Strengthening sanctuary in our communities

Why Guatemalans come to Mason County and what happens to them there

On August 15, the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program turned 5 years old with a sword hanging over its head. A group of 10 attorney generals has threatened to file a court challenge to the program, seeking to force President Trump to make a decision: will he eliminate the program, as he promised voters he would?

In the meantime, Trump and his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, have continued to use polarizing rhetoric accusing undocumented people of being gang members and criminals, while blasting city governments that have declared themselves welcoming to immigrants. So far, this rhetoric has failed to result in a wholesale change to immigration policy, but in the status of local immigration activists like Steffani Powell, “something huge is coming.”

The crime of being undocumented

After years of telling parents it was safe to enroll their children in DACA, Powell now lies awake at night thinking about what will happen to her clients. In the meantime, the wheels of the deportation machine put in place under the Obama administration continue to turn at an alarming rate.

Understanding law enforcement policies

In the simplest terms, this was the first phase of the group’s work: to understand the various policies of each law enforcement entity. The second phase was to make a case for change, as they did with the Olympia resolution. That case begins with a simple question: why would officials want to collect information about a person’s place of birth? In many cases, there is no good answer other than longstanding practice. This is crucial: if local police do not have information about a person’s place of birth, any ICE enforcement, like the law enforcement, like the law

Continued on page 6

Miguel told me the men are the the

Sheriff Snaza mentioned past assistance he has received from these agencies in cases involving drugs or human trafficking. On the other hand, several of the law enforcement officials who attended a listening session hosted by the Hispanic Roundtable on June 25th seemed genuinely concerned about the possibility of eroding trust between themselves and members of the community.

Mason County citizens support immigrants

Immigration policy seems to be evolving by the second. Regionally across America, states are becoming divided in how they are reacting to the deportation of countless non-citizens. In Mason County, Washington, a small group of citizens is addressing a complex set of challenges. They are operating as volunteers in hopes of supporting local migrant workers, hoping also to relieve new pressures due to reports of large scale deportations.

Continued on page 6

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Continued on page 6
Sea level rise: learning from California

By Helen Wheatley

When I transferred to Santa Cruz to study as an undergraduate in the Winter of 1982, I didn’t realize that I was about to witness the future. The Storm of 1982, which combined two days of torrential rains with high tides, killed 22 people, flooded the coastal town of Apts, and caused power outages. Infrastructure damage and private property losses of over $100 million. With the lights out, knowing nobody as I had just moved to town, I strolled alone along the levee of the swollen Santa Cruz River, watching logs toss about and searching for cracks. I hoped it would hold fast to protect the low-end Boardwalk neighborhood, which appeared lower than the river.

Useful principles based on

I immediately signed up for a Hydrology course and spent the quarter taking a firsthand tour of the storm damage led by Griggs, an expert on California coastal geology who became an important voice in environmental policy. In 2012 he co-authored (with Nicole Russell) an important guidebook: Adapting to Sea Level Rise – A Guide for California’s Coastal Communities (funded by the California Energy Commission and the California Ocean Sciences Trust). The guide provides useful principles based on his experience like the disaster that befell Santa Cruz County. It can easily serve any coastal community, including ours. This is a clear call of action for an uncertain future. Griggs and Russell set the stage by explaining how to approach the problem.

“In order to adapt to future change, coastal communities need to have an understanding of vulnerability and risk, because adaptation to sea level rise is a risk management strategy, somewhat like an insurance policy, against an uncertain future.”

How can a vulnerable community adapt?

While the entire county should be looking at risk, at least Olympia plans to take a firsthand tour of the storm damage led by Griggs, an expert on California coastal geology who became an important voice in environmental policy. In 2012 he co-authored (with Nicole Russell) an important guidebook: Adapting to Sea Level Rise – A Guide for California’s Coastal Communities (funded by the California Energy Commission and the California Ocean Sciences Trust). The guide provides useful principles based on his experience like the disaster that befell Santa Cruz County. It can easily serve any coastal community, including ours. This is a clear call of action for an uncertain future. Griggs and Russell set the stage by explaining how to approach the problem.

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“In order to adapt to future change, coastal communities need to have an understanding of vulnerability and risk, because adaptation to sea level rise is a risk management strategy, somewhat like an insurance policy, against an uncertain future.”

Who should join in the conversation about vulnerability and adaptation? One suggestion that Gipps has made is to create a Preparedness Team, put together in a way that will assure buy-in to whatever recommendations may come out of the assessment process. Ideally this would include not just agency representatives, but also representatives of relevant community organizations, as well as consultants or scientific advisors as appropriate. Gipps believes that Olympia is now entering this assessment phase, having taken the wise step of hiring outside experts to do the data gathering and compiling.

Develop an adaptation plan.

The next phase should be gap planning, which means development of an “Adaptation Plan.” This is not just a matter of describing all of the possible options for responding to future hazards—including doing nothing—but also developing clear criteria for how the options should be evaluated and prioritized. And, that is, what kind of adoption of a plan can then only happen if there is ample opportunity for review, including a plan for inviting the public. After all, a big part of choosing options must be deciding what the community wants to prioritize, and especially what the community most wants to protect.

Community values must be considered

It is relatively easy to think in terms of infrastructure, but there are also questions of community values. What happens to public access to the waterfront? Are the burdens and benefits of dealing with climate change to be shared fairly? Will those individuals who are most vulnerable, and those with the least resources to adapt without help, be given prior consideration?

How do communities slumbered by the hazards of climate change, prioritize and plan for ecosystem protection? After all, the ability to find ways to work with nature, instead of paying increasing costs to engineer change, will likely prove to be the most important long-term factor influencing human adaptability to climate change.

Stark new realities and maximum exposure

Above all, how can communities develop strategies that will make them as adaptable as possible, building the very worst scenarios scientists

Continued on page 10

Photo by Amy Shall

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Stark new realities and maximum exposure

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Denny Heck and most House Democrats say yes to Trump’s deportation machine

By Jeff Sowers

Last July, when few people were paying attention, Denny Heck, along with most House Democrats, failed to stand up for immigrant rights. They instead voted in favor of continuing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), Trump’s deportation machine. Only 32 House Democrats, including House progressive leaders Raul Grijalva, Barbara Lee, Keith Ellison, and Washington’s Pramila Jayapal opposed the measure. This was an opportunity for the Democrats in Congress to stand up and say we will not sign off on Trump’s xenophobic and brutal campaign against immigrants. But, sadly and predictably, herded along by corporate lobbyists with buckets of campaign cash, most House Democrats said nothing and voted yes. Soon, we will see which Democratic Senators are willing to back Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign when the bill comes before the Senate.

Democrats’ lost opportunity to challenge Trump

The fact that the ICE reauthorization bill is no excuse to support it. The intent of the bill is to update and modernize laws that govern DHS, which was originally created in 2002 in the wake of 9/11. The ICE section can be separated out of the DHS authorization bill, allowing the reauthorization of other DHS agencies to move forward unhindered by a fight over ICE policy. If the Republicans were to allow a defeat of the entire DHS bill because of a showdown over ICE, they would have only themselves to blame. The Democrats have an opportunity here to demand reforms to ICE and to issue a challenge to Trump’s escalating campaign against immigrants. Unfortunately, after the House Democratic leadership failed to challenge Trump in its anti-immigrant campaign, most Senate Democrats are likely to do the same. The complicity of most Democrats on this issue is yet another testimony to the intractable corruption infecting the establishment wing of the Democratic Party.

An unprecedented policy, known as the detention bed quota, requires by law that ICE maintain a daily detention quota of 34,000 beds at a cost of over two billion dollars per year. This means that every day ICE is required by law to keep at least 34,000 immigrants locked up in prison.

The more people they arrest, the more money they make. What sinister force lies behind this catastrophe? One major factor is the private immigration prison industry. As progressive Congressman Raul Grijalva explained in a recent speech, this is “a money making scam.” The private immigration prison industry, he says, has their lobbyists, their for- mer employees, and their top management personnel scattered throughout the Federal government where they are dictating policy. They have been a singular force that has consistently fought criminal justice reform and immigration reform at every level. “For them,” Grijalva emphasizes, “it’s about the bottom line. The more detention beds that are filled, the more people who are incarcerated, the more money they make.”

Currently, about 65% of ICE detention facilities are owned by private corporations who profit directly from the detention bed quota that they heavily lobby to pass. This compares to about 18% of all federal prisons. Given the high rate of private prisons in the ICE system, private prison corporations stand to profit enormously from Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign. As reported by Bloomberg, “‘We have to pledge to clamp down on illegal immigration and deport millions has given the private-prison industry its best boost in years.’ Following the election, the stock of CoreCivic, the largest of the US corrections companies, jumped 78 percent, while rival company Geo Group Inc., who owns the immigration prison in Tacoma, WA, was up 53 percent.

Investing in prisons and in politicians

If you look at who controls the private prison industry, you find the major investment firms Vanguard, Blackrock, and others. For example, the investment firm Vanguard Group is the largest shareholder of the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), which operates the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA. The Van-guard Group’s largest shareholder Raul Grijalva and Barbara Lee, Pramila Jayapal, and Keith Ellison, the major beneficiaries of the private prison industry.

Campaign contributions,” Sanders and Grijalva have introduced bills to get rid of all private prisons and to end the war on immigrants in the United States. The result of this is government law and policy that puts investor profits over people, and creates the disastrous consequences for our society on numerous fronts. Many of the crises our society now faces, including immigration and criminal justice policies, are a direct consequence of this problem.

The Justice is Not for Sale Act

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Most Americans do not support this gross injustice and it is not the will of society that most people want. In the current Congress, a small, but significant number of progressive Congress representatives, including Leaders Raul Grijalva, Barbara Lee, Pramila Jayapal, and Keith Ellison are working to go along with this insanity, and are instead fighting for social justice. Sanders and Grijalva have introduced...
The problem with a cops’ bill of rights

by Janet Jordan

Law Enforcement Officers’ Bills of Rights (LEOBORS) came into general use in the 1970’s. Police departments had come under scrutiny in the 1960s as part of the civil rights movement. Many police officers were investigated, and the police unions worked hard to ensure that those officers were treated fairly. Some states adopted LEOBORS in their constitutions for the protection of their police officers, and many more such protections were included in contracts between police unions and the cities where they were employed.

In the state of Washington, police enjoy additional legal protection beyond the LEOBOR - a police officer in Washington cannot be prosecuted for killing a citizen unless it can be proved they acted out of malice. As this subjective test cannot be proven, in effect police officers can’t be prosecuted. (An attempt to remove this protection by a bill that was defeated in the legislature last year.)

Even without the malice clause, however, LEOBORS offer the police protection against any effort to hold them accountable.

The city of Olympia has a version of the LEOBOR. You can find it in Appendix D of the contract between the City of Olympia and the Olympia Police Guild. There are 16 provisions. This article won’t examine all of them, they are not all controversial. For example, no one would say a cop who did not stop and take a witness statement at the scene of a crime was less prepared and less confident than the police officer testifying against him-or-her. The superior preparation of the police officer gives them that confidence.

In such an investigation, the cop is protected by the 5th amendment. He-or-she should not be exposed to jail or any other punishment for stating what would be considered self-incriminating if they didn’t speak, any more than any other citizen. That’s our constitutional right.

If the internal supervisory investigation bleeds over into a criminal investigation, the officer’s statements will not be passed on. This seems like a valuable distinction. So in this case, our LEOBOR holds up as reasonable and fair.

There are a few other common pitfalls that Olympia’s LEOBOR avoids. It does not require that any accused officer be interrogated only by other sworn officers, as in Maryland. This provision makes it impossible to use a Citizens’ Review Board. Again, some LEOBORS require an investigation be expunged from the officer’s records after a time, but Olympia’s requires retention. Indefinitely.

The Olympia version, however, does contain a specific controversial provision, which is that a police officer cannot be required to submit to an investigation immediately after an incident. In our case, officers have 48 hours to collect their thoughts and find legal counsel. (Ed note: In the May 21, 2015 police shooting in Olympia, Officer Ryan Donald was interviewed until five days later – May 26 – in the office of his attorney. By that time Donald had prepared a 10-page narrative justifying every action he took during the 3-minute incident.) Additionally, the police union (the accused officer’s counsel) must have access to any evidence collected by the investigatory team.

As the Public Interest Law Journal (PILJ) notes, no investigator or prosecutor should ever hold back for 48 hours in the case of a civilian suspect, especially if the suspect were free to consult with other suspects in that time or to review the city’s case against them. To get at the truth, we need unvarnished recollections, without rehearsed or collusional. PILJ recommends that the investigation be immediate, or if 24 hours is granted for him-or-her to get a lawyer, they should be sequestered for that time.

HuffPost comments that officers might give false exculpatory statements if forced to speak without having had an opportunity to examine evidence. Such false statements could be a basis for conviction after the forensic evidence was presented.

In the May 21, 2015 police shooting in Olympia, Officer Ryan Donald was not interviewed until five days later – May 26 – in the office of his attorney. By that time Donald had prepared a 10-page narrative justifying his actions during the 3-minute incident.

When a LEOBAR offers significant protection for an officer involved in an incident or accused of a crime, it can serve to impede arriving at the truth, and result in an investigation remaining on the force, putting citizens at risk.

The problem crops up in citizen trials as well as the trials of police officers. Citizens on trial often testify to the behavior of an officer, including accusations of undue use of force as part of their defense.

The citizen in these trials may come off as less prepared and less confident than the police officer testifying against him or her. The superior preparation of the police officer gives them that confidence. In citizen trials, the police officer can take the time he or she needs to prepare before the trial as a matter of course, so it’s not because of the LEOBOR. But the LEOBOR ensures that right to preparation to a contract, and makes it even harder to question.

Equal treatment of the accused, whether it is a police officer or a citizen, should be the standard. The authors of the PILJ article argue that it’s best that both give testimony untainted by knowledge of other people’s testimony or of the forensic evidence. This seems like a valuable distinction. So in this case, our LEOBOR holds up as reasonable and fair.

This article is largely based on data from the article “An Impediment to Police Accountability?” in the Public Interest Law Journal (PILJ) Vol 15 #2 but also includes thoughts and observations of the author.

Janet Jordan is a resident of Olympia and a Green Party member. The Green Party has been following police accountability for several years.

Sentencing of Bryson and Andre

André Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, arrested in an officer-involved shooting two years ago, were sentenced August 1 in Thurston County Superior Court. André is in Yakima and Bryson is in Olympia. Supporters report that the young men would appreciate letters, printed articles (with no staples), photos, and funds for phone calls and commissary. Books (no hard cover) can be ordered for delivery to them through a publisher or a bookstore. You can put money on their books directly, instructions for how are on the Yakima Jail website 866-232-1899 for André or through the Thurston County ARC website for Bryson.

The young men’s family is trying to raise funds to move into a house that will be wheelchair accessible. To make this happen, they need to come up with $3000 by September 1. Donations can be made via the Olympia SURJ fundraiser or directly to their family by downloading the square cash app and donating to “purpled2sons”.

Andre Damon Thompson #118532. YJC, Yakima Co. Dept. Corrections 7001 S. 16th Street, Yakima WA 98901

Bryson Tyler Chaplin 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW Olympia, WA 98502

For shipping Books: UPS or Fed-Ex only

Bryson Tyler Chaplin 3491. Ferguson Street SW Tumwater, WA 98501

This information was obtained courtesy of Puget Sound Anarchists’ website at pagatsoundanarchists.org

Playback Theatre is an Original True Stories, then Played by the Audience Tell Live on Stage.

In collaboration with HC/ing Teens and Elders Project (HC/E), an intergenerational program where teens and elders gather to talk, listen, and learn about their similarities and differences.

Friday, October 13 at 7:30pm

Traditions Café 300 5th Ave. Downtown Olympia $7-$12 (no one turned away)

More Info 360-943-0771 ddeb@olympian.wa.org www.heartsparkles.org
Activists blockade West Coast nuclear base in plea to de-escalate nuclear crisis with North Korea

Activists blockaded the West Coast nuclear submarine base that would likely carry out a nuclear strike against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) should President Donald Trump give the order. Naval Submarine Base Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. More than 1,300 nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on the eight ballistic missile submarines based at Bangor or stored at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWPAC) at the Bangor base. Activists with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor base on August 14th, several days after the 72nd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Participants briefly blockaded the base during the morning shift change by carrying banners onto the roadway at the main entrance gate.

All were removed from the road by Washington State Patrol Officers, cited for being in the roadway illegally, and released on the scene.

Those cited were Philip Davis, Bremerton, WA; Susan DeLaney, Bothell, WA; Ryan Devitt, Olympia, WA; Sarah Hobbs, Portland, OR; Mack Johnson, Silverdale, WA; Ben Moore, Bainbridge Island, WA; and Charles (Charley) Smith, Eugene Catholic Worker, Eugene, OR.

One of the banners implored the Trump administration to stop its incendiary rhetoric toward North Korea. It read, “No Nuclear Strike On N. Korea!” Ground Zero spokesperson Leonard Eiger said, “No one knows where this escalation will lead. To take either leader at his word, a nuclear holocaust is an acceptable end. There is no acceptable military solution to this nuclear standoff. Diplomacy is the only way out of this mess."

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

Ground Zero—a day with the true heroes of our time

by J. Glenn Evans

On July 30, 2017, I was honored to spend the day with some of the truly outstanding heroes of this world. By the grace of God they are still alive today. I had heard the words Ground Zero, but I had no idea what they were about. A friend invited me to attend their 40th anniversary. I rode up to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, a short distance from Poulsbo, located right across the fence from the Naval Submarine Base Kitsap Bangor, home of the Trident Submarines with their nuclear missiles.

These world heroes didn’t look like heroes, but like ordinary citizens struggling to survive on this planet like you and me. But 40 years ago a small group of people recognized the danger of nuclear arms to the very existence of life here on earth. They set out to wake up the world to the folly of building more killing machines we should be doing in the name of power and global warming. To hear the stories of middle-aged and sometimes elderly tell of their arrest and spending time in jail rather than back down, reminded me of the ancient prophets who often ended up in dark dungeons while trying to bring improvement to the world.

There was a middle aged matron who smiled as she told of how honored she felt spending three months in jail for such a cause. There were some interesting insights about some of those trapped by the industrial machine into making a living who couldn’t help, but who showed sympathy to those trying to bring the message of danger to the world. An example was a train crew who passed out cold water to those who had been sitting on the tracks in the hot sun for hours.

The Ground Zero facilities include a clubhouse with 3 acres in the natural setting of the forest right next to the submarine base. I saw the spot where their first building had once stood before two Marines burned it down. On a table next to the fence that separated Ground Zero from the submarine base, there were some paper peace swans with thread to tie them to the fence. I tied one to the fence myself, but made sure that the swan’s head stuck through the fence to the other side, my safe invasion of the submarine base.

It was truly an honor to spend the day with these people who risked so much to wake us up to the folly of what we’re doing in the name of power and wealth of the Empire. Instead of building more killing machines we should be building trust among nations and our fellow peoples of the world. These people are preparing to kill are just like us. We have more in common with them than with those crazies at the top who are leading us all to our doom. I salute these heroes at Ground Zero, people making an effort to help us save ourselves from the course of action the climbers and empire builders have put us on.

J. Glenn Evans is a poet, novelist, political activist and author of Wayfarers—Where No One is an Outcast

The war

Love and hate is the dance of this world

Life has pranced to that tune since first of days

Christ the warrior of love they quickly killed

Mahatma Gandhi the spokesman of peace

Had a day on the world stage then curtains

Caesar Napoleon Mussolini
And that vile viper Adolph Hitler

Swam in the world’s blood the river of hate

Love cleans up that mess never takes a rest

World of hate beats the drum
time marches on
Will there ever be peace in this world
Only when men love instead of hate

From The Feast by J. Glenn Evans
**Strengthening sanctuary**

From page 1

jail houses people arrested for misde- meanors in Lacey and Tumwater, as well as some of those arrested by the State Patrol.

Insert pdx table here

The goal of all of this data gathering is to minimize the chances that an officer detains someone who is not merely unnecessary but potentially harmful. But what if the question does get answered? The third phase of the group’s work comes in. Along with dozens of other activists across the state, they have been offering “Know Your Rights” trainings for parents, children, and anyone else who wants to learn. Many immi-grants don’t know that if you’re arrested you only have to give the police your name, not your place of birth. In many recent cases, including that of Seattle Dreamer Daniel Ramirez Me-dina, local residents are swept up as “collateral” damage when ICE raids a family’s home; such raids are often a prelude to the criminalization of the family’s’ entire community. In many cases, the “collateral” arrests represent the third phase of the group’s work in coming.

What’s next for Strengthening Sanctu- ary? The group hopes to increase its connection with local schools, offering more “know your rights” trainings for parents and working with school districts to change their data collec-tion policies. Meanwhile, they will continue filling in the gaps in their knowledge of the complex web linking arrests, information gathering, and funding for local jails. Powell says she would love to get a “Know Your Rights” card into the hands of everyone in the state. All the activists agree that candidates running in 2018 should be urged to come out on strong on behalf of our immigrant neighbors. Members of the group know they can’t track every arrest, but if residents are willing to lodge a complaint when an officer violates policy, activists can use such complaints to put additional pressure on the agency in question.

Strengthening Sanctuary is fully com-mitted to both short- and long-term goals, but they are not naïve: they re-alize that the waiting game set in motion by the Trump administration’s threats is making immigrants more fearful than ever. But that’s exactly what makes Hunt so passionate about the group’s “Know Your Rights” work: “We have to let im-migrants know that people care,” she says. Want to get involved? Strengthen Sanctuary includes a variety of differ-ent ongoing work groups, and meets regularly in the Olympia area. Contact Elizabeth Williamson.elizabeth@gmail.com for more information.

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**Police Jurisdictions and Cooperation with ICE—as of July 5, 2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Will participate in 207g?</th>
<th>Will honor all 207g requests?</th>
<th>Will ask about place of birth?</th>
<th>Will ask about immigration status?</th>
<th>Will honor ICE driver license banner?</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

207g: INA 207g governs agreements that permit state and local police to perform federal immigration functions.

48-hour detainer: DHS (Department of Homeland Security) issues these to local jails and prisons to hold an individual beyond a scheduled release date, allowing ICE to take custody.

Immigration status: A person’s immigration status is irrelevant to criminality and to the protection of public safety, and may lead to racial profiling.

Driver’s license banner: When running a driver’s license, officers may reveal a request for personal identifying information. **These jurisdictions do not have their own jail or do their own booking, so they do not collect this information.**

** It is not yet known how Lewis County, Centralia and Chehalis handle ICE banner requests.

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**Guatemalans**

From page 1

is to help explain how American inter-es-tas have affected the indigenous peo-ple of Guatemala, and how American corporate interests and immigration policy today have kept the indigenous people of Guatemala disenfran-chised for many years.

To visit Guatemala as someone who is simply looking to enjoy the diverse variety of life as a tourist is a luxury compared to the lives of Guatemala’s indigenous people. To a tourist life seems brilliantly vibrant and colorful. Its natural beauty is presented by the country’s mountainous terrain, such as the local fruit, Pitaya—a brilliant pink and purple vine fruit. One can find wonderful coffee and bananas in the Cuchumatan Mountain Range, in a city high in the Cuchumatan Mountains.

The ideology of the Guatemalan goven-ment strengthened labor regulations in the 1870’s. The countryside and land once held by indigenous communities were quickly turned into coffee and banana planta-tions, mostly owned by an Ameri-can corporation, the United Fruit Company. Oppression toward in-digenous people intensified as the government strengthened labor reg-ulations while continuing to act in the interests of their political party donors—further weakening popular support of government.

A democratic revolution and land reform began in 1944.

At the height of oppression, a police state was instantiated and maintained until 1982. Then—decreed from 1983 until a democratic group, led by uni-versity students and labor organizers forced him to resign in 1981. They called for an immediate open election.

Borns have undertaken to get to this point we need to take a look at what happened to the indigenous people of Todos Santos, and those of Guatemala historically from before the Guatemalan Revolution until now.

The goals of the Guatemalan gov-ernment prior to the 1944 Guatemalan Revolution was to grow the economy on the backs of the indigenous people who descended from the Mayans. Ra-fael Carrera is responsible for passing Decreto #170, the Day Labors’ Regu-lations in the 1870’s. The countryside and land once held by indigenous communities were quickly turned into coffee and banana planta-tions, mostly owned by an Ameri-can corporation, the United Fruit Company. Oppression toward in-digenous people intensified as the government strengthened labor reg-ulations while continuing to act in the interests of their political party donors—further weakening popular support of government.

To understand the journey our neigh-bors have undertaken to get to this point we need to take a look at what happened to the indigenous people of Todos Santos, and those of Guatemala historically from before the Guatemalan Revolution until now.

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Initiative 940—providing for policy accountability and restorat ion of trust

Guatemalans

From previous page
A popular professor of philosophy, Juan Jose Arevalo, won an overwhelming victory, and was the country’s first democratically elected president. He instituted land reform under Arbenz. The legacy of American intervention and support. Yet, as usual for progressive congressmen and women, the Thurston Co Democrats to support the Thurston Co Democrats to support

From page 3

Well trim it, rub it, need it

Jeff Souers teaches at East Grays Harbor (alternative) high school, and has long been a peace and democracy activist. Last year he joined the Thurston Co Democrats to support Bernie Sanders’ presidential campaign. He can honestly serve as a precinct committeeman in Mason County will work to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they are charged with protecting, and I-940 would be an important step in the right direction. We join with the De-Escalate Washington Campaign, and with immigrant and refugee communities throughout Washington State, to call for an approach that embraces the principle that Black lives matter and that protecting the lives of people of color and other community members is not in conflict with protecting the lives of our police.

Pavan Vangapuram, OneAmerica Communications Manager, pavan@weareoneamerica.org

De-escalate Washington has launched a signature gathering campaign for Initiative 940, which would establish new training requirements for local law enforcement in Washington State in order to reduce police violence without resorting to deadly force. Statement from OneAmerica Executive Director Rich Stolz: "OneAmerica joins the De-Escalate Washington Campaign, which is working to gather signatures to take Initiative 940 to the legislature in 2018, and potentially to the ballot. I-940 would be an approach that embraces the principle that Black lives matter and that protecting the lives of people of color and other community members is not in conflict with protecting the lives of our police."

Legal support for these families is one need among many—at the top of the list with everyone at Eleven Mason County. Another major issues we face is how heat to support a family when the father/husband needs deportation. Existe has also stepped in to help with the process of obtaining passports for the children. Legal services are very much in need as people have so many questions. People have also mentioned a need for translators at this time.

The March for Immigrant and Refugee Support in downtown Shelton was intended to send a message that there are many people in Mason County who would rather see a system that encouraged building bridges than walls. We want to respect the very rural county, our community is not as separated as it seems. Now, after finally establishing a safe home in America, people from Guatemal are again facing fear—fear of being deported by our government. In our next piece, we will be looking at how immigration enforcement has changed—and how local communities are rallying to protect their immigrant members. We also Strengthening Sanctuary in our Communities in this issue. People are not a partisan issue. There should be better solutions for people who want to come here to work and become legal citizens. We all benefit by supporting people who are as motivated to live out the American dream as our hard-working neighbors from Guatemala.

Loren Bailey is a father, son, student, veteran who is studying social work in order to help veterans at the V.A. He enjps drum and bass music and being outdoors.

Elevate Mason
Mistake on the lake redevelopment plans underway

The nine story building in downtown Olympia is not going away. It’s going to be renamed, but it is going to be great. That was the message by local developer Ken Brogan and his architect, Ron Thomas, who presented their land use and urban design proposals for the tower building at a community organized meeting held last July 12 at Olympia City Hall.

The project at 410 5th Avenue is bound to 4th Avenue West, 5th Avenue SW, Simmons Street SW, just south of Rainier Market, and Sylvester Street NW, which is next to the Heritage Park Fountain.

It is planned to provide 138 new residences and a mix of ground floor restaurant and retail spaces. A vacant single story structure will be demolished and two new mixed use buildings will be built with onsite parking.

City staff kept a tight lid on (their) allowing plenty of time for questions and answers, but after making it clear that the meeting was not a visioning process or a conversation about whether or not the city should buy the building from Mr. Brogan.

About 75 people were in attendance, many of whom seemed to be supportive of Brogan’s plan, but certainly not all. “When will you be taking any actions?” a man enthusiastically asked Brogan. After considerable laughter, Brogan responded that he hopes to break ground by the end of the year, and have the building complete by the end of 2018.

The project will be submitted to a State Environmental Policy Act review, a multi-permit process, and decided by a hearings examiner, which can be appealed.

Brogan’s architect, Ron Thomas, did most of the speaking, showing conceptual drawings, and answering questions. He quickly preempted known community concerns about sea level rise and risks of liquefaction in the event of an earthquake by highlighting the building’s features to address those issues up front.

City staff made the point of stating at the outset of the meeting that the project would not be the city’s shoreline jurisdiction. The area is zoned Waterfront Urban - Housing.

The project will have to plan to accommodate feet sea level rise, the city’s new standard for new construction for projects that are in a flood zone.

Thomas said that in the event of flooding, a rapidly deployed barrier called a Flex Wall that rises up out of the ground 24 to 36 inches will be installed to protect the building. Steel pilings up to 70-80 feet deep will be needed to support the new buildings, and the tower building is currently undergoing seismic upgrading, said Thomas.

For nearly an hour, Thomas presented his drawings, pointing out the obvious for any new construction, such as access for refuse and fire trucks, and public transit opportunities that already exist in the area, and all the “very Olympia things to do,” such as long term bicycle storage and colored pavers to delineate pedestrian walkways, without acknowledging the most obvious: that the nine story tower building is staying.

In response to that observation, he stressed the point that the audience of the building will change with the application of a special glazing that will appear to reduce the size of the tower. A drawing on one side of the tower showed Native inspired salmon artwork that he said he hoped could be designed in collaboration with local tribes.

He also said that Brogan is committed to creating a vertical green wall and seek a LEED Silver certification,-making the building highly energy efficient. “I’m sitting here trying not to scream at the fact that we’re not even talking about the elephant in the room, which is that people in Olympia have been working for years to make this area a park. A green wall does not compensate, and enclosing the tower does not make it disappear,” said Ann Herro, a member of Friends of the Waterfront.

Community questions included how the flood barriers and automated compact parking mechanisms will work in the event of an earthquake or a loss of electricity, whether or not the building will get a multifamily residential tax credit (it will not), whether or not the building can accommodate low income individuals (it will not), the building’s impact to stormwater systems, the difference between the use of steel vs. wood pilings, estimated traffic patterns and impacts, the process of accessing impact fees, job creation and overall tax revenue to the city, and the possible regulation and code enforcement of highend commercial property.

City planner Nancy Lloyd said staff has received about 70 comments so far. The first deadline for public comments was July 7, but comments will be taken throughout the land use process, she said.

A city advisory committee, the Design Review Board, will review the proposals to determine if it meets the city’s design criteria on August 10, 6:30 p.m. at Olympia City Hall.

Open letter to an Olympia City planner regarding the "Mistake"

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

These are my official comments on the current "Views on Fifth" proposal for the Capitol Center Building on the Isthmus, a.k.a., Mistake by the Lake.

My primary concern about any built structure proposed for the Isthmus is the inappropriate partitioning of the city as the separating of its improving agency. This area is in the highest jeopardy for sea level rise based flooding and earthquake-induced liquefaction. The City potentially assumes severe liability by not exercising its restrictive permitting authority and therefore enabling development that could lose most or all of its value as the result of predictable natural processes. At the very least, the City should require that any party wishing to invest by developing in this area be able to prove that their improvements are fully covered with private flood and earthquake insurance. Restricting "development" to parks and other open space would minimize the at-risk property and accommodate the public's preference for passive recreation and historic views.

The public has voiced and written its opinion on this stretch of down-town many, many times. People want the Mistake gone and the land left relatively undeveloped. The City's own Parks Plans from previous eras talk about replacing this building with civic space. Most recently, the anticipation of its removal helped to pass the Metropolitan Park District measure. Provision for sufficient funding is written right into it.

The public should be specifically asked what they want to happen. Back just after the turn of the century, many of us rallied with signs asking the City Council to let us vote! on the conference center. ensuing elections changed the makeup of the City Council as a result of that issue and waterfront controversies.

I hope the public process for this proposal is extensive and inclusive and I look forward to participating.

* not relying on FEMA or other public insurers to bail them out

Walt Jorgenson

Walt Jorgenson has long been active in local planning issues. Ms. Lloyd is the City planner assigned to this current proposed project involving the Mistake on the Lake.

Thoughtless building blights downtown

The prospect of more thoughtless building blight in downtown Olympia looms smack-dab in the middle of the oldest and most significant historic civic vista in Washington state. There is no more perfect place on earth to showcase the state's most impressive architectural attributes than the civic vista that stretches from the state capital to the historic shopping core. We should take our state's impressive version of the National Mall, exemplifying our natural beauty, vast distant and embodies the soul of our community.

Today, private developers plan to intrude into this grand civic vista by subdividing the 50-year-old Capitol Center Building (CCB). They hope that appearance peddling of new masses and exterior decorations will reshape the public's preference for passive recreation and historic views.

The City must protect its state's most important civic vista by purchasing and developing the CCB from the state, ensuring the public's preference for passive recreation and historic views.

Dear Wd!

We must protect our state's most significant historic civic vista by purchasing and developing the CCB from the state. Stuart Ewen wrote that there is no more perfect place on earth to showcase the state's most impressive architectural attributes than the civic vista that stretches from the state capital to the historic shopping core. We should take our state's impressive version of the National Mall, exemplifying our natural beauty, vast distant and embodies the soul of our community.

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By Enrique Quintero

Trump: not an anomaly, but the result of America’s dysfunctional democracy

Twitter tongued and all-right minded

The recent public statements by the president of the United States attributing murder to the non-Neo-Nazi, white supremacist rally and counter-protesters in Charlottesville last month have generated widespread rejection and condemnation internally and abroad. Most of the criticism—understandably so—has been directed against the tweet tongued and all-right minded persona of Donald Trump. His critics have long bemoaned his belligerent brand of racism and right-wing provocativeness, as well as his “non-presidential” uncouth style. American political persona. Trump

This should be particularly clear when looking at Donald Trump. The political stance revealed in many of the critical comments by his opponents and by segments of the electorate, added to their arrogant (Clinton-esque) detachment from the masses, as well as their undeniable ties with corporate capital in the White House.

With the exception of Bernie Sanders, no other Democrat understood the aspirations of the American masses during the campaign. The Democrats’ misreading of the social needs and material conditions of the electorate, added to their arrogant (Clinton-esque) detachment from the masses, as well as their undeniable ties with corporate capital in the White House, brought us Trump as president not as a buffoon.

In strictly political terms, this meant that Americans had put in charge of the nation an individual who merited not to be characterized primarily by his physical, verbal and ideological histrionics, but fundamentally as a ‘social type’ individual ready to deepen even further the already existing social inequalities in favor of the ruling classes of America. Historically, this has been the ‘class attribute’ most common among past American presidents.

Within this context, Trump constitutes hardly an aberration vis-à-vis previous American past presidents, but rather the quotient diet of the unbalanced mass culture of American democracy, spread to the nation and the world since 1776, albeit a diet enhanced by steroids.

American national identity and the individual love for the Founding Fathers

For most Americans, determining what constitutes their national identity is a difficult task. Most nations have fundamental identities not such; it can be traced to the long-distance American national identity known as the “language of official business,” the United States continues to be a linguistically diverse nation. Of course, the lives of black people under such democracy, brought us Trump as president not as a buffoon.

National identity based on the ideal-grandness of this political system emerges from its incipient political proximity to a fetishized, uncritical version of the founding fathers’ role in shaping the legacy and structure of American democracy and its functioning. This form of political cathexis has permeated creolized American minds for over two hundred and forty years. It differs critical analysis— as in the case of many critics of Donald Trump—from historically located socio-economic factors, to real or imaginary personal attributes of individuals. In other words, the historical and material problems with American Democracy are obscured—and the presence of an individual, even a blatantly racist one, gets measured against idealized standards of leadership.

Ommne ignotum pro magnifico

It was Tacitus, senator and historian of the Roman Empire, who centuries ago noticed how anything little known appears wonderful. In his words, Omne ignotum pro magnifico.

In this context, so long as American Democracy remains little known, it can continue to be presumed to be wonderful. However, as we examine the lofty image of American Democracy in relation to non-white, non-European cultures and people, internal contradictions become visible. As we systematically contrast the idealized versions of American Democracy with the historical reality experienced by racial and ethnic minorities and low-income people under such democracy, perhaps we can alter the unexamined beliefs that the minds of too many proud but ill-informed citizens about an unquestioned splendor of the republic.

Overall, current American democracy is the result of a political system permeated by the bymark of slavery and exploitation. Neither the Civil War of the 1860s nor the Civil Rights Movement nor the election of a black president have solved the problem of racism and discrimination in America. After all, this is the nation where we still need to be reminded that the lives of black people matter. Racism and discrimination are two forms of anachronistic behavior of American democracy, these forms have now morphed into contemporary white-supremacy movements such as the Neo-Nazis, the Alt-Right, and the New KKK, as well as the xenophobia, racism, and seditiousness of the president. Upon closer examination, the Trump ‘anomaly’ is nothing new. Racism and discrimination are two forms of the long-standing political legacy and structural malfunctions of American Democracy and American capitalism.

Enrique Quintero lives and works in Washington state.
Outsiders claim victory in getting Burien’s Prop 1 on the ballot

In January of this year, the members of the Burien, WA City Council adopted Ordinance 651 to clarify that city police not ask residents about their immigration status. The ordinance codified current practice in Burien to keep from entangling local law enforcement in the federal government’s immigration jurisdiction. It also addressed the need to ensure that individuals who might otherwise interact with the police do not avoid doing so out of fear that their families might suffer.

Passage of such ordinances by local officials has attracted the attention of organizations seeking to make life impossible for immigrants to the US. One—the Immigration Law Foundation (IRLI), which has been behind most local anti-immigrant efforts over the past few years. As an attorney for IRLI, Kris Kobach, lives and around the country “in defense of laws aimed at America of people who live and work here but have not been granted legal status. One America, among other groups, is organizing to defeat the ballot initiative. IRLI is the legal arm of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) which has been designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. FAIR’s Director Dan Stein can be seen on the internet in a 2015 video telling viewers that without a moratorium on immigration “we’re going to lose everything about what it means to be an American.”

This summer, IRLI worked with Craig Keller, a Burien resident, on an initiative to repeal the law. In mid-August, IRLI announced its victory in getting the City Council of Burien to place the city’s dangerous sanctuary ordinance on the November ballot.

IRLI’s Executive Director commented that “with out extensive experience in the field of local enforcement of immig..." (Brennan Law Cen...)

The residents of Burien now must devote time and energy to educating voters about the organization behind Proposition 1, and its intent to cleanse America of people who live and work here but have not been granted legal status. One America, among other groups, is organizing to defeat the ballot initiative.

From news services

Sea level

From page 2

can now imagine? In California’s 2017 Guidance Document, a stark new reality receives very strong emphasis: the melting of the ice sheets, especially in Antarctica, makes it virtually impossible for scientists to make good predictions past the year 2030. The “prehistoric” models that have guided policy-makers in the past, begin to diverge significantly after that.

The California coastal scientists proposed the following set of principles:

• Protect human life

• Development and protection decisions made now, must not compromise the needs of future generations

• Adaptation measures should be fair about who pays and who benefits

• Environmental justice should be incorporated into adaptation planning

In very practical terms, two issues come forward in the 2017 guidelines. First, no decision can be final. Both the situation and the science are changing so rapidly, it is essential to keep looking at the latest modelling. Adjustment based on new information must be built in. Planners must now plan to keep planning.

Second, lifecycle has become a very important concept. Projects should be considered on the basis of how they, and the world, will look at the end of their planned lives, not just the beginning.

Hard experience with punishing storms, as well as California’s more familiar acquaintance with dangerous earthquakes, informed other practical guidelines:

• Plan to phase relocation away from high-risk areas

• Don’t build public works in known zones of sea level rise

• Don’t subsidize development in hazardous areas

• Get on with retrofitting critical infrastructure

• Consider removing barriers to landward migration of beaches and wetlands

• Governments should acquire property strategically to discourage development in hazardous areas, encourage relocation, and support habitat migration.

• Encourage alternatives to shoreline armorin

• Encourage human settlement in low risk areas, in ways that least compromise future generations.

None of these recommendations help with some of the hardest problems, such as how to get short-term office holders to think about long-term solutions, how to cope with the fact that so much of the Puget Sound shoreline is in private hands, how to get agencies to cooperate, or to find funding, or how to allow communities to move nimbly when the regulatory apparatus is already so cumbersome or peculiar that it often doesn’t work very well even the stress of climate change.

Giving up old categories and ways of doing business

One thing is certain. We have to be prepared to give up on old categories and old ways of doing business. One category is “interagency cooperation, with the city of Olympia, LOTT and the Port working together to create a good outcome.” The principles of adaptive strategy, “Pro- test Downtown” is a misguided concept. A study focused only on downtown is no substitute for an assessment of the area as a whole. Downtown is valuable, that’s for sure. But there are other vulnerabilities, and other goals. As a broader community, we need to talk about that.

Disaster hit Santa Cruz County with just two days of crazy heavy winter rain and king tides. Even as I walked the levee in 1982 with a kind of ab- stract but thrilling dread, I could not have imagined the scale of the horror that would hit New Orleans. Now we know. And we should know what’s going to happen here. It has also provided a basis for an even more recent, inevitably more com- plex State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document just published in April of 2017.

Helen Wheatley is a historian, activist and writer who lives in Olympia. She serves on the Advisory Board on behalf of the citizen watchdog group Heart of America Northwest.

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation’s S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 7 T V pro- gram recognizes the anxiety, fear and despair that many Americans feel about our current political crisis—and what we can do about that.

People are justified in feeling alarmed by the cruel attacks coming from the federal government and other right-wing sources. As a result, some people feel overwhelmed with anxiety, fear and despair. Besides doing things to take care of our own selves, many Americans also are coming to realize that we must work together with other people, and use nonviolent organizing to solve the problems at local and na- tionwide levels.

Three guests (Kathy Pruitt, Bob Zei- gler, and Kathleen O'Shaunessey) help us explore this topic. All three of our guests have their ears to the ground, so they know what people are feeling and thinking. Our guests also have positive “can-do” attitudes about how to solve the problems. They suggest some workable solutions to individuals in their own lives and also some remedies for helping our society overall to solve the problems that are being imposed upon us.

Please watch the program and/or read the very informative summary of what we said, plus some additional information. Visit the “TV Programs” part of www.olympiafor.org.

Click the program title—“Political Despair or Empowerment? It’s Your Choice!” to watch the program. Click the Word document link next to it to read a thorough summary of what we said and see a list of resources at the end.

Watch Powerfully Insightful and Im- portant TV Program Through Your Computer or on TCTV

For 30 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has been pro- ducing powerfully insightful and important TV programs on important issues. You can watch our current program and more than 160 of our previous ones through the Olympia FOR’s website at your convenience, even if you don’t watch our current program on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County (Mondays 1:30 pm, Wednes- days 5:00 pm, Thursdays 6:00 pm). Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click the “TV Programs” link, and scroll down past the brief description of each of our programs to the previous year. Previous programs are listed chronologically. Click the link for the program you want to see. The link to each program’s link is a link to a thorough summary of the program. Read that by clicking the “Summary” and/or “pdf” link. You can watch more than 160 programs through www.olympiafor.org.

Questions? Please contact Jenny Anderson, the Olympia FOR TV series producer/host at (360) 491-0931.
Janus v. AFSCME “Right to work” moves to US Supreme Court

In this season of budget cuts and privatization, the struggles of public workers are finding themselves on the front lines of defending a vast array of endan-ged public services. As public unions continue to work in the private sector shrink, government unions are more important than ever in organizing an equal com-
mand of the working class.

Another right-wing assault on working people

There are two reasons the legality of the “agency shop” and the National Right to Work Foundation is pushing Janus v. AFSCME, hoping to impose what some-called “right to work” on all public unions.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to take Janus in late September. The justices probably will, and could rule by June 2018.

Trying to kill unions

Since the 1960s, public sector union-
ism has outpaced the private sector, of which 14.6 million unionists today, almost half are government workers, and their union rate is five times higher.

Making it easier for public unions to survive is the “agency” or “union shop” system. When a work site is unionized, labor law requires that all bargaining unit workers, regardless of whether they join a union, must pay an “agency” or “fair share” fee. Some states also allow union shops, where all bargaining unit members are in the union. Typically these shops are stronger and bargain better contracts.

Legality of agency shop established

The legality of the “agency shop” and “fair share” fee public unions were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark ruling, Abood v. De- troit Board of Education, in 1977. Janus seeks to overturn Abood and impose the open shop on all public sector unions.

Many states have open shop laws already. In these states, workers are in the union, but they can refuse to pay the fees. Because this is a financial burden, many states re-
quire all public employees to contrib-
ute money for the benefits they re-
ceIVE. Workers don’t have to join the union, but must pay an “agency” or “fair share” fee. Some states also allow union shops, where all bargaining unit members are in the union. Typically these shops are stronger and bargain better contracts.

Labor leaders must give the ranks a reason to “stick with the union” — by taking the offensive against all the attacks coming down on the working class.

In response to the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, to Presi-
dent Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26th, members of the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union cal-
10 made a decision not to work on the day of the event. Instead they joined in March to Crisy Field to protest the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown.

The Crisy Field rally was organized by Black Lives Matter, the Black🙏, the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 has a long and rich history of standing up against racist, fascist and bigoted and using our union power to do so, on May Day 2015 we shut down Bay Area ports and marched followed by thousands to Os-
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I.T. wants your poems by Sept 8

Olympia’s Poet Laureate, in conjunc-
tion with the City of Olympia and In-
surity Transcy, seeks submissions of

I want your poems by Sept 8

Submission Guidelines:

• Submit up to 3 poems that you feel carry a message or image of positiv-
ity and vision of our best commu-
nity.

• Type submissions into the body of an e-mail.

• Title the e-mail: Poem Submissions [Your Full Name Here]

E-mail submissions to poelaert@ci.olympia.wa.us

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a bus
A bus that comes to carry us
To school or work—for me a must
But if on the bus a poem
I should spy
I wouldn’t really question why
I’d let my wandering eye
Rest on it if I came to my stop

In response to the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, to President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26th, members of the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 made a decision not to work on the day of the event. Instead they joined in March to Crisy Field to protest the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown.

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Whereas, ILWU Local 10 has a long and proud history of standing up against racism, fascism and bigotry and using our union power to do so, on May Day 2015 we shut down Bay Area ports and marched followed by thousands to Oscar Grant Plaza, where President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26, and his attacking anti-racist and anti-Semitic speech, the racist and fascist provocations are a deadly menace as shown in Portland on May 26 when a Nazi marched into a crowd and murdered two for defending two young African-American women from racists, and our sisters and brothers in the Portland labor movement answered racist terror with the power of workers solidarity, mobilizing members of 14 unions against the fascist/racist rally there on June 4, and

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• Type submissions into the body of an e-mail.

• Title the e-mail: Poem Submissions [Your Full Name Here]

E-mail submissions to poelaert@ci.olympia.wa.us

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a bus
A bus that comes to carry us
To school or work—for me a must
But if on the bus a poem
I should spy
I wouldn’t really question why
I’d let my wandering eye
Rest on it if I came to my stop

In response to the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, to President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26th, members of the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 made a decision not to work on the day of the event. Instead they joined in March to Crisy Field to protest the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown.

The Crisy Field rally was organized by Black Lives Matter, the Black🙏, the San Francisco-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 has a long and rich history of standing up against racist, fascist and bigoted and using our union power to do so, on May Day 2015 we shut down Bay Area ports and marched followed by thousands to Oscar Grant Plaza, where President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26, and his attacking anti-racist and anti-Semitic speech, the racist and fascist provocations are a deadly menace as shown in Portland on May 26 when a Nazi marched into a crowd and murdered two for defending two young African-American women from racists, and our sisters and brothers in the Portland labor movement answered racist terror with the power of workers solidarity, mobilizing members of 14 unions against the fascist/racist rally there on June 4, and

Whereas, ILWU Local 10 has a long and proud history of standing up against racism, fascism and bigotry and using our union power to do so, on May Day 2015 we shut down Bay Area ports and marched followed by thousands to Oscar Grant Plaza, where President Trump’s “whitewashing” of that violent attack and in anticipation of a white supremacist rally in Crisy Field on Saturday, August 26, and his attacking anti-racist and anti-Semitic speech, the racist and fascist provocations are a deadly menace as shown in Portland on May 26 when a Nazi marched into a crowd and murdered two for defending two young African-American women from racists, and our sisters and brothers in the Portland labor movement answered racist terror with the power of workers solidarity, mobilizing members of 14 unions against the fascist/racist rally there on June 4, and

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Ed note: Three Evergreen faculty members introduced an article about the crisis at the college in Huffington Post. Their piece connects the current crisis at Evergreen to systemic racism in diversity and equity programs, the far-right nationalist resilience, resentment, and violent expression of those programs and the events at Evergreen. WIP here reprints an excerpt that refutes right-wing and unverified accounts.

Bret Weinstein's claim that whites were "ordered" off campus, that he faced an "un iniciated" crowd of student protesters, had to leave the campus in "fear," and is now suing the college for $3.5 million. View the full article at HuffPost

Aug 11, 2017

The student protests were not just Ed note: Three Evergreen faculty Lives Matter movement before arriv- For years to have their perspectives and experiences heard and respected by the the college -- to see their concerns ad-

Huffington Post

By the time students dis-

promises but little action. Many stu-

for to hammer Evergreen.

the right to do the interview, but that didn't make it the right decision. His int

unteer Zimmerman would have us believe that for Weinstein's detractors, appear-

characteristically putting himself at risk. Weinstein said he would attend the interview, but he was not put off by criticism.

unleashed a flood of hate toward

In response, they organized a "Community Watch" and armed themselves with baseball bats. The students reported hearing trucks throughout the night, with an anonymous person calling to the police. The competing crowd was considered to be a genuine conservative, in recent months he has become a darling of the alt-right (as documented by Haaretz, "How Fox News' Rising Star Tucker Carlson Is Winning Over White America"). Media-Matters have written, "the neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer has been regularly posting "Whites Only" symbols on its site, in an attempt to intimidate and drive out the students." Author Zimmerman offers some context to understand why some students might have been inspired to act in this way to protect themselves. (A New Jersey man was later charged with "making terroristic threats" against the campus.)

Two weeks after the terrorist threat, on June 15, Joey Gibson came to the campus to "execute as many people on that campus as I can get a hold of." A community watch talk show host Zimmerman, promising that his group would come to the defense of Weinstein's "free speech" by protesting at Evergreen.

The toxic and intimidating atmosphere created by right-wing media and the right-wing student organization "Patriot Prayer" has been widely reported. When law enforcement officers and the FBI decided the threat was cred
dated with the "White People Leave Campus OR ELSE!"

Weinstein failed to correct Carlson's sensationalist distortions of the Day of Absence. He did not explain the long history of protests at Evergreen, nor did he explain how protest, and after conversations with ad-

Carlson's "Patriot Prayer" group as a "typical example of fascism under-

Weinstein and his detractors, appearing on a conservative network should be called out. He was correct that this is the mark of a culture that is intolerant of free speech. But the provocations by Carlson and the right-wing websites, including Daily Stormer, Daily Beast, and the neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer, has shown that it is not just the neo-Nazis who carry symbols of fascism under-

The toxic and intimidating atmosphere created by right-wing media and the right-wing student organization "Patriot Prayer" has been widely reported. When law enforcement officers and the FBI decided the threat was cred-

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Weinstein's Day of Absence claims, and the the right to do the interview, but that didn't make it the right decision. His int-

unleashed a flood of hate toward

All that changed on May 26th, when Weinstein appeared on Tucker Car-

labeled "Craziness Amines" and apparent under the banner that Ever-

green had ordered "All White People Leave Campus OR ELSE!"

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Alt-right agitator Milo Yiannopoulos targeted the same faculty member in a Facebook video with 290,000 views. As per his usual tactic, he published contact information to explicitly direct harassment and violent threats toward her. She was deluged with 40-50 racist hate mail messages per day...

The Evergreen State College. Besides Manweller, invited speakers were President Bridges, a faculty member who spoke as a proxy for Bret Weinstein, and representatives of the campus, county and state police.

The communities convened a work session on “Safety at the Evergreen State College to a private four-year institution because of student protests.” Senator For- meister urged reflection “on the transition to a private four-year liberal education committee signaled that “We’re not going to employ the State Senate’s Law the state of higher education.” Senator For- meister as “Rosa Parks” for “refusing to go the back of the diversity bus.”

Evergreen is not the first place where white moderate has criticized police for being more willing to accept of “a post-modern agenda,” which is more than the injustice itself. These words from Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1963 “Let’s”gem is not an “Austin Jail” are new truer than today.

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Nagra’s great stum- blings in the public domain is not the White Citizen’s Council or the Ku Klux Klan, but the white moderate who does not run the risks of being called a “dangerous” or “irresponsible” radical is just as guilty as the man who calls himself a “progressive.”

The full article is available at HuffPost Aug 11, 2017.
Putting the climate necessity defense in front of juries

by Ted Hamilton

By denying climate activists the right to present their cases to a jury, judges are propelling democracy out of political trials

Political activists challenging the ascendency of President Donald Trump and current crop of climate advocates turned courtroom activists—judges of- fenders who were paying full attention to our broken electoral and lobbying systems. They’re in good company.

In political trials as in others, juries play an essential role. They provide a forum. They give citizens the opportu-

nity to judge the value or criminality of the acts that are at issue. They counterbalance the weaknesses of rules guar-

anteeing a fair cross-section of the community in the jury pool.

And even when defendants do- dems have failed because of government in-

transigence and corruption. By denying climate activists the right to present their cases to a jury, judges are propelling democracy out of political trials.
As Yemen endures catastrophe, Saudi exit may offer hope

By Tom Wright

While Yemen's civil war has dominated our media's reporting from the Middle East, Yemen's grave and multifaceted crisis has escaped the attention of most Americans. As the country enters a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe, the signal from Saudi Arabia may offer a glimmer of hope in Yemen's civil war.

As in Syria, Yemen's pro-reform Arab Spring demonstrators were attacked by the government, and escalated to civil war. This brought outside intervention in the regional and world powers. And like Syria, the country has endured widespread suffering and destruction. The U.S., as one of the players, shares some responsibility: its sometimes-murky role may be getting even more complicated, as the Trump Administration is now reportedly dispatching ground troops to the conflict.

A strongman supported by the U.S.

Yemen, the region's poorest nation, has long been controlled by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a corrupt military strongman who enjoyed U.S. support. Major demonstrations in 2011, led by the Islah party and Sunni faction backed by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, demanded reforms of social conditions and political power. Even in Sanaa, the capital city in Syria, police responded by shooting down protesters in the streets. Escalation to war ensued, with Saleh's forces removed, and the presidency passed to the Vice President, Abdr Rabbah Mani Had.

But conflict persisted. The Shi'i-led Houthi movement, named for their leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, had worked for decades to reach a verdict on either charge, resulting in a military coup. This should have been a clear signal that reasonable people might find Ward's argument compelling. Nonetheless, the judge re- fused to allow the necessity defense in the second trial, which ended last month with a conviction for burglary and another hung jury on the sabotage charge. (My organization assisted in Ward's defense.)

Jurors again look for reasons to acquit

Just as in the Delta 5 case, post-tri- al polling of the jurors in this case immediately raised questions about the judge's rulings. Members of the jury told Ward that in deliberations they might have acquitted in a legal way to acquit them - precisely the purpose of the necessity defense. Like the jurors in the Ward case, they had learned a great deal about climate change and intended to take action to address it, precisely the purpose of the courtroom activism.

These two cases clearly demonstrate that juries in necessity cases are ruling incorrectly when they assume that the defense's elements cannot be met because reasonable jurors would not accept them. That judgment is incorrect as a factual matter. Going forward, advocates must press juries to be more honest in their necessary assessments, and juries in turn must consult the evidence from past cases to see which necessity defenses work and find out what reasonable people feel about the seriousness of the climate crisis.

(The only case in which a jury has been allowed to consider the climate necessity case occurred in 2008. The jury acquitted the protagonist-defen- dant.)

The political role of juries

Just as in the Delta 5 case, we need to stop suppressing the political role of juries in the criminal process. Juries have a right to hear and defendants have a right to have the ultimate questions in these activist trials, no matter whether those questions are politically rife. Judges must stop making arbitrary rulings to avoid testifying on technical or scientific topics. By preventing juries from making judgments on difficult political and social issues, the courts are going to avoid those questions themselves - a slap in the face of the legal system's demo- cratic function. Even a jury of five super- vaccets of popular deliberation, they're better barometers of public opinion than highly educated, profes- sionally risk-averse jurists.

As we see more activists taking their campaigns from the streets to the courtroom, it's more important than ever that the jury system work. If criminal trials are prevented from acting as forums for discussion, we will have lost yet another erstwhile civic forum to elite control.

A "wholesale failure of the legal system..."

In 2015, Alfred Goodwin, a judge on the federal Ninth Circuit, issued an opinion that provides a kind of summary of the crisis in climate change. Reviewing a history of climate change, he revealed a "wholesale failure of the legal system to protect humanit..." (the sentence was cut off, resulting in a failure of the legal system to protect humanit...) and the capital city of Sana'a could be the first capital to run dry. The city's water supply is obtained entirely from underground resources, which have become depleted, with climate change contribut- ing to a decline in the rainfall that replenishes them in Sana'a, according to U.N. research, "the water table was 30 meters below surface in the 1970s but had dropped to 1200 meters below sur- face by 2012."  

The fate of the people of Yemen

Yemen's civil war is not over yet, despite the U.S. military's exit. The Houthis forces still face the challenge of the Sunni Islah party (with which they had previously fought in the Spring), as well as that of Had's ousted government in exile (still backed by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States), and of AQAP and ISLFS in Yemen. Crises of poverty, unemployment, and environmental devastation over water shortages will then confront them to take power. Whether the people of Yemen succeed in emerging from the calamities of war remains to be seen.

Tom Wright lives in Olympia and does a lot of interesting things. He writes articles occasionally from the perspective of someone who reads books that were published before the year 1940.
America at war today

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Deaths in 2016*</th>
<th>Deaths in 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
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<td>17,537</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

America at war tomorrow?

Pakistan • North Korea • Iran • Venezuela

None of America's wars today meet the legal criteria for our country to take military action against another country. Our leaders have freed themselves from any constraint on using military force anywhere – everywhere - in the world.

Since Vietnam, United States military actions have taken place as part of UN actions, pursuant to congressional resolutions, or within the confines of the War Powers Act passed in 1973, over the objections (and veto) of President Richard Nixon. The War Powers Act restricted a President's power to send troops into combat without Congressional approval. The President can send troops into battle only for 60 days without a declaration of war or specific authorization by Congress.

The only other authority is the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force that gave a President authority only to use “force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided terrorist attacks that occurred on Sept 11, 2001.”

*Figures for deaths are from Wikipedia, Deaths from on-going armed conflicts, by country for 2016 and 2017. They do not convey the level of devastation and deaths to come.