Olympians on the “Missing Middle?”

Contentious reaction to a Community Planning proposal that affects people where they live

Welcome our visitors from Nicaragua!

The picture painted by those who opposed adoption of the rules as written was very different. Contrary to Bauer’s claim, many established neighborhoods contain small apartment buildings, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and a number of ADUs (accessory dwelling units) – the very housing types the CP&D says are missing. The explanation for this variety is that the city has applied different zoning requirements to different neighborhoods over time.

Existing zoning, again in contrast to Mr. Bauer’s statement, allows for small scale multi-family and clustered housing in at least seven of the city’s 14 residential zones. ADUs are permitted in all of Olympia. Co-housing, cottages, and duplexes are permitted in all but one zone. Triplexes and four-plexes are permitted in several. There’s even a specific zone (R7-13) that seems to have been written by the “missing middle” proponents (1). Olympia differs from other cities, too, in that fully 43% of its housing is already multi-family housing.

The housing market, as we learned in the 2000s, is an investor’s playground. With new opportunities to multiply living units and increase return in the context of continuing demand, the beneficiaries may not be homeowners, new home buyers or renters—but developers and investors.

Predicting a rosy future

The proponents shared a certainty that the new rules would usher in a future of abundant housing, with smaller and more affordable places to live, compared to the no-longer attainable single family home. Thousands of new homes will be built, and since “no one has repealed the law of supply and demand, they will be more affordable.”

CP&D takes a similar position: its proposed rules will eliminate sprawl, support local business and better transit, give homeowners an option for extra income to stay in their homes. Encouraging smaller dwelling units also matches a new demographic: according to the city, only 14% of Olympia’s households are couples with children (2).

The CP&D proposal has two parts. It allows multiplexes—in two zones where they’re currently allowed—and most of the supporters at the hearing, seems to think many will be homeowners and local people—building a back-yard house or otherwise adding to their residence to create an additional dwelling unit.

The opponents at the hearing were skeptical.

As one commenter pointed out, the plan does not address the city’s responsibility to address any fall-out from these changes. Others were specific: bus service had not improved, but deteriorated in one neighborhood even as density and traffic increased.

What about the relationship between new tri- or fourplexes adjacent to existing homes with drainage issues already? More than one pointed to the rules’ relaxing requirements for on-site parking—already on-street parking and consequent traffic problems create difficulties, with little interest by the city in working to find solutions.

Acceptable owners

But there was also another major concern: these changes open up lucrative new opportunities in the housing market. One was very clear about issues with non-resident owners to develop ADUs. First, by reducing parking requirements, the proposals make it easier to develop an ADU than to develop a duplex (or remodel a home to a duplex). Second, allowing non-resident owners to develop ADUs means they can compete in the market with people trying to find an affordable home.

According to an Eastside resident who spoke, they are already seeing real estate advertising that if the “missing middle” proposals are adopted, each property could have an ADU – with an accompanying increase in the sale price beyond.

Bethany Weidner

It was standing room only at a March 19 hearing on a set of Community Planning & Development (CP&D) changes to Olympia’s residential zoning code. Well over 200 people squeezed into the City Hall council chambers, then crowded into the foyer outside. 140 of us marched up to tell Planning Commission members what we thought about the so-called “Missing Middle” proposal. About 2/3 of them supported the proposal and the other third expressed serious reservations. People had very different views both of what kind of housing Olympia offers now, and what would happen in the future if the City Council adopts the changes.

What’s here now

Proponents of the new rules almost uniformly took the same view as Leonard Bauer, Deputy Director of CP&D. Bauer had earlier described Olympia’s current housing situation as pretty bleak.

“Like many cities, Olympia has a lot of low-density zoning districts that currently allow single family houses with limited ability to do anything else. Olympia has some provision for townhouses but beyond that, there’s not much for “missing middle” in nearly three quarters of the city’s area.”

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association is pleased to announce the upcoming visit of Marily Aguilá, Yessenia Solís, Elvis Aguilá, and Cruz Murillo as the 12th community delegation from the country that has a very long history of solidarity against those policies and criminal actions. We see the connections across the planet, of sovereign peoples reclaiming their land and resources, reclaiming their cultural heritage and pride, and reclaiming their destinies. We in the global North, look for and create strategies to do the same.

Now that our guests have finally received their travel visas, we are in the process of setting up each visitor’s itinerary, activities and homestays. Please email tsbsca@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have ideas or suggestions. We will need additional strong Spanish/English language interpreters, as well as support with transportation and events.

Check for highlights

Nicaragua, continued on page 4

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The Works in Progress mission and guidelines

Our purpose:
The aim of WIP is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice. WIP serves the environmental realms and across races and gender. WIP seeks this in part by providing a voice for those most affected by systems of injustice and the exclusionary practices that seek to silence the victims of injustice and the powerless.

Submissions:
Our goal is to publish stories that are ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media, seek local, well-researched news stories, se%

Guidelines for writing for WIP:
Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media. To seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues concerning our communities and accounts of personal experiences by local authors. Informed opinion pieces are also welcome especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We are also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism. WIP reserves the right to publish any material submitted in whole or in part. Submit writing in the following format:

Attach your work as a separate word document attachment to an email that goes to: olwyip@gmail.com. Please use Calibri (12 pt. type), no paragraph indent, single-spaced and photos can be pasted electronically. Include your name and position in the subject line, the paper, the number of words electronically. Please proofread.

Artwork and photos can be sent (see below). To donate, subscribe or advertise on WIP, please contact us at olwyip@gmail.com.

Submissions should:
- Be sent as an email attachment in Wong's formatting specs at www. olwyip.org
- Include a one- or two-line bio of the author.
- Include an email address for contacts if you wish

The theme for this issue is

The theme for this issue is "collective memory.

Our goal is to publish a variety of stories that touch on memory - a memory that lives through an activist community today (Rachel Corrie); how there are echoes of memory in the present (Carpenters); how we forget things and how to be reminded (Trupa & Kim) and how collective memory travels through time (the Nash- ville Parthenon.)

The theme for May is "The 8-hour day."

On May 1我 the world celebrates the victory of organized labor in winning an 8-hour day. Tell us about your jobs, significant organizations and labor history. We are looking for your reflections and your observations. Send stories to olwyip@gmail.com hopefully by April 22. Check this page for more instructions.

Zahid Chaudhry can stay home.

On March 12, Judge Paul DeFranco restored Zahid Chaudhry to the legal resident status he had been granted in 2001. Thus ends a 17-year saga of mistreatment and frustration during which Ann and Zahid Chaudhry and a large, energetic and supportive local author, we also consider poetry, graphics, articles that challenge con-

Citizens to the rescue!

In the March issue of WIP, we covered an important piece of news at a moment when our little-known agency, the Thurston County Conservation District. The election was seen as one that might enable two disruptive board members to wrest control of the agency and its operations from the Executive Direc-

This was a significant moment. A few thousand people showed up for what has been described as a cold, snowy morning on March 6. After the election, they voted for Paul Pickett, an envi-

The farming community and the rest of us can count on the Co-op to continue its mission along with the restoration of an orderly and objec-

Vindication for the Olympia Co-op and its support for BDS

A Washington court has finally dis-

Special advertising rate for non-profits and small businesses

On the front cover, photo by Lindsey Dalthorp.
A portrait exhibit that speaks out in behalf of caring for our land, waters, and forests

Esther Kronenberg

Here in the South Sound, we are surrounded by beautiful forests and clear running streams. Wildlife abounds on land and water. We have clean air and bountiful food. So what could be wrong?

If you look beneath the surface all is not well. If you ask people who have lived here for years, like the people of the Squaxin Tribe or even residents from just 50 years ago, you will hear how our environment has been degraded, and that the degradation continues. What we enjoy today may be only a memory if actions are not taken.

Understanding that many residents are unaware of serious problems in the County, and the lack of action by the current Board of County Commissioners to address them, the League of Women Voters is sponsoring an exhibit of portraits of Thurston County residents - most of them just some-one who wants to live in a clean and healthy place. With each photograph there is a quote about the importance of some aspect of our environment to that person - accompanied by a related fact. The exhibit will be shown at Traditions Café during Art Walk and after.

Some of the photographs come with a description of actions taken to solve problems, from using solar power and green building design to planting trees for carbon sequestration. Some point to policies the County must adopt and promote to stop degradation. Others flag areas where the County has failed to act or even contributed to problems. Wells have gone dry as permitted developments pump water from the aquifer. Thurston County is home to 12 threatened or endangered species.

Salmon runs are down to 10% less than historic numbers and declining. Thurston County lost 50% of its farmland between 2001 and 2007. 500 species of plants and animals in the County are of conservation concern. Septic system leaks are contributing to toxic algae blooms in lakes around the County. The County does not monitor 53,000 septic systems regularly.

If you look below the surface all is not well.

The Board rejected a $30 annual homeowner fee proposed after the major contributing cause to toxic algae blooms that have increased dramatically over the past 5 years and also plays a role in groundwater contamination.

The Commissioners failed to enact a Habitat Conservation Plan to preserve Thurston County's last 5% of remaining prairie. In negotiations with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, they reduced the number of inspections and decreased the size of buffers, bringing down the cost of the HCP to the County. They have questioned the science behind the Endangered Species Act and the amount of acreage necessary to preserve the ecosystem and the several endangered species that depend on it.

The Commissioners have not awarded conservation futures funds for an approved plan. They have frozen awards for new projects to allow them time to explore using most of the funds for the Habitat Conservation Plan. As a result, projects of the South Sound Farmland Trust and Capitol Land Trust go unfunded.

They allowed an asphalt recycling proposal by Lakeside Industries to be placed on the 2018 docket. Recycled asphalt contains contaminants that would pollute the Nisqually Valley when (not if) the river floods again.

They've made little progress on Thurston County's 2009 Sustainability Plan which seeks to reduce County facility energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

The County Fund Balance has dropped from 15.5% of expenditures to 5%. The Commissioners have indicated they would like to issue more building permits and increase commercial development as a means to fund an increase in their budget.

• The Commissioners reluctantly agreed to invest $8,500 in aligning with the cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater in the preliminary development of a Regional Action Plan to address climate change, as long as it did not come from the general fund.

• They changed the name of the Resource Stewardship Department to Community Planning and Economic Development.

• The Commissioners unanimously voted themselves a raise.

Due to its mission of education and empowerment, the League hopes the exhibit will motivate people to get involved in County policy-making and undertake the citizen participation essential to preserve and sustain our resources. The exhibit offers an opportunity and a means to remind the Commissioners that their first responsibility as Executives is to protect the public health and our natural resources. Our fate is tied to the life of the land.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Thurston League of Women Voters Observer Corps

Bryson and André are home

Brothers Bryson Chaplin and André Thompson were sentenced to jail for assault after being shot in the back by Olympia Police officer Ryan Donald, responding to a call about shoplifters in May 2015. André was released last Fall. Bryson was picked up in February in a stretch limo labelled Win-

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Less waste, more food: 1000 collaborators will be “Art in Action” for the new Lacey food bank

Carrie Ziegler

If food waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after Russia and the US. At the same time, one of every six people in America is hungry. Forty percent of the food grown in the United States is wasted. This just doesn’t add up.

Lowering the ratio of waste Food waste solutions are many, and the ways to reduce food waste are many. Since fully 25 percent of food waste comes from us consumers, our opportunity to create change is huge. To top that off, we have a wealth of people, businesses, and organizations in our community who are doing cutting-edge work to reduce food waste and feed more people.

I am honored to collaborate on a grant writing project with one of these organizations: the Thurston County Food Bank. Thanks to a waste prevention grant from the Department of Ecology, I am the 2018 Artist in Residence at the new food bank in Lacey working on a project whose focus is “Wasting Less Food as a Solution to Hunger.” The Lacey Food Bank will house a farm stand, a distribution center, and a victory garden to be run by veterans and Grill.

The magic of collaboration The project will involve over 1000 students and adults, and result in a permanent art installation at the new food bank. The “what” it will be will be still being defined. One of the things that thrills me about this project is that it is a collaborative effort from start to finish, including the design of the art installation.

My experience has shown me that the best ideas come out of collaboration and that if I follow a process of bringing people together to discuss the possibilities, something magical will happen. We will come up with something more intelligent and MORE than I could have created on my own. Working together with people in our community, many of whom feel the effects of hunger and are among the most vulnerable to climate change, we will explore the reasons behind the waste along with the possibilities to shift away from waste into plenty. We will use art to empower ourselves, each other, and a greater community to make a stand.

Jumping into solutions This past March, I kicked off the process with four design workshops, in which the students rose to the challenge, offering designs that were thoughtful, multi-layered, and creative.

The project with one of these organizations the Thurston County Food Bank. Thanks to a waste prevention grant from the Department of Ecology, I am the 2018 Artist in Residence at the new food bank in Lacey working on a project whose focus is “Wasting Less Food as a Solution to Hunger.” The Lacey Food Bank will house a farm stand, a distribution center, and a victory garden to be run by veterans and Grill.

Nicaragua

From page 1

of the delegation’s time in the Olympia area from April 17th to May 11th, 2018:

http://oly-wa.us/TSTSCA/

Please plan to attend a family friendly, student-organized event in the greater Olympia area. Teaching about food waste and reducing hunger in our communities, and lessening the environmental impacts of wasted food.

At the same time, students were involved in permanent exterior materials, and ways to incorporate artwork made by 1,000 project participants.

Cruz Murillo Sandokov is a member of the Comité para Desarrollo Comunal (CDC) de Santo Tomás, our sister organization. He will provide updates on the critical community projects under the non-profit umbrella of the TSTSCA. Cruz will also bring a personal and historical framework of Nicaragua’s reality to Olympia. Cruz looks forward to speaking in high school and college classes. He would also like to meet people engaged in radical community organizing, to continue building international solidarity.

These four visitors follow in the footsteps of 35 other people who, like Tomás, have been to Olympia in the last 28 years! All are committed to strengthening their community in Nicaragua and the sister ties with the greater Olympia area.

Our visitors will participate in the nationwide Student Walkout, Procession of the Species, Comunidades in Movement, and the Immigration Rights March in Seattle.

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This was no small task! Yet the students rose to the challenge, offering designs that were thoughtful, multi-layered, and creative. Multiple themes emerged; we built upon these in each successive workshop. This is where the magic happened. The statement as we discussed and expanded upon certain ideas was palpable. Using these themes and this energy, I met with a small group of students to narrow in on a final design.

A permanent installation. The concept we are working on incorporates ideas from multiple students, building upon ideas presented in the very first workshop. Once the design is confirmed, I will present Less Waste, More Food workshops to students and adults, primarily in the Lacey area, teaching about food waste and how we can all take action to create change. Each of the 1,000 participants will take action in response to what they learn. These art pieces will be incorporated into the permanent, exterior art installation at the Lacey Food Bank, making something more than any one of us could have done alone.

Thus begins the story. The shape it will take, as yet unknown. The process is Art in Action. The art installation itself will be a testament to our individual and collective power and a beacon of hope for a future we are all creating together.

Carrie Ziegler is an artist, environmental educator, and community engagement specialist living in Olympia, WA. Visit Carrie’s website and follow her blog at www.CarrieZiegler.com to learn more about her Less Waste, More Food, your student designs, and follow the Art in Action.

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Save the date:

TSTSCA Annual Plant Sale

Benefit on Saturday, May 5th from 9 to 11 am: 317 Thomas St NW Olympia’ Lovely perennials, tomato and vegetable starts, straw berries, and more! Contact James (360) 943-8642 to donate healthy potted up plants anytime before May 1st, bring your friends on the 5th and buy plants to help us raise funds for the university scholarship project for students from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua. TSTSCA is currently assisting 12 first generation students from Santo Tomás who want to stay and support their community. Around that number of families have graduated on all ready, including Marly and Elvis on this delegation. Come connect! 
Middle From page 1: cause the “opportunity to develop” is priced in.

What’s next? The schedule for presentation of the proposal to the City Council for adoption in mid-May—with the rules to go into effect a week later. This could be delayed because a group of residents has filed a legal challenge to the city’s determination that these changes are needed now. The city also acknowledges that among the biggest barriers to the “impact” Rossi seems to have bought into the “American dream” for as many people as possible who invest their money in housing. So if more units are added in existing neighborhoods, less other housing will be needed. A failed public process There was also a marked difference of opinion across commenters about simple adjustment to the rules. A rezone would require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan—a more extensive process. Proponents rejected the idea that more discussion was needed. Some questioned the goodwill of the detractors—older people were able to buy a house, but they oppose changes that would let millennials own homes. “I love my grand mother,” said one. They accused them of chicken littlism—exaggerating the effects of development. The city is the sky is falling.” They appeared to have faith in the market’s response to these new opportunities. The housing market, as we learned in the 2000s, is an investor’s playground. With new opportunities to multiply living units and increase return in the context of continuing demand, the beneficiaries may not be homeowners, new home buyers or renters—but developers and investors.

Bob Jacobs

The Missing Middle neighborhood is Olympia’s Eastside. Most of our blocks don’t have curbs, only a few streets have sidewalks, mail is not delivered to our front porches, we have a shortage of park space. The neighborhood has plenty of apartments, duplexes, ADUs, townhouses, cottages—reminders of various zoning experiments the city has done over the years. Instead of having large, unaffordable historic homes we have modest single family housing—74% with less than 1500 square feet, and our median home price in 2017 was $226,000. Our developed density of 6.53 units per acre exceeds that of the South Capitol neighborhood. We know all of this because our neighborhood actually did the necessary parcel by parcel research on potential property effects that the city failed to do. This research indicates that the Missing Middle proposals are likely to have much greater effect on neighborhoods than the city has estimated so far. In our neighborhood, the city’s proposals will overwhelm us—potentially raising the density by 50-100% and jacking up housing prices from $160-200 sq ft to $250-300 per sq ft. That’s because the Missing Middle proposals have a major flaw, allowing and incentivizing non-resident investors to compete for what has been affordable single-family housing and redefine it into smaller rental units and Airbnbs. We already have seen evidence of this in recent realtor ad.

The city’s proposals will allow outside investors to use ADUs to the detriment of their neighbors for duplexes and encourage them to fill our neighborhood’s streets with the parked cars generated by their new rental units—making walking, mail delivery and garbage collection even more difficult. We will shift from a neighborhood evenly balanced between renters and homeowners to one dominated by rental units owned by outside investors. If you want to buy an affordable single-family home the message is clearly “go to Laceys or Shelton.”

My recommendations: The city should slow down approval of the Missing Middle proposals so that refinements can be made in them—and to avoid the economic mistake of using the opportunity to redevelop and reduce Olympia’s stock of affordable single-family homes. The city should conduct a comprehensive study for the whole city that parallels what we did by volunteer effort for our neighborhood, so we can have a more informed discussion. Finally, the city should not immediately apply the MM proposals to neighborhoods already engaged in sub-area planning—otherwise these neighborhoods will just be planning for damage control.

Letters

[Ed. Note: The following comment was submitted as a letter, it responds to the March opinion piece by Marco Rossi, Olympia’s Missing Middle. Rossi’s piece elicited more comments on the online VWP than any other in recent memory. Please visit olywip.org to read all the comments]

Dear VIP,

I am a long-time subscriber to VIP and served as a neighborhood representative on the Missing Middle Work Group. I have also observed the housing market for decades. Rossi seems to have bought into the “American dream” for as many people as possible who invest their money in housing. So if more units are added in existing neighborhoods, less other housing will be needed. A failed public process There was also a marked difference of opinion across commenters about simple adjustment to the rules. A rezone would require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan—a more extensive process. Proponents rejected the idea that more discussion was needed. Some questioned the goodwill of the detractors—older people were able to buy a house, but they oppose changes that would let millennials own homes. “I love my grandmother,” said one. They accused them of chicken littlism—exaggerating the effects of development. The city is the sky is falling.” They appeared to have faith in the market’s response to these new opportunities. The housing market, as we learned in the 2000s, is an investor’s playground. With new opportunities to multiply living units and increase return in the context of continuing demand, the beneficiaries may not be homeowners, new home buyers or renters—but developers and investors.

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Comments submitted by John Keogh at the Olympia Planning Commission meeting on a Staff proposal to change zoning rules, March 19, 2018

A Missing Middle neighborhood is Olympia’s Eastside. Most of our blocks don’t have curbs, only a few streets have sidewalks, mail is not delivered to our front porches, we have a shortage of park space. The neighborhood has plenty of apartments, duplexes, ADUs, townhouses, cottages—reminders of various zoning experiments the city has done over the years. Instead of having large, unaffordable historic homes we have modest single family housing—74% with less than 1500 square feet, and our median home price in 2017 was $226,000. Our developed density of 6.53 units per acre exceeds that of the South Capitol neighborhood. We know all of this because our neighborhood actually did the necessary parcel by parcel research on potential property effects that the city failed to do. This research indicates that the Missing Middle proposals are likely to have much greater effect on neighborhoods than the city has estimated so far. In our neighborhood, the city’s proposals will overwhelm us—potentially raising the density by 50-100% and jacking up housing prices from $160-200 per sq ft to $250-300 per sq ft. That’s because the Missing Middle proposals have a major flaw, allowing and incentivizing non-resident investors to compete for what has been affordable single-family housing and redefine it into smaller rental units and Airbnbs. We already have seen evidence of this in recent realtor ad.

The city’s proposals will allow outside investors to use ADUs to the detriment of their neighbors for duplexes and encourage them to fill our neighborhood’s streets with the parked cars generated by their new rental units—making walking, mail delivery and garbage collection even more difficult. We will shift from a neighborhood evenly balanced between renters and homeowners to one dominated by rental units owned by outside investors. If you want to buy an affordable single-family home the message is clearly “go to Laceys or Shelton.”

My recommendations: The city should slow down approval of the Missing Middle proposals so that refinements can be made in them—and to avoid the economic mistake of using the opportunity to redevelop and reduce Olympia’s stock of affordable single-family homes. The city should conduct a comprehensive study for the whole city that parallels what we did by volunteer effort for our neighborhood, so we can have a more informed discussion. Finally, the city should not immediately apply the MM proposals to neighborhoods already engaged in sub-area planning—otherwise these neighborhoods will just be planning for damage control.
Fifteen years into the Iraq war and more: Destroying lives, livelihoods and hope

MaryJo Dolis

February 15, 2018 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. As we enter another year in which permanent war seems to run as a faint background noise, it may help to be reminded of some very dark realities.

The cost of our wars since 2001 totals at least $4.4 trillion dollars, mostly borrowed. The number of nations that we have invaded—in force, or repeatedly, or covertly—might be about 76, with only a few of those—Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan—recognized as places the US is "waging" war. No one knows for sure, but also Joint Special Operations Commanders, advisers, trainers, mercenaries, contractors, drones, bombers, etc. to do the killing.

The number of dead owed to these activities is also unknown—but reliably estimated in the millions. Another 10 million people have been turned into refugees in their own countries and elsewhere. Last November, Congress approved a new "defense" budget in excess of even the Pentagon’s request. Last week, Congress rejected a resolution to end US military support for the war in Yemen.

The pity of this goes beyond even the number of nations that we have invaded, or the number of dead. As our government deploys some forces we recognize as "troops," but also military recruiters at my high school attracted me with sign up bonuses and college assistance that some saw as their ticket out—for me, I hoped it was my ticket up, providing opportunities that once felt out of reach.

Two years later, when I was 20 years old, I was standing over the body of a 16-year-old Afghan boy. He was covered in shrapnel and burns, and now lay sedated after having one of his hands amputated by our medics. His other hand had the calloused roughness of a farmer or a shepherd.

As he lay there with a peaceful expression, I studied the details of his face and caught myself wishing for him. "If this boy knew me," I thought, "he wouldn't want to kill me!" And here I am, supposed to want to kill him. And feeling bad that I wanted him to live. That is the poisoned mind. That is the militarized mind. And all the opportunities afforded me by the military can’t repay the cost of war on my soul. It is poor folks who carry the burden of war for the elites who send them.

A working class boy from Illinois sent halfway around the world to kill a young farmer. How did we get here? Wasn't doing this crazy war economy come to be?

First, there is the demand. A society that feels perpetually threatened perpetually prepares for war, even in times of peace. To do this requires a military-industrial complex, a vast war economy whose profits, stocks, and jobs depend on permanent militarization and whose fortune prosppers most in times of war. Corporations have political influence, and so do constituents who need the jobs.

Second, there is the supply. A nation that wants to attract volunteers to its military and care for veterans provides opportunities that allure recruits who are predominant-ly working class folks with limited opportunities.

We need a Poor People’s Cam-paign to amplify the voices of regular folks above the lobby of militarized industry, a poisoned economy, to demand jobs in industries other than war-making, to demand opportunities for working class folks that don't require killing other working class folks.

We need a Poor People’s Campaign to transform a militarized politics, a poisoned Congress and a poisoned White House, that proves their toughness with cheat beating and unites their base with war drumming.

The Poor People’s Campaign offers an antidote to a poisoned and militarized culture. War always has a way of dis-tracting our attention, and perverting our priorities. We need a Poor People’s Campaign to organize for racial, economic, and ecological justice, to force these issues to the front, and rectify our nation’s agenda.

The Poor People’s Campaign is an all inclusive movement. It is an anti-militarism project to amplify the voices of regular folks above the lobby of militarized industry, a poisoned economy, to demand jobs in industries other than war-making, to demand opportunities for working class folks that don't require killing other working class folks.

We need a Poor People’s Campaign to transform a militarized politics, a poisoned Congress and a poisoned White House, that proves their toughness with cheat beating and unites their base with war drumming. We need a Poor People’s Campaign to transform a militarized politics, a poisoned Congress and a poisoned White House, that proves their toughness with cheat beating and unites their base with war drumming.

Fifteen years into the Iraq war and more: Destroying lives, livelihoods and hope.

This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

—President Dwight Eisenhower

March for Our Lives, March 24, 2018

In Olympia 4500 people joined with thousands across the nation on Saturday March 24 to demand that lawmakers acknowledge the deadly role of guns in our schools and throughout the society, and pass laws to end the ready availability of war weapons. As the 8th grade speaker said, to tumultuous cheers, “Legislators look out! I’m coming after your job!”

"Thoughts & Prayers + Policy & Change =Never Again"

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This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.
March for Science: Making a difference through research, application and education

March for Science Olympia

March 9th, 2018, State Capitol - The March for Science is a global organization that advocates for evidence-based scientific policies that serve all communities. On April 14, we will come together to celebrate last year's march to hold our political leaders accountable for passing equitable, evidence-based policies that serve all people and all communities.

March for Science Olympia will be leading a sister march from the state capitol, along Capitol Way, to a booth featuring local science-backed organizations in Heritage Park. Marchers will rally at 11 am at the North Capitol steps, beginning at 11:45, and reach Heritage Park around 12:15.

A fight to defend reality

The head of the EPA doesn’t ‘believe’ in climate change and works to dismiss climate research. The CDC is legally prohibited from studying gun violence. Science is our best tool for understanding the world as it really exists—regardless of what is politically or economically expedient to believe. Our fight to define, defend, and change reality is not over and not forgotten.

We are just beginning.

Last year, we demonstrated in the first ever March for Science internationally, not just in Olympia. Five thousand conscientious citizens arrived in Olympia to march across the street to the Central Park campus, to march Capitol Way and meet local organizations making a difference through research, application, and education.

“The info booths were a nice extra and the marching bands were fantastic and added a lot to the spirit and energy of the march. But mostly I just like that it happened and so many joined in.” (anonymous, from post-March survey)

Caffeine

Craig Burger, MD, testified that caffeine has so many great signs and conversations around it. The March for Science last year: We need to have those conversations again—if we have learned anything this year it would be that science cannot thrive in silence.

Capital High leads the way

This year, students from Capital High School (CHS) have stepped up to demand evidence from our political leaders. - "When scientists tell us that something as dramatic as climate change is a real and present danger, we need to listen,” says Ezra Mead, senior at CHS. “I have a passion for ecology and I really want more people to have the tools to understand and connect with the world around us,” adds Peter Geissler, a senior and a volunteer at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. The students bring energy, passion, and new ideas into March for Science planning.

Our students are helping us to collaborate in new ways with groups like the Thurston Climate Action Team. We are already working with many of the organizations we met in 2017, including Artesian Rumble Arkestra and Bloodworks Northwest, who will be hosting a blood drive onsite. We saved 72 lives with our blood drive last year! Now we are asking for your support for our 2018 March for Science.

The March for Science grew from a single-day event on April 22 to a movement thatchampions robustly funded science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity. As a global network of more than 1800 satellite organizers and 380 partners, the MFS network unites a diverse, non-partisan group to call for science that upholds the common good and for political leaders and policymakers to enact evidence-based policies in the public interest.

On April 14, cities around the world will once again unite in a day for science advocacy.

For more information on March for Science Olympia, contact us at marchforscienceoly.wordpress.com

More than a march...

The convention will also highlight solutions to global warming that are supported by science, including family planning, solar farms, and rooftop solar.

In addition to supporting science, March for Science is a community event. Our students are helping us to collaborate with the Westman Mill development, which the city of Olympia is asking us to support.

More significantly, the science is inherently flawed. There’s no mention of zooplankton, benthic species, salt marsh, overhanging vegetation, insects, salmon or locally extinct species of water birds, all assumed, if we accept the status quo, to recover and live in a long dark pipe.

We believe this SEPA DNS should be rejected because the option of removing the stream from a half-mile long culvert under the estuary has never been seriously considered. The assumption from the beginning has been that the site would be developed, an assumption that invalidated the ensuing process that has been fraught with attempts to ignore, mischaracterize and ridicule community efforts at restoration.

There’s no mention of phytoplankton in the SEPA review, no mention of zooplankton, benthic species, salt marsh, overhanging vegetation, insects, salmon or locally extinct species of water birds, all assumed, if we accept the status quo, to recover and live in a long dark pipe.

Extinct species of water birds, all assumed, if we accept the status quo, to recover and live in a long dark pipe.

The estuary needs to be structured as naturally as possible to be effective. The rate of flow of the SEPA review is assumed to be as diameter narrows and decreases as diameter expands. By expanding and slowing flow sedimentation increases and scouring decreases.

Daylighting the stream through a narrow area to one side of the development would not be a restoration. It would be a concrete lined channel. This is an opportunity to restore a small portion of the original estuary. The entire parcel needs to be involved.

The Moxie Creek estuary is clearly a critical area. Critical areas are under federal, state and local laws including the Federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Washington State Environmental Policy Act, SEPA, Shoreline Act, the Municipal Water Law and the Growth Management Act.

Follow the effort on Olympia Urban Waters—Unclecom website https://urbanwaters.com

Olympia Urban Waters League

On March 8th, Olympia Urban Waters League appealed the City of Olympia’s decision to issue a determination of non-significance (DNS) for the Westman Mill development.

Nothing about this SEPA DNS addresses the impacts on the impaired waters of the East Bay, the Moxie Creek, East Bay or the Madison Creek. The estuary is considered impaired under the provisions of the Clean Water Act and impairment is clearly a critical area. Critical areas are under federal, state and local laws including the Federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Shoreline Act, the Municipal Water Law and the Growth Management Act.

2018 South Sound Climate Action Convention will examine local and global environmental solutions to climate change

The Third Annual South Sound Climate Action Convention returns in 2018 for another energized, education- al and thoughtful program to share with the community the importance of taking action on climate. The Convention will be held Saturday, April 14th from 9:30 am to 5 pm at Young Puget Sound Community College.

This year’s convention will be the kickoff for a project that Thurston Climate Action Team, in partnership with several local organizations, is launching, with help from a generous foundation grant, to support communication, collaboration and coordination among local climate change efforts.

The Convention will also highlight some of the solutions found in the book, Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, edited by Paul Hawken.

This book is a broad coalition of researchers, scientists, and other credible groups of citizens to provide the most effective solutions to global warming that are already in place and in doing so, describes their beneficial financial, social and environmental impact. The Convention will address seven of the top ten solutions including: wind, food waste, a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, family planning, solar farms, and rooftop solar.

There are student scholarships and discounted registration rates available. Those who would like to volunteer their time at the Convention. To register or to get more information on scholarships and volunteering, visit southsoundclimate-convention.org.
We were Rachel Corrie’s teachers at The Evergreen State College, in a full time residency called Local Knowledge that carried through the academic year 2001-2002. When Rachel was killed in Gaza on March 16, 2003, we, like so many others, had to come to terms with the shocking reality of our work—of our work going on in the context of a war that had become part of our daily consciousness. In the weeks following her death, we wrote, “We choose to remember her learning and growing, finding her voice, test out her capabilities and figuring out what mattered to her.” Rachel had appeared in the context in which we knew her—a set of commemorative moments as we remembered Rachel, and to reflect on her legacy. To today, 15 years later, we remember Rachel for her passion, her quiet fire, her determination. She was not a tower of certainty, of unmovable thinking. She was a seeker, who asked a lot of questions, who asked a lot of herself and who knew there is always more to learn, more to question. In her readings, writings, conversations and daily actions, she was on “the search.” For us, Rachel is less of a symbol and more of a flickering beacon, a gesture to the rest of us to keep pressing on with our efforts. She was both courageous and careful. When learning about her home-community, she realized how much she had not seen, so she pushed to learn more. When learning about Palestine, she was a respectful visitor and student of her peers understood the relationship between her work and activism, a relationship they embraced in the painful days following her death.

She was willing to sacrifice everything she had been taught by popular culture to cherish—comfort, blind faith, complacency—and elevate herself to a place of transformation and compassion.

She died, but we still have each other, the impact of her presence and commitment, the lessons we shared, and so much work to do.

Today, 15 years later, we remember Rachel for her passion, her quiet fire, her determination. She was not a tower of certainty, of unmovable thinking. She was a seeker, who asked a lot of questions, who asked a lot of herself and who knew there is always more to learn, more to question. In her readings, writings, conversations and daily actions, she was on “the search.” For us, Rachel is less of a symbol and more of a flickering beacon, a gesture to the rest of us to keep pressing on with our efforts. She was both courageous and careful. When learning about her home-community, she realized how much she had not seen, so she pushed to learn more. When learning about Palestine, she was a respectful visitor and student of the people who hosted her. Hers was a learning-life, she pressed beyond the borders of her experience to understand how others, in other parts of the world, struggled and persisted. Reflected in the perspective of a learning community that began in the throes of 9-11, she looked close to the borders of her experience, to understand others and tell the story of her learning through articulate, determined and passionate words that urged others to feel connected—and to continue to learn.

We remember Rachel’s youth and in her wisdom, and determined search for a better way. Fifteen years later we often wonder: what would she be learning and saying now in a landscape where so much has changed, yet where so much remains to be done? In Palestine she was deeply connected to the youth, the children who had been denied so much, who hunger for justice. Today, she would no doubt champion the young Florida students who are speaking out against gun violence, demanding that it be challenged and imperiled. She would embrace the courage of young people protesting police violence in Black communities, the underemployed youth who are bravely advocating for immigrants rights and the broad range of Rachel’s interests the world. People speaking-their-minds was vital to Rachel and to her legacy.

We learned from Rachel that parents can be awakened by their children, and teachers can be re-awakened by their students. That is part of the legacy we live out as we remember Rachel. We try to be attentive to what might be forgotten, overlooked or excluded. We remain humble observers who speak out, as Rachel did, to take a stand, as Rachel did, and to keep observing and asking questions. We look for connection and seek out opportunities for engagement. And we continue to be inspired by young people—leaders-in-learning, who embraced her challenge to do right by her world.

Learn and speak, turn to each other and organize: where your community needs it most. This is how to honor the memory of [her] death, not with banners and slogans, but with strength, intelligence and critical compassion... she was extraordinary and ordinary; she cared about the world, and threw herself into it, she was one of us.
Mr. Trump & Mr. Kim: Time to negotiate a peace treaty?

MaryJo Dolis

"The war in Korea has already almost destroyed that nation of 20,000,000 people. I have never seen such devas-
tation. I have seen; I guess, as much blood and disaster as any living man, and it just curdled my stomach the last time I was there. After I looked at the wreckage and those thousands of women and children and everything, I vomited … If you go on indefinitely, you are perpetuating a slaughter such as I have never heard of in the history of mankind."


[Ed. Note: Just in case our collective memory has been blotted out by recent events, here is a brief outline of our adventures in Korea. The Japa-
nese occupied the Korean Peninsula from 1910 through 1945. Anticipating Japan’s defeat at the end of WWII, the US and Soviet Union agreed on dual occupation. In August of 1945 the Soviets entered Korea from the north, and in September, the US sent troops in from the south. After three years, the US installed a government under Syngman Rhee, while the Soviets supported Kim Il Sung in the north. Both powers withdrew ground troops in 1949. On June 25, 1950, Kim invaded the south in a bid to reunify the peninsula under his leadership. In July, the UN and US sent in forces under Gener-
al Douglas MacArthur; by September they had pushed the Northern army out of the South. MacArthur then de-
cided to pursue reunification himself – marching troops into the North, threat-
ening to bomb China and ignoring that country’s warnings against encroach-
ment on their territory. In April 1951, President Truman removed MacAr-
thur for insubordination. Before the fighting ended, three million Koreans (more than half of them civilians) and more than 50,000 Americans had lost their lives. An armistice was signed in 1953, the country remains divided and the war technically continues today. The North continues to live in that memory.]
Mary McKenna and Myles Baker

Since October 2017, the #MeToo movement has revealed patterns of endemic sexual harassment and misconduct by powerful men in government, the entertainment industry and the media. The affair of Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, Garrison Keillor and many others were widely celebrated as victories for survivors of workplace abuse. Similarly, the defeat of Roy Moore in the December 2017 Alabama senate election seemed to indicate a new generation of women increasingly turning against men with histories of sexual misconduct.

Marxist feminist Silvia Federici posits, however, that changing public opinion will not be sufficient in ending sexual harassment and abuse. Silvia Federici has written about the unique exploitation of women under capitalism and the exploitation of women's bodies and workers' labor was a fundamental part of capitalism's formation. This argument was also the basis for her critique of #MeToo. The driving force behind the recent explosion of sexual harassment revelations, as she sees it, is not a handful of aggressive men or “bad apples.” Rather, the fault lies with a system that for centuries has forced women to perform unpaid reproductive and sexual labor in the home. Such a system fostered a widespread financial dependence of wives on their wage-laboring husbands. Centuries of forced dependence produced unequal power dynamics between men and women in the home and family, which came to permeate all of capitalist society.

In Caliban and the Witch, Federici argues that the degradation of women’s bodies and women’s labor was a fundamental part of capitalism’s formation. This argument was also the basis for her critique of #MeToo. The driving force behind the recent explosion of sexual harassment revelations, as she sees it, is not a handful of aggressive men or “bad apples.” Rather, the fault lies with a system that for centuries has forced women to perform unpaid reproductive and sexual labor in the home. Such a system fostered a widespread financial dependence of wives on their wage-laboring husbands. Centuries of forced dependency produced unequal power dynamics between men and women in the home and family, which came to permeate all of capitalist society.

Gendered Power Dynamics in the Home and the Workplace

In her talk, Federici made meaningful connections between the exploitation of waged workers by their bosses and the exploitation of wives by their husbands. When the wage labor force was still predominantly made up of men, workers brought home the frustration and powerlessness they felt on the job and took it out on their families. Federici refers to this dynamics as a “safety valve” for proletarian men: after a long day of bosses commanding their labor and their bodies, working men could come home and command the labor and the bodies of their wives. The ability of proletarian men to feel powerful at home allowed them to cope with the indignities of their jobs, at the expense of women.

Women, especially women from poor families and women of ethnic and racial minorities, had always made up a portion of the waged workforce. But as women in capitalist core countries increasingly joined the workforce en masse in the 1970s and 1980s, workplace dynamics between men and women mirrored those in the home. Capitalist society had long sanctioned husbands’ control over wives’ bodies, labor and sexuality. Thus, Federici argues that men have been socialized to see the sexuality of their women co-workers as their property. The fact that women workers tend to be more highly concentrated in lower-ranking jobs and lower-paying positions only exacerbates these power dynamics.

Sexual Misconduct and Material Conditions

The overall thesis of Federici’s talk was that capitalism is built on economic and social inequalities between men and women. As long as capitalism remains the dominant world system, she argues, these inequalities will be continually reproduced as systemic imbalances of power between men and women. Without changing the underlying material conditions, society cannot expect any long lasting fixes to issues of sexual harassment and violence.

The problem, in short, goes a lot deeper than Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, or any of the other powerful men condemned by the #MeToo movement. It’s important to note that while Federici sees ending capitalism as the only true solution to these problems, she does consider the #MeToo movement as a very positive step in this process. Federici applauded the solidarity between women that #MeToo has built. She also believes #MeToo has been an important “crash course” for men who seek to be comrades in struggle.

Federici ended her talk by emphasizing that the transformation of society will only occur in material conditions, and cannot succeed if it is considered just the work of women. While it may impact them differently, capitalist exploitation harms both men and women.

Mary McKenna and Myles Baker are active in political organizing and writing in Olympia.

The entirety of Federici’s recent talk can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qySMeMzUc.

Silvia Federici challenges #MeToo movement to look at the systemic, economic causes of sexual violence
The perils of solar radiation management

Glen Anderson

The April 2018 interview on "Glen's Parallax Perspectives," a series focusing on an important aspect of the climate crisis that has been largely neglected. If people pay attention to this aspect, we can protect the climate and save ourselves from serious financial loss.

Solar radiation management (SRM) is a technology that involves reflecting sunlight away from the Earth to cool it down. The April 2018 episode of "Glen's Parallax Perspectives" interviews two knowledgeable guests who host a show called "Tipping the Climate." Donna Albert and Bourtai Hargrove.

The climate crisis has forced the world to start significantly shifting away from coal and oil. The cumulative greenhouse gases that are causing climate disruptions. Sharply reducing our consumption of fossil fuels will financially hurt the fossil fuel industry. Many coal companies have already gone bankrupt.

Oil and natural gas companies will soon follow. Smart investors are investing in companies that will be rewarded for their innovation in this new energy infrastructure.

The April 2018 episode of "Glen's Parallax Perspectives" interviews two knowledgeable guests who host a show called "Tipping the Climate." Donna Albert and Bourtai Hargrove.

People anywhere can watch this April 2018 interview and/or read a transcript online.

Sell off all fossil fuel investments now.

The Harvard University Solar Radiation Management (SRM) project in March of this year. The initial phase of the $20 billion investment fund by Harvard, Bill Gates (a major contributor), the Hewlett Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan foundation. In 2018, they hope to spray particles of water and aluminum oxide into the stratosphere in high-altitude balloons over Tucson. The initial experiments will be small, designed to test the delivery system, discover what kind of particles are the most effective at reflecting sunlight, how the particles change or disperse, whether they will disrupt the ozone layer, and how they interact with other atmospheric gases.

The April 2018 interview on "Glen's Parallax Perspectives" explores an aspect of the climate crisis that has been largely neglected. "It slots perfectly into our most hackneyed cultural narrative," she says, "it is that it slots perfectly into our most hackneyed cultural narrative," she says, "it is that it slots perfectly into our most hackneyed cultural narrative.

In 2014, David Keith estimated that the total cost of large scale solar geoengineering would be about one billion dollars a year and the cost of geoengineering the entire planet for a decade would be less than $6 billion. It is cheap, far cheaper than the cost of making it. In contrast, other climate geoengineering projects, such as carbon capture and storage, will require decades to become operational, and many more decades to have an effect on cumulative carbon emissions.

SRM Does Not Halt Climate Change

Keith acknowledges that solar radiation management does not stop the fossil fuel emissions that cause climate change; it does not reduce the cumulative greenhouse gases that are causing climate disruptions. Keith says SRM will be weighed against the actual deployment of the technology, those that are causing climate change; it does not reduce the cumulative greenhouse gases that are causing climate disruptions. Keith says SRM will be weighed against the actual deployment of the technology, those that are causing climate change; it does not reduce the cumulative greenhouse gases that are causing climate disruptions.

The Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative (SRMGI) has already raised $65 million, which is being used to make operational, will take many more decades to have an effect on cumulative carbon emissions.

Regional and national governments are focusing on the difficult work ahead, does no one really think about the environment or the world's governments more time to transition to renewable energy. Bourtai Hargrove is a climate activist, a writer, and a grandparent. He is currently a candidate for the gig economy job market.
The Nashville Parthenon, a startlingly exact replica of the original in Athens, is a popular tourist destination for Nashvillians and our visitors as just another quirky roadside attraction somewhere in middle America. The Nashville Parthenon comes as a bit of a surprise to those who did not build the Parthenon? has been asked time and time again. President of the Conservancy of the Parthenon and Centennial Park, Sylvia Rapoport, explains that the Nashville Parthenon symbolizes "a respect for tradition that is balanced by an equal respect for innovation that distinguishes Nashville from other cities."

Rapoport portrays the Parthenon as a center for the classical ideals of arts, culture, and education. This maxim seems to fit the current day Nashville Parthenon, which serves as the center of a vibrant arts community, playing host to art fairs, endless musical performances, Nashville’s Vanderbilt, and an art gallery. But this answer forgets Nashville’s fraught history with the classics.

A more complete answer to the question “Why did they build the Parthenon?” provides a firmer motivation for the building’s construction than just the reification of a local nickname, and also reminds us of the foundation of classical reception throughout the history of our country—a history upon which the modern use of classics in the public sphere now rests. In the decades following the Civil War and Reconstruction, “classical ideals” had a more specific significance to the nineteenth-century leaders of Nashville.

As Rapoport acknowledges, Nashville’s classical reception is indeed a marriage of tradition and innovation. The greater tradition of antebellum Southern classical reception was used to both define and justify Southern identity and institutions. In celebrating this agrarian democracy, plantation houses, and Greek temples went hand in hand with Aristotle’s assertion that some people were “natural leaders.” Southern aristocrats laid claim to the classics by establishing themselves as the true heirs of the ancient Greeks. Regardless of what the truth may have been, Southerners claimed that they were genteel, civilized, and—most of all—educated, in comparison to the crass and uncultured Northerners.

Just as the South created an identity by defining itself in opposition to the North, Nashville established its own claim to a classical identity by positioning itself as a beacon of education and culture amidst the wilderness of the American frontier. When the first president of the University of Nashville, a once-powerful auxiliary that was not the narrative of the Nashville Parthenon that I was ever taught. It shocked me.

The Nashville Parthenon was a monument in the tradition of Southern classical reception, using a classical image to glorify a contemporary process of exclusion. In the reception of classical history and images that inspired the Nashville Parthenon, there is no room for all people to be equal. There must be barbaroi.

This exclusive inheritance that Lewis expressed through plaster, graffiti, and Southern Agrarian Donald Davidson, put into practice. The Fugitive poets were plainly concerned with portraying the classical world reborn, and their poetry dripped with classical allusions. You would think that the Fugitives would have loved the Nashville Parthenon. How— through the poem On A Replica of the Parthenon. A shop girl in Nashville who appreciates classical art might consider herself quite sophisticated compared to an unemployed redneck in Pulaski. But in Davidson’s eyes, she, as an uneducated woman, must only be able to view Poseidon’s foot with classical physical appreciation.

Black citizens of Nashville do not even enter the poem as potential viewers of the temple. Under Davidson’s judgment, even those who fully embrace Nashville’s classicism are at risk of disenfranchisement by those who think they have a better claim. Even the Parthenon itself can be delegitimized if the people viewing it are deemed illeterate with your computer all over again!

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Collective Memory: A Tennessee monument that ties the Confederacy to the glory of the classical era

The Nashville Parthenon, a startlingly exact replica of the original in Athens, is a popular tourist destination for Nashvillians and our visitors as just another quirky roadside attraction somewhere in middle America. The Nashville Parthenon comes as a bit of a surprise to the people viewing it are deemed illeterate
The Montgomery Bus Boycott

L. Sukey Wolf

History is never as enlightening as when it is told by the women and men who made it. This is certainly the case with the memoir by Jo Ann Gibson Robinson entitled The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It.

This book tells of the extraordinary Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott of 1955-56. Robinson, on the faculty of Alabama State College, a Black school in Montgomery, was chair of the city’s Women’s Political Council (WPC) which was formed primarily of state college and public school teachers, the council promoted women’s leadership in civic affairs, voter registration and aid for women victims of rape or assault. Abusively treated on a city bus, Robinson prevailed, when her protests were taken up by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to help spread the news and raise money to keep the boycott going.

The Women’s Political Council combined with Black ministers and representatives of civic groups to form the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) and Rev. Martin Luther King was elected President. Station wagons and cars were dispatched to pick-up points around the city to ferry people to and from work while the legal fight wound through the courts.

Montgomery’s Black community set up a complex transportation system that carried some 25,000 people every day for more than a year...
“Getting Down and Dirty”
A letter to the president of Olympia Master Builders

Dan Deering, President
Olympia Master Builders/ Affordable Housing Council
1211 State Avenue NE
Olympia, Washington 98502

Re: Advocacy “Getting Down and Dirty”

Dear President Deering,

I am writing for two reasons.

First, I wish to know who is responsible for a mailer sent from the “Affordable Housing Council of the Olympia Master Builders” with regard to Port Commissioner E.J. Zita and Bill Fishburn. These two individuals were candidates for the Port of Olympia Commission in the November 2017 election.

Second, I wish to understand the meaning of your Government Affairs Advocacy slogan, “Getting Down and Dirty.”

Your organization provided financial support to Port Commissioner E.J. Zita’s opponent, Gigi McClure and also to Port Commissioner Bill McGregor who was opposed by Candidate Bill Fishburn. This support certainly lies within your legitimate advocacy function.

However, despite the many legitimate issues up for discussion in this race, your organization in its mailer resorted to McCarthy-era red-baiting and character assassination using demagogic words and alarmist punctuations “Extremists!” and “Anarchists” to characterize Bill Fishburn and E.J. Zita. Was it Mr. Fisburn’s Presidency of the Prairie Veterinary Hospital, Eugene, OR, in the spring of 1987, when a woman who asked me why I do not have a dog, said “Oh, were you ever married?”

I look forward to your answers.

Dan Leahy
Olympia, Washington 98502
A citizens' voyage towards a renewed American democracy: August 1979

[Editor's note. In the spring of 1979, a group of organizers came together to form The Citizens Party, with the intention of creating a new national political party that would enter candidates in the 1980 elections. They issued this call in August 1979. That December they declared themselves The Citizens Party. The party's founding convention was held in April, 1980. Despite the fact that there were neither cell phones nor computers of any significance, 271 delegates came from 31 states to attend the convention]

125 years ago, a small group of people met in a Wisconsin town to form a new political party. They founded the Republican Party because neither of the country's major parties were confronting the great national issue of the day: slavery. Today this country is in a similar crisis and faces a similar op- portunity. Also, neither of the nation's dominant political parties is confronting the crisis or acting on the opportunity.

- Prices have risen more in the past decade than in the 20 years before.
- The cost of buying or renting a month's worth of housing has increased by more than the ordinary family's reach. There is no end to inflation in sight.
- The wealthiest nation on earth can't provide for its citizens. Millionaires who want to work are on unemployment or welfare. Among inner city communities, joblessness is worse than in the Great Depression.
- College graduates can't find the jobs that have been trained for.
- Faced with gas lines and a deepening energy crisis, the government continued to kill everyone on earth's inflationary decontrol. It dismantles energy efficient rail service. It backs environmental and dangerous nuclear power and synthetic fuel. And it largely ignores the major solution: what we can clean, decentralized and potentially cheap -- energy efficiency and solar power.
- The mainstream working man and woman have lost ground. Hard won rights are erased by inflation. The Administration tries to limit wages, but not prices.
- A decade and a half after Martin Luther King Jr. prophesied out his American dream, minorities and the poor are still waiting for their share. The greatest threat to the 180 million American workers and families is a fiasco in inner housing, job training, national health care, the rebuilding of our cities -- a remain a raging fire.
- After several years of reform, there are more loopholes than ever for the rich and the huge corporations, the burden falls still more heavily on the poor and the middle class.
- The government already has enough military power to kill everyone on earth. Yet it builds additional new missile systems and weapons to wage electronic and political wars.
- Women's gains are under attack. The Equal Rights Amendment is stalled. If she is luck enough to find a job, the average working woman will only earn $60% of the that of the average man.
- Small men, given all that, that half of the eligible voters don't register and that half of those who do register usually don't vote. Polls show a plummeting confidence in government and big business, a pervasive fear that the future will be worse than today. People feel -- and rightfully -- that a dream has been betrayed, that the vision we once allowed ourselves has been replaced by arm dictatorships around the world.
- The corporations are not the same as their owners. They are the owners. They are the only big business that can pay dividends, or extract profits, or pay interest, or stop when the bottom falls out of control.

What happened? Has there been a conspiracy of corporate chieftains or are the powerful politicians the takeover? Of course not. Rather, times have changed an economic system which we can control and prosper across the continent has gradually become outdated. This country began as a place where people could reach to the stars and have their dreams come true.

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

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

Mike Hall
Thurston County Auditor

Yes, you can vote!

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

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

From a publication of the National Auditor's Office and Public Defense

THURSTON COUNTY Register at ThurstonVotes.org Or call (360) 786-5408

The Citizens Committee What you can do to help

...to the edge of disaster. A good place to start these cutbacks: the dangerous new MX missile program that has already escalated the arms race...
WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2019 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS
($3,207 FEDERAL FUNDS)

$3,207 BILLION

- Health Human Services
- Dept. of Education
- Social Security & Medicare Programs
- Housing & Urban Dev.
- Dept. of Justice
- Earned Income Credit
- Other Federal outlays

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

43% HUMAN RESOURCES

187 BILLION

- Health, incl. interest on debt
- Dept. of Justice
- State Dept (partial)
- Dept. of Homeland Security (partial)
- Int. Sec. Assistance (partial)
- Health/Human Services
- Judicial
- Social Security (partial)
- Other Federal outlays

20% PAST MILITARY

$644 BILLION

- Veterans Benefits
- Interest on national debt
- Military Personnel
- VA benefits
- Admin. expenses
- Other

27% CURRENT MILITARY

$857 BILLION

- Military Personnel
- DoD space
- Homeland Sec. (military)
- Internl. Security Assistance
- Retiree Pay/Healthcare
- DoE nuclear weapons/cleanup
- NASA (50%)•
- Internl. Security Assistance
- Defense
- Other

MILITARY: 47% AND $1,501 BILLION

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Past military” includes Dept. of Defense ($656 billion) and the military portion ($201 billion) from other departments as noted in current Federal Outlays. “Past military” represents what was actually spent on national defense: 60% of the national debt goes to military spending. “Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($656 billion) and the military portion ($201 billion) from other departments as noted in current Federal Outlays. “Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($656 billion) and the military portion ($201 billion) from other departments as noted in current Federal Outlays. “Past military” represents what was actually spent on national defense: 60% of the national debt goes to military spending. “Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($656 billion) and the military portion ($201 billion) from other departments as noted in current Federal Outlays. “Past military” represents what was actually spent on national defense: 60% of the national debt goes to military spending. “Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($656 billion) and the military portion ($201 billion) from other departments as noted in current Federal Outlays. 

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. It includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security) and most of the past military spending was from current military spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

Government Deception

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, making the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

April 2018

Works In Progress

Free, take one!
Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES WASHINGTON STATE

April 2018
Works In Progress - April 2018