Clean up East Bay
Let Moxlie Creek breathe

By Harry Branch

Here in Olympia there is a problem in East Bay off of Budd Inlet. The problem is water quality. It does not meet federal clean water standards. Part of the problem is that Moxlie Creek, which flows into East Bay, is encased in a half-mile-long, underground, concrete pipe. This affects the creek’s ability to assimilate necessary levels of oxygen from both the atmosphere and the workings of phytoplankton. Moxlie Creek needs to be “daylighted.” Daylighting the creek would entail taking it out of the pipe and allowing it to flow above ground. While Olympia public officials tend to view creek daylighting and restoration as an all-or-nothing proposition, in actuality, allowing any section of the creek to “breathe” would likely improve water quality significantly. Only the mouth of the creek, the estuary, were opened, the exchange between salt and fresh water would happen more as it should. Call it Ecosystem Based Management.

Cities up and down the West Coast have restored or are in the process of daylighting streams and restoring estuaries. Some cities, such as Edmonds, have chosen to change Washington State’s minimal setbacks and other lacking rules and have been victorious Oceanographically, economically, and in every other sense, estuaries are critical to marine environments. Fresh water, being lighter, flows out underneath. These and other persistent mixing patterns help phytoplankton proliferate which improves water quality and jump-starts the food web. Stream estuaries in South Puget Sound impact a much broader length of shoreline than river estuaries. They provide important habitat not only for the salmon that spawn in the streams but for salmon that migrate past.

Attached is a bird’s eye view of the city of Olympia in 1879. The large inlet in the foreground is the Moxlie Creek estuary. Often there is a stream associated with a river estuary. Hylebos Creek for the Puyallup River, Medicine Creek for the Nisqually River, and so on. These stream estuaries increase the area of tide flats and provide a place where water from the river is re-mixed by the incoming tide. Moxlie Creek was the Deschutes River’s companion stream. The estuary of the stream can only exist where it is. It can’t be moved. The Port of Olympia currently owns a vacant parcel of land that is the only portion of the historic estuary available for restoration. But a plan is moving forward to build a large, mixed-use building on the site complete with retail space and eighty-five rental units.

This should be the site of a beautiful, rich estuary. East Bay is out of compliance with the federal Clean Water Act due to excess nitrogen. According to the EPA, nitrates travel eighteen times farther in a buried pipe than in one that sees daylight. Especially given that there is a lot of outside funding available for near-shore, estuary cleanup.

The Port of Olympia owns a vacant parcel of land that is the only portion of the Moxlie Creek estuary available for restoration. But a plan is moving forward to build a large, mixed-use building on the site complete with retail space and eighty-five rental units.

Equity and its discontents: students’ education and The Evergreen State College

By Emily Lardner

Readers of Works in Progress will likely know that The Evergreen State College closed at the end of May because of an anonymous caller to Thurston County Communications who said, “I’m on my way to Evergreen University now with a 44 Magnum. I am gonna execute as many people on that campus as I can get a hold of.” The caller, and others like him, were responding to Evergreen professor Bret Weinstein’s claims that the college “had descended into madness” by re-queuing all white people to leave campus for a day. Weinstein first brought his claim to national attention by appearing on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show segment, “Campus Craziness.” In her June 17 New York Times editorial entitled The Media Brought the Alt-Right to My Campus, Evergreen student Jacqueline Middleton explains that “that coverage hit our campus like a hailstorm. It may not have been his intention, but Mr. Weinstein’s many interviews effectively became a call to arms for internet trolls and the alt-right. Online vigilantes from 4chan, Reddit and other forums swarmed to unearth Evergreen students’ contact information. They have harassed us with hundreds of phone calls, anonymous texts and terrifyingly specific threats of violence that show they know where we live and work.”

Middleton continues: “Mr. Weinstein’s story about Evergreen’s regressive campus culture fit neatly into many misconceptions about the “new left,” so it seemed to go unquestioned. However, for many students, staff and faculty at Evergreen, the harassment that came after the negative coverage of the protesters was a shocking and bitter twist. It is not lost on us that students of color are the ones who have been disproportionately targeted.”

I agree with Middleton’s statement that Weinstein’s story about the college fit right-wing constructions of the so-called “new left.” Additionally, I would argue, at the heart of Weinstein’s move to vilify Evergreen students who demonstrated against the faculty and staff who support them, particularly the faculty and staff of color, is his rejection of the principal outlined in Evergreen’s new Equity Strategic Plan. Evergreen’s new equity plan, an object of scorn in the right-wing media thanks to Weinstein’s tweet and talks, was presented to the campus
Remaking the Port of Olympia for the 21st Century

By Helen Wheatley

“A Port is something Olympia doesn’t know she has,” the Chamber of Commerce told Thurston County voters nearly 100 years ago, when the Port of Olympia was created to dredge a channel for ocean-going vessels. A Port District could have been disastrous. Instead, the Port grew with the wind, and will either grow or face decline very soon, or grow regionally, by 2022 at the latest.

It is a good thing the Port’s maritime ambitions did not become the focal point of the local economy. In January of 2017, the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) published a draft of its periodic Marine Cargo Forecast. The report shows that the shipping industry is now utterly dependent on the rise and fall of Asia, which accounts for over 90% of Washington’s container exports. If Thurston County had placed its bets on timber over state government, the Port had been unable to wring this economic value and creating jobs.

Broad local benefit. The Port gained county-wide acceptability once the case was made that the Port could benefit the entire county and not just the timber trade. Many believed that the South Sound was positioned to become a major center of fruit, berry and nursery production, just as it had become famous for its oysters and salmon. A major increase in healthy eating practices that seek to silence the oppressed.

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive to the experiences of those from different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, and we encourage writers to keep this in mind when submitting their work. WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

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Now the main and most reliable tenant at the Port of Olympia, Weyerhaeuser, has faith over the short term that demand from key overseas customers, Japan and China, will continue steady for a while. Yet there are no assurances that Weyerhaeuser will keep drawing logs from its own forests and will supply its customers. How much longer can this global company continue to profit at its current facilities in the forest lands of Washington?

Race to the bottom. Weyerhaeuser continues to ship out only as many logs as the market will bear, because of the very favorable deal it made to lease Port property. The Port must shave its margins very thin, to the point of losing money, in order to secure customers. For instance, while Port officials have been eager to see an end to a contract involving highly visible and controversial fracking equipment, it got stuck with storing the material—for no additional charge—when the market dried up. The Port loses much of its revenue per ton—a little over $20 per ton—for the propellant. It does not protect the Port. The Port may have to pay the market rate per ton—another $20 or $25 per ton for the propellant. It does not protect the Port.

With the Port’s future uncertain, it is a crucial time to discuss the future of the Port. The Port is a crucial component of the local economy. It is a key to the future of the region. It is a key to the future of the region.

If the Port is a crucial component of the local economy, it is also a key to the future of the region. It is a key to the future of the region.

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Does Thurston County need a convention district?

By Emmett O’Connell

It feels like we just had this talk. But it was actually ten years ago.

Despite mentioning the topic rarely—if ever—during their campaigns last year, Thurston County commissioners have started the process for building a convention center.

The weightiest part of their action is that they’re choosing an anarchic mechanism: an old law allowing the creation of districts wider than the more recent Public Facilities District law (PFD).

The law creating the districts passed in 1986 (and expanded to cities in 1999), while convention districts in other states had never seemed to get off the ground. Instead of pursuing a Public Facilities District (of which we already have one), the commissioners are initiating a process under the Cultural Arts, Stadium and Convention District law.

The primary difference between the older convention district and the new one is that the older district was much more democratic: Convention districts required a series of elections, each of which made it very hard for an opportunity for the process to break down. Therefore, it’s much easier for the public to oppose funding.

Public Facilities Districts need only the support of a combination of willing city and county legislative bodies. While the public can engage with those elected bodies, it’s not like they have a direct say in an election.

Today, there are at least 25 Public Facilities Districts operating across Washington State and not a single district has failed.

It feels like we just had this talk. But it’s been ten years. It’s not clear what the outcome will be.

Taxpayer-funded convention centers: gambling away public money?

By Linda Smithe

Our Thurston County Commissioners on June 5 passed a resolution saying that the Olympia area needs a special convention center downtown because “the lack of public improvement and development in the downtown core hinders the economic vitality of Thurston County.” Building convention centers is said to help a local economy, but...
Remaking the port

From page 2

\[ \text{The Benefit Study claims that there were 2400 direct jobs created by Port activity in 2014, mostly generated by Port tenants. Full time Port staff numbered 441 in 2009, and the peak year of} \]

\[ \text{ers, and counties play as local implementers of the Action Agenda. Both state and local governing bodies are looking toward the} \]

\[ \text{dates, and rents paid by Port tenants. Full time Port staff numbered 441 in 2009, and the peak year of} \]

\[ \text{is not the kind of contract that would truly benefit the community. In terms of providing a living wage to the average Thurston County resident, government jobs still lead the way.} \]

\[ \text{At the direction of the Port’s newest commissioner, EJ Zita, the Port has begun to study other ports to find better opportunities for the marine terminal; opportunities that might promise good wages while adding jobs through incubator hubs, food hubs and light industrial activities, among other options.} \]

At the direction of the Port’s newest commissioner, EJ Zita, the Port has begun to study other ports to find better opportunities for the marine terminal; opportunities that might promise good wages while adding jobs through incubator hubs, food hubs and light industrial activities, among other options.

Stormwater NPDES and State Water Discharge General Permit. The proposed project is a multi-degree of freedom due to the Port’s distance from the city center.

\[ \text{despite the Port’s distance from the city center.} \]

\[ \text{The fate of the marine terminal poses a tough challenge for its three Port Commission members. The contractor, Martin Associates, was careful to state that “the impacts measured in this study are the current jobs, income and taxes generated” by Port tenants and commercial cargo activity. But they added, these were “not necessarily net economic impacts in the sense that if the Port were to disappear, these jobs would be lost from the economy.” Not only does the study fail to consider the relative economic good the Port provides compared to other possible uses, but it does not even weight the benefits against costs. That is not the kind of “impact” modelling that Martin sold to the Port.}

Even so, the results did not come out well for the Port. According to the Port overview of the study, 643 direct jobs were lost between 2009 and 2014 (the latest years for which data are given). The comparative loss of annual business revenue was over $774 million, with similar relative losses in taxes and local purchases. One of the government jobs lost in 2017 was that of Finance Director. Despite the desperate need for good economic analysis and management in these troubled times for the Port, the Port Commission—Downing and McGregor—preferred to outsource that job to a contractor.

\[ \text{for the county. Simply bringing in people to buy things, or to rent space, does not foster the kinds of jobs that truly benefit the community. In terms of providing a living wage to the average Thurston County resident, government jobs still lead the way.} \]

\[ \text{stuck in the extraction economy? Over the years the Port has struggled to reinvent itself, yet it has also had stood by its old mission of delivering the bounty of our forests to the world. In the 1920s many hoped that raw logs would give way to modern timber-based industries on the Port Peninsula, jobs that would provide steady work and lift family incomes. That dream continues, and does so by forming behind a polluted landscape and trapping the Port in a continuing downward spiral of decline. This is a common fate in the world of globalized trade, but that doesn’t make it any easier to live with.} \]

\[ \text{given a more regulatory chance to stop the development of parcels 2&3. The Port of Olympia must still obtain some permits and the public has until July 11th to comment on these permits. Please do so!} \]

\[ \text{ergy reviews public comments and comments on the proposal from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II interdredging requirements (50 CFR 772-} \]

\[ \text{The future direction of the county economy. According to the Washington State Employment Security Department, recent growth areas for taxable sales in terms of dollar value for Thurston County have been in auto dealers, accommodation and food services (with particularly rapid growth in specialty trade contractors (professional, scientific and technical services) and professional services.} \]

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How Moxlie Creek takes care of us

the best place to see Moxlie Creek is on the loop trail in Watershed Park. Moxlie Creek starts out as an artesian spring at the southern end of the park. As it flows through the park northward toward Budd Inlet, the creek is joined by several springs and groundwater from the forested wetland. After leaving the park, the creek is piped under the 6-foot pipe, Moxlie Creek is two-thirds mile to East Bay. Inside the Port’s current issues and continue awaken political activism. Only with your voice, your input and your participation in the upcoming election will Zita be able to address the Port’s current issues and continue to move the progressive agenda forward. Together, we can truly make ours a Port for the People! Logan Reed is a local business owner, longtime supporter of EJ Zita and newly awakened political activist.

2017 Olympia City Council Primary Elections, August 1st

A majority of the Olympia City Council positions are up for election this year. Three of those four positions have a primary. The Thurston County Elections Office will mail your voter pamphlet to you on July 5th. On July 12th, they will mail your primary ballot to you.

In the 2015 primary election only 22% of the county’s registered voters bothered to vote. This means that of the 116,858 registered voters in Thurston County’s 200 precincts, only 26,063 voted in August 2015. This does not produce government by the majority. Works in Progress hopes that the turnout this August will be a great deal higher.

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The primary itself is August 5th. All registered voters in Olympia can vote in this primary election. All these positions are nonpartisan. To find out more about each candidate, check the link provided.

If you have not registered to vote, you must come into the Thurston County Auditor’s Election Office by July 24th in order to vote in the primary election. Elections office phone: (360) 786-5408. City Council Position 5 has three new contestants, Lisa Parsley, Deborah S. Lee and Allen Miller.

No incumbent is running for this position. Lisa Parsley, deborah-talig@gmail.com (360) 515-5538; Allen Miller, allen@ctnlawoffice.com (360) 754-9156. City Council Position 6 has incumbent City Council member Jeanine Roe. Challengers are Renata Rollins and Michael Snodgrass. jeanineroe2009@yahoo.com (360) 789-0552; Renata Rollins, renataforcouncil@gmail.com (360) 481-5753, Michael Snodgrass, elect.snodgrassforcouncil@gmail.com (360) 351-0674.


Photos by Janine Gates/Little Hollywood.

Commissioner EJ Zita works to see that the Port responds to the people of Thurston County

By Logan Reed

EJ Zita’s re-election campaign motto is: Port for the People. She wants a Port that represents the people of Thurston County and works for them. Since taking office as Port Commissioner in 2014—an election that was cheered as a triumph for the people of Thurston County—Zita has been working to make changes to the ways the Port does business. Zita focuses on three paths or principles to create lasting change at the Port, shoring up business as usual and increasing the positive impact that the Port has on our community. These paths are economic sustainability, environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Many residents of Thurston County don’t realize that their Port is losing millions of dollars every year, even as they continue to provide the tax dollars that keep it running. This is where Zita’s progressive agenda of economic sustainability, environmental stewardship and community engagement offers a vital opportunity to create a Port for the People.

Economic sustainability requires that the Port work for the whole community, not the special interests and corporations. A real financial return on investment has been lacking at the Port and there needs to be a clear focus on direct public benefits. The question our Port needs to answer for each venture is: how does this activity benefit our community?

Environmental stewardship is especially important to Zita, who is a farmer and a scientist and knows firsthand the importance of environmental health. One concern for the Port is storm water treatment. Storm water runoff due to the marine terminal’s operations degrading trees to be stored on Port property causes harm to Puget Sound. Zita knows just how crucial it is for all Thurston County residents that we have clean water for fish and wildlife.

Community engagement is the third success factor for creating a Port for the People. Commissioner Zita seeks to open a regular dialogue with local tribal leaders, municipalities and community members to have all voices heard. By listening, asking questions and collaborating with Thurston County residents, Zita is able to represent their interests during Port planning and implementation meetings.

Historically, the turnout for an off election year is 33% in Thurston County. Zita and her campaign are hard at work, motivating more people to vote and participate in creating a Port for the People.


Photos by Janine Gates/Little Hollywood.
Weinstein’s objection to the Equity Plan, and to the newly forged link between faculty teaching and student learning, was that it would limit his freedom. Freedom, he said at a faculty meeting, was really all an Evergreen faculty member had—the freedom to teach whatever they wanted.

In “Beyond a Test Score: Explaining Opportunity Gaps in Educational Practice,” published in Journal of Black Studies in September 2012, Milner, 2001; Milner, 2010), can run the risk of consciously and subconscious-ly avoiding, missing, and overlooking an important and unfamiliar perspective of students’ race. When educators pretend to be color-blind, they are, in effect, constructing and enacting curriculum and instructional practices for students they see as incomplete rather than the complete beings students are (Johnson, 2003). Race is part of everyone, and Evergreen’s Equity Plan acknowledged this.

The plan was a response to findings that identified what Milner would describe as “oppositional race”) and “No Safe Spaces for Commies.” SWATs and racist slurs have been chalked and painted on Evergreen property.

Yesterday, the campus was mostly taken over by street fighting. There was a large influx of visitors wearing Nazi and white supremacist regalia. Campus buildings have been scarred with graffiti that says, “Diversity Equals White Supremacy” and “Snowflakes, Get a Hold of Yourself.” The off-campus event was “an act of oppression” against white people.

Weinstein argued that the focus on students of color was “an act of oppression” against white people. He cited an important equity study that showed that Mr. Weinstein was within his rights to question how these initiatives were being implemented. But he also argued strongly that it was important to diminish the very purpose of them. Students wanted him to understand why these initiatives were so important to so many in our community.

What can’t be seen in the viral video of the student protest in his office is that students started by calmly stating their concerns. The way he responded to their concern is how students feel invalidated. It may have seemed inappropriate that they let their emotions escalate in frustration, but that doesn’t mean there was no context.

But the media saw in Mr. Weinstein a self-appointed progressive who appeared to be vilified simply for voicing a dissenting opinion. Evergreen students were accused of violence and hypocrisy for trying to enforce a divisive political correctness.

The fallout from that coverage hit our campus like a hailstorm. It may not have been his intention, but Mr. Weinstein’s many interviews effect became a call to arms for internet trolls and the alt-right. Online vigilantes claimed that Mr. Weinstein’s claims, which seemed far removed from what we had witnessed, and suddenly it was all about color. The night his version of events became the entire narrative.

The Equity Plan’s story about Evergreen’s regressive campus culture fit neatly into many misconceptions about the “new left,” so it seemed to go unquestioned. However, for many students, staff and faculty at Evergreen, the harassment against students of color and the negative coverage of the protest- ers was a shocking and bitter twist. It is not lost on us that students of color are the ones who have been dispropor- tionately targeted.

The author is a student at The Evergreen State College, writing in the immediate aftermath of events that led to the closing of the school on three occasions.

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**Equity**

**From page 1**

last November, six months before the demonstrations as well as Weinstein's national media campaign and the campus closures. Contrary to the narrative, Weinstein has been promoting, the Equity Plan outlines the college’s commitment to equity and recognizes that the experiences of students of color and white students on predominately white campuses are different. The plan asserts that race has mean-

and piercings are commonplace, and circles and students with colorful hair and piercings are commonplace, and it’s not out of the ordinary to see the circus club practicing acrobatics.

This year is different. Many students are leaving campus as quickly as they can, and some, fearing for their safety, say they won’t come back. A few weeks ago, a video clip of stu- dent-demonstrating outside the office of Brett Weinstein, a biology professor, went viral. In the clip, students can be seen shouting at Mr. Weinstein and calling him racists. Mr. Weinstein appeared on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show in a “Campus Craziness” segment and sat for interviews with many other media outlets.

In an op-ed for The Wall Street Jour- nal, Mr. Weinstein wrote that students attacked him verbally “seemingly out of the blue” after he objected to an event in which “white people were asked to leave campus.” He said that the college had “slipped into madness.”

As a student here, I know that the truth is more complicated. The protests were part of a planned week of action over several incidents that had sparked a schoolwide discussion on race. A series of emails that Mr. Wein- stein sent to an all-faculty list were a small part of this. In one email, he ob- jected to the design of an equity coun- cil that would guide faculty hiring to improve racial equity. In another, he voiced his opposition to a new struc- ture for the Day of Absence, an Ever- green tradition since the 1970s.

The tradition was inspired by a prayer, a right-leaning protest group that espouses a love for guns and Pres- ident Trump and a hatred for so-called “snowflakes,” and a group that he described as a “call to arms for internet trolls and the alt-right.”

In the past few weeks, the school has been shut down four times because of threats, including one from an anonym- ous caller who said, “I’m on my way to Evergreen University now with a 44 Magnum. I am gonna execute as many people as I can get my hands on.”

Downtown Olympia has seen a sud- den influx of visitors wearing Nazi and white supremacist regalia. Buildings have been scarred with graffiti that says, “Diversity Equals White Supremacy.”

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**Equity continued on next page**

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**Context and corrective on events at The Evergreen State College**

Evergreen State College is always an unusual school, located on the out- skirts of the eclectic town of Olympia, Wash., but something about the end of the school year inspires people to really let their freak flags fly. Drum circles and students with colorful hair and piercings are commonplace, and it’s not out of the ordinary to see the circus club practicing acrobatics.

This year is different. Many students are leaving campus as quickly as they can, and some, fearing for their safety, say they won’t come back. A few weeks ago, a video clip of stud- ent-demonstrating outside the office of Brett Weinstein, a biology professor, went viral. In the clip, students can be seen shouting at Mr. Weinstein and calling him racists. Mr. Weinstein appeared on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show in a “Campus Craziness” segment and sat for interviews with many other media outlets.

In an op-ed for The Wall Street Jour- nal, Mr. Weinstein wrote that students attacked him verbally “seemingly out of the blue” after he objected to an event in which “white people were asked to leave campus” for a day. He said that the college had “slipped into madness.”

As a student here, I know that the truth is more complicated. The pro- tests were part of a planned week of action over several incidents that had sparked a schoolwide discussion on race. A series of emails that Mr. Wein- stein sent to an all-faculty list were a small part of this. In one email, he ob- jected to the design of an equity coun- cil that would guide faculty hiring to improve racial equity. In another, he voiced his opposition to a new struc- ture for the Day of Absence, an Ever- green tradition since the 1970s.

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Equity

From previous page, the plan put it, “a review of our quantitative and qualitative institutional data, including student outcomes (most recently, the formal records of Trans and African American students) makes clear that equity gaps persist in undergraduate education. The Right, no single funder is willing to allow the college to keep separate their expectations about what graduates should know and be able to do, from expectations about what faculty would teach. For example, all Evergreen graduates are expected to be able to communicate clearly and creatively. However, Evergreen students have no guarantee that they will have the option to learn to communicate clearly and creatively—it’s the luck of the draw in terms of which programs or courses they choose, and whether faculty in those programs and courses have both the skills and the desire to help students develop these skills. The launch of the Equity Strategic Plan foretold a change, a change that Weinstein objected to.

In that same all-campus email, Weinstein asserted that the other things he objected to in the Equity Plan was the discussion of equity and equity gaps. He wrote: “This proposed remedy for these gaps are either entirely inappropriate, or spectacularly ill-advised, depending on whether Evergreen is working toward equity (an honorable and viable objective), or equality of result (a deeply dubious history, that cannot be logically defended in the context of a public institution on a limited budget). If we accept such analyses and prescriptions as normal, we have no basis to continue the college and fund a public institution.”

In the spirit of debate, I wrote back to Weinstein (not to the whole campus) to say that I disagreed with his position and explained why. After all, these faculty, staff, and administrators at public colleges with limited resources are embrac- ing their role every day and are expected to do so, and they are doing their best to ensure that the quality of the degrees earned by students on their campuses is equal to or higher quality of degree signifies more than credit—earning it refers to the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students have when they leave the institution. The best work on creating equality of opportunity for students—reduction of the assessment of “results”—what students are actually learning. That’s how campuses can tell, for instance, that their math sequences aren’t working for students: or that classic “weed-out” courses are functioning as “weed-outs.”

No other course of action can be logically determined within public institutions. Specifically those colleges like most regional public four-years, with relatively non-selective admissions criteria, are under intense pressure from students’ money, encourage the tak- ing of remedial courses, and thus—although administrators also work their tails off to try to make sure that those students learn and get a good in measurable and describable by measurable progressive measures—education.

I concluded my email by saying I would be glad to talk more and talk further. Weinstein never respond- ed, instead, as became clear, he found another way to make his point of view heard.

Students’ Rights to Dissent: Students Are Right Meanwhile, as Weinstein was satu- rating the campus with emails ex- plaining why he thought the Right was growing increasingly angry. For more than a year, students—and part-timers whose political correctness demands that the college do some- thing to address racism incidents that have occurred here, as well as demanding that the college do something to help blacks address their experience of learning have very little standing. At most colleges, students fill out end-of- term evaluations of their courses. Ex- pectably at teaching-centered colleges, those student evaluations play a role in determining faculty’s future and promotion, and faculty raises. This is an only partly true at Evergreen. While students are a large part of any given college and all adjunct faculty are re- viewed by an academic dean (annu- ally, as well), students are unable to have Evergreen’s equivalent of tenure, those reviews only happen every five years. It is not clear whether the administration affected by what students say in their evalua- tions of faculty, those evaluations have no impact on faculty raises. Ev- ergreen gets the same raise every year, regardless of performance.

The opportunity of this one-innovative evaluation system is that, in order to make our voices heard, students are being the reason our voices are heard. We are the basis of government and equal opportunity, but those students in their own learning, stu- dents need to work outside normal channels. Weinstein will try to limit his freedom. He said, at a faculty meeting, was really all an Evergreen faculty member had—that...
YWCA Olympia 2017 Racial Justice Summit: Intent vs. Impact

YWCA staff

YWCA Olympia held their first annual Racial Justice Summit on May 6, 2017. As the issue of racism in our community has become more broadly known and discussed, the Summit’s “Intent vs. Impact” theme proved to be a timely focus. Before the November 2016 election, Thurston County activist Tia Nixon began catalyzing the escalating number of race-related hate crimes in Thurston County. While racism and discrimination are not uncommon experiences for many Black and Brown people in our community, they may have no physical present as a weapon against a home or home’s body. But it is important to remember that even if the physical presence of a weapon against a home or home’s body is not more heightened, levels of legitimate stress and anxiety, and greatly decreases one’s sense of safety. Generational trauma, oppression, discrimination, and police brutality all contribute to this. People who regularly experience the effect of these issues are re-traumatized by the times occasioned by conversations about racism in our community, and we cannot ignore this reality.

Bystander Trainings. YWCA Olympia heard from people in various parts of Thurston County who expressed concern with and were worried about themselves, their family, and children. In an effort to equip community members with the knowledge to interrupt acts of hate, the agency held two Bystander Trainings in November and December. Both trainings filled quickly, and it was evident that many people were looking for ways to further engage. While YWCA Olympia had previously held a Racial Justice Summit at a later date, it was clear that the community urgently needed a platform to understand how racism plays out in our community, and how

to resist it on multiple levels. A plan
that is narrow-minded will not work. Femmes of color organized the Summit as a rapid-response community event.

Over 200 people attended. The day-long Summit was held at South Puget Sound Community College and had over 200 attendees. The morning opened with recognition that the work that needs to be done is in traditional spaces in Nisqually, Puyallup and the Medicine Creek Treaty Nations land. Through a forum, local artists shared their thoughts for the development of our community, and how we can improve it.

Nikkiha, a Seattle-based, teaching artist, and anti-racist organizer delivered a powerful keynote address. Nikkiha emphasized the need to recognize the deep and lasting impact of systemic racism in a white supremacist society in communities, and stirred her audience to take every opportunity to engage, and interrupt. Through poem and spoken word, Nikkiha encouraged communities of color to continue pursuing healing, as she lovingly proclaimed that “We are our own medicine.”

The value of facilitated panels. While Nikkiha's words brought inspiration and fire, the facilitated community panel forms to have provided the most profound and lasting takeaway for the majority of those who attended. With participants representing a diverse spectrum of the community, the panels answered questions from a moderator and shared their thoughts on racism, and the experiences they have experienced. These experiences were questioned or minimized; they will be a serious threat to the goals of your community.

Avoid slogans, name calling, and demonizing members of the Right.

Address the issues, not just the actors.

Try to avoid personalizing the debate or focusing entirely on the person being attacked. Remember to take time to clarify what the real issue is about. Find out why these issues are important to the Right and what the implications of the discussion are.

Criticize the outcomes, not the intent of the Right’s agenda.

If you focus only on exposing the patterns of思想less thinking, you may find yourself locked in a circular argument about who knows better what to do and how to accomplish it. It may be more productive to look at the implications of the issues at hand and to support your logical outcomes. Adopting your opponent’s position will be a serious threat to the goals of your community.

Group caucuses. Ramirez Family Restaurant catered a delicious lunch which was followed by caucusing and workshops for the remainder of the afternoon. While not commonly practiced in obvious and subliminal channels.

Group caucuses. Ramirez Family Restaurant catered a delicious lunch which was followed by caucusing and workshops for the remainder of the afternoon. While not commonly practiced in obvious and subliminal channels.

Ground rules

from previous page

minding that their sources be cited. The leadership of an organization can and must be fully responsible for their work. Understanding how racism comes from him or her or the organization they represent. If you are not really prepared, you will know the weaknesses of these sources and be able to refute them publicly. At the same time be prepared to document your sources in order to maintain your credibility.

Slogans and sound bites have their place. They can be a very useful and essential aspect of any organizing strategy.

Simple anti-Right slogans do not help our work. They may sound convincing but is wrong. And responding in kind to being called racist is not always the best strategy. Simplicity sounds convincing but is wrong. And responding in kind to being called racist is not always the best strategy.

Shades of white people, and this is part of a large pattern of projecting strength that is designed both to further my identity and really define my stage. I also learned how to cope with my identity and really define my stage.

Keep Organizing. Quick updates that is a trap, a form of self-policing and a means of maintaining the illusion of the opportunity to trust and care, while confronting how our behaviors impact others in the way that we act. I also learned that this is a trap, a form of self-policing and a means of maintaining the illusion of the opportunity to trust and care, while confronting how our behaviors impact others in the way that we act.

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Be patient. This advice is exerted from Spence Sunshine with Rural Organizing Project (ROP) and Political Research Associates, Up in Arms: A Guide to Oregon's Patriot Movement, (Somerville, MA: Politi

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Equity
From page 7
freedom to teach whatever they want-
red. Beginning to examine the relation-
ship between how faculty exercised that freedom and whether and how students were learning—including which students were learning what—
he implied, was the beginning of the end of the college. The students who marched in Weinstein's program were fed up with his insistence that the col-
lege policies and practices center on him, and not them.
Fair Play and Hierarchies of Power
This year's Day of Absence has been widely caricatured in the media as the day when all white people were asked to leave campus. Weinstein and his brokers marketed half-truths across social media. In fact, for the fifteen or so previous years, when people of color were invited to leave campus to talk about issues of diversi-
ity and equity, Weinstein said nothing. Only when it was suggested that white people could choose to leave campus for a day to talk about equity and in-
culation did he speak out.
When Weinstein sought a louder microphone with Fox news, he con-
jured the Washington Center for Diversity, opportunity gaps, and teach-
Emily Lardner served as a long-time researcher, 36(3), 156-162.
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You will not cross the street illegally because authorities have guns. Would you also cut my hand off for eating the cabbage I stole? If the constitution doesn’t cover regulating police in a po-
lace state then the police are unregu-
latred and we are not a democracy any-
more. If you keep watching tv and never leave your home then you won’t get maced. Social control is the worst thing taught in a democratic society like the United States. Why don’t they teach that the constitution as it’s written is a police state. If you respect the construc-
tion of your Authority – you have failed.
[jigned] John Chacon. Mr. Chacon spent the last year of his life in prison for assaulting a police officer. He is a proud American.

The Party Banner
By Maureen Canny
Slogons protect the reigning red regime
As they defend their marriages against
Those other people in love.
They must not contaminate definitions
Nor bake cakes for someone else’s celebration
They fight giving refuge to children of war
Forgetting their own incantations that
Terrified five-year-olds
Are indoctrinated to hate us
They die those engines in denial
While knowing who their oil derricks
Will topple under the weight of a climate collapse
They defend their right to poison ecosystems
As though air and water
And beautiful critters
Recognize property lines
They dream of returning to a great America
At a specific time no one seems to recall
They ignore the part about being nice to each other
As they plunge their swords of false righteousness
Into the souls of those less lucky

Heart Computers offers a 5-star experience in computer services w/ reasonable prices. $95 flat-rate PC/Mac computer repair – free pick-up/delivery & 48-hour turn around. Risk-free $195 flat-rate data recovery. 30-day guarantee and follow-up support.
Free quote and over-the-phone diagnostic. We take credit cards, cash, and checks.
360-561-3608 or help@heartcomputersoly.com

July 2017 Works In Progress Page 9
Wonder Woman: banned in Beirut

By Nora Barrows-Friedman

Lebanon has banned the blockbust-er movie Wonder Woman, featuring the former Israeli soldier Gal Gadot. Gadot, who plays the lead role in the movie, served in the Israeli army during the bombing of Lebanon in 2006. The attack on Lebanon killed 1,200 civilians, a third of them children, during a 24-day period. Human Rights Watch has reported that as many as 4.6 million cluster bombs were dropped on Lebanon by Israel.

In 2014, during Israel’s 51-day at-tack on Gaza, Gadot praised the Israeli army. Rania Masri, an activist with the Campaign to Boycott Supporters of Israel in Leba-non told The Electronic Intifada that banning the film is in accordance with Lebanon’s boycott law. The 1955 law specifically prohibits financial transactions between Lebanon and any Israeli or Palestinian institution, she said. Last year, campaigners pressured the government to issue the same ban against Batman v Superman, in which Gadot also appeared, but “noth-ing happened.”

Major Western media outlets have labeled the film ban as a case of censorship, but Masri explained that this was a legitimate implementation of Lebanese law and not an act of censorship over the film’s content. Wonder Woman has been banned because it features a former Israeli soldier in the lead role, Masri explained. The banning is an act of resistance against normalizing with an apartheid settler-state that continues to this date to occupy not only all of Palestinian territory – and we consider all of Palestine to be occupied – but also Syrian territory in the Golan Heights and Lebanese territories in the Shebaa Farms,” she said. Eleven years after Israel was defeated in the 2006 war, Israeli leaders continue to threaten the entire Lebanese population with another war, Masri said.

In March, the far-right Israeli politician Naftali Bennett openly threatened Lebanese civilians and declared that “Lebanese institutions, its infrastructure, airport, power stations, traffic junctions and Lebanese Army bases” are “legitimate targets.” Bennett warned that Israel would send Lebanon “back to the Middle Ages” if another war breaks out.

Nora Barrows-Friedman is an Oregonian and staff writer for the Electronic Intifada. The June 8, 2017 edition also has an audio interview with Rania Masri.
But it’s so convenient... yet so eerie...

Hello. Pizza Milano?
—No, sir. This is Pizza Google.

Oh, sorry, I must have the wrong number.

—No, this is the number; we acquired Pizza Milano.

Ok! Can you take my order?
—Yes, of course. The usual?

“The usual?” Do you know me?
—Yes, we identified you by your telephone number and according to your last several orders, you ordered crust pizza with extra cheese and pepperoni.

Wow, you've got it!
—Thanks, but could I suggest for this time ricotta, spinach and dried tomato? No! I hate dried tomatoes.
—Well, your cholesterol level isn’t good.

Hey, how do you know?
—Thanks to our list of subscribers we have the results of your blood work for the last 7 years.

Well, now I'm taking medication for it.
—You don’t take the medication regularly, though; it's been 4 months since you got the last bottle of pills at your CVS.

I buy them at a different pharmacy now.
—Oh? That doesn’t show up on your credit card bill.

I paid in cash.
—Maybe, but according to your bank statement you haven’t withdrawn any amount corresponding to such a purchase.

I have other places than that I bank!
—You do? It's not your last tax return – maybe you have some sources of income that you failed to declare?

No! Okay, that’s enough – Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp – I’m sick of you. Done. I’m exiling myself to an island with no internet and no cell phone reception where you can’t spy on me!
—I understand sir. But you’ll have to renew your passport—it expired 5 weeks ago.
—Anonymous (well, maybe not)

Everyone Deserves a Home

By Delores Kelso Nelson

In the winter of 1982, national news services ran a story of a house that was perched precariously on the edge of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. The pale, yellow modernist house sat on the beautiful sandstone cliff, like an enchained ant in a city blessed for its beautiful hills. The hillside below it had been excavated, after two weeks of heavy rain that sent mud and rock sliding down the eastern slope of Telegraph Hill. Then February 15 huge chunks of the battered hill rolled more away at the foundation of the little yellow house until it broke into pieces. If a house came undone it’s usually through neglect or a catastrophic event of some kind. In this case, it was a catastrophe for the owner. Loss of their home was bad enough but now their problems began anew, how to reclaim their belongings and what about insurance policies that do not cover mud slides? They commiserated with others about the impossible task of finding a place to live. A house built on bedrock is not supposed to crumble and fall into the sea. This story has stuck in my mind for years, and has generated many stories. It relates in so many way to the plight of the most vulnerable members of our community. The homeless, a group that includes families with children, veterans, people with chronic health conditions, and disabilities. Everyone deserves a home, the foundation of our well-being depends on being safe and secure where we can live in peace.

What then has to be done about the homeless population? We know that the lack of affordable housing has been related to an increase in substance abuse, aggravated mental health issues, criminal activity and an inability to maintain familial and community connections. Affordable housing is basic for keeping people in homes of their choosing. For that reason the Home Fund organization has been established and supported by Interfaith Works.

Some people have told me “Who are you on the streets, sleeping in doorways and wearing what amounts to rags, do that because they want to live that way. It is their freedom to do so.” But that is not what we want. “Who should have homes to live in take care of those who could not? If you help them, it won’t last, they will be back again and ask for a handout.” Maybe this argument works for a few, but I for one, acknowledge the importance of compassion for the down-trodden.

Who are the homeless? They are those who have homes to live in and are in need of help. They are those who have lost their homes through no fault of their own. They are those who are no longer able to maintain familial and community connections. They are those who were forced to leave their homes by government regulations. The foundation of their “little yellow house” crumbled years ago when their parents could no longer care for them. Although, they now have freedom for most part, it is often experienced once more as if their home is gone off the cliff, again. A disturbing reality is a homeless mother with children. She doesn’t have a job, or has a job that does not pay well enough to afford rent, the car has become their only shelter. She is trying to keep her kids in school, clothed and fed. But like the ‘little yellow house’ that crumbled on the edge cliff, it is not sustainable, the rubble of her life is crashing down on her and her family. The goal of proponents at this time is to convince the Olympia City Council to put the Home Fund levy proposals on the ballot for November. Readers can get more information at www.olyhomefund.org and show support for the Home Fund Council by writing an email letter to the City Council. Tell them not let another little yellow house go over the cliff before they act.

Delores Kelso Nelson has lived for many years in a sturdy house on the Westside of Olympia. She is a Memoir Writing Instructor and can be reached at Delores at bridalworkmemors@comcast.net

The Home Fund is a levy proposal to drastically reduce homelessness through the creation of safe and secure, affordable housing and rent assistance for the most vulnerable in our community. The vital component of this 10-year plan is a levy on real property at $0.36 per $1,000 a year. Annual tax on a $250,000 home would be $90. New and refurbished units are proposed to be built and acquired through nonprofit and private developers, such as Housing Authority of Thurston County, Homes First and Low Income Housing Institute. The levy would generate $2.2 million dollars and will create 250 units of housing over 7 years, scattered throughout the city limits and primarily located on city bus lines.

A person making minimum wage in the Olympia-Tumwater area would need to work almost two jobs to pay for a market rate two-bedroom apartment...

Wages vs rent in the Olympia-Tumwater area

| Avg. 2-Bdrm FMR | $1071/mo | $20.60/hr | $713.00/mo
|------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|

| Renters households in the Olympia Tumwater area 2011 – 2015 data |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Number of households | Percent of all households |
| Renters' est. average hourly wage | Rent affordable at average renter wage |

| 36, 369 | 55% | $13.71 | $713.00/mo |

| FMR = fair market rent | affordable rent | the accepted measure of the amount of a gross income a household should spend on housing – 30% |

| Income for 2-Bdrm FMR | Annual income for 2-Bdrm FMR | Annual tax on a $250,000 home would be $90. New and refurbished units are proposed to be built and acquired through nonprofit and private developers, such as Housing Authority of Thurston County, Homes First and Low Income Housing Institute. The levy would generate $2.2 million dollars and will create 250 units of housing over 7 years, scattered throughout the city limits and primarily located on city bus lines.

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**She who will not be blamed...**

_Sylvia Smith_

*Not my fault*!

On May 31, Hillary Clinton did the unthinkable. She added her own party to the list of those she blamed for her loss to Donald Trump. According to Hill-

ary the DNC’s “was bankrupt,” “on the verge of insolvency”, and its data was in-

adequate. And she didn’t stop there. She even went after the New York Times—which had endorsed her—because, as she put it, “They covered [her private email server] like it was Pearl Harbor.” Time to get out the violins.

A few weeks earlier during a BBC interview, Noam Chomsky had an en-
tirely different take on why Hillary lost. He stated that “the Democrats had given up on the working class 40 years ago.” Obama, who had campaigned on “hope and change”, turned his back on workers following his election to serve the bankers. With Clinton promising to carry on Obama’s legacy, those working class voters, even though the Republicans are known enemies of the working class, Chomsky believes Trump was successful in “appealing to white workers on non-economic issues” such as identity politics.

Chomsky also asserted that the most interesting aspect of the last election was not the election of Trump [or Clinton’s loss], but the campaign of Bernie Sanders. “Bernie Sanders broke with a century of American political history. In American elections, back to the late-

19th Century, elections are basically bought. Literally. You can predict with remarkable accuracy electability simply on the basis of campaign funding.” Sanders, an unknown, had “no sup-
port from the corporate sector” or “from the wealthy.” “The media simply dismissed him as ridiculous. He even used a scare word—‘socialist’. And he would’ve won the democratic nomi-

nation if it hadn’t have been for the shenanigans of the party managers.” Of course, this is something that Hill-

ary will never acknowledge.

**Russiagate**

Many over the last year, have com-
pared the DNC’s allegations of election manipulation by the Russian Federa-
tion to Watergate. It’s almost as if they are hopeful in a sort of trialling man-
ner. But I think they are truly missing the bigger picture and a much greater danger to the United States.

In contrast to the unsubstantiated claim of Russia meddling through WikiLeak, Watergate did not affect the outcome of the 1972 election. Nix-

on was still re-elected despite revela-
tions that his U.S. Attorney General, John Mitchell, and his re-election committee were implicated. (There

was actual proof.) Watergate, more simply, involved a group of men hired by the Republican Party to wrest the Democratic Party headquarters and Nixon and his White House staff, who would later try to cover up their participation. The bur-
glers were convicted six months after the crime, White House involvement was revealed in the Senate Watergate hearings one year later, and Nixon was eventually forced to resign.

Unlike the Watergate scandal, even though the proven manipulations by DNC did affect the outcome of the presidential election, the damages were never be a Senate Committee hearing on the undermining of the U.S. presidential primaries. None of those involved will ever be held responsible. Debbie Was-

serman-Schultz and Donna Brazile re-

main in office, and Clinton continues to give speeches and has a book com-

ing out this fall. They and other DNC elites really should be behind bars.

Let us all pray that we will survive the Trump/Pence presidency and that HR will finally stop talking. If only Sylvia Smith is a Greener, a Thurston County resident, and has been a disappointed progressive since 1960.

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**An insecure future for our Marbled Murrelets?**

_The Sierra Club_

It is critically important to provide protection on DNR lands for the ben-
et of the species. DNR lands are disproportionately important to murrelets because they are close to Washington within our lifetimes. This is why a revised or supplemental DEIS

should be issued. Selecting one of the six preferred alternative at this point is premature and undermines the in-
tegrity of the process.

The BNR is looking to make their decision on a preferred alternative Draft Envi-

ronmental Impact Statement (DEIS) this summer, likely as early as July.

Six DEIS alternatives are currently under consideration. The environ-

mental community recommends that we ask the DNR NOT to make any de-
cision on which of the six alternatives they prefer for a final environmental impact statement until they analyze a better, more appropriate range of al-
ternatives including a conservation alternative that offers the murrelet the best chance for recovery.” (See Maria Ruth website for further information.)

Here is some current information: As of December 2016, the marbled murrelet is one of Washington’s endangered species. The population in Washington has de-

clined by 44% in the past twelve years alone. The DEIS Alternatives do not

common sense solutions that our State is long overdue in pursuing.

As current events unfold, it has be-

come clear that our federal gover-

ments are not willing to join the rest of the world in combating climate change. It is incumbent upon the states to lead the way in progressive policy solu-
tions to make sure our planet is liv-

able for future generations. Forests, especially older forests in Western Washington, are incredibly effec-
tive in storing carbon. Protecting the marbled murrelet’s habitat is some-
thing that the DNR can do to help fight climate change. It’s true that Washington doesn’t have a large popula-
tion of marbled murrelets compared to Alaska and British Columbia. But it would be wrong to think that since there are an estimated 270,000 birds in Alaska, that they aren’t in peril or that Washington doesn’t have an obligation to protect the species.

Murrelets are declining across their range—the US Geological Survey in 2007 estimated that murrelets de-

clined by 70% in the past 25 years in Alaska from a historic population of around 1 million birds, and the popula-
tion in British Columbia has experi-

enced similar declines. The reasons for the murrelet’s population decline are complex—but one thing is clear: almost all of the proposed actions for the murrelet’s decline are human caused. Oil spills, fishing bycatch, boat traffic all contribute to the murrelet’s mortal-
ity; however, the best available scientific points to the logging of the murrelets’ nesting habitat as the primary reason for the declining population trends.

Concerned readers should send an e-mail to Hillary Frantz to question their options for preserving the Mar-

bled Murrelet habitat. Department of Natural Resources [http://www.dnr.

wa.gov DNR site specific to Marbled Murrelet]. [http://www.dnr.wa.gov

mtnlks Maria Ruth, DEIS alternatives [http://www.mariaruthbooks.net/ An-

anne Jara • Evergreen Forests Pro-

gram Associate, anrianne@wegcprotects.

You may also write to the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) at bnr@dnr.

wa.gov to express your concern about the Marbled Murrelet and the DNR’s proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS).

The Sierra Club Sooth Sound serves members in Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, and Lewis counties of Washington State. There will not be a regular meeting in July, but meetings are normally on the second Wednesday of each month.

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*The Sierra Club*
Another perspective on white working-class political identity

In the infancy of the Trump presidency, a new community defense network is exploiting anti-racist and anti-capitalist politics to engage working-class white people away from reactionary politics. The network emphasizes the failures of that condition and white supremacy’s role in upholding the wealth and privilege of a small, white elite.

Redneck Revolt inserts themselves into overwhelmingly white spaces—NASCC races, gun shows, flea markets in rural communities, and country music concerts—to offer a meaningful alternative to the white supremacist groups who often also recruit in those spaces.

The organization’s growing membership comes as media pundits, the Democratic Party, and the United States’ relatively small socialist parties all grapple with how to address the plight of working-class white Americans in the wake of Trump’s election.

“Economic anxiety,” a term presented by the media to defend Trump’s ascendency, is often greeted with an interest meme for acts of racial terror. Hillbilly Elegy author JD Vance has been paradigmatic of this working-class white alliance is often undeserving of representation.

“Redneck Revolt’s principles of standing against white supremacy, capitalism, and the war on poor and working-class communities, their embrace of the term ‘redneck,’ their belief in building solidarity with working and poor people, are really designed to turn against the other half in exchange for a fight to be the best treated dog in the kennel.”

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“Redneck Revolt is espousing anti-racist and anti-capitalist politics to build coalitions in cities and towns across the country. The group conducts a wide variety of activities to organize working and poor communities, their campaigns include the following:

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Anti-transgender I-1552 campaign caught breaking the law

Just Want Privacy PAC, the ballot initiative’s primary supporting group, has violated Washington State’s election laws by failing to report numerous contributions from external, anti-LGBTQ groups, according to a complaint filed today by Equal Rights Washington.

Monisha Harrell, Chair of the Board for the Equal Rights Washington, says that the unreported expenditures were the clearest evidence yet that the I-1552 campaign, far from being about bolstering public safety, is actually a bold-faced attempt to do the exact opposite.

“We all care about safety, but I-1552’s unreported backers are focused on furthering an anti-LGBTQ and discrimination agenda that will undermine public safety by encouraging more harassment and violence.” – Monisha Harrell, Chair of the Board for Equal Rights Washington

The complaint lays out in detail many unreported in-kind contributions (these include things like providing event logistics, staff time and other “significant campaign activities”) to Just Want Privacy from groups like the Family Policy Institute of Washington, the Alliance Defending Freedom, the State Rep. Graham Hunt, and others.

These unreported in-kind donations include more than a dozen “Gender Revolution” events in Aberdeen, Pasco, Spokane, Sequim, Bremerton, Tacoma, Wenatchee, Bellingham, Everett, and Bothell sponsored by the Family Policy Institute of Washington (FPIW).

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), these events’ main purpose was to recruit volunteers and gather signatures on I-1552.

In the complaint, the SPLC reports that Joseph Backholm, Just Want Privacy’s campaign manager, gave explicit instructions that attendees should get involved in the campaign to pass I-1552, effectively qualifying them as campaign events and making them subject to stricter financial disclosure requirements.

EPA approves brain-harming pesticide

June 6, 2017 – Friends of the Earth, Pesticide Action Network and allies submitted over 145,000 public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency expressing outrage over Administrator Scott Pruitt’s decision to reverse the plan by the Obama administration to support a wide variety of activities to help mitigate water pollution, including from agriculture and forestry operations.

EPA estimates that its nonpoint source pollution program has “partially or fully restored 674 water bodies” in the U.S. Success stories of this initiative abound for virtually every state in the country, including Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio and Michigan. In Iowa alone, there are 124 nonpoint source pollution projects that are either ongoing or completed. Exposure to nitrates in drinking water has been linked to higher rates of thyroid, bladder and ovarian cancer, and can lead to so-called blue baby syndrome, which can be fatal to infants under 6 months old.

—Environmental Working Group

EPA budget slashes funds to help rural America keep farm pollution out of drinking water

Friday, May 26, 2017 – Trump’s budget proposal seeks to eliminate or slash federal programs that help communities and rural communities deal with water pollution, much of which comes from polluted runoff from corn and soybean fields and factory farms.

One water protection program targeted for elimination is the Environmental Protection Agency’s 319 grant program for nonpoint source pollution. Trump would zero out its budget of $164 million. Under the program, rural communities deal with water pollution, much of which comes from polluted runoff from corn and soybean fields and factory farms.

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—Environmental Working Group

DEA agents oversaw notorious 2012 deadly force incident in Ahuas, Honduras

May 24, 2017 – The Offices of Inspector General (OIG) of the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the US State Department have found that US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents were in operational control of a notorious incident in Ahuas, Honduras in May 2012. Four Miskitu villagers were killed and three others severely wounded. This contradicts previous claims by DEA officials that its agents played only a “supportive” role in the incident.

In the shooting episode, part of a counternarcotics strategy called “Operation Anvil,” eyewitnesses and survivors say a boat carrying at least 15 people was fired on by State Department-titled helicopters and that an American agent in another boat had fired a weapon. DEA agents and Honduran police then reportedly prevented injured victims from seeking medical assistance for hours after the shooting, and held them at gunpoint.

Claire Woods, one of the survivors and the mother of the 14-year-old killed in the incident, was contacted several times by the DEA. She says she was offered money in exchange for altering her testimony of the incident.

The leak of State Department memos in 2013 revealed that both the State Department and the DEA had initially stonewalled attempts at an investigation.

—Center for Economic and Policy Research

Maine bid to shift time zones fails

June 16, 2017 – The Maine Legislature tabled a bill that would have locked the clocks to daylight saving time year-round, according to the Portland Press Herald.

A growing number of states have been considering bills to eliminate daylight saving time, or stay on daylight saving time year-round, as more research indicates that the biannual ritual of changing clocks is harmful to public health, productivity and safety. This year, about half of states have considered or are considering time-related bills.

Maine’s bill would have allowed voters in the state to approve the change through a referendum. But that step would only take place after Massachusetts and New Hampshire approved a move to Atlantic Time, which didn’t happen this year.
One group of activists blocked NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and his contingent, protesting the New York Police Department collaboration with Israeli security forces, an exchange of worst practices that harm communities of color and Palestinians. The activists locked themselves together across Fifth Avenue, preventing the Mayor from marching for several minutes with signs reading “Black & Palestinian Lives Matter,” “NYFD & IDF collaborate to kill,” and “End Israeli Apartheid.” Several parade-goers and private security attacked the protesters. A group of queer Jews staged a sit in disrupting the LGBTQ contingent by holding signs saying “No pride in apartheid” and “Queer Jews for a free Palestine.” At the close of the parade, marchers were greeted by stiltwalkers with banners reading “Celebrate Ending Israeli Apartheid” and “Stop the Deadly Exchange.”

— Jewish Voice for Peace

Philando Castile shooting trial verdict

June 16, 2017—In response to the acquittal on all charges of the police officer who shot and killed Philando Castile last year, Diablo Brooks, Director of Outreach and Public Engagement at People For the American Way, issued the following statement:

“The details of every police shooting are different, but together they add up to a frightening pattern: a long line of black men and women killed by law enforcement. Today’s verdict does nothing to reassure people of color in this country that when a shooting occurs we can rely on the criminal justice system to hold officers accountable for their actions.”

“This pattern of violence stretches far back in our country’s history. Philando Castile is only one in a long line of victims, many of whose names we’ve never known. Without question, this has gone on too long. It’s long past time to take concrete steps to drastically reduce the unconscionable number of African Americans killed by police and to guarantee that when violence happens we can rely on the courts to ensure that justice is meaningfully served.”

—People For the American Way

Senate may bar press interviews in Hill hallways

June 13, 2017—Reports that the Senate has considered enforcing a rule prohibiting members of the press from interviewing senators outside of “designated areas” in the Capitol raise serious First Amendment concerns and highlight the precariousness of speech protections on the Hill. Various outlets have reported that the Senate Rules Committee will require reporters to seek permission from the committee and the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms before interviewing senators in Capitol hallways. Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) issued a statement saying that existing rules would permit the committee to block reporters from conducting interviews in hallways.

Enforcement of such a rule could lead to discriminatory or selective enforcement. Permission could be withheld from only certain news outlets, or from citizen journalists and bloggers based on the viewpoint of the individual or outlet deemed permissible to interview. Supreme Court precedent suggests strongly that laws that disproportionately burden the news media could be unconstitutional even if they were permitted to apply to everyone. Requiring members of the news media to seek permission before speaking to a senator, but permitting any member of the public to ask a senator a question in the hall without permission could run afoul of those cases.

— PEN America

Maryland becomes second state to ban the routine use of antibiotics on farms

May 30, 2017—The Keep Antibiotics Effective Act has gone into law without a signature from Governor Larry Hogan, making Maryland the second state in the country after California to meaningfully address the widespread misuse of antibiotics in livestock and poultry. The new law will prohibit the routine use of antibiotics on animals that are not sick; a practice public health experts say can fuel the spread of drug resistant bacteria.

Public health experts including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warn that if we don’t stop the overuse of antibiotics in both healthcare and agriculture the drugs may stop working altogether.

Approximately 70% of human use antibiotics distributed in the U.S. are sold for use on food animals. In many cases, the drugs are given to otherwise healthy animals on a routine basis to prevent disease brought on by crowded, unsanitary conditions. This legislation will do away with some of the worst misuse of these precious medicines and limit antibiotic use to treat sick animals or to control a verified disease outbreak. The new law is a major win for protecting the efficacy of antibiotics in Maryland and across the country.

— The Pew Charitable Trusts

Overall crime rate stable in 2016

June 6, 2017—Chicago accounted for more than 55 percent of the murder increase last year, according to a new analysis of crime data by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. The overall national crime rate though remained stable. On average, numbers show that Americans remain safer today than they have been at almost any time in the past quarter-century.

These findings undercut rhetoric from President Trump and Attorney General Sessions that crime is “out of control.” Key findings include:

National crime rate remained stable last year, rising by 0.9 percent.
Violent crime rose slightly by 4.2 percent, an increase driven by Chicago (16.5 percent) and Baltimore (18.6 percent). Violent crime remains near the bottom of a 30-year downward trend.
The murder rate in these cities increased last year by 13.1 percent. Chicago caused more of the increase in murders (55.1 percent) than preliminary data suggested.
Possible causes of increased violence in Chicago include higher concentrations of poverty, lower homicide clearance rates, and fewer police officers. This is similar to the 2015 murder rate when three cities—Baltimore, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.—accounted for more than half (53.5 percent) of the murders among cities studied.

— The Brennan Center

Celebrate Israel parade disrupted repeatedly by Jewish activists calling for an end to denial of Palestinian rights

June 4, 2017—The annual NYC Celebrate Israel parade was repeatedly disrupted by over 100 Jewish activists, including seven who were arrested for civil disobedience demonstrations that at times stopped the parade’s progress. As the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem turns 50 years old this week, the protesters highlighted the devastating impact of Israel’s separate and unequal policies toward Palestinians.

— The Pew Charitable Trusts

One group of activists blocked NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and his contingent, protesting the New York Police Department collaboration with Israeli security forces, an exchange of worst practices that harm communities of color and Palestinians. The activists locked themselves together across Fifth Avenue, preventing the Mayor from marching for several minutes with signs reading “Black & Palestinian Lives Matter,” “NYFD & IDF collaborate to kill,” and “End Israeli Apartheid.” Several parade-goers and private security attacked the protesters. A group of queer Jews staged a sit in disrupting the LGBTQ contingent by holding signs saying “No pride in apartheid” and “Queer Jews for a free Palestine.” At the close of the parade, marchers were greeted by stiltwalkers with banners reading “Celebrate Ending Israeli Apartheid” and “Stop the Deadly Exchange.”

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— PEN America
Showing at the Olympia Film Society

Neither Wolf Nor Dog
June 29 - July 1

Adapted from the 1996 Minnesota Book Award winning novel, this touching drama covers some familiar topics about white and Indian relations with refreshing levels of awkward honesty and sly humor. It follows the challenging yet cleansing relationship between Dan, a seen-it-all Lakota elder at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and Nerburn, a guilt-stricken white author who has road-tripped from Minnesota to the rez to write his story... The characters of this modest, crowd-funded feature are practically unforgettable. The story serious, but no downer.

—Colin Covert, Minneapolis Star Tribune

David Lynch: The Art Life
July 1 - 6

This unfussy documentary goes a long way to explaining the circumstances and forces that wired his brain the way it is.

It starts with Lynch recalling his earliest childhood memory, sitting in a mud bath with his best friend on a hot day, and ends right as he finishes making his breakthrough directorial debut Eraserhead...

For Lynch fans it’s hugely insightful, for everyone else it’s simply a fascinating look into a fascinating mind.

—Karl Puschmann, New Zealand Herald

Alien: Covenant
July 31 - 13

"Alien: Covenant" returns to the Alien (1979) horror movie roots. The year is 2104 and the Covenant, a sleek gigantic spaceship, is headed to a distant planet. Aboard are 2000 colonists, 1140 embryos, 15 crew members and one android named Walter (Michael Fassbender). Their mission is to populate a new world — the sort of homey place where people like second-in-command Daniels (Katherine Waterston) and her husband (a briefly glimpsed James Franco) can build a log cabin on a lake.

—Eleanor Ringel Cater, Saporta Report

Rodney Crowell
w/ special guest Ericka Corban
Saturday, July 8, 8 pm

Rodney Crowell is a multi-Grammy winning singer/songwriter. His songs have been performed by an eminent group of musicians, including Van Morrison, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Emmylou Harris, Etta James, George Strait, Tim McGraw and Bob Seger. Ericka Corban is a singer/songwriter from rural western Washington, who has been likened to Norah Jones, Colbie Caillat, Sarah McLachlan, and Joni Mitchell.

—Olympia Film Society