We have also maintained close communication and to make sure that the Jungle, known to some of its residents as the Jungle of Hope, is home to between 150 and 200 people living in a wooded area between Pacific Avenue and Martin Way. It is Olympia’s largest encampment of houseless community members, including people who have lived there for years and others who relocated there after camp evictions elsewhere.

In late November, an employee at a nearby business contacted Just Housing to let us know that a neighboring business had been communicating about the encampment and had possibly filed a complaint with the city. We contacted the city’s code enforcement office and learned that area businesses had filed a number of complaints, and that the city had sent courtesy notices in response to the property owners informing them of an unauthorized encampment on their property and requesting that they contact the owners and possibly file a complaint with the city. We contacted the city’s code enforcement office and learned that area businesses had filed a number of complaints, and that the city had sent courtesy notices in response to the property owners informing them of an unauthorized encampment on their property and requesting that they contact the owners and possibly file a complaint with the city.

There are many moving parts to this puzzle, and no guarantee that we will achieve success. An eviction might eventually be carried out, as has unfortunately been done so often in the past. This struggle over what happens at the Jungle, and other area encampments facing similar threats, needs to be understood in the context of the larger struggle for safe and secure housing for all, which itself is one element of a broader struggle for economic, racial, and social justice.

Our city has indicated that if the property owners and area businesses are willing to work with the city toward a solution that addresses the needs of all parties, including Jungle residents, then they would be open to considering such an effort to represent reasonable progress toward a resolution of the unauthorized encampment, which could buy us some time.

However, they have also said that in the end the camp is in violation of existing city ordinances, and that it cannot remain there indefinitely unless the camp complies with the existing ordinances or the ordinances are changed. Neither of these is likely to occur in the near-term, and the owners can always request assistance from the city, and the Olympia police department, to carry out an eviction.

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Although we are in the middle of winter, the serious harm that could be inflicted on our houseless friends and neighbors at the Jungle is not the result of a natural disaster, but because the institutions and fabric of our society have failed them, and are failing us. We are mindful that the unauthorized local encampments are performing a largely unacknowledged public service by providing more bed-nights for our houseless community than all of the local shelters combined.

We understand that the inadequate availability of affordable and accessible housing, as well as support services for mental and physical health needs, is a regional crisis that requires close cooperation and collaboration among all governmental entities and social service providers, as well as a significant commitment of public resources.

We are also aware that Olympia city ordinances presently criminalize people for simply trying to survive, and we call upon the city council to Legalize Survival by amending or repealing these ordinances, or at least suspending them through the rest of the winter.

A way through the Jungle

Reporting from Olympia’s largest houseless encampment

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—A refuge no longer?

The provision of the Trump Administration’s “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” that most concerns scientists, environmentalists and many others is the one that allows for the opening of five million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. In addition to slashing the corporate tax rate to 21 percent the legislation contains a variety of non-tax provisions including elimination of the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate. However, the addition of ANWR to the bill is not as unrelated to tax reform as it might initially seem.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—A refuge no longer?

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, “section 1002,” was left only partially protected as it might initially seem. The Inupiat people, many of whom are interested in drilling in Alaska. The Act protected nearly 70,000 acres of Alaskan wilderness through the establishment of many new national parks and wilderness areas. To appease the Act’s opponents, one part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, “section 1002,” was left only partially protected as it might initially seem. The Inupiat people, many of whom are interested in drilling in Alaska.

The Inupiat, people of whom many live and work within ANWR Section 1002, remain divided on the issue of drilling. Some members of the tribe have expressed enthusiasm about the potential for increased oil revenue, while others argue that it would be a disaster for the environment and the way of life for the Inupiat people.

The Refuge is home to over 200 species of birds as well as moose, arctic foxes, wolves, and polar bears, many of which are endangered.

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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 systems of inequity and the exclusionary practices that seek to silence the victims of injustice and their voices.

Submissions:

Our goal is to publish stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media. In this way, we seek to publish unique, serious news stories. We always accept work by local authors. Information on people and places are welcome especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We also look for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the bounds of conventional journalism. WIP reserves the right to publish any material submitted in whole or in part.

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 local communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local authors. We also consider poetry, graphics, cartoons and articles that challenge conventional journalism.

We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. Articles that relate to the theme will have preference, but other topics are also welcome, as usual. Editing that extends beyond that need- ed for clarity will be reviewed with the author.

Theme for February Issue

The theme for WIP’s February 2018 issue is work.

Submissions should:

- Offer a unique perspective on the subject.
- Appeal to local and regional readers.
- Range between 750-1200 words.
- Include a one- or two-line bio of the author.

- Include an email address for con- tacts if you wish.

Send submissions to: Olywip@gmail.com with the word “SUBMISSION” in the subject line.

Criminalizing poetry, imprisoning poets

Palestinian poet Dareen Tatour is seen in an Israeli courtroom with her family and supporters before a hearing in the northern city of Nazareth on November 20. Tatour was arrested in a pre-dawn raid on October 15 for a poem she published on social me- dia. She spent three months in jail and for a year and a half has been under house arrest.

The reason given for Tatour’s arrest is that she, together with her family and friends, engaged in “incitement to commit a future offense.”

According to the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem, administration detention in Israel is used to hold thou- sands of Palestinians for lengthy peri- ods without trial or charge. It alleges that on her lawyer’s request to commit a future offense, there is no time limit, and the evi- dence on which this detention order is merely symbolic – as the individual detainee doesn’t even know why they are being held and thus can never mount a defense.

I’ll forget it, as you wish

The story of us that’s now part of the past

But the dreams that were once ours

Of our hearts

We would have liked to make them come true,

But we killed them.

I’ll forget things, O love of my life.

Things we said.

While the trees under which we sat

I’ll forget them,

To the Capital.

I’ll forgive them, As we killed them.

I’ll forgive them, As you were killing them.

So don’t be angry.

—Dareen Tatour

Translated by Jonathan Wright and reprinted from Nomadica, New Poems by Dareen Tatour

Quoted statements by Dareen Tatour

"I was interrogated and transferred several times. After the third interrogation, when they breathed the poison in for the first time, it was like watching myself in a movie. I am going to sit in prison because of poetry. The seri- ous problem was that they mis trans- lated [the poem]. It isn’t even an issue of interpretation – the translation was wrong and thus the police’s interpreta- tion was completely off."

Hundreds of writers, poets, translators, editors, artists and others supported a pe- tition in 2015 urging Tatour’s release. PEN America describes to Tatour’s support as "a large-scale consor- tium of investigative journalists and others using social media to pub- lish their writing, including the cases of Palestinian journalists Muhammad al Qaq and Omar Nazzal.

Special events

King Tide

Fri, Jan 5, 8:00-10:00 am. The Harbor House on the waterfront in Olympia.

Contact: Kitty Cody: envirotalk@yahoomailgroups.com

New Skills for Liberation and Ending Opposition

Fri, Jan 19, 4:00-6:00 pm. Workshop presented by Backbone Campaign. Sign up at http://walkthurston.org/volunteer

2018 Climate Resistance Summit

Sat, Jan 6, 8 am – 6 pm. Seattle University, 901 12th Ave, Seattle. Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility.

“Social Ecology and the Syrian Revolution”


Climate Countdown Day 1

Mon, Jan 8, 11 am – 1 pm. State Capitol, 415 SIdney Ave SW. Major mobilization of climate change supporters in solidarity with Democrats in the state legislature.

The Doomsday Device


CCC Volunteer Basic Training Day 1

Thurs, Jan 11, Noon - 4 pm. First Unitarian Church of Seattle. Legion Way SE. Day 2, Sat, Jan 13, 8 am – 4 pm. Seattle Community Care Center, 225 State Ave NE. Learning about the Community Care Center in downtown Olym- pia. Walk/InterFaith Works. Sign up at http://walkthurston.org/volunteer

Playboy Theatre

Fri, Jan 12, 7-10 pm. Productions - 300 5th Ave SW. Arts For Art.

Lobby Day for NARAL Pro-Choice WA and WA Women’s Action Network, Thurs, Jan 18, 11 am – 4 pm.


Women’s March Anniversary Rally & Walk for Women.

Sat, Jan 20, 11 am – 1 pm. State Capitol, 415 SIdney Ave SW. Honoring sisters who have died at the hands of others, showing that domes- tic and other forms of violence against women will not be tolerated.

Workshop in Nonviolent Communication (NVC)

Mon, Jan 22, 6:45 – 9:00 pm. Seattle University Silas Butler Community Center, 213 21st Ave SE.

The art ofNonviolent communication radical remorse for healing relationships and avoiding conflict. Sign up at 206-455-4563 or livmommy@gmail.com

Climate Lobby Day,

Mon, Jan 22, 8-4 pm. Start at St John’s Episcopal Church, 1124 20th Ave SE, proceed to the Capitol.

Volunteers needed. Sign up at http://bendthelawn.org/volunteerpaper- tickets.com/ or 425-830-5753

Protecting Our Public Lands


Nwetheruer at the Olympia City Courthouse, 222 4th St NE.

A defensive strategy we can employ against the federal onslaught. Sponsored by Sierra Club Sound Council. Contact amniculaherby@gmail.com.
When felons can vote their convictions

Bethany Weidner

The recent US Senate election in Alabama focused some attention on the fact that “felons” (or at least some felons) in Alabama can—and did—vote. If you want to see who these people might be, to find out what makes a person a felon—or what crime constitutes a felony—don’t expect any clarity. It turns out that a felon is someone who is in prison, and is a “serious crime.”

Who goes to prison, of course, varies from state to state, and whether someone was charged with a felony for a crime they commit depends substantially on the attitude of the District Attorney.

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

As the Chief Elections Official for Thurston County, I empower all eligible people to vote. It’s your right, and your voice is important! — Mary Hall
Thurston County Auditor

Vote

Thurston County Elections

Yes, you can vote!

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

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

From a publication of the Thurston County Auditor’s Office and Public Defense

Register at ThurstonVotes.Org

or call (360) 786-5408

The federal definition coupled with changes in immigration policy led Washington state legislators in 2011 to change the state’s definition for a gross misdemeanor to one day less than a year to protect non-citizens from country deportation. Whether that still helps is unclear...

RCW 9.90.010: “The legislature finds that this is a disproportionate outcome for a gross misdemeanor to one day less than a year and, hence, either have no impact on that person’s residency status or will provide that person an opportunity to be heard in immigration proceedings before the court will determine whether deportation is appropriate. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to cure this inequity by reducing the maximum sentence for a gross misdemeanor by one day.”

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It’s up to Inslee: Fate of what would be the largest oil export terminal in the US

Dan Leahy

Governor Inslee has 60 days to approve or reject an application by the Tesoro oil company to build the nation’s largest crude oil export terminal on the Columbia River at the Port of Vancouver.

Over the past four years, a potent, on-the-ground coalition led by the Sierra Club and the local Longshore Union mobilized the people of Clark County, along with other statewide and regional organizations, to oppose the proposal.

At the county level, a strategic accomplishment was to elect a majority of Commissioners to the Port of Vancouver Council, which oversees the Tesoro project. Inslee rejected this proposal.

At the statewide level, this coalition focused on the environmental review by the State’s Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSCE). The EFSCE published its Final Environmental Impact Statement in November and then voted to recommend to the Governor that Inslee reject Tesoro’s application.

One of the many groups who wrote to Governor Inslee after the EFSCE decision was the Washington State Council on Fire Fighters (WSCFF). In his letter to Governor Inslee, Dennis Lawson, President of the WSCFF, said that “We ask this project as a fundamental threat to our members, other first responders, and the communities we serve.”

President Lawson continued, “We have written to you before about the dangers of 120-car unit trains that carry 3.7 million gallons of Bakken crude oil through our communities each week. Approving Tesoro’s project would make it more probable that the number of weekly oil trains in our state from 24.5 to 52.5. The expanded traffic, flowing along the length of the 445-mile stretch of track called the Columbia River Alignment would negatively impact our members.”

As for the other groups, check with the sacredstonecamp.org for updates to the project application.
The Ordinary Peoples Society

Pastor Kenneth Glasgow, Director of The Ordinary Peoples Society (TOPS), has worked tirelessly for over 15 years to pass legislation and win lawsuits so that people with convictions could vote. Those efforts also meant that people with misdemeanors and felons and those who sit in jails because of criminalization and poverty could vote from INSIDE the prison system. Only two other states in the US allow that (Maine and Vermont). Over the last month, Glasgow registered 5,000 new voters in 22 jails and 10 prisons. He worked the streets, he ensured that absentee ballots were distributed, he organized vans and carloads to get voters to the polls. When two guys didn’t have drivers’ licenses, he drove them back to the prisons they were caged in, got Xerox copies of their mug shots, and used these as “state-issued photo ID” at the polling station so the men could vote.

TOPS and Project South have been working together since 2005 when we first met at a BAM (Building a Movement) Organizing Retreat. Pastor Glasgow told us, “All this week, every lane of my telephone was going up and down, and something was coming back to me. Y’all said that it’s not a true win unless everyone feels like they’re a part of it. Everyone feels like they made this happen. Because we did.”

The Ordinary Peoples Society

Healing Powders & Potions

Available in the wellness department

8am - 9pm daily • www.olympiafood.coop

Westside Store & Garden Center
921 Rogers St. NW
Olympia, WA 98502
360.754.7644

Eastside Store & Deli
3111 Pacific Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360.966.3470

Since page 1

Project South

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Punishing dissent

Emily Lardner

"It's often said of the Trump era that the Republic has drifted into uncharted waters, but the more disturbing element is that we are mindlessly revisiting some of the darker regions of our historical map," Jelani Cobb

Jelani Cobb's December 2017 article in the New Yorker compares this era with one a hundred years ago, soon after the founding of the FBI, when that agency was, Cobb writes, "obsessed over all manner of 'radicals,' but particularly those African-Americans whose meekest protests of racism were regarded as subversion. African-American newspapers that reported on lynchings were deemed to threaten morale, and the Post Office threatened seizure of subscription copies. This narrowing of free expression had wide-ranging implications, especially for civil-rights organizations and activists."

Cobb goes on to compare the 1919 movement as "potentially Bolshevik-inspired" and suggested that black discontent could "easily turn into support for Communism" with the August 12, 2001, attacks on the USS Cole. He supported its argument.

The 2017 FBI report constructs the category of "black identity extremists"—a category that will, by history, have material consequences for black people in the US. While September 11 and the rise of this phantom group, better thinkers are mindful of facts about domestic terrorism, as noted in April 2017, the Government Accountability Office noted that since September 12, 2001, local and state lobbying to criminalize pipeline activists just got easier. The DOJ's understanding of 18 U.S.C. 3579 considers "the intent of the conspirators as a key factor in the severity of the crime. If the conspirators were, for example, intending to cause economic disruption, the severity of the crime is greater than if the conspirators were intending to damage, destroy, vandalize, deface, tamper with equipment, or impede or interfere with the operation of a facility. If the person shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine not less than $10,000, or a term of confinement are added to the sentence."

"The same thing is happening with climate activists. In a blog post on the Energy Infrastructure Exchange Council (ALEC), which according to the Energy Infrastructure Incident Reporting Center, sponsored by the Energy and Environment Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA), which according to the EEIA website, is "dedicated to tracking and sharing information about the Energy Infrastructure Incident Report Center (EEIR)." The letter essentially previewed the case made in the October letter to the DOJ, which links to a new database called the Critical Infrastructure Energy Incident Report Center (EEIR), a model policy, on May 29, 2016, when the energy infrastructure in very broad terms, the model policy moves into punishment level?

Does the DOJ intend to pursue prosecutorial or investigative action against those involved with the highly publicized October 11, 2016, attempted sabotage of four major crude oil pipelines in multiple states? If not, please explain the DOJ's reasoning for not pursuing this case.

Fines resulting from attacks on oil pipelines are determined by four factors: the type of damage caused; whether the damage is discovered before the facility is shut down; how long the facility is shut down; and whether the action is undertaken for financial gain.

Ratcheting up the pressure: enter ALEC

Washington state's chilling dissent

Sen. Doug Ericksen (R-Watson County), short-term employee of the US Attorney General, has long been known as an advocate for the oil and gas industry and, according to The Hill, a major beneficiary of campaign contributions from those industries, put forth his Preventing Economic Disruption Act (PEDA) last year. So why did Ericksen get out of committee, but Ericksen filed to have the bill stay on the docket for the upcoming legislative session.

Ericksen's PEDA demonstrates a current version of stoking paranoia and fighting communism. Here's the official summary of the bill: "The legislation recognizes and supports the ability of individuals to exercise their rights of free speech, press, and peaceful assembly. A prosecuting attorney may file a special allegation alleging the use of a criminal offense to cause economic disruption. If the defendant is convicted of the underlying economic offense and the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the offense was committed to cause economic disruption, the following mandatory periods of total confinement are added to the underlying offense's sentence.

The real rhetorical hook comes in the definition of economic disruption, which includes committing a crime to influence the policy of a government: "Economic disruption means to commit a crime intending to influence: the policy of a government by intimidating, coercing by deception, harassing, or threatening."

"Any person who shall willfully damage, destroy, vandalize, deface or by intimidation in the custody of the Department of Corrections [or substitute the appropriate State equivalent thereof] for a term of [length of time], or by both such fine and imprisonment."
Lessons on the anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre

Flint Taylor

Reprinted with permission from Truthout.org

Thirty-eight years ago, on November 3, 1979, 35 heavily armed members of the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party drove nine vehicles through the city of Greensboro, North Carolina, and opened fire on a peaceful march of demonstrators who were gathering at a Black housing project in preparation for an anti-Klan march. In the most deadly 88 seconds in the history of the city, the KKK and Nazi marauders fired into panicky crowds of men, women, and children with guns, semi-automatic rifles and pistols, leaving five of the march leaders dead and 30 other demonstrators wounded. Most of the victims were associated with the Communist Workers Party (CWP), a multiracial organization which had been organizing in the South against the Klan.

The Greensboro police, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) were all aware of the plan to attack the march. However, no law enforcement officials were present except for a police informant-provocateur, Edward Dawson, who led the caravan of attack vehicles, and his control agent, John “Rooster” Cooper, a Greensboro intelligence detective who followed the caravan. Butkopovich, an ATF provocateur had informed his superiors of the November 3 attack. It was also revealed that Dawson had not only planned the November 3 attack, but the CWP had manufactured four pipe bombs that were intended for use in Greensboro.

The Greensboro Justice Fund, which was organized by the widows of the victims and was supported by many organizations and people across North Carolina and the nation. The phobic outcry and the shocking video tape evidence helped compel the reluctant local district attorney to obtain indictments against six of the Klan and Nazi members on murder charges.

The six-month-long murder trial began in the summer of 1980, with the chief prosecutor making anti-communist remarks to an all-white jury. The lawyers for the Nazi and Klan defendants used every emotional weapon at their disposal — anti-communism, racism and patriotism, wrapped around a self-defense claim. The jury acquitted all six defendants.

The acquittal fanned the flames of outrage. The decidedly unsympathetic Reagon Department of Justice originally resisted this pressure, but finally, in March of 1982, the DOJ convened a special grand jury, and a year later, obtained civil rights conspiracy indictments against nine Klansmen and Nazis. This trial began in January of 1984. The jury was secretly selected and was all white. The Klan and Nazi leaders argued that their lawyers’ motivation was patriotic anti-communism rather than racism. After a threemonth trial, the jury acquitted all of the defendants.

On the first anniversary of the massacre, the Greensboro Justice Fund had filed a civil rights suit on behalf of the 16 victims. As plaintiffs, the victims alleged a broad-based conspiracy by the Nazi and Klan defendants under the 1871 anti-Klan Act, which provided victims of racially motivated conspiracies the right to sue the conspirators for money damages. They also alleged that the law enforcement and informant-provocateur defendants official- ly encouraged and participated in the conspiracy, and that the disagreement to cover up their involvement. Their complaint also incorporated newly revealed information that informant provocateur Dawson had obtained the identities of the marchers’ plans from the Greensboro police in an attempt to plot the attack, and that ATF undercover agent Bernard Butkovich had infiltrated the Nazis and had encouraged them to bring weapons to Greensboro.

As the civil suit proceeded, the depth and contours of official involvement became ever clearer, revealing that Dawson had also been a longtime FBI agent provocateur in the Klan and had encouraged other acts of violence by his longtime associate, Grand Dragon Virgil Griffin, with whom he planned the November 3 attack. It was also revealed that Dawson had not only been acting with the knowledge of the Greensboro police in planning the attack, but had also informed his FBI contact that violence was likely on November 3, and that Greensboro police had been informed that the Klan was coming to Greensboro with a machine gun “to shoot up the place.”

This newly discovered evidence also showed ATF provocateur Butkovich had informed his superiors of the Na- zis’ plan for violence and of their possession of several high-powered weapons, and that they knew that former Defense Secretary McNamara had instructed Congressman Jerry Voorhis to ensure that “he could work good things into a crowd of 4,000.” Butkovich’s testimony further showed that his encouragement of violence was pursuant to ATF policy and with his superiors’ advice and consent.

The civil rights case went to trial in March of 1985. The judge examined more than 300 potential jurors. Most of the prospective white jurors exhibited a high degree of racism, anti-semitism, and contempt for the Klansmen and Nazis. This trial began in January of 1984. The jury was secretly selected and was all white. The Klan and Nazi leaders argued that their lawyers’ motivation was patriotic anti-communism rather than racism. After a threemonth trial, the jury acquitted all of the defendants.

The reactions of Attorney General Jeffrey Beauregard Sessions and President Donald Trump to Charlottesville foreshadow an official response that may well make the DOJ’s response in Greensboro look tame by comparison.

The reaction to Charlottesville is a prime example of this history repeating itself. The city of the Masons’ past, which took- en white supremacist organizations, heavily armed and looking to engage in mass violence against victims of police acquiescence to those organizations, and law enforcement agencies conveniently enabling them. This is a careful strategy of violence and looking the other way while they wreak their blood-splattered terrorist war.

The reactions of Attorney General Jeff- frey Beauregard Sessions and President Donald Trump to Charlottesville fore- shadow an official response that may well make the DOJ’s response in Greensboro look tame by comparison — they have already started to blame the victims and promise to take swift action against the counterdemonstrators.

This response is in keeping with the tenor of this administration, under the false narrative of a “black on whiteness,” full-throated encouragement and official protection in the halls of power. With an almost hypnotic duplicity and doublethink, they have engaged in a pattern of violence; a militant opposition to the principle that they could kill Black people and communists with com- promise verdict. After nearly six months of testimony, thejuries called victim Paul Bermazohn to the stand. He told of his background as the son of Holocaust survivors, his role in organizing the “Death to the Klan” march, and how he had been in the NC. He was the only white person on the jury and the only white person to sit on the jury. The verdict was national news, with millions of Americans watching, including the First Baptist Church assassination case, the Jon Buhe torture cases and the Greensboro civil case.

On the anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre, let us remember the legacy of these brave activists, and let us draw strength from them as we move forward in the current moment to take the lead in continue the crucial fight for racial justice. G Flint Taylor, a founding partner of the People’s Law Office in Chicago, has been counsel in numerous important civil rights cases over the past 35 years, including the Fred Hampton assassination case, the Jon Buhe torture cases and the Greensboro civil case.

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Olympia fracking blockade: Indigenous peoples speak out

Mitchell Verter

On November 18, 2017 activists in Olympia, Washington erected a blockade to halt trains delivering chemicals to the oil refining fields along the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), the epicenter for last year’s struggles at Standing Rock. The encampment lasted for twelve days until a heavily armed police force dislodged it. In order to prepare for this protest, activists learned of the history of indigenous peoples, for they are the most threatened by the fossil fuel industry’s extraction of life-energy from the earth.

Michael Vendiola

Many predators define their indig- enous identities not simply through tribal affiliation, but also as how their people have lived in harmony with nature throughout generations. This awareness is what fuels the Lakota claim, “Water is Life.” This slogan announces how water provides the infrastructure of life and provides the inspiration of life, how the earth provides soil for growing life and, most gravely, how we human beings can choose whether the energy that fuels life will be sustainable or will poison water, air and land.

“Vendiola’s father provided for his fam-

ily of Michael Vendiola, an

American Indian from the Colville Tribe of the Okanogan and Chelan, Washington, in his yard, trapping crabs in the bay, engaged in the search for an abundant life. He knew from childhood that the land was his home and that his ancestors and the land had been connected in a responsibility that connects them to their ancestors and their descendants, as well as to other indigenous caretakers of the earth. Our land and waters are filled with toxic waste.”

The spread of the fracking industry has led to economic booms in the Dakotas and elsewhere, providing transient employment to mostly men who are housed in oil company trailers, and chilen
dren are trafficked through these

human rights to honor, life, and harvest on the entire land, but this agreement was broken when the oil companies provided philanthropy that all onLoad

Our lands and waters are filled with toxic waste.”

Our planet is on fire.”

Indigenous peoples consider them

selves the original stewards of the land, a responsibility that connects them to their ancestors and their descendants, as well as to other indigenous caretak-ers.

Kyle Taylor Lucas, an enrolled member of the Tulalip Tribal (USA) and the Nakapamux First Nation (Canada), speaks eloquently on the importance of the Olympia Port Blockade: “This struggle is important because our planet is on fire. As an indigenous woman, I feel a duty to honor my el-
ders and the legacy of my ancestors in caring for this mother earth — and, moreover, I feel a responsibility to my grandchildren and the next seven gen-
erations to stand up to the economic

machinery propped up by the govern-

ment, specifically the Port of Olympia, in perpetuating the warming of this earth and the poisoning of water

to essential to life. We call ourselves Water Protectors and we were especially in-
spired by the courage of the houseless inhabitants at Standing Rock during DAPL. We in-

Widening the scope of resistance, the indigenous peoples came together with our allies here at Olympia Stand to re-

sist the Port of Olympia’s forced com-

peting in propping up dirty hydraulic frac-

turing in North Dakota that these

energies have polluted the land and water so badly that the town has for-

bitten harvesting of shellfish.

Today, we saw the effects of this as

The fossil fuel industry’s destruction of the earth and water has intensified due to its recent innovation of frack-

ing. Rather than pumping crude oil from liq-

duils, fracking drills down to strata of oil-rich earth, and then cracks open the earth at that depth, creating fissures

from which the oil can flow. A mixture of chemicals, proppants, are used to keep open these cracks.

As with previous resource extraction and natural ex-

ploitation, much fracking occurs on the lands of natives, who are again displaced from their traditional

habitats and exposed to a variety of indus-

trial contaminants. Benita Moore, the founder of Native Daily Network and a member of the Standing Rock Sioux, warns, “It is going to poison all of my people.” Less than a year after the US government uprooted protest-

ers at Standing Rock, a rupture in the Keystone Access Pipeline leaked over 200,000 gallons of oil nearby in South Dakota, contaminating the land, the water and the atmosphere.

“We must choose whether we will allow this to continue.”

The spread of the fracking industry has led to economic booms in the Dakotas and elsewhere, providing transient employment to mostly men who are housed in oil company trailers, and children are trafficked through these moving places, these fracking places. This is a war on our native women, the backbone of our nation: indigenous women and girls, who are murdered, traumatized, kidnapped and sold as sex slaves.

The spread of the fracking industry has led to economic booms in the Dakotas and elsewhere, providing transient employment to mostly men who are housed in oil company trailers, and children are trafficked through these moving places, these fracking places. This is a war on our native women, the backbone of our nation: indigenous women and girls, who are murdered, traumatized, kidnapped and sold as sex slaves.

Earth-Feather, an Oglala and Sanpoil bands member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and the founder of the Indigenous Women’s War Society, explains that blocking the trains halts the patriarchal colonial violence perpetrated against indigenous women and chil-

dren. These houseless persons held the “Romeo Crew,” one of their poets, Starchild, declared, “I’ve never seen something like this, something that could bring everyone together like that. When I came to Olympia this summer, everyone was closed up to each other. At the blockade, everyone shared freely. It really opened up my heart.”

Against all of this globalist, neo-
capitalist, neoliberal bullshit”

On November 29, a sizable police force massed to uproot the camp. A little af-

ter that police fired on protesters with tear gas, a tank mounted by a pepper sprayer rumbled down the train tracks, protesters vow to con-

tinue action against all this.

What we need is a movement to create new possibilities for living. One organizer asserts: “There will be continued action against all this globalist, neo-capitalist, neoliberal bullshit. We will continue to force the fossil fuel infrastructure out of Wash-

ington State. We will continue to build solidarity with our indigenous allies and with the houseless of Olympia. We will continue to create a new and better world for everyone.”

The anti-gentrification movement in Olympia is vital for houseless people. In downtown Olympia, though rents are increasing throughout the city, in downtown, there is little real housing and a large houseless population. Thus, criminalizing houselessness and policing public space are fundamental to gentrification in Olympia. Multiple city ordinances ban or limit public camping, loitering and sleeping in cars. Public bathrooms are inadequate and often open by 6 or 9 pm. Public benches are routinely removed or fitted with dividers to prevent people sleeping on them. This winter the government will not open its Warming Center, which has been a vital resource for houseless people. In this context it is crucial to organize on the terrain of public space in Olympia, and to see that struggles over public bathroom access, or against the removal of a park bench, are as essential as organizing to stop evictions or rent increases.

Anti-gentrification: Rent-control, public space and houselessness

Robert Gorrill

Anti-gentrification movements exist in a multitude of forms in most cities across the country. While these movements have been unable to stop the decline in the quantity of rent-controlled dwellings, they have also provided important examples of strong tenant movements like New York and San Francisco, anti-gentrification organizing to preserve existing regulations, most notably rent control. In New York, near the end of 2015, rent was rent stabilized, and due to grassroots pressure, the Rent Guidelines Board in 2015 made the decision to raise rent. In New York, the movement has spread. Richmond, CA has recently imposed rent controls, and organizers in cities from Chicago to Long Beach, CA to Providence, RI are building for rent control. Linking anti-gentrification and housing also engages in advocacy, deploying or discussed, including anti-gentrification campaigns, City Council speak-outs and other campaigns, City Council speak-outs or protests like shutting down city meetings where building permits are issued, or occupying project construction sites. To get involved, reach out to one of the following groups:

Just Housing
Weekly Meeting: Monday 3-5PM
Unitarian Universalist Church 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia
Facebook: facebook.com/JustHousingOly
Email: JustHousingOly@gmail.com

Olympia Solidarity Network:
Email: olysolidarity@gmail.com
Website: olyassembly@gmail.com/olympiahousingsolidarity

Olympia Assembly
Email: gbj@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/olyassembly

Robert Gorrill is active with several housing justice groups fighting gentrification in Olympia. This essay is the second part of an essay published in WIP’s December 2017 essay entitled “Causes and mechanisms of gentrification—a process inherent to capitalism.”
America and the Prisons We Inhabit

Enrique Quintero

The history of criminal legislation in America and the prisons we inhabit

January 2018 Works In Progress Page 9

There is no justice in this world or the other

It may sound like a political heresy, but contrary to what many well-intentioned liberals say, there has never really been justice—particularly if the concept is understood as a universal idea that somehow can guarantee just behavior or just treatment around the world. What humanity has witnessed so far have been historically and socially constructed judicial forms and practices, by which groups or classes exercise their power over others in order to consolidate their own status. In other words, justice has varied both in form and content depending on the classes in control of society at a given time.

Currently we live in capitalist times and our existence is marked by the capitalist need to dispossess the disingenuous or those affected by chronic historical naïveté can be surprised by the following affirmations first: there is a general ‘lack of justice’ in American society, a fact empirically verifiable everywhere through the media and characterized by the deep inequalities that mark the nation.

The second affirmation is the realization that the law, judicial legislation and laws existing in the country are meant to protect big property or to expand it (for example, the recent tax bill which profitable corporations pay at a corporate income tax by 14%, among other things cuts corporate income tax by 14%, among other things cuts). The cruel irony is that somehow can guarantee just property or to expand it (for example, the recent tax bill which profitable corporations pay at a corporate income tax by 14%, among other things cuts corporate income tax by 14%, among other things cuts).

The penitentiary society

When it comes to incarceration, we are number one! We have indeed the highest incarceration rate in the history of the planet. We may have no justice but we have sure have prisons and lock up people. According to the US Census Bureau, in 2014 the correctional population in the US was 6.8 million. A similar report by The Prison Policy Initiative, a non-profit organization aiming to put the problem of mass incarceration on the national agenda, points out that the American criminal justice system has more than 1,719 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 901 juvenile detention facilities, 4,823 local jails, and 67 Indian Country jails as well as military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil war detention centers, and prisons in US territories. While these figures are record highs, they are nonetheless far to reflect the uneven distribution of incarceration affecting communities of color, particularly low income and Latin communities. According to the Guardian, in 2016 black Americans were incarcerated at a rate five times higher than white people and three times higher than Latinos. The penal system in America, as Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, and others have argued, is part of larger disciplinary network of punishment within a certain class/race system that works against black and brown bodies.

The prison society

According to the French philosopher Michel Foucault, disciplinary societies have a tendency to develop extreme and sophisticated methods of surveillance to subdue their citizens. He illustrated this predisposition by using the image of the “panopticon.”

This gloomy scenario gets worse when we consistently find that surveillance data has transcend the limits of the government and reached the world of profit ruled by corporations. In the words of Thomas McMillan, “with the advent of wider network systems, heralded by the likes of Brillo and Apple’s HomeKit, everything from imaging machines to sex toys will soon be able to communicate, creating a vast archive of data about our lives. And this deluge of data won’t only be passed back and forth between objects but will most likely reflect the unwind distribution of incarceration affecting communities of color, particularly low income and Latin communities. According to the Guardian, in 2016 black Americans were incarcerated at a rate five times higher than white people and three times higher than Latinos. The penal system in America, as Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, and others have argued, is part of larger disciplinary network of punishment within a certain class/race system that works against black and brown bodies. The prison house of language

According to the French philosopher Michel Foucault, disciplinary societies have a tendency to develop extreme and sophisticated methods of surveillance to subdue their citizens. He illustrated this predisposition by using the image of the “panopticon.”

This is defined as a circular prison with cells around a central observation tower from which prisoners could be observed at all times creating a situation in which the prisoners don’t see or know when he/she is being observed.

According to Thomas McMillan, writing for the Guardian (7/23/15), the panopticon is based on “the principle of central inspection,” which, given the current development of digital surveillance and data capture, can be also reprogrammed in a variety of less intrusive forms. Suffice here to mention a report by HS Markit, which indicated that “the installed base of surveillance units in North America is expected to grow from just 33 million in 2012 to nearly 62 million by the end of 2016.” A different report, this time by Statista, a company specializing in the creation of databases for the industrial world, noticed how the United States had the largest number of video surveillance cameras per thousand people, 25, followed by the UK with 91, and China with 97.

The cruel irony is that a society with a constant gaze on its citizens has decided at the same time to close its eyes when it comes to acknowledging the basic needs of its members such as health care, livable wages, housing, education, social security, etc.

The gnostic scenario

According to the French philosopher Michel Foucault, disciplinary societies have a tendency to develop extremely sophisticated methods of surveillance to subdue their citizens. He illustrated this predisposition by using the image of the “panopticon.”

The Trump administration recently provided a glimpse of the role of language and ideological manipulations when it comes to acknowledging the basic needs of its members such as health care, livable wages, housing, education, social security, etc.

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This scenario gets worse when we consistently find that surveillance data has transcend the limits of the government and reached the world of profit ruled by corporations. In the words of Thomas McMillan, “with the advent of wider network systems, heralded by the likes of Brillo and Apple’s HomeKit, everything from imaging machines to sex toys will soon be able to communicate, creating a vast archive of data about our lives. And this deluge of data won’t only be passed back and forth between objects but will most likely reflect the uneven distribution of incarceration affecting communities of color, particularly low income and Latin communities. According to the Guardian, in 2016 black Americans were incarcerated at a rate five times higher than white people and three times higher than Latinos. The penal system in America, as Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, and others have argued, is part of larger disciplinary network of punishment within a certain class/race system that works against black and brown bodies.

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The advantage of this approach is twofold. On the one hand, it allows the dominant classes to make their own ideology the one that is accepted “cultural norm” of society, or to put it in Marx’s words: * the domin- ant ideology of a society is the ideol- ogy of the dominant class of society.* Second, it allows domination and com- promise, and the latter of these two is perhaps more dangerous than the former. They need not have recourse to the direct use of force via what Gramsci called the ‘repressive apparatus’ or the ‘hegemonic apparatus of the state’ such as the police, the military, the judicial system, the government reservoirs. By conscious eliminating concepts, values, morals, explanations of events, language and ideological manipu- lation, and oppressive than their physical counterparts. It is the reason, that by promoting arguments, perceptions, and ideas in general, so that they can become universally accepted in the public discourse, the admin- istration is limiting the human, politi- cal practice words such as class, race, and oppressed by their physical counterparts. It is the reason, that by promoting arguments, perceptions, and ideas in general, so that they can become universally accepted in the public discourse, the admin- istration is limiting the human, politi- cal practice words such as class, race, and oppressive than their physical counterparts.
Crime does pay

Dana Walker

Barck in the 90’s, Charles Keating got four years in federal prison for stealing $200 million. (In contrast, I got six years for selling some marijuana.) How many of you who would give up four years of your life for $200 million? And referring to the prison experience as ‘giving up your life’ is actually misleading as you don’t really ‘give up your life’—you are still living when you go through it—and going to prison also provides a great opportunity to catch up on your reading!

Anyway, why should anyone deal with all the problems associated with actually making things (and thus having to deal with all the taxes and regulations and labor problems and all the other problems involved in actually producing actual wealth) why should they do all of that when it is so easy to simply steal things?

Especially when the consequences for getting caught are often so laughably small?

The federal prison system has various levels of security, basically they are minimum, low, high, and maximum—and the fairly recent new classification of ‘super-max’ (i.e. solitary confinement with absolutely no human contact).

Thanks to the Shawshank Redemption, everyone thinks that everyone in prison claims to be innocent when actually they are all guilty. While Shawshank Redemption is one of my favorite movies I’ve ever seen—that part is total bullshit. Most people who are guilty not only freely admit their guilt but they often boast of it—and most of those who claim to be innocent actually are.

I myself spent two of my six years in one of those federal minimum-security camps. While I definitely did not resemble a country club (though industry realizes that protest is a threat...because activists have been successful, and because protest is an important tool for activists, demonstrates the increased threat of prosecution), I was draped in chains and surrounded by armed guards at all times. When I was transferred to the camp I was, as usual, draped in chains and surrounded by armed guards for the day trip. (The armed guards sit in a cage inside the bus.) Then, after I was processed into the camp, they told me to simply walk out of the front door and across the street to the housing facility.

I walked outside alone without any chains or armed guards for the first time in three years.

It was amazing, I never had any intention of walking away from that camp—but the knowledge that I could if I wanted to radically altered the entire psychology of being ‘locked up’. Since you can simply walk away from a camp, one of the requirements for being classified minimum security is that you don’t have a long time left to serve. When I was there, I don’t remember anyone else at the camp who had more than four years left on their sentence.

Anyway, a few years ago a local gentleman named Frederick Darren Berg stole $150 million in a Ponzi scheme. He became known as Washington State’s ‘Mimi-Madoff’. In 2012 Mr. Berg was found guilty of an 18-count plea deal with the feds and since the feds only give 15% ‘good time’ then that meant at least 15 years actually in prison.

(I am thinking it very likely that the relatively harsh prison sentence came about because—like Mr. Madoff—Mr. Berg made the mistake of pissing off the wrong people by ripping off other rich people. He probably should have come up with an even more strategic plan to take people’s funds or your grandmother’s life savings or whatever.)

This crackdown is happening because activists have been successful, and because industry realizes that protest is a threat...the part of government and industry to legislate are controlled by Republicans,

Kelsey Skaggs said.

This suit is part of a rising tendency on

The criminalization of environmental protest in Trump’s America

[Climate Defense Project] co-founder Kelsey Skaggs was extensively featured in a ThinkProgress article on government and corporate crackdowns on protesters; co-founder Ted Hamilton was also quoted.

This crackdown is happening because activists have been successful, and because industry realizes that protest is a threat...the part of government and industry to legislate are controlled by Republicans, and so label their opponents ‘terrorists’ and seek gag orders in court.

"Legally, many of these proposed bills are clearly unconstitutional and many of them have failed to be passed into law," Skaggs said. "But their existence, even as proposals, can certainly create fear and chill First Amendment activity..."

Still, with the Trump administration leaving little hope for environmental and climate groups that once saw the federal government as a potential ally, Skaggs said she views protests as an important tool for activists, despite the increased threat of prosecution.

"The elected branches of government are not responsive to the will of the people, by and large. They are responsive to the interests of powerful industry. And in that situation, I think that people believe that dissent is critical," Skaggs said.


A Playback Theatre performance Walking side-by-side with our immigrant neighbors

Friday, January 12, 2018 • 7:30 p.m.
Traditions Café – 300 5th Ave. SW
downtown Olympia

Cost: Suggested Donation $7.00-$12.00

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 Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia (CIELO). Their mission is to promote community, self-sufficiency and leadership of Latinas/os and the extended community in the South Puget Sound area with educational and mental health services and social and cultural activities.

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.
The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear Planner
A book by Daniel Ellsberg. (Bloomsbury, 2017)

Dan Leahy

We are very lucky in this state. The Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) began a campaign last year to pressure the nuclear weapons complex globally and prevent nuclear war. They initiated this campaign as President Obama authorized a trillion dollar program to rebuild the US nuclear weapons arsenal. That program is now in the hands of President Trump.

I hope many of you who read this review will contact Lilly Adams, co-chair of WPSR’s Nuclear Weapons Abolition Task Force and help them implement their well thought out strategic plan. Lilly@parallaxperspectives.org (208) 547-2830. Without the presence of this campaign and task force, which is why I think we are so lucky, I doubt I would write this review.

Ellsberg will speak in Seattle
On January 9th in Seattle, the WPSR’s campaign is co-hosting Daniel Ellsberg. His new book, The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner, is a frightful, but probably necessary read. If you can’t read it, ask me for my five pages of notes. (danleahy43@ya-hoo.com)

Not “a lot of people,” but actually “lockdown tight.”
A nuclear exchange between the US and Russia would lead to “Omnicide” as a result of the now scientifically verified nuclear winter. The smoke and soot looted by fierce fireworks from burning cities would block sunlight and remain for a decade, lowering temperatures to the level of the last Ice Age, killing all harvests and causing near-universal starvation within a year or two. Ellsberg calls this “an existential danger to the human species.”

Nonviolence is ethical, practical, powerful
The January 2018 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives,” which he started producing locally and throughout our geographic region. These workshops are well suited for groups of people who care about multiple issues, and Glen can tailor the program and groups working on any specific issue (e.g., raising the minimum wage to $15 or promoting universal single-payer health care or abolishing nuclear weapons).

People anywhere can watch this January 2018 TV program and also read a thorough summary of what the guests said (including links to sources of more information) in the Parallax Perspectives episode and click TV Programs or “Nonviolence.” Look for this TV episode’s title, “Nonviolence Is Ethical, Practical, Powerful.”

Daniel Ellsberg is at it again.
In 1971, Ellsberg released classified documents on the Vietnam War, known as the “Pentagon Papers,” showing that the US government had deceived the public about the Vietnam War. He was later named the title the “most dangerous man in America” by Henry Kissinger.

He’s continuing his legacy as a whistle-blower with his brand new book, The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner. In it, he gives a firsthand account of the dangers of the US nuclear complex and policies. In 1961, Ellsberg drafted plans for nuclear war, for Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

We’re excited to invite you to a rare opportunity: a conversation with Daniel Ellsberg, hosted by Seattle Town Hall and WPSR, to discuss this chilling and important issue.
Experiencing wins by working together
The Olympia Assembly and the Olympia Solidarity Network

Interview with Fran Carroll by Matt Lester

What is Olympia Assembly? Olympia assembly is an organization that has several different projects. These are the neighborhood action councils (NACs), which create a space where people come together and talk about issues facing their communities and how to address those issues through direct action and mutual aid and network building. Methods that don’t go through existing capitalist markets, government channels, or requests from so-called representatives.

How is this different than a neighborhood association? Neighborhood associations can be NIMBY—not in my back yard. Often they’re focused on how to make their neighborhood look better, and that can mean kicking out homeless people. Or they prioritize safety, but that often means bringing more police into the neighborhood, which can make it more dangerous for people.

We want to create a space for all people to come together—that means including homeless people and renters. Then we discuss about the larger issues and talk about how to resolve them on our own without politicians, bosses, and landlords.

Where do you want Olympia Assembly to go? Having recently passed our bylaws, refining our organizational structure with a new chart to support future news and decision-making, we can start doing great things with the organization. An example is the Olympia Solidarity Network.

Ideas get brought up at an assembly in the abstract. At the NAC meetings later, if you look at one of those ideas you ask “what needs to be done to make this happen?” A committee is then formed to carry it out. That’s how we form the Olympia Solidarity Network.

How did you get the Olympia Assembly started? Robert took on a project, and wrote and wrote down a few documents that laid out the roles, the meetings we needed to have, and the steps we needed to take to get up and running. We had a couple interest meetings. People that came filled the little tiny office we were using, and then after the letter was read we all clapped and chanted and marched out. I think we really freaked them out. These small management companies aren’t used to being targeted. Obviously, the city can’t organize protests, so in a way they had the advantage of surprise because despite screaming people over, they usually all clapped and chanted.

What were your next steps? We waited two weeks and we didn’t hear anything. So we got the same amount of people came back again and demand the deposit. We also put up flyers reaching out to some other tenants who lived in the same apartment complex. We heard they had similar complaints.

The second time we went, they saw us coming.

We carpooled together so a group of us were waiting outside. Workers in the office locked their doors and turned off all the lights. They weren’t feeling anybody though. They forgot to switch their open sign to a closed sign and then they really said we were open. Several other tenants went up to the door and they tried to get in. They were surprised it was locked as well.

Denise saying Targa was returning the deposit she wanted back, and that’s all their lights. They weren’t fooling anybody.

Sometimes people rationalize what are basically crimes committed by landlords to keep the deposit. They purport to themselves “oh, you should have known to not smoke in the apartment or taken better care of it.” But the tenants you helped are adults who have rented before. I hate to moralize about saying there are some good tenants that don’t deserve to be cheated and then there are bad tenants who can’t have what they want. I will land firmly on the side of the tenant basically every time because of my politics and ethics. Seattle Solidarity does turn down cases that don’t seem winnable because they have limitations or the tenants don’t only sink all of their effort into something they’re going to lose. We plan to have the same practice. Having to say “no” is hard but necessary sometimes.

When you do turn someone down, would you still point them towards resources?

That is actually the first thing we are going to do. Robert is our incoming communication guy—there’s probably a better name for that, but that’s what we call him—so he’s the primary person who will be responding to emails, taking phone calls, and setting up meetings with grievance holders. If we get an email he will respond by giving them an idea of the laws in Washington State, such as what landlords are allowed to do. He also clarifies what Olympia Solidarity does. Sometimes people mistakenly think we’re a legal organization. We try to be very clear up front about what we do and what we can potentially do. Some people end up not being interested. They just point to sure that we’re not going to be much help for that.

Because you’re so involved, do you think Olympia radical politics is at right now and what do you think it needs?

One problem in Olympia is the turn-over rate of people. I came here to go to Evergreen and get involved in projects I want to see last for years. I would hate to see them fall apart when I leave.

The second issue is not having easy ways for people to get involved. It’s not sufficient to have pathways only for students and friends of radical organizers. We need paths for the general public. I think one of my primary motivations for helping start Olympia Assembly was having an above-ground big tent organization that anyone can come to. Run in a big tent organization that is open to newly radicalized freshmen at Evergreen or your neighborhoods that go to church every week and feel the homeless. I think many people have a set of leftist ethics and morals. They might have been involved in organizations in the past, even if they’re not near.
To the fabulous supporters of Stonewall Youth...Here are three ways you can help Stonewall Youth this year

1. Hang out with us! You're welcome to come to any of our monthly potlucks in 2018. Our multigenerational community potlucks for LGBTQ+ folks and allies have definitely been a highlight of 2017: it has been great to feast, share food, and learn from discussion with community members of all ages about a wide range of issues, from the somewhat silly (“what superpower do you most want?”) to the very serious, such as racism in the LGBTQ+ community.

2. Learn about the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in our community, and get to know Stonewall Youth's work. This newsletter tells you some of the highlights of our year at Stonewall Youth, and suggests some ways you can support LGBTQ+ youth in our communities.

3. Participate in our work by volunteering, getting involved in our Capital Campaign, and/or donating to support our vital programs for LGBTQ+ youth in 2018.

2017 has been a phenomenal year for Stonewall Youth! We provided our usual dazzling array of ongoing weekly programs: support groups; art and writing programs; drop-in hours three days/week; leadership, educational and professional development; social change projects; mentorship, advocacy, and much more. New programs including weekly Music Drop-ins for youth to jam on our large collection of instruments, and we also hosted a series of music workshops, along with our regular writing and art programs. As you'll read below, youth leadership continued to expand at Stonewall Youth, and we had two sessions of Glitter Camp.

Oh, and we also moved this year! We love our new building, and launched a Capital Campaign to purchase it to serve as our HQ and to be an LGBTQ+ community center and workspace for other social justice organizations. Currently, we have a Lease to Own agreement with the owner, and are on track to sign a Purchase Agreement with the owner by the end of this month. We've already raised more than $100,000 towards the purchase! You can find out more below and at our Campaign website: Trans & Queer Generations.

Stonewall Youth continued to collaborate with statewide organizations this year to fight for the basic rights and safety of trans people, opposing legislation and Initiative 1152, which would have blocked trans people from using bathrooms, locker rooms, shelters for homeless people, and other facilities appropriate to their gender identity. Thanks to the dedicated labor of those of us who opposed I-1152, it was finally defeated. But as you'll read below, the struggle continues.

For 26 years, Stonewall Youth has supported LGBTQ+ youth to survive, thrive, and build sustainable lives. We provide a safe, sober, and supportive space for LGBTQ+ youth to talk about their experience, make friends, make art and music, build job and personal skills, and to get the support, referrals, knowledge, confidence, and mentorship that assist them to successfully navigate the struggles they face. This year, about 450 youth from Thurston, Mason and Lewis Counties participated in Stonewall Youth activities.

Stonewall Youth depends on folks like you to support the critical work we do for LGBTQ+ youth in our community: we can't do it without you! Please consider making a donation. It's tax deductible. info@stonewallyouth.org Thanks!

We wish you all the best in the new year! Take good care of yourself. Thanks for for being you.

Love,
Lili, Isabelle, Jax, Masa & Bryn
Stonewall Youth Staff Collective

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We must protect public lands from Trump’s assault on our national monuments

To the Readers of WIP:

In 1906, Congress passed the Antiquities Act and President Theodore Roosevelt signed it into law. This Act established the authority of the president to create national monuments to protect certain public lands and waters for historical, cultural, natural or scientific reasons. As an aside, these are not related to the monuments to the Confederacy that have been much in the news this year. Mount Olympus National Monument (now Olym- pus National Park) was one of the first monuments created by President Roo- sevelt. Over the years, more than 100 sites have been designated as national monuments.

Taking aim at our monuments

In April of this year, Donald Trump issued an executive order directing the Interior Department to review certain national monuments. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke identified 27 monu- ments for review and in August submitted his recommendations. While the list has not yet been made public, based on leaked memos, it is called for mending changes in 10 monu- ments. Slated for significant re- ductions in size are Bears Ears (as much as 85%) and Grand Staircase-Escalante (by as much as 50%) in Utah; Cascade/Siskiy- ou in Oregon and Gold Butte in Nevada.

Other monuments that are recom- mended for change are: Organ Moun- tains/Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico;Katuhdin Woods and Waters in Maine; Northeast Canyons and Seamounts in the Atlan- tic Ocean; Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll in the South Pacific. The proposed changes would open the land-based monuments to corporate purposes, including coal mining, oil and gas drilling, logging and livestock grazing. The changes to the ocean- based monuments would allow for corporate industrial fishing, further damaging the health of our fisheries.

Looting and industrial-scale exploitation

These monuments are unique, valu- able and irreplaceable national trea- sures. They need to be protected from looting and industrial-scale exploita- tion by commercial interests. One of the original purposes of the Act was to protect historical artifacts from peo- ple who were damaging these sites in search of hidden treasure. Now the ex- tensive industries are looking for oppor- tunities to exploit our resources at discount prices and to pass the costs on to the rest of society.

From the Congress to the Courts

Representative Rob Bishop of Utah, one of the most notorious opponents of protecting public lands, has intro- duced HR 3990 to modify the Antiqui- ties Act to greatly reduce the protec- tions of public lands provided in the Act. Fortunately, Representative Kilm- er and Senators Murray and Cantwell are strong supporters of our national monuments and will do what they can to prevent these dangerous proposals from taking place. But with Republic- ans in charge of Congress, the courts may be the only stop to these at- tacks on our public lands.

“Ignite Change” to preserve our precious heritage

While Trump will soon announce changes to these monuments, his order will certainly be challenged by a variety of concerned groups which will limit his ability to accomplish anything in the short term. There is no provision in the Antiquities Act, or any subsequent legislation, that allows a president to alter or eliminate any monument. While there have been changes in monument designations in the past, these changes have never been challenged in court— until now.

Now is the time to act. The Center for Biological Divers- ity has begun a program called “Ignite Change” to develop grassroots support for protecting our precious national monuments. I am coordinating the effort here in our area. For more information, please go to www.ignitetchange.org or contact me at 360-589-5905.

David Linn

David Linn is a resident of Ocean Shores, WA.

Restoring my indigeneity: Reflections on South Africa-US Agroecology Exchange by a Queer Black Urban Farmer from Tacoma

Dean Jackson

In October I was honored to join seven other delegates on a US-South Africa Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Learning Exchange. It was a Black queer and non-binary person who is work- ing to remember and restore my ancestors to the lands that they helped to shape, to the only way to stop these at- tacks on our public land.

Our first visit was to Sibhale Com- munity Food Project in Soweto. SCFP grows food that is used for meals at the health clinics and shared with some of the families that visit the clinic. We met with the Project Coordinator, Cal- vin Moloto Makgaila. Calvin also helps people grow food at their homes and teaches children about the importance of nutrition. Since HUG does similar work in our community, I felt a special connection to Calvin’s work with SCFP. It’s an awesome agroecologist! We are staying connected through so- cial media and I expect that we will nurture and grow our relationship in the coming years. Hilltop Urban Gar- dens holds an annual Beloved Com- munity—Food Sovereignty Day of Ac- tion. In our neighborhood in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s vision of radical transformation. This year we will be raising some cash for SCFP.

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That same day we visited the Green- house Project in downtown Johan-

Dens holds an annual Beloved Com- munity—Food Sovereignty Day of Ac- tion. In our neighborhood in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s vision of radical transformation. This year we will be raising some cash for SCFP.
There are no political prisoners, only prisoners of war

August O’Clare

"I am not a crook." —Richard M. Nixon

January 2018 Works In Progress Page 15

This is one understanding of a political class of prisoners—they have not infringed upon the law, but rather the law has been worked against them in order to prevent their political activity. The reason political prisoners exist is because revolutionsaries are a threat to the law as it exists, and the law imprisons them out of its own self-interest. This understanding is most applicable prisoners who are clearly innocent—Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal, in the United States, the list is not long. But while the image of innocence is appealing to those who love the law, and although the air of innocence is routinely deployed in campaigns to defeat political prisoners, it has no stab at the law which decides in innocence and guilt. The law not only remains small—one hundred prisoners constitutes the original reason for describing some half of one hundredth of one percent of the incarcerated population. The categorization of political prisoners is as revolutionary as the revolutionaries outline a theory of illegal morality—in order to change the law, we must be allowed to change the law. Cynicism, then, is not an inherent desire of the revolutionary, but a condition placed upon the state. Political prisoners are not only composed of the innocent, but also of people who broke the law for the “right” reasons. They are prisoners of war. Defined in this way, the list of prisoners of war remains small—one hundred prisoners in the United States, give or take. One half of one hundredth of one percent of the incarcerated population.

The category of political prisoners as revolutionaries who have committed moral crimes does not appeal to those who love the law, and although the air of innocence is appealing to those who love the law, and although the air of innocence is routinely deployed in campaigns to defeat political prisoners, it has no stab at the law which decides in innocence and guilt. The law not only remains small—one hundred prisoners constitutes the original reason for describing some half of one hundredth of one percent of the incarcerated population. There are many prisoners of war, and their nations have their backs as a matter of course. From the POW/MIA Association, to the cambodian Resistance will never be the political activity of government, or political power, but in a struggle to destroy all of those. A war that

The New Orleans District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers today issued a permit authorizing Bayou Bridge Pipeline, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer Partners LP, to construct a 162-mile crude oil pipeline through irreplaceable wetlands, communities, and a unique environment and wildlife habitat. The pipeline is the final leg of a cross-country mega-pipeline that connects the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline, originating in the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota, to refineries on the Gulf coast terminal that is entirely within the United States.

The controversial pipeline has been vigorously opposed by a broad coalition that includes Atchafalaya Basin crawfishers and conservation organizations. The groups have asked for a rigorous review of environmental risks as well as new protections against environmental damage from past pipelines in the Basin.

The Atchafalaya Basin has sustained my family’s crawfish- fishing generations,” said Jody McElveen, President of Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association. “The river is the way of life for our descendants. The river is under threat from irresponsible oil development, which has left whole parts of our state toxic and unlivable. We will do everything in our power to prevent this development. At the Basin’s defense the Corps of Engineers does not serve this unlawful decision.

“Energy Transfer Partners has a deplorable record of accidents and spills, with 329 incidents since 2006—why would we allow such an irresponsible company to build yet another pipeline through our unique habitat,” said Carissa M. Royer, Executive Director of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, which works to protect the Basin’s unique environment and ecosystem.

The Atchafalaya Basin is the largest wetland and swamp in the United States and is the main floodway for the Mississippi River. “The Basin is one of the nation’s ecological crown jewels,” said Dean Wilson, Executive Director of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, which works to protect the Basin’s unique environment and ecosystem. “The Army Corps is supposed to protect its water quality but instead has worked hand-in-glove with the oil industry to treat it as a sacrifice zone for irresponsible oil development. We are calling for this to change,” said Wilson.

Federal law requires a full environmental analysis, and consideration of alternatives, prior to authorizing actions that have significant adverse environmental impacts. Even though studies reveal that crude oil pipelines in Louisiana leak regularly and significantly disrupt water flows and wildlife habitat, the Army Corps determined that the proposed pipelines have no significant impacts, qualifying it for streamlined permitting. The organizations voiced legal and political concerns about the Corps’s decision, noting the Corps neither reverses this unlawful decision.

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The following is an excerpt from Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1944 State of the Union Address in which he stressed the need for financial security for all citizens—an expansion of his call for “freedom from want” in his 1941 address.

It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American standard of living higher than ever before known. We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth—is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights—among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty.

As our Nation has grown in size and stature, however—as our industrial economy expanded—these political rights proved inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness.

We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. “Necessitous men are not free men.” People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all regardless of station, race, or creed.

Among these are:

- The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the Nation;
- The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;
- The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;
- The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;
- The right of every family to a decent home;
- The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;
- The right to a good education.

All of these rights spell security. And after this war is won we must be prepared to move forward, in the implementation of these rights, to new goals of human happiness and well-being.

America’s own rightful place in the world depends in large part upon how fully these and similar rights have been carried into practice for our citizens. For unless there is security here at home there cannot be lasting peace in the world.

One of the great American industrialists of our day—a man who has rendered yeoman service to his country in this crisis—recently emphasized the grave dangers of “rightist reaction” in this Nation. All clear-thinking businessmen share his concern. Indeed, if such reaction should develop—if history were to repeat itself and we were to return to the so-called “normalcy” of the 1920’s—then it is certain that even though we shall have conquered our enemies on the battlefields abroad, we shall have yielded to the spirit of Fascism here at home.

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt