Will Olympia’s planners act to “protect and enhance quality of life, sustainability and safety” as their mission says?

Esther Kronenberg

“To labor to heal the earth with no direct compensation is the great work of our generation, based on morality, law, and treaty. There is nothing more infuriating and humiliating than were our efforts to be undermined by the very governments obligated to support and protect our work.” Paul Grenghien

For the sixth time, the City of Olympia is considering an application to build 181 houses at the old Sundberg Mine site on Cooper Pt Rd NW between 20th and 28th Ave. Just two years since the last proposal. In its present incarnation as “Green Cove Park,” the proposed development is attracting opposition from neighbors concerned with traffic and schools, but the issue goes deeper than these concerns—at least 30 feet deeper to the waste pits that have been documented by the developer’s own geotechnical review.

A failure of enforcement duties

Despite continuous warnings from DNR that the site was out of compliance, the likely piercing of woody aquifers, large amounts of woody debris, and the absence of any reclamation activity or re-vegetation, no enforcement action was taken. The law allows the Department to re-claim such mines at owner’s expense. One DNR staffer lamented in 1998 “…the likely piercing of perched aquifers and the absence of any reclamation activity or re-vegetation, no enforcement action was taken. The law allows the Department to re-claim such mines at owner’s expense.”

A long-standing dumping ground for wood waste

The Sundberg property also served purposes other than mining. It was only known in the area as the log yard for the Port of Olympia, though there is no record of this because this use was never permitted. However, a July, 1972 DNR document noted that County staff had told DNR there was “no need for a limited use permit for log yard or gravel operation as both were existing uses at the time Interim Zoning was adopted.” Aerial photos from 1972 show large piles of logs stored east of the mine site. DNR acknowledges that the site served as a log dump from 1983-1987. Inspections between 1983, 1987, and 1998 note large amounts of woody debris that DNR staff explicitly stated should not be buried; debris that would need to be removed before reclamation could occur. As late as 2014 when the property was in the hands of current owner, Jerry Mahan, DNR staff reported, “I witnessed illegal dumping of wood waste occurring while on site. Dumping is also occurring in front of the access gate.” Wood waste, contrary to what one might believe, is neither biodegradable nor harmless. Large pits full of rotting organic material present a potential danger of methane gas infiltrating homes and roads. This opens the City to liability when streets crack and degrade and when homeowners experience toxic, possibly explosive vapors and foundation damage to their homes.

How the people of Thurston County support local food, local farming and local heritage

Loretta Seppanan

Local entities like Slow Food Greater Olympia, the Community Farm Land Trust, regional tribes, and the dozen nearby seasonal or year-round farmers markets all affirm that we live in a community that treasures its thriving small farms. We are a community that likes its local food.

Slow Food Greater Olympia members make up an energetic local chapter of an international organization that focuses on foods and farms unique to each area. The group’s draft statement of beliefs, its manifesto, declares that local food “is not only more delicious but supports our local food system, helping ensure that our region is self-sufficient.” I would add that sustainable local agriculture production on the farms that produce that food serves also to preserve our rich soils and helps them to capture carbon in a way that mitigates the impact of climate change.

Late winter, as I write this piece, I am challenged to “eat local.” My own garden is providing leafy greens, mâche (corn salad, lambs lettuce) and curly parsley, but little else. The farm fields lack the fall’s abundance. With our recent extended cold spell I can’t even...
We want to hear from you, dear readers!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

WIP comes to you as a labor of love from our volunteers, with support from our advertisers and subscribers. We’d like to keep you informed about how we do that. To make you a part of this mission, you can do to make you a part of this mission, you can help us by sharing the contents of this issue with your friends and family.

Our mission is to confront injustices and encourage participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, political, and social realms across and across classes, races and genders. We do this by producing and distributing about 3,000 copies of this publication, and through our monthly email newsletter.

Please send your suggestions and contributions to olywip@gmail.com or to WIP, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Want to lend a hand? WIP is always looking for writers committed to the mission. We can copyedit your work if you send it in before the deadline, which is typically the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month. As you can tell from the articles in this paper, we publish a range of articles on well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities, and accounts of personal experiences or reflections on local events. Pictures should be high resolution and labeled with content.

Contact us through our email (olywip@gmail.com) or regular mail.

Theme for issue May 1 is recognized as International Workers Day because of the strike and on Saturday May 1, 1886, hundreds of thousands of workers went on strike. The infamous Haymarket Affair was an outgrowth of this organizing effort. On May 4, a peaceful demonstration took place in Haymarket Square in Chicago, supporting the eight-hour work day and striking the killing of several workers the previous day. Someone threw a dynamite bomb at the police as the crowd was dispersing. Several were injured. Eight anarchists were charged and convicted of conspiracy. Four were hanged on November 11, 1887. The new governor of Illinois pardoned the remaining defendants and criticized the trial. We were recently reminded of the power of labor unions when the Pilots and Flight Attendants Unions stopped Trump’s government shutdown; the struggle of the power of workers to organize themselves when teachers in West Virginia struck to defend public education.

We need a defiant, fighting labor movement if we hope to turn things around. This means understanding the evolution of our work and the continuing transformation of the economy to serve the rulers. We welcome well-researched news reporting, analyses of local, national and international events, and narratives and reflections on your experiences of work that shed light on the nature and practice of work in our time.

Upcoming themes:

June: Housing and homelessness
July: Community

Then this happened...

Remember Harry Branch’s article last September about the fight to get Wendy’s to sign on to the Fair Food Program. As always, this issue expands beyond the topic to include pressing current local issues (the attempted rezone of Green Cove, the challenge of persuading coop shopping to use less plastic) and national and international ones (Vietnam).

Theme for May

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Special events

Open house at the Walk & Roll Youth Center April 4, 3-7 pm. Learn about services, programs, and classes at this new venue, dedicated to promoting safe biking as a way to get around.

Olympia Food Co-Op Conversation on Beer and Wine April 6, 1-4 pm. 222 Columbia St, NW.

For a fuller listing of events of April events, go to LocalMotive.org. For some events posted to WIP after the deadline, check out the WIP Facebook page.
Rescuing food is rewarding

Thurston Food Rescue

At the crack of dawn

On a chilly Friday morning in March, before the sun rises, activity begins to stir at Thurston County Food Bank’s Client Services Center in downtown Olympia. Staff drivers depart the Center at 6 a.m. to begin their Food Rescue routes, collecting donated food from local businesses. Volunteers begin to trickle in by 7:30. Families in need begin to arrive shortly thereafter. Volunteer Coordinator Jen Butt warmly greets volunteers and gives the day’s instructions. “Running just one shift at the Food Bank takes 55 to 40 volunteers,” states Butt. “We couldn’t possibly process all the donations and provide services to so many households if it weren’t for their help.”

A fresh food bounty

By 8:00, the Center is bustling with activity—volunteers jump into the mornings’ work; they stack shelves, refrigerators, and freezers with all the types of food normally seen at a supermarket. Canned or boxed items are readily available on the Center’s shelves, but, contrary to what one might expect at a food bank, the large majority of the space and volunteer labor is dedicated to sorting and stocking fresh and frozen foods.

The availability and abundance of fresh food at TCFB is due to a community partnership around Food Rescue in Thurston County, which over the past eight years has involved a great deal of dedication, planning, and funding from many organizations.

Thurston Food Rescue is a coalition made up of feeding programs throughout Thurston County. In 2018, Thurston County Food Bank rescued 2.2 million pounds of wholesome food and redirected it to families in need. If you would like to help rescue food at the Thurston County Food Bank or at another organization associated with Thurston Food Rescue, visit www.thurstonfoodrescue.com. Rescuing food from feeding landfills to feeding people is fun, easy, and rewarding.

HAPPILY HELPING YOUR GARDEN GROW

Locally-sourced organic herb, flower & veggie starts and soil amendments! Also Japanese hand tools!

The pinyon jay (Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus) takes its name from the tree, and pinyon nuts form an important part of its diet. It is very important for regeneration of pinyon woodlots as it stores large numbers of the seeds in the ground for later use, and excess seeds not used are in an ideal position to grow into new trees. The Mexican jay is also important for the dispersal of some pinyon species, as, less often, is the Clark’s jay. The Olympia Observer’s personabout-nature, Angel Messinger, related what she observed in 2015, while bird watching in Baja California.

The Mexican bird feeders

Most fascinating to see are the results derived from the Mexican jay watching Mexicans preparing meals over an open fire. The jay is said to mimic the human’s food-making process which evolved into learning how to actually prepare a tiny tortilla and then inserting the pinyon (or pine nuts) into it, the wrapping so tightly achieved that they can easily peck a small section at a time and dine more leisurely. Stories about the bird’s ‘cooking’ by trapping overripe tomatoes on it from great heights is sheer nonsense and has in fact, never been observed.

— Aristides Pappidas
Up close and personal with fish at Grays Harbor College

Rachel Updgrove

Fish matter! Not only because people depend on fish for jobs, but because plants and trees and marine animals depend on nutrients from fish to live. Fish feed on the insects that populate our lakes and streams, playing a critical role in maintaining insect populations. Fish store nutrients in their tissues, when they die and decompose, those nutrients get transported to plants and to aquatic animals. Few people realize what a vital role fish play within the ecosystems of our stream nutrient cycles.

Over many years, however, streams in our region have been degraded by extensive logging, pollution, overfishing and urbanization. These alterations have led to a decline in fish populations and water quality. We are already seeing decreasing fish populations are having on our orca whale populations.

However, all is not lost. Hatcheries have sprung up all over Washington State. Until farmed fish, hatcheries release their fish into rivers and lakes where they mix with wild salmon. Through their work, hatcheries support their fish to eat, replace endangered species, provide opportunities for research on fish disease, and help restore degraded habitats. Fish from hatcheries today make up approximately 85 percent of the fish we eat including salmon.

Unlike farmed fish, hatcheries release their fish into rivers and lakes where they mix with wild salmon.

Grays Harbor College Fish Lab

In 2015, students, staff and community volunteers spent many hours revitalizing the abandoned John M. Smith Aquaculture Center (also known as the Fish Lab) at Grays Harbor College. Biologist Dr. Amanda Gunn, who is a major driver of hatchery research, shared the story of one student:

"I tried to play (the salmon) off, but on the inside it was the largest fish I had ever seen outside an aquarium and it had teeth! I’m pretty sure the guys at the Lake Aberdeen Hatchery could see right through me, but they were amazing. They answered all my questions and showed tremendous support, especially that first year. We could not have built the Fish Lab without them."

The Fish Lab at GHC is now a thriving hatchery. In addition to raising fish, the goals of the Fish Lab are to provide education to students and community members, complete stream monitoring and provide resource management. The 5,000 coho, 10,000 chum and 1,000 trout it’s raising are slated for release into Lake Sylvia for a children’s fishing derby.

The Fish Lab has a gravity-fed water supply from Lake Swanson in Aberdeen. Students and community volunteers monitor this water system by analyzing the water chemistry and temperature, removing invasive species, and cleaning garbage from the system. By removing pollutants and maintaining the water system, Fish Labbers insure the health of the fish stock as well as strengthening the surrounding environment.

Fish Labbers have planted trees along culverts throughout the community, helping to reduce sedimentation and provide cover, hiding places, and shade for fish runs.

The GHC Fish Lab plays an important academic role as well, providing first-hand research opportunities for students in Grays Harbor. Dr. Gunn shared the story of one student:

"Another instructor brought a 16-year-old girl to the lab. She was shy and nervous, but wanted to try some extracurricular science stuff. She wasn’t much into fish, but the guys at the Seattle Aquarium turned her on. That was about three years ago. Today she’s a sophomore at Harvard University where she has continued to be involved in research."

How can you connect with the GHC Fish Lab?

The GHC Fish Lab welcomes volunteers of all ages. Meeting days are Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 pm, and Saturdays at 8 am whenever the college is in session. If fish really aren’t your thing, the staff at the lab will find something that interests you. The youngest volunteer at the lab is 2 years old—proving we can get involved at any age.

A couple of upcoming events offer a great way to find out more about the Fish Lab. On April 13, volunteers will be planting around Lake Swanson on the Grays Harbor College campus. On April 20, volunteers will meet at Fishtree to clean garbage along the stream, helping to improve the Chehalis River water basin. The best way to get more information or to stay connected to Fish Lab events is through the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/GraysHarbor, or by emailing the Fish Lab at fishlab@ghc.edu.

Rachel Updgrove is currently working at the Fish Lab as the Hatchery Technician. She earned a B.S. degree from Western Washington University.
Growing hope at Harbor Roots Farm

Rachel McKee and Aaron Scott

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe." - Frederick Douglass

Harbor Roots is a program with a bold vision: living wage jobs for people in poverty, with wrap around support and ultimate self-sufficiency. We seek a sustainable economic solution to the persistent poverty that is a growing epidemic in Grays Harbor County.

"Our goal is to give back to our community in as many ways as we can. We contribute by donating produce to people in need in the community, by asking us to find our way back to community and the world in general. If we..." - Rachel McKee

CSAs are a powerful way for community members to support local farms and get sustainable food in return.

The Staff Collective at the Olympia Food Co-op takes this challenge seriously. We have begun, food has been central to our work..." - Rachel McKee

How much time do we have?

It is possible that time, or more precisely a lack of it, has become one impediment to purchasing in bulk. It takes more time to shop in the bulk aisles. After a long day at work, with daylight hours short and hungry children crying for food, we often have not even one hour..." - Rachel McKee

To counteract this, one staff member packages some of the more snacky items, they fly off the shelves... - Rachel McKee

Buying bulk means more than just avoiding plastic

What "wrap around" means for participants

One aim of Chaplains on the Harbor and Harbor Roots is to build a participative community ownership through community-led social enterprise and job creation. Toward this aim Harbor Roots provides paid apprenticeships for formerly-incarcerated millennials in recovery from addiction and homelessness. Our support and employment program offers valuable post-incarceration work experience, community organizing opportunities, good reference, and support for navigating legal, medical, and social services. This means that in addition to growing food, apprentices also speak and teach in the church about community, personal experiences and their analysis of issues like police brutality, encampment sweeps, the criminalization of poverty, and the opioid epidemic.

In addition to selling shares of fresh naturally-grown produce to those who can afford to buy them, Harbor Roots also donates shares back to local low-income people.

Reaching out and giving back

Over the course of the apprenticeship, shares, "I'm 26 years old. I currently reside in Aberdeen. I connected with Rachel McKee 34 years ago while I was homeless in Westport Washington. I'm a veteran of the US Air Force and a recovering opiate/heroin addict. I connected with Chaplains on the Harbor (COH) through staying at their church's cold weather shelter in Westport while I was homeless. I reconnect with COH after graduating inpatient treatment. I volunteered to work at Harbor Roots because I was doing because I think it's very important work and not enough people are aware of it. I work with COH now and I feel that it is helping our community and the world in general. If we can help one person to get off the streets and get their lives back, that's all we are asking for." - Rachel McKee

A farm with no hidden labels

The Harbor Roots Farm is a certified organic. We hold all of the values of an organic organization. We believe that everyone deserves access to good food local food, with no hidden labels. This means that we only use natural, chemical- and organic pesticides in our farming. In 2018 marked the start of Harbor Roots Farm on a three acre farm at Wynnchuck River, WA. Under the leadership of Hannah Jones, Harbor Roots grew a variety of salad greens, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes—ending up with twenty-five weekly produce shares sold.

Fill your pantry by supporting this multifaceted farm program

When you buy from Harbor Roots Farm, you are supporting a new farm manager, Rachel McKee, plus a larger, more fertile plot of land and many more people. You give us the tools to plan to grow more crops and are looking for ways to get them out into the community. For instance, we'd like to sell more of our produce through our CSA program (community-supported agriculture). CSA members pay for community members to support local farms and get sustainable food in return. Members of our CSA program prepay to receive five months of seasonal vegetables from our farm, purchased at wholesale. If you're interested in buying a share or simply want more information, call Rachel McKee at 360-644-2377. You can also call our office at 360-637-9962 or email us at harborrootsfarm@gmail.com.

Rachel McKee is the Harbor Roots farm manager and is an advocate for the project.
Brief observations on food in an age of opulence and scarcity

Enrique Quintero

As not what you can do for your country. Ask what’s for lunch – Orson Welles

An early introduction to food geopolitics

My first lesson in political economy came at an early age. Granted, it wasn’t given by an economist and it did not take place in a university lecture hall. It was given by my grandmother while we were at the dinner table and I was a young boy growing up in South America before magical realism became less real and less magical. Her delicious Asian dishes always contained an ominous element: “Eat all your food because there are thousands of hungry and dishabituated people starving to death in the United States.”

Why she chose the US as an indicator of her socio-gastronomic advice is lost to history. Was it the iconic image wrapped in the cold war discourse of her generation? I doubt it. From what I remember, my grandmother spoke atheistic to the Russian or the Cuban revolution. For her, the Soviets were “all about eating in the face of poverty” (a capricious aphorism that I still hold her aesthetic views on Latin masculinity).

At the time, of course, I did not quite assimilate the geopolitical implications of her advice. The US was far away from the US, where everybody seemed healthy and wealthy and white (based on a few images of Doral in anime in my occasional glances at my mother’s Sears catalog), somehow kids my age were starving to death. My grandmother also led to guilt, because my aversion to the vegetables and soups I was eating is connected to my knowledge of other children’s hunger.

Time basically proved my grandmother right. Today, in a world with historically unprecedented levels of wealth, food is wasted while others don’t eat. According to a national analysis by the World Bank Group conducted a study in 2016 indicating that nearly 385 million children in the world live in extreme poverty. To say that man’s physical and mental life is linked to nature simply means that man is linked to itself, for a man is part of nature.

Food as identity: tortilla Española? Really?

While food is a marker of identity, either national or regional. Food is also linked to class and ethnicity. Food, as my grandmother would have said, is a marker of the social signification and the cultural and the other is physiological. In other words, in human efforts to survive, we interacted with nature, first in the social signification and the cultural and the other is physiological. In the social signification and the cultural and the other is physiological. In other words, in human efforts to survive, we interacted with nature, first in the pre-swallowed stage in order to inject food into the body to get energy, and then in the post-swallowed stage in order to increase profits.

According to Statista, advertisements attempting to persuade consumers to buy products within the grocery store alone generate over 190 billion US dollars annually. According to the same source: “In the third quarter of 2017, Burger King accounted for the highest number of ad occurrences among the leading food-related brands on TV in the US. Adverts for the fast food chain ran over 26,000 times on American television, that is closely followed by Domino’s Pizza and Little Caesar’s, each with over 24 thousand TV ad occurrences. MacDonald’s is the leading restaurant in terms of advertising spending in the US followed by Subway and Taco Bell, and is also the fourth most advertised brand in the country. Apart from TV, radio, or magazine ads, internet games, promotional packaging, giveaways, and corporate sponsorships and donations to schools are also some common avenues for food advertising in the US that are predominantly targeting kids and adolescents.”

What can we make of these observations?

Along with Roland Barthes, one could say that the foregoing observations refer to a larger set of themes and situations, that they refer to the social environment of the world and the national condition of food. Ideally, these observations lead the reader to continue to resist swallowing the ideology of large-scale advertisement that tells us how to think about and how to consume food. We might instead choose to create a different food hypothesis of social relations closely connected to history and geography, which in turn expresses relations of domination and alienation among us as human beings. Food, from this perspective, primarily serves as “food for thought” because, as my grandmother would have said, “there are millions of people starving to death in the world.”

The Value of Qualitative Research in...
Could vegetable processing facilities and grain storage open new markets and save farmland in South Puget Sound and Southwest Washington?

Stephen Bramwell

When farmers lose buyers, whether a farmers’ market customer, local processing facility, or grain mill, it becomes that much more difficult to make a living by farming. Our region’s farmers reflected this reality in the different activities and aspirations they identified in the food system infrastructure such as food processing facilities, storage infrastructure, food marketing, and cultivation and marketing. Asked why these needs exist, farmers pointed to a need to expand or sustain high-value markets for agricultural products, and in some cases to create a market for any farmers for profit. The history leading to this situation involves a combination of factors. These include development pressures, increases in the number of smaller farms competing for limited direct-to-consumer markets, consolidation and resultant stagnation of wholesale markets, ebbs and flows of foreign purchasing and production, competition from more expansive agricultural regions, and processing infrastructure that has followed production to these regions. It is also difficult to make absolute claims when working to address this problem. How badly do farmers need market support? What infrastructure if any is needed? Will it be profitable? If it is available, will it be used? Who showed up to the meeting to say so?

As a result, no single effort (in-structure or otherwise) is likely to be a panacea for farmland profitability. Nevertheless, a few regional collaborations are passing small projects (delivering the “ferrows”) for a variety of agricultural infrastructure projects that would address the West Coast market opportunities for the region’s growers.

Shifts in farmland acreage and water rights

Understanding regional farmland loss is critical to building support for substantive investment in agriculture and market development. Looking at farmland acreage and water rights over the last several decades shows that large acreages are being lost while small acreages are being added, creating smaller-scale operations. The region is never likely to lose diversified small farms serving urban and peri-urban markets, but large and continuous expanses of farmland, many with long-held water rights that are attractive to developers, face a very uncertain future.

In Thurston and Lewis Counties, farmland acreage has diminished substantially since the 1950s. The 2012 Census of Agriculture reported 76,000 and 132,838 acres of farmland in Thurston and Lewis Counties respectively. Compare this to the 1950 county agriculture census with acreage well over double the current amounts 170,640 acres in Thurston and 304,253 in Lewis. Taking a more recent scan, farm acreage since 1978 decreased modestly in Lewis but increased modestly in Thurston County.

Looking deeper, from 1978 to 2012, average farm size decreased from roughly 110 to 70 acres (averaging across both counties) while the number of farms increased from 618 to 1,336 in Thurston Co, and from 1,136 to 1,647 in Lewis Co. Evidently, small farms have proliferated, as over half of these farms increased from 618 to 1,336 in Thurston and Lewis Counties since 1950, with a parallel decrease in grain markets, grain mills and other processing facilities. Thompson noted that the crop production is dominated by hay and forage which he said was about the only remaining large-scale reliable crop for low grain prices and no-vegetable-processing buyers.

A new large-scale grain-handling facility? Thompson is among several farmers in Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties, including Jay Gordon and Dave Ferr, who have enlisted the Northeast Ag Business Council and the Centralia Square Antique Mall and Hotel. A frozen processing facility, if built, would emulate successful efforts in other regions of the country, such as the Puyallup County Community Development Corporation operating out of Greenfield, WA, Farm Bridge operating out of Kingston, NY, and the Mission Mountain Enterprise Food Center operating out of Tenino, WA. Each of these facilities aggregates fresh produce from farmers, maintains numer-ous market accounts that are often too big for any one farm, adds value through processing, and in some instances processes for farmers to sell back through their own high-value market channels.

Another infrastructure effort of regional interest in Southwest Washington is an agricultural business park envisioned for Tenino, WA. This effort, led by the Thurston County Community Development Council, has received funding from a variety of sources for master planning, including the state legislative capital budget and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, among others. This facility is envisioned for established businesses, such as food processors and wholesalers, who could provide a market for farmers. The benefit of coattails and partnerships

Whatever the infrastructure initiative, regional partnerships among multiple organizations, operating in one or several counties, and involving a combination of agriculture and economic development partners may be the best strategy to yield market opportunities.

Indeed, examples from elsewhere are promising. A coalition of partners working in Skagit County over recent years assisted the development of a new craft malting operation (Skagit Valley Malting), a craft milling enterprise (Carnspring Mill), an educational program (Skagit Valley Brewing Academy run by Skagit Valley College), and an internationally-known grain-based research initiative (The Bread Lab run by Washington State University).

This partnership effectively provided potato and other crop growers with critical rotation crops, in the case of wheat, barley and other grains. Involvement from the Port of Skagit provided seed financing and attracted private capital. And farmers have benefitted on the one hand from markets...
Green Cove from page 1

A likelihood of contamination
If much of the wood waste on site originated from the Port of Olympia or other nearby industrial sites on Budd Inlet, it would likely have been wood pressure- treated with preservative chemicals. For example, the Cascade Pole Company, which operated a wood-treatment facility on property leased from the Port of Olympia from 1957 to 1986, left a legacy of creosote or other toxic substances on property leased from the Port of Olympia during the 1990s. The Sundberg mine is a short 4-minute drive to the largest toxic waste site in Puget Sound. The Budd Inlet cleanup program identified 11 sites where contamination came from historical industrial practices that predated modern environmental laws. DNR reported large amounts of waste and woody debris being dumped in 1984 and later. In addition, credible eyewitness accounts from long-term neighbors reported truckloads of waste entering the site over many years. Even the 2015 geotechnical report submitted by the developer describes test pits full of woody debris, organic-laced fill, garbage, gravel and sand that terminate at a depth of 8 feet due to large logs. Based on the contours of the test pits, the amount of waste burned could be estimated to be as much as 325,000 tons.

Waste disposal of toxic materials, a reasonable person would conclude that development of this site poses “significant risk of adverse environmental impact.” Incredibly, the Department of Ecology (ECY) has apparently concluded that only innocuous construction debris is in the fill backfill. ECY declared the site closed—based on 4 investigations paid for by the developer that merely skimmed the surface of a large body of fill material. ECY’s sole action was to verify the removal of an underground storage tank. They did not consider any concerns raised about unregulated disposal. An aquifer threatened

and State agencies to clean up the site. He was well aware of the continuity of the hydrology underlying the area when pumps for a new development in the City caused his well to run dry. A violation of Federal and tribal requirements

Because the runoff enters Federally protected waters, it also violates tribal treaty rights and Federal law that requires the responsible jurisdiction to conduct thorough testing for toxicity on the development site with an analysis of sediment runoff before any soil can be disturbed. A jurisdiction that violates this law may risk revocation of all Federal funding.

A flawed plan for handling runoff

The proposed stormwater management plan for the development also threatens the viability of the Green Cove Basin ecosystem. The runoff, polluted with nutrients, toxins and road waste, is proposed to be discharged to retention ponds and wetlands, and then into Green Cove Creek. The Green Cove Creek Plan states “the top priority that emerged during the planning process was reducing future stormwater runoff to Green Cove Creek,” in recognition of the serious impacts this would cause.

It would destabilize the stream channel and displace native aquatic habitat for the Endangered Species Act-listed Puget Sound Sucker and Steelhead salmon. It would carry more pollutants into Green Cove Creek to endanger shellfish and the Olympic mudminnow, a state-sensitive species that has been found within 1000 feet of the site. It would cause flooding problems for some property owners around the creek and wetlands. In addition, habitat in other areas of the Green Cove Creek may begin to degrade. Another difference between this development and others in the area is that it is at the headwaters of the last remaining undeveloped area of the Green Cove Creek watershed within the City of Olympia Urban Growth Area. The tributary that would take the brunt of the runoff from the development enters the creek directly as the creek enters a ravine. This would have a greater impact on stream conditions compared to other development in the watershed, these are buffered by large wetland complexes at Grass Lake and Alki Larson Road. The plan also fails to account for climate change with its potential for increased frequency and intensity of rainfall in the context of longer droughts. A clear signal that community watershed planning can be overturned

Paul Crecegno, a restoration ecologist with its potential for increased frequency and intensity of rainfall in the context of longer droughts. A clear signal that community watershed planning can be overturned Paul Crecegno, a restoration ecologist at Olympia City Council members at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us.

Learn more and weigh in on the fate of Green Cove

The current Green Cove proposal is being reviewed by the staff at the City and County as well as other agency and tribal staff. Two major points need to be addressed and investigated by the City and ECY. 1. Sampling needs to be done to the soil, groundwater, and sediment for wood treatment wastes and herbicides. Superficial sampling is not sufficient because the waste has been buried. The sampling must be done by an unbiased party, as the developer has not responded appropriately to previous regulatory directives. 2. Shifts to the Green Cove Creek Basin and have not been properly evaluated to gauge the effects on the Green Cove ecosystem and of runoff to Budd and Eld Inlets. Comments and inquiries regarding this proposal should be directed to or to the Director of the SW Region, Department of Ecology: sally.toteff@ecy.wa.gov or to the City of Olympia Community Planning & Development - (360) 753-8048 choohee@ci.olympia.wa.us, and tsmithe@ci.olympia.wa.us. Contact Olympia City Council members at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us.

To contribute your skills to the Green Cove Defense Project, please email ekvorken@gmail.com.
The 2008 Farm Bill ushered in a suite of programs that support the development of local and regional food systems, market diversification opportunities for farmers, healthy food access initiatives and other innovative programs that seize upon the great potential of food to bolster local economies, public health, job creation and farmer livelihoods. Farm Aid celebrates the great power of food to connect people and grow strong communities, as well as the farmers and ranchers at the root of our food system.

What we found to like
We love LAMP. A number of scrappy programs that spurred local and regional food systems over the last decade have consistently been fighting for funding. This farm bill combines two of our favorites – the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program and Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) – into a new program called the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). The Farm Bill provides these programs with permanent funding and makes significant policy improvements. The 2018 Farm Bill also reauthorizes the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which will receive $50 million per year in mandatory funding in perpetuity, the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service / Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rurality America (ATTRA), Business and Industry Loan Guarantees Local & Regional Food Enterprise Set-aside, and expands the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

What we found disappointing
Our hope for this Farm Bill was continued support for these programs and an expansion of access to healthy food for all Americans. By and large, this was a bright spot in the bill, which is no small feat given how hard our communities have had to fight to make the case that local food systems represent worthy investments in rural economies, public health, job creation and farmer livelihoods. Farm Aid celebrates the great power of food to connect people and grow strong communities, as well as the farmers and ranchers at the root of our food system.

Big and bloated farm programs

"The farm bill and trade policies are geared around the idea that farmers should get big or get out and depend on export markets to make their ends meet," Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Director of Trade and Global Governance, Progressive Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, said.

The 2018 Farm Bill over-turns the outrageous decision made last year by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to eliminate the position of an Undersecretary for Rural Development. The bill now mandates this position's existence.

Urban matters, too. The 2018 Farm Bill establishes a new "Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovation in Food Production" with $25 million per year in appropriations authority, a 15-member advisory committee and competitive grants authority. It instructs the creation of 10 pilot Urban and Suburban Community Farming Innovation Grants to create a community compost and reducing food waste pilot. The bill also includes $10 million annually in mandatory funding for research grants in urban agriculture.

A better SNAP. The bill extends funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called ‘food stamps’) without the rigid and bureaucratic work requirements initially placed in the House version of the bill. Those provisions would have deepened hunger and poverty for vulnerable Americans, including children and families. The bill also instructs USDA to allow farmers markets to operate an individual EBT device for accepting SNAP benefits at more than one location.

What we found unconscionable: Roodoggde for the big guys. The 2018 Farm Bill widens loopholes for wealthy mega-farms to exploit commodity and crop insurance subsidies, allowing nieces, nephews, and cousins who may have never worked on the farm to reap taxpayer-funded subsidies. This will continue to drive consolidation in the farm sector, allowing the biggest farms to keep growing and gobble up smaller and mid-sized operations that are so critical to the wellbeing of rural communities.

Farm Aid is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep family farms on the land. Willie Nelson, Neil Young and John Mellencamp organized the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to raise awareness about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep family farms on the land. Farm Aid has raised more than $53 million to promote a strong and vibrant family farm system of agriculture.

This article is excerpted with permission from the Farm Aid blog at www.farmaid.org

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Direct action or bust: Courts and politicians won’t beat the border

Bobby Karleton

In the immediate aftermath of Trump’s national emergency declaration, condemnations and legal challenges have issued from numerous sources. The declaration circumvents the need for congressional authorization to obtain partial, initial funding for the construction of a southern border wall. The State of California led a coalition of 16 states to file suit against the Trump Administration in an effort to “protect their residents, natural resources and economic interests.” This came on the heels of a lawsuit filed by Public Citizen, representing Texan landowners living along the southern border of the proposed wall, and an environmental group alleging property rights violations, as well as another suit jointly issued by Animal Legal Defense Fund, Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Protect Democracy and the Niskanen Center will also issue a legal challenge.

Not so fast

Although legal analysts initially advanced claims that Trump’s declaration rested on weak legal ground, just days later mainstream media outlets, from The Guardian to The New York Times, warned that courts might uphold the declaration. Legal experts indicated that courts would be unlikely to second-guess the President on what constitutes a national emergency.

Neither the legal nor the political approach

Many of the states participating in the California-led coalition are likely to carry on with exercises of direct action. They have engaged in enforcement of the Wall and a range of movements that erupted in the summer of 2018, including parties and demonstrations held throughout the U.S., as well as anti-raids resistance efforts. Anti-ICE movements that erupted in the summer of 2018 popularized important direct-action tactics, namely that of occupying ICE and Abolish ICE movements that erupted in the summer of 2018.

Legal and congressional challenges pose no solutions and offer no alternatives to the human crisis the border and deportation infrastructures entail. Only grassroots exercises in collective struggle, mutual aid and direct action can confront any border wall, free immigrant prisoners from detention centers and secure freedom of movement for all people.

Popular education and mutual aid

Many grassroots legal defense groups, immigrant rights organizations and workers centers already engage in important educational work—ensuring that undocumented migrants are aware of their legal rights if confronted by ICE or Border Patrol agents. Any authoritarian leftist should advance these efforts to disseminate knowledge of their rights information widely. Energy should also be contributed to popular education endeavors. Community meetings, workshops, etc. could tackle a range of issues, from legal defense and analyses of the causes of migration to educational campaigns regarding strategy and tactics in migration justice struggles. Anti-authoritarian leftists can offer deeper analytical clarity on questions pertaining to the political economy of migration and racism than their liberal and advocacy-centric counterparts.

Efforts to extend material solidarity are gaining in strength. Supply drives for the recent migrant caravans have blossomed and militants have converged in Tijuana and San Diego to bolster the emerging legal aid, medical and housing infrastructures to support and sustain the caravans. Caravan support fits neatly with other direct support projects migrant justice organizations have long undertaken, from prisoner letter writing, to coordinating ride-shares for undocumented people to attend ICE hearings or relatives of detainees to visit loved ones, to other material assistance projects.

Direct action will get the goods

Legal and political approaches have failed, and political/techno wall could signal even greater militarization of the border. The failure of the Congressional strategy is in large part due to the lack of enforcement of the Wall and heightened border security technology and procurement. The application of heightened security technology could allow for increases in aerial surveillance such as drone usage, biometric screening practices like facial recognition and DNA collection or widespread use of automatic license plate readers. The differences between “Trump’s wall” and the “smart wall” are superfluous, not substantial. Neither will succeed in halting unauthorized migration entirely, but both will force migrants onto increasingly dangerous desert routes, endangering human life in new scales. The alternate schemes of militarization and criminalization will continue to ensure a supply of precarious migrant labor to US capital, and both proposals will help satisfy the ruling economic and political classes’ need to identify and vitify a scapegoat through xenophobic methods. That the deportation machine and border regime remain bipartisan projects is hardly shocking—the title of deporter-chief still belongs to Barack Obama, not Donald Trump.

Educate, support, disrupt: only we can beat borders

Legal and congressional challenges pose no solutions and offer no alternatives to the human crisis the border and deportation infrastructures entail. Only grassroots exercises in collective struggle, mutual aid and direct action can confront any border wall, free immigrant prisoners from detention centers and secure freedom of movement for all people. Efforts to extend material solidarity are gaining in strength. Supply drives for the recent migrant caravans have blossomed and militants have converged in Tijuana and San Diego to bolster the emerging legal aid, medical and housing infrastructures to support and sustain the caravans. Caravan support fits neatly with other direct support projects migrant justice organizations have long undertaken, from prisoner letter writing, to coordinating ride-shares for undocumented people to attend ICE hearings or relatives of detainees to visit loved ones, to other material assistance projects.

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A Playback Theatre performance
This is Me!
Featuring The Thunders and in collaboration with People First of Thurston County
Friday, April 12, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
New Traditions Café – 300 5th Ave. SW
downtown Olympia
Cost: Suggested Donation $7.00-$12.00
(No one is turned away)
Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.
This month we feature the Thunders and collaborate with People First of Thurston County whose mission is to empower adults with developmental disabilities to become involved in their community and to impact service systems.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then we watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

The April 2019 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series provides fresh information and insights into the crisis in Venezuela. Venezuela is a sovereign nation—a real democracy—on the northern coast of South America. Increasingly in recent years, the US government has been causing a crisis there.

The US government and mainstream media have grossly misrepresented what caused the crisis and how to solve it. The people of the United States have the right—and the responsibility—to understand and shape our foreign policy.

Glen Anderson interviewed Dr. Larry Mosqueda, who taught Political Science and Political Economy for more than 40 years, and who also has 40 years of experience as a human rights and solidarity activist. Larry has served as an international election observer many times. He traveled to Venezuela in 2012 and has been closely monitoring the realities—including US interventions—both before and after that trip.

We conducted this interview on Thursday March 14, 2019. Even if the news has changed by the time you watch this interview, the information we shared during the hour will help you understand the background and the context—and help you take positive actions to solve the problems.

We explained the US’s very long history of acting like a colonizing power over much of Latin America, including repeated abuses by US businesses, politicians, and military.

Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any nation on earth. Trump and his national security advisor John Bolton have admitted that they want Venezuela’s oil.

Venezuela’s elections have been free and fair. President Hugo Chavez significantly improved the people’s nutrition, health, education, housing and political engagement from 1999 until he died in 2013. But the US did not like his “socialist” policies, so the US sponsored a coup in 2002. Overwhelming public support for Chavez brought him back in just 47 hours. His successor, Nicolás Maduro, was re-elected in 2016 and has tried to continue Chavez’s progress, but the US has been imposing serious economic sanctions, especially during Trump’s rule.

The Trump administration’s brutal economic sanctions have caused horrible problems, but US politicians and mainstream media are blaming Maduro instead of admitting that the US caused the problems. The Trump administration recruited a Venezuelan politician to proclaim himself the new president, in blatant violation of Venezuela’s constitution. Trump is also threatening US military violence in order to accomplish the coup that his top advisors are plotting. Most US politicians and mainstream media accept at face value Trump’s propaganda about the crisis in Venezuela.

Venezuela is a sovereign nation that has had a well-functioning democracy except when the US interferes. Our interview lays out the facts in understandable way and proposes some solutions to the crisis.

Watch powerfully insightful and important TV programs through your computer or on TCTV
Everyone everywhere can watch this interview and read a summary—through the “TV Programs” part of my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Each program is also posted to one or more categories listed on the blog—in this case to “Latin America.” Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch this interview on Thurston Community Television (TCTV): Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00 pm.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 498-9093 gandersonsonintegra.net

Understand Venezuela. Protect its sovereignty.

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7th Annual Plant Sale fundraiser for Nicaraguan Youth University Scholarships. The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association invites you to support these youth and our sister community (since 1989). tssqlca@gmail.com to donate plants ahead of time or to learn more.

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Wax candles — both before and after that trip. Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any nation on earth. Trump and his national security advisor John Bolton have admitted that they want Venezuela’s oil.

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Reluctant Soldier, Uneasy Veteran – A Year in Vietnam and Beyond by Mark Fleming

It is a good read. A 112 page narrative of Mark's time in the Army and as an infantry soldier and clerk in Vietnam. It also covers his efforts to heal soldiers and the country since that war. This is followed by blog posts, poems and short stories that Mark has written about his experiences there.

Bronzing is credited with the original quote: "In war truth is the first casualty." We have certainly seen that to be the case in Vietnam and even wars in the last 50 years. As is the case with any superpower, there are serious moral questions about what the military arm of that power is doing. What logic and mechanisms does the country incorporate to get its citizens to participate and support even very unjust domination efforts. That is why Mark's book is such an important read, as our nation may be headed into more military conflicts in Vietnam and Iraq or Korea—as well as unending war in the Middle East.

Mark Fleming's book, Reluctant Soldier, Uneasy Veteran, A Year in Vietnam and Beyond is available for $17.95 at Orca Books and Browsers Bookshop in Olympia, or from Mark Fleming at rezdog02@hotmail.com.

A Fair Food Campaign is remaking agricultural labor by signing up food retailers

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. The CIW is also recognized for pioneering the design and development of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility paradigm, a worker-led, market-enforced approach to the protection of human rights in the global supply chains.

Organizing that encompasses the whole community

Built on a foundation of farmworker organizing starting in 1993, and reinforced with the creation of a national community network since 2000, CIW’s work has steadily grown over more than twenty years to encompass three overlapping spheres. The CIW’s national Campaign for Fair Food educates consumers on the issue of farm labor exploitation—its causes and solutions—and forged alliances between farmworkers and consumers in an effort to enlist the market power of major corporate buyers to help end that exploitation. Since 2001, farmworkers have partnered with people of faith, students and young people, and communities all over the country to win respect for workers from some of the largest corporations in the world.

Transforming the environment for workers and growers

The Campaign has combined on-the-ground actions with cutting edge online organizing to win Fair Food Agreements with fourteen multi-billion dollar food retailers including Walmart, Ahold USA, McDonald’s, Subway, and Compass Group, establishing more humane farm labor standards and fairer wages for farmworkers in their tomato suppliers’ operations.

Alongside farmworkers and 90% of tomato growers, participating buyers are a key part of the Fair Food Program (FFP). Through the Program, these buyers support a wage increase through paying an additional penny per pound above and beyond a human-rights-based Code of Conduct to be implemented on the farms that grow their tomatoes. Not only does the FFP make a substantial difference for workers' wages, but it transforms the labor environment in Florida’s fields into a workplace rooted in mutual respect and basic dignity for farmworkers.

Wendy’s is the only big fast-food holdout

With four of the largest fast-food companies (McDonald’s, Yum! Brands, Burger King, and Subway) and three largest food service providers (Compass Group, Aramark, and Sodexo) having signed Fair Food agreements with the CIW, the focus now falls squarely on the $50 billion supermarket industry and the final major players of the fast food industry. In addition to Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s, who effectively joined the Program in 2008 and 2012, the CIW signed agreements with Walmart (2014), The Fresh Market (2015) and Ahold USA (2015). It’s time now for the country’s other major grocery chains and fast food holdouts to step up and bring their considerable purchasing power to the plate.

University of Michigan boot Wendy’s

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

[Feb., 2019] After years of building their case to kick Wendy’s off campus, students at the University of Michigan (UM) have won their battle to “Boo the Braids” until the fast-food giant joins the Fair Food Program. The move turned a planned demonstration on the UM campus into a celebration, and sent an unmistakable message to the administrations at other schools where students have been demanding that Wendy’s put human rights on the menu, or take its business elsewhere.

With the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) human rights tour just weeks away, a dramatic wave of support for the Fair Food Program surged across the UM community this past month, marked by skyrocketing human rights support for the student petition, overwhelming backing from the Student Government for a strongly-worded resolution, and a powerful statement, quoted above, from the Michigan Union Board of Representatives (which, as it happens, plays a key role in choosing vendors for the university’s massive student union). The City of Ann Arbor got in on the action with an unequivocal resolution by the City Council.

Kimberly Daley, a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan and member of the Washstewa Social Justice
Local food
From page 1

count on finding kale and collards, usual centerpieces of winter meals, at the Olympia Farmers Market. So this time of year I often prepare potato leek soup or a mix of roasted carrots, garlic, squash, and potatoes. I turn to bean dishes of every sort, shellfish and cabbage/carrot slaw for my late winter local food meals.

Native tribes and native foods
I appreciate the regional tribes for their contributions to my “eat local” late winter meals and the local farmers who grow what doesn’t fit in my backyard garden.

To the Makah Nation I give appreciation wet early summers and dry August potato leek soup or a mix of roasted carrots, garlic, squash, and potatoes. I turn to bean dishes of every sort, shellfish and cabbage/carrot slaw for my late winter local food meals.

Our Community Farm Land Trust is a textbook model of how a small local non-profit with a cutting-edge mission can persist and endure.

The CFALT owns farmland that is leased to farmers for the long-term (Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy – home to Kiszop Farm and a portion of the Garden Raised Bounty (Grib) farm on the west side of Olympia). CFALT also has an agricultural conservation easement to protect the historic Oyster Bay Farm. Many in the community enjoy food produced by farmers from CFALT farmlands by purchasing Kiszop Farm potatoes, eggs, sweet corn, vegetables, Grib vegetables, and eggs or meat from Oyster Bay Farm.

In addition to saving farmland, CFALT is working with Stephen Baldwin to create a Community Food Cooperative County WSU Extension Director and Agriculture and Natural Resources. The current joint work is a regional project to revive local grain flavors of production, processing, and storage. Farmers need the opportunity to meet the demand for local, small-scale grain equipment and growing practices. Each fall, the land trust hosts Kirsop Farm Grain Equipment Field Day to bring the farmers together.

The CFALT also provides storage space for an historic but fully functional Clipper Super 47B Seed Cleaner, and used throughout the year by several local farms for grain cleaning. Kiszop Farm, for example, uses the Clipper to clean farm-grown grains. They feed it hens and meat chickens. This means even the animal feed is locally grown when we eat the eggs and meat from local farms. A new coalition in SW Washington holds promise for a vibrant regional food system.

Tumwater Brewfest will give all of us an opportunity to drink in the grain from local farms. Several local brewers will be serving up beer from those WSU barley trials. I’ll see you there as we toast the flavors of beers direct from our rich local soils.

Relevant Soldier, Uneasy Veteran
recounts the frustrations, anger and boredom of serving in a widely unpopular war as America backed a face-saving exit to an intractable war. Reading these pages offers the reader the details of life on patrol, bonds shared by soldiers in combat and the isolated world of the US military in Vietnam. Equally important, this personal memoir shows that the experience of war continues long after the weapons fall silent.

Now available at Orca Books and Browsers Bookstore

Community Farm Land Trust saves and supports local farms
For its support of our local farmers, I extend appreciation to the Community Farm Land Trust (CFALT), more formally known as South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust. I support that organization with my volunteer time. As a donor I fully embrace its mission to save farms and keep small farms flourishing. The organization’s founders were visionaries. They saw the potential for new ways to preserve the farmland. Through their patience and persistence, CFALT members built partnerships and coalitions even when projects met with resistance or failure. Indeed the CFALT is a textbook model of how a small local non-profit with a cutting-edge mission and strategy can persist and endure. It is one of very few successful national models of how the community land trust model can support the viability of local farmers in spite of the pressures of rising local land values.

Bulging and plastic
From page 5

possible, while also working to main- more interesting variety. But ul- tain more interesting variety. But ul- timate we make the decisions nec- evelop a strategic vision for regional infrastructure development. Such an effort could improve funding opportunities at the state or in other funding initiatives, while cre- ating a sense of buy-in and taking ad- vantage of complimentary needs.

To date, twenty-one regional organiza- tions and jurisdictions have signed on to the letter of understanding, which aims to develop a strategic vision for regional infrastructure development. Such an effort could improve funding opportunities at the state or in other funding initiatives, while cre- ating a sense of buy-in and taking ad- vantage of complimentary needs.
Wendy's

From page 12

Farmerworkers group that has taken the lead on the Bunn the Breads Campaign, sums up the sentiment on campus in the wake of this momentous decision, with a statement on behalf of the student movement there:

“As influential public institutions, our universities have a responsibility to maintain a clear and unwavering moral standard in their business relationships. Wendy’s, as the sole fast-food company that has yet to join the Fair Food Program, has refused to meet that standard. Instead of cheap ‘$4 for $4’ meals, we need to see human rights on the menu. Until then, students, university officials and local leaders alike in Ann Arbor have declared that Wendy’s is not welcome on our campus.”

Michiganders have made one thing abundantly clear: Wendy’s has worn out its welcome in Ann Arbor, and will most certainly not be invited back until it cleans up its act and joins the Fair Food Program like the rest of the fast-food industry giants. Now the attention of the Fair Food Nation turns to the other universities on the tour—principal among them UM’s key rival just a few hours away, Ohio State University—contemplating whether to continue doing business with a company as deeply compromised as Wendy’s.

How we got here.

The exciting news at the University of Michigan unfolded over the course of a dramatic two weeks, but it was the culmination of more than four years of hard organizing work by students like Kim and community members with Western Solidarity with Farmerworkers.

The pressure on UM to end its business relationship with Wendy’s started to build in late 2017, with the release of a report—commissioned by UM’s own Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights—that aimed to accomplish the following mission:

Identify the labor standards and human rights issues within these two categories: identify external partners to assist the university; contact university who share similar perspectives and work with the UM, present feasible pathways for improving labor standards in these two categories that outlines necessary tasks and cost.

The study’s conclusion? “The Fair Food Program is the most comprehensive social responsibility program in the US” and the best thing that the University of Michigan could do in order to improve labor standards would be to “become a signatory to the Fair Food Program.”

Following the study’s publication, UM students continued organizing a growing campus movement calling on the University Administration to honor the Advisory Committee’s conclusions and stand behind the Fair Food Program. And the movement didn’t confine itself to the four corners of the campus, as student leaders began calling on the broader community of Ann Arbor to join them in boycotting the final fast food holdout.

Finally, on the first of February, news broke of the campaign’s long-awaited success. In an article on U-M’s own hub, mlive.com, the announcement came that Wendy’s would indeed not be returning to campus.

To start or join a boycott the Breads campaign on your campus until Wendy’s joins the Fair Food Campaign, or to help in your community, contact the Student/Farmworker Alliance or http://www.boycott-wendys.org for more information.

Letters

To stop gentrification, support homeless rights

Dear Editor,

In the past two months, the City of Olympia has conducted sweeps of most of downtown Olympia’s homeless encampments. Some displaced residents moved to the city-sanctioned camp but many were forced to the peripheries of downtown or other parts of Olympia, far from vital services and resources. Immediately following the eviction of the Smart Lot camp, Olympia Police Dept. officers have reportedly intensified efforts to intimidate and harass homeless people on sidewalks in an apparent attempt to expel them from downtown.

The CARE Fund provides limited financial assistance to indigent Thurston County residents to help with their court cases or get their suspended drivers’ licenses back. We also support other urgent needs, such as short-term housing, transportation, education and medical costs for those with cases in the court system. The maximum amount of assistance we offer is $500.

As Brenda BigEagle, Mitigation Specialist, Thurston County Public Defense, puts it: “The CARE Fund has been an enabling hand for many people in 2016-17. The primary uses of funds were for providing support for license reinstatement, housing, and medical needs. Court fees and other forms of transportation were also types of expenses supported by the fund.”

How the fund operates

The Fund accepts client referrals from public defenders, jail staff, social service agencies, and the courts. Fund managers review applications and make payment directly to agencies to which the debt is owed. Last year, the CARE fund distributed $13,053.67 in funds to 150 people, up from 94 people in 2016-17. The primary uses of funds were for providing support for license reinstatement, housing, and medical needs. Court fees and other forms of transportation were also types of expenses supported by the fund.

Comments from three recipients:

Recently I received financial assistance from your program in order to help get my driver’s license back. At the time I was unable to act on this situation on my own. The CARE team was more than kind and willing to assist. I am grateful that your mission of cooperation and understanding helped me obtain my peace. -SH

I would like to thank you for the assistance in paying my renewal fee to get my license back. I have a terminal genetic disorder which requires I get my blood drawn weekly. The ability to drive to my doctors’ appointments and labs and to do my other chores has greatly improved my day-to-day life. It would make this world a better place if there was – VB

Interfaith Works is the Fund’s fiscal manager. Here’s how to donate:

By check: make check payable to Interfaith Works. Indicate CARE Fund in Memo line. Mail to Interfaith Works PO Box 1221 Olympia, WA 98507.

By credit card: Go to interfaith-works.org/care-fund. On right side of page, enter CARE Fund in “Note.” Then continue as usual.

By Bill Pay/EFT (for ongoing monthly or quarterly donations): Specify Interfaith Works and that you are designating your Cares for CARE Fund.

Fund managers: Maureen Hill, Wendy Tanowitz (governor), Rob Mead (governor), Steve Tilley

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A fine white powder

sugar is a fine white powder
let me say that a little louder
sugar is a fine white powder
and just like crack and smack
it’s all wrapped up in money and power
coke comes from leaves
and opium from flowers
but the granddaddy
of the fine white powders
is made from beets and cane
people hear the word, “drugs,”
they usually think of gangs
they think of cold-blooded killers
with Latin last names
selling PCP, LSD, and Mary Jane
or moving meth, ecstasy, and crack cocaine
people hear the word, “drugs,”
they think suffering and pain
they think shackles, jails, and chains
they think blood money, backstabbing
and innocents slain
yet there is no such stigma
attached to sugar cane
yea – there ain’t no shame, affixed to this fix
so even little kids get lit
taking rips (sniffs) off Pixie Stix
and no one sees a problem with this
because this is a fix that we all crave
sugar is a fine white powder
and it’s story is the same

as what’s shot in the veins
or shot up the nose
to get straight in the brain
i’m talking shackles, jails and chains
i’m talking blood money, backstabbing
and innocents slain
i’m talking headless and dismembered remains
and the killers deranged who run the whole game
and who teach kids to kill for material gain
and the saddest thing about it is
all these facts are already in your brain
they’ve just been sanitized, like bloodstains
washed down shower drains
so only the cold, boring facts remain
you sat in little rows, frustrated but well-trained
and normalized this shit with the phrase
“triangle trade”—“sugar, for rum, for slaves”
Europeans ruled the waves
and got money and power
off little grains of white powder
so come on ya’ll—help me make this louder
sugar is a fine white powder
now spread that shit
because knowledge is power

—Jordan Bubin

Jordan Bubin is a slam poet and teacher. You can listen to a Brief History of Coca Cola and its role in cocaine use at http://youtu.be/NYKAsu_nxG0 via @YouTube. More poems are at naughtyamouse.com.
April 2019
Works In Progress
—
April 2019
Free, take one!
Serving the Olympia community and
the cause of social justice since 1990.

This issue: Food, production & consumption

Trump says give 62 cents of each 2020 budget dollar to the military

With his new budget, Donald Trump proposes to take more than $1 trillion in taxpayer money and disperse fully $750 billion to the military. Out of every taxpayer dollar, in other words, 62 cents go to the military and our militarized Department of Homeland Security. (Veterans’ benefits take another seven cents.)

That leaves just 31 cents for all the rest: education, job training, community economic development, housing, safe drinking water and clean air, health and science research, and the prevention of war through diplomacy and humanitarian aid.

The budget also cuts billions from non-discretionary anti-poverty programs. Medicaid and food stamps would be cut and disfigured beyond recognition.

At every turn, the Trump budget finds vast billions for militarization, while it cuts much smaller poverty and other programs, claiming the goal is to save money. It includes $164 billion in war funding, but it cuts $47 billion in economic development and food assistance to other nations. It finds $14 billion for a vanity project military branch called the space force, while it cuts $1.2 billion for a program that's built and preserved more than one million affordable homes.

The budget pretends to be fiscally responsible, but it relies to an unprecedented degree on one of the biggest budget gimmicks of the 21st century, a Pentagon slush fund known as Overseas Contingency Operations. This account was first established to pay for wars in 2001, but is now available to use for any Pentagon wish not in the regular budget. The Trump budget takes full advantage, more than doubling funding for this pot of money to $165 billion, up from $81 billion enacted last year.

An additional $9 billion in the military budget is listed under “emergency requirements,” which may provide funds to build the border wall—a political football that President Trump shows no signs of dropping. Administration sources report that the President’s budget also includes $8.6 billion to fund construction of a border wall, in addition to $3.6 billion to repay military construction funds he has attempted to seize to pay toward the wall.

Unjust budgets and misplaced priorities aren't just a Trump problem. The United States has been addicted to excessive military spending at the expense of true security at home for decades.

A presidential budget never makes it through Congress unchanged—but what happens to it there depends on raising our public voices. A different set of priorities would stop our endless warmaking and use the vast wealth of this nation to end poverty and lead to true security for all of us. It would invest in healthcare, well-paying jobs, affordable higher education, safe drinking water and clean air.

Information for this piece was excerpted from reporting in The Guardian and the National Priorities Project.