

The Portland Alliance Sponsors Northwest Film Center presents VOICES IN ACTION: HUMAN RIGHTS ON FILM October 6 to November 9 Portland Art Museum

THE PORTLAND Alliance

FREE!

Of, by and for the people...

VOL. 31 NO. 6 1981-2011 CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER SUMMER 2011

*"Truth is equivalent to treason and speaking truth to power makes one an enemy of the state."
Thomas Drake, NSA whistleblower*

PDX Summertime Blues

Photos at right by Peter C. Little

TALKIN' 'BOUT BLUES POWER!

Everyone enjoyed the Waterfront Summertime Blues, but while the music has faded, a fatal summertime blues remains.

The boys in blue at the Police Bureau are out of control. For the past ten years the citizens of Portland have paid 2.1 million dollars per year due to police abuse of power. Multiple judges found the bureau guilty, but the officers involved have not been properly disciplined or reprimanded for these crimes. Officers continue to misbehave, committing mayhem and murder, because there are no consequences. Because they can.

The Alliance demands accountability from the department, the mayor, and the city. To honor this commitment, we plan to promote and sponsor the 2012 Waterfront Blues. We'll hold our 'leaders' feet to the fire, and back it with the blues.



Pictures by Peter C. Little

Saving Radical Underground Press!

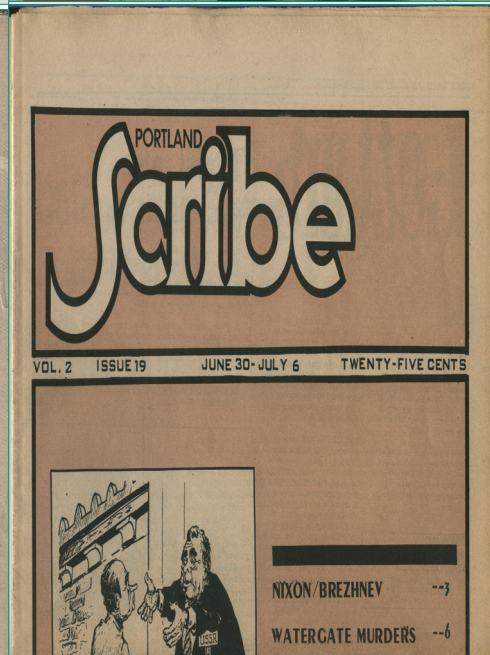
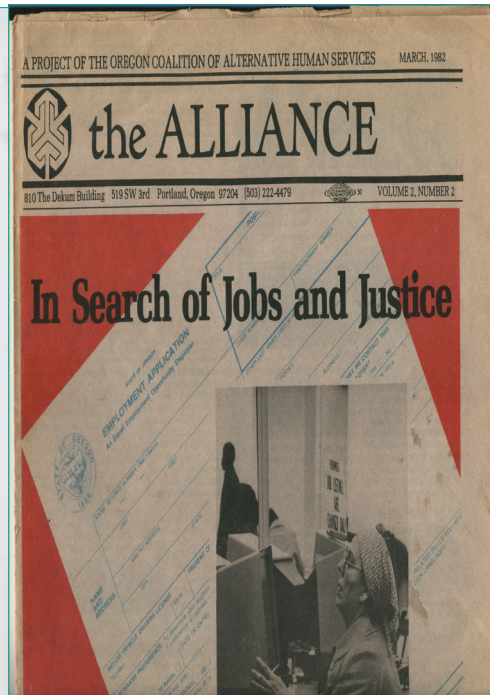
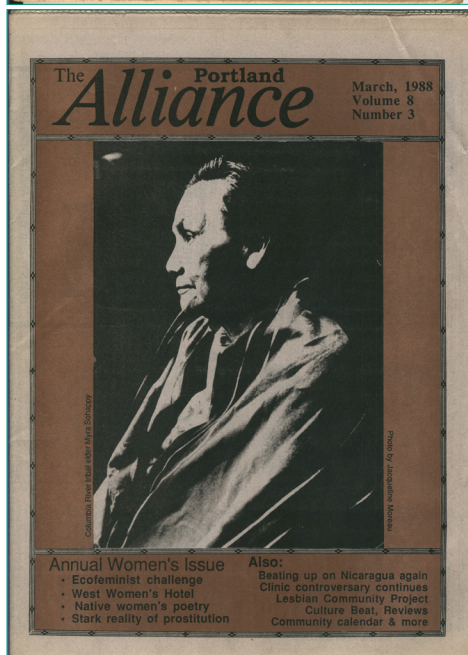
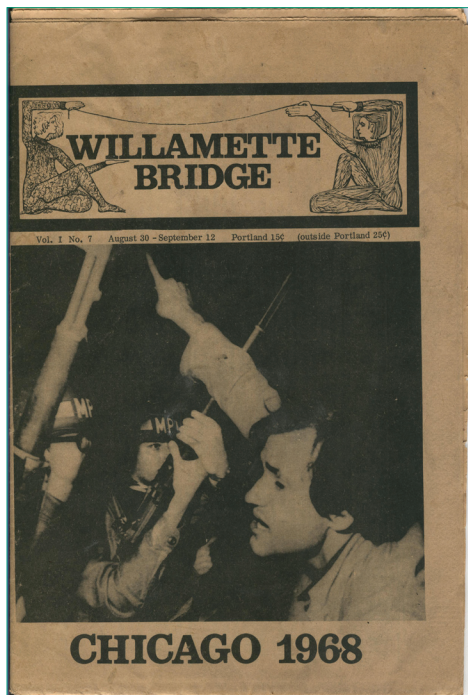
"Are Counter-Cultural Newspapers a Dying Breed or our last hope?"

From Ruminations by Fred Miller...

PDX Roots of Rebellion, Resistance, Revitalization, and Progressive Reform

KBOO, a listener-supported FM station, went on the air in 1968. They had a 10-watt transmitter.

That year, Michael Wells started the Willamette Bridge, a radical underground weekly newspaper. The Bridge "connected political factions that otherwise weren't communicating," he said. The paper also became popular, Wells said, with an unlikely group of readers: "Parents who were trying to figure out what their kids were up to." The paper was published from June 7, 1968 to June 24, 1971. It was a member of the Underground Press Syndicate and the Liberation News Service printed in a tabloid format. Initially a biweekly, in 1969 the paper appeared on a weekly basis. The paper was organized by members of Reed College SDS and its spinoff, the Portland Revolutionary Youth Movement



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Underground Continued Page 6

“The president is allowed to indulge in wars of choice”



Photo by Peter C. Little

A Few Words

Hello! And thanks for your support. It has been a rough year for the Alliance. But we understand that alternatives to the mainstream corporate press are needed now more than ever.

Since last summer we have moved the Alliance three times. Now the reconstituted paper resides at 5926 N. Albina Avenue, just a couple blocks north of PCC Cascade campus. We like the neighborhood and have had a positive response from neighbors. We welcome supporters to stop by and visit. We intend to remain here as a vital community resource.

The standing editorial committee remains active and hopeful. We have some new technical support to augment the efforts of our board members. Free Geek has provided the Alliance with newer, faster equipment so we can get our databases back on track and make our writing and editing workstations more accessible and comfortable for editors, writers, and the community at large. We have five operating computer workstations, one station is reserved for public access, and another station on the way!

We apologise for stumbling this summer, but here is The Portland Alliance Summertime Blues Online. 28 writers and seven editors produced this issue! We are currently working on a print

issue for September, and will do our best to deliver. We hope to procure the necessary foundational and institutional support this fall to get us back on a regular monthly schedule.

The state of the nation has a few of us worried. Some have said things are looking good, but others disagree.

Facts remain:

Good is a relative term. Things are in bad shape. Our infrastructure continues to decline. Our civil rights continue to erode. Schools are getting worse, not better. Our constitutional rights have been abrogated. We are broke. There are no jobs.

The president is allowed to indulge in wars of choice and his criminal behavior is not challenged. Corporations are now considered people. Illegal foreclosures continue. And the economic disaster engineered by Norquist and company has been endorsed and facilitated by the current administration. There has been no response to corporate seizures of retirement funds and movements of operations overseas.

Nobody has been prosecuted for the crimes committed by Bush, Cheney, or Obama. And there does not seem to be any serious effort to enforce existing laws or constitutional mandates. If this is “good,” I’d hate to see bad.

TIM FLANAGAN, EDITORIAL COORDINATOR & ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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SUMMER 2011

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Letters to the editor should be 400 words or less. Include address and phone number to verify authenticity. E-mail is preferred. All material may be edited for clarity, style, and space considerations.

DEADLINES

- Articles, Letters to the Editor, & Advertising: 14th-19th of Month
- Calendar Announcements: 19-21st

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(NAAME)

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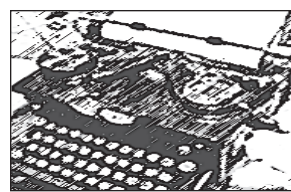
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—Printed on Partially Recycled Paper—



"I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD RUN MORE THAN ONE THEATER AT A TIME, BUT NOW I'M THINKING OF ADDING ON!"



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“I encourage everyone who has supported the Alliance in the past to do so once again. I also encourage those who value the newspaper but never subscribed to show your support at this critical time.”

Sincerely, Dave Mazza,
Former Editor (2000-2007)

Dear Editor:

With warmer temperatures, humans aren’t the only ones out and about. Turtles are on the move, too, and many find themselves in danger when they try to cross roads and highways. Because of their extremely slow metabolism, turtles who are hit by vehicles can suffer for days or even weeks in intense pain before dying.

PETA rescue workers routinely find turtles who are still alive and suffering immensely even though their shells have been crushed and they are bleeding severely. I urge anyone who sees a turtle—or any animal—in the road to stop and check on him or her, even if the animal appears to be dead.

Please see Letters on page 3

Community Meetings:

Tuesday, August 23rd, 7-9pm:
Copy Editing: Writers Meeting,
at 5926 N. Albina

Sunday, August 28th, 2-6 pm:
Office Work Party at 5926 Albina
& Volunteer Orientation Meeting.

Wednesday, September 7th
Standing Editorial Committee
7pm-9pm at 5926 N Albina

Tuesday, September 13,
Writers Workshop 7 pm-9pm:
Location TBA

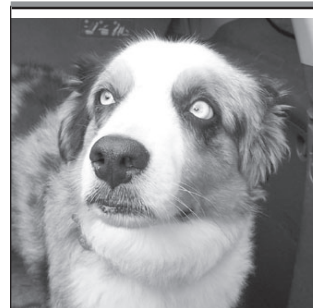
Thursday, September 22
Copy-Editing, Layout & Design
7-9pm at 5926 N Albina

Monday, September 26,
TPA Board Meeting, June Key
Delta Community Center,
7-9pm at 5940 N Albina

There will be food,
bring some to share!

We support PDX progressives. Even though we are having serious cash flow problems, you can get PAID to write for *The Alliance*! A donor will pay a stipend to one writer per month for an in-depth investigative feature. We would like to provide resources for quality cover art. To submit ideas for future issues, call 503-327-8377. We currently have opportunities for an advertising person to arrange, design, and place progressive partnership ads in upcoming issues. (% based)

Contact: editor@theportlandalliance.org



Marla the media mutt says...

Are you an Alliance scavenger? Do you rely on free copies to get your monthly Alliance? If the answer is “yes,” it’s time you consider becoming a subscriber. For only \$30 a year you get the paper delivered to your door and we get much needed revenue to keep us going. Go to page 20, fill out a subscription form and mail it in today! <https://sites.google.com/site/theportlandalliance/>

Small, uninjured turtles should be carried across the road in the direction they were heading (otherwise, they will attempt to cross the road again). Large or snapping turtles can be gently coaxed into an animal carrier or onto a sturdy, flat surface and moved across the road. If you see a turtle who has been hit by a car, rush the animal to a veterinarian or an animal shelter.

Stopping to check on an animal only takes a moment, but it can save an animal's life. more: www.PETA.org. Sincerely, Daphna Nachminovitch Vice President, Cruelty Investigations Department People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) 501 Front St. Norfolk, VA 23510 757-962-8338 DaphnaN@peta.org

Dear Editor:

I'd like to make two corrections to my testimony on the Single Payer Bill, HB 3510, which the Alliance ran in the April issue.

I opened the testimony by thanking Rep Mitch Greenlick for sponsoring the bill. But at Rep Greenlick's recent NW Town Hall Meeting, he made it clear that he isn't a sponsor. His name is on the bill only because he is co-chair of the Health Committee. (My honest impression at the Town Hall was that he felt he was doing the progressives a favor by even giving the bill a hearing, but that he certainly wouldn't

give a lot of floor time to single payer spokespeople.) He did say at one point, "Maybe I should have a Town Hall on health care," and there were voices of assent from the audience. He certainly should.

"We have an ethical and moral responsibility to provide health care to everyone. When the truth is finally told, we already pay for health care."

Also I would like clarify that my testimony was:

"Our constitution guarantees every American 'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' The guarantee of 'life' must include the guarantee of health care. In any complex industrial society, one bad individual decision on a corporate or government level can adversely affect thousands of people- examples are the decisions to allow cigarette advertising; to medicate children with drugs tested only on adults, to allow literally tens of thousands of chemicals whose health effects aren't tested into our air, water and food, etc. Any industrial society with the right to call itself civilized must accept, along with the wealth that comes with industrialization, the responsibility to provide health care."

But someone changed at the Alliance changed the last sentence of the above

paragraph to read:

"Any civilized industrial society must provide responsible health care for those who do the work."

That sounds like an endorsement of our present system, which links health care to work. But everyone needs health care, and not can do or can find work. Employment-based health care, initiated during WWII as an inducement at a time when workers were scarce, has become one of our major problems. It has kept unions bargaining endlessly (and increasingly on the losing end of the bargain) for the same thing over and over again. It has driven a wedge between those with health care and those without, and pacified the large segment of the working class that until now had insurance. This has kept some people working at jobs they hate, and others from launching creative and useful entrepreneurial enterprises.

We need to do better than that. We already pay more than enough to provide excellent health care for everyone. And we have an ethical and moral responsibility to do it.

Rep Jim McDermott and Senator Bernie Franks have each introduced a bill that calls for extending Medicare to everyone. Together the bills are called the "American Health Security Act of 2011." Rep John Conyers has repeatedly introduced an "Improved and Expanded Medicare for All Act."

I hope Alliance readers will join me in telling their congresspeople we support Medicare for everyone as a first step towards solving our health crisis, and from now on we expect single payer will be on the table in every honest and serious public discussion of health care reform in this country. If the Democratic party is to survive, it had better start following in the footsteps on Senator Franks and Reps Conyers and McDermott.

Thank you, Barbara LaMorticella

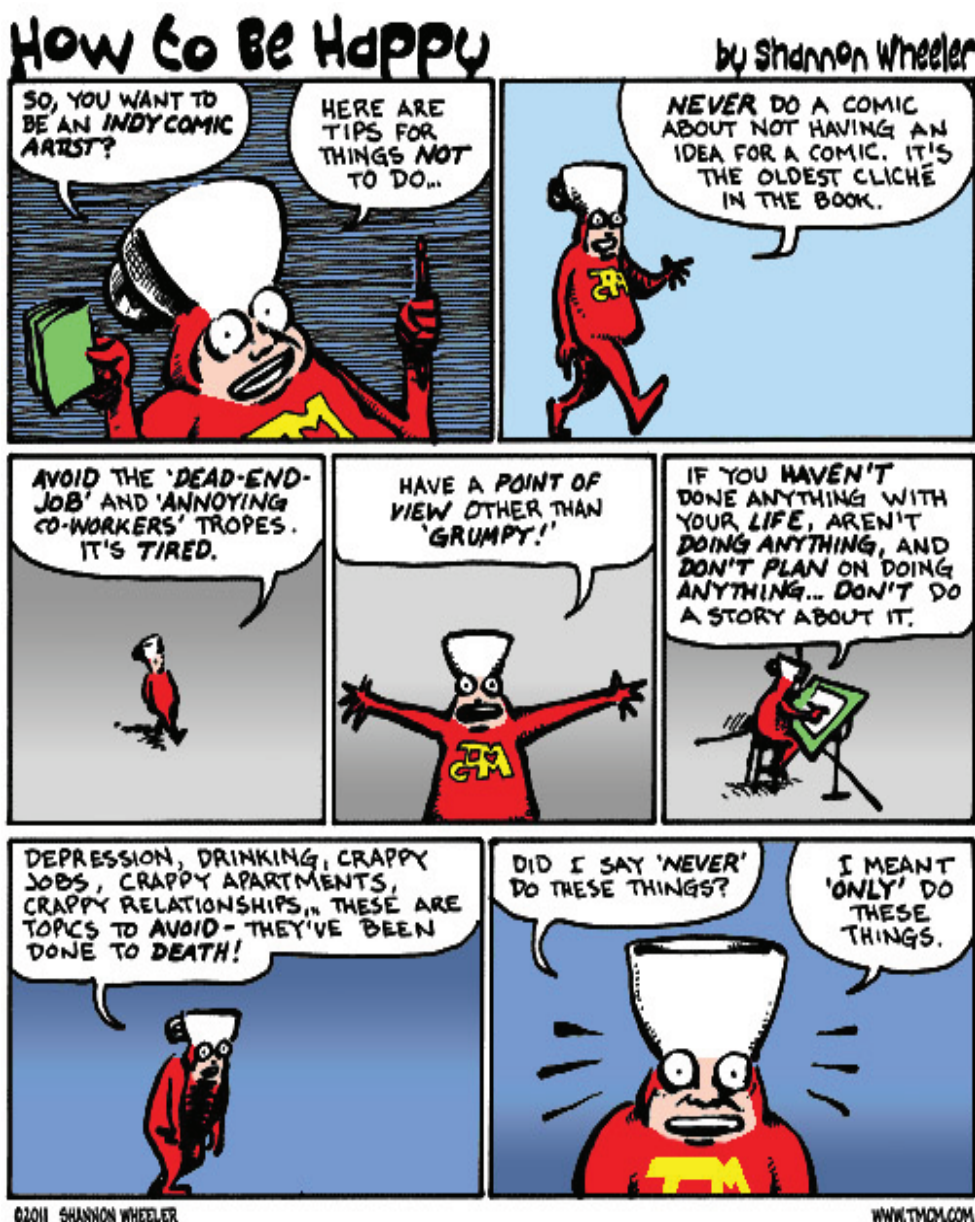
Dear Editor, May 31, 2011 Judge Richard Maizels signed the formal documents to effect my reinstatement for the remainder of the KBOO Board of Directors term (ending September 2012) I was elected to serve this term in September 2009.

What's fascinating is that it took a Judge to restore democracy to KBOO's internal government.

KBOO membership has long had the power to remove any or all elected board members "with or without cause." But in 2006 the Board adopted a bylaw allowing for removal "for cause" of any member-elected director.

Cause is considered to be: fraudulent or dishonest conduct, gross abuse of authority or discretion with respect to

Letters Continued Page 4



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Distributors deliver new issues of the Alliance to locations on their routes, remove any of last month's papers, advise the office of changes or corrections, and seek out new locations for the paper. Each route takes approximately 2-4 hours each month, including picking up the paper and dropping off, faxing, or mailing a distribution report afterwards. Depending on the production cycle, distributors usually have 5-7 days in which to complete deliveries.

An automobile or bicycle is required in most cases, but a bus can work! To find out more, call 503-327-8377.

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Global Perspectives!

Has Racism Disappeared in America?

Black Press International
Business/Economic Feature
Week of June 20, 2011
BUSINESS EXCHANGE
By William Reed



HOW CAN WE ELIMINATE RACISM IN AMERICA?

What good is having a Black president who won't discuss eliminating the scourge of racism? Isn't it time Black Americans ask why the U.S. isn't participating in the latest round of World Conferences against Racism? Of all the racist policies that exist in the world today, why aren't Black Americans demanding that this nation support honest and direct dialogue on race and

“What good is having a Black president who won't discuss eliminating the scourge of racism?”

racism and its manifestations and consequences? By withdrawing from the upcoming UN Conference on Racism scheduled for September in New York, the Obama administration is mimicking Bush administrations rather than moving forward into the 21st century. The fact that “the president of change” won't bring himself - or us - to the table for an honest discussion about race, says a lot about his willingness to lead the nation on the subject.

The World Conferences against Racism are international events organized as a force to combat racist ideologies and behaviors. Four conferences have been held so far: 1978, 1983, 2001 and 2009. The 1978 Conference against Racism was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The major focus of that conference was South Africa's apartheid policies of racial segregation and discrimination. Curbing “apartheid” continued as the theme during the 1983 Conference. However, things got off track during the 2001 conference held in Durban, South Africa: “World Conference

against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.” Significant time was spent on the Israelis' treatment of Palestinians. Midway through the conference, Canada, the U.S. and Israel walked out over a draft resolution that criticized Israel and compared Zionism to racism. The European Union also refused to accept demands made by Arab states which criticized Israel for “racist practices.”

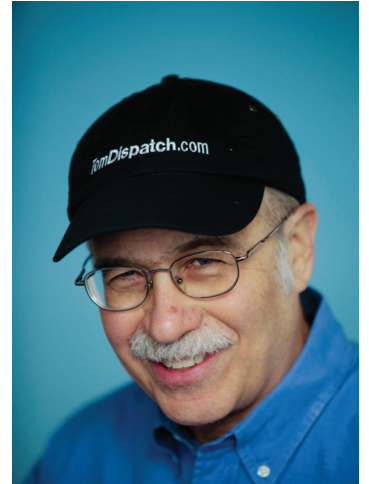
Then the European bloc, led by the U.S. and Israel, decided to boycott the 2009 World Conference against Racism. These conferences have yet to eradicate racism or its legacies. During these conferences, Europeans have denied any responsibility for slavery or any role in the crimes of colonialism. The Durban Review Conference occurred in April 2009. The tone of the conference was set on the first day when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad condemned Israel for being “totally racist” and accused the West of using the Holocaust as a “pretext” for aggression against

Racism continues on Page 23

100% Scared: How the National Security Complex Grows on Terrorism Fears

by Tom Engelhardt,

by Tom Engelhardt,
The 100% Doctrine in Washington
Printed on June 28, 2011
<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175402/>



Here's a scenario to chill you to the bone:

Without warning, the network -- a set of terrorist super cells -- struck in northern Germany and Germans began to fall by the hundreds, then thousands. As panic spread, hospitals were overwhelmed with the severely wounded. More than 20 of the victims died.

No one doubted that it was Al-Qaeda, but where the terrorists had come from was unknown. Initially, German officials accused Spain of harboring them (and the Spanish economy promptly took a hit); then, confusingly, they retracted the charge. Alerts went off across Europe as fears spread. Russia closed its borders to the European Union, which its outraged leaders denounced as a “disproportionate” response. Even a small number of Americans visiting Germany ended up hospitalized.

In Washington, there was panic, though no evidence existed that the terrorists were specifically targeting Americans or that any of them had slipped into this country. Still, at a hastily called news conference, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano raised the new terror alert system for the first time from its always “elevated” status to “imminent” (that is, “a credible, specific, and impending threat”). Soon after, a Pentagon spokesman announced that the U.S. military had been placed on high alert across Europe.

Commentators on Fox News, quoting unnamed FBI sources, began warning that this might be the start of the “next 9/11” -- and that the Obama administration was unprepared for it. Former Vice President Dick Cheney, in a rare public appearance at the American Enterprise Institute, denounced the president for “heedlessly putting this country at risk from the terrorists.” In Congress, members of both parties rallied behind calls for hundreds of millions of dollars of supplementary emergency funding for the Department

of Homeland Security to strengthen airport safety. (“In such difficult economic times,” said House Speaker John Boehner, “Congress will have to find cuts from non-military discretionary spending at least equal to these necessary supplementary funds.”)

Finally, as the noise in the media echo chamber grew, President Obama called a prime-time news conference and addressed the rising sense of hysteria in Washington and the country, saying: “Al-Qaeda and its extremist allies will stop at nothing in their efforts to kill Americans. And we are determined not only to thwart those plans, but to disrupt, dismantle and defeat their networks once and for all.” He then ordered a full review of U.S. security and

“Scared” continued on Page 19

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More Letters to the editor of The Portland Alliance

Letters, continued from Page 3

the corporation, or conduct harmful to the corporation, its employees, or volunteers.

The judge recognized that I was elected and improperly removed. (See <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2006/09/345642.shtml>) for what was argued in 2006,

There was no KBOO debate about the proposal for removal with cause. This was hatched in the governance committee and was adopted by the Board and sent to the membership together with the ballots.

“This crucial bylaw change gives the board rights commensurate with its responsibility to protect KBOO fiscally and legally. It is the needed check-and-balance to KBOO's unusual practice of having a 100% member-elected board. The ability of the board to hold its members accountable, and ultimately have the authority to remove a director for cause, is recommended for healthy board functioning by: Cynthia Cumfer, Paula Manley, National Federation of Community Broadcasters staff member Kai Ayatoro, and KGNU (Boulder, Colorado) Station Manager Marty Durlin

The ballot states the KBOO Board met in open meetings with a number of consultants. The Board voted

to spend KBOO foundation money for these consultants and we now are implementing some of their recommendations.

Michael Papadopoulos

Dear Michael and readers,

Hopefully, with legalities behind us, KBOO, the Alliance, JWJ, the Labor Radio Collective, and others can transcend distractions and deliver real news so everyday people have accurate information. Please send more letters!

* And checkout more letters online!
www.theportlandalliance.org/letters



Photo of Michael Papadopoulos N by Peter C. Little

Is Gradual Nuclear Phaseout Safe?

BY JOHN LAForge

Germany's Greens Call Gradual Reactor Phase-out Too Slow

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel reacted quickly to nationwide antinuclear protests re-ignited by the still-out-of-control radiation disaster at Fukushima, Japan. The Chancellor first ordered the powering-down of the seven oldest and most dangerous reactors in Germany, and she halted plans for any new reactor construction.

Disappointed by partial shutdowns, the Greens, the Social Democrats and thousands of others relentlessly organized protests and rallies involving tens of thousands. German voters then marched to the polls in high numbers and proceeded to give Merkel's right-wing Christian Democrats a shellacking in two major state elections.

On March 27, in the wealthy state of Baden-Württemberg, Merkel's conservative party suffered huge losses in what became a referendum on nuclear power. And in Bremen's state elections in May, the Greens won 22.5% of the vote, up from 16% in 2007, and pushed

Merkel's Christian Democrats out of power for the first time in 58 years.

The Chancellor then shocked the heads



Find and secure rights to bigger pic

of giant utility corporations and industrialized governments all over the world, by declaring that Germany would completely phase out nuclear power:

Step by step, we will abandon nuclear energy by the end of 2022. This path is a big challenge for Germany, but it also means huge opportunities for future genera

tions, Merkel told the press May 30.

Two days earlier, over 160,000 marchers filled the streets of 20 German cities calling for the immediate shutdown of all 17 of the country's reactors. Even small utility companies, known collectively as the *Mittelstand*, have endorsed the complete phase-out of nuclear power.

Merkel's "Atomkraft? Nein, Dank!" transformation was a dramatic reversal of her pro-nuclear conservative government's attempted repeal of an earlier reactor phase-out statute -passed back in 2000- and a renunciation of her government's earlier plan to extend the operating licenses of operating reactors.

Still unsatisfied, and alarmed by the increasingly dire news from Fukushima, the Greens charge that Merkel's gradualism is needlessly slow, dangerous and beholden to the interests of reactor owners. Broad coalitions are planning rallies, marches, camps and teach-ins throughout the summer and fall pushing for immediate, across-the-board shutdowns. Analysts say it could be accomplished now without harming industry or living standards, if accompanied with urgent conservation programs and enforceable efficiency

"The Chancellor then shocked the heads of giant utility corporations and industrialized governments all over the world, by declaring that Germany would completely phase out nuclear power"

measures.

A wide range of ecology-conscious political, educational, labor, environmental and human rights groups have turned German public opinion vigorously antinuclear. Among other reasons for being sick of nuclear, Germans point to: 1) dangerous levels of radioactive fallout that still contaminate Germany from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, and 2) two authoritative federal government reports that found childhood leukemia rates increased among kids the closer they lived to operating reactors.

Unhappy reactor owners claim Merkel's reversals will increase the cost of electricity and cost jobs. Independent analysts and nuclear-free utilities like

Nuclear continued on Page 10

On the Mend? America Comes to Its Senses

BY ANDREW BACEVICH

From TomDispatch.com: Andrew Bacevich, War Fever Subsides in Washington, By Andrew Bacevich Printed on June 28, 2011 <http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175410/>

At periodic intervals, the American body politic has shown a marked susceptibility to messianic fevers. Whenever an especially acute attack occurs, a sort of delirium ensues, manifesting itself in delusions of grandeur and demented behavior.

By the time the condition passes and a semblance of health is restored, recollection of what occurred during the illness tends to be hazy. What happened? How'd we get here? Most Americans prefer not to know. No sense dwelling on what's behind us. Feeling much better now! Thanks!

Gripped by such a fever in 1898, Americans evinced an irrepressible impulse to liberate oppressed Cubans. By the time they'd returned to their senses, having acquired various parcels of real estate between Puerto Rico and the Philippines, no one could quite explain what had happened or why. (The Cubans meanwhile had merely exchanged one set of overseers for another.)

In 1917, the fever suddenly returned. Amid wild ravings about waging a war to end war, Americans lurched off to France. This time the affliction passed quickly, although the course of treatment proved painful: confinement to the charnel house of the Western Front, followed by bitter medicine administered at Versailles.

The 1960s brought another bout (and so yet more disappointment). An overwhelming urge to pay any price, bear any burden landed Americans in Vietnam. The fall of Saigon in 1975 seemed, for a brief interval, to inoculate the body politic against any further re-



Photo by Frank Curran was taken for BU Photo Services

currence. Yet the salutary effects of this "Vietnam syndrome" proved fleeting.

By the time the Cold War ended, Americans were running another temperature, their self-regard reaching impressive new heights. Out of Washington came all sorts of embarrassing gibberish about permanent global supremacy and history's purpose finding fulfillment in the American way of life.

Give Me Fever

Then came 9/11 and the fever simply soared off the charts. The messiah-nation was really pissed and was going to fix things once and for all.

Nearly 10 years have passed since Washington set out to redeem the Greater Middle East. The crusades have not gone especially well. In fact, in the pursuit of its saving mission, the American messiah has pretty much worn itself out.

Today, the post-9/11 fever finally shows signs of abating. The evidence is partial and preliminary. The sickness has by no means passed. Oddly, it lingers

most strongly in the Obama White House, of all places, where a keenness to express American ideals by dropping bombs seems strangely undiminished.

Yet despite the urges of some in the Obama administration, after nearly a decade of self-destructive flailing about, American recovery has become a distinct possibility. Here's some of the evidence:

In Washington, it's no longer considered a sin to question American omnipotence. Take the case of Robert Gates. The outgoing secretary of defense may well be the one senior U.S. official of the past decade to leave office with his reputation not only intact, but actually enhanced. (Note to President Obama: think about naming an aircraft carrier after the guy). Yet along with restoring a modicum of competence and accountability to the Pentagon, the Gates legacy is likely to be found in his willingness -- however belated -- to acknowledge the limits of American power.

That the United States should avoid wars except when absolutely necessary no longer connotes incipient isolationism. It is once again a sign of common sense, with Gates a leading promoter. Modesty is becoming respectable.

The Gates Doctrine

No one can charge Gates with being an isolationist or a national security wimp. Neither is he a "declinist." So when he says anyone proposing another major land war in the Greater Middle East should "have his head examined" -- citing the authority of Douglas MacArthur, no less -- people take notice. Or more recently there was this: "I've got a military that's exhausted," Gates remarked, in one of those statements of the obvious too seldom heard from on high. "Let's just finish the wars we're in and keep focused on that instead of signing up for other wars of choice." Someone should etch that into the outer walls of the Pentagon's E-ring.

"Nearly 10 years have passed since Washington set out to redeem the Greater Middle East. The crusades have not gone especially well."

A half-dozen years ago, "wars of choice" were all the rage in Washington. No more. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Or consider the officer corps. There is no "military mind," but there are plenty of minds in the military and some numbers of them are changing.

Evidence suggests that the officer corps itself is rethinking the role of military power. Consider, for example, "Mr. Y," author of *A National Strategic Narrative*, published this spring to considerable acclaim by the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. The actual authors of this report are two military professionals, one a navy captain, the other a Marine colonel.

What you won't find in this document are jingoism, braggadocio, chest-thumping, and calls for a bigger military budget. If there's an overarching theme, it's pragmatism. Rather than the United States imposing its will on the world, the authors want more attention paid to the investment needed to rebuild at home.

The world is too big and complicated for any one nation to call the shots, they insist. The effort to do so is self-defeating. "As Americans," Mr. Y writes, "we needn't seek the world's friendship or proselytize the virtues of our society. Neither do we seek to bully, intimidate, cajole, or persuade others to accept our unique values or to share our national

On the Mend continued on Page 16

Budget Crisis: The Rich Get Richer

Kucinich Korner...



• **Kucinich: Why I Voted Against S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011**
(August 1, 2011)

S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011, is

a landmark in American history, but for the wrong reasons. It is a fake solution to a phony crisis. It provides for a radical transformation of the structure of government. It is an attack on the principle of government of the people...

The choice we have today, default or dismantling of the social compact through draconian spending cuts, is a false choice. The President could have simply told Congressional leaders back in December of last year that the debt ceiling was not negotiable, and invoked the 14th Amendment as a backstop.

The "debt crisis" was spurred on by credit rating agencies of dubious integrity threatening a downgrade of the nation's credit unless the government cut spending. Most of the cuts are guaranteed to hurt those who live at society's margins, while S. 365 protects the investor class whose interests are served by agencies.

Unelected credit ratings agencies like Standard and Poor's, the self-declared arbiter of U.S. government creditworthiness must themselves be subjected to a new level of scrutiny absent in the run-up to the Wall Street crisis. The credit raters helped to create that crisis too by procuring business through selling rating marks. The very idea that the sovereign United States must genuflect to dishonest rating agencies is antiquated and counterproductive to America's economic recovery.

This bill fails on its own terms, which are allegedly about fiscal accountability. The debt has three main drivers:

The first is the recession. If we want to reduce the debt, we have to stimulate the economy, which is hobbled by a jobless recovery.

America has 14 million people out of work. We have over three trillion dollars of infrastructure which must be replaced or rebuilt. We should be investing in America, rebuilding America, stimulating the American economy, priming the pump of our economy instead of capping our economic water well. Our GDP is lagging. This bill cuts nearly three trillion dollars in government spending, which is one of our main tools for fighting the recession. So much for the recovery. So much for putting America back to work.

The second reason for the size of the debt is the Bush tax cuts. This bill fails to end the Bush tax cuts for the rich, which added a trillion dollars to the deficit. Not only are the wealthy not paying a fair share of the taxes but their privileged position is locked in, to the detriment to the rest of the society. This single action makes clear that this bill is a vehicle for the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer.

That working Americans are being offered a tax holiday is one of the cruel ironies of this bill in that the tax holiday adds more to the deficit on one hand, while requiring cuts to pay for it on the other. Those very cuts will undermine the social and economic position of those whom the tax holiday is alleged to help.

The third reason for the size of the debt is the wars. This bill fails to realize savings from ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at current funding levels for at least another 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), "The caps would not apply to spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and for similar activities (sometimes referred to as overseas contingency operations). . . ." If this bill required a slow drawdown of troops as the Reid bill did, it would save at least \$1.2 trillion.

...A policy of no limits for war and hard limits on domestic spending, coupled with hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the rich, disproportionately affects the poor and middle class. Wall Street has swelled with bailouts, multiple editions of largesse through quantitative easing, skyrocketing executive pay and bonuses, and freedom to gamble the public's money through hedge funds. Main Street has suffered

a massive loss of retirement savings, housing security, access to affordable health care, real wages and benefits, full employment and massive loss of small businesses. The wealth of America is being accelerated to the top and this bill pushes that acceleration.

This bill is a direct assault on representative government. The House of Representatives and the Senate consist of 435 and 100 Members, respectively. With the creation of a super-committee, the Congress has been reduced to a czardom where 7 of 12 members are given the power to determine the course of the American economy, with hordes of K Street lobbyists already poised to swoop in to protect their narrow interests against \$1 trillion dollars in deficit reduction measures.

The Congressional committee and subcommittee process, with its membership composed of individuals with expertise in specific areas, is designed to encourage thorough consideration of measures which affect the lives of hundreds of millions of Americans. This process is now abandoned. Abandoned with it is the intent of the founding Fathers when they established the House of Representatives specifically to avoid such a dangerous concentration of power. The super-committee is poised to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security while limiting accountability.

We could have avoided this hostage-taking if the President chose to apply his expertise in Constitutional law to invoke the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to raise the debt ceiling. Instead, we are taking America from the New Deal of 1932 to the Raw Deal of 2011. We should be focusing on strengthening Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and creating jobs. The Democratic Party is running away from its traditional role of protecting the poor, the elderly, and the working class. To whom do these groups now turn?

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**Norman Solomon:
Budget Deal Is
a Huge Mistake"**

"This is a very bad deal and a huge mistake. Instead of capitulating to

Republican ideologues in Congress, we should stand our ground on behalf of seniors, children and other vulnerable Americans. All the rhetoric about "shared sacrifice" rings hollow when the vast majority of us are being sacrificed to the benefit of big banks and Wall Street.

There are plenty of sensible and effective ways to reduce the deficit -- including a transaction tax on Wall Street, an end to the Bush tax cuts for the very wealthy and a major reduction in military spending. But the bipartisan dealmakers in Washington are ripping up the social compact and slashing the safety net that's essential for vast numbers of Americans.

One of the most dangerous aspects of this deal is that it explicitly sets the stage for future actions to undermine Medicare. This scenario is a betrayal that strikes at the heart of precious

values, and it's among many of the current threats to vital social programs. I am committed to defending Social Security and Medicare on the campaign trail and as a member of Congress.

As a progressive Democrat, I will support the president's policies when he's right -- and I will oppose his policies when he's wrong. With this budget deal, he is profoundly wrong. The people of this congressional district have a right to know how each candidate for Congress would have voted on this budget deal. I would have joined with other progressive House members in voting no.

Norman Solomon (born 1951) is an American journalist, media critic, antiwar activist, current candidate for the United States House of Representatives, and former editor of The Portland Alliance.

Underground from page 1

collective. Editors and staff included Michael Wells, Jimmy Beller and Maurice Isserman. After ending its run as Portland's local underground paper in 1971 the Bridge was succeeded by the Portland Scribe.

"The Alliance has provided a voice for everyday people: environmentalists, trade unionists, social justice activists, artists, writers, columnists, and others shut out or ignored by the mainstream press."

In the fall of 1968 Maurice Isserman enrolled in Reed College in Portland, Oregon, where he joined the campus chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, and took part in anti-war protests and other New Left activism. In spring 1970, following the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State University strike, he dropped out of Reed and joined the Portland Revolutionary Youth Movement (PRYM) collective. PRYM members were involved in anti-war activities, the local underground newspaper The Wil-lamette Bridge, and in the local food co-op. After a couple years PRYM disbanded. Isserman returned to Reed to finish his undergraduate degree. He wrote a senior thesis on the history of radical American writers in the 1930s and worked on another underground newspaper, The Portland Scribe.

The Scribe, publishing from 1971-1978, was reinvented in 1981 as The Portland Alliance. The Alliance, as founded in 1981, provided the initial voice of the NW Coalition for Alternative Human Services. During this time the newspaper had a distinct bio-regional direction, focusing on environmental, peace, and anti-nuclear movements. Separate editions were briefly published in Eugene, Oregon and Olympia, Washington as part of the Coalition's efforts during the mid-80's. In 1989, the Coalition formally incorporated as a 501C3 membership non-profit: Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education and continued to publish. The Alliance is the city's oldest progressive alternative newspaper. With local focus and global thinking, the Alliance has provided a voice for everyday people: environmentalists, trade unionists, social justice activists, artists, writers, columnists, and others who are usually shut out or ignored by the mainstream press.

Unlike its predecessors and root publications, The Portland Alliance has not yet been preserved for the Library of Congress. The current board of the Alliance wants to continue publication and preserve the history of this progressive underground countercultural news resource. We are reaching out to partner publications to preserve and protect a veritable institution. The Alliance has been publishing in fits and starts for the past couple years, but hopes to secure grants and foundational support so this community resource for alternative media and education can endure, survive, and continue speaking truth to power.

Come by to write, create, draw, fax, surf, or use the Alliance library, resources. Welcome!

ACTIVE COMMUNITY:

Page 7 ► Community Building, Rashad
Page 8 ► Organizing: Homeless Right 2 Survive
Page 8 ► Police Interview, Community Mural

Building Community One Spoke at a Time

By YUGEN FARDAN RASHAD

Before tackling this most difficult subject my disclaimer here is this: people are people. We do agree with research that humans are hard wired to be increasingly communal and social towards each other. And the science on human behavior supports the idea we all essentially are the same but experience and see the world differently by way of access to healthy eating, economics, education, healthcare, culture, place, housing, religion/spirituality, gender, orientation, age, and race. That said we tackle a difficult subject and ask you to re-imagine its meaning: Community, or village.

As is the general response to a gang-related shooting, not all folks in the village are equally vested. Should it be the case? Well, yes. We all should feel responsible enough towards each other to register concern.

The race card – it's on the table. The race card reveals a disparity in the level of concern and empathy held among a segment of mainstream culture when gang violence happens. The truth is the impact of youth violence and death affects the entire community. But the actual intervention and preventions land squarely on victims, their families and the court systems. An economic burden taxpayers continue to bear.

Last month on May 11 county Commissioner Loretta Smith convened a youth forum for African American men. Some two hundred people turned out. The



“... Humans are hard-wired to be increasingly communal and social...”

summit came on the heels of several recent gang-related shootings and fatalities. The goal was to foster civic-engagement and provide a platform for ‘the community.’ Your guess is correct that not a lot of cyclists, foodies, pet advocates, or tree huggers attended. Right again that the level of interest among this segment even in their absence would be low for this gut check. This is our point here.

That public safety is a community-wide issue worthy of interest yet one wouldn't know that based on the response from our cycling, foodies, tree hugging, mountain-scaling brothers and sisters – not a census track but certainly mainstream Portland. This small but influential segment of the populace is not held accountable or necessarily feels empathy for the most

vulnerable in society. Additionally, we frame this segment as a protected class unbothered by the cumbersome weight of health and income disparities, urban turbulence caused by gang and youth violence.

Finally, their cultural values are validated by city money spent to increase cycling lanes; a well publicized parade for dogs (“ruff”), Hood to Coast bike rides, and the infamous nude bike rides through the city last few years. This narcissism is normalized by city leaders and community corporate sponsors of these soirees all in the name of Portland ‘Nice’.

The current story line for Portland ‘Nice’ reads like a juxtaposition of celebration and sadness; that ‘commuting’ for them means cycling, but for another, a funeral procession; family meal plans based on health, specialty foods, and bottled water while another selects from affordable, fast foods menus comprised of pizza or fried chicken and jo-jos, washed down with a carbonated, sugar-sweetened beverage.

What is a milestone for some is a cement barrier for others. How do we operationalize a value system in which everybody is concerned about the well-being of the most vulnerable members in society, is anyone's guess. We can, however, eliminate the ‘blind spot’ exhibited by the more affluent. Potentially this could mean a segment of the populace will move beyond its perch, beyond the gawking at episodes of youth violence or death as spectacle, and see themselves and everything they value at stake. This is the spirit we need in our community.

This would bring an end for the need to disaggregate this segment as a way to demonstrate an area for potential community champions to arise. This transformation would resonate beyond the moment of question here.

The blind spot for this segment is at its most glaring point in the matter of gentrifying a neighborhood where poor people and others are pushed out. The NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) crowd would become more involved. This moment should come in advance of a hail of bullets triggered by gang rage flying through a window pane, or parked vehicle. We come full circle when it's understood violence anyplace will impact everyplace. That potentially means where folks live, work, play, pray, and study.

The race card played means to look beyond it, and see affluence as an incentive, not a curse, among educated, pragmatic-minded lovers of nature, hills, streams, trees, bikes, dog parades, and raw or vegan consumables. New voices in the village that harmonize direct, or surrogate action on behalf of those unable to effectively advocate for public safety. This is the village where everyone hears the drums, not just the tribe in the circle. These are the spokes that comprise the journey to get us through the storm, over the mountain, and to grandma's house by bike, on foot, or... in our car.

Yugen Fardan Rashad: Country boy with jazz sensibility; splits time living in secular, spiritual, and art world (s). Serious making it about the ‘other,’ and encourages people to live outside comfort zones, experience life more broadly, & contribute mightily to community life

Homeless Camp-out at Rose Parade

Portland Homeless Camp-Out at the Rose Parade to stand up for their Right 2 Survive

By BETTE LEE

For most people, being homeless is one of their biggest fears. Yet millions of Americans have experienced homelessness. The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reported in 2007 that about 3.5 million people have experienced being homeless, 1.5 million of them children. Homelessness is on the rise, as thousands of Americans have lost their housing and jobs in recent years. Often authorities respond, not with more support, but with criminalizing and increasing assaults on homeless people, and cuts on social programs. In Portland, there are about 1,500 people sleeping in the streets on any given day. There are just not enough shelters and support.

Right2Survive was originally founded by a group of 9 people: homeless, formerly homeless, and their allies. Right2Survive put out a call to folks to pitch a tent in downtown Portland on June 10th. Soon after 10 AM, about 50 homeless and supporters, set up camp on SW 4th Avenue and Washington. In no time, tents were erected on several city blocks. A huge sign stated the purpose of this action: Legal Camping Now; Land, Not Jail. A table with coffee, water, soft drinks and food was set up, and all day long, many homeless and non-homeless people stopped by and were fed. We were treated to fresh fruit, sandwiches, burritos, cookies, donuts, chocolate cake and hot soup. Thanks to all who cooked and/or donated food!



Many curious people talked to us, and were given leaflets explaining the purpose of Right 2 Survive. A couple of police came and tried to evict us, but we stood our ground. Shortly, the city attorney appeared, but she too left, since we had every right to be there. For once, the “law” was on our side.

Ibrahim Mubarak is a member of Right2Survive, and one of the founders of Dignity Village. He informed me that the goal of this peaceful direct action was to protest against the city's anti-camping law, which makes camping illegal for homeless folks. But the city allows camping for all people 1 day before the Rose Parade. “The city allows people to camp out for fun, but not for survival,” he said. He added that the homeless, especially women, are vulnerable to assault. One of the homeless' biggest complaints and fears is assault from the police. Many have told me that the cops often harass them at night, waking them up, searching

their tents, and throwing away their belongings, sleeping bags, tents, papers, and things they value. Ibrahim said that people want to camp together, not only for comradeship, but for protection against violence and rape.

Leo Rhodes, a *Street Roots* poet and board member, said one of the biggest obstacles the homeless confront is negative stereotypes the media presents. “Many of us have jobs, and are not drug addicts or have mental problems,” he said. “Every March 31st, many shelters are closed because they think that the homeless won't die in the summer. We've tried to meet with city officials, but their solution is “Out of sight, out of mind.” They want to sweep the homeless off the streets, because we're an “eyesore,” but there's nowhere for us to go. We're here today to let everyone know that we're human beings too, and we need shelter.”

The media showed up, including FOX. They interviewed Ibrahim, Leo and many others.

The next day, hundreds of people who showed up for the Rose Parade, saw the Right 2 Survive campers. Ibrahim and others walked up several city blocks carrying signs saying “100,000 Homeless Vets on the streets every night.” When the Oregon National Guard float passed by, Ibrahim walked next to them, with a sign: “Support the troops? Give them homes” and “Beds, not bombs. 100,000 homeless vets.”

Several homeless activists came down from Seattle to support this action. They talked about the growing tent cities in Seattle: Nickelsville, Tent City 2 and 3. It's good to see such solidarity

“Homelessness is on the rise, as thousands of Americans have lost their housing and jobs in recent years.”

among the homeless and their allies. This was a very successful direct action, and more are planned in the future. Homelessness is not an “eyesore” that can be swept out of sight. It's a growing problem that more and more people will experience as the economy, civil rights and our country are being destroyed. Rapacious corporate power and government serves its own interests, instead of the people's.

For more information, go to

<http://right2survive.wordpress.com/>
Bette Lee is a local photographer and writer. She took the picture at left.



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Interview with Don Dupay, Homicide Detective with the Portland Police Bureau

A Remembrance of Police Work; Owning the Forgotten

April 23rd, 2011:

by Theresa Griffin-Kennedy

The academic study of law enforcement issues and writing about trends and patterns in law enforcement is as important as any manner of sociological or psychological inquiry. And so is personal narrative with law enforcement as its focus, because it is essentially story telling...

Story telling can be an effective way of humanizing even the most seemingly detached sort of person and sometimes the most effective way of doing this is through the interview process.

They say the third time's the charm and that must be true because for my third police interview I've been fortunate enough to talk with a former homicide detective previously employed with the Portland Police Bureau...

Mr. Don Dupay was employed with the PPB, beginning from 1961 through 1978, first as a uniformed patrol officer doing things as diverse as working traffic, morals, vice, burglary and then later working in the homicide division...

Here are some excerpts from the interview

TK: When you were an officer and later a Homicide Detective, how did you feel about having to carry a gun and possibly having to take someone's life in the line of duty?

DD: I never thought about it. Carrying a gun is like carrying a screw driver. You park it after awhile. You stop thinking about it. I always made sure

that I was good on the firing range. And if I shot you the first shot would go right through the middle of your head. I worried about me going home. I didn't particularly care about whether you went home. And that has to be the philosophy of the police!

TK: Uh huh. I've heard that before. How did working in law enforcement affect your personal life?

DD: Oh it totally-- it totaled out my whole life! It ruined it--just ruined it. It fills your life with post traumatic stress syndrome, stuff you can never get out of your head. It causes divorces; it causes people to drink too much. Most policemen can't deal with the stress and so they deal with it in inappropriate ways. For instance, how do you go to a murder scene and see everything that you have to see and then go home and prop your feet up on the table, read the paper and talk to your wife about how your day went? You can't do that. You can't do that; not without a glass of whiskey in you...

DD: Got out of the Navy in 1959, joined the police department in 1961.

TK: Is the training better or worse in your opinion now?

DD: Well, it's hard for me to say because I don't know that they're training them in. All I see is the results and I don't like the results of what I see. I don't like the way they bring out the tasers! I don't like the way they look! I don't like their attitude. They're not friendly; most policemen are rude. That's one of the biggest complaints that citizens have is that the cops are rude and they got no business being rude! There are a lot of nice people in this town! If I was the chief of police and someone complained to me about a cop that was being rude, he'd be in my office!...

TK: Recently, there was an article in the Portland Tribune Newspaper in July of 2010 that stated "The US department of



justice has taken the first step toward reviewing whether the Portland police bureau has engaged in a pattern of discriminatory policing against minorities'. What are your thoughts on that development?

DD: It's nothing new, they've always done it. From the first day I joined. The first day I joined the police department-my partners name was Pete Peterson.

TK: Pete Peterson?

DD: Pete Peterson.

TK: Boy, you can't forget that name. (laughs).

DD: And we were driving down Mississippi Street and I didn't even have my uniform at that time I was that new. And we saw a black guy jaywalking about a block and a half down the street and he said, "Well, let's go get that Nigger." There's nothing new about it or anything. Racial profiling will never stop...

TK: Do you think that the Portland Police Bureau is corrupt today?

DD: Yes, absolutely.

TK: What do you base that judgment on?

DD: Because they've never investigated that murder/homicide of Zebedee Manning.

TK: Zebedee Manning right. I was going to ask you about that but I'll get to that--um let's see, where are we?

DD: As long as they don't take care of unfinished business like that, you

know, then they're just' the same old bullshit...

TK: Do you think that the public or local city commissioners understand police better now than in the past?

DD: Nope.

TK: Okay.

DD: As long as Internal Affairs exists, they'll never get it.

TK: What was that?

DD: As long as Internal Affairs is allowed to exist, the police will always be able to do what they want. That's the blue line!

TK: So, I wanted to ask you about Zebedee Manning. You came on the scene and you found four glasses and two whiskey bottles in the kitchen?

DD: No, on the kitchen table there was a half empty whiskey bottle and four glasses.

TK: Four glasses. Okay.

DD: Upstairs in the bedroom was his body laid out on bed with his arms folded across his chest.

TK: Right, which wouldn't have happened if he had committed suicide.

DD: With a sawed off 22 rifle.

TK: Right.

DD: And a bullet hole right here (motions to center of forehead) and it was just--you could see the impact was just...

TK: And there's no way that it's likely that he would have been able to do that to himself?

DD: No, the gun was too long; he couldn't have held it.

TK: Right. Right. And generally suicide victims don't have their arms crossed across their chests.

DD: Hardly ever.

TK: Okay. So your theory is?

DD: Well, he was killed by a policeman who was trying to get the dope he wanted.

TK: Okay and this happened in 1975?

DD: Yeah, you can look it up.

TK: Actually, I did look it up...

TK: A lot of times an officer who does end up having to take someone's life, a lot of times they do leave the force, they become depressed and...

DD: Yeah killing people's not good and they don't let em--they keep them too long anyway. Policemen should

Homicide continues on page 23

Kids from Alameda School Spruce up The Neighborhood

Herschel Soles & Peter C. Little showed up to cover students painting a colorful mural on Northeast Regents Drive in East Portland Tuesday May 24th. Herschel took notes and Peter took pictures. George Smith, a chair of the Alameda Neighborhood Association, arrived with his camera as well. Peter took the photo of the butterfly and the close-up of the young lady at work. And George caught Peter in action.



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VIEWPOINTS & COMMENTARY

Theodore Roosevelt was no Teddy Bear...

**War? Bloodlust?
What's A Scholar To Do?**
By William Loren Katz

The New York Sunday Times on November 28, 2010 published noted historian Geoffrey C. Ward's review of a biography of President Theodore Roosevelt [TR]. His review reveals something distressing about the way some of our scholars gloss over our iconic figures and write history as the U.S. fights multiple wars. A popular war hero, President for seven years, a prominent international figure [awarded the Nobel Peace Prize], arguably the man who built the U.S. overseas empire, TR's brash aggressiveness has long made him Mount Rushmore in size and a favorite of school texts. He is always listed among our best and most important leaders.

At one point Ward refers to Roosevelt having "a bloodlust impossible to excuse." First a fact: In and out of the White House TR wielded enormous power at home and across the globe, and at the moment the U.S. rushed onto

the world scene. Question: does not a bloodlust from this high a global perch have huge consequences? Ward simply mentions TR's bloodlust and then hurries on.

TR was an energetic, impetuous, rarely contained figure. What about his bloodlust? Did he open his heart to war and violence? In 1897 TR wrote a friend "I should welcome almost any war, for I think this country needs one" -- and carried around a list of six target nations on three continents. The next year the U.S. declared war on Spain, and TR at forty rushed to serve -- and did serve heroically as a Rough Rider. Years later he regretted he had not been "seriously wounded in Cuba in some striking and disfiguring way."

In what ways did TR's bloodlust impact the world stage? Reviewer Ward does not say, but TR does. "All the great masterful races have been fighting races," he claimed. To fellow Anglo-Saxons he said, "It is wholly impossible to avoid conflicts with the weaker races," and added, "The most ultimately righteous of all wars is a

war with savages." He urged Anglo Saxon men to embrace war as a form of "spiritual renewal" that would prevent "race suicide" and stimulate "a clear instinct for racial selfishness." TR as a statesman embraced war as inevitable, justifiable, and politically useful. As an historian TR called "heroic" shocking U.S. Army massacres of innocent Indian villagers. He believed "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" and promoted the genocide of Native Americans.

President during a time when a hundred African Americans were killed by brutal lynch mobs each year, TR said he opposed lynching. He also spoke to Black audiences about lynching and announced the "rapists and criminals" among them "did more harm to their race than any white man can possibly do them."

During his White House years, TR boasted, "not a shot was fired at any soldier of a hostile nation by any American soldier or sailor." But when Filipinos demanded the right of self-determination, he ordered a U.S. Army occupation of the Philippines that

continued throughout his presidency and beyond . . . and took hundreds of thousands of civilian lives.

During World War I TR's bloodlust was still kicking. At 60 he rushed to join the Army so he could die gloriously for his country, but was turned down. But when his son Archie was wounded overseas TR and his family raised a toast. TR died two years later peacefully in his bed.

Roosevelt's bloodlust carried a strong racial bias, a flawed memory, and lived deep in his soul. Like him it became a part of American policy. Confining it to four words is not the whole truth. Nor is it useful as the U.S. fights three Middle Eastern wars and contemplates another invasion.

Americans need to understand our leaders, our history and how to avoid bloodlust-driven policies.

*William Loren Katz
is the author of Black Indians:
A Hidden Heritage. and 40 other books.
His website is: www.williamkatz.com*

For-Profit Utilities: Still a Bad Idea!

**For-profit utilities hope to
screw public utility customers**

by Michael Munk Tue, Jun 14, 2011

A June 12 Oregonian article claiming that "BPA power exchange plan could save ratepayers \$4 billion over 17 years" is more evidence of the paper's bias in favor of what it calls "investor owned" corporations like PGE and PacifiCorp and against consumer-owned public utilities like Greys Harbor Public Utility District and Oregon Peoples Utility Districts. The article also exposed the so-called Oregon "Citizens Utility Board" as a front for these for-profit electric companies. Check it out at http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2011/06/bpa_power_exchange_plan_could.html

To understand what's really going on here go back to the building of the federal dams on the Columbia, beginning with Bonneville, for which

the agency distributing publicly



Michael Munk

generated electricity, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), is named. The private utility desperately fought against the publicly owned dams because they feared their rates would reduce their monopoly profits. More successfully, they next fought the establishment of peoples utility districts such as the one proposed for Portland and the extension of electricity to the sparsely populated rural areas where their profits were insufficient. Once the hydro power went on line, BPA by law

gave preference to and charged lower rates for the consumer owned utilities that supported public power than to the for-profits that opposed it. That was the way it was until 1981.

In that year, the for-profits were able to get an "exchange" established that would end the preference for customers of public power and lower the costs of federal power for the for-profits. Because the only "citizens" the "Citizens Utility Board" represents are those who must buy their electricity from the for-profit monopolies, they have been backing that effort. Under the "residential exchange" BPA would be forced to send over \$4B to for profits for 17 years that would be passed to their ratepayers.

The article claims both public and private utilities are now on board. That is not the case. Many public utilities have opposed the abrogation of the original BPA mandate in court, and the current agreement failed to reach the minimum level of public utility

support by the deadline last month. There were not enough public utilities like the Eugene Water & Electric Board that backed the agreement against the opposition of Grey Harbor, Clark County Public Utilities and others. As Greys Harbor commissioner Tom Casey observed, "It's a bad deal from what our ratepayers are going to be charged." Ratepayers of Oregon and Washington PUDs, co-ops and municipals need to contact their elected boards with that message. Evidently, although the article doesn't say so, the deadline for reaching the minimum level of agreement has been extended to allow for more arm twisting of the reluctant public utilities.

Michael Munk is a writer, political analyst, researcher and historian, & author of The Portland Red Guide. The Red Guide was recently updated!

visit www.michaelmunk.com

Racism, continued from page 4

Palestinians. When Ahmadinejad referred to the Holocaust as an "ambiguous and dubious question," European Union delegates left the room.

While the Africans and their requests for reparations go wanting, the U.S. and Israel have spent the past 10 years objecting to what, they say, equates Zionism with racism. It's a deft political move that pleases Jewish groups. "We are gratified at President Obama's decision to boycott the so-called Dur-

ban III," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Congressional Black Caucus chair Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), said the CBC was "deeply dismayed" by the president's decision. But, former Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney has brought widespread attention to the matter by "imploping" the CBC "to spearhead the participation of the U.S. in the United Nations World Conference against Racism." There is reason for the American Black electorate to join in questioning the administration's commitment to racial justice and adher-

ence to bygone administrations' avoidance of mechanisms designed to combat racial discrimination. It's time the Obama administration moves beyond glib assurances that the U.S. "remains committed to the global fight against racism at home and abroad." Racism has been a major American issue since the colonial and slave eras and has existed for centuries. The nation's institutional system of racism results from the social caste system that sustained, and was sustained by, slavery and social segregation. Although the laws that enforced this system are

no longer in place, its basic tenets still stand and result in Black Americans being confronted daily with racism. Instead of daily disregarding racism, we need to increase awareness about racism and demonstrate that it is far from being over. It's time that Blacks showed similar lobbying muscle as the Jewish lobby in these matters. (William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

(William Reed is available for speaking and seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org) See more of Mr. Reed's, writing at: www.theportlandalliance.org/reed

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Gaza Flotilla Is Stifled, But Not Spirit of Resistance

By **KATHY KELLY**, 08 July 11

It looked like a scene from an opera. Massed in the doorway and second floor balconies of a quaint building in Athens, facing a magnificent view of the Parthenon, Spanish activists hung banners and flashed peace signs and proclaimed that they wouldn't leave the building, the Embassy of Spain, until their government assured them that their boat, "The Guernica," could at last leave for the suffering and besieged territory of Gaza.

Like other boats in the "Freedom Flotilla 2," an international flotilla aiming to end the naval blockade of Gaza, the Spaniards' boat has been blocked from sailing by bureaucratic measures imposed by the Greek government. This was unacceptable to the activists. On July 4, 2011, the Spanish Ambassador to Greece had agreed to meet with only four of the Spanish activists, but at a pre-arranged time, one of the four had gone downstairs, opened the door and ushered in 17 others to help them occupy the Embassy. Today, three days later, they have issued an eloquent statement explaining why they still refuse to leave. They call for an end to the illegal blockade of Gaza and for immediate release of their boat so that it can soon reach Gazan shores.

I'm here as an activist passenger on the United States flotilla boat, the Audacity of Hope, also blocked by the Greek government decision. We tried to escape to international waters but were towed back to dock by heavily-armed boats of the Greek Coast Guard. We haven't tried an embassy occupation. "That's what your group should be doing," said one of the main organizers of the international flotilla effort, referring to the Spanish action.

He's right. And yet, crucial and telling differences exist between the Embassy of Spain in Athens, where I counted exactly one security guard nonchalantly keeping watch in the first afternoon of the Spanish activists' demonstration,

and the Embassy of the US in Athens. The US Embassy takes up about four square blocks of land. Nondescript, boxy white buildings are surrounded by spiked fences of battleship gray. Embassy employees arrive at a checkpoint and are subjected to search routines that include examining the base of their vehicle as it drives over a pit. Dozens of guards maintain round the clock security. What necessitates such elaborate security measures? Is it simply that US lives are more precious than the lives of others and therefore must be intensely safeguarded, or might it be that menacing economic and military policies enforced by the US have caused antagonism and rage sufficient to endanger official US representatives in almost any part of the globe?

Several of us who were quietly fasting, across the street from our Embassy, earlier this week, called upon the US to help free Gaza, free our ship from a Greek port, and free, or at least visit, our captain who was, at the time, detained in a Greek jail. When we politely declined to end our fasting presence, we were loaded into Greek police squad cars and held for several hours. The next day, the Greek police again detained six US activists, this time for sitting on a park bench across from the home of the US Ambassador to Greece.

Had US activists attempted to occupy the US Embassy in Athens, in an action comparable to that of the Spaniards, we surely wouldn't have been filmed waving from open air balconies. It's likely that the only cameras within the US compound that would cover such an event would be US surveillance cameras.

And, of course, the plight we want to make visible is not ours but rather that of the Palestinians in Gaza who rarely have an opportunity to raise or amplify their voices. Our guiding question, our rudder, as we contemplate next steps, asks to what extent we can focus world attention on the plight of Palestinians in Gaza. Today, I read an

article by Professor Noam Chomsky in which he asked Chris Gunness, a spokesperson for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency in Gaza to describe the humanitarian crisis Gazans face. "If there were no humanitarian crisis, if there weren't a crisis in almost every aspect of life in Gaza there would be no need for the flotilla," said Gunness. "95 percent of all water in Gaza is undrinkable, 40 percent of all disease is water-borne ... 45.2 percent of the labor force is unemployed, 80 percent aid dependency, a tripling of the abject poor since the start of the blockade. Let's get rid of this blockade and there would be no need for a flotilla."

And so it goes. Our formation as peace and antiwar activists, should be guided by focusing on the most impoverished people who bear the brunt of our economic and military warfare. We US activists must continue to learn from the durable actions and plans of the Spaniards and numerous other internationals gathered here in Athens, many of whom are facing draconian new economic policies in their home countries as financial institutions hold sway over governments and demand new austerity measures.

Greek activists who assemble every night in Athens' Syntagma Square have constructed an inspiring, effective means for developing free speech and determined, risk-taking action in a setting that has evolved to emphasize simplicity, sharing of resources and a clear preference for service rather than dominance.

I leave Greece tonight with sincere regret that I didn't spend more time learning from these sturdy activists.

I and another US Boat to Gaza campaign member, Missy Lane, will head to Tel Aviv, where we plan to be part of a "flytilla," a new campaign which will bring hundreds of activists together in Israel's Ben Gurion airport, all of us intent on reaching Palestinian refugee camps and/or visiting Gazan

families.

Earlier this evening, a group of US activists who've been able to remain longer, here in Athens, demonstrated at each of the heavily guarded streets leading to the residence of the US Ambassador to Greece. The Ambassador is hosting a huge festival tonight, in celebration of the US July 4 holiday that commemorates independence.

Several Greek people passing us read our signs seeking freedom for Gaza and asked us to understand that as recently as one year ago, the government of Greece showed no sign of submitting to Israeli or US pressure and allowed international flotilla boats to sail. But, now, they are dependent on the whims of financial elites around the world. The IMF is prescribing draconian measures which will wreck their economy and make them subservient to the dictates of foreign multinationals. What would happen if the government defied the masters?

The Greek government has been told to bend down and kiss the dirt, and if it doesn't do so it will be told to bend down and eat the dirt.

So far, the government has complied, and one instance of galling obeisance is their cooperation with Israeli and US governmental insistence that no boats bound for Gaza be allowed to depart from Grecian ports.

The flotilla may not leave Grecian ports this month, but the idea and practice of dissent surely will. The Arab Spring has planted seeds throughout the eastern Mediterranean, from its birthplace in Tunisia, through the Mubarak overthrow in Egypt, here to Greece, and of course throughout the world as it spreads into a heralded European Summer. With democracy in Gaza, here in Greece, and throughout the world so dependent on what our own government does in the United

Flotilla Continues on page 17

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the Mittelstand energy collective claim otherwise, saying the reactors' phase-out will create many more jobs -in renewable industries and in innovative efficiency programs- and help eliminate pollution.

Broad-based antinuclear opinion has also forced Merkel to announce an increase in the construction of wind farms and investments in energy efficiency programs and renewables in order to eliminate reliance on the aged reactors. One estimate of the cost of the transformation is \$11.3 billion. Bills to overhaul energy policy will come before parliament this month.

Even Merkel's go-slow approach, using "incentivized" development alternatives over the next 10 years, will replace the 22% of Germany's electricity now provided by nuclear reactors. Germany is already a world leader in the safe energy industry, producing 17% of its electricity from renewables, and by 2020, renewable generation should reach 40%.

John LaForge is on the staff of Nukewatch a nuclear watchdog group in Wisconsin and edits its Quarterly.

Youth and Positive Social Change

By Ted Glick June 26, 2011

"That which touches me most is that I had a chance to work with people Passing on to others that which was passed on to me

To me young people come first, they have the courage where we fail And if I can but shed some light as they carry us through the gale

The older I get the better I know that the secret of my going on Is when the reins are in the hands of the young who dare to run against the storm

Not needing to clutch for power, not needing the light just to shine on me I need to be one in the number as we stand against tyranny

Struggling myself don't mean a whole lot, I've come to realize That teaching others to stand up and fight is the only way my struggle survives."

From "Ella's Song," by Bernice Reagan Johnson (a tribute to Ella Baker)

Over seven years ago I decided that I needed to change my life and focus much more of my time and energies on the mega-issue of the climate crisis. At the time, there wasn't much of a youth climate movement. My decision to

change my life had nothing to do with a response to such a thing, because it didn't yet exist.

But it turns out that growing numbers of young people were making the same decision I was around the same time. The Energy Action Coalition, which has organized three national "Power Shift" conferences since 2007 bringing together 6,000, 12,000 and 10,000 participants, formed in 2004, and the youth (and Bill McKibben)-led Step It Up/350.org network began to come together in 2006.

I can think of only one other current social movement in the USA that has had a significant youth involvement, the immigrant rights movement. I am not informed enough about it, however, to be able to say if young people are playing a significant leadership role.

Within the climate movement they are.

Much of the adult-led climate movement, particularly mainstream environmental groups that tend to work closely with the national Democratic Party, has been very much in a holding pattern, at best, for the past year. This reality began to emerge

in July of 2010 when Harry Reid and the Senate Democratic leadership decided not to bring climate legislation to the floor of the Senate. The November election results significantly deepened this mood of pessimism and angst.

But the youth leadership of the Energy Action Coalition refused to go along. Despite the odds seemingly against them, they issued a public call in late January for a 10,000-person strong, third Power Shift national conference, and they pulled it off! They were not alone; there were "adult-led" climate and environmental groups who supported and worked with them, for sure, but without question the positive jolt to the climate movement provided by Power Shift 2011 was the responsibility of the young people part of EAC who made it happen.

And the repercussions from this willingness to take on a big challenge, to risk failure, are continuing to reverberate. I don't think it's an accident that Al Gore wrote his just-published, strong article in Rolling Stone magazine right after he spoke, and was clearly inspired, at Power

Youth & Change continued page 23

PROGRESSIVE DIRECTORY of Social Change Groups in PDX

Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty The death penalty does not prevent crime and should be abolished. Oregon has penalties that provide alternatives to state killing. The death penalty is costly. Innocent people are sentenced to death and sometimes executed. These killings are disproportionately the poor and minorities. OADP promotes research, education, and discussion of issues relating to the death penalty. For information on the death penalty in Oregon and nationally, and to find out about meetings and events go to www.oadp.org. e-mail info@oadp.org or write to P.O. Box 361, Portland, OR 97207.

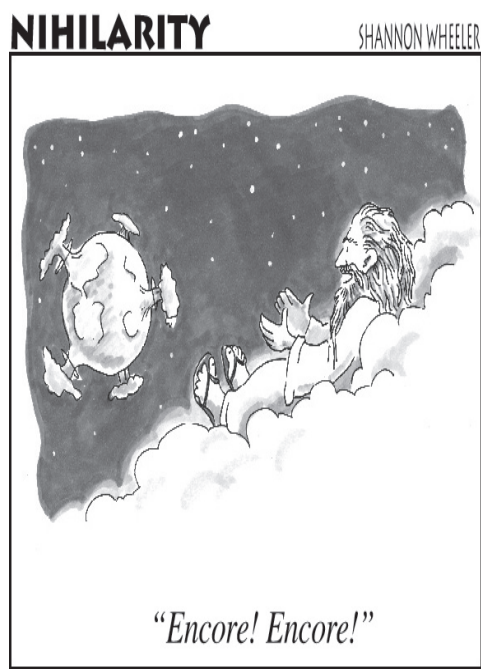
Pacific Green Party: Oregon's Green Party: Turn Green and join the fastest growing political party in Oregon, the United States, and the entire world. Oregon's Pacific Green Party offers the best hope of our lifetimes to break the corporate-controlled Republicratric duopoly and create a loud, clear, and unapologetically progressive voice in government. Help us build that peaceful, just and ecologically wise society your heart desires. In Portland call 503-772-3164 or visit www.PacificGreens.org. We need you as much as you need us.

Peace and Justice Works / Portland Copwatch Peace and Justice Works (PJW) has been actively educating and demonstrating for peace since 1992. PJW promotes non-violent conflict resolution on local, national and international levels. Iraq Affinity Group, addressing the U.S. invasion and occupation, meets monthly, usually second Tuesdays. Portland Copwatch, focusing on police accountability, usually meets first Mondays. Other issues include former Yugoslavia, School of the Americas. General meetings 3-4 times a year. Contact: PO Box 42456, Portland, OR 97242; 503-236-3065. Copwatch incident report line: 503-321-5120; e-mail: pjw@pjw.info, copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org; web: www.pjw.info.

Polyamory Circle is an informal gathering focusing on extended families, inclusive relationships and intentional community. Everyone is welcome to participate in our discussions. Meets 3rd Monday each month 7:30 pm. Call Larry 285-4848 for location+info.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) formed in 1979 and is the oldest Latin American solidarity organization in Oregon. We mobilize opposition to U.S. military and economic intervention in Latin America and Mexico, and support cross-border struggles for peace, justice and self-determination. In Oregon, PCASC advocates for workers and immigrant rights and educates the Portland community about the economic and political impact of U.S. policies upon Latin Americans, Mexicans, and the U.S. through the Cross Border Labor Organizing Council (CBLOC). We build solidarity between workers in Portland and Latin America. 2249 E Burnside, Portland, OR 97214. 503-236-7916. e-mail: info@pcasc.net.

Portland Chapter of OWL Mid-life and older women working locally and nationally to improve the status of ALL



women as they grow older: income and health security, affordable housing, ending discrimination and violence against women. Open to all women desiring these goals. Don't wait for retirement, it may be too late. Come and join us, call 503-721-0848. National OWL Web: www.owl-national.org.

Portland Community Media: PCM is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote broad participation in civic and cultural life by encouraging effective use and understanding of community media. We teach affordable classes in digital television and multimedia production, and program daily for cable television channels 11, 21, 22, 23, 29 and CityNet 30. Check our website for more information! 2766 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97212; 503-288-1515; www.pcmv.org.

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (www.psystr.org) is an organization whose mission is to use psychological knowledge and skills to promote peace with social justice at the community, national, and international levels. Portland-area psychologists and counselors have recently formed a PsySR affiliated group. Our goal is to address issues connecting poverty, mental health, and human rights. This group meets monthly to plan projects, develop resources, and discuss relevant issues. For more information and meeting times, please write samantha@pacificu.edu.

Portland Indymedia is a tool for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of truth. As the local Independent Media Center of a global network, Portland Indymedia is a decentralized movement of autonomous working groups and individuals contributing to various projects, including video, radio, television, the web and print. The website features open publishing, empowering anyone to post their own text, images, audio and video directly to a news-wire without approval or editing. Corporate media is a disease. Indymedia is the cure. e-mail: contact@portland.indymedia.org or portland.indymedia.org.

Portland IWW: A democratic, self-organizing labor union committed to direct action and struggle to bring about a better world. We welcome all those who wish to

organize with the rest of the working class for mutual aid and collective bargaining. Call 503-231-5488, e-mail: portland.iww@gmail.com or drop by our office at 2249 E. Burnside. (portlandiww.org)

Prananda Yoga & Arts Center Yoga isn't about sticking your foot in your ear. It starts where you are right now. Four levels of yoga are offered at PRANANDA (7 days a week), making it accessible to everyone and every body type. Yoga moves the body/mind/spirit in such a way that all three function better for a more enhanced life. The postures increase strength and flexibility. Meditation allows you to let go of the stressful and distracting thoughts of daily living. The breath allows us to breathe in that life force all around us that we need to thrive and glow as human beings. 7035 N. Concord Ave. 503-249-3903 or www.prananda.com

Progressive Student Union: PSU-PSU coordinates Transit Riders Union and Tenant Rights Project, advocatnig for low-income tenants and TriMet riders (www.trimetriders.org). On campus, we organize the Coke-Odwalla Boycott for labor rights in Colombia, human rights in Darfur, and National Bottle Bill/recycling legislation. (www.killercoke.org) Progressive Student Union was the founding publisher/editor of both PSU Rearguard (Iraq War I) and PSU Agitator (Iraq War II). We coordinated PSU campus Taco Bell Bocyott, making PSU the 9th U.S. college to kick Taco Bell off campus (the national boycott was successfully settled with a pay raise for Florida farm workers). PSU-PSU is anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist. Contact info: 503-222-2974 or Progressive Student Union, PO Box 40011, Portland, Oregon 97240.

Radical Women: A socialist feminist multi-issue organization that trains women to be leaders in the struggle to replace capitalism with socialism in order to achieve full equality for everyone. Our leadership—as women of color, workers, unionists and lesbians—is pivotal. We believe in the power of the working class. Monthly meetings every second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. 6834 NE Glisan St. Portland. Phone: 503-240-4462, Fax: 503-240-4463, E-mail: rwpdx@igc.org. Website: radicalwomen.org

Socialist Party of Oregon: A progressive party working for across-the-board democracy — political, social and economic. For over 100 years we've advocated much of what's best in America. We support ballot access for all parties; campaign finance reform; civil rights (Socialists helped found the NAACP and the ACLU); a humane foreign policy; environmental and consumer protection; general welfare, not corporate welfare; tax fairness; people over profits (consumer coops and credit unions); Social Security (first advocated by the Socialist Party); universal health insurance (socialists in Saskatchewan launched Canada's single-payer national health program). REGISTER, VOTE, VOLUNTEER SOCIALIST. For info write P.O. Box 5633, Portland, OR 97228, or phone 503-241-8217 or 503-289-3511. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107668484150> more info at www.thesocialistparty.org.

Solidarity: A socialist-feminist organization standing for workers' democracy and international solidarity. We are revolutionary, in that we regard capitalism as both a human and environmental disaster — unredeemable by reformist politics. We are committed to a creative rethinking of socialism and are engaged in struggles against racism, sexism, and homophobia. Local members include environmental, child care, reproductive rights, labor, and KBOO activists. Call 503-234-2306.

The Sunrise Foundation The Sunrise Foundation is dedicated toward working to improve the working knowledge we all have concerning our national, and international currencies. Through this effort we hope to foment a popular movement-gearred to create the needed reforms in this critical infrastructure. We believe our success in this endeavor will be a major factor in determining the timely success or failure of needed progressive efforts. Visit us at www.thesunrisefoundation.com or contact us at Sunrisecontact@aol.com

or 503-713-8872.

Sustainable Business Network of Portland We are a group of business people dedicated to creating a local, vibrant and sustainable business community here in Portland. Founded in 2003, we are a new and independent networking group working to promote and support each other and the local business community. We have a networking and educational breakfast meeting every other Tuesday morning at Old Wives Tales. We have other events as well. Visit www.sbnportland.org for our current schedule. We are also the force behind the "Think Local First" and "Keep the Green in Portland" campaigns. For more info or to join, visit www.ThinkLocalPortland.org Now unplug from that corporate supplier, go out and support your favorite LOCALLY OWNED business!

Technocracy, Inc. originated in 1918-1919 when Howard Scott formed a group of scientists, engineers, and economists. Technocracy is a social design for living engineered for the distribution of an abundance to all citizens from birth to death. For more information, call 503-283-9517 or visit the technocracy web- www.technocracyinc.org (continental site).

Voter Power Foundation Marijuana is Safe and Effective Medicine. Voter Power holds clinics to help people qualify for Oregon's Medical Marijuana Law (OMMA). Voter Power is a group of activists who have fought for and won: both on Measure 67 (Oregon Medical Marijuana Act) and Measure 57 which stopped the legislature's attempt to recriminalize simple marijuana possession in 1998. Get up, stand up, and act up today. We currently need volunteers. Call 503-224-3051 or visit us online at www.voterpower.org.

Veterans for Peace Ch. 72 Having defended this nation, we believe that national security comes only through peace and justice at home and abroad. Chapter activities include counter-recruiting in the schools, supporting land mine removal programs, and organizing, sponsoring, and participating in anti-war efforts. Our speakers offer their experiences so that others might better understand the true costs of war. We can help returned veterans come to terms with their experiences, because they are us. Veterans, and friends and family of veterans, are welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Friends Meeting House at 4312 SE Stark St. For more information call 503-282-5015, or see www.vfpchapter72.org, or see the website of our national office www.veteransforpeace.org.

War Resisters League PDX Chapter: As conscientious objectors to war, we promote alternatives to militarism and military service. The Military & Draft Counseling Project provides draft counseling, counter-recruitment organizing, and civilian advocacy for military personnel and those considering enlistment. The Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance provides information and support for persons conscientiously refusing to pay for war, and we publicly redirect refused tax dollars to local service organizations. We also promote Peace Tax Fund legislation, through lobbying and public speaking, to provide a legal alternative for war tax objectors. 2000 NE 42nd Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR 97213. 503-238-0605.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working since 1915 to unite women in all countries who oppose war, exploitation, and oppression. The Portland WILPF branch holds public meetings addressing peace and justice related issues. The monthly newsletter can be received free upon request. 1034 SW 13th, Portland, OR 97205; portland.wilpf.org, wilpfpx@gmail.com.

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Ongoing

Bette Lee, is showing her photographs about Social Justice at pear Gallery, 338 NW 6th Ave., Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. thru May 31st. For other times contact pear at 503-228-6677 Sponsored by MRG. Nathan Moon is showing his work as well. Bette has been taking photographs for the Alliance for over twenty years. leebette@gmail.com www.bettelephotos.com

Populist Dialogues, on Channel 11 at 5 pm. EVERY SUNDAY Tape these half hour shows. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy: David Delk hosts & interviews people fighting against corporate rule. Each episode replays Thurs. at 8 PM on Channel 22, & Fri. at 7:30 PM on Channel 23. more info: <http://www.afd-pdx.org>

Democracy Now! On KBOO 90.7 FM Radio weekdays 7-8 a.m., again 4-5 p.m., and on cable TV channel 23 from 9-10 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. Channel 29 shows Democracy Now at 8 a.m. 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. weekdays. This is the BEST news program in the country. Or, sign up on your computer for daily e-mail digests at <http://www.DemocracyNow.org> The Friday Program repeats on Sundays 1:30-2:30 on Channel 29.

Field Production: Documenting

Portland Six-session workshop: Work as part of a team to develop a documentary field production about a Portland person or place. The completed project will be distributed by PCM. Collective production topic, plan, shooting, and edit. Learn video, conduct field interview, learn field audio, camera operation, and Final Cut Pro edit. Workshop occurs on select Wednesdays and Saturdays. Wednesday 6:30PM to 9:30PM, and Saturday 11AM to 2PM. Dates: May 14, 18, & 21, June 4, 8, 11, & 15

Portland Books to Prisoners weekly mailing, 5-8 Tuesdays in garage at end of driveway at 1112 NE Morton, between Ainsworth & Dekum, east of MLK Blvd. These books are sent across the country. We need new or used dictionaries & thesaurus. PDXbookstoPrisoners.org pdxbookstoprisoners@riseup.net

Basic War Tax Resistance & Redirection, In Other Words Books, 14 N. Killingsworth, 7-8 p.m., every 3rd Monday. What is war tax R & R? How can someone participate? An informal workshop, no charge, materials provided. More info at 503-238-0605. Sponsored by War Resisters League. FREE.

NW RAGE Public Meeting and GE Free Video Night, 3347 SE Belmont (ring bell #5 and we'll open the door) doors open at 6:30, film starts at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of every month. Watch films relating to genetic engineering and discuss how to help promote a safe and sustainable food supply. All films are free. Donations are appreciated. Call 503-756-4369 for more info.

Washington Co. Peace Vigil, SW 5th

& Hall, next to Beaverton Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Bring a sign or use one of ours.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee monthly meeting 2249 East Burnside, 7 p.m. every first and third Wednesday. PCASC is a grassroots organizing group that educates and mobilizes community members, workers & students around struggles for human rights and social justice throughout the Americas. More info at 503-236-7916 or info@pcasc.net.

Ongoing Impeachment Accountability Rally, 729 NE Oregon St. outside Congressman Blumenauer's office, every Thursday, noon to 2 p.m.

WILPF Women in Black: Peace in the Middle East vigil. Noon at Terry Shrunken Plaza, in front of City Hall, every Friday.

Portland Peaceful Response Weekly Friday Rally & Protest March, 5 p.m. Fridays, Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway & Yamhill <http://www.pprc-news.org>.

Feminist Film Society, 6:30 p.m., In Other Words Women's Books and Resources, 8 B NE Killingsworth St., every third Friday. Watch movies and discuss them with feminism in mind. Screening starts at 7, discussion to follow. \$1-5 donation, no one turned away. Find your feminist, More info: <http://www.inotherwords.org> phone: 503-232-6003

A Growing Concern, a Call-in Community TV Program, LIVE, every Friday on Cable channel 11, 7-8 p.m. Repeats: Sundays, channel 23, 10 p.m., and Thursdays, channel 22, 7 p.m. This program features guests speaking on a wide range of political, environmental & social justice issues, plus video of local events. Hosted by local activist Jim Lockhart since 1998. PhilosopherSeed.org

Oak Grove Peace vigil. Noon on Sundays, corner of SE McLaughlin & Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukee.

The Mad Space Between the Stars! Radical weekly peer-led mental health discussion group. The Garfield House, 4011 NE Garfield, 7 p.m. Sundays. Building a strong radical mental health community. We reject mainstream mental health and have decided to take control of our own needs by supporting each other in our daily struggles. Please join us. More info: themadaresane@gmail.com.

Labor Radio Collective: 6 p.m. Mondays. Of, by & for Working Families on KBOO 90.7 FM Call in and join the conversation: Studio Line (503) 231-8187

Jobs with Justice: First Monday Steering Committee Meetings at 6025 East Burnside: 5:30 p.m.

August - December 2011

Saturday, August 20, 7:00 pm Women's Rights Day forum: EYEWITNESS REPORTS from the national Save Our Schools conference and march: Summer Buffet, 6:00pm Dinner donation \$8.50 (vegetarian option available) w Door donation

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Summ 2011

longer calendar: theportlandalliance.org



\$2 Bread and Roses Center 6834 NE Glisan St., Portland 8 blocks east of the NE 60th Ave. Max Station; Tri-Met bus line #19. Sponsored by: Radical Women & Freedom Socialist Party. For information, call 503-240-4462 or email rwpx@igc.org www.radicalwomen.org or www.socialism.com

Wednesday, August 23rd, thru November: Recruiter Watch would very much appreciate THE PORTLAND ALLIANCE's assistance in getting the word out about Opt-Out. High school registration starts the week of August 23 at most Portland high schools. recruiter watch info: <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/education> OPT-OUT AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, schools receiving federal funding MUST release students' personal information to military recruiters if they are to continue to receive funding. Students may "opt-out" of this military database at beginning of the school year **Tues., August 23rd**, 7-9pm: The

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Portland Alliance Copy Editing:
Writers Meeting, at 5926 N. Albina
Wednesday, August 24, 2011,
11:30pm Benefit Art show for David
Whelan and his Mobile Art Gallery
The Lovecraft Bar · 421 SE Grand
Portland OR 97214
Phone - 971-270-7760
Friday, August 26 · 7:00pm -
11:30pm at the Village Ballroom at 700
NE Dekum Street in Portland, OR by
Adam Carpinelli, Paige Shell-Spurling,
Cari Koch Show / \$7-15 donation: No
one turned away Beer, Food, Air
contitions, salsa lessons Featuring: Dina
Bamba Y Su Pilon D'Azucar, Major
Marx, and more.... Founded in 1979,
the Portland Central America Solidarity
Committee educates and mobilizes
community members, workers and
students around struggles for human
rights and social justice throughout the
Americas. Find out more about our
organization and BUY YOUR TICKET
ONLINE: <http://www.brownpaperticket.com/event/188308>

Saturday, August 27 at 12:00pm
- August 28 at 4:00pm at New Seasons
Market - CONCORDIA location
5320 NE 33rd Ave (at Killingsworth)
Portland, OR
Created By **Latino Network**
More Info: New Seasons will be
hosting a Benefit Barbecue for Latino
Network the weekend of August 27-28.
Come have lunch either day between
11:45-4:15, and all the money raised
will benefit Latino Network and its
great Civic Engagement, Leadership,
Education, and Intervention programs.
Come out and join us -- it's a delicious
lunch for a GREAT cause!

Sunday, August 28, 2pm-
6pm: Office Work Party, at the Portland
Alliance at 5926 N. Albina

Mon. Aug. 29 at 6pm on KBOO
Labor Radio... The 6 p.m. radio
show will include a conversation
with O'Rourke. Lane and Tim will
talk with Michael O'Rourke's about
Roll on Columbia... and music for
working people. <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/kboo>

Sat. Sept. 3 at 4:00 PM: "Evidence
That the Bible is Not God's Word",
speaker Mr. Young. Location: outdoors
by the benches and large tree in front
of the Beaverton City Library, 12375
SW 5th, Beaverton, OR 97005. A former
Christian minister presents evidence
from within the Bible itself as well as
from findings of modern science, that
the Bible is not really God's word. Bring
blankets or folding chairs if you wish.
Please RSVP before August 31 at
hightech@xpnet.net or 503-641-3732

Fri. Sept. 9 2nd Friday Songwriter
Spotlight at Bella's Cafe · 7:00pm -
10:00pm Location Bella's Cafe 21825
NE Halsey St Fairview, OR
This month Tom Arnold, The Oh My
My's! and another act join host Steve
Rodin for a memorable evening original
tunes.

Fri. Sept. 16 10th Anniversary
Every Friday, Every Week, You can
Show up to Resist the War Machine!
Please Join us at 5 p.m. at Pioneer
Square. We will have signs, but bring
your own! The Portland Peaceful
Response Coalition has been meeting
at the square for 10 years today!

Fri. Sept. 16, Mo Gas: Maybe
you want to discuss coordinating
protest activities against the increas-
ing commercialization of education
on the global level during November
2011: http://ism-global.net/coordinations_nov2011 This is initiated on the
"International Student Movement".
Tues. Sept. 20 at the Coliseum.
'Stand Down for Homeless Vets.' more
info <http://www.returningveterans.org> or call in for help at (503) 933-4996.

Sunday, September 25 YELL to
convene second annual conference
The Oregon AFL-CIO's newest constitu-
ent group YELL, Young Emerging Labor
Leaders, will convene its second annual
conference Sunday, September 25, 2011,
in Eugene, preceding the Oregon AFL-
CIO Convention. The one-day confer-
ence plans to focus on education and
networking among young union activ-

ists.

The Portland Alliance and KBOO are
Sponsoring the NW Film Center series:
**VOICES IN ACTION:
HUMAN RIGHTS ON FILM
October 6 - November 9**

While cinema provides entertainment
and escape, for many committed
filmmakers and viewers it is a vital
portal into the lives of others, a medium
of engagement, and a powerful tool for
social action. Tackling wide-ranging,
thought-provoking issues, activist
filmmakers help deepen our awareness
of injustice, the values of dignity and
equality, and the price of commitment
as they tell universal stories of struggle
and triumph. We hope that the
informative and inspirational films
presented in this year's series will
broaden understanding and stimulate
involvement as they reveal the
commitment and courage of individuals
whose hearts and minds are focused
on our many shared challenges. Our
special thanks go to Human Rights
Watch, Amnesty International and
other festivals and organizations
worldwide who help bring important
events, issues and media works before
us. nwfilm.org

First Film in Series!

OCT 6 THURS 7 PM — at the Whitsell
Auditorium in the Portland Art
Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue
GRANITO tells a haunting tale of
genocide and justice that spans four
decades, two films, and in many
ways, Yates' own career. Embedded
in **GRANITO** is Yates' seminal 1982
film, **WHEN THE MOUNTAINS
TREMBLE**, which introduced the world
to the tragedy of the genocide carried
out against the Mayan people by the
Guatemalan government and which
propelled Mayan activist Rigoberta
Menchú to the international stage.
During filming, Yates was allowed to
shoot the only known footage of the
army as it carried out the genocide.
Twenty-five years later, this film
and its outtakes become evidence
in an international war crimes case
against the former commander of the
Guatemalan army, and Yates reunites
with Menchú, now a Nobel Laureate,
and others who continue to contribute
their granito (tiny grain of sand) in a
continuing quest for the truth. (100
mins.) Pamela Yates will introduce the
film. *Co-presented with the Good Works
Film Festival—in Eugene October 7-10.*
*For complete information on the NW Film
Center series: VOICES IN ACTION:
HUMAN RIGHTS ON FILM
October 6 - November 9 checkout
www.theportlandalliance.org/nwfilm*

Please send Community Calendar
events to jennybatesma@gmail.com. Jenny & Robin are volun-
teer editors. Please submit list-
ings or updates by the 16th

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Distressing Portland's Elites Since 1981
www.theportlandalliance.org

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OregonGrantWatch.com

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Listings continued from page 9

Alliance for Democracy

Portland Alliance for Democracy is a populist progressive movement to end corporate dominance of our economy, society, politics, the environment and our lives. We advocate for democratic values to create a fair and equitable society. Current campaigns include education about and opposition to "free trade" agreements like the upcoming Korea, Columbia and Panama agreements; water privatization; support for voter owned elections and instant runoff voting. Current projects include production of a cable TV program, The Populist Dialogues, and community outreach for Move to Amend the constitution to end corporate personhood. We meet the second and fourth Monday each month. Contact: Davidafd@gmail.com; 503.232.5495, www.afd-pdx.org

Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights

AUPHR is an association of American taxpayers united by mutual concern for human rights in general and Palestinian human rights in particular. Our aim is to eliminate the substantial U.S. funding and discriminatory policies that directly or indirectly support the oppression and violation of the human rights of Palestinian people in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories. Our tools are public education & political and legal action. www.auphr.org or 503-287-1885.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights for all. Amnesty International works to improve human rights through campaigning and international solidarity. Portland's Amnesty International chapter, Group 48, has been in existence since 1973. Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave. For more information: call 503-227-1878 or visit http://aipdx.org/.

Bridgeport Community United

Church of Christ Politics and spiritual life can connect! We are a multicultural, multiracial community of progressive political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith in a manner that is both intellectually-engaging and spiritually nurturing. We are pragmatic and passionate, LGBT & straight, and our children are valued members. 11:00 Sunday mornings, 621 NE 76th Ave. Portland. 503-258-0992. www.BridgeportUCC.org. Great music, good coffee, not boring.

Code Pink — Portland stages strong, playful actions to confront local and global power mongers—you may have seen and heard us with our signs and songs at anti-war rallies, on street corners and elsewhere around town. CODE PINK is a broad international movement for peace and justice led by women. The name "CODEPINK" is a play on the Bush administration's color-coded homeland security alerts. Although we enjoy colorful antics that highlight hypocrisies in government and corporate business, we thoughtfully plan our costumes, lyrics and other high-jinks to broadcast our message effectively. We welcome individuals who seek community in standing up against economic inequality and violence. More information: Contact the National Organization at this website: http://codepinkalert.org for info on local actions.

Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity

(CCCHD) is a citizens group in Columbia County working to assure the basic rights and human dignity of all Oregonians. We are a progressive, volunteer-driven and volunteer-funded organization promoting inclusive democracy. Join us in our efforts to promote social and economic justice, human rights, and human dignity in Columbia County and throughout Oregon. CCCHD is a member group of the Rural Organizing Project. For more information, call 503-543-8417.

Committees of Correspondence is an inclusive and progressive non-sectarian national coalition of left and socialist activists from communities, unions, the peace movement and social interest groups, whose mission is to build unity among the

left/progressive forces. We include, welcome, and fight for the interests of all people of any color, religion, gender or sexual orientation. P.O.Box 372, Albany, OR 97321. (541) 926-7070.

Community Alliance of Tenants is a grassroots, tenant-controlled tenant membership organization. We educate and organize tenants to demand affordable, stable and safe rental homes. CAT prioritizes development of low-income renters as community leaders. We organize tenants to change unjust laws and improve property management policies. Our Renter's Rights Hotline gives tenants information about their rights. CAT's Hotline: (503) 288-0130.

Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG) is a membership driven, community-based organization that believes "The community that educates and speaks out for itself can best protect itself." We do this through developing leadership in people of color and low income residents of North and Northeast Portland to change the power dynamic by becoming the decision makers in their own community. Our primary focus is air quality, transportation and public health issues with a particular emphasis on the high rate of asthma in our community. For information, contact us at (503) 283-6397.

First Unitarian Church of PDX has been a voice for liberal religion in our community for over 130 years. Our core beliefs about spiritual growth and acting for social justice are reflected in the work of the church's Economic Justice Action Group (EJAG). EJAG, a welcoming and affirming group, is guided by its mission to raise awareness about and act to promote fair and just economic policies, life-sustaining and life-enhancing values, equal access to economic opportunities, and democratic participation in national, state, and local decisions on economic issues. We sponsor speakers and forums on current economic justice issues, lobby elected officials, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and we strive to live and act to create a fair, just and sustainable society. E-mail: info@ejag.org; Web:www.ejag.org; Phone: Kate Lore, 503-228-6389, x44.

Flying Focus Video Collective (FFVC) is a group of activists using video as a tool for social change, providing a voice for the voiceless. We videotape speakers, events and actions, and produce program-

women, people of color, sexual minorities, disabled people, elderly and youth is key. Our heritage stems from Trotsky and the Bolsheviks. Please visit our bookstore at 6834 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97213. Phone for an appointment at 503-240-4462. Visit our website at www.socialism.com or e-mail us at fsp@igc.org.

In Other Words: Women's Books and Resources

A non-profit organization with a comprehensive collection of women's writing, women-positive videos, magazines and gifts. Free information about women's organizations, activities and networking. A monthly events calendar. Space for dialogue and debate about the complex issues facing women today. Contact us about volunteer opportunities. 14 NE Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97211.232 (503)-232-6003. Open seven days.

Jews for Global Justice: We're committed to ending oppression in all its forms. Our work spans a range of issues including opposing the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan, fighting racism, stopping religious persecution, and supporting the struggle for workers' rights and economic justice. We build bridges between targeted communities and the Jewish community. We call for an immediate end to Israel's military occupation of Palestine. The repression of the occupation, the mass detentions, torture, executions, and collective punishments are in direct opposition to our Jewish values. We mourn the deaths of civilians on both sides. Contact: (503) 299-4772.

Jobs with Justice: A coalition of labor and community organizations defending workers' rights. Members pledge to be there at least five times a year for someone else's fight — on picket lines, marches, rallies or hearings. We defend civil rights and the struggles of exploited workers and their communities, especially people of color, immigrants and women. Our offices are in the AFSCME Council 75 building, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97215. 503-236-5573, www.jwjpdx.org

Laughing Horse Books & Video

An all-volunteer, collectively run radical bookstore and resource center. In addition to books, periodicals, buttons, stickers, tapes and other activist tools, we have a lending library, and sponsor events ranging from politics and music to book signings and poetry readings. Currently not wheelchair accessible. 12 NE 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97214; (503)-236-2893.



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ming through cable access facilities. Ask for our catalogue of available tapes or check out the selected videos in lending libraries at LaughingHorse Books, BlackRose Collective Bookstore, or Small A Projects. Contact: 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. PMB #248, Portland, OR 97232; 503-239-7456 or 503-321-5051(showtimes/voicemail); email ffvc@flyingfocus.org; webwww.flyingfocus.org.

Freedom Socialist Party is a socialist & feminist party that wants more members! Help create a revolution for full economic, political and social equality for all working people and those who are exploited and disenfranchised by capitalism. A multi-issue platform that prioritizes the equality of

Metanoia Peace Community

Following Jesus' way of revolutionary non-violence and life-in-community, the people of Metanoia seek first the "kin-dom" of God as a radical alternative to the ways of the dominant culture. Gay friendly. Phone the 18th Ave. Peace House, 503-281-3697, for information about frequent gatherings to which newcomers and visitors are invited. See our website at www.metanoiaumc.org.

Military Families Speak Out

Family members in the *Against the War Military Families Speak Out*, offer a support group the first Saturday of each month in Wilsonville. www.mfso-oregon.org. (503)-757-0323.

Money Is Not Democracy:

Statewide group working on Campaign Finance Reform. Oregon is 1 of 6 states with no limits on contributions to political campaigns. This initiative establishes enforceable limits on political contributions and expenditures in Oregon for the first time. Bans contributions by corporations. Volunteers needed to get this initiative on the ballot. Visit our website at www.fairelections.net <http://www.fairelections.net> or call 503.246-2906 in Portland.

NW Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (NW RAGE)

is a non-violent, grassroots community organization dedicated to promoting a responsible, sustainable and just use of agriculture and science. We work to prevent the intrusion of genetic engineering into our food, bodies and ecosystems, through education, agitation, community-building, advocacy and action. Get activated: meetings are every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at 3347 SE Belmont St., Portland. Contact us: POB 15289 Portland, OR. 97293. Phone: 503-756-4369 www.nwrage.org or contact us by e-mail: info@nwrage.org.

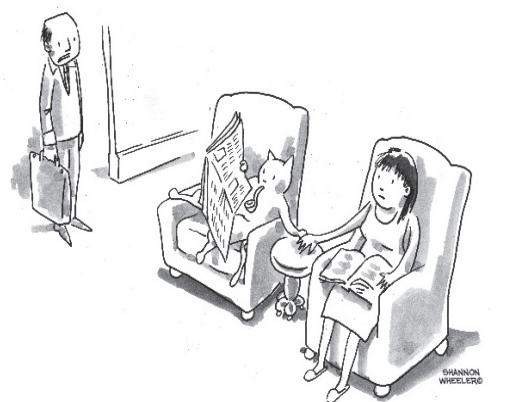
NW Vegetarian Education and Empowerment Group:

Northwest VEG is active in the Portland and Vancouver area. The mission is to educate and empower people to make vegetarian choices for a healthy, sustainable and compassionate world. Reducing consumption of animal products leads to better health, reduced impact on the forests and streams, and kinder treatment of animals. The group holds potlucks with educational programs every month, alternating between the west side and the east side of the Portland area. In addition, the group organizes dinners, and coordinates several other events throughout the year. Volunteers are always appreciated. Visit our Web site at: www.nwveg.org, send e-mail to: info@nwveg.org, or leave message at: (503) 746-8344.

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. (OTI)

is dedicated to promoting the success of women in the building, construction, mechanical and utility trades through education, leadership and mentorship. Founded in 1989, OTI offers 3 core programs and services: Trades Offer Girls Options (TO GO) encourages middle- and high school-aged girls to learn about options for trades careers; Pathways to Success recruits, trains, places and retains women in trades careers through its free Trades and Apprenticeship Career Class, a state-certified pre-apprenticeship program; and Tradeswomen Organized for Outreach, Leadership, and Support (TOOLS) supports and builds leadership with women already in the trades and provides technical assistance to help employers, apprenticeship programs and government agencies achieve a diverse trades work force. OTI is a membership based organization and holds quarterly networking and support meetings for members.

For more information Contact: Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., 1714 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211, (503) 335-8200 or visit www.tradeswomen.net.



"Could you please stop sitting in my chair, smoking my pipe, reading my newspaper, and holding hands with my wife?"

Shannon Wheeler:
www.TooMucCoffeeMan.com

Progressive Arts and Culture!

By ELIZABETH RATHBUN.

BENEFIT ART SHOW FOR DAVID WHELAN AND HIS MOBILE ART GALLERY AT THE LOVECRAFT BAR
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011, 6-11:30PM

Art

Oregon College of Arts & Crafts.
Through Sun, Sept 11: Michelle Ross at Portland Art Museum;

Through Sun, Oct 22: Jim Koudelka at Waterstone Gallery;

Thurs, Aug 4 to Sept 27: Hoffman Gallery, OCAC Alumni Exhibition;

Fri, Aug 5 to Sept 24: Michael de Forest at Wood Turning Center: (503) 223-1729; Tues-Sat.

Art Festivals:

Sat, Aug. 20 to Sun, Aug 21: Silverton Fine Arts Festival, Coolidge McClain Park in Silverton.

Sun, Aug. 28: Oregon City Open Air Antiquaire Faire, Main Street, Oregon City.

Sat, Sept. 3 to Mon, Sept 5: Art in the Pearl, Northwest Park Blocks, Downtown Portland.

Blues and Jazz

Blue Monk: 3341 SE Belmont, thebluemonk.com. Sunday nights: Jazz 7:30 to 10:30; Ticket prices vary.

Aug 21: Noah Bernstein-Hanley Ensemble;

Aug 28: Ocular Concern (Andrew Oliver, Dan Duval, Steve Pancerev).

Candlelight Room: 2032 SW 5th Ave.; 503-222-3378; Price: Free; All shows: 9:30-to-1:30.

Jimmy Maks: Mon. No Cover, other nights covers vary: Dan Balmer; Tues: Mel Brown Septet;

Chinese Garden, Tuesdays by Twilight Concert at 6:45; concert at 7:30 pm. www.lansugarden.org

Comedy

Harvey's Comedy Club on 436 NW 6th Ave. First show at 7:30 to 9, Sundays with some additional shows: Sun: Open Mike at 9, free admission and prizes. "http://www.harveyscomedyclub.com/" Buy tickets at Harveycomedyclub.com

Helium Comedy Club on 1510 SE 9th Ave.

Dancing

Belly dancing: Wed in Blue Monk basement, 3341 SE Belmont, Bellydance begins at 8 with a \$5 cover. features Egyptian/Cabaret with Arabesque

Band; Fridays are Offbeat Belly Dance which starts at 8:30 p.m. with \$5 cover.

Saturday evenings at Mummy's Restaurant, 622 SW Colombia; bellydancing begins around 8.
Tango

Evening milongas from Monday through Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Portlandtango.com

Mon: Portland Police Athletic Assoc. (PPAA), 618 S.E. Alder, Basic lesson 7:00 to 8:00, dancing to 12 p.m.

Wed: Norse Hall, 11th & Couch St.; Basic lesson 7:30 to 8:30, dance to 12pm

Thurs: Norse Hall, 11th and Couch St.; Basic lesson 7:30 to 8:30, dance to 12pm

Fri: Paradise Ballroom: 826 S.E. Belmont; Practica, 2 to 6 p.m.

Sun: Viscount Studio at 724 E. Burnside; 1 to 5 p.m.; Peninsula Park at 7 to 9 varied Sundays, check Portlandtango.com website for exact dates.

Film

NW Film.org Films (See those Currently Showing for more info.) The Portland Alliance and KBOO Radio are sponsoring the October-November series on Human Rights.

Sun, Aug 21: Soul of Sand, 2010 from India, a mine watchman and his wife are trapped by the schemes of their tyrannical landlord.

Garden

Chinese: lansugarden.org;

Summer hours: 10 to 6 daily. Highlights: Music in the Teahouse, Bloom Walk, Art Exhibits. Sat, Aug. 20: Rod Puppet Show at 11 and 2. Tuesdays in July: Oregon College of Oriental Medicine discusses how to incorporate Chinese Medicine into your own life.

Japanese: japanesegarden.com
Summer hours: 10 to 7 Tues through Sun and 12-7 Mon.

Greek Music

Fridays and Saturdays. Hidden Inn, Touch of Athens, 100 West 13th in Vancouver, WA. Live Greek music with Bouzouki, singing and dancing from 6:30 to 10:30.

Lectures and Workshops

The 2011 Illahee Series includes leaders in sustainability, economics and governance.

Wed, Aug 31: Elinor Ostrom - Nobel Prize Winner - Social Innovation \$20. per event; tickets available at slight discount. First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park.

Arts & Culture Continued Page 18

Environmental Graphic Novel: Oil and Water

An Interview with Shannon Wheeler,

BY ELIZABETH RATHBUN

Portland editorial cartoonist, Shannon Wheeler, is working on a major graphic novel after 20 years drawing social satire. He has diversified himself with: Too Much Coffee Man, New Yorker cartoons, short graphic works and now a graphic novel about the BP environmental disaster in New Orleans.

Oil and Water strives to keep the BP oil spill in the public consciousness. It is a joint effort with Oregonian editorial writer Steve Duin. After the oil well was capped, they visited New Orleans for two weeks in July of 2010 with a coalition of Portland individuals. The group is completing a documentary about the project with further details on the website pdxgulfoast.com.

Wheeler says right after Katrina ravaged New Orleans, "You could hear the hammers rebuilding." With an environmental oil spill of unparalleled size, the situation was drastically different -- no one knew what to do and the response was slow. "It was

a powerful time when it was capped. People were relieved, but everyone worried more about whether it would be cleaned up. And no one believed the problem was solved."

At its peak, the spill was the size of the state of Kansas. Schools were closed and a feeling of emptiness prevailed. Commercial trawlers frantically skimmed oil. Loss of spill-related income spread throughout the Gulf; depression overwhelmed communities in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. People were anxious about environmental and health consequences.

Wheeler noted that: "Scale is something we worked with a lot. And trying to wrap your brain around the size of the disaster is really difficult," Mr. Wheeler, in talking about the enormity of the spill and its devastating environmental and psychological impact, that: "It hit you at a very deep level."

Oil and Water is an alternative account of the BP spill, unlike that of the corporate news. Mainstream news has consistently skipped details and

underplayed things. They claim: the devastation was exaggerated, off-shore winds blew it to sea and conditions are improving. Time and ABC reported most of the oil had been dispersed last summer which prevented severe environmental damage. To counter the outright lies, *Oil and Water* uses the graphic style to connect visuals with text making it understandable and realistic.

Graphic novels motivate people to read. Librarians believe they have impact on many levels to capture reluctant and early learners. Readers can gain literary and visual/artistic skills, like those in: color, shading, panel layout, perspective and lettering. Educationally, it opens up a world of complex and diverse issues for those who pass up traditional novels.

Wheeler learned to read with comic books and he passed the process down to his children. "It is intimidating to read. Once they realized how much they knew by reading the pictures, they became excited about reading." He says the graphic novel is evolving. Comics were invented for children's

entertainment and have now become an instrument to be used in different ways.

Wheeler believes the graphic novel achieves on two levels. "It's an art form that reaches the right and left brain with visuals and words. You learn faster when you engage both sides of the brain. We fictionalized parts of it, about certain characters in the story, but the situations and the emotions were kept real."

News with long-term implications is not well suited for the short attention span of corporate news. In the mainstream lens the tragedy has been resolved. One could almost accept that, until reading realistic reports by investigative journalist Dahr Jamail who documents the severe health consequences, the environmental destruction and wildlife impact which will last decades.

The long-term prospects for the region are not known. With a catastrophic oil spill, the people in the Gulf need help: in economic, medical and mental health services. Their livelihood is gone and they have been debilitated by exposure to Corexit dispersant, a chemical that was sprayed by air to scatter the oil. During Wheeler's visit locals wondered what outsiders hoped to gain because they were discouraged by 'parachute' journalists who dropped in for short assignments and didn't return. They became encouraged by a book to keep the story alive.

"One of the advantages of a graphic novel," Wheeler says, is that when the story turns to interesting characters and side-stories, "you can switch styles by using different washes and cross-hatching." His drawings feature a pristine setting with damage seeping into the background and Gulf personalities: con-men, science experts and unusual yet resilient people.

Graphic Novel Continued Page 18

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STRING THEORY

By WINSLOW MYERS

Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sword_of_Damocles" sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident, or miscalculation, or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.

— John F. Kennedy, U.N. Speech, 1961

In 1984, when I started volunteering for the organization Beyond War, it was not so difficult to gather an audience in a living room and have a dialogue about the obsolescence of war.

The horror of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 had not yet faded. Short-range tactical nuclear weapons were proliferating on both sides of the Iron Curtain. Most citizens were willing to entertain the notion that not only could we not win a full-scale nuclear war, but there were three lesser levels of war that we had to prevent: even a limited nuclear war could bring on "nuclear winter." A conventional war could bring in the nuclear powers. Even small "local" conflicts could escalate into general conventional war and then upward to the nuclear level. War, all war, was a potential extinction machine. It still is.

To everyone's immense surprise, the

Soviet empire imploded five years later. When it did dissolve, thousands of peace activists assumed their job was done, and looked forward to the "peace dividend" sure to ensue.

In 2011, the number of nuclear weapons countries has risen to nine. Pakistan and India repeat the folly of the U.S.-Soviet rivalry. Will Pakistan remain stable enough to keep its warheads from falling into the wrong hands? Will the generals in charge of them now, both in Pakistan and in India, act with restraint? Jonathan Schell asserts that the potential of a nuclear weapon being used against people is greater than it has been at any time since 1945. The thread holding up Kennedy's Sword of Damocles has further attenuated.

Yawns of indifference. Nuclear war, accidental or deliberate, just isn't a front burner issue for people. Whatever grabs our attention today seems far more indefinite than what grabbed us in 1984, while the demands for that attention are a hundred times more diverse. We are "distracted from distraction by distraction," as Eliot wrote 60 years before the advent of e-mail.

When we do look up from our laptops and iPhones, we cannot avoid the interconnection of all our major challenges. Pull on any string in the gigantic ball of issues, and the unraveling reveals how densely tangled each issue is with all the others. The

ingredients of nuclear weapons derive from the operation of nuclear power plants. These plants are themselves potential terrorist targets. At the same time they hold out hope for reliable non-CO2-emitting energy, when natural disasters or human errors do not overwhelm their safeguards.

The growing population of the earth demands a higher standard of living, even if providing it will overshoot—has already overshoot—the carrying capacity of the planet. Meanwhile the United States military, the presumed guardian of the vaunted U.S. standard of living, is the biggest user of unrenowned fossil fuels on earth. One economic fact stands out: our military budget contains a great many more zeros in it than the total amount it would take to resolve the very challenges that will almost inevitably be the causes of future wars: the global provision of safe drinking water, birth control, medical care, nourishing food, education.

Why are our representatives unable to act upon such urgent yet beneficial measures of prevention? We need look no further than the behavior of the U.S. congress during the recent speech by the head of a foreign government.

Yanked by invisible strings, the entire joint session rose twenty-seven times to applaud unanimously. Was the speech really that eloquent? The point is not the power of the Israel lobby, but a more general one: the insidious pressure of the herd instinct. The puppetry comes from our dislike of making an independent assessment of

reality and responding autonomously. Instead we look left and right for cues, fearful of being perceived as disloyal.

But we the people still hold the string that can lead us out of our labyrinth. One model is Tahrir Square in Egypt, where the peaceful involvement of hundreds of thousands forced positive structural change in a matter of weeks. Until Americans start flexing the unused muscle of citizen activism, the nuclear sword, the climate change is not the power of the Israel lobby, but a more general one: the insidious pressure of the herd instinct. The puppetry comes from our dislike of making an independent assessment of reality and responding autonomously. Instead we look left and right for cues, fearful of being perceived as disloyal.

But we the people still hold the string that can lead us out of our labyrinth. One model is Tahrir Square in Egypt, where the peaceful involvement of hundreds of thousands forced positive structural change in a matter of weeks. Until Americans start flexing the unused muscle of citizen activism, the nuclear sword, the climate change sword, the global starvation sword and all the other swords will go on hanging

above us by the thinnest of threads.

Winslow Myers, the author of "Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide," serves on the Board of Beyond War www.beyondwar.org, a non-profit educational foundation whose mission is to explore, model and promote the means for humanity to live without war.

On the Mend, continued from page 5

objectives. Rather, we will let others draw their own conclusions based upon our actions... We will pursue our national interests and let others pursue theirs..."

You might dismiss this as the idiosyncratic musing of two officers who have spent too much time having their brains baked in the Iraqi or Afghan sun. I don't. What convinces me otherwise is the positive email traffic that my own musings about the misuse and abuse of American power elicit weekly from serving officers. It's no scientific sample, but the captains, majors, and lieutenant colonels I hear from broadly agree with Mr. Y. They've had a bellyful of twenty-first-century American war and are open to a real debate over how to overhaul the nation's basic approach to national security.

Intelligence Where You Least Expect It

And finally, by gum, there is the United

States Congress. Just when that body appeared to have entered a permanent vegetative state, a flickering of intelligent life has made its reappearance. Perhaps more remarkably still, the signs are evident on both sides of the aisle as Democrats and Republicans alike -- albeit for different reasons -- are raising serious questions about the nation's propensity for multiple, open-ended wars.

Some members cite concerns for the Constitution and the abuse of executive power. Others worry about the price tag. With Osama bin Laden out of the picture, still others insist that it's time to rethink strategic priorities. No doubt partisan calculation or personal ambition figures alongside matters of principle. They are, after all, politicians.

Given what polls indicate is a growing public unhappiness over the Afghan War, speaking out against that war these days doesn't exactly require political courage. Still, the possibility of our legislators reasserting a role in deciding whether or not a war actually serves the

national interest -- rather than simply rubberstamping appropriations and slinking away -- now presents itself. God bless the United States Congress.

Granted, the case presented here falls well short of being conclusive. To judge by his announcement of a barely-more-than-symbolic troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, President Obama himself seems uncertain of where he stands. And clogging the corridors of power or the think tanks and lobbying arenas that surround them are plenty of folks still hankering to have a go at Syria or Iran.

At the first signs of self-restraint, you can always count on the likes of Senator John McCain or the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal to decry (in

McCain's words) an "isolationist-withdrawal-lack-of-knowledge-of-history attitude" hell-bent on pulling up the drawbridge and having Americans turn their backs on the world. In such quarters, fever is a permanent condition and it's always 104 and rising. Yet it is a measure of just how quickly things are changing that McCain himself, once deemed a source of straight talk, now comes across as a mere crank.

In this way, nearly a decade after our most recent descent into madness, does the possibility of recovery finally beckon.

Andrew J. Bacevich is professor of history and international relations at Boston University. His most recent book is *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*.



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Part One: FOOD: Getting to the source

an interview with Cory Schreiber

by Deborah Z. Lee

Cory Schreiber is a familiar name in the Portland area, particularly in the food world, when he was Chef-Owner of the highly regarded Wildwood restaurant in NW Portland. During those years, he was awarded Best Chef - Pacific Northwest by the James Beard Foundation in 1998. It's fitting he was bestowed an award named for a



"I knew that long before I did Farm to School, that if you're going to educate children about food, you need to get them to the source."

man whose food philosophy he shared: a reverence for food prepared from local and regional ingredients, of which he writes in Wildwood, a personal family history of food and a cookbook. In a second book, he collaborated with Pastry Chef Julie Richardson on Rustic Fruit Desserts. Both books are splendid volumes of completely different aspects of food preparation, culture, and history, resplendent with recipes. But Chef Schreiber's accomplishments didn't stop there. After leaving Wildwood, he headed up the Farm to School program for the Department of Agriculture. He also founded a nonprofit, Sauvie Island Center, with four others. Now a Chef-Instructor at The Art Institute of Portland, he teaches a lecture class on Purchasing, Sustainability, and Controlling Costs; and a hands-on kitchen lab class, Classic European Cuisine. We caught up with Chef Schreiber between classes at Sharp, the school's restaurant.

DL: How did you transition from chef-owner of Wildwood to heading up the Farm to School program for the Dept. of Ag; did they call you and say, "Come work with us to develop this program," or was it already in place?

CS: It was a new job for the Oregon Dept of Ag, and that's, I think, the first job they've created in at least 10 years, if not 20. They have a very rigorous posting of jobs, acceptance of hundreds of applications, and I was filtered into the final 10 applications, so I went through the same process everybody else did. I was brought in for an interview, and I think it was partly because of my reputation with food that helped me get the job, but also because of the way I approached school food, realizing it was more about not changing menus, not changing formats, but just kind of changing where the food was coming from. I think some people felt they wanted to change the whole school food system, which is, I think, next to impossible, but I spoke more about enhancing it with local, and I think that's what they really were looking to do, because the premise for funding those jobs is that they bring more money to Oregon Ag. The idea is that the State of Oregon ideally could take 10, 15, 20 percent of those dollars and bring it in to farms within our state boundary, which is not usually the case with school food. It's usually dominated by commodities.

The most local thing on school lunch menus is milk. It goes far away from Oregon after you get past the milk. So, that was, that is still to this day, four years later, what they are actually making great strides in doing.

DL: That's good. I saw the Jamie Oliver programs as he tried to change the school lunch menus in a town in West Virginia. I don't know if he used local farms, but the idea was to get more of the processed food off the menu.

CS: It's very popular, what they put on television, but I think the point in Oregon is we're really trying to have financial examples that state the benefits. In order for Farm to School to work, it needs to be situated and proposed as economic growth for farms. If it's people like Jamie Oliver trying to bring attention to it, it's not that effective ultimately because it doesn't give the government actual numbers to work with to say that these foods in schools should be an economic benefit to the state that oversees the

programs. And it is all done state-by-state. Sometimes by the Dept of Ed, sometimes by the Dept. of Ag, it depends on the state.

DL: It's discouraging, because what you're saying is that what Jamie Oliver did didn't do any good.

CS: Well, it pays to inform the public, but he didn't help the people making the decisions. They're dealing with a different set of really tough circumstances. The problem with Farm to School is that it's an easy one for everyone to point their finger and say that "I didn't really like my school lunch." If some of those people were to go down to Biloxi, Mississippi, and stand in line for school lunch, they'd have a different idea of what it means for some people to get a free lunch who actually can't afford it. I think Farm to School has been glorified to a great extent, it's been misinterpreted by the media, but remember that half the lunches that go out are paid for by the federal government, and another 20 percent are partially funded by the government. So for a lot of kids it's the only meal they can count on; and that's the part of the picture that a lot of people are missing.

DL: Was the Edible Schoolyard [a program developed by Alice Waters] used as a model for Farm to School?

CS: What's currently happening is that -- I have a brother-in-law who is heading up something called Food Corps, and Food Corps has a mandate for the federal government helping out with funding...

Part II will be published in our next issue.

The full interview in online:

www.theportlandalliance.org/deborahzlee
Deborah Lee is a freelance writer and jazz vocalist. She is a longtime member of General Strike, a folk band performing labor and union songs. She can be reached at debzelda@mindspring.com or at her blog about food, debzdiner.blogspot.com

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Gaza Flotilla from page 10

States, US citizens should surely be thinking, thinking constantly, of daily actions, gutsy and inspiring, which we can take in our home country where we face so little risk compared with so many living in utmost precarity - so many beckoning all of us to carry their hard-fought struggle beyond one Arab Spring into a perennial human striving for freedom; into hope, perhaps outlandish hope, even for an American autumn. A grand drama is unfolding here in Greece, in Egypt, in Gaza, and throughout the world, which may end in sorrow or in jubilation largely depending on whether people of the United States are watching, and themselves getting ready to take the stage.

Kathy Kelly is a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. Her email is kathy@vcnv.orgThis e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

Classified Ads continued

from back cover Jobs:

Community Engagement and Volunteer Services Manager - Job Posted by: United Way of the Columbia-Willamette Location: Portland, Oregon, United States <http://www.idealists.org/view/job/hjGtxbjhKGBD/>

Content Specialist - ELA (K-5) - Job Posted by: Northwest Evaluation Association Location: Portland, Oregon, United States Salary: 71585 - 87345, Additional \$4,800 flex pay <http://www.idealists.org/view/job/nPw8J9z893xd/>

Services Manager - Job Posted by: United Way of the Columbia-Willamette Location: Portland, Oregon, United States <http://www.idealists.org/view/job/hjGtxbjhKGBD/>

Content Specialist - Science (Physics and/or Earth & Space) - Job posted by: Northwest Evaluation Association Location: Portland, Oregon, United States Salary: 71585 - 87345, Additional \$4,800 flex pay <http://www.idealists.org/view/job/3DNX46d3K3xd/>

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Museum Events:

Aug 2011: Oregon History Museum Exhibition: Oregon Rocks, A History of Popular Music in Oregon, exploring local music luminaries which had a brush with greatness. Other exhibits: Oregon Motorsports, Timeless Quilts,

Oregon History Museum Exhibition ...Oregon's First Flag, Soccer City: 1975-82; Peace Corps, Shoes, Landmark Legislation, the Kerr Family Collection, Native Basketry, Battleship Oregon and more. Through Sept 25: OMSI. Narnia, The Exhibition: The Magical World Brought to Life through the works of C.S. Lewis; See Omsi website for more.

Elizabeth Rathbun has a science, business and landscape design background. She gardens and writes from Tigard. Former co-editor of The Washington Co. Democratic Party Newsletter, a member the League of Women Voter's Legislative Action Committee, & a contributor who enjoys multicultural events.

Are you a Sustainabilist?
by Charlie White

This is the ending of Charlie's piece. The intact piece is at <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/sustainabilist>

"F" for Success

So here we are, four decades since the first Earth Day and talks of sustainability. Yet what we are living with seems little changed for the good -- except that every government and non-government agency has its allotted budget with lots of plans for all of us. Along with the ever-increasing destruction of rural America's air and water quality through Dick Cheney's instigated "fracking," we siphon millions of gallons of water from underground springs to put into plastic bottles or into immense, fleet-sized water bladders being shipped overseas. We have massive, Gulf/current/life-killing oil and Corexit toxicity and the tragedy of Japan with a still-unfolding nuclear disaster. We have a dehumanized and increasing poverty class, homelessness to the extreme, endless war after endless war, a further decaying infrastructure, a corrupt judicial system with fraudulent due-process, webbed systems of financial money-laundering with digital credit-debt enrichment, Congressional representatives paid for votes and legislation by lobbyists, a Federal Reserve that isn't federal, fewer jobs for those not planning and a very small fraction of the millionaires and billionaires minding our business as if it were every bit theirs. Besides the outright theft, our skies are intentionally sprayed worldwide daily with aluminum, barium and other toxins, our water is intentionally polluted with fluoride and other toxic chemicals, our food supply is increasingly genetically-modified and/or intentionally compromised with chemicals and additives -- all of which have neurotoxic and other serious, deleterious health effects.

How green is this?

Since Portland is a leader among model cities to "go green," let's wake from our somnambulism and be among the first to resist it. At the very least, let's stop and consider what this bandwagon we're on actually represents. All these things being done by the planners-with-the-bucks need to stop here. Sustainability like this is UN-Sustainable! Go green! *Charlie White is a creative local artist and writer who specializes in thinking outside the box. <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/sustainabilist>*

Portland Iranian Festival on Aug. 6, 2011



Photo by Peter C. Little at the 2008 Festival.

BY ELIZABETH RATHBUN

The 12th Annual Portland Iranian festival took place on Saturday, Aug 6, 2011 from 10 to 5 pm. This annual event offers an opportunity to explore Persian culture with its lively regional music, dancing and delicious cuisine. The festival took place at the South Park Blocks by Portland State University between College Street and the PSU Library next to the Farmers' market.

Events included a book fair, business exhibits, nonprofit tents, poetry reading and activities for kids. This festival hosts Peace Corps friends from all over the U.S. There are Iranian costumes from across Iran and the Iranian-American Professional Society (IAPSO) recognized outstanding students for their educational initiatives in Portland.

Knowing a little about Iranian culture is interesting, especially for prospective travelers. Iranian society is class-based, traditional and patriarchal. Tradition is rooted in the Muslim religion and is regional, with rural Iranians being more conservative than modern city dwellers. To devout Muslims, "Islam is a body of values, ideas and beliefs that should encompass all spheres of life, including personal and social relationships, economics and politics."

Class and patriarchy have been constant features of Iranian society since ancient times, while modernity and traditionalism also play a role. In Iran, men legally have more rights and privileges. Traditionally older people are respected, listened to and treated well.

To many Iranians, relatives and family are a source of emotional and psychological support, and even a key source of security and financial support. Iranian culture is adult-oriented with parents involved in deciding their children's professions and future partners. Education is highly valued.

Geographically, Iranians are influenced by their urban or rural background and their devotion to Islam and its codes of behavior. Some cultures prefer contact with their own members and women from rural places prefer socializing with only women. Rhobab Asvadi immigrated to Portland from Sweden after growing up in the Turkish Azerbaijani region where conservative Muslims live. As a result, Asvadi says she feels more at ease with women than men. Musically, she prefers lively folk and instrumental Azeri songs since she speaks Turkish, Farsi and Azeri.

Visitors who travel to Iran notice the friendliness of the locals who like Americans. Bonnie Stockman learned about Global Exchange and went on a customized Citizen Diplomacy Tour. She reminisced about her trip to Iran in November 2008, "On several

occasions, people went out of their way, unasked, to be helpful and to make sure that I and other tour members felt welcome. Persian hospitality is indeed a wonderful thing!

"Iranians have a great deal of pride in their cultural heritage," Stockman said. "We saw carefully preserved books and manuscripts at the Iranian National Library. We visited several museums with fascinating artifacts from Iran's past. It was with considerable pride that our guide Amin shared the history of these sites." She toured the tombs of Persian kings, including Xerxes and Darius at Nagesh-e-Rostam and the ruins of Persepolis and nearby bas reliefs.

It was her goal to buy a Persian rug. Stockman researched them and was ready to barter. She explained how most stalls in the bazaars were quite small with one or two shopkeepers. Yet certain sections of the bazaars carried different products. "Women walking in the bazaars would greet me with a "hello" and ask where I was from, if they knew enough English."

Iran has several ethnic groups dwelling in the Republic of Tajikistan, Tehran, Isfahan, Fars, Khorasan, Kerman and Yazd provinces. Groups with specific history, culture, customs, and language are the Turks, the Kurds, the Baluchis, the Arabs, the Turkmans, the Lurs and the Nomads. Cities like Shiraz, Isfahan and Yazd have beautiful blue-tiled mosques, historical buildings and baths, and outstanding Persian gardens where the people congregate.

Iran provides a lot of diversity for travelers. Tehran is a huge bustling modern city complete with freeways, high rise apartments and heavy traffic where Stockman says, "a taxi ride in Tehran is a real adventure. Some of the buildings have wonderful murals painted on the side." In contrast to that, she was "surprised at the number of trees in the villages and the cities. Everywhere, there were gardens in sharp contrast to the generally dry landscape that we traveled through between cities and towns. Even the smallest village would have a central park with a small pool of water or a small fountain. People used these public spaces, too."

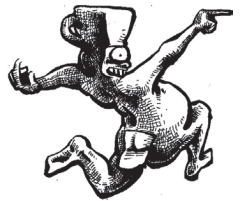
Around 200 people attended a Peace Corps reunion in Portland to reminisce about their time in Iran. Jackie and Mark Spurlock lived in Iran for 4 years as Peace Corps volunteers from 1974 through 1976. They stayed on until 1978 and returned to visit with Global Exchange tours in 2006 and 2008. While in the Peace Corp, Spurlock said they primarily lived in the urban areas.

Now, these former volunteers are "mostly in their 60s and came from as far away as Australia and Iran," Jackie Spurlock said. "The Peace Corps program ended in Iran in 1976 because the country had become developed and did not need the help it had required in the past."

Spurlock is helping to form a non-profit called 'Friends of Iran' to advance diplomacy between the U.S. and Iran. The group hopes to educate U.S. citizens better about the country and its people. "While traveling there, we met Iranians who told us how much they liked Americans and that they hated the

Please send events to Elizabeth Rathbun via waterwise@frontier.com

Wheeler says graphic novels are not satire, yet Oil and Water has elements of humor to lighten the story.



"The people in the Gulf have a very developed and subtle sense of humor." Wheeler and Duin used light humor to counter the overwhelming sadness of the subject. They are creative in capturing the charm and superstition of New Orleans.

"We have persistent questions we hope to raise with this graphic novel," he says, even though the answers are not known. What are the long-term prospects for the people, wildlife and the environment in the Gulf; how long will it take the fishing industry to recover, what are the survivability rates for birds and pelicans after being washed, and did dispersant help, or make matters worse? Educational facts will speak of solid science, bird migration, the people living in New Orleans and information about the Gulf itself.

Wheeler says, "There are mixed emotions about the bird cleaning operation because it was horrific to see. The birds were traumatized by this and some thought it caused more harm than good, while others thought it created an appearance of things being done."

"We want to keep this story on the radar because it isn't over and we need to continue to follow it." People need to understand the seriousness of the spill and that the people, environment and wildlife will be impacted for decades. Oil and Water is planned for release this fall through Fantagraphics and the book can be preordered through them. Wheeler's work and website includes his political satire, social and gag cartoons, Too Much Coffee Man, at "<http://www.tmc.com>" www.tmc.com.

Spill Facts

States affected: Florida, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi.
5 million gallons of oil were released into the Gulf
2 million gallons of Corexit chemical dispersant were used (banned in 19 countries, inc. UK)
Length of time before capping 87 days
70 to 79 percent of oil not recovered, according to Univ. of Georgia
Washed ashore in recent months:
Massive fish and bird kills, 290 dolphins and their young were killed.
BP has clearance to restart drilling on 10 deepwater wells this summer in the Gulf of Mexico.
Best sites for accurate reporting:
"<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/04/201114161153981347.html>"
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Dahr Jamail.net

Study by Univ. of Maryland: Psychological impact of BP Oil Spill
"http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-02/uomm-bpi021511.php"
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Elizabeth Rathbun has a science, business and landscape design background. She gardens and writes from Tigard. She is former co-editor of The Washington Co. Democratic Party Newsletter, a member the League of Women Voter's Legislative Action Committee, & a contributor who enjoys multicultural events.

Festival Continued Page 19

The 100% Doctrine in Washington!

Scared Continued from Page 4

intelligence capabilities and promised a series of "concrete steps to protect the American people: new screening and security for all flights, domestic and international;... more air marshals on flights; and deepening cooperation with international partners."

"The National Security Complex of 2011 is a self-reinforcing, self-perpetuating mechanism. Any potential act of terrorism simply feeds the system."

Terrorism Tops Shark Attacks

The first part of this scenario is, of course, a "terrorist" version of the still ongoing E. coli outbreak in Germany -- the discovery of an all-new antibiotic-resistant "super toxic variant" of the bacteria that has caused death and panic in Europe. Although al-Qaeda and E. coli do sound a bit alike, German officials initially (and evidently incorrectly) accused Spanish cucumbers, not terrorists in Spain or German bean sprouts, of causing the crisis. And the "disproportionate" Russian response was not to close its borders to the European Union, but to ban E.U. vegetables until the source of the outbreak is discovered.

Above all, the American over-reaction was pure fiction. In fact, scientists here have been urging calm and mid-level government officials have been issuing statements of reassurance on the safety of the country's food supply system. No one attacked the government for inaction; Cheney did not excoriate the president, nor did Napolitano raise the terror alert level, and Obama's statement, quoted above, was given on January 5, 2010, in the panicky wake of the "underwear bomber's" failed attempt to blow a hole in a Christmas day plane headed from Amsterdam to Detroit.

Ironically, non-super-toxic versions of E. coli now cause almost as much damage yearly in the U.S. as the recent super-toxic strain has in Europe. A child recently died in an outbreak in Tennessee. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have estimated that earlier in the decade about 60 Americans died annually from E. coli infections and ensuing complications, and another 2,000 were hospitalized. More recently, the figure for E. coli deaths has dropped to about 20 a year. For food-borne disease more generally, the CDC estimates that 48 million (or one of every six) Americans get sick yearly, 128,000 are hospitalized, and about 3,000 die.

By comparison, in the near decade since 9/11, while hundreds of Americans died from E. coli, and at least 30,000 from food-borne illnesses generally, only a handful of Americans, perhaps fewer than 25, have died from anything that might be considered a terror attack

in this country, even if you include the assassination attempt against Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the Piper Cherokee PA-28 that a disgruntled software engineer flew into a building containing an IRS office in Austin, Texas, killing himself and an IRS manager. ("Well, Mr. Big Brother IRS man, let's try something different; take my pound of flesh and sleep well" went his final note.)

In other words, in terms of damage since 9/11, terror attacks have ranked above shark attacks but below just about anything else that could possibly be dangerous to Americans, including car crashes which have racked up between 33,800 and 43,500 deaths a year since 2001.

While E. coli deaths have dropped in recent years, no one expects them to get to zero, nor have the steps been taken that might bring us closer to the 100% safety mark. As Gardiner Harris of the New York Times wrote recently, "A law passed by Congress last year gave the Food and Drug Administration new powers to mandate that companies undertake preventive measures to reduce the likelihood of such outbreaks, and the law called for increased inspections to ensure compliance. The agency requested additional financing to implement the new law, including hiring more inspectors next year. Republicans in the House have instead proposed cutting the agency's budget."

Doctrines from One to 100

Here, then, is one of the strange, if less explored, phenomena of our post-9/11 American age: in only one area of life are Americans officially considered 100% scared, and so 100% in need of protection, and that's when it comes to terrorism.

For an E. coli strain that could pose serious dangers, were it to arrive here, there is no uproar. No screaming headlines highlight special demands that more money be poured into food safety; no instant plans have been rushed into place to review meat and vegetable security procedures; no one has been urging that a Global War on Food-Borne Illnesses be launched.

In fact, at this moment, six strains of E. coli that do cause illness in this country remain unregulated. Department of Agriculture proposals to deal with them are "stalled" at the Office of Management and Budget. Meanwhile, the super-toxic E. coli strain that appeared in Europe remains officially unregulated here.



On the other hand, send any goofus America-bound on a plane with any kind of idiotic device, and the politicians, the media, and the public promptly act as if -- and it's you I'm addressing, Chicken Little -- the sky were falling or civilization itself were at risk.

This might be of only moderate interest, if it weren't for the U.S. national security state. Having lost its communist super-enemy in 1991, it now lives, breathes, and grows on its self-proclaimed responsibility to protect Americans 100% of the time, 100% of the way, from any imaginable terror threat.

The National Security Complex has, in fact, grown fat by relentlessly pursuing the promise of making the country totally secure from terrorism, even as life grows ever less secure for so many Americans when it comes to jobs, homes, finances, and other crucial matters. It is on this pledge of protection that the Complex has managed to extort the tidal flow of funds that have allowed it to bloat to monumental proportions, end up with a yearly national security budget of more than \$1.2 trillion, find itself encased in a cocoon of self-protective secrecy, and be 100% assured that its officials will never be brought to justice for any potential crimes they may commit in their "war" on terrorism.

Right now, even in the worst of economic times, the Department of Homeland Security, the Pentagon, and the sprawling labyrinth of competing bureaucracies that likes to call itself the U.S. Intelligence Community are all still expanding. And around them have grown up, or grown ever stronger, various complexes (à la "military-industrial complex") with their associated lobbyists, allied former politicians, and retired national security state officials, as well as retired generals and admirals, in an atmosphere that, since 2001, can only be described as boomtown-like, the modern equivalent of a gold rush.

Think of it this way: in the days after 9/11, Vice President Cheney proposed a new formula for American war policy. Its essence was this: even a 1% chance of an attack on the United States, especially involving weapons of mass destruction, must be dealt with as if it were a certainty. Journalist Ron Suskind dubbed it "the one percent doctrine." It may have been the rashest formula for "preventive" or "aggressive" war offered in the modern era and, along with the drumbeat of bogus information that Cheney and crew dished out about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, it was the basis for the Bush administration's disastrous at-

Festival Continued from Page 18

situation between our governments," Spurlock said. Ambassador John Limbert, who was a hostage when the American Embassy was taken over in the 70s, gave a keynote speech about his diplomatic efforts.

People had a chance to visit with local Iranians at the festival and learn about living on Iran. Visit the website "<http://www.andisheh.org/events/2011/0806/festival>" for more details about specific events.

An excellent travel video filmed in 2008 by Rick Steves, titled 'Iran Yesterday and Today,' can be ordered through his website, Richsteves.com.

tempt to occupy that country and build a Pax Americana in the Greater Middle East.

There was, it turns out, a "homeland" equivalent, never quite formulated or given a name, but remarkably successful nonetheless at feeding an increasingly all-encompassing domestic war state. Call it the 100% doctrine (for total safety from terrorism). While the 1% version never quite caught on, the 100% doctrine has already become part of the American credo.

Thanks to it, the National Security Complex of 2011 is a self-reinforcing, self-perpetuating mechanism. Any potential act of terrorism simply feeds the system, creating new opportunities to add yet more layers to one bureaucracy or another, or to promote new programs of surveillance, control, and war-making -- and the technology that goes with them. Every minor deviation from terror safety, even involving plots that failed dismally or never had the slightest chance of success, is but an excuse for further funding.

Meanwhile, the Complex continually "mans up" (or drones up) and, from Pakistan to Yemen, launches attacks officially meant to put terrorists out of action, but that have the effect of creating them in the process. In other words, consider it a terrorist-creating machine that needs -- what else? -- repeated evidence of or signs of terrorism to survive and thrive.

Though few here seem to notice, none of this bears much relationship to actual American security. But if the National Security Complex doesn't make you secure, its 100% doctrine is by no means a failure. On the basis of ensuring your security from terror, it has managed to make itself secure from bad times, the dangers of downsizing, job loss, most forms of accountability, or prosecution for acts that once would have been considered crimes.

In fact, terrorism is anything but the greatest of our problems or threats, which means that acquiescing to a state dedicated to expansion on the principle of keeping you safe from terror is like making a bargain with the devil.

So suck it up. Nothing is secure. No one is safe. Now, eat your sprouts.

Tom Engelhardt, co-founder of the American Empire Project and the author of *The End of Victory Culture*, runs the Nation Institute's *TomDispatch.com*. His latest book is *The American Way of War: How Bush's Wars Became Obama's* (Haymarket Books).

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Vegetable Gardening Basics

Extending the Season – in Season

"I put in my vegetable garden this weekend." I've heard this phrase far too many times in my life, and suppose I will hear it a good many more times in the future. I'd just as soon these well-meaning gardeners learn that, with planning, we can garden a good nine or ten months of the year as well as harvest pretty much year-round during Western Oregon's typically mild winters. But the topic for this column is not how to extend the season by using cold frames in the spring and fall; rather, it is how to extend the harvest period for individual crops throughout the summer. If you "put in your vegetable garden" and then never plant again for the season, you are missing out on loads of fresh veggies.

The easiest way to have fresh lettuce throughout the season is to start new plants every two or three weeks. It is, of course, possible to use the "cut-and-come again" technique with lettuce to lengthen the harvesting period. This is where you harvest the bigger outer leaves – or the smaller inner leaves (I've heard of it done both ways) – and leave the whole plant in the ground. But lettuce leaves tend to become bitter as the plant ages; also, after a period

Ground View

BY
GLEN ANDRESEN

*Natural gardening
educator and
organic gardener
Glen Andresen
teaches beekeeping,
gardening & more at
[Http://kboo.fm/](http://kboo.fm/)
TheDirtbag*



Picture provided by Glen Andresen

"With planning, we can garden a good nine or ten months of the year"

of time the plant itself will bolt, which means it will stop producing edible leaves and instead send its energy into making seeds. My strategy is to harvest the whole head of lettuce at once, cutting it off at ground level. In its place (or very close to it, actually), I transplant in a seedling lettuce plant that I have started in an out-of-the-way nursery area. The seedlings are transplantable for one to three weeks. Then I start another batch of seeds.

Other crops that can be planted more than once are some members of the

brassica family, namely, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. You probably know that broccoli has good side-shoot production after the main head is harvested, and sometimes I think that there is actually more production from side shoots than from the head. But cauliflower and cabbage don't produce side shoots, so I try to start new plants about every month, with the last variety being one that can be harvested even in the winter.

Some crops don't require additional plantings to extend the harvesting period, but instead require regular

pickings. Two of the most common of these are peas (both edible and sweet pea flowers) and beans. What regular pickings do is prevent the plant from prematurely triggering its seed-forming mechanism, something the plant does to give itself a propagation advantage – namely, early sowing! If just one pea or bean is allowed to "age" and make seeds inside the pod, the whole plant's production capability from that point forward is greatly compromised. I try to harvest every three to four days. I'm not always successful.

Finally, there are some crops such as corn, beets, spinach and cauliflower, where you can stagger the planting dates. Or, if you insist on "putting in the vegetable garden" in one weekend, plant multiple varieties that each have a different maturing time. For example some varieties of corn mature in as few as 60 days whereas other varieties can take up to a month longer. Some seed companies even offer packets of several varieties of seeds in one packet.

In our climate, there is no reason why you shouldn't be able to grow and eat fresh lettuce every week from our last frost (usually April 1) to the first frost (usually the first week in November). By this time in July, serious gardeners should be doing winter planting and harvesting a wide variety of crops.

Food Handling

by Mike Klepfer

My working life is simmering depression. Standing at a stainless-steel sink, a slick of orange chicken fat at my elbows, my arms submerged in industrial dish-soap and chunky water, I am a kind of troll, the steward of wasted food: the bones, the untouched coleslaw, the wadded-up napkins, the thick smears of ranch dressing coating entire plates. I throw away everything, wash the plates, stack the plates, take them where they need to go.

I have wanted to just die. Picking the crusted bits of chicken skin off sheet pans with my fingernails or a paint-scraper, all my problems occur to me in a stream: the relationships I've screwed up, the friends I'll never see again, my family, my impossible hopes, my fears. I think of people enjoying themselves, reading in parks, camping at the ocean, or screwing. I think of what I'd rather be doing; any of that or anything other than what I'm presently doing. Then I think of diners out in the "front of the house," plugging their mouths with pulled pork and fries, getting drunk, watching baseball highlights, making all this possible.

It's sort of unfair. Customers assure I make my eight bucks an hour, which I use to pay rent and bills, buy weed and groceries. I'm just at the nexus point where I see the aggregate waste and the massive supply of industrial food it takes to sate the legions of y'all. I know that individually, most of you are fine people and that it's largely a panacea of jaded, disenfranchised service workers to despise the customers. But the back of the house can be so fucking gross and the things we create can be so disappointing. And y'all seem to love it.

Sometimes the food leaving the kitchen can be seen as a quantitative, caloric, manufactured good. Sacks of tater-tots. Third pans of factory-farmed bacon. Boxes of disc-shaped, processed beef patties. Bags and bags of iceberg lettuce and crates of flavorless, clone-

like tomatoes. They're just gluten, salt, fat, or sugar delivery-systems, non-nutritive filler. We get pallets and pallets of this so-called "food" and exhaust our stock.

"Our society eats, buys, and manufactures garbage."

Our society eats, buys and manufactures garbage. These jobs are the perfect confluence of ill-fitting subservience on my part and gross consumption and vacuity on the part of the customer. Incredibly cynical, but it's what we've been taught.

Oh, and you don't get paid shit and you certainly get no benefits.

I make it sound miserable, but this life has its pleasures: free food (even if it's gross) and the camaraderie that can come with food-service work, the kind that is born when you're stuck in a little ant farm with people and you need to make the place function. Seat people, take orders, fill orders, serve them, get them out, repeat.

Plus you get to get fucked up. Some of the biggest alcoholics and addicts work in restaurants and that's a normal part of the culture: work hard, play hard. It's a great, codependent environment, if you like drugs. There's always a blind eye turned to employee drug use, if you don't cut your hand off or something.

Another advantage is that, as a dishwasher, you don't really have to think about your job. There is no real intellectual side. Your hands are busy, but your mind can check out. You do the job and the rush of diners subsides. You finish what you've got, clean your sink, machine and filters, do the floor and leave. It isn't like you have a report due on someone's desk, or even have to play workplace politics. There's such a clear, rigid hierarchy in restaurants. You don't have to waste time wondering

how to navigate it. You just get the shit off the dishes and go home. No questions, no moral agency.

There's something obviously bothering me. These jobs and the relationships they foster suck and I just can't pretend to accept it. I didn't create this system of domination, consumption and waste and I don't want to work for it anymore. I'd be a nihilist to see something so pervasive, accepted and wrong and just keep my head down. The industrial food is the canary in the coal mine. The never-ending parade of trash bags I take out every shift is a glaring sign. The bones I scrape into the trash were miserable, abused animals and thinking about them is horrific.

Service workers, living with upwardly-consolidated power and dwindling compensation, are beaten down into accepting all of this. We are underpaid and undereducated and managed to the point where we are miles away from making things better. What little power we do have plays out in petty disputes in the workplace where people stand on whatever small ground they've staked out and aggressively defend it. You have passive-aggressive, adversarial relationships with your bosses, but no chance of winning against the hierarchy, even when you're being grossly exploited, harassed, or your legal rights are violated. Even clear-headed co-workers who demonstrate that they could give a shit see no real possibility of change. We all shrug and say "It's a job."

Most service workers can see the writing on the wall; we pump gas all day, clean up, fold jeans. We are the intermediaries between you and your cigarettes, soda, or porno. We provide you with something to unthinkingly use and discard. We have a privileged view of the whole that you want to ignore. We have to deal with it and be nice to you the whole time.

A lot of recent media attention has been paid to Americans' consumption of fast-food and fossil-fuels. Global climate change has

entered into the national discourse. We need to see a bigger picture and where we belong in it. We need more drastic steps and value shifts. I just do not see them. We still need janitors, garbage men, dishwashers. Landfills and slaughterhouses. We have large, industrialized centers of production, vast networks of distribution, consumption and disposal. Our economic model seeks eternal growth and expansion, but we have finite resources. We act disgracefully towards our environment when we treat it as a collection of raw fuel or food.

Our behavior will kill us. We hire armies of professionals to clean up our collective messes or hide them. Both are becoming increasingly difficult. We are seeing an increase in mass, industrial food-borne illnesses. Our extreme dependence on fossil fuels is incredibly destructive. The ocean is full of plastic. We are decimating the atmosphere with greenhouse gasses. Individually, when we don't demand better, we accept our lot. When we refuse to deal with our collective problems, then, as a society, we dodge responsibility. A central part of belonging to this society is accepting its inequalities, accepting your place and getting your chicken-scratch compensation for just going along with it.

Over the past few years, I've quit during the summer, quit washing dishes, making sandwiches, prep-cooking, selling beer, blunts and lotto tickets. Quit getting stoned just to keep a barrier up between you and me. I realized I was going nowhere and I was miserable, so I took off. I hitchhiked. I worked on organic farms. Moved across the country, met people, had adventures. Slowly pissed away the little money I'd saved until I had to settle down again.

But the freedom of simply dropping out is fleeting; you simply jump into a larger cage than the one you're in. When I was younger, these shitty, empty jobs were plentiful. I could move in and out of them. Now

Continued on Page 22

NEWS BYTES! PROGRESSIVE IDEAS IN MOTION:

The Labor Movement in Portland, Oregon, Takes a Step Forward by Workers Action

portland@workerscompass.org
Tuesday Jun 28th, 2011 3:23 PM
<http://www.indybay.org/news-items/2011/06/28/18683180.php>

On only the second sunny weekend of the year in Portland, Oregon, 60 plus labor activists decided to spend their Saturday at the Electricians union hall (IBEW Local 48), at the United Labor Strategy Meeting – an event unlike any other happening in the country. What made the meeting unique was both its perspective and the diversity of unions that participated.

Kathy Kelly | More Lost by the

Second in Afghanistan

Kathy Kelly, Waging Nonviolence: “The US JSO forces that came in the middle of the night to the home of a 12-year-old girl, Nilofer, who had been asleep on her cot in the courtyard, began their raid by throwing a grenade into the courtyard, landing at Nilofer’s head. She died instantly.”

[Read the Article](#)

Friday 05 August 2011

Noam Chomsky | America in Decline

Noam Chomsky, **Truthout**: “Corporate power’s ascendancy over politics and society - by now mostly financial - has reached the point that both political organizations, which at this stage barely resemble traditional parties, are far to the right of the population on the major issues under debate. For the public, the primary domestic concern is unemployment.” [Read the Article](#)

Published on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 by On the Commons: Why is the Most Wasteful Government Agency Not Part of the Deficit Discussion?

Republicans ignore incompetence, bloat and corruption at the Pentagon by David Morris

In all the talk about the federal deficit, why is the single largest culprit left out of the conversation? Why is the one part of government that best epitomizes everything conservatives say they hate about government- waste, incompetence, and corruption all but exempt from conservative criticism?

...In 2011 military spending accounted for more than 58 percent of all federal discretionary spending and even more if the interest on the federal debt that is related to military spending were added. In the last ten years we have spent more than \$7.6 trillion on military and homeland security according to the National Priorities Project.
more: <http://www.onthecommons.com>

FROM TRUTHOUT

Monday 1 August 2011

Robert Reich | Ransom

Paid Robert Reich, Robert Reich’s Blog: “Anyone who characterizes the deal between the President, Democratic, and Republican leaders as a victory for the American people over partisanship understands neither economics nor politics. The deal does not raise taxes on America’s wealthy and most fortunate - who are now taking home a larger share of total income and wealth, and whose tax rates are already lower than they have

“The first step in saving the labor movement is recognizing that it needs saving.”

been, in eighty years.” [Read the Article](#)

Forget Compromise: The Debt Ceiling Is Unconstitutional Ellen Brown, **Truthout**: “The debt ceiling crisis can be averted by enforcing the 14th Amendment, which mandates the government to pay its debts already incurred, including pensions. That means Social Security, which IS an ‘entitlement,’ in the original sense of the word. We’re entitled to it because we’ve paid for it with taxes. The game of Russian roulette being played with the US federal debt has been called a ‘grotesque political carnival’ and political blackmail. The uproar stems from a statute that is unique to the United States and never did make much sense. First passed in 1917 and revised multiple times since, it imposes a dollar limit on the federal debt.” [Read the Article](#)

How to Save the U.S. Labor Movement by Workers Action Friday Jul 8th, 2011 9:30 PM
The first step in saving the labor movement is recognizing that it needs saving. Sadly, many union leaders -- including Richard Trumka of the AFL-CIO -- refuse to accept this reality, choosing instead to dismiss the current threats against labor unions as “exaggerated, or limited to this or that Republican politician. In fact, the labor movement -- especially public sector unions -- is facing nationwide attacks by Democrats and Republicans alike. <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/07/08/18684176.php> **The GOP’s Sick Priorities**

From the Boston Globe by Michael Crowe Tues, July 12, 2011
It is deceptive for the GOP to talk about ending ‘entitlements’ when Medicare and Social Security are two successful programs completely paid for by beneficiaries. They are lifelines for America’s seniors, many of whom have lost savings in the stock market. Although they do not affect the deficit, Obama seems ready to cut both, rather than curtail handouts to bailed-out bankers and defense contractors –entitlements adding billions to the deficit. http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/the_gops_sick_priorities_20110712/

Growing a better NIH, A radical way to fix the nation’s medical-research establishment June 19, 2011
\$30 billion a year funds the National Institute of Health. This provides the scientific work that drives university labs, drug companies and hospitals. The idea of advancing basic medical science to reap improvements in national health care has made us the unquestioned leader in biomedical science. Although more is spent on healthcare in America than in 29 industrialized countries, life expectancy ranks 24th. And on numerous other measures – including

infant mortality, obesity, cancer survival rates, length of patient stays in hospital, the discrepancy between the care of high versus low income groups – the country fares middling to poor. Our global leadership in research has not translated into leadership in health. http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2011/06/19/growing_a_better_nih/?page=full

From El Hispanic News by Richard Jones

Sit-in at Capitol alerts Legislators that they have overlooked someone Thurs, July 7, 2011 Six groups – the Asian Pacific American Network (APANO), CAUSA, the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO), Latinos Unidos Siempre, and the Urban League staged a sit in at the state capitol to get legislators to listen to them about SB 742 (tuition equity) and other important issues that they feel need attention. A CIO press release stated that Oregonians of color make up 20 percent of the state’s population, yet the Legislature has declined to act on bills which would work to eliminate disparities suffered by these communities. <http://www.elhispanicnews.com/2011/07/07/sit-in-at-capitol-alerts-legislators-that-they-have-overlooked-someone/>

From El Hispanic News by Richard Jones

Rep. Gutierrez criticizes Obama for Failure to Pass Immigration Reform Rep. Luiz Gutiérrez (D-Ill) appeared at Woodburn High School to speak to more than 500 Latinos. Gutierrez said the President does have under his powers the ability to persuade Congress to pass laws. He also urged the president to sign an executive order to stop deportations and the separation of families. “We have a broken immigration system and it has a destructive effect on our families,” Gutiérrez said earlier in his national tour of 20 cities. Thurs, July 7, 2011

<http://www.elhispanicnews.com/2011/07/07/rep-gutierrez-criticizes-obama-for-failure-to-pass-immigration-reform-law/>

From the Jewish Review by Madeleine Morgenstern

Homeland Security Joins with Jewish Organizations

Wed, June 15, 2011
Homeland Security is working with Jewish organizations to expand awareness of suspicious behavior. The “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign will distribute posters and customized announcements in synagogues, Jewish community centers and related agencies across the country. Its thrust will be to educate the Jewish community to be on the alert and report concerns to law enforcement agencies. <http://www.jewishreview.org/wire/Homeland-Security-joins-with-Jewish-organizations>

Judge Hears Labor Complaint in Boeing case

Friday, July 1, 2011
From NW Labor Press by Don MacIntosh

The National Labor Relations Board is now hearing a case against Boeing. America’s basic labor union rights law, the National Labor Relations Act, states workers have the right to form unions, to bargain collectively and to strike. Under that law, employers may not retaliate against workers for

exercising those rights. <http://www.nwlaborpress.org/2011/0701/7-1-11IAM.html>

US approves \$3 billion for Native American settlement

From Aljazeera.net Tues, June 21, 2011
A federal judge has approved a \$3.4 billion settlement over “mismanaged” Native American royalties in a case that represents the largest settlement ever approved against the U.S. government. Elouise Cobell of Browning, Montana, claimed in the 15-year-old suit that for more than a century, U.S. officials systematically stole or squandered billions in royalties intended for Native Americans in exchange for oil, gas, grazing and other leases. <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/americas/2011/06/20116212149693524.html>

Right’s Groups Seek Bush Torture Inquiry

Human Rights Watch has called on Barack Obama to order a criminal investigation into alleged detainee abuse by his predecessor, George W Bush, and senior figures from his administration. “There are solid grounds to investigate Bush, [former vice president Dick] Cheney, [former Secretary of Defence Donald] Rumsfeld, and [former CIA Director George] Tenet for authorizing torture and war crimes,” Kenneth Roth, HRW’s Executive Director, said. <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/americas/2011/07/201171222523790648.html>

From Consortium News by Ivan Eland

Obama Slow Walks Afghan Defeat

July 6, 2011

Like George W. Bush’s Iraq War, the Afghan conflict appears grinding toward an American defeat. However, President Obama doesn’t want the voters to recognize that fact until after Election 2012 – to avoid getting the blame – so he is stretching out the war at the cost of more American lives.

<http://consortiumnews.com/2011/07/06/obama-slow-walks-afghan-defeat/>

From Dahr Jamail.net

Fukushima: It’s Much Worse Than You Think

June 16, 2011

Scientific experts believe Japan’s nuclear disaster to be far worse than governments are revealing to the public. Arnold Gunderson, a former nuclear industry senior vice president, said that Fukushima is the biggest industrial catastrophe in the history of mankind.” Gunderson, a licensed reactor operator with 39 years of nuclear power engineering experience, managing and coordinating projects at 70 nuclear power plants around the US, says the Fukushima nuclear plant likely has more exposed reactor cores than commonly believed. <http://dahrjmail.net/fukushima-its-much-worse-than-you-think>

Elizabeth & Tim select progressive & small press news bytes

APPETITES

Suddenly, that luminous hummingbird, its long bill thrust into the throat of one of the drooping Cape Fuschia flowers a few feet away -- and rapidly into another -- to draw up more nectar, reminds me how a stubborn writer, pen restlessly in hand, probes a word or words for nourishing meanings or holds a page of words rich with meanings transformed by another mind. We all are hummers whose appetites for meanings or understanding are never fully satisfied nor should be. But look! There is another one just a short distance to our right. Nature's calligraphers under the sun or the moon constantly and elegantly challenge us to affirm those appetites. Even this tiny bird needs a rest there on a twig. Nectars are abundant most of the time and anywhere. I will let these words suffice for this moment.

-- Frederick G. Rodgers

A Lot Too Fast

It wasn't like that Portland (or so) poet's symphonies and exultations banging around his apartment in a 360° x-y-z coordinate orchestra; it was hushed, quieted, hopefully covered up to keep peace and pride and some semblance of simplicity. Still, they moved around and tried to feel out truth with a television glare and random humanity he hoped hadn't caught any stray notes.

by Christopher Oie Keller

Christopher runs a non-profit poetry forum called Drytear.net, and has written more than 2000 poems,

A Blessing for the Sweet Waters of the Earth

How proudly turned are the waters of the earth. What a noble display they occasion.

Water is a dream of its own.
So persistent as to wear away all lesser dreams.
Water is the ocean,
The lake'
The stream.

Water is always life,
And storm,
And flood.

Cooling water on bruised bands --
Soothing water, warm, down a twisted back:
Healing water, sweet, for the parched throat

And rain cleansing the air,
And snow startling against the blue sky
And the black distance

And then the sounds of water in its passage, singing,
Bringing forth the babe in the man
And lulling the babe to blissful sleep.

How oppressive is the absence of water in a dry land.
How joyful is the sudden bubbling forth of the stream in the desert
How magnificent is the thought that gave us water.

by Max Linden-Levy

where are you?
her name is in the wind.
i remember strong arms like water.
i look for her in stained glass windows, but i only see shadows of the past.
she lives in the eyes of women, waiting with the patience of a tiger.
i feel part of the picture in the earth, moving, lucid, like the tears
of my sisters in the clouds.
i've always loved you, even before there was an i, back when we were
stars and stones and space.
and i must ask for your forgiveness once again, because i forgot that
you are me.

~~Rachel Townsend

Rachel is a local Portland writer and poet

Frederick Rodgers, raised in Salem, earned his M.A. at Eugene following a year's study at the Sorbonne. Later, he finished a doctorate in world literature at Indiana U, Bloomington. He has taught at several levels, and he has seen his poetry published in a number of locations. Dr. Rodgers enjoys seizing upon a "eureka" moment and encouraging it to dictate insights which may ignite rewarding perceptions in others.

Caleb's Voice

2007

By Theresa Griffin-Kennedy

An unheard whisper,
Existing in blank ether
Solitary, yet surrounded
By thousands of contorting faces
Danced through dim avenues
And back corners to find my tender
Shell shaped ear.

Days I listened, transfixed,
By the turning chunk.

The yes and no of our conversation,
Thrilled me with the false sensation of
Perceived rapport.

I wonder where your mouth is now,
What thoughts and uncanny desires
You wish to inject within my brain.

So that each promise of loves return
Brings with it, a sigh and smile
To the shimmer of its edged perception-

and slow...

turn.

Theresa Griffin-Kennedy is a graduate student at PSU, poet, freelance writer and interviewer in the Portland area. She focuses on law enforcement and members of the military in recent interviews. She continues to write and research police issues. Her site: http://web.pdx.edu/~kennedyt/Theresa_Kennedy/Home.html

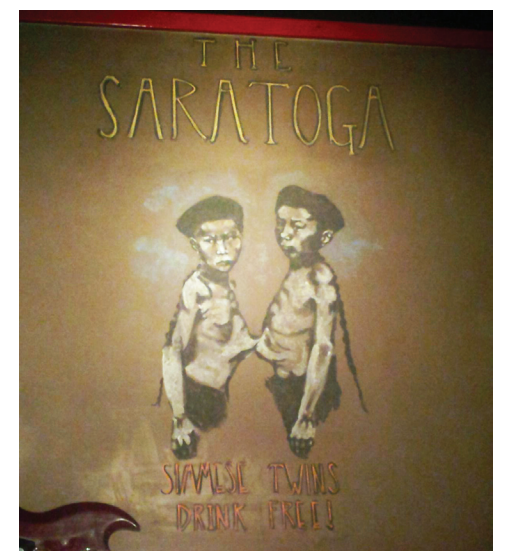
Theresa also stepped in to assist with assembling this page!

the economy has tanked and these jobs are scarce. People need them to pay their rent, their phone bill, their child support. We are made desperate. The wave of conservative politicians that have come into power have their knives drawn and they're coming after us, slashing workers rights and cutting social services that working people depend on. I know that these jobs are not where I want to be, but I'm subject to the same market forces as everyone else. So I do job interviews and smile and be pleasant and talk about what customer service really means. Somehow I pass a drug test. Get the job and do the minimum required to stay on, because I'm the captive of my own and everyone's lack of imagination.

I hope we can rise above this. That we can get past the proposition of a job as a gun to our heads saying you either work or starve. I hope that this threat can be responded to by ethical, patient and courageous people. People who are doing data entry or making lattes now, but can see something different than the enforced drudgery and uncaring around them.

It's a big order. We can't be silent, because it's no longer acceptable. Alternatives may seem scary, but they're a lot better than trying to live in a world where you can't breathe or drink the water, a world of limitless boredom and seamless oppression.

Work as we know it belittles your humanity, which is beautiful and fleeting. It does this to obtain your submission. I don't want to be the smallest cog in an insane machine. I want a world where our work affirms us. I want a world where we never submit.



The Saratoga Bar at 6910 N Interstate Ave, Portland, OR 97217 (503) 719-5924 Rock & Roll club, Spacious for dancing and carousing. Siamese Twins drink for free. Monday Karaoke! A great place!

POETRY EVENTS

Talking Earth, a poetry program on KBOO, (90.7 FM) airs two Mondays a month from 10-11 PM, hosted on second Mondays by Walt Curtis and Patrick Bocarde, and on third Mondays by Barbara LaMorticella. Talking Earth's blog is at kboo.fm/blog/856

Poetry/Spoken Word Open Mic at Red & Black Cafe: 2138 SE Division, Portland OR Contact Christine White xtinA@riseup.net First Monday of the month poetry/spoken word open mic 8pm at the Red & Black Cafe. Listen to or read traditional, slam, old favorites, make up your own genre. No cover. Hosted by the Portland Poets & Prophets.

Poetry and Music @ Fuel cafe 1452 NE Alberta St. Every Wednesday, from 7 to 9 pm, there is Poetry and Music at Fuel Cafe, 14th and NE Alberta St. Come early to sign up for the open mic. For info. tel. 503 841 8328

Three Friends Mondays happens every Monday at 7 p.m., a combination of music, poetry, comedy, and/or live art. Followed at 8 p.m. by the Show and Tell Open Mic. There is no cover charge. Three Friends Coffee House 201 SE 12th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214



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Homicide Interview!



Homicide continued from page 8

retire in 15 years.

TK: Yeah, I was wondering about that.
DD: Because they're no good after that. Once they once a policeman realizes that he IS the law? Then they need to go. Because they have become the judge, the jury and the whole system. And once that happens in [your] career it happens to different policemen at different times and when that happens to them then? That's when they need to go. They start to forget what they were hired to do, which was to enforce the law; not become the

law. And when you become the law? Time to go!

...

The full interview can be found here: <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/interview>

Theresa Griffith Kennedy is a Portland Oregon writer with a BS in both Criminal Justice and Arts and Letters. She is a freelance writer, poet, and tutor. Her contact information is kennedyt@pdx.edu

Racism continued from page 4

Palestinians. When Ahmadinejad referred to the Holocaust as an "ambiguous and dubious question," European Union delegates left the room.

"Instead of daily disregarding racism, we need to increase awareness about racism and demonstrate that it is far from being over."

While the Africans and their requests for reparations go wanting, the U.S. and Israel have spent the past 10 years objecting to what, they say, equates Zionism with racism. It's a deft political move that pleases Jewish groups. "We are gratified at President Obama's decision to boycott the so-called Durban III," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Congressional Black Caucus chair Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), said the CBC was "deeply dismayed" by the president's decision. But, former Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney has brought widespread attention to the matter by "imploping" the CBC "to spearhead the participation of the U.S. in the United Nations World

Conference against Racism." There is reason for the American Black electorate to join in questioning the administration's commitment to racial justice and adherence to bygone administrations' avoidance of mechanisms designed to combat racial discrimination. It's time the Obama administration moves beyond glib assurances that the U.S. "remains committed to the global fight against racism at home and abroad."

Racism has been a major American issue since the colonial and slave eras and has existed for centuries. The nation's institutional system of racism results from the social caste system that sustained, and was sustained by, slavery and social segregation. Although the laws that enforced this system are no longer in place, its basic tenets still stand and result in Black Americans being confronted daily with racism. Instead of daily disregarding racism, we need to increase awareness about racism and demonstrate that it is far from being over. It's time that Blacks showed similar lobbying muscle as the Jewish lobby in these matters.

William Reed is available for speaking/ seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org

See more of Mr. Reed's, writing at: www.theportlandalliance.org/reed

Glick on Youth from Page 10

Shift. Religious activists are currently engaged in serious discussion and planning for a major interfaith climate action this fall, and the first discussions about this idea began literally the day after Power Shift ended. There's little question that the highly successful, youth-led and predominantly youth participated-in action, Appalachia Rising: March on Blair Mountain, was strengthened and stimulated by Power Shift. And I wonder if the exciting, important, day-after-day-for-weeks,

"no tar sands!" civil disobedience actions in D.C. called for mid-August just this week by Bill McKibben, Wendell Berry, Naomi Klein, Danny Glover, James Hansen and others would be happening if not for the success of Power Shift 2011.

What is it that young people bring to a cause that can transform that cause into a mass movement?

One thing is energy. It is a fact of life that most people, as they grow older, as they develop family and job responsibilities and the aches and pains of aging, no longer have either the

Book Review by Peter C. Little: THE MASTER SWITCH: The rise and fall of information empires, by Tim Wu

published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2010

First and foremost, The Master Switch is a history. It starts with the dawn of information technology-- telegraphy and the telephone--to the present, the Internet. The book is well-noted and indexed. Some might find it a "dry read." But for anyone interested in media and the Internet's continually proliferating forms, this is a fascinating book.

There are good yarns, a few laughs, and a tragedy or two. But the point of all the histories and storytelling is to deliver a message. Tim Wu a historian and a policy advocate. And the story he tells is not over--in fact it may only be approaching one of it's periodic nexus points which he and other writers call "The Cycle". This starts with the creative imagination--of either an artist or inventor (more usually inventors)--of a new technology. A new item may be crude and inspire jokes and ridicule, be called a toy and so on. But then others start thinking...the inventors think about improvements...and businessmen consider how to turn the "toy" into a tool to create wealth. First came the Telegraph, then the Telephone. The primitive device that Bell and a few others created and developed was first a novelty, then a "toy" ("Of what use could such a machine be? We already have telegraphy!"); but within less than a generation it had swallowed the whale that was Western Union whole, eventually becoming American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T). This was not done by inventors, but by a series of Tycoons, Capitalists & investors, sometimes with the help of government, sometimes in spite of it. This is the third part of the "Cycle," the first being a sort of "Wild West" where there are no rules and lots of innovators running around coming up with new things to do with the "new tech" as well as visions of utopian futures that may result. Then comes consolidation (big fish eat small fish & so on), and

finally the seemingly unchangeable Monopoly.

But of course monopolists are never really secure because, no matter how they try to "fix the game," a new media or technology may come along at any time and--in ways they couldn't imagine--throw a "monkey wrench" into their godzilla-like, money-making, policy-buying machine. Today the stakes are higher than ever as not only hardware--systems, software & networks--are controlled by super large organizations, but also CONTENT. The Internet is now not only a carrier, but also a choke point for ALL media.

Wu writes: "As Tom Conlon of POPULAR SCIENCE would write when the iPad was unveiled, 'How long before it [Apple] blocks movies, TV shows, songs, books and even web sites? Scoff now, but don't be so naive as to believe that this isn't possible.'

"...These are amazing machines. they make available an incredible variety of content--video, music, technology--with an intuitive interface that is a pleasure to use. But they are also machines whose soul is profoundly different from that of any other personal computers, let alone Wozniak's Apple II. For all their glamour, these appliances are a betrayal of the inspiration behind that path-breaking device, which was fundamentally meant to empower its users, not control them. ...The owner of an iPod or iPad is in a fundamentally different position: his machine may have far more computational power than a PC of a decade ago, but it is designed for consumption, not creation. Or, as Conlon declared vehemently, 'Once we replace the personal computer with a closed-platform device such as the iPad, we replace freedom, choice and the free market with oppression, censorship and monopoly.'

Wu, who is a professor at Columbia and has an impressive list of publication & awards, is not quite so vehement as Conlon, but he has presented us in this book with a thoughtful warning, a "heads up" in the continuing story the Internet and new media play in our lives.

Peter C. Little is a local photographer & filmmaker who regularly covers events for the Portland Alliance

Young people who are activists generally build upon the experiences of their activist fathers and mothers

passion or the time to devote to causes they believe in that they did in their younger years.

Another is an unwillingness to compromise, or to do so readily. Moral outrage has not been worn down by a corrupt and unjust system, or by too much interaction with people in positions of power who are either ineffective or power-hungry in the way they go about their lives. There is more faith in the possibilities of human beings to do right and to be just and good people.

As Albert Einstein said in 1937, "I am firmly convinced that the passionate will for justice and truth has done more to improve (the human condition) than calculating political shrewdness which in the long run only breeds general mistrust."

And young people who are activists generally build upon the experiences of their activist fathers and mothers, of the social movements which preceded them. For many activist youth of today, based upon what I have experienced, this means a much more collective

and cooperative culture, fewer ego-driven leaders, less internal b.s. that drains energy and sets back organizing. This is a huge, immensely positive development.

Those of us who are no longer young, age-wise, will find our spirits revitalized if we learn how to work with young people in a respectful and non-patronizing way. We can share our experiences without trying to impose them or use them to try to assert a claim to leadership. We can learn from one of the greatest revolutionaries of the 20th century, Ella Baker, whose work as a founder, mentor, friend and leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee stands as example number one for effective intergenerational collaboration.

Let Ella Baker's spirit and life lessons spread throughout our movements as we struggle for an urgently-needed new way of living, a new system, a new world.

Ted Glick has been a progressive political activist and organizer since 1968. Past Future Hope columns and other information can be found at www.tedglick.com.

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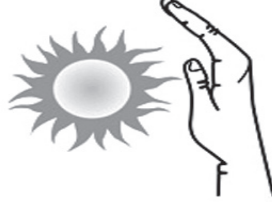
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ALLIANCE

A Birthday for Medicare: Everybody In & Nobody Out!



These pictures, taken by Jeff Zucker, were submitted by by Betsy Zucker

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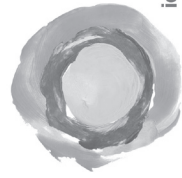
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