



# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 23, No. 12

SERVING THE OLYMPIA COMMUNITY AND THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SINCE 1990.

APRIL 2013

## An interview with Olympia grand jury resisters

### Matt and Kteeo discuss the experience of federal incarceration at FDC SeaTac

Marissa Luck

Life after Prison: After five months in prison, Matt Duran and Kteeo are finally free. They were released February 27<sup>th</sup>, after a long legal battle, being held in detention without actually being charged for a crime, and living through over two months in solitary confinement. Both Olympia activists were incarcerated at SeaTac Federal Detention Center for refusing to testify before a grand jury they argue was targeting them for their political beliefs. (For more information on the Pacific Northwest Grand Jury Resisters, please see previous issues of WIP at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org)).

Although both Matt and Kteeo are relieved to be released, they're well-aware of the fact that their fellow grand-jury resister, Maddy Pfeiffer, remains in prison. And with the grand jury still investigating the May Day protest, the possibility that more people could be subpoenaed lingers. The grand jury could also decide to indict a protester at any time in the next year.

Just ten days after their release, I spoke with Matt and Kteeo to discuss their experience resisting the grand jury. We sat in a quiet corner of the dimly-light lounge at The Reef while I downed decaf coffee and Kteeo nibbled on slices of apple. Matt, wearing thick, black-rimmed glasses, carried his laptop he said he brought around everywhere since he was excited to have it after months of irregular Internet access in prison. Wearing a blue sweater, hair pulled-back, Kteeo was her usual upbeat self. Underneath her levity though was woman just beginning to come to terms with the experience she endured. Laughing one minute and nearing tears the next, both Matt and she seemed to be walking a line between relief and fear, joy, and sadness. Their resilience was palpable as we spoke about solitary confinement, prison, and their tenuous transition back to normal life. Here are excerpts from our conversation.

**Marissa Luck:** *When you decided you weren't going to testify before the grand jury, what were your expectations? Did you expect to be in prison for two weeks, two months, or for the full 18 months of the grand jury?*

**Matt Duran:** I was ready to do the whole year and half.... Going in, half of me knew that it wasn't how we perceive prison like in *Prison Break* or *Oz*, where

people are constantly getting shanked and killed...but somewhere in the back of my mind I was like, "This is what I'm going to have to live with for the next year and half. I'm preparing myself for this."

**Katherine "Kteeo" Olejnik:** I didn't allow myself to believe I was actually getting taken in, even though I knew that was going to happen.... I forced myself into a state of denial so I could keep working until the night before I went in. But after I was there for a week, I was like, "Yeah, this is the next 18 months of my life." It was so much worse than I expected but so much better than I expected. It's so hard to describe. You don't expect community [in prison], but there's no way to describe how prison fucks you up. No one can ever describe that in the media. It changes you completely.

**Marissa:** *Were there any points when you felt like giving up or considered stopping?*

**Kteeo:** Every day I was in there made me want [to give up] less. I was like, "Well I've already wasted two weeks of my life." After the first 20 days in the SHU [the Solitary Housing Unit, a.k.a. solitary confinement], I was like, "I've only called my mom once in 20 days. I am not doing that in vain."

**Marissa:** *So the more time you spent in there, the stronger your resolve became.*

**Matt:** Yeah, someone mailed me a post-

*experience in solitary confinement? I know many human-rights activists argue it's a form of torture.*

**Kteeo:** Like you said, being in solitary is torture. Just beyond the specific elements, just the idea that you're put into this space, you're never allowed to leave this space, how small the space is. And then there's safety in numbers. If you have a medical issue in solitary, there's no one to alert the guards if you can't hit the panic button; there's no one with you to witness guards' behavior towards you, so you're completely alone.

**Marissa:** *Kteeo, I know you were saying that having a sense of community in the general population of prison helped you cope. Being in the SHU, and not having that community, what enabled you*

*...the end goal of prisons should be for all prisons to end. If they were effective, and if they were doing what they were supposed to be doing, we would be the most law-abiding country in the world.*

card with a calendar on it, and I'd keep track of the days. And I was like, "Well, I'm down four months, it doesn't make sense to give up now because what the hell have the last four months been for?"

**Marissa:** *Can you talk more about your*

*to stay strong?*

**Kteeo:** One, remembering my community out there, and how badass they were. Like they didn't allow us educational programs so we made our own;

► **INTERVIEW**, continued on page 11

## Housing is a human right Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace sets up a homeless shelter at the Artesian Well

Dana Walker

"Don't judge someone else until you've walked a mile in their shoes".

I don't know who originally said that but it is usually sound advice. There will always be some over-the-top people whose shoes are best avoided—but most people are just people.

About half the energy you consume goes to your brain. There are trillions of neurons in each and every brain and each individual neuron has dozens of connections that interact in various ways with the dozens of connections in all the other trillions of neurons and the brain is constantly rewiring itself to adapt to ever-changing conditions—but a lot of stuff is also hardwired into your base-brain while you're a child, and even while still in the womb, and the point is that everyone's brains are so incomprehensibly complex that each individual brain is utterly wholly completely

unique in the entire universe.

People like to blame homeless people for being homeless. Like all other demographics, homeless people actually represent a wide variety of very diverse worldviews and conditions. Most of them are just regular folks who had some bad luck. However, as is always the case, the regular folks aren't the ones that get noticed or noted. Ever since Ronald Reagan emptied the nation's mental hospitals out onto the streets, a highly disproportionate num-

**Not one single person spoke in favor of their new laws. So we decided to put the question to them in a manner they couldn't ignore.**

ber of homeless people have serious mental illness and/or substance abuse issues and many of them are truly offensive people to be around. Nowadays there are also large numbers of veterans

who fried their brains in service to their country and were then thrown onto the trash heap when the nation was done with them.

So who is the victim and who is the crime? Some person's brain-wiring job got discombobulated when he was a little kid or when he was in Iraq and so he is sentenced to live a life of puking in alleys? Is that his 'fault'? Is it his mother's 'fault'? Is it his government's 'fault'?

Ultimately, who gives a shite? The guy is a human person and he's puking in a frigging alley! Before we can figure out why he's puking in an alley we need to first deal with the immediate problem and see what he needs so he can have at least the dignity of not puking in alleys. As for dealing with the immediate problem, there have been scores of academic peer-reviewed studies done upon the subject of homelessness. Their almost universal conclusion

► **OMJP SHELTER**, continued on page 2

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Works In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

### Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

### Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

### Mission Statement

Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed.

### Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

### Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org)

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### Submission Deadline:

**Friday, April 19**  
[olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)

### Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ April 27 ♦ Noon  
**Lacey Timberland Library in the Group Study Area**

(Be there for the first read!)

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### On the front cover —

*Su and the Chimera, 2012*

Photographer: Laura Killian



Photo: Dana Walker

### ► OMJP Shelter, continued from page 1

is that putting homeless people into homes is the cheapest and most effective method of dealing with the problem. (Though the studies usually don't mention it directly, this is also the most humane method of dealing with the problem.) These studies also conclude that the most expensive, least effective (and though they don't usually mention it directly the *least* humane method) is to criminalize homeless people and start running them through the jails, giving them a bunch of fines that they will never be able to pay, and otherwise leaving them to defecate in the bank's flower bed at night if they don't freeze to death between their repeated and costly stays in jail. All of this information is immediately in the face of anyone who starts researching this issue. It is not a secret. This being the case, can anyone explain to me why nearly every city in the United States chooses the most expensive, least effective, and least humane way to deal with homelessness rather than the cheapest, most effective, and most humane way?

The City of Olympia recently made the mere presence of homeless people on city property a civil offense. Since they didn't listen when all the experts pleaded and begged and very eloquently and effectively explained in excruciating and lengthy detail why—other than just killing them—criminalizing homelessness was absolutely the worst thing to do. Not one single person spoke in favour of their new laws. (At least no one spoke on the public record).

So we decided to put the question to them in a manner they couldn't ignore: On March 1 all of the Olympia emergency shelters shut their doors. With their new law it is now illegal for them to be on city property—and it was already illegal for them to be on private property. Therefore, through the *Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace [OMJP]* we set up a large canvas homeless shelter at the Artesian Well directly in their face one block from city hall and in blatant violation of their new 'law'. We were there from 5 PM Friday March 1 to 3 PM Monday March 4, when City Manager Steve Hall brought us two four-packs of most excellent coffee and said to pack it in or we would be arrested. (Actual homeless people are not usually given this courtesy—but then they usually don't have lawyers and hundreds of activists at their back like the activists do...)

So we packed it in—only to unpack two hours later in a state-owned parking lot at an abandoned building near the Union Gospel Mission. We stayed there until Tuesday evening when the Washington State Patrol forcefully evicted us. Seven people were arrested when they refused to leave. There are videos online

and I have others that soon will be of the police evicting a bunch of people who didn't have anywhere else to go out into the driving rain—and arresting several of them. I also have a video of Evergreen professor Peter Bohmer getting arrested.

The action was effective, fun, inspiring, and kicked butt. The central organizer was OMJP member Alex Daye. He didn't sleep all weekend, he spent his own money on pizzas and outhouses, and he was one of the arrestees. Alex's wife Audrey subsequently gave powerful public testimony to the Olympia City Council only an hour after Alex's arrest.

The arrestees: Alex Daye, Peter Bohmer, Rod Tharpe, Shane Dillingham, Nathan, Tim, and Tahoe.

The reason you get arrested is so you'll get in the news and we made the front page on *The Olympian* for three days and our action was reported on Seattle NPR station KUOW Wednesday morning and all the Seattle papers took note—thus we succeeded in shoving this issue into everyone's face yet once again.

*Dana Walker spent 28 years traveling in North America, 6 years in federal prison (ostensibly for marijuana; in actuality for refusing to sell his friends to the feds), and 3 1/2 years in Olympia hurling verbal barrages of sarcasm at the Machine. He's currently a Real Change vendor and a caretaker at Media Island. He is also the author of numerous novels and a radical bi-weekly political newsletter.*

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# Venezuelan President Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, 1954-2013

Peter Bohmer

Hugo Chávez had been dealing with serious bouts of cancer and received many treatments in Cuba. He returned in late February, 2013 to Venezuela where his condition worsened and he died Tuesday afternoon, March 5, 2013 in Caracas of a heart attack. It is a tragic loss for the people of Venezuela, for Latin America, and the world.

Chavez profoundly improved the lives of most Venezuelans, and millions and millions of Latin Americans in the present and into the future. He connected with the popular classes of Venezuela—the street vendors, the housewives, the workers, the campesinos—through education and health care for all, reduced food prices, money for the mothers of the barrio, and by his love and respect for the people. Listening to them and voicing so powerfully their aspirations.

The Venezuelan oil revenues for the first time benefitted the people of Venezuela as it funded the many social programs. He also sold oil at reduced prices to other countries in the Americas—heating oil at reduced prices to poor people in the South Bronx and on Indian reservations in South Dakota. Chavez's initiation of and support for the development of popular power and participatory democracy, such as communal councils, showed his trust and respect for the popular classes. Hugo Chávez was central to the process of the inclusion of the formerly excluded—to poor people no longer being the scorned and becoming subjects of their

history.

Chávez empowered the poor of Venezuela as they empowered him. The advance of the Venezuelan revolution is about the growing consciousness, power, self-organization, community, and rising income of the popular classes; and the innovative social programs for and often organized at the grassroots, aided and abetted by President Chávez.

He was an original and creative thinker and doer; someone who constantly experimented with how to create a just and self-determining society. In 2005, he named it, "Socialism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"—a socialism whose center was ethical and cooperative where a society organized to meet human needs. Equally important was Chávez's central role in challenging US global domination in the hemisphere and globally, and furthering Latin American solidarity. Chávez was a nationalist, a Latin-Americanist and an internationalist.

He made mistakes. He was too loyal to some of the people around him in Venezuela and perhaps too supportive of leaders around the world who challenged US domination but was repressive in their own country. Chávez probably should have delegated more tasks and details to others, and should have made more of a priority the reduction of violent crime, and the reduction of corruption and bureaucracy. He was human. His accomplishments totally outweigh his mistakes.

He qualitatively changed Venezuela and the world for the better like few individuals have ever done. Because of Hugo Chávez, Venezuela is on a path where there is the real possibility of a society that is both socialist and a participatory democracy. Millions and

millions of people in Venezuela and around the world and I mourn him.

Hugo Chávez lives on. Besides mourning him, let us honor Chávez by



challenging US domination and militarism abroad, by stopping US intervention in Venezuela and in other countries like Bolivia that are becoming independent of the United States—politically and economically. Let us honor and remember the inspiring example of Hugo Chávez by ending poverty and homelessness in the United States, by transforming this country, and by constructing our own 21st century socialism in the United States. With the Venezuelan people, Hugo Chávez showed it can be done. We can do it here. Hugo Chávez Presente!

*Peter Bohmer, a social justice activist since the 1960's, teaches political economy at The Evergreen State College.*



The dark days of winter are gone and spring is here—and with it...

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Procession of the Species Celebration!

The Luminary Procession

Friday, April 26 at 9:00 pm.

Procession of the Species

Saturday, April 27, at 4:30 pm.



Due to financial considerations this year, preparations for the Procession will be held in the Community Studio and two satellite locations. Because of the change to a different model for activities, it will not be possible to accommodate last-minute drop-ins and unplanned projects. Participants will need to come prepared with a plan for their project and be able to resource some of their own supplies. Staff will be available, however, to give specific help for problematic costume and construction challenges.

### The following activities will be happening in each of these studios:

**The Community Studio** in alley at 3311 Capitol Way N

- Luminary Classes lead by Nicole Rose--Thursdays 6-8:30 PM and Sundays Noon-2:30 PM for Adults and Kids 9-12 years old \$15
- Community projects by appointment
- Costumes for music groups
- Resource center to pick up and drop off supplies

**The Butterfly Annex** at 406 Water Street E

- Batik Studio for wings, smocks and other costuming
- Open depending on volunteer staffing

**The Whale Annex** at 600 4th Avenue E

- Open on weekday evenings 6-9, and weekends 12-6
- Best space for families and kids--bring a project
- Giant puppets and other projects
- Headdresses and banners
- Supplies for costuming
- Paper mache masks

**Eagles Hall** at 805 4th Avenue E

- Samba OlyWa practice in Ballroom Sundays 3-5 PM
- Other music groups practicing soon

Call 360-705-1087 for updated scheduling information.



# Special Events

## May Day Planning Picnic and Really Free Market

Saturday, March 30, 2 pm

Sylvester Park  
Capital Way & Legion, Olympia

Come share ideas, dreams, and visions for May Day in Olympia. There will also be music, a really free market, and free food.

Spring is coming... Anything is possible

## Paddle to Quinault: Evergreen Presentation on 2013 Tribal Canoe Journey

Wednesday, April 3, 1:30 pm  
Evergreen State Longhouse, TESC

Presentation by Tribal Canoe Journey Coordinator Guy Capoeaman, volunteer coordinator Jessie Grover-Stevens, and assistant Kerri Corwin. This summer, about 100 large tribal canoes will Paddle to Quinault from the coasts of Washington, British Columbia, and other Pacific Rim regions. Hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation this year, the canoes will land in Taholah, on August 1, followed by four days of protocol (tribal dances and songs) and potlatch (giveaway). Thousands are expected to witness this beautiful example of cultural resurgence among tribal youth, which has grown since it began in 1989.

The April 3 event is free and open to the The Evergreen State College community and the public.

## Kteo and others speak on issues around political prisoners

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30-8:35pm

Evergreen State College, Olympia

Mark the date and stay tuned for more information!

## AFROMASSIVE and KASATA SOUND

Saturday, April 13, 9 pm

The Olympia Ballroom, Olympia

Rooted in Afrobeat and funk, AFROMASSIVE (SF) brings the improvisational nuances of jazz, elements of electronic music and hip-hop and other influences from sounds from around the world. Mixing heavy bass, driving beats, sweet synthesizers and an in-your-face horn section, the end result is a sultry concoction designed to move you body and your mind. ALL AGES SHOW!!

\$10 at the door; \$8 students and KAOS members. Sponsored by KAOS 89.3 FM celebrating 40 years on the air!

## Rally to Say NO to Drones!

Wednesday, April 17, 4 pm

Westlake Park, Seattle

No drone killing, no drone surveillance! A family-friendly rally and march. Speakers and music by Jim Page. Part of national days of action against drones.

Sponsors include: Alliance for Global Justice; Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action; Veterans for Peace - chapters 92 (Seattle), 111 (Bellingham), and 143 (Everett); ANSWER Coalition; Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility; Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation; Women in Black

## Olympia Anarchist Convergence

April 20-21

Olympia, Washington

A gathering of anarchy accompanied by presentations, books and conversations!

This event will present some of the projects and people that have comprised Olympia's communities, and the greater Puget Sound Area, for decades. The website is <https://olympiaanarchy.noblogs.org/>

## Kyndal Meister: Junior Piano Recital

Saturday, April 27, 3-4 pm

Lagerquist Concert Hall, Pacific Lutheran University

I'm incredibly excited, and I hope everyone can come and hear me play! I will be playing the following pieces:

Nocturne, Op. 48 No. 1 in c minor - Frederic Chopin

Sonata No. 58, Hob XVI:48 in C Major - Josef Haydn

Sonatine - Maurice Ravel

# Preparing for the 2013 Procession of the Species

Desdra Dawning

The Procession of the Species, a yearly, dearly-loved event that happens in tandem with Earth Day and Arts Walk, has many supporters in the Olympia community. At The Evergreen State College, educators Cynthia Kennedy and Terry Setter are integrating it into their class, Awakening the Dreamer. They recently asked Eli Sterling, founder of the Procession, to speak to students in preparation for their class contribution to its upcoming 19th season. The students will be offering service time at the community studio and, creating their own costumes, will eventually become part of the Procession. Eli invited me to attend the class and learn more about the Procession.

The class began with the viewing of a new film created by local filmmaker, Marc Sterling. This lovely nine minute film titled Procession-Year of the Heart, presents beautifully edited footage of the 2012 Procession, both from the evening Luminary Procession and the following daytime event dancing through the streets of Olympia. Weaving together scenes of costumes and studio preparations with Marc's original music score, and thoughtful narration from an interview with Eli Sterling (no relation to Marc), the film takes its viewers directly to the feeling foundation of the Procession, to its loving, joyous heart. We see participants in the studio create their costumes and other creations, and then take them out onto the streets of Olympia in procession—both in the evening, with lit-up lantern creations high-

lighting an anteater and a huge praying mantis, to the event the following day with thousands of people participating and in attendance. It is a fine testament to the deep love so many people hold for this unique creative endeavor.

Speaking to the students, Eli began by pointing out that when he first started the Procession of the Species he saw a 20-year commitment to the process, thinking of the first five years as The Year of the Mask, the second five as The Year of the Dance, the third as The Year of the Voice and the fourth five years, of which this year's Procession

is a very appropriate part, as The Year of the Heart. I say "appropriate" because from the state of things on our planet these days, 'heart' is what is clearly needed! And that is what Eli Sterling and the Procession of the Species have been bringing to the streets of Olympia, and everyone who participates, whether processioner or observer, for almost 19 years.

Between concerns over potential City permit fees and assigned charges for police and sanitation and his desire to impart to the community the Procession's true meaning, Eli has been, for the last 19 years, carrying behind the scenes a rather weighty burden.

As Eli spoke, however, I saw the burden he has carried in order to bring this not-so-small piece of joy to us. Between concerns over potential City permit fees and assigned charges for police and sanitation, the constant pressure to come up with considerable, yet not-so-available, funds to keep operations going between Processions, and his desire to impart to the community its true meaning, Eli has been, for the last 19 years, carrying behind the scenes, a rather weighty burden. He does admit, however, that in spite of it all, "things come to us" as each year the community rallies to make it happen.

A perfect example of this community spirit came this year when Joe Illing, who watched the first Procession in 1995 from his downtown office and has admired it for years, recently read a newspaper article and learned of the financial struggle involved in keeping it running. Inspired to be of service, he



Nicole and new volunteer Jace schlep in the brand-new floor tarp. Photo: Laura Killian

offered an empty property downtown for art studio use for two months, rent-free (the Procession will pay utilities and insurance). That space, at 406 Water St. SW, has already been named the "Butterfly Annex," and will house the batik studio, where wings, smocks and other creative costuming will be produced. Another satellite studio, located at 600 4th Ave. E, has been dubbed the Whale Annex. This larger space, owned by Steve Cooper and managed by his daughter, Erica, has also been offered to the Procession under very generous terms, and will have room for larger projects.

When Eli first conjured up the notion of the Procession, he thought he was moving away from his dedication

to social justice toward environmental protection. He is now finding that there is no way to get away from speaking out about how we all treat each other, our fellow creatures, and the Earth. "What pushes environmental degradation is social injustice," Eli said clearly. And at the very heart of the Procession is the deep desire to speak for the species who depend on conscious human intervention to stay the onslaught of environmental degradation now sweeping our planet—threatening not only our home, but the homes of so many creatures who share this precious spinning ball of dirt with us.

Ann Pelo, outreach volunteer, recently told me a story that speaks to how this works for participants of the Procession. Andrea Verschuyt was a child of the early Procession, often joining her parents in the studio and on the street. As she reached high-school age, she thought she would no longer be participating.

"Then the BP oil spill happened," Ann said, "and with it came the devastating images of damaged and dying wildlife—images of oil-soaked birds too heavy to fly, dead fish suffocated by oil flooding the shoreline, images that called for our grieving witness and for action. Andrea carried those wrenching images to the Procession Art Studio, where

► PROCESSION, continued on page 5

## WRITER, ACTIVIST GEORGE KATSIAFICAS

**"Asia's Unknown Uprisings"**  
Monday, April 8, 7 pm  
Orca Books, 509 4th Ave E

Based on his recently published two volumes—which analyzes South Korea, Indonesia, Tibet, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, and others.

**"Uprisings, 1968, 2011 and today"**  
Tuesday, April 9, 10 am-12:30 pm  
Lecture Hall 5  
The Evergreen State College

George Katsiaficas will reflect on his classic book on 1968, Imagination of the New Left, and bring it up to date in examining current uprisings in the U.S. and globally.

George Katsiaficas is author or editor of eleven books, including ones on the global uprising of 1968 and European and Asian social movements. Together with Kathleen Cleaver, he co-edited Liberation, Imagination, and the Black Panther Party.

A longtime activist for peace and justice, he is International Coordinator of the May 18 Institute at Chonnam National University in Gwangju, South Korea, and teaches at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

Both events are free.

For more information contact, peterbohmer@yahoo.com

## More films at the Olympia Film Society

Continued from the back cover...

**Trashed -- film w/ narration by Jeremy Irons**  
Sunday April 21 \* 2:30

*Trashed* is a vivid depiction of the alarming global problem of the accumulation of what humans throw away and how it's never really gone. Acclaimed actor Jeremy Irons is your globetrotting host whose tour of indicative waste-overrun locales from Lebanon to Vietnam to Scandinavia and beyond becomes a highly personal awakening to authentic outrage. "Trashed provides enough gloomily grim material to sink the Rainbow Warrior - with no shortage of harrowing information, images, and prognostications.... And, given the scale of the unfolding ecological crisis, we can arguably never have too many cinematic reminders of the last-call state in which we've semi-inadvertently found ourselves."

**Bidder 70**  
Sunday April 21 \* 5:00 pm

In 2008, Tim DeChristopher filed into an oil and gas leasing auction sponsored by the US Bureau of Land Management. He posed as Bidder #70 and he won access rights to 12 parcels of federal land, a total of 22,000 acres, for the price of \$1.7 million. DeChristopher never had any intention of drilling nor was he remotely capable of raising the money to make good on his bid. Thus, enter the

federal justice system and, eventually, this documentary, which tells the whole story of a unique and courageous act of civil disobedience. "Beth and George Gage's *Bidder 70* is a highly inspirational account of DeChristopher's life since then, including his beliefs on climate change, his activist efforts to bring about necessary political changes to save the future of our planet, and his reflections on his indictment on two federal charges and the state of our democracy," writes Kalvin Henely of The House Next Door website.

Note: Tim DeChristopher will be released from prison on April 20th, 2013 having served nearly 2 years in prison. Watch for a card you can sign for him in the lobby..

**A Place At The Table w/ Thurston County Food Bank**  
Sunday April 21 \* 7:30 pm

*A Place at the Table* explores the plight of hunger in America. The filmmakers put a face on this disheartening statistic. The film follows several of the 50 million people struggling with this reality. A working single mom whose 'good' job still doesn't pay enough to let her feed her kids properly, and the children whose daily struggle with hunger takes a devastating toll on their young lives. *A Place at the Table* is a disarming look at a grim reality that has been too long ignored.

**VICS**  
PIZZERIA

360.943.8044  
233 Division St NW

► **Procession**, cont. from page 4

she worked for weeks to create a five-foot tall cormorant, one side bright-eyed and ready to fly, the other side dead. She turned to the Procession to give voice to her grief and anger, to say, 'Look at this precious and ruined life.' She turned to the Procession as an act of witness, and to invite witness from others. After spending her childhood with the Procession, Andrea turned to it as a young adult, understanding that art in community--the "cultural exchange with the natural world" that the mission statement speaks to--is a necessary response in moments of calamity, like the Gulf oil spill, just as it is a necessary response in moments of joy."

Carrying this idea of becoming a "witness," Eli often speaks of the many indigenous people in our world who have a tradition in which their decisions about the future are based on a question they ask themselves--What are the possible ways that this decision might affect the next seven generations? In attempting to answer this question, as Eli explains it, they create a story covering not just the recent past and what lies in front of their noses, but a story that takes responsibility for the welfare of all who follow after them for seven generations forward in time--a story that establishes a game plan. "They say 'this is how we do it!' and they set a responsible course," Eli says when speaking of those who still move this way in our world, then adds that "our environmental movement has been speaking out for the planet and its creatures, including us humans, for many decades now. But somehow, because we have failed to set a cultural foundation for it, the movement has not been able to create a story that spans so many lifetimes. We have become very short-sighted in our perception of reality. And because we have become so proficient with denial, attempting to mentally erase our past, we make it impossible to see into the future."

For now, The Procession of the Species lives in the minds, hearts and creative spirits of all who love it. Can we find a way to create a new story that will allow this healing event to live for us seven generations from now? Will it be allowed to do the job Eli Sterling set out for it to do so many years ago? Will it come to be seen as a force to reckon with?

*Desdra Dawning writes for the Olympia Food Co-op Newsletter and Works In Progress. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Northern Arizona University.*

#### Playback Theatre Performance

### Stories of being downtown with Olympia's Downtown Ambassador Program

Friday, April 12, 7:30 pm  
Traditions in downtown Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. This month we will be collaborating with Olympia's Downtown Ambassador Program whose goal is to create a safe and welcoming environment for all downtown users. The program is part of the City's Downtown Project that aims to revitalize downtown Olympia through a variety of approaches.

Suggested donation \$5.00-\$10.00 (No one is turned away)

#### Background information about Playback Theatre:

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

## Who bombed Judi Bari?

# The case of Bari/Cherney vs. FBI and OPD

Ava Arvest

As a participant in a few political actions after moving to the Pacific Northwest, I was very interested in learning more about this documentary that would be showing in Olympia. *Who bombed Judi Bari?* is a film about a young woman who was a fiddle player, lover, mother, and a charismatic organizer of the Earth First! movement. In 1990 she was the victim of a car bombing while on tour with her band before the Earth First! event, Redwood Summer.

Per Olympia behavior I was late to the film but hadn't missed much. The film is able to feature a lot of footage from Earth First! actions, revealing Judi's amazing ability to connect to people with her music and powerful voice that never hesitates to serve the interest of sustaining the country's precious Redwoods. She started a union in her own hometown while working for a chain grocery store. Then she proceeded to organize a strike while working for the United States Postal Service. This was the beginning to a career in serving human rights and environmental activism.

Judi demonstrated on behalf of the pro-choice movement protecting abortions clinics and then became engulfed with the urge to protect the redwoods. Judy said that it was while she was working on beautiful Sonoma houses in the California Redwoods that she felt compelled by the logging trucks she witnessed climbing up and down the hills with old growth redwoods upon them. This irony was too much for Judi to continue her work complacently. She had very effective tactics of inviting participants from colleges, and campuses around the country. Using her charismatic music she developed a political style on top of her own musical style. She met Darryl Cherney and they became swept away together, surely part of it was because of their shared political interest. Their chemistry and charisma was endearing and the focus of many actions to follow in the Earth First! movement.

The film give a peek into what the Earth First! actions were like at the time. A scene with Earth Firsters singing and blocking the road, has an officer asking, "Whose in charge here?" The videographer replies, "There's no one in charge, every single person here is here on their own, have their own plans for what they're doing. So I think your best bet would be to ask, after the song is over, for everybody's attention and to address the whole group."

The movement came with an influx of videographers that were present at the actions. There was a constant partnership of press at all the actions, and the Earth First! group developed a strong feeling of openness and invitation. This was to keep people excited about participating and to using their footage to share and educate people. This turned out to be incredibly valuable in the movement and in the making of this documentary, as the rest of the events that occurred are left in the fragile hands of memory and story-telling.

In 1990 Judi and Darryl were on tour across the west coast with their Music before attending the Earth First Gathering that year, Redwood summer. This is the year that Judi and Darryl are victims of a car bombing on May 24, Memorial day weekend. This is also the weekend of folk life that year in Seattle Washington.

Of the many startling

facts about this event, one of these is the immediate arrest of both Judi and Darryl after the bombing. Judi was taken to the hospital and treated for pelvic damage and internal bleeding. Upon waking, Judi remembers two uniformed police officers standing next to her stating that she was under arrest.

The Film's director, Mary Liz Thomson said, "As soon as I heard about the bombing, I knew immediately someone had tried to kill Judi." Judi had received several death threats and her work made her a target not only to the timber industry and lumber workers, but also the law enforcement whose daily work was compounded by such meddling demonstrations of free-speech.

The news coverage that followed the bombing portrays Judi and Darryl as militant. "The man and woman who were hurt today had planned to lead a summer of militant protests against logging practices in Northern California."

Thus began the ongoing trial of Bari/Cherney v.s. FBI and OPD. This trial is still going on to date. The 2011 Documentary gives us a look into Judi's experience in the hospital while trying to recover from her injuries and also deal

ing the letter and conducted a series of searches aimed at finding the typewriter that had been used to write the letter.

Another fact Darryl reveals is that they never compared fingerprints. If they were attempting to find out who the bomber was, wouldn't they be comparing fingerprints? If the case isn't already interesting enough it becomes a little more interesting as the investigation



turns onto the investigators.

Officer Doyle turns out to have been coordinating a bomb-building workshop 30 days prior to the bombing. The workshop was held on LP timberland's property where they practiced exploding vehicles. This is supported by the videos that were extracted off of FBI.gov.

All the charges against Judi were dropped, but she was not exonerated. Judi peacefully passed 1997 before being

able to witness a major win for the Defense. In January 2002, the defense was awarded 4.4 million dollars. Six officers were found guilty of not up-holding the constitution that day. The case still continues because of what Darryl describes as neglect to investigate who is responsible for the bombing. There is still someone who hasn't been prosecuted for the attempted murder of Judi Bari.

The case has not yet been closed, and the implications of this case still affect people to this day. While the tactic of controlling populations with fear, punishment, and torture has been used by parental units, overseeing powers, and governments for thousands of years, this doesn't mean it is right or humane. And it certainly doesn't mean that assassination should be condoned as a reasonable route of persuading public opinion.

Holding FBI agents and Oakland police officers to the flame of accountability is what was done in this case. False arrest, forged evidence, and the lack of respect for the constitution are all grounds for addressing enforced accountability. I leave you with the words of Judi Bari. "This case is not about me, or Darryl, or Earth First!, this is about the right of all activists to fight for what they believe in without the fear of repression from the US Secret Police."

*Ava Arvest, a four and a half year resident of Olympia, is an Evergreen grad and a volunteer for the Olympia Mycelial Network, KOWA lpfm, and Media Island International. She is Doula certified and interested in understanding the Micro-Macro relationships between emotions, physiology, and the resulting cultural psychology that affects our communities and the larger society.*

*Who Bombed Judi Bari?* will be at the Capitol Theater, Saturday, April 20th, at 9 pm. To stay up to date on the trial and follow *Who Bombed Judi Bari?* as it continues to tour the country go to [WhobombedJudiBari.com](http://WhobombedJudiBari.com).

Judi had received several death threats and her work made her a target not only to the timber industry, but also to law enforcement whose daily work was compounded by such meddling demonstrations of free-speech.

with the trial. Her recovery is not swift and she is unable to attend the event Redwood Summer, and has to gracefully bow out during the Headwaters Campaign to take care of her children and recover from her injuries.

Darryl Cherney presents one of the Case's more interesting details. "They never had any questions for Judi." In a case proposing that these environmental activists were transporting explosives, they never did question the defendant. One of the lead-investigating officers, Officer Doyle, was the one who told Judi that the bomb was in the back seat of her car, in the guitar case. After further investigation they find that the injuries that Judi sustained are able to prove that there was no way for Judi to be in the condition she was if the bomb exploded behind her. Judi said, "I felt it, I know where the bomb was, and it was right below me," right beneath the drivers seat, with the intention to kill.

During the trial there was a letter that came forward, signed by "The Lords Avengers," that took credit for the building of the bomb. This provided only a brief moment of hope to Judi, that the investigators might end their attempts to pin possession of the bomb on her. However, they then accused Judi of forg-

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# The carbon bombs that threaten our children's future

Bourtai Hargrove

The amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the air jumped dramatically in 2012, said Pieter Tans, who leads the greenhouse gas measurement team for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The increase is due to ever-rising fossil fuel burning in the developed world as well as in China. The prospects of limiting global warming to 2 degrees C, the level scientists agree is necessary to avoid catastrophic climate chaos, are fast fading away, Tans told the Associated Press.

A new study, published in the March 2013 issue of *Science*, shows that the earth's temperatures rose in just the last century to a high not seen for 4,000 years. Even if the temperature increase from human activity that is projected for later this century comes out on the low end of estimates, scientists say, the planet will be at least as warm as it was during the warmest periods of the modern geological era, known as the Holocene, and probably warmer than that. Penn State climate scientist Michael Mann pointed out that the early Holocene temperature increase was almost certainly slow, giving plants and creatures time to adjust. But, he said, the modern spike is so rapid that it will probably threaten the survival of many species, in addition to putting severe stresses on human civilization.

Updated studies now project a plausible scenario of a rise of 4 degrees centigrade as soon as the 2060s. According to the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, "given that uncertainty remains about the full nature and scale of impacts, there is also no certainty that adaptation to a 4 degrees Celsius world is possible. A 4 degrees Celsius world is likely to be one in which communities, cities and countries would experience severe disruptions, damage, and dislocation, with many of these risks spread unequally. It is likely that the poor will suffer most and the global community could become more fractured and unequal than today. The projected 4 degrees Celsius warming simply must not be allowed to occur—the heat must be turned down."

Limiting temperature rise to 2 degrees C is still not impossible, according to a paper by Michel den Elzen and colleagues, published in *Energy Policy* in February 2013, but will require immediate emergency action. To have a medium chance of limiting global warming to 2 degrees C, developed nations, including the United States, must cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. Current emissions reduction pledges from developed countries add up to

only 12 to 18 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and the U.N. Environment Programme's *Emissions Gap Report* found that the gap between current pledges and what's needed to limit warming to 2 degrees C to be between 8 and 13 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. (In 2005, emissions from the world's cars, buses, and trucks were roughly 5 gigatonnes.) It is clear that the world is currently not on the course to limit warming below 2 degrees C unless it changes its energy policies dramatically and quickly.

No such dramatic change is even being considered by the United States. Instead, the State Department and the US Army Corp of Engineers are on track to permit two of the largest oil and coal projects in the world—the plan to export tar sands oil through the Keystone XL pipeline and the plan to export coal from ports in the Pacific Northwest. These projects, if completed, will act as "carbon bombs" and push the planet inexorably towards

a global temperature rise of 4 to 6 degrees C in this century.

## The Coal Export Carbon Bomb

Coal companies plan to build two export facilities in Washington State from which 100 million tons of coal would be shipped to Asia, doubling U.S. coal exports from today's levels. Three more



Dec 2011 Occupy Bellingham protest in solidarity with West Port Shutdown. Twelve chained themselves to the rails stopping trains to Seattle and Vancouver. Photo courtesy of "B'ham 12"

coal export terminals are planned for Oregon. The Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point alone, if built, will be the largest coal terminal in North America. "The battle over coal-export terminals in the Pacific Northwest is the key U.S. climate fight of the next few years," said David Roberts, environmental journalist for *Grist* magazine. "Coal-port expansion is the fifth most carbon-intensive project currently planned in the world, bigger than anything else over which American politicians have control."

Last year, in the first phase of the struggle to prevent coal export from the Northwest, activists sparked a grassroots movement, turning out unprecedented numbers of people to submit E.I.S. scoping comments and crowd the E.I.S. scoping hearings on the proposed Cherry Point coal terminal and the massive trains that would transport coal from the Powder River Basin through

ries of meetings with federal regulators on the issue. CEQ has declined to say what it has been discussed in the meetings and e-mails obtained under the Freedom of Information Act have been heavily redacted. Paul Shukovsky, writing in *Energy and Climate Report*, says that statements made in recent months, and unredacted portions of the e-mails, show that the Army Corp of Engineers is expected to announce a narrow approach to the environmental analysis.

Although it may take two or more years before a draft EIS is released, and longer before final decisions are made on the proposed Longview and Cherry Point coal terminals, coal trains are already crossing Washington on route to Canadian ports. At present, three coal trains daily (six roundtrip) travel on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) main line from the Powder River Basin (eastern Montana/Wyoming) to Canada, through the rail corridor parallel to the Columbia Gorge and the Salish Sea into British Columbia.

In January 2013, Port Metro Vancouver issued a permit that will allow Neptune Terminals to expand its capacity from 12 million to 18 million metric tonnes of coal annually. An additional proposed expansion at Fraser Surrey Docks, which sits on the Fraser River, would increase the port's capacity for exporting coal by as much as eight million tonnes per year. If completed, the two proposals, combined with existing capacity to export coal, would make Metro Vancouver the largest coal export hub on the continent.

In November 2012, a group of North America's leading climate scientists signed a letter asking the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to delay making any decisions on expansion at the Neptune Terminals and Fraser Surrey Docks. "Converted into global warming emissions, this volume of exported coal will release, when burned, more than 100 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year," the letter states. "A volume of global warming pollution much larger than all the emissions within BC each year, and more than that associated with oil exports from the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline." Climate activists in B.C. have described Port Metro Vancouver's process for reviewing the Fraser Sur-

rey Docks proposal as meaningless, in contrast to the in-depth environmental review required by the National Environmental Policy Act in the United States.

Any additional coal exported from Vancouver ports will have to be transported to Vancouver by trains, and it is likely that the BNSF line through Washington will be one of the routes. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway has twice been temporarily shut down by activists protesting coal. On December 12, 2011, about 100 Occupy Bellingham protesters rallied at the railroad tracks going through Bellingham, in solidarity with the West Coast Port Shutdown. Twelve people chained themselves to the tracks, effectively stopping trains headed for the Ports of Seattle and Vancouver. The Bellingham 12 were held overnight at the Whatcom County Jail and charged with trespassing and obstruction. So far they have refused to plea bargain, opting instead for a full trial in which they hope to argue that fossil fuel burning poses such an extreme threat to the earth that their blockade of the coal trains was necessary. At the next hearing, on March 21, 2013, the judge of the Bellingham Municipal Court is expected to rule on whether or not they can use the necessity defense.

*[Editorial note: On March 18 and behind closed doors with the attorneys, the judge denied the necessity defense and, in his 14-page ruling, he also denied the defendants a First Amendment defense and use of the words "coal" and "climate." The defendants were given the choice of either pleading guilty to to reduced charges with eight hours of community service or a bench trial because the judge claimed the case was too complicated for a jury to understand. According to Bob Burr, a member of the Bellingham 12, they will be meeting soon to decide what action to take next. For updates go to [bham12.org](http://bham12.org)]*

The second blockade took place on May 5, 2012, when sixty protesters with *Stop Coal* in White Rock, B.C. carried their opposition to coal export to a new level. After warning Warren Buffet, the owner of BNSF, about their plans, the group camped out on the railroad tracks for most of the day to block U.S. coal trains from reaching local ports. One of the activists arrested was Mark Jaccard, an energy-environmental economist from Simon Fraser University and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. "The window of opportunity for avoiding a high risk of runaway, irreversible climate change is closing quickly," Jaccard said. "Within this decade we will either have steered away from disaster, or have locked ourselves onto a dangerous course. When I think about that, I conclude that every sensible and sincere person, who cares about this planet, should be doing what I and others are now prepared to do." The activists, arrested for trespassing, were issued \$115 tickets. CBC provided mainstream media coverage of the action.

## The Tar Sands Carbon Bomb

Similar non-violent direct action campaigns against the Keystone XL and Enbridge Northern Gateway pipelines are already being waged by the Tar Sands Blockade and Canada's First Nations. In a recent article, Utah Tar Sands Resistance points out that resistance to the pipelines is radicalizing the environmental movement. Among the characteristics they list that make the tar sands resistance movement different than any other environmental campaign in U.S. history, are the normalization of direct action, and the involvement of rural and indigenous groups along with more typical activists.

Alberta's tar sands contain a prodigious amount of carbon. An article in the January 2013 *Scientific American* states that with today's technology there are roughly 170 billion barrels of oil to be recovered in the tar sands, and an additional 1.63 trillion barrels worth underground if every last bit of bitumen could be separated from sand. Tar sands crude is nearly 20 percent more

► CARBON, continued on page 7

**Geraldine Thomas-Flurer, coordinator of the Yinka-Dene Alliance, says the First Nations are prepared to physically block the pipeline construction, if necessary. "Many of our chiefs have said that they would lay down their lives in a nonviolent way if it came to that."**

Washington. More than two thousand people attended the December 13, 2012 Seattle scoping hearing on the Gateway Pacific Terminal. So far activists have used the due process provisions built into the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to voice their opposition. At issue is the scope of the environmental impact statement, whether it will be a project-specific EIS, confined to the impacts on areas near the individual proposed terminals, or a programmatic EIS, which allows for crossing political boundaries, covering multiple ecosystems, and evaluating cumulative impacts.

On April 25, 2012 Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber wrote a letter to Obama Administration officials, calling greenhouse gas emissions a major concern, and stating that "if the United States is going to embark on the large-scale export of coal to Asia it is imperative that we ask—and answer—the question of how such actions fit with the larger strat-

► **Carbon**, cont. from page 6  
greenhouse gas intensive than conventional oil. “If we burn all the tar sand oil, the temperature rise, just from burning that tar sand will be half of what we’ve already seen,” warned John Abraham, Associate Professor of Thermal Sciences at the U. of St. Thomas in Minnesota, one of 18 top climate scientists urging President Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline. James Hansen, probably the world’s pre-eminent climate scientist, is even more emphatic. Discussing the need to limit greenhouse gas emissions, he said “if tar sands are thrown into the mix, it is game over for the planet.”

The Alberta tar sands cannot be fully developed and exported without the completion of TransCanada’s Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to the refinery hub on the U.S. Gulf Coast or Enbridge’s from Alberta to the supertanker port in Kitimat, BC. The proposed pipelines have aroused fierce opposition in both Canada and the US. Neither pipeline has been finally approved. In Canada, First Nations have opposed the Northern Gateway pipeline from the beginning. Organized by the Yinka-Dene Alliance, the Save the Fraser Declaration has now been signed by more than 130 First Nations. It bans pipelines and tankers in the Fraser River watershed, as well as oil tankers in the ocean migration routes of Fraser River salmon. Geraldine Thomas-Flurer, coordinator of the Yinka-Dene Alliance, says the First Nations are prepared to physically block the pipeline construction, if necessary. “Many of our chiefs have said that they would lay down their lives in a nonviolent way if it came to that.” The federal Joint Review Board (made up of Canada’s National Energy Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency), which is reviewing Enbridge’s application, has been met with demonstrations at their hearings throughout British Columbia. Hundreds of people turned out to oppose the pipeline in Bella Bella and Prince Rupert. In October 2012, several thousand people protested against the pipeline on the front lawn of the BC legislature, and in January 2013, a thousand more gathered to protest in Vancouver. The recent firestorm of demonstrations by Idle No More on the broader issues of First Nation treaty rights and the plight of Canada’s indigenous peoples, augments and reinforces the protests against the pipeline. Testimony at Joint Review Board hearings in Victoria was almost unanimously against the pipeline. Commenting on the cooperation between the First Nations and non-indigenous people at the hearings, Geraldine Thomas-Flurer said, “If anything, this Enbridge Northern Gateway has unified British Columbia.”

In the United States, two mass demonstrations have been held to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. After the 2011 mass rally in Washington DC, where more than 12,000 people demonstrated, Obama delayed a decision by requiring additional environmental review. Because the pipeline crosses international borders, the President has the authority to permit or deny it without input from Congress. While the additional environmental review was proceeding, TransCanada, with Obama’s encouragement, began construction of the Southern portion of the pipeline in Texas. The Tar Sands Blockade, a coalition of environmental activists and Texas landowners, resisted construction of the pipeline from the beginning with daring and sometimes spectacular direct action. Courageous young people

TO BE CONTINUED (and on, and on, and...)

# The seemingly-endless criminal prosecution (and persecution) of Scott Yoos

## Scott Yoos Support Committee

An angry crew of Scott’s supporters gathered twice in mid-March at our “new second home”—the Thurston County Courthouse—to hear arguments for and against an initial “Dismissal Motion” proposed by Yoos’s Attorney, Larry Hildes, of Bellingham, Washington.

Lacking only Rod Serling’s cool-toned narrative at the beginning and the end of each episode, these hearings remarkably continue to appear as though they are (perhaps) newly-discovered, long-archived film clips...once cut from the classic television series, “The Twilight Zone”!

The primary focus of this first motion has been the crude injustice of the arresting policemen’s brutal and clearly-discriminatory treatment of our friend. Scott Yoos is *mute* and has been so since 1984 when an unfortunate hitchhiking *misadventure*—a violent assault & robbery—left him with T.B.I. (traumatic brain injury).

Scott has bogusly been accused by the State of Washington on 3 counts: Criminal Trespass, Resisting Arrest, and, most-grievously, “Assault” of a Peace Officer, which is a “Felony” charge. Allegedly, the arresting policeman witnessed Scott’s ‘crime’ of throwing a small sack containing some damp paper towels from his pocket into an open dumpster. When confronted and

chained themselves to heavy construction equipment, sometimes sitting inside the equipment, or inside sections of the pipeline; lived for days seventy feet above the ground, perched precariously in tree slings, or makeshift tree platforms; and refused to give way until they were pepper-sprayed, tasered, and physically removed by law enforcement officials. Dozens of activists were jailed and held on exorbitant bonds. Photographs of the actions were posted all over the internet, and videos uploaded to YouTube. Support actions sprang up all over the country, including actions in Michigan, Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New York, and Washington.

The second mass rally against the Keystone XL pipeline took place on February 17, 2013 with more than 40,000 people marching from the Capitol Mall to the White House to urge President Obama to refuse a permit for the pipeline. 350.org, the Sierra Club, and other environmental groups organized the rally and a carefully staged civil disobedience action in which prominent environmentalists and journalists were arrested. The Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> action did garner some attention from the mainstream media. The New York Times came out against the pipeline; Thomas Friedman, a columnist who considers himself a centrist, also came out against the pipeline, urging environmentalists to cue up the protests and “go crazy” if Obama approves it.

On March 1, 2013, the State Department released its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) (written by a consulting company with ties to TransCanada) which dismisses the



Photo: Sandia Slaby

accused, Yoos responded both in writing and through the (civil, though perturbed) use of sign language. This strange effort to communicate was deemed to constitute “possibly assaultive” behavior, so three other supporting officers were called to the scene, where they swiftly stole Yoos’s bike from underneath him, tackled him to the ground, and brutally handcuffed and arrested him. (The “assault” charge appeared some 26 days later when it became clear Yoos was *not* going to agree to plead “guilty” to either of the initial charges.)

For further gory details in this absurd case, which will be *two*-years old this June, and has required approximately 20

court appearances and hearings thus far, please follow our fairly frequently-updated blog site, <http://www.scotty-support.blogspot.com> and/or “Scott Yoos Ldf” on Facebook.

Most unexpectedly, the latest hearing was cut short and postponed due to some nasty “unforeseen circumstances.”

We will (again) convene at the Thurston County Courthouse (2000 Lakemidge Drive SW in Olympia) on Tuesday, April 16 (the very day *after* our “National War Tax Resistance” Day!) at 8:15 am for a pre-Hearing Support Vigil. Court begins promptly at 9 am. Please *join us* there, if you’re able!

pipeline’s impact on global CO2 levels as irrelevant because, it claims, the Alberta tar sands will inevitably be mined and exported whether the KXL pipeline is built or not. Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune, called this assertion “inaccurate” and “devastatingly cynical.” As industry analysts admit, the Alberta tar sands are landlocked and alternatives to the KXL pipeline are far more expensive and could delay full development of the tar sands indefinitely. The proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline, opposed by First Nations and the province of British Columbia, could be held up in litigation for years. Pipelines to the Atlantic are already full. Rail transport is too expensive and existing facilities are inadequate to handle the volume of tar sands oil already being produced. Building the KXL pipeline is so critical to Alberta’s future that the province’s Energy Minister, Ron Liepert, said “if there was something that kept me up at night, it would be the fear that before too long we’re going to be landlocked in bitumen.”

The State Department is expected to complete its review and have a recommendation for the President in a few months. Meanwhile, the non-violent direct action campaign against the pipeline is continuing. A week of actions to Stop the Tar Sands Profiteers is planned for March 16th-23rd. On March 11, 2013, over one hundred people held a “funeral for our future” at TransCanada’s office outside Boston. Twenty-six people were arrested when they locked arms and blockaded entrance to the office. Wen Stephenson interviewed some

of the young people participating in the action for an article in Grist Magazine. Alli Walton, 20, wrote the group’s online statement, “We stand together as representatives of a desperate generation,” she wrote, “Today, we hope to present our political leaders with an example of the courage needed to confront the climate crisis by putting our bodies in the way of corporations whose activities threaten our society”. The students acknowledge the fear they feel before engaging in civil disobedience. Ben Thompson, a 22-year-old first-year PhD student in mathematics at Boston University, said, “But the fear that I felt around the action pales in comparison to the fear I feel around climate change. I’ve spent sleepless nights and had panic attacks at 4 a.m., thinking about, you know, reading reports, and just thinking, like, are we really doing this? Am I really expected to read this and then go do my studies? Like nothing’s happening? This is insane. And so I don’t know if that fear helps extinguish the other fear.” Wen Stephenson’s article can be found at <http://grist.org/climate-energy/the-children-why-a-generation-is-putting-itself-on-the-line-for-the-climate>

*Bourtai Hargrove is a grandmother, a retired lawyer, and an activist with Olympia FOR’s climate crisis group.*

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## Biology Fortified, Inc: At the vanguard of the Green Gene Movement and beyond

Marco Rosaire Rossi

*Editorial note: This article does not necessarily represent the views of Works In Progress or of its members. It is presented to WIP readers as a differing perspective in hopes of encouraging discussion/debate on this important topic.*

Very few public apologies ever reach the level of historical significance, and even fewer are done with the intention of redirecting an entire social movement. However, that was exactly what Mark Lynas was hoping for. In January of this past year, Lynas was a guest speaker at the Oxford Farming Conference. The choice of Lynas for the conference was unique. Lynas is an environmentalist; he has campaigned in England on a variety of environmental issues for two decades, and is known as one of the country's best educators on climate change. He came to the Oxford Farming Conference to talk about genetically modified crops.

As Lynas explains in his speech, fifteen years ago he worked hard to ban GMOs from Europe. He formed alliances with notable organizations like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. In the struggle against genetically modified crops, Lynas was on the frontlines: pulling crops out of the ground, warning people of the dangers of biotechnology, connecting the issues to multinational corporations. It was—in Lynas' own words—"the most successful campaign I have ever been involved with." There was a problem. It was also the most misguided.

"I want to start with some apologies." Lynas began his speech. "For the record, here and upfront, I apologize for having spent several years ripping up GM crops. I am also sorry that I helped to start the anti-GM movement back in the mid-1990s, and that I thereby assisted in demonizing an important technological option which can be used to benefit the environment. As an environmentalist, and someone who believes that everyone in this world has a right to a healthy and nutritious diet of their choosing, I could not have chosen a more counter-productive path. I now regret it completely."

Lynas' speech had been a longtime coming. When GMOs were first introduced to public twenty years ago, they were nearly universally condemned by environmentalists. The problem is that this universal condemnation has drifted farther and farther away from the scientific consensus on GMO crops. For scientists there is no debate. The GM crops currently available to the public pose no health risks, have benefited the environment, and have bestowed real benefits onto farmers. In this way, environmen-

talists—so united with scientists on climate change—have seen themselves part ways with science.

### The Green Gene movement

There is a faction within the environmental movement that is trying to buck this trend. The fundamental reconsidering of GMOs among environmentalist has resulted in the emergence of a "green gene" movement—a conglomerate of scientists, farmers, and activists who believe that the power of biotechnology can be used to make food more nutritious, aid in ending world hunger, and make agriculture more sustainable. The humanitarian goals of the green gene movement are primary, but underlining these concerns is a broader cultural shift within the environmental movement. Environmentalists have tended to view science and technology with suspicion, seeing it as responsible for creating our industrial society and therefore at the source of our environmental ills. The green gene movement is working to flip this idea on its head. Science and technology are seen as essential tools for solving some of the ecological threats facing the earth, and biotechnology can be means to move us towards a more sustainable future.

At the vanguard of this movement is the blog *Biofortified.org*. Started on Halloween of 2008, *Biofortified.org* pooled together the work of various scientists who were frustrated by the environ-

neering and organic agriculture practices can work side-by-side. In fact, they must if we are ever to have a sustainable agriculture system.

For many in the environmental movement that idea is heresy. For the green gene movement it's a foundational con-



cept. While most people treat genetic engineering and organic agriculture as worlds apart, the green gene movement is trying to think beyond the polarization. According to Haro von Mogel, the gulf between them constructs a false dichotomy. "I find the whole debate between organic and genetic engineering to be artificial and contrived. Because organic is about the way you grow crops... Genetic engineering is about getting a trait into a crop that you didn't have before. It actually doesn't make sense to me that you couldn't have a genetically engineered crop grow on an organic farm."

### Are organic farms actually better for the environment?

Part of the reason that the green gene movement is so concerned with the merging of these two worlds is that organic agriculture—though having some clear ecological benefits—also has some severe problems. Organic farms use fewer pesticides, but they also use more farmland and labor. This is acceptable to organic farmers because they can recuperate their losses in the market. Organic food cost more, and this higher cost is the result of additional labor and smaller yields. For niche markets in the developed world the effect of organic agriculture is benign. But, if organic agriculture were to become a global food system, then it would require a massive transformation of ecosystems into usable farmland, and a huge migration of populations back to rural areas. Not only is this transformation unrealistic, but if it were to occur it would have serious consequences for the environment.

Instead of having debates on what type of agriculture—Haro von Mogel argues—it is better to focus on the goals and use whatever means available to reach them. The ideal farming situation is one that

produces high crop yields, with limited inputs, and negligible effects on the environment. The overwhelming scientific evidence suggests that appropriate using biotechnology moves us in the direction.

One of the most prominent genetically modified crops is insect resistant corn and cotton. All plants develop their own self-defense mechanisms—including their own naturally occurring pesticides. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or *Bt*) is a bacterium pesticide commonly used in organic agriculture that is harmless to humans—but deadly to caterpillars, moths, and butterflies. Geneticists have managed to create corn and cotton variety that produces *Bacillus thuringiensis* as one of the crop's natural defense mechanisms. The result has been a dramatic decrease in pesticide use to the benefit of both farmers and the environment. According to a 2002 article published in the journal *Science*, the introduction of *Bt* cotton in China led to the elimination of 150 million pounds of pesticides in a single year. And, because farmers were able to maintain high yields with fewer inputs, this reduction in pesticides eventually translates into a higher income. This has been especially the true for poor farmers in India.

Contrary to the claims of GMO opponents like Vandana Shiva, the introduction of *Bt* cotton did not led to a mass suicide of Indian farmers. A 2009 report from the *International Food Policy Research Institute* confirmed that while the tragedy of farmer suicide dates back to the mid-1990s, genetically modified cotton was not planted in India until 2002; unless *Bt* cotton also contains modified time-travel genes, the claim that it is responsible for the epidemic of farmer suicides is just plain wrong. Also, farmer suicides did not rise after it became widely used. If anything, the use of *Bt* cotton has helped Indian farmers. A 2012 study from the *National Academy of Sciences* found that *Bt* cotton caused on average a fifty percent gains in profit among small farmers in India.

### Health effects of GMOs

Of course most people who chose to avoid GMOs do so not because of the possible environmental consequences. The problem is no serious scientific evidence has ever shown the dangers of genetically modified produce. According to Haro von Mogel, the science around this view is quite solid.

When asked about the health risks of genetically modified crops Haro von Mogel talks about the GENERA project. GENERA—which stands for GENetic Engineering Risk Atlas—is a database on the *Biofortified* blog that allows the public easy access to the scientific literature on genetic engineering. When the database was created *Biofortified.org* had 350 independent peer-reviewed articles analyzing the safety of genetically engineered crops. Now, they have over 600.

► GREEN GENE, continued on page 9

...genetic engineering and organic agriculture practices can work side-by-side. For many in the environmental movement that idea is heresy. For the green gene movement it's a foundational concept.

mental movement's entire approach to GMOs. Since that time, the blog has blossomed into its own non-profit—Biology Fortified, Inc.—and now includes a plethora of writers, including pieces from law students, environmental activists, and even an organic farmer.

In many ways Karl Haro von Mogel—one of the blogs co-founders and editors—was the perfect person to start *Biofortified.org*. Haro von Mogel is a Ph.D. candidate in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics at UW-Madison. While at UC Davis Haro von Mogel was a student of acclaimed plant geneticists Dr. Pamela Ronald. If the green gene movement has a founding text it is Ronald's book *Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics and the Future of Food*. Ronald wrote *Tomorrow's Table* with her husband—an organic farmer who once served as president for the California Certified Organic Farmers—and for many environmentalists its thesis is controversial: genetic en-

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▶ **green gene**, cont. from page 8

The broad scientific consensus on the safety of genetically modified crops flies in the face of the rhetoric of many of its opponents. For example, Jeffrey Smith—founder of the Institute for Responsible Technology—has reached a somewhat celebrity status in the food movement for warning people of the dangers GMOs. Smith has not only authored two books and has appeared as an expert on GMOs for the *Dr. Oz Show*, *The Huffington Post*, and even *DemocracyNow!* When Haro von Mogel was asked about Jeffrey Smith's work, he reads a list from Smith's website on the various diseases that Smith claims are caused by GMOs: "allergies, inflammatory bowel disease, autism, asthma, cancer, smaller testicles, liver disease, smaller size and obesity, autoimmune disease, pancreatic disorders, Alzheimer's, diabetes, kidney disease, infertility and increased twin births," Haro von Mogel's pauses of a moment, then adds "and he recently added that eating genetically engineered crops could make you more susceptible to AIDS." Haro von Mogel's point is clear. Smith will associate GMOs to any all diseases regardless of the scientific evidence or even logical consistency.

Smith's frequency to associate any and all diseases with GMOs is not his only mishap. According to Haro von Mogel—who has spoken with Smith directly on how he represents the science of GMO—Smith often coaches people in using a "feed not lead" strategy. Meaning, Smith describes an animal or person consuming a GMO crop, then describes a horrible incident happening soon after, and then leaves it ambiguous to the audience if consuming the GMO crop actually caused the horrible incident. The strategy scares up concern around GMOs while leaving the presenter off the hook for actually having to justify the science behind the connection. "It's a rhetorical strategy that he engages in" Haro von Mogel explains, "to try to get people worried about genetically modified crops that doesn't fit with what we understand

about the science."

#### Labeling GMOs: Informative or misleading

The broad scientific consensus on the safety of GMOs does put the current efforts to label them in another light. "I not against labeling genetically engineered crops per se," Haro von Mogel explains. "For me it is all about what are the pros and cons of a particular labeling scheme." For him, both proposition 37 in California and the more recent initiative 522 in Washington have been more "con" than "pro." The reason is that these the labeling schemes appear to be

At the vanguard of the green gene movement is the blog *Biofortified.org*. Started on Halloween of 2008, *Biofortified.org* pooled together the work of various scientists who were frustrated by the environmental movement's entire approach to GMOs.

more aimed at misleading consumers on GMOs than informing. For example, Washington's initiative 522 would require that genetically modified foods are labeled on the front of the product—suggesting that the fact that the product was created through genetic engineering is more important than the federally mandated nutrition information. According to Haro von Mogel "If there is going to be a labeling scheme the goal should be to inform people about the characteristics of what they are eating, but not in a way that is designed to alert you like something is supposedly wrong."

For many in favor of mandatory GMO labeling this argument seems counter-intuitive. How could more information lead to less educated consumers? The reason is that labeling schemes don't exist in a vacuum. Any food labeling scheme must reasonably interact with other labeling schemes (i.e. GMO vs. organic), and be designed in such a way that it informs consumers rather than

advertise to them. The mandatory labeling schemes favored by the various "right to know" movements just don't do that. They are written in such a way as to make it extremely difficult for grocers to carry products with GMOs. In this way, they function more as a soft ban than an actual means for educating the public.

#### Corporations, GMOs, and organic food

Issues of the environment and public health have tended to dominate the debate on GMOs, but most opposed to biotechnology will freely admit that is not their primary concerns. For many people, biotechnology is associated with the power that large corporations has over the global food supply. This association has become so intense that opposition to biotechnology has nearly become part and parcel with opposition to multinational corporations. Many agree with the green energy gurus Amory and Hunter Lovins that "Genetically engineered crops were created not because they're productive but because they're profitable. Their economic value is oriented not toward helping subsistence farmers to feed themselves but toward feeding more livestock for the already overfed rich."

Amory and Hunter Lovins may be widely recognized as important figures in the renewable energy movement, but they are extremely ignorant of US patent laws. The fact of the matter is that plant patents have existed since 1930 when Congress passed the Plant Patent Act as part of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff. Since then hybrid seeds—commonly used in organic agriculture—have been sold to farmers with many of the same restrictions and penalties that seeds developed through genetic engineering were to have decades later. Nearly the entire seed market for organic produce is dominated by large corporations and their seed varieties—like GMOs—are protected by patents. One of the largest organic seed companies in the world is Seeds of Change. Seeds of Change is owned by Mars Inc., the same company made famous by selling candy bars. In a great twist of irony, which speaks to the power of modern marketing, millions of people buy organic produce made from seeds sold by Seeds of Change under the belief that they are supporting healthy eating habits and small businesses, only to have their dollars trickle back to a large multinational corporation which made its fortune by selling people junk food. Unfortunately, in the logic of voting with your dollars big businesses always win.

The only genuine ways to prevent large corporations from monopolizing the food supply is to encourage greater competition in food market, and a greater portion of the agriculture economy under public control. Unfortunately, the actions of the anti-GMO movement have worked against—not towards—these goals. The fear around GMO crops has inspired an extremely burdensome regulatory system around them. Far from being opposed to these regulations, the largest biotechnology companies actively support them. The reason is because the regulations for GMO crops are so expensive that only the largest corpora-

tions can afford to manage them. In another twist of irony, many of the regulations opponents of biotechnology have clamored for in order to keep major corporations in check have been used by the same corporations in order to prevent competition in the marketplace. It is an obvious danger that the green gene movement is aware of. "If we set things up so that only the big companies and China can afford to put genetically engineer crops through the regulations," Haro von Mogel warns "then they are the ones who are going to own it."

#### A diplomat for science

In the complex politics of biotechnology it is difficult to know what will be the green gene movement's next move. It walks a fine line. It tries to be independent; critical of large corporations, and elements within the environmental movement; it claims logical and science is the best way to understand the natural world, while at the same time attempting to awaken our emotions to the nature world. Fundamentally, it encourages a break from a naturalistic ecology which sees environmentalisms as maintaining the planet as a pristine reserve untouched by humans, and offers a more humanistic or social ecology that envisions on intertwining of the natural world with modern technologies. Mostly though, it is a movement about dialogue. Haro von Mogel's sees his main missions as being a diplomat for science that gets opposing sides to talk to each other. When asked what he thinks people can do to change the polarized debates on GMOs, he makes a plea for understanding. "Don't assume the other person is uncaring. I hear a lot from someone who is pro-biotech say something about someone who is anti-biotech that they just want the third world to starve. And others will say the anti-biotech with the pro-biotech you just want to rule the third world like a totalitarian regime. Neither of which is true, both probably want the best for people in this world. They just disagree with the exact path of getting there."

Is Haro von Mogel's hope for a mutually respectful and educated discussion on GMOs possible? It's hard to say. Another intense debate on the merits of labeling GMOs is underway in Washington State. Listening to the public comments on I-522 before the legislatures it becomes clear that the two camps are still worlds apart. The likelihood that an appreciation for truth and science will bring them together seems slim. The Olympia Food Co-op, a grocery cooperative in Washington's capital, dedicated its most recent newsletter to the issue of GMOs. The newsletter contained many false, and sometimes outrageous, claims on biotechnology. Very few of the claims were sourced, and those that were traced back to the Institute for Responsible Technology; the organization founded by Jeffrey Smith—the guy who believes eating GMOs will make you more susceptible to AIDS. Nevertheless, the green gene movement provides an important and underappreciated perspective on biotechnology and environment. It's a perspective that anyone who is concerned with the fate of the earth would be wise to consider.

*Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate of the University for Peace in Costa Rica and a resident of Olympia.*

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# Peter Bohmer's statement on his arrest at the OMJP homeless shelter

On Tuesday evening March 5, 2013, seven of us were arrested for trespassing in the parking lot of the abandoned Washington State Fish and Wildlife Building on Washington Street, near the Farmer's Market in downtown Olympia. In addition I was arrested on the charge of assault for allegedly assaulting State Trooper Wiley. I did not assault anyone.

The context is as follows. In mid-January, 2013, the City Council of Olympia further criminalized homelessness by banning camping on city owned property. This ordinance went into effect in

early February. There has been widespread community opposition to this law. In addition, on March 1, 2013 the main homeless shelters for men were closed because the evening weather had risen to 38 degrees. There is no shelter for homeless men in Olympia. In response, the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) began an encampment at the Artesian Well in downtown Olympia where we provided food, a 24 hour bathroom, discussion, music and an enclosed tent with clean mattresses. Six people slept there Friday night, March 1; 14 people

slept there, March 2, and 22 people slept there on Sunday, March 3, showing the clear need for shelter and more affordable housing. I attended the encampment every day, fully supported it, attended some meetings there, as a member of OMJP, although was not a major organizer of the encampment.

We were ordered to vacate several times, principally by Steve Hall, the Olympia City Manager. Based on a Sunday, March 3 meeting at the Artesian Well, we drafted a letter requesting the city provide a temporary shelter for two weeks that we offered to staff with experienced people while longer run shelter was being worked out. We offered to close our encampment by Wednesday morning, March 6 if this offer was accepted. In a Monday meeting with Gene Hoover, a long time homeless advocate, the city manager, Hall, totally rejected our offer and said he would use the Olympia police to clear the encampment at 5 pm even though the encampment had been clean, peaceful and clearly served a need.

Before 5 pm, Monday we took down the tent and moved it to the unused parking lot of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife building. We rented another bathroom. Sixteen people slept there that Monday night and were served food. On Tuesday, May 5, we were given an order by the Washington State Police to leave the parking lot by 6 pm. Six people who were in or near the tent we had constructed at 6 pm, were arrested for trespass.

I had finished teaching at 4:30 that afternoon, March 5. I then spoke to a few students in my class about the significance of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's death as we were studying Venezuela that week and Hugo Chávez had just died. I consider Chávez a great leader who did a lot to reduce poverty in Venezuela and who was very misrepresented by the mainstream media. I stopped at home after my teaching and then got to the Homeless Encampment about 6:20 pm, Tuesday.

Upon entering the parking lot, I was told by Washington State Patrol Officer Wiley, that if you assault me I will take you down and arrest you. As can be seen from the enclosed YouTube video, I did not move any closer to Officer Wiley, did not touch him and tried to move around and away from him. I also removed my hands from my pocket as he requested. Wiley grabbed my arms, twisted them behind my back and said I was under arrest. I did not resist at all. The plastic handcuffs were very tight.

The YouTube video taken of my arrest can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?XL1XDyiKdLg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?XL1XDyiKdLg). See minute six, fifty seconds. There are also other videos that show my total innocence as well as the statements of many witnesses.

I was then put in a State Patrol car together with another person who was arrested for trespass and taken to Thurston County Jail around 6:45 pm. I was not booked until 4:30 am the following day, Wednesday, nor allowed a phone call until then. With many other prisoners, including the others arrested for trespass, I was held in the holding tank. Bail was set at \$1500 on my two charges: fourth-degree assault punishable by up to a year and a maximum fine of \$5000; and second-degree trespass, punishable by up to 90 days and up to a \$1000 fine. After being booked, I then changed into jail clothing and was sent to a dormitory in the Thurston County Jail at about 4:45 am, Wednesday, March 6 where I put my mattress on the floor. All the beds were full. We were awakened for breakfast shortly after 5 am. After eating my breakfast, I was informed that my bail of \$1500 had been raised and I was released at about 5:45 am on March 6.

I went to court on Tuesday, March 12 with the other six defendants, four of whom are homeless, and two who have homes. All of us pleaded not guilty. My next court appearance is set for Tuesday April 16 at 1:45 pm at Thurston County District Court.

This encampment and my participation in it are part of an ongoing campaign in Olympia to overturn the increasing criminalization of the homeless and for ongoing shelter and housing for all, where all people are treated with dignity. Housing is a human right. We are living in a country where there is mass unemployment of over 20 million, and an obscene inequality of income and wealth. The cause of this is an unjust system built to further the profits of the few at the expense of the many-- locally, nationally and globally. The main public housing program and policy in this country is locking up more people and building more and more prisons. Sadly, the Olympia, City Manager and City Council are so far part of the problem and not part of the solution.

Enough is enough! Let us unite and act in ways big and small to make sure no one is homeless, that there is quality housing, education and healthcare for all, that we stop criminalizing and incarcerating the immigrant and the poor and particularly young Blacks and Latinos, and where there are livable wage and meaningful jobs for all. Let us tax the wealthy, cut military and prison spending, and use the money to serve human needs.

Let us create an Olympia and a country that puts the needs of those with the least resources first rather than one where the government is a government to serve the corporations and the privileged.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

Si Se Puede!  
In Solidarity.

*Peter Bohmer, a social justice activist since the 1960's, teaches political economy at The Evergreen State College.*

## Who is the true sovereign here?

Mary Hath Spokane

I wish to share a personal story. I was in my Thurston County courtroom as an observer. I was there to witness how my tax dollars were being used to protect the rights of my fellow Thurston County citizens. I witnessed the frustration of a defendant without an attorney who was simply asking the judge for the city to return to him disclosure documents he had requested. I heard the judge state that the city was not obligated and if

the city *so choose*

not to answer his request, that was *their prerogative!*

Well...I stood up suddenly and spoke out boldly to the judge, "Who is the true sovereign here, the defendant or the city?" Next I continued, by pointing sternly at the judge and emphasizing

each word with my finger, "You need to contemplate that!" His quiet response, "I will."

"Why my sudden impulse to speak out boldly into the quietness of that courtroom?" "I asked myself. "Where did that intense clarity of my mind come from?"

That question about *sovereignty*, which had been forcefully ejected from my deeper or higher self, demanded my own contemplation. So, I began contemplating for myself that question which I had posed so arrogantly to the judge—"Who is the true sovereign here?"

Suddenly after a week of focus, I had an epiphany! I had an eureka moment!! I came to the realization that the questioning of *sovereignty* or who has the 'absolute, supreme authority' may be a key to help solve most of our current and serious societal problems including global warfare and our impending ecocide. I believe *contemplation* about *who is the true supreme and absolute authority here* should become the basis of many of our discussions. This question about *sovereignty* seems fundamental to our understanding our world and its structures. It is my belief that when we collectively investigate this question we will build a pathway toward collective survival, not just the survival of Americans, but of all humans!

The Declaration of Independence is crystal *clear* on this subject: the supreme *sovereign* of absolute authority is the individual! And in Jefferson's mind the government was to be a mere temporary creation by the collective *sovereign* individuals for mutual protection or "Safety" and to promote their mutual well being or "Happiness".

Awaken Americans! Please read your own Declaration of Independence. The people of Egypt and Middle East are quoting it as they stand fearlessly in front of tanks. They are not 'inspired' by us, the current Americans, nor by our brutal, imperialistic federal government...No., they are inspired by the words about individual *sovereignty* by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be sacred, undeniable and self-evident that all men (and Jefferson used men as

plural for men and women) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among

men (and women), deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation in such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. (Etc.)"

Since that great birthing of America with its Declaration of Independence, that *soul document* of a new vision of a Republic of equals where the One is for the All and the All is for the One.... there has occurred a gross *reversal!* A flip-flop has occurred! The *sovereign* today is not the Individual, but the intentional 'creation' of the individuals....their Governing bodies. This gross *reversal* seems to have occurred at all levels. It can be seen in the simple family unit when there is father/male as absolute authority. In our local, state, national, and the world governments the supreme and absolute authority has become politicians, judges, religious clerics and/or businessmen.

What say you Americans? Are you *the people* ready to take your own innate, God given *sovereignty* back? ...to flip this obvious reversal back over and bring *sovereignty* back to the *individual* and remove rule by created structures called governments, religions, central banks and corporations? Contemplate these great questions:

Who is the true sovereign here? Is it you? Is it *we the people*? Or, is it our created *structures*?

Mary Hath Spokane's website is at <http://www.maryhathspokane.com>

This question about *sovereignty* seems fundamental to our understanding our world and its structures. When we collectively investigate this question, we will build a pathway toward survival.

## May Day events are in the planning

The Olympia May Day Committee is currently preparing a festival highlighting resistance in the spirit and history of May Day and in solidarity with the Grand Jury resisters. Anyone interested in participating can reach the Committee through their website: <http://olyday.wordpress.com>.

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► **Interview**, cont. from page 1  
they took away our volleyball net so we played net-less volleyball....Also, working out compulsively... And letters from people. I can't stress enough how important it is to write to prisoners. Every prisoner is a political prisoner. Every prisoner deserves letters....When you're in solitary you might not always have a pen, so you might not be able to write back, but just knowing that someone out there cares...And being able to have a radio in solitary was important because the first time I was in solitary I didn't have a radio and I never knew what time it was, and that was really jarring. The second time [in solitary] I had a radio, and that's something that you have to buy so not everyone can have that, but it's music, it's people talking.

**Matt:** I had a radio the first I was in solitary but the second time I wasn't allowed to have one because you can only have one [for the whole time you're there], and I had broken mine while I was in general [population]....There are two different people that are classified to go to the SHU. You're either in administrative detention or disciplinary segregation. Due to overcrowding, every once in a while, you get a cellmate which is really nice but also annoying because you're around the same person 24 hours a day. [Note: Matt only had a cellmate for 2 weeks].

**Marissa:** Did you spend the full 24 hours in solitary?

**Matt:** You're allowed one hour out of it, where they take you out of the SHU and put you in a slightly bigger room. I just saw that as an exercise in futility...It's called the rec yard, the exercise yard, but without the yard [because it's inside].

**Kteeo:** And for the women...we didn't have showers in our SHU cell so we would be taken out to our general unit, the unit would be locked down, and we'd get taken to these shower cages for 45 minutes every three days or so. Which was kind of cool in a way, because I only had a cellmate for one week when I was in the SHU, and there would be four people so you could talk to the people in the other shower cells.

**Marissa:** What was your communication like without the outside world while in solitary?

**Kteeo:** In solitary you can only make one phone call a month, which is horrible. Every 30 days you're allowed one 15-minute phone call if you can afford it (you have to pay for it out of your commissary account). That's the only time you're getting love and support from the outside world, and if you don't have a cellmate, that's the only time you're getting any love and support....So many women in the unit were mothers, so they were allowed one 15-minute phone call a month, if they were in solitary, to connect with their children and to coordinate custody and coordinate money for their kids. In general population, you're allowed 300 minutes a month, if you can afford it because it's really expensive, which we were fortunate enough to have people fundraising for us, but [300 minutes] breaks down to just ten minutes a day.

**Marissa:** How often were you allowed to contact your lawyer in the SHU?

**Kteeo:** You had to fight for a lawyer call.

**Matt:** Yeah, you have to schedule it like a week or two in advance.

**Kteeo:** Fortunately my attorney would visit me once or twice a week though.

**Marissa:** Matt, I heard that you were unable to see your partner the entire time you were there since only immediate family could visit you.

**Matt:** Yeah I had one social visit during the entire time I was there, and that was from a nonprofit. It took about three months for them to approve my mom to come and visit...and the day she came out was the day I was released.

In the SHU, you're not allowed contact social visits. You're recorded on a camera and that's put on a TV and then you talk on the phone, and that's the visit.

**Kteeo:** That's just for the men's SHU. The women's does get contact visits. I saw my parents once but that was the only social visit I had.

**Marissa:** How did you react when you realized your cases had become high-profile?

**Kteeo:** It was so weird...because I didn't

get mail the first five days I got there and then on sixth day, I had 80 letters. And some of them were friends and regulars at The Reef actually. Some of my support came from around the world but a lot of the support came from people who work or hang out in downtown Olympia who know me. And they were just like, 'We don't care about the politics behind this, we care that someone we care about has been taken away from us.' And that [support] has been continuing on. Downtown Olympia community has been fucking incredi-

ing, we would be the most law-abiding country in the world since we have the most people incarcerated.

**Kteeo:** [I also learned that] unless you've experienced incarceration or some sort of imprisonment you just don't get it...You just can't explain how if you want to shower, having to be hand-cuffed and walked by three people [to the shower], or to have people go through your shit all the time.

**Matt:** Or getting stripped searched three times to go see your lawyer....[You just focus on] making it day to day, hour by hour....Every minute that you're surviving is a minute that you're winning.

**Kteeo:** Anyone that survives solitary is winning.

**Marissa:** How did you react when you heard Leah-Lynn Plante was released? [Note: Leah-Lynn Plante was another grand-jury resister from Portland who also incarcerated but released for unclear reasons. Observers believe she cooperated with the grand jury.]

**Kteeo:** I allowed myself to be kind of angry for a while but then I was like, you know when you're in prison you need to keep your head up. So I was like, 'I can't control her actions or what happened.' I try not to think about it...Leah made herself so much a poster child for the grand jury...I felt like me and Matt went ahead [and refused to testify] because it was just the right thing to do and we didn't have a political agenda. I felt like Leah always had a political agenda. But you know, those who talk the loudest break the weakest.

**Marissa:** What do you mean you didn't have a political agenda when refusing to testify?

**Kteeo:** Well, I wasn't at May Day and didn't know anything that happened. Even if I did know something that could have landed someone in prison, honestly what they're saying people did doesn't warrant what you go through in prison. No one deserves to go there... And also, I don't want to continue a political witch hunt and make that normalized.... [Deciding to resist the grand jury], it's not about someone thinking you're cool and political; it's not about anarchy or the anarchist scene. Regardless of what my politics were, whether anarchist, or communist or liberal or even Republican, I would have had the same answer.

**Marissa:** What lessons are you were taking away from your experience in a prison?

ble....I was expecting friends and family to have my back but I wasn't expecting an apolitical Midwestern fire fighter to be writing me telling me they hope their infant daughter is as brave as me someday. Or 60-year olds writing me and telling me that I give them purpose.

**Matt:** This one 70-year old person wrote and was like, 'I am so proud to live during the time you're doing this and it makes me wish that I had taken a stand at your age. It was incredible. And then to see things in print about us in *Al Jazeera* or *Reuters* comparing us to the American Pussy Riot. It was like, 'Jesus, I was just gonna sit here for the next year and half and I was expecting this at all.' Someone [who resisted another grand jury] involved in the Twin Cities RNC protests wrote, and he was just like, 'Oh I went to my grandma's birthday today and the sky was really nice.' And those are things that I love hearing about in letters because you don't get see those [moments]. The absolute mundane, ordinary things in life are extraordinary when you're incarcerated.

**Marissa:** What lessons are you were taking away from your experience in a prison?

**Kteeo:** As much as I want the abolition of prisons, we need to do things now, really obtainable goals. Improving conditions, whether that's an extra piece of fruit a week even, or getting more people to write prisoners, or getting behind the one-third good-time law so you can get a third earlier than a fifth, or ending solitary confinement.

**Matt:** I was reading [a speech that talked] about something that Assata Shakur had said that we need to walk the line between prison abolition and prison reform....the end goal of prisons should be for all prisons to end. If they were effective and if they were doing what they were supposed to be do-

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I was expecting friends and family to have my back but I wasn't expecting an apolitical Midwestern fire fighter to be writing me telling me they hope their infant daughter is as brave as me someday.

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## Monsanto's bad

Thursday, March 21, bowing down to Monsanto's well-funded lobbyists, Congress voted to allow Monsanto to grow GMO crops that could be harmful to human health and the environment—even if a federal court or a regulatory agency rules that the planting of those crops is illegal. Under this new law, sneaked in at the last moment as a rider to the federal appropriations bill, not even the federal courts will be able to stop Monsanto from introducing a slew of new, potentially poisonous GMO crops into our food supply. —Organic Consumers Association

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# Movies at the Olympia Film Society in April

Capitol Theater 206 5th Avenue in downtown Olympia, WA (360)754-6670 or [www.olympiafilmsociety.org](http://www.olympiafilmsociety.org) for further details

## Lincoln

**April 12 through April 25**

Oscar-nominated Lincoln (winner for Best Actor, Daniel Day Lewis) is a fascinating portrait of our most iconic president as told by the renowned talent of director Steven Spielberg. Daniel Day-Lewis fully embodies the role of Lincoln in his final few months in office as he negotiates with fellow lawmakers on the landmark decision abolish slavery, while prolonging the devastation of the Civil War. This significant period in history is recreated with dramatic accuracy that draws the viewer into an essential time that made a crucial impact on the future of the country.

## West of Memphis

**April 27 through May 2**

It has been a long road for the three wrongfully convicted individuals known as the West Memphis Three. Accused of the brutal murders of three eight-year-old boys, these three teenagers—Jason Baldwin, Jessie Misskelley Jr., and Damien Echols—were convicted largely on the basis of their outcast positions in their high school social structure. They were “goths.” The motive was Satanism. West of Memphis, featured at last year’s Sundance Film Festival and produced by Lord of the Rings mastermind Peter Jackson, travels deep into the details of this fascinating case, with unprecedented access to its principals.

## Brother Outsider:

**The Life of Bayard Rustin**

**Sunday April 7, 5:00 (one screening)**

In 1963, Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the March on Washington where Martin Luther King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Even then Rustin had an impressive civil rights resume. He was a lifelong soldier in the battle for African-American rights, but he was also a gay man when his brothers and sisters in the struggle were not always sympathetic. Harassed and stigmatized by the fallout from an arrest in 1953, Rustin was vilified and ostracized as a “pervert” and worse. This documentary draws on the reflections of people who knew him and on an extensive store of oral interviews with Rustin conducted by the Columbia University Oral History Research Project. It also features excerpts from his FBI files and an investigation that bears the fingerprints of notorious FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

## Searching for Sugarman

**April 22 - April 25**

Winner of this year’s Academy Award for Best Documentary, *Searching for Sugar Man* is a captivating, music-filled mystery. Opening with the once-promising 1960s career of the musician known as Rodriguez, his semi-rise and subsequent fall from fame is explored, be-

fore his disappearance from the scene. Cut to South Africa in the 1970s and a majority of the country is suffering under Apartheid. Rodriguez’s truthful music has become a motivating force for those fighting against the unfair rules of the establishment. He is so popular he has sold more albums than The Beatles. But where is he now? Rumors of his death surface, but there is no proof. Roger Ebert calls the film “Miraculous and inspiring.”

## Annual Environmental Film Festival

**April 19, 20, & 21**

A special event pass will be available or a separate admission for each film.

## Last Call at the Oasis

**Friday April 19 \* 6:30 pm**

Jessica Yu’s *Last Call at the Oasis* brings the issue of an impending shortage of drinkable water out of the vague “over there” of the developing world and right into not only our American backyards, but more importantly our kitchen faucets, right now. From Las Vegas to Midland, Texas, from California’s Central Valley to Michigan’s cattle yards, Oasis brings to vivid, horrifying light the impacts of water overuse in desert boom towns, carcinogen runoff from industrial plants, fecal toxins leaching into the groundwater, and the “Sophie’s Choice” situation faced by officials who must decide whether to preserve the irrigation that produces 25% of the United States’ food or an otherwise doomed marine ecosystem. Jessica Yu’s smartly constructed argument works less as a tutorial than as an infectiously impassioned call to arms.”

## Empowered:

**Power for the People**

**Friday April 19 \* 9:00 pm**

Is it possible for an entire community to live ‘off the grid’? Well, it is achievable and it’s happening in Tompkins County, New York. In *Empowered: Power From the People*, the feat that this East Coast town has accomplished is examined to understand how they did it, and how it could be possible for us all. Through pointed interviews with residents and city leaders, this informative documentary takes us behind the scenes to reveal how a small town that lives under a blanket of clouds for most of the year has managed to shed its dependence on fossil fuels and local power companies by using sustainable energy methods from wind and solar power to bio-diesel and geothermal energies.

## The Moo Man

**Saturday April 20 \* 4:00 pm**

*The Moo Man* is a documentary with an ingenious strategy for its fascinating look at the UK dairy industry, focusing on a memorable

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