Why public power is worth the fight

Citizens’ group to begin initiative process to move electrical service to Thurston PUD

Chris Stearns

An interesting development is now underway with the formation of a citizen’s group to advocate for Public Power—the distribution and generation of electricity by our county’s own public utility, Thurston PUD No. 1. Currently a water utility, Thurston PUD has grown a great deal over the last seven years. We need to consider how to more fully and operate water systems in Thurston and four neighboring counties. Going electric requires a county-wide vote in the general election. The citizen’s group, Thurston Public Power Initiative, was established by Thurston County residents to accomplish this goal by petitioning our county’s registered voters to place the issue on the ballot this fall. Their first task is to submit the petition language to our county auditor for approval and to collect nearly 12,000 valid Thurston County signatures to place the issue on the ballot this fall. Their deadline to accomplish this is early July.

In 2008, a similar citizen’s group in Jefferson County (Port Townsend area) succeeded in passing a county-wide vote and the Jefferson PUD will soon be entering a three year transition to take control of its electrical service at the end of March 2013. Similar ballot measures that have failed in Island and Skagit Counties. This proposal is not new to Thurston County. It first came about with the formation of our own public utility district (PUD) in 1936. The long period of court battles that ensued failed to bring the PUD into the electrical business. Several more attempts were made up to the early 1960’s when one of two supportive commissioners died suddenly, leaving the other hopelessly deadlocked with the third commissioner. Future elected commissioners later overturned the entire effort.

During our PUD’s first 23 years the issue went before the Federal Court and involved several other county PUDs’ attempt to take over Puget Power as well as another private utility. The last eruption 50 years ago even sparked a highly polarized dramatic debate in the state Capitol and led to the removal of the pro-public power and long time Speaker of the House, John O’Brien by defections from within his own Democratic Party.

Why the current interest in publicly controlled power? Our current investor owned utility (IOU) Puget Sound Energy is no longer a public utility, owned and operated (though nominally registered in the state of Delaware as a US Owned Utility) by an intrepid Works in Progress member, include felony assault in the third degree—the county claims Scott kicked an Olympia police officer. As of press date, charges have not yet been dropped. If you know Scott and his peaceful and generous spirit, you know how outrageous this is.

The bogus charges against Scott Yoos, an intrepid Works in Progress member and well-loved all-around community volunteer, include felony assault in the third degree—the county claims Scott kicked an Olympia police officer. As of press date, charges have not yet been dropped. If you know Scott and his peaceful and generous spirit, you know how outrageous this is.

The Reality of health concerns at the camp

When I heard the state was evicting Occupy Olympia, I was struck with a sense of deja vu: the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) was evicting occupants based on grounds of health and safety concerns, the same reason provided by a number of cities across the country to justify evicting their local Occupations. The state was likely emboldened by recent successful evictions across the country, namely the outcome of occupants at Seattle Central Community College just days before the Olympia eviction. But with so many cities using the reason of health and safety concerns, is it actually a valid complaint for every city and every occupation?

With so many cities using the reason of health and safety concerns, is it actually a valid complaint for every city and every occupation? For Olympia, the validity of the state’s health and safety concerns is not as clear-cut as they would like us to believe. One Occupy Olympia activist, who gave the alias name of Encore, is a student at The Evergreen State College and veteran who was trained as a medic in the military. We spoke as he was volunteering at the First Aid Tent. He believed the health and safety concerns were a “false pretense” for eviction. The camp had a “Peace and Safety” committee that patrolled the camp at night for safety issues. Many activists also pointed out that they were providing free health services to the community at a time when those services were being cut. (State legislators announced just one day before the eviction notice that they are cutting an additional $2 million dollars in the budget on top of $10 billion in reductions made over the last three years).

As Occupy Olympia organizers realized the magnitude of these needs, our focus shifted from simply describing these injustices to actually mitigating them,” Occupiers wrote in a letter to Governor Gregoire. “For two months, in addition to our other Work in Progress, we organized health, food, and security services, Occupies Olympia has run an all-inclusive, all-volunteer health care services agency in the mud—offering health care, drug and alcohol counseling, conflict mediation, food, shelter, and weather-appropriate clothing to those in need.” Occupiers’ efforts to assist those in need may have produced measurable outcomes. The number of emergency medical calls made to the Olympia Fire Department was slightly lower in the early months of the occupation. A representative of the fire department told me that in September through November.
President reverses decision, will sign National Defense Authorization Act

Human Rights Watch – US President Barack Obama's apparent decision to veto a defense spending bill that codifies indefinite detention without trial into US law ends the military's role in holding terrorism suspects does enormous damage to the rule of law both in the US and abroad. Human Rights Watch said today, The Obama administration had threatened to veto the bill, the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), over detainee provisions, but on December 14, 2011, it issued a statement indicating the president would likely sign the legislation.

"By signing this defense spending bill, President Obama will go down in history as the president who endorsed indefinite detention without trial in US law," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. “In the past, Obama has lauded the importance of being on the right side of history, but today he is definitely on the wrong side."

The far-reaching detainee provisions would codify indefinite detention out into US law for the first time since the McCarthy era when Congress in 1950, at the behest of President Harry Truman and passed the Internal Security Act. The bill would also bar the transfer of detainees currently held at Guantanamo into the US for any reason, including for trial. In addition, it would restrict transfers, imposed last year, on the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to home or third countries those cleared for release by the administration.

There are currently 171 detainees at Guantanamo, many of whom have been imprisoned for nearly 10 years. As one of his first acts in office, Obama signed an executive order for the closure of Guantanamo within one year. Instead of moving quickly to close the prison and end the use of the discredited military commissions, he supported modifications to the Military Commissions Act - “it is a sad moment when a president who has prided his own knowledge on his constitutionality principles succumbs to the politics of the moment to sign a bill that poses so great a threat to basic constitutional rights,” Roth said.

The bill also requires the US military to take custody of certain terrorism suspects even inside the United States, cases that previously have been handled by federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. During debate over the bill, several senior administration officials, including the secretary of defense, attorney general, director of national intelligence, director of the FBI, and director of the CIA, all raised objections to the provision interfering with administration's ability to effectively fight terrorism. In the last 10 years over 400 people have been prosecuted in US federal courts for terrorism related offenses. Meanwhile during that same period, only six cases have been prosecuted in the military commissions.

“President Obama cannot even justify these serious threats to basic rights on a basis of security,” Roth said. “The law replaces an effective system of civilian court proceedings with a system that has generated the kind of global outrage that will delight recruiters of terrorists."

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Dear Mayor Buxbaum and the new City Council
This is a Harrison and Division 7-Eleven update

Bethany Weidner

Westside residents and businesses are calling on the newly elected Mayor Stephen Buxbaum and the new City Council to stand up for the Comprehensive Plan and reject the staff-approved 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division.

How can the Mayor and City Council do this? After the City planning staff and the City’s Administrative Law Judge approved the 7-Eleven over the objections of a 1000 plus citizens and the SW Neighborhood Association, Dan Leahy, a longtime resident of the Westside, sued the City of Olympia in Superior Court to stop the 7-Eleven. Leahy’s suit is financed by 50 individuals and several Westside businesses. Leahy now as a principal in the lawsuit can talk with and negotiate directly with the other principals, i.e., the Mayor and City Council.

Now Leahy and 100 plus leaders of the near Westside neighborhood want the Mayor and City Council to settle the lawsuit by overturning the staff’s approval of the 7-Eleven. Leahy is formally asking the Mayor and City Council to settle.

The Mayor and City Council as the legislative body of the City is the policy making body of the City and, as such, is responsible to ensure the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. As Olympia City Attorney Tom Morrill has written in a recent Superior Court filing dated December 28th, 2011, the City Council “is entrusted with ensuring compliance with the City Code and Comprehensive Plan.”

In addition, the Mayor and Council have the statutory authority “to adopt and enforce ordinances of all kinds relating to and regulating its local or municipal affairs and appropriate to good government...” The City also “may sue and be sued in all courts and proceedings” and therefore settle suits.

Why should the Mayor and City Council settle this lawsuit by overturning the staff’s approval of the 7-Eleven? The Specifically on page three of this chapter, it talks about “The Corridors” and Harrison and Division is designated as a High Density Corridor. Here is the intention of the Plan: “Over time, the major arterial street corridors will change from areas dominated by strip commercial development and other low intensity uses into mixed use, high density areas where people enjoy walking, shopping, working, and living.” http://olympiawa.gov/documents/2009CompPlan

What did the planning staff approve? A strip commercial development with a low intensity use and the most auto-dependent use according to the City’s own impact fee schedule, i.e., a one story convenience store. In other words, the staff approved a project in complete contradiction of the Mayor and City Council’s stated policy.

So, why should the Mayor and City Council overturn the staff approval of the 7-Eleven? If they do not, the Comprehensive plan, the visioning process participated in by hundreds of citizens and the Council itself can only be seen as a giant farce with a legislative body refusing to carry out its statutory duty to enforce its own policies and ordinances and achieve its stated and important goals.

Please join us in asking the Mayor and City Council to settle the lawsuit and overturn the staff approved 7-Eleven. A seven council member will be appointed soon.

Iceland recognizes Palestine

Iceland Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ósæs Skarphéðinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Riad Malki, the Foreign Minister of Palestine, today (Dec 15) formally affirmed the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Iceland and Palestine. The Icelandic Foreign Minister presented to Dr. Malki a diplomatic note stating that as resolved with the Parliament- ary Resolution of 29 November 2011 the Government of Iceland has, as of 35 December 2011, recognized Pal- estine as an independent and sov- ereign state within the pre-1967 Six Day War borders.

At the press conference the Iceland- ic Foreign Minister said that with this recognition the Government of Iceland follows through on its previous pledges of support for the Pal- estinian struggle for independence. The minister thanked Atlanti, the Icelandic Parliament, for the broad support it showed the Palestinian cause and said it was important that the Parliamentary Resolution was passed unopposed. He said the recognition of Palestine was a mar- ter of justice and reiterated Icelandic support for Palestinian membership of the United Nations.

Dr. Malki said the relationship between Iceland and Palestine is unique and conveyed to the Govern- ment of Iceland, Parliament and the Icelandic people the deep apprecia- tion of his president and of the Pales- tinian people. He said Iceland’s deci- sion was important as Palestine is now recognized for the first time by a Western and Northern European country. Dr. Malki said he expects this to have an influence on other states to follow in Iceland’s foot- steps, which in turn would have posi- tive implications on the peace and security of the region as a whole. He added that 130 states now recognize Palestine which encourages them to move forward in building an inde- pendent and democratic state. Dr. Malki said the timing of the Parlia- mentary decision on November 29, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, was a meaningful gesture that would re- main firmly in the memory of his people.

You should write for WIP.
**Valerie Krull**

Coming from the day of protest on November 28 at the Capitol in Olympia I found myself swimming in a sea of emotions and thoughts. I had been asked by members of Occupy Olympia to be a police liaison, and I agreed to attempt this with some trepidation, though I also anticipated that it would not be a very active role, insofar as dealing with the police.

I spent the day keeping my awareness on the State Patrol, and trying to make respectful and human connection with them when possible. I had several interactions with them, as well as with employees of Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for the responsible for the entire Capitol Campus, including all buildings).

I was present for the arrests at the end of the day, though I did see video of the arrests and the protest that I also witnessed the interaction at the doors to the rotunda when the State Patrol arrived and DES refused to allow entry to protesters.

One Occupy participant expressed his concern to me as a police liaison, and the very idea of having a police liaison was not one of my personal perspectives. I made the liaison activity between a DES person (Tony, to many who know him) and a group of people near to what I called “cliff-like” edges in the center of the rotunda. My role, as I understood it, was to be a person the police and DES could talk to about the rotunda. I also witnessed the report of my exchanges with them to members of the Occupy group. I did not assume that in my role I was giving up my own perspective or my own voice (it was suggested by the person questioning my role that I should keep an unbiased stance.)

In my role I listened to Tony’s concerns which were twofold. One was his concern about the safety of the people atop the “cliff.” He expressed concern (and correctly so) about the possibility of the protestors’ risk of falling and his concern that some of them might be drunk as he had seen this happen on some people in the rotunda. He also expressed an objection to their plumbing into the power source that they had created. I told him I had been told me he planned to turn the power off to them, but I also explained to him that we were also because they were in effect stealing power which he said they could have arrested were they gone through the proper procedures.

I spoke to the protesters to tell them what I knew of the situation, what was nimated my personal perspective on this situation. The protesters offered the possibility of desisting from their actions solved another power source for their speakers. It was this offer which Tony realized without the rotunda building occupied by individuals, such as marring the building by graffiti and other physical destruction. Because I have had a relationship with Joyce since our move to Heritage Park where I chose to not have a power source that could be used instead of requiring the immediate removal of our tents, which she had been permitted. At the time I was speaking to me in good faith when she told me she was basing her decisions on her concerns for the Capitol Campus, for which she is responsible. (I do not agree with her perspective on these matters, n have not agreed with her perspective on certain conditions she has placed on our Occupation of Heritage Park, as I do not understand her sense of responsibility to her job.)

I brought up the issue of First Amendment rights with her, and she reiterated that we were free to assemble while the building was open for normal hours. We spoke again later about the allegations of Tasing, and she told me the State Patrol had not shown any evidence, had discussed this, nor have I agreed with her perspective on certain conditions she has placed on our Occupation of Heritage Park, as I do not understand her sense of responsibility to her job.)

I woke up this morning and watched the footage of the protesters attempting to stop the bus, and the State Patrol actually physically battling with people who wanted to stay. I heard the chants of “This is what a police state looks like” and thought of my conversation with Joyce in which I tried to articulate my belief that we do live in a police state (perhaps not as extreme as some other places) and my belief that our potential as humans is far greater than the limitations of our institutionalities. I also thought about the lack of unity experienced inside the occupation and the real feeling of dis apointment and futility. Now that I have had some time to think about it, a sense of relief has emerged. I will try to break it down as clearly as I can.

Since joining the Occupy Movement, which was the day we assembled in Sylvester Park, I have been a firm supporter of the General Assembly and the principles wrhich guide it, which I understand to be: inclusivity, horizontal direct democracy, and local and global direct action. Each of these principles is expressed by itself, and a movement which attempts to take them all on and work to enact all of them is courageous to say the least. I also think it’s the least we can do. Not one of these principles is dispensable. No one is absolute if you have to accept the interpretation, and as a consensus-based movement, we are still defining that process.

I want to use my experience of this par ticular moment in our movement to offer some observations in the definition of these principles.

**Inclusivity:** To me this means that our movement is open to all people—regard less of the issues they have, or their roles, or their relative social or economic privilege or lack thereof. It means that we
Assembly (GA) restructuring was trying.

The person spoke with the GA didn’t believe I should have been having any interaction with the State Patrol or DES. I believe that in the spirit of inclusivity we see these people, despite their roles, as people like us.

The idea of horizontal direct democracy: Yes. This is the best part. It means we really can’t change that by refusing to work with what is, right now.

The principle of horizontal direct democracy is truly radical. For over 10,000 years of patriarchy (and even considering the millennia involved in democracy), we have all been schooled in the realm of hierarchy, from the cradle through school. This principle is difficult to learn no matter how much we want it, and so we cannot expect people who are not even trying to learn it to be very good at it. And yet, we need to interact with these very same people. It is not simply a question of social and economic justice. Just as we do not throw people away because they are addicts, or have mental illnesses, or have any other aspect that makes them challenging to work with, we need to work with people who come from below or above.

The Occupy Movement is about the State Pat- ron (all police or military groups by their very nature) is a dominance-based entity that helps maintain social and economic systems. We are not going to change that by refusing to engage with the humans who inhabit those roles. I believe we need to engage, just very differently than most of us have experienced. I respect you for noticing and acting on this during the protest/State Patrol standoff at the ro- tunda.

Social and economic justice: This day of protest raised many issues that connect social and economic justice. We know that it is unjust that our police and military protect the wealthy and those who are aligned with the dominant cultural norms. And that the dominant cultural norms still uphold the privilege and protection of the wealthiest with the most social and economic privilege.

We are caught in the soup of this stuff. It is all around us and in us. We have to acknowledge first to ourselves where we experience oppression, and when we are in a privileged space it helps that haste from social and economic systems. We are not going to change that by refusing to engage with the humans who inhabit those roles. I believe we need to engage, just very differently than most of us have experienced. I respect you for noticing and acting on this during the protest/State Patrol standoff at the rotunda.

One day, cont. from page 4

do our best to support everyone to partic- 2012 Works In Progress Page 5

January 2012 Works In Progress Page 5

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Occupy Olympia, cont. from page 1

2011, 1,700 medical emergency calls were made to their department compared to 1,753 at the same time in 2010. This is not a significant reduction by any means, but it is still a slight decrease. A representative of the local American Medical Response, a private company that operates ambulances for local gov- ernments across the state, said he felt the past few months had been “slow”. A representative of the local American Medical Response, a private company that operates ambulances for local gov- ernments across the state, said he felt the past few months had been “slow” although he was unable to produce numbers by our deadline. “Medic One, the organization that handles emergen- cy calls in Thurston County, did not respond to repeated requests for statistics on emergency medical calls.”

In the months since the beginning of the Occupy Movement, the state has been exposed these social problems by drawing attention to the camps and a letter to Gregoire. “We have simply put forth a suggestion that the state might want to consider the state’s own resources.”

Jimmy B., said that the nature of camp- ing outside meant the camp wasn’t “spoke and span” but that it was still kept fairly clean. Groups of volunteers also cleaned the bathrooms daily.

The DES also pointed to concerns of drug abuse and mental health issues, but didn’t believe I should have been having any interaction with the State Patrol or DES. I believe that in the spirit of inclusivity we see these people, despite their roles, as people like us. And that the idea of horizontal direct democracy is truly radical.

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An OO activist named Stephanie told me that the Occupy Olympia camp was providing vital ser- vices. Without electricity, one occupier? It is illegal to camp at Heritage Park, yet the state had tolerated campers for two months. The state patrol had a relatively polite relationship with the camp, which did not always preclude serious confrontations.

Stephanie told me this was because oc- cupiers “have done everything the state has asked us to do in regards to our camp.” For instance, occupiers moved the tents away from the bathrooms daily. Occupiers are going to freeze to death if the state doesn’t do something.

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I ran for office over three years ago on a platform of building a local PUD, a way to deliver power without the prolonged storm power outages that leave our most vulnerable citizens helpless.

On Friday, January 6, the Thurston Public Power Initiative will begin collecting the roughly 15,000 county residents' signatures needed to get the initiative on the November 6 ballot. You can:

• Sign the petition at one of many locations in Thurston County
• Volunteer to gather signatures
• Contribute your time and expertise

The following Tuesday, January 10, you can attend the 3pm Thurston PUD meeting. The commissioners will discuss going ahead with an already-budgeted feasibility study for entering the electrical business in Thurston County.

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You can also donate money to help with the printing and other costs associated with the initiative process. Please make checks to Thurston Public Power Initiative, and mail to PO Box 766, Olympia, WA 98507-7664.

For more information on the location, the Initiative can be found, and how to volunteer, please contact the Thurston Public Power Initiative at one of the following:

• web address . . . . thurstonpublicpower.org
• email address . . . . info@thurstonpublicpower.org
• phone number . . . . 360-259-0551

The Thurston Public Power Initiative is not in any way, connected with Tim Eyman.
Open Letter To The New Olympia City Council

Stand Up For The Plan: Reject the 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division

January 3, 2012

Honorable Mayor Stephen Buxbaum and Council Members Jim Cooper, Steve Langer, Nathaniel Jones, Jeannine Roe, and Karen Rogers:

We are among the thousand plus citizens of Olympia who oppose the City staff’s approval of an auto-dependent, 7-Eleven convenience store on the SE corner of Harrison and Division.

You, as the legislative body for the City of Olympia, have the authority to overturn the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven.

Please stand up for the Comprehensive Plan and for the vision of Olympia that underpins the City’s commitment to a dense, pedestrian friendly and community oriented environment, one that creates “a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists, and which includes parking and access for vehicles.” (OMC 18.06.20).

On November 28, 2011, Dan Leahy, a long time resident of SW Olympia, filed a suit against the City Council in Superior Court, asking the Court to overturn the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven.

All of us, Dan included, believe the best way to settle this issue is for the City Council to pass a resolution overturning the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven. **We hope you will act by January 24th.**

Your direct action will send a signal to all those working for and envisioning a new Olympia that this City Council is serious in its commitment to an effective and enforceable Comprehensive Plan.

Westside neighbors and institutions have for years expressed their desire for a park, a farmers’ market, a branch public library, a gathering spot at this vacant lot.

Now, we have another public option. A combination public park and new West Olympia police substation. The current substation has only a year to year lease and it has been suggested that the Harrison/Division lot would be an ideal location. Neighbors believe this would be a real “traffic calming” device and ensure efficient Westside police response.

Please consider our request. **Overturnd the staff’s approval of the 7-Eleven.** Work with us for a real, public and beneficial use for this site in the heart of the Westside that is not in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.

Joel Greene  
John Bates  
Peter Sanderson  
Tom Foote  
Joslyn Rose Trivett  
Kathleen Byrd  
Cynthia Sanderson  
Elizabeth Baldo  
Carolyn Roos  
Helen Lee  
Diana Renison  
Kathy Harrigan  
Philip Cornell  
Christine Ciancetta  
Liz Dalton  
Gita Moulton  
Caroline Lacey  
Steve Brink  
Hank Govert  
Clark Gilman  
Ann Vandeman  
Doug Fulwider  
Angela Van Camp  
Vivian Folsom  
Bill Leonard  
Loraine Snell  
Jeanne Rynne  
Chelsea Buchanan  
Lori Blewett  
Ryan Warner  
Paul Przybyłowicz  
Caleb Hollatz  
Julie Mullikin  
Jennifer Grant  
Dan Leahy  
JD Ross Leahy  
Rebecca Pilcher  
Julie Karlson  
Bruce Laing  
Jean Mandeberg  
Chris Jennings  
Julia Swank  
George Kurzman  
Angel Przybyłowicz  
Vicki Leonard  
Julia Zay  
Robin Ewing  
Keith Briscoe  
Lucas Claussen  
Peter Bohmer  
Gen Keesecker  
Megan Jones  
Catherine Goldberg  
Cassandra Johnson  
Renée Crandall  
Anthony Zaragoza  
Brendan Kelley  
Tyrel Dressler  
Cameron Hostetter  
Cynthia Taylor  
Jim Ammons  
Gabriel Taylor  
Kimberly Murillo  
William Simons  
Ben Hume  
Elizabeth Williamson  
Michael Synodis  
Rebecca Govert  
Jude Fritts  
Juliana Kimmel  
Levi Keesecker  
Kendra Sawyer  
Jeff Thomas  
Rachel Lee  
Jean Eberhardt  
Bethany Weidner  
Alicia Elliott  
Stan Lewis  
Dylan Sharp  
Dan Ryan  
Charles Swank  
Muriel Davis  
George Sullivan  
Michael Olson  
Melissa Gildersleeve  
Cynthia Shannon  
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Monica Gockel  
Nancy Franco  
Eryn Farkas  
Chris Runner
Democratic deviancy defined downward

Our politicians are little more than money launderers in the trafficking of power and policy

Bill Moyers

Public Citizen celebrated 40 years of progress at its annual celebration on November 29, 2011. Nearly 600 friends and supporters shared the night as they reflected on our successes and looked to the future. Supporters included Peace Prize Laureate John M. Samuel and U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer.

I am very honored to share this occasion with you. No one, since Thomas Jefferson, who was a citizen by the work of two men to whom I am indebted, has had the power for my life for over 40 years, or been more aware of the battles that the successes you have won, and the passion for democracy that still courses through your veins, than someone who has been a part of millions of people.

So if belief in “the dog in the muckracker’s skin deep, there are reasons for it. During the great prairie time of the plains, the whole existence of a century after the Constitution was ratiﬁed, the populist orator Mary Elizabeth Lease exclaimed: “Wall Street owns the country... Our laws are the output of a system which clothes rascals in robes and honors the political parties lie to us and the political speakers mislead us because” she said, “Money rules.” People who hate to see the moneyed populists boil over with anger that corporate power dominates the political parties.

They should see us now. We are the 99%. Our roots are on the bankers, holds out his cup, and offers them total obeisance from the House majority if they only will fear as an unseemly “veneration of wealth” are now openly in government, and the denunciation of public ofﬁce, including for our judges, is a common defense.

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People who hate to see the moneyed populists boil over with anger that corporate power dominates the political parties. They should see us now. We are the 99%. Our roots are on the bankers, holds out his cup, and offers them total obeisance from the House majority if they only will fear as an unseemly “veneration of wealth” are now openly in government, and the denunciation of public ofﬁce, including for our judges, is a common defense.

Barack Obama criticizes bankers as “fat cats”, then invites them to dine at a public second, if at all.

President Obama has raised more money from banks, hedge funds, and private equity managers than any Republican candidate, including Mitt Romney.

pricey New York restaurant where the tasting menu runs to $195 a person. As we speak, the President has raised more money from banks, hedge funds, and private equity managers than any Republican candidate, including Mitt Romney.

Let’s name it for what it is: Democratic deviancy defined downward. Politics today, and there are honorable women and men, are a far cry from the policies and principles of those who believe money laundering in the trafficking of (fearsome) to enact the policies favored by a majority of Americans. We speak, we write, we ad

So as Ralph [Nader] say, don’t ever count the people out. During the last quarter of a century the Senate convicted of “free speech” as living, breathing hu

The ink was hardly dry on the Citizens United decision when the US Chamber of Commerce, with a stroke of a single second of separation from the spirit and tactics of Tony Soprano.

Worst of all, Zuccotti Park is occupied is no mystery. Reporters keep scratching their heads and asking: Why is it happening? This is the same question since the financial crash of 2008, when they are occupying Wall Street because Wall Street has occupied the America. Indeed, the first time a woman was carrying at a fraternal march in Iowa the other day, one of those occupy that this time around covered by the media. It read: “I can’t afford to buy a politician so I bought this sign.”

Placed by fate’s mysterious schemes Who’d believe that we’re the ones asked to “rekindle the patriot’s dreams”?

Public Citizen/Brendan Hoffman

Ameri

President Obama has raised more money from banks, hedge funds, and private equity managers than any Republican candidate, including Mitt Romney.
Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities
Build a local legislative solidarity movement – part two

Carole Willey, BSW

Through this and future articles, I plan to teach legislative advocacy knowledge to our community to use in the coming decades.

Develop your own public policy that you want and desire for society.

Well-rounded legislative education, skilled with resourceful knowledge and contacts, and access to people who can answer any question that may arise, is needed. For years, I have been encouraging different groups/coalitions to create their own innovative (public policy) by developing and drafting their own legislation to submit for legislative process. In the 2011 legislative session, I was so pleased that POWER took a leap of faith to write their own TANF bill to save money for that program thereby reducing the impact of budget cuts for families on TANF.

For passionate, enthusiastic local activists who are considering doing the same, the below items are descriptions of some social action network strategies for the Legislative Interim (from the end of one legislative session to the beginning of the next). A. Formal lobbying network - Establish a new type of Action Network either as a Grassroots Lobby Group (GLG) or as a Political Action Committee (PAC). A PAC is used to collect funds to advance legislation. Donations for this purpose are tax deductible. Once the Legislative Advocacy Day events, you must start requesting as soon as possible to secure your dates. C.1 Alternate Plans: Consideration should be carefully weighed before making this decision; Senators have preference to their conference rooms so they can ‘call a meeting for those rooms. It is highly unlikely to be ‘dumped’ during the Legislative Interim, but a contingency plan should include alternative location such as a nearby restaurant.

D. Free Legislative Trainings & Accessible Hearing Rooms: While your organization plans periodic meetings in Olympia consider meeting at the capitol campus. You can make arrangements for a hour-long, free training to be added to your agenda. These free trainings are conducted by experienced legislative staff in either the O’Brien hearing rooms or Cherberg Building’s conference rooms. What a cost savings it would be with budgeting cuts.

E. Create Bill Tracts: Newly created legislation requires a mandatory processing procedures. Set pattern of action as the legislature becomes a draft, which can for some organization take months that begins in late spring or early summer, is advised to promote continuing the bill in coalitions. After a bill is in semi-final draft by creator of the draft, it is then meet with a legislator’s approval to be sent to the Code Revisor’s Office for final draft and prepared for legislative sponsors (primary sponsor and secondary sponsors) by gathering their signatures as soon as possible. If it is vital to have all this work done before September. Once the bill has sponsors, you can drop the bill (for assigned number). Asking committee members to help should start in late fall for existing bills. Having a hearing is just the beginning of the legislative process.

In 2007, I wrote and introduced the below bill. In 2010, the bill on Civil Commitment proceedings, protecting rights of individuals with mental disorders was approved. SB 6807. (To see summary, go to: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2009&bill=6807). Promoting your legislative bills by 1) developing a theme, 2) working with coalitions, and 3) use data to support your arguments so the public would support your bill. To help you promote your bill, you must gather supporting information to use in preparing legislative handouts: fact sheets, position statements, and endorsement lists. By utilizing endorsement lists for promotion and coalition building, you can expand your efforts with other like-minded coalitions. Appropriate data is used to educate the public to support your bill and then later convince the legislature to vote ‘yes’ for in committee and ‘yes’ for a floor vote.

For example, it might be helpful to join together with large, statewide coalitions for various issues like the People for Puget Sound (PPS), the largest environmental coalition in Washington. In 2009 for the first time, I witnessed the healthcare and environmentalist organizations coming together and being politically focused on long-term outcomes.

If environmental healthcare is your interest, it is time to join PPS and join other environmental groups. Some disabilities could be directly caused by toxic chemicals. I am a member of PPS and could make my arguments for this suggestion.

This is the focus of my business called Holistic Health and Advocacy to provide a concept of a sustainable mental health with true recovery choices and providing information on a well-being type approach embracing: body, mind, spirit, and emotions at the same time embracing the protection of our environment and our earth.

I would start by using the Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition 2006 Report entitled: Pollution in People. This report fostered my reasons to co-found the Health Free Washington with Ann Clifton in 2012.

Carole Willey is a local community organizer and strategist with legislative and campus expertise.

Bill Moyers is back on PBS

I’m coming back in January with a new series— on Moyers & Company – on the public television station near you. Moyers’ journalism has long been for me a continuing course in adult education. Given what’s happening in this country, it’s time to sign up for more classes. The lack of civility and common sense that has paralyzed democracy, the vast economic and social inequality that sends both left and right winging into the streets, the corrosive influence of money in politics—we’re in a tailspin with little hope for a correction from our elected leadership or corporate-dominated media. The need for voices of reason, simple and eloquent, has rarely been stronger…

I’ll be reaching out in this new series to people engaged in the trials and errors of democracy, who have tested their ideas against experience, and who know that the health of our political system is everybody’s business. This will be a political series, but not a partisan one. In the conversation of democracy, everyone’s invited. So join us in January. — Bill Moyers

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January 2012
Works In Progress Page 9
Should Occupy Olympia Become a Party?

What does the Occupy Movement need to do to be heard?

Janet Jordan

Occupy Olympia, along with occupations in most other cities, is being very careful to maintain its independence from political parties.

Commentators have cheered this independence. The movement offers a cold appraisal of the two major parties, which they believe is the primary motive behind the Occupy Movement. If the major parties would only look at the Occupy Movement with its purity and vision to be the first country to let people vote, so we would do it without going back to the polls. The major parties don't want minor parties to have their ideas. But the major two parties don't want a "third" party will offer a second option. With a runoff system, one of the major parties would be happy if the third party had never run, but the two majors will still not be happy. The third party has demonstrated that a candidate of that size. The Occupation Party would be squashed. There are many small parties across the country today finds itself inside a meat-grinder. The real reason why we don't want to see an Occupied Party is because any third party in America today finds itself inside a meat-grinder. Those who believed that discredited their ideas.

Enough of This Bull! by Strife

For accumulating wealth and power through your evil greed
For callously trampling over the people's needs
For your theft of resources at home and overseas
For privatizing everything as far as the eye can see
For twisting and perverting our democracy
Incentivizing bail-outs and budget cut integrity
For masquerading as the engine of human history
For foregrounding homes and kicking us onto the streets
For destroying the environment and pillaging nature's beauty
Profitting from exploitation & suffering at every opportunity
We say enough is enough
No More Corporate Greed
Now We will电站 sleep
So the people can be free

The real reason we don't want to see an Occupied Party is because any third party in America today finds itself inside a meat-grinder. They fail, and that discredits their ideas.
Debt-free US notes were once issued under JFK and the US Government still has the power to issue debt-free money

The Economic Collapse

Most Americans have no idea that the US government once issued debt-free money directly. In 1964, President Kennedy issued the JFK commemorative coin which was debt-free. These coins were a way for the federal government to issue debt-free money.

In 2012, the American government still has the power under the US Constitution to issue debt-free money. The Constitution states: "The Congress shall have Power To borrow Money on the Credit of the United States;..."

It is important to understand that debt-free money is different from the currency we use today. Debt-free money is not backed by anything physical, such as gold or silver. Instead, it is backed by the government's promise to pay it back eventually.

Why is this important? Because it means that the government has the power to create more money whenever it wants to. This is what we call "fiat money." The government can create as much debt-free money as it wants, without having to worry about inflation or deflation.

But why hasn't the US government created more debt-free money? One reason is that the Federal Reserve System was created to control the money supply. The Federal Reserve System is a private central bank that is owned by commercial banks.

The Federal Reserve System has a lot of power to control the money supply, which means that it can affect the prices of goods and services. This is why the Federal Reserve System is often called the "lender of last resort."

The Federal Reserve System is also responsible for creating and destroying money. This means that it has a lot of power to influence the economy.

But the Federal Reserve System is not the only way to create money. The US government still has the power to create money, even without the help of the Federal Reserve System.

So why doesn't the US government create more debt-free money? One reason is that the US government is worried about inflation. Inflation is when the prices of goods and services go up over time.

But inflation is not the only reason why the US government doesn't create more debt-free money. The US government is also worried about debt. When the government creates too much money, it can lead to high interest rates and a decrease in the value of the dollar.

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But the US government still has the power to create debt-free money. The Constitution states that the government has the power to "borrow money on the credit of the United States." This means that the government has the power to create money whenever it wants to.
Leonard represents how far the government will go to suppress an activist who stands in the way of the greed types that do little more than gripe about the movement because it is not correct for one to bend to the force that makes them angry that they are not in command. Beware Sisters and Brothers, movements are destroyed when they have been talked about instead of truly being spoken about. They create a culture of excuses why such things happen, they make an excuse for why they are not coming, excuses can become contagious. I saw this happen with the Anti-Vietnam War protests and with the model that those marches did not go so well. But it is interesting to note that the government, then and now, did all that they could to suppress the movement and did nothing to those that would stand up to them.

We call this a struggle because it isn't easy. I truly wish we could achieve our goals and move on from this struggle as we face the clubs, gas, and jails, please remember one thing, they would not try to stop the rich who gain from the rich keep getting richer and the rest of us suffer and do without. They may kick and scream, beat us, gas us, and jail us, but this is what we must go through to reach the other side where social change is found. In other words, their temper tantrums are only showing us that we are living in a time of change and that is not one that one bit.

The Occupy Movement, like all grassroots movements, starts off at some point and progresses. How far the Occupy Movement goes depends upon how long it can stay strong and learn. I have been a social activist organizer since the 1960s and I do not know everything. A Native elder once said to me that the first step to wisdom is understanding that you do not know everything. Life is a learning experience that starts when you come into this world and ends when you pass on from this world. If you stop learning you cease to live.

I have read some writers state that the origins of the Occupy Movement comes from one place and they will have you believe that their point or points could be an influence, it is just one of many. The culture of the rulers likes to show us history as single events, that way they can call all of our efforts failures, but the truth is that the struggle of the people against those that hold most of the wealth has been one long journey. It shows itself in different ways but all connected. As a society that we are fighting on a global level. If you stop learning you cease to live.

The origins can be clearly seen in the history of the occupation of Alcatraz. In the Wobblies Free Speech Fights, as the boat of Wobblies was coming into port at Seattle, the Sheriff called out, “Who are your leaders?” The Wobblies responded, “We are all leaders.” It can be seen in the Bonus Army and the Wounded Knee at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, and the last spring, just to name a few. With-out going into the long history of Native American resistance, it can be said that the movement that included occupations at Alcatraz, Port Lawton, the IRA Office in DC, Wounded Knee, Gresham, Cascadia (here in Tacoma), and a number of other occupations. There are some more documents that can be pointed to, but the true

No matter how hard they try to beat us, gas us, pepper spray us, and even Taser us, as they did to a few in Olympia, they cannot suppress our voice and spirit. No matter how many have been arrested, all that happened was that the jails got occupied, too.

As late as November 2003, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that “much of the government’s behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its prosecution of Mr. Peltier has been in violation of due process. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed.”

Members in this case found them not guilty for reason of self-defense. Leonard has been in prison for over 36 years. We are asking for Clemency for Leonard Peltier.

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Car pool from Olympia: There will be a carpool leaving from the parking lot at Harrison and Division at 10:15 a.m. Arthur J. Miller is the NW Regional Organizer for Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Leonard Peltier of the Anishinaabe, Dakota, and Lakota Nations, long time Native activist and member of the American Indian Movement. Leonard Pel-tier, an innocent man, was convicted for the 1975 freight on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in which two AIM members and two FBI agents died. AIM had been asked by elders for help after over 60 traditional people had been murdered. The FBI raided a camp to ordain direct attention away from the illegal signing away of Lakota land for uranium. US prosecutors have repeatedly admitted that they did not, and cannot, prove Peltier’s guilt, and the appellate courts have cited numerous instances of investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case. As late as November 2001, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that “much of the government’s behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its prosecution of Mr. Peltier has been in violation of due process. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed.”

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Award from the Thurston Diversity Council

Occupy Olympia accepts Human Rights Award from the Thurston Diversity Council

Thursday, Dec. 19, Olympia—The Thurston Diversity Council presented Occupy Olympia with a Human Rights Award. The award celebrates an Achievement in the Area of Human Rights. Occupy Olympia (OO) accepted the award with gratitude and pride for the important work that has been done, and the positive change that has been achieved. This may be just the beginning, and it is good for OO stawarts to recognize for their hard-work and contribution to the field of human rights. Thank you, Diversity Council!

Prior to the Human Rights Award, the Council presented Community Youth Services with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Watch the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3U8USQ28BNI and here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=npOqzvF6L0Y

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Occupancy is ongoing
Is on Facebook
Is working on the street
Has general assemblies

You can’t evict an idea.

The Rachel Corrie Community Center

Amid eviction, Occupy Olympia activists spark an idea

Marissa Luck

At approximately 12:30 am on December 16, protesters from Occupy Olympia moved into a vacant building across the street from their camp—just 29 minutes after their eviction deadline had passed. The state issued an eviction notice the previous morning, just a day after the end of the Special Legislative Session, telling activists to leave by 12:01 am Friday. Although around 60 tents were voluntarily removed throughout the day on December 15, around 60 tents remained after the deadline, and more than 300 supporters gathered at midnight in expectation of a police confrontation. When police or state troopers did not come, saying they would arrive at 6 am instead, occupiers quietly marched to a building across the street from their camp. The protesters discovered an unlocked door to the building and let themselves in to find working lights and electricity.

Protesters immediately began moving food, water, and chairs into the building, hanging signs, and constructing a barricade of wood pallets and dumpsters in anticipation of a confrontation with police, similar to crackdowns on local Occupy Seattle and Portland camps. Occupiers said they were moving to the vacant building because of the cold winter temperatures and the eviction notice. They said they wanted to turn the building into a democratically-run community center named the “Rachel Corrie Community Center,” after the activist killed by the Israeli military in 2003.

Craig Corrie, Rachel Corrie’s father told the Associated Press, “We want to keep Occupying Olympia activists out of the Rachel Corrie Community Center,” after the activist killed by the Israeli military in 2003.

Craig Corrie, Rachel Corrie’s father said he was “surprised but honored” that Occupy Olympia activists had thought of naming the building after his daughter. “She died trying to protect someone’s home,” Craig reminded me. He pointed out the issue of homelessness is connected to the Palestinian struggle to return home and protect their current homes. Although he said he couldn’t claim to speak for his daughter, he believed Rachel would have “certainly been focused on having the community have a space for the homeless.” He continued, “When you talk about human rights, you’re talking about universal rights and those need to be protected everywhere.”

The vacant building had previously been a Thurston County Department of Health building. The property was owned by Capital Shores Investments, a local firm connected to Triway Enterprises (TriVo) that was involved in attempting to build the controversial condominiums along the city’s isthmus. In March 2011 though, Capital Shores Investments filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and the property was later foreclosed by First Citizens Bank & Trust Co. Around 20-30 people remained in the building while a small crowd of supporters gathered outside until the wee hours of the morning. Later in the day though, protesters had voluntarily cleared out the building because they were told by local authorities they would be issued a warrant if they did not leave. One protester was arrested for trespassing but was later released from custody, according to The Olympian.

Protesters peacefully left the building just hours after the state patrol began clearing out the remaining occupants at Heritage Park (no arrests were made). By mid-year, the Department of Enterprise Services had fenced off the park, stacked wood palettes previously used for tent structures, and removed occupiers’ belongings. They said that people have until January 3 to claim their possessions. Despite being cleared out from the building just hours after they had claimed it, occupiers seemed hopeful. “Occupy Olympia had to strategically retreat, for now, from the isthmus building and the creation of the Rachel Corrie Community Center,” a blogger wrote on the Occupy Olympia website, “but the idea has been sparked.”

Marissa Luck is a community journalist based in Olympia, Washington. She is a partner in a firm. She recently graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collective of the Counter Point Journal and Inskew.
Nicole Foss to speak at Green Party event

Janet Jordan

The Green Party of Washington State has invited Nicole Foss to speak on “A Roadmap For the Coming Years of Crisis” on the evening of Saturday, January 28. In preparation, I watched several videos of her speeches. She is a kind of Paul Revere, moving among city, warning us of the need to act before the catastrophe is upon us.

The coming collapse seems to be a popular topic these days, but none of the other prophets are quite like Nicole. There are essays about the end of oil; predictions about what will happen to the dollar; lots of talk about the end of the American empire. Bill McKibben and many others write about the cataclysmic possibilities of climate change. But Nicole Foss speaks from all of these perspectives at once, and explains their interactions.

Nicole accepts climate change is coming, also declining oil production, and knows those things are not negotiable—“Nature doesn’t negotiate.” Ultimately, those things will drive our civilization unfold in the future. But she says, we will get through the financial crunch before we see the effects of peak oil or climate change—as soon as the next few years. A credit crunch is setting in; many companies will go out of business because the drying up of credit, and the income they generated will stop. This is the collapse people will notice first. Technically it would be called deflation; the common term would be a depression.

Nicole describes the effects of deflation on the global, national and personal levels. Nationally, income will be collected and eventually services will be impacted. For a while deflation will have good effects on our climate, because less industrial activity will translate into fewer greenhouse gas emissions; but this will be a much noticed under crisis conditions.

As the supply of oil dwindles, we will notice the inefficiency of what supplies do exist, but before this happens Nicole predicts a glut. If this surplus is allowed to go to waste, and a happens when cattle can’t be maintained during a drought: many are killed prematurely and are converted into meat, followed by low production levels. Simi- larly, when the money supply contracts and people can’t pay for oil, the oil companies won’t be able to develop new sources or even maintain their existing ones; they can only sell what they have available—cheep, since demand is so low. After the glut passes, supplies will be hard to come by.

Nicole agrees with many other observ- ers that you will be in better shape in a city that is 75% different than the one you are in suburbs, especially new suburbs. Cities will still have their services after service to rural areas and farms and a farm can provide much of what it needs itself. In cities and older suburbs, it’s possible to establish a community whose mem- bers trust each other and find ways to provide each other with what they need. New suburbs may have to be abandoned.

On the personal level, Nicole warns that debt will be hard to service after sources dry up. She recommends that peo- ple direct themselves to whatever goods they are paying off month by month, and trans- lation into a credit crunch, which will rise in value as money deflates. Cash will be needed for adjusting to the new situation.

In communities, people can prepare for the loss of central service by estab- lishing parallel ones on a community level—water, garbage removal, gas and oil, electricity, schools, and many others. Relations of trust should be estab- lished now while it is still possible. Her overall prediction are some- what gloomy, as she feels that the level of sophistication we now enjoy will not be seen again. People don’t have the en- ergy resources our current level requires. While half the world’s oil is still in the sand, it will be difficult to get out, and its removal will use up more of the energy we do have. (Return on energy investment needs to be about 10% to maintain our lifestyle. She estimates the ratio to be about that now, but due to be less in the future.) The curve of energy use is much steeper on the way down than on the way up.

She feels a lot of people may become angry as they see the extent of their loss, and warns that we let our communities start with the situation we have, she says, make realistic plans to deal with it, and don’t dwell on the past.

I found Nicole’s videos quite fascinat- ing. It’s end-of-the-world stuff, but with a lot of realist, she can explain exactly how and why the financial crunch will take place, for example, and she refers to past crises, explains how they worked, and how this one is different. It’s all delivered with perfect aplomb and verbal certainty—she never has to think about what word to use next. One of the most interesting of the videos told that the US government has plans to prepare for the future. They moved out of England altogether; the only pursuit in England is to get out and, she said, was pushing pounds of money around as if someone thought they were creating something up, but they made sure they had multiple, redundant layers of energy for all their needs. There’s the kitchen woodstove, which warns the house all day on a stick of wood because the farmhouse is so tight. There’s an old wood-fuelled furnace for winters (for both space and water heating). She says if everyone used wood, it would only last about 3 years, but on the farm they have the wood and can use it sustainably. In summer, solar panels heat the water. As a backup, they are on the community electric grid, and for emergencies there are generators. Nicole counted eight dif- ferent ways she could cook a meal. There are vegetables growing, and some live- stock. Nicole’s family eats meat; she feels it is a luxury to live vegetarian, and in fact it gets harder and harder as one moves north.

Growing up, the Foss chil- dren were taught they needed to choose a practical profes- sion, one that they could use even if sophisticated city systems broke down. For her daughter, this meant learning massage rather than getting a nursing degree (although you’ll be glad to know she got the degree later). The son had the misfortune of not having clever hands, so the poor boy had to take up opera singing. Nicole explains that even this can be useful, even after opera stages are a thing of the past. Everyone needs song.

As with all her videos, Nicole finished this one with a smile of surpassing sweetness. She’s told us of crisis and emergency, but the smile contains only peace. It seems to say, That was my gift to you. Perhaps it is our gift to you, through circumstances, however dire, to simple human connections. I think Nicole’s gift well to be valuable for all of us as time goes on, not only for the practical advice, but for the human perspective.

Nicole will be speaking at the Friends Meeting House on Boston Harbor Road, Saturday, January 28, from 7 to 9 PM, with a question and answer period afterwards.

Nicole is an international energy and finance expert, and co-editor of www.theautomatiearch.blogspot.com blog. Formerly, she was a Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies where she specialized in nuclear safety in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, she conducted research into elec- tricity policy at the EU level, and is for- mer editor of The Oil Drum - Canada. Ms Foss is an internationally known speaker on the subject of Peak Oil and the col- lapse of the global financial system.

Frankenfish could trigger aquaculture

Organic Bytes—The Canadian non- profit Living Oceans has learned that Agriculture Canada is consider- ing a genetically engineered salmon, the first genetically engineered fish under review by the Agriculture Canada and Development Agency for potential sale to US consumers, tested positive for a new strain of Human Salmonella. In Nov.2009, ISA is a virus that has trig- gered devastating disease outbreaks (90% death rate) in stocks of farmed Atlantic salmon around the world.

The news that Frankenfish could soon be a new salmon disease bodes just after the US Senate Subcommit- tee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisher- ies and Coast Guard held a hearing to weigh the risks and benefits of introducing the product into the US marketplace. Alaska Democratic Senator Mark Begich called for the hearing. In Oc- tober, Begich introduced legislation to ban GE fish from interstate com- merce. The act was entitled “Proten- tion of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States” (P EGASUS).

Israel combines special forces

Israel announced it will place its special forces under one command. This will allow them to “operate more from Israel’s borders in the ‘third circle’—a term that generally applies to the Gulf and the Horn of Africa.” This circle would include Iran.

According to the Guardian, “Iran, Syria and Lebanon are home to lost several nuclear scientists and military brass to assassinations, nuclear defectors and espionage, feeding speculation that Israel and Western allies are already waging cyber campaigns.”

Source: The Guardian

Court demands Health Canada re-examine toxicity of Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide

Organic Bytes—A court has ordered Health Canada to reconsider its de- cision not to review the effects of a popular herbicide, a ruling that some regime bring the public’s hand in forcing the government to answer environmental concerns.

“[70% of the public] want,” said Jesse Wier, who took the govern- ment to court after a forestry com- pany deforested her land with genetically engineered herbicides. “This is another way to open the door.”

Wier asked for a special review on the use of Roundup, especially when it is combined with a controversial called POEA that allows it to spread more evenly.

We provided 15 viewed studies that raised questions about the Roundup-POEA combination’s effect on the health of fish and wildlife. The study found several factors that, if present together, could have a minimal impact on fish and wildlife.

Tar Sands Pipeline approval delayed

SchNEWS!—Tar sands activists in Canada have delayed the controver- sial Northern Gateway Tar Sands Pipeline Approval process until at least the end of 2015.

The pipeline plans would transport 252,000 barrels of crude oil a day—from Alberta’s tar sands fields, through waterways that host a threatened salmon popula- tion, through the Francis River and coastal ecosystem—to a port ready for waiting tankers to cross the Pacific to China. First Nation activist groups have pledged to stop any pipeline construction on their land through mass civil disobedience.
Regularly held events

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Clean for Thurston County Television (TCTV)

The Royal Lounge
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey
Locally produced civil affairs show with a focus on veterans. As an organization, we have a mission to support our veterans and their families. We are currently in need of volunteers to sort and cleaningsupplies for families in need—items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc.

**PLEASE DONATE!** Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonehollow Youth Support Groups
Thurston County, Wash., 4th Ave, Suite D
Monday 6-7p.m; Tuesday 4-5p.m; Wednesday 9-10p.m; Thursday 6-7p.m and under group 7-9p.m for 18+ group.

An organization of youth, activists, and allies who live in Thurston County since 1996, biweekly, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual youth and allies who seek to always educate our communities, and support each other.

Stonehollow Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a place to find belonging, understanding, and support. Our vision is their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights.

www.stonehollowyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)

Meetings Monthly

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of local and global issues. Letters 866-2404 or info@omjplaw.org

*The Veterans Hour,* locally produced civil affairs program for Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22

Wednesday, 5 pm

A forum for veterans by veterans. Doors open at 9 and show at 10.

Bridges Not Walls Olympics meeting

Saturday, January 4, 7-9 pm

El Corazon

109 Eastlake Avenue East, Seattle

Call 493-8642 for more information.

Food Benefits - under ground hip hop, dubstep, and dbnd dance party

Le Voyeur, Olympia

Le Voyeur, Olympia

Le Voyeur, Olympia

500 5th Ave NE, Suite 200

Tuesday, January 3, 7:30-10 pm

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice.

Info: Karin 754-4085 or info@womeninblackolympia.org

Sonic Youth for Peace

Thursday, January 19, 6-9 pm

Vashon Island, WA

Sonic Youth for Peace is a network of people who believe in peace and social justice. We promote peace and social justice through music, stories, poetry, art, and pan-ethnic, pan-cultural, and pan-linguistic performance.

Tickets are by donation. Suggested donation $25, but please pay what you can.

Stories of Captivity and Restoration

Playback Theatre Performance

Friday, January 3, 7:30 p.m.

Le Voyeur, Olympia

There will be a motion to endorse New America (167), a Sanctuary Community. Ground Zero Center to occupy the streets Seattle, from 7 to 9 PM. Please join us.

*The evening features Nicole Foss, internationally recognized speaker on energy and financial issues.*

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice.

Info: Karin 754-4085 or kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil

Friday, 4-6:30 pm

4th Avenue and West Street, Olympia

All are welcome to come to witness for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of supplies. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation (FOR) helps create a welcoming community for anyone who seeks nonviolent direct action.

Bread and Roses

Saturday, 1-5 PM

1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We have a food garden! If you have a pick up truck, hay yard tools to loan, are passionate about growing organic food, keep security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved. Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses volunteers help serve a meal to the hungry. Saturday evening. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org/574-4085
The REINS Act passes through the House

OMB Watch — On December 7, the US House representatives passed the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY), represents an extreme attack on safeguards that protect our environment, food, children’s toys, workplaces, health, civil rights, and economy.

“If the REINS Act were enacted, it would undermine the ability of federal agencies to enforce existing laws and prevent the executive branch from carrying out its mission to protect the health and welfare of the American people,” said OMB Watch President Katherine McFate.

The REINS Act would require congressional approval of all new, major health, safety, and environmental rules. Under the bill, if rules are not approved by both houses of Congress within 70 legislative days, those rules would be “tabled” — in other words, they would die.

“Pushed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and anti-government ideologues, the REINS Act is a backdoor way for irresponsible corporations to circumvent the system of consumer protections that has grown up over the past 40 years,” McFate continued. “Conservative politicians know Americans would not stand for the repeal of these critical safeguards for American families, so instead of taking direct action on protective legislation, they keep trying to make enforcement impossible.”

The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and other protective statutes are very popular with the American people and are the envy of other countries.

The REINS Act now moves to the Senate, where it is sponsored by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

We're looking for a few good WIPsters

Works In Progress is looking for a few positive, mature (not necessarily referring to age), re sponsible, and self-motivated progressives — preferably WIPreaders—who can work co-operatively and respectfully with others. We have openings in many areas, including layout, editing, proofreading, distribution, and more.

Established in 1990 as a free and independent grassroots alternative to the dominant media, Works In Progress is a collaboration between its readership and the all-volunteer staff. The community provides content, and the WIP collective does the footwork involved in taking it to press each month. Participating in WIP helps to continue this service to the community!

All those interested, please contact WIP at olywip@gmail.com. Thanks for reading!

January 2012

Public power is worth the fight

Why evict Occupy Olympia?

Update on Westside 7-Eleven