ruptures than any other pipeline company. These ruptures occurred on both recently built pipelines and pipelines that are decades old which raises serious questions about TransCanada’s ability to safely design, build and maintain pipelines.


From 2008 to 2015, TransCanada talked more than 30 “reportable incidents” including ruptures, leaks, fires, explosions, serious injuries, and one death, at its facilities. (1)

To take one example: TransCanada’s Bison Pipeline came online in January 2011. That March, US regulators warned the company of “discrepancies,” inadequate quality inspection and testing. In July the pipeline exploded near Gillette, Wyo. (see photo above) The consequences for TransCanada? Yet another Corrective Action Letter. (2)


(2) Shut down a pipeline because climate change is a ticking bomb

Emily Johnston

A little over a year ago, four friends and I shut down all five pipelines carrying tar sands crude oil into the United States by using emergency shut-off valves. As recent media coverage has made clear, climate change is not only an imminent threat, it is an existing calamity. It’s already killing tar sands oil—the dirtiest oil on Earth—is one of the reasons.

We did this very, very carefully—after talking to pipeline engineers, and doing our own research. Before we touched a thing, we called the pipeline companies twice to warn them, and let them turn off the pipelines themselves if they thought that was better for their business.

We knew we were at risk for years in prison. But the nation needs to wake up to how we can reduce emissions and make our fast, business as usual is now genocidal. In shutting off the pipelines, we hoped to be part of that wake-up, to put ourselves in legal jeopardy in order to state dramatically and unambiguously that normal methods of political action and protest are simply not working with anywhere near the speed in which the climate crisis is evolving. To One major hope of ours was to set legal precedent by using the “necessity defense” and bringing expert witnesses to testify that because of the egregious nature of tar sands crude oil and the urgency of the climate crisis, we’d actually been acting in accordance with higher laws. The classic example of a legitimate use of the necessity defense is when someone is arrested for breaking and entering after they hear a baby crying in a burning building, and rush to save her. Because it requires a high bar of proof — you must have tried everything else, the danger must be imminent, the action must be likely to be effective — courts even allow this defense to be argued, or expert witnesses to be brought to the bench. What are the rest of us going to do in this situation?

Three of our trials (which are in four states) had already rejected the use of the necessity defense. In North Dakota, the judge said essentially “I’m not going to let you put US energy policy in the trial.” But recently, I and the other Minnesota defendants who had been granted it. I have little doubt that the tiny weather oy of the last couple of months played some role in this — it’s not just scientists seeing the truth anymore: the building is indeed burning, and all the world’s babies are in it. I was struck by the North Dakota judge’s implicit understanding that, were it not for the existence of the “climate community,” the judge would have had the effect of putting energy policy in the trial, not the necessary. I was in a burning room when everyone else was thinking, “We have to try this because climate change is a real threat.”

The practical result of this was to try to be in a burning room...
Looking into the foster care system: Who will raise the children?

By Susan Davenport

Regardless of who is doing it, caring for children at risk and in need, if paid at all, full of unforeseen challenges, uncertainty, worry and heavy lifting. Yet it is uniformly clear to all of the health and future of a society. And all the more so if that society is a democratic one, that must have responsible, organized and informed citizens to function.

If and when a parent is not able to care for a child, the system must find someone to take their place. We have created “foster care”—an out-of-home placement system administered by the state but largely dependent on the willingness of individuals and families to do the work itself. Can that be the solution?

The children and how they fare

In Washington state, there are close to 10,000 children and youth in foster care. The length of stay varies, with the median stay in 2014 ranging from 15 to 18 months. Only about 10% of children who enter care are reunified with their parents or placed with a guardian within three years. The remainder are adopted, emancipated, or remain in care. A disproportionate number of children are color—-a reality that has been examined in depth for over 10 years with little or no impact on the situation despite state initiatives to correct the problem. These children are likely to be any age under 18, but they are typically younger. In 2016, over half who entered the system were under 5 years of age.

Long-term mental health effects, educational deficits and other social problems for young adults who languish in foster care over long periods were identified in research conducted in the South Sound several years ago. Local human service workers interviewed for this article offered anecdotal information suggesting that many of those who came part of the homeless population, the jail/prison system, mental health facilities, or housing or battered women’s shelters.

Foster families and who they are

The stated goal, policies and hope for child welfare agencies is that children stay in their families of origin. Preserv- ing the family is a high-minded goal, albeit a policy liability. Yet for a system that has nowhere else to put children while their parents get clean, or attend anger management, or find adequate shelter and housing, or a job or subsidies to support the household.

Copious research indicates that children are better served to stay at home with strength-based family support, however safety has to be the highest priority for vulnerable children. The Foster Parent Assn. of Wash- ington (FPAW) with the support of the Washington Center for Children concluded as follows:

The study in effect raises a question: what is the absence rate, and progressive loss among foster families—-are those who understand the role of social services, and the importance of raising strong children?

The “Safe Families” movement in some faith communities is fueled by the confluence to keep children and families intact. Through Host Families, Family Friends and Family Coaches, faith communities use their network of kinship, foster parents, or temporary hosts who provide a network of support to families in crisis while they get their feet on the ground. The Safe Families movement makes it simple for churches and individuals to be involved with them through 1-800-555-CHILD.

The state and their agents

This year, Washington continues to build a new Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) mandated to improve how the state serves at-risk children. This will restructure DSHS but retain the core of the foster care system where workers find foster homes licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOLE). DCYF will continue to contract with private agencies to place children in lic- ensed homes. There needs to be better co- ordination to serve those with special needs – the medically fragile or emotionally and behaviorally disturbed.

Whether DCYF will be able to change the practices that fragment and drag out recruitment and licensing of families remains to be seen. A recent study by Partners for Our Children concluded as follows:

The number of children in care has increased while the number of newly licensed homes has decreased. Licensing placements have increased as have the demands on foster par- ents. The cost of living including child-care and boarding rates plus maternal employment affects the pool of potential foster parents, espe- cially the availability of foster parents of color. Placing infants and adoles- cents poses a great challenge. DCYF’s own contingency analysis indicates that foster parents feeling “shut out” of information about children in their area. There needs to be better co- ordination of strategies to recruit and retain foster homes.

We no longer have orphans. When a child no longer has a home—-the home is no longer safe, we only have the foster care sys- tem. That system today faces a crisis for many reasons – bud- get cuts, stigmatization of fami- lies, lack of awareness, low-waged work, burdens even on intact families. Yet these children are our future.

If their birth parents cannot do the work of raising them, it’s up to us.

In 2016, the Children’s Administration assessed about 43,800 households. Yet there are not enough foster and adoptive homes available. Children are sent out of the county, kept in less than ideal conditions in marginal fos- ter homes or relative placements. It’s not unheard of for a social worker to spend an overnight in the office with a child. Social workers will work with an opioid or meth-addicted parent and in out of treatment for months to try to keep a child at home. Organiza- tions like Homebuilders and the WISE program and Family Preservation Services with contracted therapists help make up for the lack of good foster op- tions.

A study group at The Evergreen State College discovered that over 75% of the families doing foster/adoptive care have felt so overwhelmed by their parental obligation, tied to their belief in home, family and child-rearing, they have turned to their faith-based, or adoptive community. Their recruit- ment message is shared from the pulpil word of mouth throughout faith communities.

More changes are needed to repair a system that relies on over-stressed social workers to provide retention support to foster parents.

The study in effect raises a question: what is the absence rate, and progressive loss among foster families—-are those who understand the role of social services, and the importance of raising strong children?

In February 2018 Works In Progress Page 9

Looking into the foster care system: Who will raise the children? There are lots of ways to help: becoming a full-pledged foster parent, signing up to be a “profession- al,” and give foster parents a break, joining one of the groups that sup- port foster parents or act as men- tors, youth, women, or a lively na- tive arena to promote laws that help keep families together in the first place, or can also help to get the word out about the need for fos- ter care and the foster care crisis. If you are a business, you can of- fer to put up posters or informa- tion about foster care. If you are in communications, you can help an agency network, have them on your board, or help them build an ad campaign. You can offer discounts for foster parents, or monetarily help- ful for businesses that cater to families (such as restaurants, toy stores, activity centers, sporting events, book stores, coffee shops, and more!). Finally, there is simply the importance of discovering more and better foster care through growing up outside of their home in Washington, and in turn helping to create dialogue about the foster care crisis. The creation this year of the Dept. of Children, Youth and Families could bring in new energy and broader participation that might move health for the system and the people in it.

Became a licensed foster parent: DSHS and certain prov- iders will set up an interview and conduct the home study that leads to licensing. Go to https://www. fosteringtogether.org to learn about the various ways to get licensed (including respite care). This website has links to DSHS as well as private agencies. Foster- ing Washington offers information and an area to help with the licensing process including how to manage wait times (DSHS wait-times can be very long). Foster Parents Network can even help find an agency that has no wait time.

Join a group that supports foster parents: Check out our local Fam- ily Education and Support Center http://families.org/contacts VES offers a huge range of ser- vices, and in collaboration with the State Training Alliance pro- vides monthly training and sup- port for foster/adoption parents at the Children’s Museum. Become a mentor to a youngster. Stone- wall Youth (Olympia), The Mock- ingbird Society (Seattle and sur- rounding areas), Foster Care to Success (issues, group (Appointed, Special Advocates), Big Brothers Big Sisters, Foster Youth in Action. Friends of the Children (Seattle). Help them network with Foster Par- ents Assn. of Washington State supports and advocates for foster care. The state supports them to all the key organizations that affect foster parenting and gives a clear picture of both the na- tional issues and policy needs for foster parents. The Mockingbird Society works to pro- vide a voice for parents in the foster care system and to improve out- comes for them and the parents.
The origins of Black History Month

Emily Lardner

Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.

— Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2014

“America was built on the preferential treatment of white people—365 years of it. Vaguely endorsing a cuddly, feel-good diversity does very little to redress this.”

— Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2014

My first experience with Black History Month was in 1971, at Washington Junior High School (WJHS), my neighborhood school, in Rock Island, IL. That year I was chosen as a school ambassador to spend a day in a different part of town, at Central Junior High. I realized that day that I was white, because most of the kids at Central were black. Even though my social studies teacher, Chuck Paradiso, included Black History month in the curriculum, we never talked about the historical origins of our racially segregated city. By the time I experienced it, Black History Month had become a celebration of famous people.

From page 8

so. Those who are also, at the moment, running our country.

So I find myself feeling peculiarly exposed now. When I first heard the news clouted, I called and texted friends and family and friends. I deeply regretted that my mother—who died in June—didn’t live long enough to see us do our best to change legal history. I wish she had known that a judge had been persuaded by the legitimacy of our argument (if not yet of its rightness) —a judge, no less, in a county where the pipeline company, Enbridge, is the single largest property tax payer.

I’m heartened by the way the law can be supplanted— not a thing that, once set, holds that exact shape forever (or we’d still have slavery, and I couldn’t vote or marry), but a thing that responds—slowly, once set, holds that exact shape forever (or we’d still have slavery, and I couldn’t vote or marry), but a thing that responds—slowly, to our evolving understanding of what is just and true. When it comes to climate change, there’s little enough to feel heartened by, so I’ll take it.

From Woodson’s perspective, the purpose of Negro History Week, situated between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln in February, was political. As Woodson explained, “If you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race. Such an effort would upset the program of the oppressor in Africa and America. Play up before the Negro, then, his crimes and shortcomings. Let him learn to admire the Hebrew, the Greek, the Latin and the Teuton. Lead the Negro to detest the man of African blood—to hate himself.”

Black history will always haunt us

Black history doesn’t fit American democracy. Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote in a June 2014 article for The Atlantic, nearly a century after Woodson founded what we now call Black History Month, and yet we cannot escape our past. Coates writes, “It is as though we have run up a credit-card bill and, having pledged to charge no more, remain beholden that the balance does not disappear. The effects of that balance, interest accruing daily, are all around us.” Our history haunts us.

Black History Month cannot do the work Woodson intended it to do. If Woodson’s goal was to “free the Negro’s mind that has been brought under the control of his oppressor,” he did not set out to “educate the white to see its white supremacist origins” or to “understand the roots of our economy and our democracy lie in the institution of slavery.” As Coates puts it, “By erecting a slave society, America created the economic foundation for its great experiment in democracy.” Other historians agree, including, most recently, Edward E. Baptist, author of The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism.

Resist “patriotism a la carte”

Talking about slavery makes white people uncomfortable—“I didn’t do it.” But in his 2014 article, entitled “The Case for Reparations,” Coates rebuts that position and with it, all the widely accepted and expected gestures of patriotism—playing the national anthem at sporting events, waving the flag on the 4th of July. Coates writes:

“One cannot escape the question by hand-waving at the 4th. If we are proud of the acts of one’s ancestors, nor by citing a recent date of ancestral immigration. The last slaveholder has been dead for a very long time. The last soldier to endure Valley Forge has been dead much longer. To proudly claim the veteran and disown the slaveholder is patriotism à la carte. A nation outlives its generations. We were not there when Washington crossed the Delaware, but Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze’s rendering has meaning to us. We were not there when Woodrow Wilson took us into World War I, but we are still paying out the pensions. If Jefferson’s genius matters, then so does his taking of Sally Hemings’ body. If George Washington crossing the Delaware matters, so must his ruthless pursuit of the runagate Ongey Judge.”

In this month of Black History, let’s agree that we will not practice patriotism à la carte. Let’s celebrate the accomplishments of Black people, but let’s also reflect on the genesis of our country’s economy in the institution of slavery and the hypocrisy built into the founding principles of our democratic institutions which allowed it.

Emily Lardner lives and writes in Washington.

A Playback Theatre performance

Inspirational Dreams

In collaboration with KOKUA and featuring the Thunders

Friday, February 9, 2018 • 7:30 p.m.

Traditions Café • 300 5th Ave. SW
downtown Olympia

Cost: Suggested Donation $7.00-$12.00

(A no one is turned away)

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we collaborate with KOKUA, whose mission is to provide individuals with the support needed to live full and meaningful lives. We will also feature the talents of the Thunders.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.
Community and technical college students organize for political change

Coordinated steps in the right direction

Enrique Quintero with Andy Gonzalez

Putting an end to passivity

The Washington Association of Community and Technical College Student Association (WACTCSA) has been busy, and they are about to pick up speed as the legislative season picks up.

At first glance, developing a common legislative agenda representing the needs and interests of the nearly 120,000 community and technical colleges and forty thousand students spread over thirty-four community and technical colleges might seem to be a daunting task. In reality, however, that’s exactly the work that WACTCSA has been doing.

In the last few years WACTCSA has successfully asserted itself as a legitimate actor and delineate and identify a set of priorities related to the conditions of its members. WACTCSA’s growing strength as a political organization has the potential to significantly re-structure key elements of higher education in Washington state.

WACTCSA’s growing strength as a political organization has the potential to significantly re-structure key elements of higher education in Washington state.

Strategic Goals

WACTCSA has developed two complementary sets of goals, strategic goals and tactical goals. WACTCSA’s legislative agenda for 2018 focuses on four strategic goals:

1. Make the death penalty a hot issue—society absolutely must discuss serious concerns.
2. Support a majority of public opinion that the death penalty is fatally flawed. Understand public support for the death penalty by showing:
   • It does NOT deliver what it promises.
   • It actually makes some problems worse and causes new problems.
3. Provide alternatives that will meet the public’s desire for safety with out resorting to the death penalty. (The two paragraphs hereafter this 3-point list summarize this)
   The TV program ends with some suggestions for a winning strategy — at some sources of additional information.
4. Higher Education for Undocumented Students: Washington residents are guaranteed education regardless of documentation status and we feel the legislature should offer efforts to pur-
   sue widespread access to affordable higher education. Many undocumented students are unaware of existing sources of funding. We believe public and private resources that are available should be commu- 
   nicating with legislators in an effort to build the legislative voice

"Death penalty does not work. It makes problems worse. Let's abolish it."

The death penalty promises many things but does NOT deliver what it promises. As a result, the death penalty does NOT fulfill its role to provide justice, help victims’ families, get used on “the worst of the worst,” or save money.

Instead of doing what it supposedly intends to do, the death penalty makes problems worse and causes new and more problems. It is a cycle of violence and the U.S. culture of violent punishment. It is similar to the economic and political cloning of criminal-ty.

Many innocent people are sentenced to death (From the mid-1970s to the late 1980s: several people were sentenced on death row who turned out to be innocent!) Some innocent persons have been executed. The death pen- 
alty is biased by race and socioeconomic class and by mental disability. It wastes taxpayers’ money. Some people want to limit appeals, but that would cause even more innocent persons to be wrongfully executed.

We can let go of the death penalty and still be safe. Some people think we need the death penalty in order to be safe. However, this does not mean that the absence of the death penalty would leave a great void. Both assumptions are FALSE.

Relatively few death sentences actually end up with executions. In the modern era, Washington State has executed 21 cases of death pen-alties, but only executed 7 persons. In Washington State and many other states, the death penalty sentence for that kind of murder case is “life without parole,” so we actually are not using the death penalty sentence for that kind of murder case. Even though we have wasted many mil- 

ions of taxpayers’ dollars without the “pay-off” of executing anyone. The “life without parole” sentence is actually what typically happens here, even when death sentences have been imposed.

Here is a three-step strategy for abolishing the death penalty:

1. Make the death penalty a hot is- sue that society absolutely must discuss seriously.
2. Persuade a majority of public opinion that the death penalty is fatally flawed. Understand public support for the death penalty by showing that:
   • It does NOT deliver what it promises.
   • It actually makes some problems worse and causes new problems.
3. Provide alternatives that will meet the public’s desire for safety with out resorting to the death penalty. (The two paragraphs hereafter this 3-point list summarize this)
   The TV program ends with some suggestions for a winning strategy — at some sources of additional information.

People anywhere can watch this February 2018 TV program at any time and write a transcript and links to sources of more information. Simply visit www.parallelspecif- ers.org and click “TV Programs” or “Death Penalty.” Look for this TV episode’s title, “Death Penalty Does Not Work: Problems Worse Let’s Abolish It.”

Also, cable TV subscribers in Thur- ston County have 14 opportunities during February to watch it. It will air on TCTV cable channel 22 every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 1:30 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

Questions? Contact the producer.

Higher Education for Undocumented Students: Washington residents are guaranteed education regardless of documentation status and we feel the legislature should offer efforts to pur-

A Legislative Track and Opinion Voting: This academy seeks to build awareness and support on WACTCSA and engage in leader- 

ship development.

Legislative Academy: This academy focuses on legislative messaging and communicating with legislators in conjunction with other CTC constitu-

ents.

Students as social instruments of change

Students have been written about the role of student movements in society. In essence, the debate gravitates around what policy changes student movements have the potential to be, and how these movements can make the possible political radical- 

ized groups or classes, it is suffi-

There is not a yes or no answer to either question. It all depends on the specific historical conditions of a given society. Though this is not the place to discuss the effectiveness of student movements in the US, the world is for sure different from 1960s, in which much more and more people have contributed to the struggle for a better and more just society. All over the world, there have been and will be in the struggle for a better and more just society. All over the world, there have been and will be in the struggle for a better and more just society. All over the world, there have been and will be in the struggle for a better and more just society.
Students organize beauty may be produced, but under conditions of freedom.

Noam Chomsky points to a similar action, not in form but in content, that took place in response to the 60's student movement. The students had organized against the Viet Nam war, and in favor of the struggle for people of color deprived of Civil Rights after two hundred years of living the fictitious narrative that the nation was a democracy. According to Chomsky, the elites and right-wing ideologues of this country realized that "the institutions in charge of the indoctrination of the young had failed." Consequently they implemented a series of restrictions seeking to eliminate programs that enabled students to engage in activism. Some of these restrictions involved a re-organization of curricula, making the programs more ideologically organized and even more dependent on the interests of the market, while at the same time limiting the possibilities of academic critique within campuses. In other words, the US went through a massive process of standardizing students in an effort to inculcate passivity and socially contemplative behavior. To illustrate his point, Chomsky quotes Humboldt, who observed that the restriction of democracy and individual freedom in academic institutions was "not only a physical production of beauty but always under command."

Back to the future? A kind of historical irony was preserved in the case of my good friend Andy Gonzales. Almost exactly to the date, 100 years ago in Cordoba, Argentina, students of the University of Cordoba occupied the campus and launched a series of demands that has served as a source of inspiration for most universities in Latin America and other countries until today. Here are some of the most important features of the Cordoba Manifesto:

- Institutionalization of student participation in university councils, joining professors and students in an effort to inculcate passivity.
- A linkage between student politics and national politics in order to protect academic freedom, in- cluding the implementation of "free teaching" (docencia libre) to ensure academic pluralism and to break the monopoly of teaching enjoyed by senior professors (catedraticos).
- Promotion of new ideas, innovative methods of teaching, changes in exam systems, original classroom attendance, original research, and a rejection of dogmatism, all leading to the replacement of ideology by participation and action.
- A selection of faculty through open, competitive examinations in order to counteract nepotism and patron- age, and promotion of professors on the basis of merit and achievement rather than seniority.
- An enlargement and diversification of professional training through the establishment of new professional schools.
- A understanding of university life as a truly communitarian experi- ence, encouraging the development of a population of full-time professors and full-time students.

I shared the demands of the Argentinian youth with a certain Andy. He took his time reading them, and after a short silence he said "Wow!" I sense he is too politic to say what appears to be thinking, along the lines of "this is hard to believe." We talked about his views on how to link WAGTS- SA with what's going on with national politics. "DA CAI," he says without hesi- tation. I think he is on the right path.

Enrique Quimtero lives and writes in Washington. Andy Gonzales is a student at Grays Harbor College.

Capital budget plan prioritizes 12 school construction and mental health

Michael Honey

This February marks the 3-year an- niversary of the passing of Father Bill Bix of Tacoma. He continues to be remembered as an exemplary ad- vocate for human rights, racial justice and anti-war causes. Father Bix (full name William Rich- sel) was born in 1928 and raised in a large Catholic household by a railroad engineer and a mother who fed the homeless and was caring during the Depression. He naturally took the side of the poor, homeless and oppressed.

Bix has been described by those who knew him as a humble, self-depre- cating man, often dressed in denim, without a clerical collar always on the move. Instead of becoming tired and old in his later years, he traveled the country and the world witnessing for peace and human fellowship.

Arrested 46 times, he spent about 2.5 years in prison. Few people will say we can eliminate nuclear weap- ons and war, but we can say we can, and many of us came to believe him and dedicate ourselves to the task. In 1968, Bix made waves on the Tacoma eve- ning news, arrested for challenging Reagan administration support for military juntas and their death squads in Central America; he’d done so by interrupting a speech of then Vice President George W.H. Bush.

Jean Fr. John Whitney, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Se- attle, recalled being interrupted during an evening at Seattle University: "It was shouted, ‘What about the poor?’ at Bush a number of times. Whitney said, ‘Bush responded by turning to the audience and saying, ‘Boy, you are one well-fermented bunch of nuts around here, don’t you?’ I am not sure that I have ever been interrupted before. I was asked to go on and you know what he is. I shared the demands of the Argentinian youth with a certain Andy. He took his time reading them, and after a short silence he said “Wow!” I sense he is too politic to say what appears to be thinking, along the lines of “this is hard to believe.” We talked about his views on how to link WAGTS- SA with what’s going on with national politics. “DA CAI,” he says without hesi- tation. I think he is on the right path.

Enrique Quimtero lives and writes in Washington. Andy Gonzales is a student at Grays Harbor College.

From news releases

On January 19, Governor Inslee signed a 2017-19 capital budget with $17.6 billion for K-12 school construction and $2.72 billion in bonds. The budget was passed after a year’s delay when legislators grappled with new rules governing small water wells.

The capital budget plan prioritizes K-12 school construction needs with $932 million allocated for the School Construction Assistance Program. These funds will help address a re- cord number of local school bond levy needs across the state. An additional $35 million is set aside for small, ru-

dinal district modernization grants. Ad- ditionally, $800 million is included for higher education facilities.

With psychiatric wards consistently over capacity, the budget also allo- cates $136.5 million for community- based and institutional funding for con- struction projects, including:

- Statewide investments in behav- ior al health community capacity;
- Security updates and renovations at Eastern and Western State Hospit- als;
- Adds 120 minimum-security beds for female offenders with mental health disorders at Maple Lane;

By developing the fund of a state- wide plan to inform future funding decisions.

The plan also allocates $108.5 million for the Housing Trust Fund, including:

- Supportive housing and case-man- agement services for people with chronic mental illness;
- Housing that benefit those affected by natural disasters; and
- Veteran housing projects.

Other highlights include investments in the Public Works Assistance Ac- count, with $97 million for the cur- rently authorized loan list, and $19 million for preconstruction and emer- gency loans. Additionally, $90 million is allocated for the Washington Wild- life and Recreation Program for criti- cal habitat, farmland preservation, lo- cal parks, riparian protection, trails and water access.

The compromise on water involved devoting more tax money for persons drilling new wells to serve households, along with some restrictions on the amount of water to be pumped, de- pending on water scarcity in the rel- evant region.

Michael Honey is the Fred and Dorothy Haley Professor of Humanities at the University of Washington Tacoma.

Photo of Fr. Bix by Loren Bliss.
Inequality

Resources of this earth are here for all life. Nature never intended boarders to accumulate and keep enough for a thousand lifetimes while others go hungry and unsheltered. Squirrels only put away enough for a year or two. Human toleration of this disease can be a source of shame.

This inequality can be very easily corrected at change of generations. All legacies and grants given in anticipation of death that exceed $10 million given to an individual or institution should be taxed 99%. This is fair and just and does not hinder personal initiatives. It also spreads the wealth around if they do not wish to pay taxes. Inherited money is not earned by those who receive it. If the acculturated chooses to pay the taxes this is also a fair way to repay the society that granted him this opportunity of success.

If those of great wealth cannot see the justice of this and use their power of money to kill such a just change, this must be dealt with. Many of us do not believe in capital punishment, but we must realistically recognize the lessons of history. Those who refuse to bend to the will of the people often meet with earlier composting. Harsh? Yes, but it does in a small way give them a opportunity to earlier re-pay nature for the damage that access greed has brought about.

J. Glenn Evans is a novelist, poet and political activist.

A letter to the community,

Thank you to all who supported the “Jingle of Hope,” a volunteer clean-up of Olympia’s largest homeless encampment.

I stand on the eve of Jingle of Hope, my stomach in my throat, at the point of no return. I awake nervous about the volunteers who will be showing up soon. It is too vulnerable for us the invitation of the housed to our camp. But we’ve passed the point where hiding away can keep us safe; we must risk exposure, must risk the rejection we fear. Evictions we’ve survived, the evictions we expect, the complacency over of our need for knowing our shelter won’t be stolen from us—it instills shame and mistrust. Getting run out of our camps with nowhere to go is persecution and discrimination, an invitation to the housed class is painfully vulnerable.

In all battles there is a cease fire. With that comes change, change on both sides. The winds bite at me telling me that it is gonna hurt. Both sides. Both have to give something now and we must embrace it – too much has been lost. Now is the time to begin knowing how to be Normal like the House... not scorned or shamed but able to move without fear. And those who come to our side, able to embrace us with open arms this new once, giving from just plain old Love. We’re crying inside, just wanting, holding Hope that we matter, Hope to be seen and to see the lights go on in a person’s face.

With that fear and hope, I have no choice but to persevere and soon the work of volunteers shows itself—areas of trash cleared, the surplus of shopping carts dwindling and my reservoirs turn to amazement and appreciation. Our security is threatened by the fact that so many are more upset about shopping carts and trash than the fact that so many lack a legal place to stay warm and dry. But the volunteers understand the stakes—that with-out placating those who don’t value us, we’ll face homelessness.

I’ve experienced shelterlessness, lost my tent to the city. Lost my tent, my belongings. Slept under a bridge, woke up wet, aching, never quite sleep-ing, my mind turning into a fog as I never quite sleep, never quite feel warm, struggling to walk through rain and snow to keep fed. I’ve watched others lose their shelter, seen people cope with the pain and despair with needles, chemicals, seen mental states deteriorate or shatter altogether.

But I’d like to acknowledge those who understand and have done something about it. Thank you for your work, the donations, for bringing carts and tools. Because of their help my homeless family has more security, may be able to live in the Jungle of Hope at least until the rain clears.

Special thanks to: Socialist Party USA—South Sound Organizing Area, Green Party of South Puget Sound, Olympia Industrial Workers of the World, Olympia Democratic Socialists of America, Thurston County Democrats, Oly Embracer, Gruf/Thurston County Needle Exchange, Indivisible Thurston – Phoenix and the Jingle of Hope

February 2018

Works In Progress

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Letters

Wanda Rogers “Fight for $15” campaign

The Fight for $15 campaign is gearing up for a renewed fight for a $15 minimum wage and union rights in 2018. Below are their points for the new year of action:

- Making higher wages and strong union key issues in the 2018 elections—Any governor who cuts wages and guts union is no friend of workers, period. Workers across sectors are struggling. The loss of good union jobs has created a drag on wages and fractured economic opportunity in America. Every worker needs a union and 90% of workers need a raise. We want politicians to do more than talk about “jobs.”
- Keeping up the pressure on McDonald’s in the UK with #McStrike - Last September, McDonald’s workers in the UK went out on #McStrike and won the largest wage increase for McDonald’s workers in ten years. But that’s not enough—they’ll be striking again and we’ll stand with them until every worker has a wage that’s fair and their union rights respected.
- Going all in with the Poor People’s Campaign—Across the nation, a moral revival is happening. People are coming together to pick up the mantle of Dr. King’s unfinished work. Fight for $15 is proud to join this historic and historic effort to take aim at racism, poverty, militarism, and environmental destruction.
- Supporting NYC fast food workers’ organization—Survival isn’t enough. If working people are going to thrive in the 21st century, they need new ways to organize. Fast food workers in NYC won $15 for workers statewide but they are not stopping. They’ve launched a new organization to ensure that every fast food worker in NYC has someone fighting for them.
- Continuing the #10 for $15 campaign—It’s simple. The 64 million people who make less than $15 an hour demand nothing less than elected officials who support raising our standard of living—and if they don’t support us, they won’t get our votes.

To get involved in these efforts, visit fight15.org or find Fight for $15 on Facebook.

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Farmworkers Resist and Organize: Connected Struggles for Farmworker Justice in South Africa and the US

Edgar Franks

This past October I was part of the delegation sent by the US Food Sovereignty Alliance to South Africa. The delegation is part of a process to connect groups throughout Africa with US-based Food Sovereignty groups to build an international analysis on the food system and to be in solidarity with one another.

When the transfer of power occurred, there was an expectation that workers would benefit under a new government that was black led. Instead, only a certain few benefitted. Whereas in the past, farmworkers were hopeful that with the abolition of apartheid back to black people by 2018, but currently only 5% of land has been redistributed.

Out of the 2012 farmworker strike in the US, a list of 23 demands which came out of a series of dialogues. Among the principal concerns is receiving a just wage. The farmworkers are asking for no less than 250 Rand for an 8-hour work day, which is almost equivalent to $16 in the US. Many of the workers are picking oranges for corporations like Dole, and in grape vineyards for wines that are for export to Europe and in some part of the United States. Hardly any of the fruits or vegetables picked are for local markets.

Gains for a Black Middle Class only

The issue of class was raised as well. From what I gathered from our conversations, in the past when the apartheid government was ruling, farmworkers felt that it was the racist government that was oppressing them. The “Boers” (White Farmers) were protected by the state and anytime workers threatened to organize or strike, they were immediately broken and arrested by the police. When Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa farmworkers felt that they were finally going to get justice. However instead of seeing their conditions improve, the farmworkers saw only the creation of a black and colored middle class that was not too interested in making sure that workers had economic gains. If anything, the black middle class drove a wedge between poor people and the new black leadership. In essence, the middle class was functioning to protect white supremacy by keeping the farmworkers down.

A broadly representative farm delegation

During the 11 days our delegation was in South Africa, we were able to meet with many organizations throughout different regions, each with their unique struggles. Our delegation was small but represented many sectors within the food system, including farmworkers, Black farmers, and immigrants. We all brought our own expertise to the trip and complemented each other well.

This article will focus on the farmworker struggle in Robertson, in the Western Cape, as there was a familiarity with the way issues and conditions were discussed. The shared analysis resonated with me profoundly, considering that farmworkers here in the United States experience the same exploitation.

Organizing beyond a union contract

At Community to Community in Washington, we try to recognize that the struggle for farmworker justice is not limited to the workplace. Farmworkers’ lives are complex and have many intersections which is why we know that in order to achieve our goals—especially when it comes to transforming the food system—we must go beyond fighting for union contracts. Food Sovereignty for farmworkers also means being recognized as humans who are capable of leading ourselves. That is why we also organize for immigrant rights, climate justice, and women’s rights.

South African farmers are among the most marginalized

In South Africa, farm workers are some of the most marginalized. Conditions in their workplace and community have not changed much. Even as South Africa has transitioned from the apartheid government that had ruled since the late 1940s into a Black-led government headed by the African National Congress, economic justice has not reached the farm workers. Even though there are thousands of farmworkers, less than 4% are unionized.

South African farmers are among the most marginalized in South Africa, farm workers are some of the most marginalized. Conditions in their workplace and community have not changed much. Even as South Africa has transitioned from the apartheid government that had ruled since the late 1940s into a Black-led government headed by the African National Congress, economic justice has not reached the farm workers. Even though there are thousands of farmworkers, less than 4% are unionized.

The Union also organizes with immigrant workers who come from primarily Mozambique and Zimbabwe and face similar treatment as immigrants here in the United States, such as wage theft and human trafficking by labor brokers.

Working for export companies instead of owning your own land

CSAWU partners with Mawubuye, which is a land rights movement. It is, in part, recognizes that the path for freedom from exploitation is for farmworkers to have their own land and not have to sell their labor for exploitative wages. There was a period of hope under the new government in 1994 when there were talks to redistribute formerly white owned lands back to black people. The goal was to have 30% of land that was owned by whites be redistributed to black people by 2018, but currently only 5% of land has been redistributed. Among the 2012 farmworker strike in the US, a list of 23 demands which came out of a series of dialogues. Among the principal concerns is receiving a just wage. The farmworkers are asking for no less than 250 Rand for an 8-hour work day, which is almost equivalent to $16 in the US. Many of the workers are picking oranges for corporations like Dole, and in grape vineyards for wines that are for export to Europe and in some part of the United States. Hardly any of the fruits or vegetables picked are for local markets.

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Continued on next page...
Middle
From page 1
neighborhoods, and pre-empt neighbor-
hood planning?
Enter the developers and contractors
Many property owners can add an ADU, but only developers and con-
tractors are likely to be in a position to finance units such as fourplexes and
apartments. It looks like the big win-
ers here will be the developers. The
MM is not an idea unique to Olymp-
pia. It originated in California as the
brainchild of architect Daniel Paneleik,
who helped create Disneyland Tokyo. As
the latest planning bandwagon, it is
moving up the west coast. Seattle
has been affected; the historic fishing
fleet neighborhood of Ballard has to-
tally vanished. Bellingham is alert and
agitated and has taken up the slogan
*Don’t Ballardize Bellingham.* Right
now, it looks like Olympia is directly
moving up the west coast. Seattle
exists right now, to one that is humane
for its less affluent citizens, it has to
mandate it through its land use
regulations. Trick-down economics
didn’t work in the 80’s. Trick-down
housing won’t work now.
Note: the City continues to work on its
MM proposal, and changes made after this
article was written will not be captured.
Judy Barohn holds a Bachelor of Science
in Nursing, Masters in Environmental
Health, and a Doctorate in Epidemiology.
She has worked as an Environmental
Epidemiologist for the State Department
of Health, and served on the Olympia
Planning Commission and the Olympia
Utilities Advisory Committee.

My Name is Wolf
J. Glenn Evans

My name is Wolf some call me Timber wolf
I often think about these stand-up creatures
Wonder if they get enough oxygen
All their fights and wars over religions
I have no religion but eat when hungry
Sleep when I’m tired, feed my little ones
My God is not a jealous vacillating
Creature who shows favoritism
No, he created us all
His spirit touches rocks trees all of life
He didn’t make warning religions
These standup creatures made them
I’ve never seen any Baptist bears
Methodist monkeys Presbyterians panthers
Jewish jackses Catholic camels
Muslim moose’s or Hindu hawks
Hell no we’re all just plain animals
With blood that bleeds the same color
Some of us walk and some of us fly
Survive give the other fellow some room
Only eat each other if hunger makes it a must
I don’t believe things are made or unmade
They just change form what will I be next time
Only the Creator knows this
He or she probably doesn’t give a damn
Whether I’m rock plant or animal
We may be made in his image, but prove it
I don’t know anyone who’s been there
And made it back regardless
How much haying we do at the moon.

J. Glenn Evans is a poet, novelist and political activist.

Special events (from page 2)
Oly Old-time [Music] Festival
Thurs - Sun, Feb 15-18. Arbutus Folk School.
Concerts, shows, dances and workshops held at locations around Olympia. For schedule
and locations, go to http://oldtimeelderly.
com/schedule.html. Some events require
ticket Info: ArbutusFolkSchool.org
Toolina Shools Statewide
Sailboat Race,
Sat, Feb 17, all-day race from Budd
Inlet north to the Toolina Shools Buoy
and back, Registration $35.
Go to http://olyoldtimeelderly.com/ for de-
tails and to register, or watch from the shore.
Illuminated Ball at the Eagles
Babcock: jessica@rachelcorriefoundation.org
Sa’Heh’Wa’Mish Days,
Sat and Sun, Feb 17 and 18.
A ceremonial gathering of the indigenous
group of the Coast Salish Tribes, performed
at the Little Creek Casino Resort in Shelton.
Grand entry times 1 PM and 7 PM Saturday, 1
PM Sunday. Dancing, drumming competi-
tions. Free.
Ramzy Baroud talks on his book
The Last Earth: A Palestinian Story,
Tues, Feb 20, 6-30 PM, Traditions
Palestinian dispossession, resistance, and resilience. Sponsored by Rachel Corrie Foun-
dation for Peace & Justice, contact jessica
Babcock, jessica@rachelcorriefoundation.org
For other events, check www.thurstontalk.com.
We are called upon to help the discouraged beggars in life’s marketplace. But one day we must come to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. It means that questions must be raised... I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give my life for those who have been left out... This is the way I’m going.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1967, promoting the Poor People’s Campaign

February 2018
Works In Progress
Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.