

The Portland Alliance

New Writers,
Cartoonists, Editors,
and Much More!

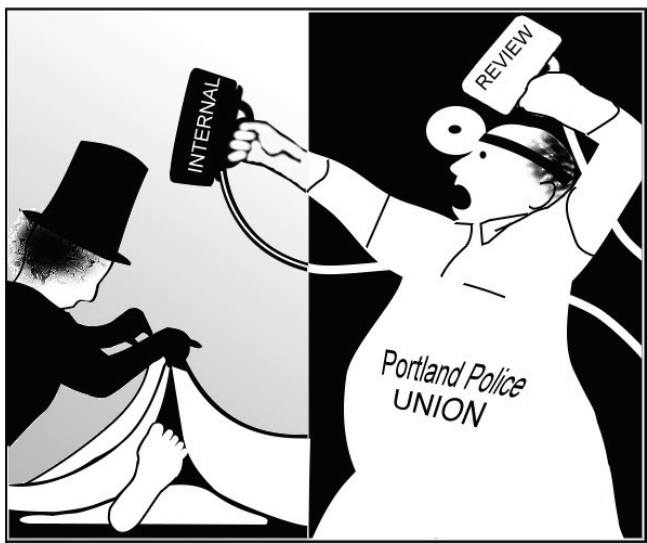
FREE

Vol. 30 No. 4 1981-2010: CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER... Dec. 2010-Jan. 2011

PDX Police Accountability: Costs and Consequences

Several Portland citizens have died at the hands of the police. Less lethal alternatives were ignored and officers failed to communicate. Witnesses have testified that multiple armed officers beat and kicked unarmed James Chasse to death on a public street in broad daylight. This cost the city millions of dollars. These officers are still employed by the bureau. Unarmed Aaron Campbell was shot in the back. The officer was eventually fired. But the union wants him back on the job.

Heroic Measures



"WAIT!"

Above cartoon is by Clyde List.

Portland, Oregon

People in Portland are concerned about the persistent use of precipitous lethal force. These avoidable deaths are tearing our city and nation apart.

Our communities exist in a delicate balance between the rule of law and a relatively unique "social contract." Peace officers are paid to be our protectors and defenders, but many Portland residents now fear the department and hesitate to call the police in an emergency. This situation is untenable.

The people of Portland want and expect responsible management of the Portland Police Bureau. When offi-

cers break a law or use unjustifiable lethal force, they should be held accountable.

Officers, as union members, have no special dispensation to ignore or break the law. Extralegal acts are not subjects for "negotiation." Murder is not negotiable.

The rule of law transcends the bargaining table. All conscientious officers, active and retired, believe the department should communicate more effectively and be more open to objective public review.

This issue provides an exclusive candid interview with a recently retired officer. With better management, effective communication, responsible leadership, and accountability, these killings can end.

Rescuing the Alliance!

See Both Sides Now page 3



Pictures by Peter C. Little

We Thank our Friends

The Alliance has struggled, right along with everyone else, for the past two years. But at the Joe Hill Day celebration at Clementine's (510 NE 28th), *Citizens Band* of Olympia and Portland's *General Strike*, provided great music and affectionate support for the people who produce this paper. They did us proud. *tmf*

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A FEW WORDS...



Hello! It's good to be back! **The Portland Alliance** is now in its 30th year of production. These are tough times. Nobody has much "discretionary" income. Consequently, non-profits and newspapers both suffer. But thanks to loyal supporters who care about alternative media and education, **The Alliance** will continue to provide a voice of, by, and for everyday people. Last summer, when we were just about ready to produce our August issue, our co-renters decided they needed more room, and locked the Alliance and the landlord out of the building. Frankly, the Alliance board and editorial committee were baffled by this move. The August issue, in addition to great photos from the Waterfront Blues Fest, included a heartfelt thanks to Copwatch for their good work. But rather than tilting at windmills, we relocated, re-organized, and delayed publication. Our new (and temporary) production office is in Beaverton, and the archives for **The Portland Alliance**, **The Scribe**, and **The Willamette Bridge** are safe and secure down by the Willamette river. We have more than 25

writers and photographers who submit work and provide coverage of local events. With each new issue we provide new and better reasons for keeping **The Alliance** close at hand.

This issue includes two new cartoonists to give us a break from the brutal truths we must face. We also put the progressive directory on the back of our regular colorspot community calendar.

To make up for missing issues in the last couple years, the Alliance credited one full year to subscribers and advertisers. Community support for a monthly progressive forum runs deep. We plan to deliver.

Some claim the printed word is going out of style, but literacy is globally ascendent. While US schools decline, 37 poorer and less powerful nations do a better job teaching their people. We must catch up and focus on priorities.

Revolutionary new search utilities and communications media have changed the way people communicate. But newspapers and periodicals still provide a framework and support system for our lives.

Transnational economic cartels may control our wire-services and own most mainstream media outlets, but local independent progressive media debunks the junk and keeps us informed. We can discover truth behind the headlines with your support and partnership. **The Alliance** speaks truth to power, and together we make a difference.

TIM FLANAGAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

ABOUT "THE VIRUS"

The Roman Catholic Church betrayed its members when institutional insularity did not protect church members from the predation of child molesters among clergy.

Excessive institutional police bureau loyalty has lead some officers to break the law, gloss over infractions, and put other officers in jeopardy. When institutional loyalty trumps social service, this inversion of policy leads to ruin. This is the insidious virus infecting American political institutions, media, political parties, and even progressive media.

Here in Portland, KBOO's public meetings can be loud, messy, and chaotic. But that symphony of voices represents life and vigor. Censorship and repression are not proper tools for social change. KBOO is a "community" asset and the station management must be held accountable. Several activists & KBOO volunteers have been "banned," and the current Board has refused to seat duly-elected Board Director Michael Papadopoulos.

No church, state, or community, or organization can endure or survive without effective communication and organized resistance to authoritarian mismanagement. Join KBOO, speak your mind, get active, and help take the station back from those who would silence critics and ban dissent. Let's be the cure.

In unity, Kathleen Bushman

Dear Kathleen,

Your points are well-taken. Any institution must remain flexible enough to tolerate dissent and provide free speech. Constitutional integrity and the rule of law are how we walk the talk about accountability. The best way to insure leadership with integrity is for active organizers to negotiate, vote, and take control.

In solidarity and with best regards,
The Standing Editorial Committee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Portland Alliance Community Meetings:

Standing Editorial Committee Collective

Saturday, January 15, at 7pm

Plan the next Issue, Brainstorm, Network, Consider Themes, Topics, Events, and Issues to cover. Come Join us at Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th Ave.

Writers Workshop Collective

Wednesday, January 19 at 6:30pm

Learn Indesign, Web Page Creation, Copy Editing, and more! **Help Complete the February Issue for January 21 print Deadline.** Join us at 6935 Merry Lane, in Beaverton (56 Bus to Denny, Merry, & Scholls Ferry).

NAAME/TBA Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 24 at 7pm

Discuss budget, funding, advertising, invoicing, fund-raising, foundational support, grants, interns, and more. Laughing Horse Books: 12 NE 10th Ave.

Editing Party

Thursday, January 27, at 2:30pm

Choose layout and content for March Issue. Update online resources. 6935 SW Merry Lane, Beaverton (Bus line 56)

There will be Food at all meetings!
please bring something to share.)



"So, how long have you been a cat?"

Cartoons by Shannon Wheeler

The Portland Alliance

POBox 14162 Portland, OR 97293-0162

TEL:(503)-327-8377 FAX:(503)-327-8949

E-MAIL:

editor@theportlandalliance.org

WEB: www.theportlandalliance.org

VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 4

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES ▶

Letters to the editor should be 500 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 of Month

▶ Calendar Announcements: 19th

The Portland Alliance, a monthly news publication, is supported by friends, advertisers, subscribers, donors, unions, nonprofits, foundations, collectives, etc.

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TECH SUPPORT ▶ Mike Dee

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POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY: BOTH SIDES NOW...

Continued from the Front Page

BY THERESA GRIFFIN KENNEDY



09/03/10 Portland, OR

From an Interview with Retired Portland Police officer Bert Combs...

I'm not a journalist. But as a writer and poet, I don't feel obligated to appear completely unbiased. Many writers skillfully inject their own personal agenda in interviews or written work. I focus on nonfiction, the art of the personal narrative, where I can express an opinion or ask a question without fear of ridicule or contempt. I enjoy talking with or interviewing family members, poets, writers, military personnel, and recently: retired Portland Police officer, Bert Combs. Officer Combs retired after more than 30 years in law enforcement. The questions I chose to ask this retired officer came from my

own curiosity about dynamics I've found interesting or intriguing. Bert Combs, like many people who have worked in law enforcement, can only offer personal opinions and experiences and hope to be taken seriously. With rational and open-mind reflection, Mr. Combs recounts his experience. This conversation will provide many Alliance readers with unique perspectives on vital community issues. TGK

TK: Okay so today is Sep 3rd, 2010 and I'm Theresa Kennedy interviewing Bert Combs here at the Bon Jour Café.

BC: Correct. (Laughs)

TK: Why did you gravitate toward becoming involved in a career in law enforcement; what made you want to become a police officer?

BC: Well, I think when my military experience first started, I was in the coast guard, the coast guard is a search and rescue organization and a law enforcement organization and once I was stationed here in Portland, the law enforcement aspect of my job became more apparent--working for the Coast Guard, so interacting with the people in

a law enforcement venue got me interested. And a friend of mine became a deputy with the Washington County Sheriffs office and going out on ride-alongs with him, again exposed me more to the interactions between police and citizens and the excitement that the job offered. You know in my mid twenties, adrenalin was a very high commodity. So for me it was the excitement of the job... was primary and the secondary was just the ability to help people.

TK: There has been a great deal of discussion recently in Portland about police being loose cannons and out of control. Explain what a typical officer has to think about and simultaneously gauge, when attempting to follow procedural correctness, while also interacting with a suspected criminal who appears to be potentially violent and/or dangerous.

“The main task is to protect the officer... to make sure that they go home at the end of their shift. They also have the obligation, the task, of protecting the general public.”

BC: Well, I think the image of the loose cannon is certainly incorrect. That image is manifested by those who simply don't understand the task that a police officer has in dealing with a violent or potentially violent person. And the main task is to protect the officer...is to make sure that they go home at the end of their shift. They also have the obligation, the task, of protecting the general public. If this person is violent and dangerous, we can't let this person...leave us. If we're there, we're trying to deal it, we can't just say, "see you tomorrow" type of

thing, because if he's dangerous now, he's dangerous tomorrow. If he presents a risk to the general public, we have to deal with it and sometimes... well not sometimes, all the time, an officer's actions are predicated on what the suspect does. If the suspect cooperates, and uh, you know, submits to the authority that the police officer is trying to exert, everything goes smoothly. In fact, you'd probably be surprised; I think most people would be surprised to know that police officers on a daily basis, throughout the city, encounter violent dangerous people that are smart enough to listen to what the police officer...to what the nice police officer says when it comes time to deal with them. And they submit to the authority, the police officer doesn't exceed, you know, go overboard or anything like that and everything goes smoothly. But it's when that person

See Both Sides, page 4

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BOTH SIDES NOW: ARE PDX OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE?

Police Accountability, PDX Police officer interview: How does it look from the inside?

who the police need to address, decides 'I'm not going to submit to the authority of the police officer. I'm going to resist. I'm going to make it as difficult as I can or I'm just going to try and leave and get out of this situation' that they cause the police officer to ramp up their efforts to take control of the situation. Does that make sense?

TK: Yes. ...

TK: When you were an officer, how did you feel about having to carry a gun and possibly having to take someone's life in the line of duty; was this a professional responsibility you were able to reconcile without difficulty?

BC: Yes! I've done school demos, elementary schools, third graders, they always ask about THE gun. And I've gone to adult demonstrations, you know, uh, meetings, citizen group meetings and they always ask about the gun. So it's an interesting question that people wonder about so...it's, it's a necessary evil, okay? I realize that sometime during my shift, during my career, I might encounter that one person that's going to hurt me to the point that...well, he's going to try and take my life! And uh, in order to protect myself and as I mentioned earlier, in a situation where somebody is so dangerous that we can't let them get away from us back out into the public that that level of force is necessary. There are legal hurdles that have to be met, but there's also moral and ethical hurdles that have to be met within the person. And those are...those can be very tough, those can be very tough situations. I realize there are some out there, some officers' maybe, because we deal with people, because police officers are people and there are so many variations of us people, that some of those hurdles might not be as high for others and they might be too high for others.

We've had people that have come on and they recognize that there's no way they could ever, even in defense of themselves, you know, use that level of force.

Thankfully, they were intelligent enough to realize that they'd stepped in it. They had gone too far and they left the police service. There are others that those hurdles are a little less and that's where the background investigations and the psychological evaluations that we do prior to hiring are so important and I think for the most part, those people are weeded out. So we have a fairly level headed group of people out here. And it's often said that that's the last thing that any police officer wants to do is use deadly force. And I believe that's true and I believe that most other people feel the same way but they also realize that they're going to be put in situations that might require that level of force, just by the nature of their job.

TK: Can you explain any significant historical shifts in the manner that police are trained that has had an effect on civilian deaths. What are police doing now in 2010 that they were not doing 30 years ago and how is the training different? The reason I'm asking is because I spoke to another officer who said that 30 years ago, police officers were, how did he put it? "Large, athletic, working class men" and they were trained in hand to hand combat and so there were less deaths because they were more physically able to control a suspect instead of pulling their guns.

BC: Well, yeah and 30 years ago, I think that was probably true, because 30 years ago, the mindset of the crooks, if they were going to resist the police officer was going to...it was a physical confrontation. And police officers way back then were generally military, ex-military types and you know they were, they were happy to go in there and mix it up, you know physically mix it up with the bad guys.

These days it's a little different. These days there are more guns, there are more knives. I think, to a large extent TV, Video games have desensitized us to injury and death. The use of weapons against other people-- police officers, to the point that it's now a status symbol to shoot somebody, to shoot at a

police officer. To resist the authority that the police represent, at that level. It's a badge of honor for folks, so in that respect it's much more dangerous, the availability of weapons, the desensitization surrounding injury and death. So it's a status symbol that it represents to other people. The most honored, respected person in prison is the one that has killed a police officer. So it's changed in that respect.

TK: When considering the huge disconnect between the public's understanding of police work and police procedure and what police officers actually have to do on a daily basis, what do you think can be done to help facilitate this lack of understanding?

BC: Well, just the information, we have to get information out. When an incident occurs, administration, the...not the mayors office, but somebody from the

police bureau has to stand up and say this is what happened, this is why it happened. These were our options...information; we just have to get information. We can't allow people to come up with their own conclusions, by not giving them...or we can allow them to come up with their own conclusions if we give them the facts and if we don't give them the facts, then we deserve what we get. ...

TK: What do you think about the citizen review boards? It's like you have a group of citizens and the vast majority don't have a background in police work or criminology. You know they could be a baker or a dry cleaner and they're on this review and they don't have the background to understand 95 percent of what's going on. What do you think about those review boards? Do you think they're effective?

BC: I think the idea of them is good; getting, again average every day citizens involved in police work. It's a venue to explain why we do what we do and things of that nature. Unfortunately, most citizen review boards have their own agenda. They are out to...well they're not objective. They have their own views on the way police work should be done...

TK: Alright, well, those are all the questions.

BC: I ramble, I'm sorry.

TK: No, no, no, you didn't actually. Thank you Bert.

Theresa Kennedy is a Portland writer, poet, and regular contributor to *The Portland Alliance*. The entire interview is available at: http://web.pdx.edu/~kennedyt/Theresa_Kennedy/Home.html

“if we don't give them the facts, then we deserve what we get”

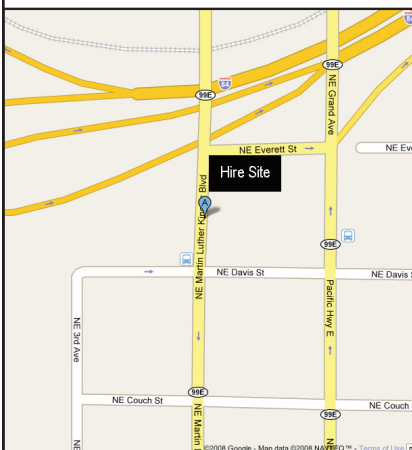
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NEWS BITES

FROM TRUTHOUT

Bid to Limit Tax Cuts to Middle Class and Poor Fails in Senate
 Saturday 04 December 2010
 David Lightman, McClatchy Newspapers:

"The Senate on Saturday blocked and most likely doomed efforts to extend Bush-era tax cuts only for the middle class and the poor but not the very rich. The votes effectively clear the way for the White House and Congress to iron out a compromise on how to continue the expiring breaks."
 Read the Article: <http://www.truth-out.org/>

Mon, Dec. 13, 2010 On Safety Nets
 Thom Hartmann, Berrett-Koehler Publishers:
 "There are two important reasons for having a strong social safety net, one based in sound economic policy and the other in our common humanity. So it's no surprise that the countries that have strong social safety nets tend to have resilient economies and a higher quality of life.,

Federal Judge Rules Individual Health Care Mandate Unconstitutional Mike Ludwig, Truthout: "District Judge Henry Hudson issued a 42-page ruling that declared the law's individual mandate clause that would require Americans to purchase health insurance or pay a penalty to be unconstitutional.
 Read the Article: <http://www.truth-out.org/>

FROM LABOR NOTES

In Oregon, Working Families Party appeals to Rural Populists and Reagan Democrats
 Barbara Dudley, Nov 23, Labor & Politics
 In Oregon, unions and community organizations are challenging the two-party system and testing the limits of what they can do together to promote their agenda in elections without being marginalized as "spoilers."

Read the entire article at: <http://www.labornotes.org/2010/11/oregon-working-families-party-appeals-rural-populists-reagan-democrats>

FROM SKANNER

PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER, UP FOR PROMOTION, DRAWS FIFTH LEGAL TORT CLAIM AGAINST CITY

Portland Police Officer Leo Besner -- set for promotion to sergeant this week -- has drawn yet another tort claim against the City of Portland, this time for allegedly arresting an innocent business owner in front of his own store and taking him to the Northeast Precinct "for questioning" before releasing him without charges. African American shop keeper Sean Hartfield, a local property owner and retired attorney, filed a claim on Sept. 30

for unspecified damages against the city and the officer for assault, battery and false imprisonment. For more information: <http://www.theskanner.com>

FROM STREET ROOTS

Auditor's report on homelessness confusing, misleading...
 An auditor's report put out yesterday came with headlines that homelessness has had increased by 50 percent since 2006 in Multnomah County. ... One of the reasons for the confusion is because the one-night shelter count happens annually, while the street count (mandated by the Feds) is done every other year. The formula has created a confusing message about the actual number of people on the streets. More info: <http://streetroots.wordpress.com/>

FROM NW LABOR PRESS

November 19, 2010 Volume 111 Number 22 Free Geek employees vote to join Portland CWA Local 7901
 A group of 19 workers at the celebrated local non-profit Free Geek have unionized with Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901. The Portland group accepts used computers and electronics, recycles or refurbishes them, and donates them to low-income people in exchange for community service. In an NLRB-supervised election Nov. 3, the workers voted 12-2 to join CWA. Although non-collective staff make several dollars an hour less than members of the collective, pay isn't what drove unionization, said Local 7901 President Madelyn Elder. "It's about respect," Elder said.
 Read more: <http://www.nwlabornpress.org/2010/11/19/11-19-10CWA.html>

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Civil Rights Leader Picked
New judge will bring diversity to court
Lynn Nakamoto, a civil rights and employment law attorney from Portland, was named a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals on Dec. 6.
Her appointment by Gov. Ted Kulongoski will fill the vacancy that will be created when Judge Jack Landau is sworn in as a Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court on Jan. 3....
 More info: <http://portlandobserver.com/?cat=11>

We thank these and other partners for breaking stories. Together we debunk the junk. Please cross-index.

ThePortlandAlliance.org
Speaking Truth to Power

Terrorist Task Farce?



Portland Tribune Photo by LE Baskowi

claims the FBI required him to sign a pledge of secrecy.

So Portlanders should demand to know why (unelected) Police Chief Reese deliberately withheld important information from (elected) Police Commissioner Adams? It would seem the Chief does not consider himself accountable to his chain of command and in fact serves another master.

Why the Chief kept his Commissioner in the dark

<http://www.michaelmunk.com/>
 by Michael Munk
 Mon, Nov 29, 2010

Because the Mayor (who is the Police Commissioner) was not informed of the FBI's sting operation until after the target bomber was arrested, Commissioner Saltzman and the Oregonian are urging the City Council to reverse its decision to withdraw Portland police officers from the FBI's "Joint Terrorism Task Force". An editorial argues that the Mayor must be kept "apprised of serious threats to the community and participate in interagency investigations."

But such concerns should be directed to Police Chief Reese, because the Oregonian reported that "The FBI informed Portland's police chief early on about the federal investigation." Reese

In 2005, the City Council (less Saltzman) voted to withdraw the two Red Squad (Criminal Intelligence Unit) officers assigned to work with the FBI because the Police Commissioner was unable to receive the security clearance required to exercise authority over his officers. That intolerable situation, which the Oregonian dismisses as merely Mayor Potter's "pique" (!), would still leave the Police Commissioner in the dark if the Council decides to reverse its wise decision.

So far, only stone FBI fan Saltzman is on board with rejoining, with Adams leaning. Fish is on the fence but Leonard appears to uphold the original vote

MICHAEL MUNK WAS BORN IN PRAGUE IN 1934 AND ESCAPED THE NAZI OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FLEEING WITH HIS FAMILY TO THE U.S. IN 1939. HE RECEIVED A PHD IN POLITICS FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AFTER DEGREES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON AND REED COLLEGE. HE TAUGHT FOR FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS BEFORE RETIRING TO PORTLAND.

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Eunice Parson's
"Where The Pieces Come From"
December 4 - January 6

Image: Eunice in Nice, France, 1979

Eunice Parsons, born in 1916 in Loma, Colorado, grew up in Chicago. As a child, she drew constantly and at ten attended lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago. After marriage at age 20, she moved to Portland. By 1948, she was raising three children while her merchant seaman husband was away for long periods of time. She set up a studio in the her basement and began to draw her children and their friends. She enrolled at the Museum Art School at 34 years old and chose to become a full-time artist. Eunice taught at the Museum School from 1957 - 1979. Through the years she has been a painter, printmaker, and tile-maker, but since the early 1970s Eunice has worked in the medium for which she is best known---collage.

Find Eunice Work at Luke's Frame



Shop 2707 SE Belmont St.. Portland, OR 97214 Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 11-5a (503) 841-6090 lukesframeshop.com

blues

- 12-24 Friday and 12-25 Saturday: at **The Candlelight Room:** Hot Property, 9:30pm-1:30am / 2032 SW 5th Ave Portland, OR 97201 503-222-3378
- 12-28 **West Linn Saloon:** Kenny Lavitz
- 12-29 **Duff's Garage:** Suburban Slim's Blue Jam / 1635 SE 7th, Portland
- 12-30 **Trails End:** Blues Therapy w/ Ray Gordon / 1320 Main Street Oregon City, OR, 97045
- 12-30 Thurs., **Blue Monk:** Curtis Saldago
- 12-31 **Jimmy Mak's:** Linda Hornbuckle / 221 Northwest 10th Avenue / Portland, OR 97209 / (503) 295-6542
- 12-21 Friday, **Tillicum,** Norman Sylvester, 8585 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hw, Portland, OR
- 01-05-11 **Melody Ballroom,** Cascade Blues Association Meeting 615 SE Alder, Portland, OR Alberta Rose
- 01-14-11 Friday, **Alberta Rose Theater:** Duffy Bishop, 3000 NE Alberta St., Portland, Or



Peter C. Little provided this great shot of the 2010 Waterfront Blues Fest last summer! **Oregon Food Bank Fund-raiser: Waterfront Blues Festival sets 2nd highest for gate donations...** by *Marlena Gangi* When all was tallied, the 21st Annual Safeway Waterfront Blues festival, took in \$538,000 and 90,000 pounds of food. The Blues Festival is the Oregon Food Bank's largest fund-raiser. The entrance fee to the event in 2010 was ten dollars and two cans of food. Now in the winter, the Oregon Food Bank needs our help. Please call 1-800-777-7427 ,

Now Playing at CoHo: Wendy Westerwelle stars as Sophie Tucker in a 90-minute show: "Soph: an Evening with the Last of the Red-Hot Mamas" a grand mix of vaudeville, burlesque, cabaret, backstage chat, and unforgettable songs. Directed by Don Horn; music direction by Darcy White. •Tickets \$15-35, www.ticketturtle.com or call 503-239-5919. •December 2–26, 2010. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sundays, 2 pm. No show December 25. •At CoHo Theatre, 2257 NW Raleigh. Wheelchair accessible and walker-friendly. •Special Rates for groups. Call for details – 503-239-5919. [2257 NW Raleigh Street, Portland, OR 97210](http://2257NW.RaleighStreet,Portland,OR97210) www.cohoproductions.org

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Feb. 11: Oregon Renaissance Band

Mar. 11: Portland Cello Project

April 15: Classical Revolution PDX

May 13: Ezra Weiss Quartet

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tact us ASAP.

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Ground View

BY GLEN ANDRESEN



Know Thy Rootstock

birds) and harvest from.

Some people think it doesn't matter what size your fruit tree naturally wants to be because you are going to be pruning it regularly. But it does matter because of genetics. Trees grow up and "want" to be a certain size. It may be easy to prune and fuss over a one-, two- or three-year old tree. But eventually there will come a time when you don't have time to prune, the weather is bad, you're on vacation... or you move and the next owner doesn't want or know how to prune. At some point, the tree will become big... too big. It will shade out other plants, grow too close to the house, and produce most of its fruit at the top. As the saying goes, nature bats last.

What's wrong with a big tree? In the right place, nothing! But a too-big tree in the city can act as a breeding ground for insect pests and diseases. It can be a nuisance because the fruit that is out of reach

It happened again recently. I had mentioned during a presentation on summer pruning of fruit trees that, for urban growing, true dwarfing fruit trees were the way to go. I explained that the terms "dwarf" and "semi-dwarf" don't really have any legal definition. In other words, it means whatever the maker and seller of fruit trees want it to mean. As an example, I mentioned that a standard apple tree measures about 40 feet tall and 40 feet across. Pretty big. If we grafted a piece of that apple tree (the scion wood) onto a rootstock (the part of the plant that grows the roots), that would impart the characteristic of "dwarfing" by about 50 percent. That would mean the tree would end up about 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Who, I asked those in attendance, wants (or even has room for) a tree that big? It would be hard to prune, control pests on (including

can ripen, fall to the ground and attract yellow jackets, mice and rats. If the fruit accumulates near a sidewalk, it can be a hazard to passers-by.

Often times, you can get free fruit trees at the end of the growing season from well-meaning organizations. These trees are identified as cherry, or apple or whatever, but they hardly ever come with tags showing what kind of rootstock was used to graft them or how tall the tree will get. Usually the only thing a tag says is "semi-dwarf."

When I finished my presentation in mid-July, a woman came up to me and said she had obtained several free fruit trees

during the last several years and they had no tags. Now she was worried they would get too big. She was right to be concerned. Darn!

My advice? It's worth paying \$25 for a fruit tree that, even with no pruning, will top out at 8 feet (some apples), 12 feet (some pears) or 15 feet (some plums). But it's better still to learn how to graft fruit trees yourself. Grafting is fun and quite straightforward. The best place to learn graft is through the Home Orchard Society www.homeorchardsociety.org Start grafting and reclaim your backyard!

Glen, a master gardener, helps us adapt to city living. Send questions to: glen@pacifier.com

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ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

Portland chapter is progressive populist movement to end corp dominance of economy, society, political, environment life, advocate for democratic values, create fair equitable society. United action by the people, for the people, standing opposed to mega-corporations while envisioning and working for our shared future is the only solution. Current campaigns include education about and opposition to "Free Trade" agreements and corporate globalization; education about danger of water privatization; support campaign finance reform; support for formation of Public Utility Districts. Coalitoned with other grassroots organizations to form Local to Global Coalition working to promote a Fair Trade future. Contact: daviddek@afd-pdx.org. We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 112 NE 45th Ave, Portland OR 97213. www.afd-pdx.org.

AMERICANS UNITED FOR PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

AUPHR is an association of American taxpayers united by a 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 U.S. policies that directly or indirectly support the oppression and violation of human rights of Palestinian people in Israel and the Israeli occupied territories. Our tools are public education and political and legal action. See www.auphr.org or call 503-287-1885.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a Nobel Prize-winning grassroots activist organization with over one million members worldwide. Amnesty International is dedicated to freeing prisoners of conscience, gaining fair trials for political prisoners, ending torture, political killings and "disappearances," and abolishing the death penalty. Portland's Amnesty International Chapter, Group 48, has been in existence since the 1970s. Meets on the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Building Koinonia House on PSU campus, 633 SW Montgomery (corner of Montgomery and Broadway). For more information: 503-227-1878, www.ease.com/~amnesty or write P.O. Box 666, Portland, OR 97207-0666.

BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Your politics and your 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

Portland CODE PINK 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 "CODE PINK" 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. Meetings are first Tuesdays, 7 p.m., at In Other Words Bookstore, 8 NE Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97211. More information: Portland CODE PINK webpage: <http://codepinkportland.org>; Portland CODE PINK e-mail: info@codepinkportland.org; National CODE PINK website: <http://codepinkalert.org>.

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

Committees of Correspondence is an inclusive and non-sectarian national coalition of progressive, 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

CAT 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. Call CAT's Hotline at (503) 288-0130.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP (EJAG)

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 more information, contact us at (503) 283-6397.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PDX

First Unitarian Church of Portland has been a voice of liberal religion in our community for over 130 years. Our core beliefs in 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

Flying Focus Video Collective (FFVC) is a group of activists using video as a tool for social change, voicing the voiceless. We videotape speakers, events and actions, and produce programming through cable access facilities. Ask for our catalogue of available tapes or check out the selected videos in lending libraries at Laughing Horse Books, BlackRose Collective Bookstore, or Small A Projects. Contact: 3439 NE Sandy Bv. PMB #248, Portland, OR 97232; 503-239-7456 or 503-321-5051 (showtimes/voicemail); email ffvc@flyingfocus.org; web www.flyingfocus.org.

FREEDOM SOCIALIST PARTY

Socialist feminist party 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 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 819 N. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97217. 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. 8 NE Killingsworth., Portland, OR 97211. 232-6003. Open seven days.

JEWS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Jews for Global Justice: We're committed to ending oppression in all its forms. Our work spans a range of issues including opposing the US bombing of Afghanistan, combating racism and 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.jwjpx.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; 236-2893.

Listings continue on page 10

The usual suspects at the October Peace Rally in St. Francis Park, organizing community resources for social change.

"Together we make a difference."

Photo by Peter C. Little



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Elders Reading Group, Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th Ave, off E Burnside. We are reading Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine*, 1-2 p.m. every Monday. More info: 503-236-2893.

Books to Prisoners weekly mailing, 5-8 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays in garage at end of driveway at 1112 NE Morton, between Ainsworth & Dekum, east of MLK Blvd. These books are sent to prisoners across the country. We are always in need of new or used dictionaries and thesauruses. www.pdxbookstoprisoners.org.

R.E.P. (Renewable Energy Policies) Action Project, 1st University Church, SW 12th and Main, 7 p.m., every 1st & 3rd Monday, FREE. This group supports and promotes adoption of a REPs policy in Oregon that creates good social and environmental outcomes for reasonable costs. We are talking about ordinary people being able to generate clean renewable energy to sell at above normal cost, back to the utilities (PGE, etc)! Call Judy at 503-232-1911 for more info www.afd-pdx.org.

Basic war tax resistance & redirection, Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th, 7-8 p.m., every 3rd Monday of the month. What is war tax resistance & redirection? What are some ways to participate? An informal workshop, no charge, materials provided. More info at 503-238-0605. Sponsored by War Resisters League. FREE.

The Unemployed Workers Progressive Summer Film Fest, was last held at PSU, in 2009, and we are currently looking for a new venue. If you are interested in helping to organize a new event and brainstorm about jobs issues, global social justice issues, and other issues that effect all of us, please contact PSU Progressive Student Union. We plan to work with Portland Jobs With Justice, PSU Model UN, PSU MEChA, and at least a dozen other campus groups. To get involved, contact LewChurch@gmail.com

Weekly book study group, David Korten's "Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth, Why Wall Street Can't be Fixed and How to Replace It." 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays. 1st U. Church, Buchan Bldg, enter through gate on SW 12th & Salmon. Currently experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, is giving us an incredible opportunity to change our economic story. To register call First Church 503-228-6389 or, for more info, call Marcia @ 503-665-3957.

Books to OREGON prisoners weekly mailing. 5-8 p.m. Tuesdays, 6315 NE Rodney, between MLK & Holman Blvd. Different group from Books to Prisoners. More info at: bookstooregonprisoners@gmail.com.

Anarchist Discussion Group, Black Rose Collective Books, 4038 N. Mississippi, 7-9 p.m., every 1st & 3rd Tuesday. A self-led, free-form group. Bring cookies.

NW RAGE Public Meeting and GE Free Video Night, 3347 SE Belmont (ring bell #5 and we'll come open the door for you), 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 you can help promote a safe and sustainable food supply. All films are free though donations to support our work are greatly appreciated. Call 503-239-6841 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.

Book Studies: David Korten's Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth. Reflections Book Store/The Talking Drum, 446 NE Killingsworth St., 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays. FREE. Contact Marcia at 503-665-3957 or visit www.realwealthpdx.com.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee monthly meeting, Liberty Hall, 311 N Ivy St., off N. Vancouver, 7 p.m. every third Wednesday. PCASC is a grassroots organizing group that educates and mobilizes community members, workers and 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 of 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. Info at: 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. The FFS watches a variety of movies and discuss them with feminism in mind. Screening starts at 7, with discussion to follow. \$1-5 donation, but no one is turned away. Come find your feminist with the FFS Crew! More info at <http://www.inotherwords.org>

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. A Growing Concern features guests speaking on a wide range of political, environmental and social justice issues, as well as video of local events, etc. Hosted by local activist Jim Lockhart, since 1998. www.PhilosopherSeed.org

Book Studies: David Korten's Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth. Peoples Co-op, 3029 SE 21st Ave, 9-11 a.m. Saturdays. FREE. Contact Marcia at 503-665-3957 or visit www.realwealthpdx.com.

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR January 2009

For a longer calendar listing, c



Stark Naked

PIZZA

The mad space between the stars! Radical weekly peer-led mental health discussion group. The Garfield House, 4011 NE Garfield, 7-9 p.m. Sundays. We are interested in building a strong radical mental health community here in Portland. We reject mainstream mental health and have decided to take control of our own needs. We strive to support each other in our daily struggles. Please join us. More info: www.themadspace@riseup.net.

Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance weekly meeting, Laughing Horse Books, NE 10th Ave just North of Burnside, 7 pm. Exciting news from NYC about a new independent and impartial 9/11 Commission on the ballot. <http://www.nyccan.org>. Every other week the group presents a film or a special guest speaker. More info at 503-701-3481.

December-February

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11

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Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7:00 pm- Third Tuesday Author Series

at LO Library, 206 4th St.. Jane Kirkpatrick, a humorous and inspirational writer and speaker. Her works appear in over 50 national publications and she has written nineteen books. most based on the lives of real women. She speaks internationally about the power of story in our lives. Her novel *A Flickering Light* was recently named to Library Journal's Best Books of 2009. More info. Alicia Yokoyama at 503-675-3995.

Monday, Jan. 3, at 5:30pm, First Monday Jobs with Justice Steering Committee Meeting. 6025 E Burnside, Portland, OR 97215 (503) 236-5573

Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 6:30pm, Lake Oswego City Council Regular Meeting at 4th & Main. And LO Library First Tuesday Music Series Event: at 706 4th Street Lake Oswego, OR 97034. More info: Jane Carr at 503-534-5665.

January 4-17, Peacemaker Teams

Delegates will meet with Palestinian and Israeli human rights representatives and peace workers in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation / PO Box 21539 Washington, D.C. 20009

Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 pm:

Cross-Border Unity Against the Korea Free Trade Agreement, A Speaker's Tour with the Korean Confederation of Trade Union's Kim Kyung-Ran, Machinists Union Hall 3645 SE 32nd Ave • Portland, OR

Friday, Jan. 14, at 4:30 pm:

Peace Visibility Action: The "Gulf War" 20 Years Later SW 3rd and Madison by Terry Schunk Plaza Rally and March The Smith Ballroom 1825 SW Broadway on PSU campus <http://www.pdxakpsi.org/vikingfest>

Friday, Jan. 21, at 7:00 pm:

The Bright Midnight is doing a benefit for The Youth Expression Project. This event, "Viking Fest 11," will take place in the Smith Ballroom at 1025 S. Broadway at PSU

Saturday, Jan. 26, at 6-8pm

Portland Building, next to city hall. Presentation on Why US Labor Should Support the Palestinian Struggle. JWJ endorsed rally

Saturday, Jan. 29, at 9am

an interfaith meeting about Single Payer Health Care: Should Oregon Go First? A State-Wide Conference and Forum at First Unitarian Church, 1211 SW Main Street Portland, OR Speakers include U.S. Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Author of HR 676, The National Single Payer Bill. Sign Up Today! <http://sites.google.com/site/singlepayoregon/home> National and local speakers, including

• U.S. Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Author of HR 676, The National Single Payer Bill

• Dr. Margaret Flowers, Maryland Pediatrician & Congressional Fellow, Physicians for a National Health Program

• Katie Robbins, Healthcare-NOW! national single payer advocacy group

• Mark Dudzic, Labor Campaign for Single Payer national organizer (Everybody In, Nobody Out)

Universal, Single Payer, Non-profit community

Health care Under a single payer system, all Americans would be covered for all medically necessary services, including: doctor, hospital, preventive, long-term care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs. There would be no premiums or deductibles, simply a payroll tax that everyone pays into, much like Medicare. The Alliance recommends implementation.

Tues., Feb. 1, from 5:30-8pm

Public Forum about the Oregon State Bank Reception from 5:30-6 PM and Program from 6-8 PM, Portland, OR Location TBA see: www.facebook.com/OregonStateBank and <http://www.OregonsforaStateBank.org/>

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Wed, Feb. 2, at 6pm

Citywide Tree Project Goes to City Hall. Residents give public testimony at a public hearing on at City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., the project will establish a cohesive, consistent regulatory framework for trees in Portland

February 11-12, at Menucha,

A Jobs with Justice Planning Session... Contact PDX JWJ for more info.

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www.theportlandalliance.org

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Listings begin on page 7

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 member in the? Against the war? Military Families Speak Out offers a support group the first Saturday of each month in Wilsonville. www.mfso-oregon.org. 503-232-8104.

MONEY IS NOT DEMOCRACY

Statewide group working on Campaign Finance Reform. Oregon 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 in 2006. Visit our website at www.fairelections.net <<http://www.fairelections.net>> or call 503.230.1948 in Portland or 888.830.1948.

NW RESISTANCE AGAINST GENETIC ENGINEERING

Northwest 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, our bodies, and our 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: 503-239-6841, 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 dine-outs, 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) 224-7380.

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 workforce. 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.

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 so the death penalty is not needed. The death penalty is costly, innocent people are sentenced to death — and sometimes executed, and is given disproportionately to 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, to find out about meetings and events go to www.oadp.org or e-mail info@oadp.org or write to P.O. Box 361, Portland, OR 97207.

PACIFIC GREEN PARTY OF OREGON

Despite omnipresent cynicism, political activity is required of the responsible citizen.

PACIFIC GREEN PARTY: OREGON'S GREEN PARTY

Turn Green and join the fastest growing political party in Oregon, the United States, indeed 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/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 time 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 7:30p 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. 311 N. Ivy St., Portland, OR 97227. 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 Website: 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.pcmvtv.org.

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (www.psyr.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

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 newswire 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 branch@iwwpdx.org, or drop by our office in Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy.

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. We're located in

North Portland (Kenton neighborhood) by the big Paul Bunyan statue. 1920 N. Kilpatrick St.. 503-249-3903 or www.prananda.com.

PSU PROGRESSIVE STUDENT UNION

PSU Progressive Student Union works with PSU Progressive Alumni Association to support social justice boycotts for Florida farm workers against Taco Bell, for Colombian union workers against Coca Cola, and anti-imperialist, anti-war organizing. PSU is the only 4-year college in Oregon with Taco Bell in the cafeteria. Farm workers make about \$7,000 per year. PSU president Dan Bernstine makes \$170,000 per year but has refused to meet with activist students. PSU-PSU actively fought three rigged ASPSU elections in 2003-04, including the "branding" of PSU campus by the still-in-power Republicans and their festooning campus with their "branded" campaign against the Left/multicultural groups. Student Republicans at PSU continue to control \$8,000,000 in student fees annually. Contact: e-mail: lc@pdx.edu or phone: 503/471-7798.

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. 819 N. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97217. Phone: 503-240-4462, Fax: 503-240-4463, E-mail: rwpdx@igc.org. Website: www.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 co-ops 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, 503-227-3970, 503-289-3511, or 503-636-4150; 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 geared 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.

SURGE

Organizers of the Annual AWBC, going into its third year, invite you to join SURGE! S.U.R.G.E. = Social Uprising, Resistance and Grassroots Encouragement! It is the first international activist film festival which is not only an annual film festival, but also is a network which enables people worldwide to bring the festival into their area of the world! SURGE promotes activism through Film, Music and Visual Arts. Why submit your film to one film festival, when you can submit it to SURGE and have it shown worldwide and shown on websites continuously? Even entries not included in the festival get published in our annual International SURGE directory. Why should you let corporate corruption thrive without being exposed, when you can pick up a camera and videotape it? Yes, anonymous entries are accepted as we encourage whistleblowers to expose injustice! Blog community at www.awbcradio.info and main website at www.aworldbeyondcapitalism.org/surge.html.

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.

Technocracy 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 weekly clinics helping 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 to circulate the petition for OMMA2 creating licensed dispensaries in Oregon where medical marijuana may be safely purchased. 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 landmine 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. We've moved!! New contact info: 1034 SW 13th, Portland 97205 503.595.9390, portland.wilpf.org.

**Increase your visibility!
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group can appear in these
pages. Call 503-239-4991
for details.**



*"Nature versus nurture - now
that's a fight I'd like to see."*

Shannon Wheeler: www.TooMucCoffeeMan.com



The Boy in the Balloon

For Falcon Heene, who vomited at a press conference when asked to vouch for his father's lie that Falcon had accidentally cut loose his father's home-made balloon and then hid. The whole thing was actually his father's elaborate publicity stunt.

Watching as the balloon raced,
we grew so much bigger than ourselves.
our hearts came out of the basement.

We, too, were caught in an updraft,
spiralling unmoored, untethered from earth.

We floated with the six year old,
tossed and buffeted,
our world out of control,
not knowing where we would end
what field we would find ourselves in
when we came down.

Only when the balloon crashed
did we realize the ride we'd really taken
had never left the earth.
The wizard was only a con man.

The single grace note in the story was
the vomiting of a boy
who wouldn't lie.

-- Barbara LaMorticella

Barbara lives in a cabin in the woods outside Portland, Oregon. She has edited or co-edited three collections of Portland poetry including Portland Lights in 2000.

In 1997, her second collection of poems, Rain on Waterless Mountain, was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award and in 2000 she received the first Oregon Literary Fellowship for women writers. Barbara was awarded the Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award by Literary Arts in 2005, an award presented to a person or organization in recognition of significant contributions that have enriched Oregon's literary community.

She is the former editor of the Portland Alliance Poetry Page and is the current host of The Talking Earth on KBOO-FM radio, 90.7fm Portland. web access: kboo.fm/node/13622

"Remembered"

I am tempted
to ask you to stop
and hold this moment
against the roof of your mouth
where it can't assault your teeth,
a smooth creek pebble,
birthed by a bit of water and
the patience of time.

Trying to stop myself once
in a stranger's house where I was frozen
with you I could feel nothing
but oppressive erosion. Wet tracks
from my eyes
to my chin came and went with
ease through the curtains
I had drawn around this

fragment of ourselves
and the world as it was
then and could never be again.

Look now and study my face
line by line, and between the
examination of each eyelash you
must admit that I have grown older.
Close up you could see each of my pixels,
but for what? You might as well look at my
big toe from the stratosphere. Proximity
is an arbitrary thing, like divorce and rhetorical questions.

For how many years did your body have nothing to do with mine?
How long will it take you, once the river has carried me away and you
are lost among other fingers and lips,
how long will you remember this moment, or the last one,
or the one in the room blue with cold somewhere north of the city?
Perhaps you have already forgotten and I am
alone here with the memory of you.

From one eyelash to another I have formed this
proposal: let us leave moments to photographs,
weddings, and deathbeds; let us turn out our bloated
pockets on the riverbank and let everything but your arm
around my waist slip back into anonymity.
Let each stone be carried away or buried or
perhaps discovered by a child who will
sit, unaware of the darkening sky,
turning it over, and over, and over.

-- Sarah Sowa

"Cheetah"

There's a cheetah on TV.
I heard the announcer saying
Something about a "distinctive jaw,"
And I noticed how the mouth swung
Open, flopping from side to side
Like something dead should swing between
Such giant jaws,

And I think,
How odd that on a cheetah
This is so easily explained—
"Perhaps the kick of a gazelle,
Very distinctive"—
And overlooked
In the shadow of his beauty,

Yet if he were
a man, what could he be?
Where in a broken face
Could such simple forgiveness be found?

-- Sarah Sowa

Sarah Sowa is a graduate of Ohio University and has been a resident of Portland for the last three years.

See Poetry, page 12

“Nevada”

February must be rainy season here...water at least a month old, green, glowing, full of salt, i.e., life, and death...piss...and...vinegar. Rock formations that tell stories, though not insightful like the ones from the days of Neil, be they the days of the Marauders or the days of Plymouth heading westbound from Denver... back then, Denver was full of blossoming heroes, Corky a young leader...

Today, the rocks are not so deep, not so innocent, not so free... driven by wont of sleep, the past...deep water on either side of the road...deep enough for the moment, drenched in eighty proof wind... I fly down the highway, through Elko, because I'm one of those guys who should never own a gun.

I sleep in Battle Mountain, where the sign at the gas station down the street says merely, “HELL,” as if I needed confirmation...drive, next day, through Fernley, where the attendants at 7-11 talk fast behind sketchy eyes and the bathroom reeks of speed. I leave the bathroom, grinding my teeth, wondering who is getting rich, while the men of the town rebuild their cars in tweaker heaven.

I stop for gas in Reno, one of the many towns shat by the motherlode, L.V. shat upon the desert like shrapnel from an IED, a transitional trickster, a situational repository for all that is good in man: greed, the objectification of women, and drugs. Man say, “If the devil lives in Vegas, baby, show me the gates of Hell...that's right, baby, show me the horns and fire...I want proof, or I ain't leavin'.....I'm on a roll!!!” On a roll in Reno; thought he was in Vegas: deluded, de-lude-d, spun.

I get gas and head west, next stop S.F., and just a little peace of mind...drive through heavy snow, transcend this abject land that sold its spirit for gold long ago, now just a slipshod assortment of winded towns and barren nests, keeping only stagnant pools and empty words set in stone, for March.

--Kollin B. Luman

“Israel (An Epitaph for Subordination)”

Charlie didn't cry
when his ol' mama died...
an'his ol'mama wuddn' really that old.

He thought,
“things just changed
in my neck'o'the woods,
and mama said 'change is good'...
I don't know mama,
seem like sometimes change
don't change like it should.”

Her grave burned up in that fire
back in June,
ashes twi-sterilized—like a tattoo...
he ain't been to visit
since that crazy ForestServicewoman
put shame to flame and stole
his mama's sacred ground.

mama always did love them hills...
and Charlie wuddn'one to cry...
but he wept like a baby
when Ben-Eliezer took his exit
from the Knesset.

I should tell you a little something
about Charlie, see
his gramma was a slave,
and his grampa was her owner—
before his prime,
Charlie understood occupation.

This poem's for GaleNortonInContempt,
ClarenceBrandley, YitzhakRabin and
ElouiseCobell;

(not once during Windtalkers
did the credits give credit
to the Navajo...NO! Not once)

CREDIT TO THE CODE—

This poem's for Peltier ProChoice
TheRightToSpeakYourMind
Encrypted, like a twice-burned tomb,
bone flakes and staples, due process in stasis,
smolder, and await

A vote of confidence half the globe away.

Folks,
Charlie didn'tdiut he prayed to his god on election day
that the people would visit the polls,
on the Big Island and in the Holy Land
'change is good, change is good,'

“Mama, believe me,
I'm tellin' you true,
I'd vote 'em away if I could.”

and he meant it, I tell you,
he meant every word
ever since that heartbroke Terry Barton
burnt up his ol' mama's woods.

-- Kollin B. Luman

Kollin B. Luman hosted the Progression Session Poetry Slam in Colorado Springs, CO. from 2001 to 2003. He published in *Riverrun*, a literary arts journal, for the Univ. of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He won the Rosa Parks Scholarship in 2001, for “Ten Poems on America,” and was nominated for the Performance Poet of the Year award in 2003 by the Pikes Peak Arts Council in Colorado Springs. Kollin, his wife, and son moved to Portland at the beginning of 2007.



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The Corner Place

WHO KILLED FARELESS SQUARE?

by Lew Church

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

Not me, said Rick Van Beveran,
Chairman of the TriMet board,
I'm just a restaurant tea party man.
My good friend Tom Hughes
Wants to build the CRC,
Sounds peachy-keen to me.
Bob Stacey is just some socialist clown,
We don't want him in our town.
If transit riders boycott Reedville Cafe,
Like Dr. King, they outta drive a truck --
I just say, good luck!

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

Not me, said George Passadore,
Wells Fargo president,
Last president of the TriMet board.
I'm just here to collect classic cars --
Lamborghini, Maserati, Mercedes-Benz,
Humvee, Cadillac, Astin-Martin,
And number seven, that little Volkswagen bug.
I keep 'em next to my Party Room,
For Fareless Square, I don't care,
I'm just here to lower the boom.

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

Not me, said Bernie Bottomly,
Chairman of the Portland white people's
Business Alliance,
And god of Mindy Stone's idolatry.
I wouldn't know a TriMet bus,
From a hole in the wall.
I'm just here to make a buck,
I don't really give a fuck.

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

Not me, said the Oregonian Editorial Board,
Typing on their old typewriter.
Trains are cool, and buses suck,
Transit riders, we just say, good luck.

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

Not me, said John Charles,
From the Milton Friedman Policy Institute.
Its hard to say, its hard to tell,
Fareless Square, go to hell.

Who killed Fareless Square?

Why and what's the reason for?

We're here to save it, said TRU,
Transit Riders Union.
Don't believe TriMet's shuck and jive,
Its all just a game to them.
We may have to give it CPR,
Resuscitate and keep Fareless Square alive.
With Light Rail Neil and these TriMet whores,
Transit riders have to say,
No war, but class war,
No war, but class war.

-- Lew Church

Lew Church is founding publisher and editor
of PSU Rearguard, PSU Agitator, and
Treasurer of Transit Riders Union

They called me Gil Mok ddahl. Gil Mok daughter.
My family owned Gil Mok, a restaurant in Los Angeles.
That's Korean for The Corner Place.
People came there for the house specialty: dong mi gook su.
It's been called "a party in your mouth."

Did my parents create that dish?

Do you like to cook?

People always ask.

No, a big woman named Yang Soon Chi is the creator.

I heard she came to Los Angeles from Korea

with a wok

a killer recipe

and a dream for a better life.

And no, I don't like to cook.

I want to be a forest ecologist.

Why you want do that? my relatives demand.

Get accounting degree, get good job, buy house.

Marry nice Korean boy, have beautiful children.

Make parent happy, have good life.

No, I say.

No. No way.

No how.

-- Natasha Beck, 2010.

Natasha Beck is a Portland teacher, writer and activist who dedicates
this poem to her adult ESL (English as a Second Language) students
in the VLT program in Gresham, OR.

WILLIAM STAFFORD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS www.williamstafford.org

1) Chocolates, beverages, & local authors David Oates [What We Love Will Save Us] and John Sibley Williams [The Pure River]. Bring a favorite Stafford poem to read. Hosted by Joan Maiers Sunday, January 16 at 6:30 PM.

Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe, 45 S. State Street in downtown Lake Oswego, OR

2) Saturday, January 22, 3-5 PM, John Laursen of Press-22 describes how he prepared a verbal-visual representation of William Stafford's poetry, followed by open mike readings of Stafford poems. Holy Names Heritage Center, Marylhurst campus, Lake Oswego, OR 503-607-0595 Both events free and open to the public.

**Mary is looking for local poets' work,
long and short. Submit materials
to mary.otte@gmail.com.**

Medevac helicopter and 8" artillery gun in An Khe, Vietnam 1970 (Mike Hastie)



The Why of Vietnam.

The worst thing I experienced in Vietnam was the lie. The same lie the U.S. government has been telling the American people about Iraq and Afghanistan for the past 7 to 9 years.

The "Killing Fields" are in front of us again. We must not allow transnational economic cartels to ignore the best interests of our people. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat their mistakes..

Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, 1970-71

A Tale of Two Cities, One Bridge, and a River

Five bridges, two rivers, and one problem. A bridge of steel, one on Broadway, another on the boulevard (Hawthorne), this one (Morrison) a winding roller coaster, and the biggest most palatial (Fremont) of them all. The Sellwood is off the list until much needed repair to an aging infrastructure is completed. In fact all the bridges across this land need inspection and maintenance.

But the five bridges that stretch over the two waterways that frame Portland, need to be burned and blasted into the river below.

We won't stop there. Next task is repaving all streets painted with bike lanes. Yep. Pour piping hot asphalt over every chalked line, every painted bike image along city streets; get rid of them. Close all health food stores. Roll back Farmers Markets popping up all over town. Rip physical education from schools, lay off city, county and state workers, close schools where the most economically disadvantaged families live, eliminate R&B, Soul, Jazz music from the radio band, and blanket the inner city with the gentrification brand, to create an exclusive cottage industry.

Next, convene on the river bank and invite cynics, conspiratorialists, New Age soothsayers, Republican/Demos/independent, racists, lawyers, homophobics, naked cyclists, tree huggers, naturalists, sun worshippers, old hippies, Woodstock and Wattstax, angry black, brown, red, yellow, and white people; all women pre and post menopausal, skin heads, Nazi apologists, Nazis, the New Black Panther Party, Tea Party, NAACP, the Gothic, the twilight vampire crowd, Portland Public School board and the Jefferson High School alumni and supporters, Urban League, NAACP, African American Health Coalition, Red Cross, Pastor Gino Jennings, Glen Beck

Eyes Wide shut

BY YUGEN

FARAN RASHAD



and Rush Linbaugh, the Reverend Al Sharpton...

Now, let's reset: five bridges, and one of the two river (Columbia, Willamette) banks. We've recruited every element that comprises the story of our world/society where we live. All the corruption, decadence, chronic and most toxic folk somebody hates or wants to get rid of. But let's eat first.

All the convenience stores are centrally located and sell enough tobacco, alcohol, sugary drinks, and snacks- plus they are within walking distance. Burger, fries, pizza, or fried chicken fast food is within a stone's throw. To get to the health food store from the inner core of the city might require driving or riding a bike, but that leaves out a whole bunch of undesirables. Yet every body gets to eat their own food.

In fact, our favorite television chef, Andy Zimmern, was sent a post card and will personally bring one of his favorite dishes: grilled rat stew with free range raw, gamy pork heart salad garnished with sewer root.

Let's pick a park with the least amount of dog poop, or one where gangs mark their shit territory. We want the entire family to come out for this outing. That should complete our shopping and recruitment list.

Call Mayor Sam Adams and let him know we're okay with the cops following us as we route our journey after our meal.



Peter C. Little took this shot of a new mural by Joe Cotter, muralist taking part in the PDX public arts movement. Joe is active with Portland Mural Defense. He is also a member of both Artback and the Spiral Gallery, two artist co-operatives in Estacada.

This one is an odyssey which is why we needed to bring a diverse crowd. Now, we need a bridge, to cross the river.

Christianity talks about the war of Armageddon. The Islamic world talks about Jihad. Both terms mean the same. Contrary to popular belief and indoctrination by mainstream media the terms refer to the work, process, and effort to strive for personal victory over the flesh and unmitigated gratification. Not everyone will take the journey. Some folks will lag behind, comfortable with beastly, narcissism, then with communal building and support. Others are confused about the difference and remain neutral.

No, Armageddon isn't the 'war to end all wars' religious fanatics have framed for eons. But it's the war that makes cowards of us all. The point is we've gotten so far away from our personal humanity, and the hell with others. We've declared war on each other rather than self.

Soul singer Al Green sang 'take me to the river'. Brazilian artist Milton Nascimento wrote a song Bridges that nar-

rates a search for something real. ("There were great suspension bridges, made like spider webs of steel").

I believe the lesson is we need to cross our own bridge over troubled water that Simon and Garfunkel sang of. Until we process our own individual stuff we will not evolve as humanity, giving consideration to the other.

The freedom train Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam) sang about can get us on our way.

But know that freedom is the window of kindness, love, peace, solidarity, and hope. The mirror gets us to the bridge. But we must observe the river's reflection which is the larger community to maintain the vision. So, ask about which bridge you need to cross. Then ask about how you will maintain the vision framed by the reflection either in the mirror, or the river. Cross the bridge, get to the other side.

Yugen Faran Rashad is Program coordinator AA TPN Lifeworks NW at 4925 N. Albina Ave. / Portland, Or 97217 Phone 503 548-4922 ext. 6703 email: cellyugenr@lifeworksnw.org

Obama Visit Shuts Down Traffic: He's Greeted by Teabaggers, Peace Workers, and Angry Crowds



by Bette Lee

There were over 5,000 Obama supporters, 100 right wing Tea Party/Americans for Prosperity, and 50 progressive activists at the protest when Obama came to town to stump for Kitzhaber on October 20th.

Activists and organizers from Veterans for Peace, PCASC, SUPER, ISO, VOZ, JWW, immigrant rights groups, and others bravely stood their ground and delivered their message..

No more wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Pakistan. No more corporate giveaways and bailouts, Money for jobs and education, and no more voting for the two-party Democratic and Republican con men. Both parties

are corrupted by corporate money. If we want real change, we've got to do it ourselves, not depend on politicians, leaders, and cheerleaders.

French students and workers are fighting back against cutbacks and attacks by the ruling elite. We should follow their example and take it to the streets: Strikes, Blockades, and even Sabotage! We can no longer allow corporate thugs to misuse our military and wage economic war on everyday people.



Top left picture was taken by Peter C. Little. Top right & at left taken by Bette Lee. The above shot taken with Tim Flanagan's cell phone.

WikiLeaks: Demystifying "Diplomacy"

Compared to the kind of secret cables that WikiLeaks has just shared with the world, everyday public statements from government officials are exercises in make-believe.

In a democracy, people have a right to know what their government is actually doing. In a pseudo-democracy, a bunch of fairy tales from high places will do the trick.

Diplomatic facades routinely masquerade as realities. But sometimes the mask slips -- for all the world to see -- and that's what just happened with the humongous leak of State Department cables.

"Every government is run by liars," independent journalist I.F. Stone observed, "and nothing they say should be believed." The extent and gravity of the lying varies from one government to another -- but no pronouncements from world capitals should be taken on faith.

By its own account, the U.S. government has been at war for more than nine years now and there's no end in sight. Like the Pentagon, the State Department is serving the overall priorities of the warfare

Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON



state. The nation's military and diplomacy are moving parts of the same vast war machinery.

Such a contraption requires a muscular bodyguard of partial truths, deceptions and outright lies. With the USA's ongoing war efforts at full throttle, the contradictions between public rationales and hidden goals -- or between lofty rhetoric and grisly human consequences -- cannot stand the light of day.

Details of Washington's transactional alliances with murderous dictators, corrupt tyrants, warlords and drug traffickers are among its most closely guarded quasi-secrets. Most media accounts can be blown off by officialdom, but smoking-gun diplomatic cables are harder to ignore.

With its massive and unending reli-

ance on military force -- with a result of more and more carnage, leaving behind immense grief and rage in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere -- the U.S. government has colossal gaps to bridge between its public-relations storylines and its war-making realities.

The same government that devotes tremendous resources to inflicting military violence abroad must tout its humane bona fides and laudable priorities to the folks back home. But that essential PR task becomes more difficult when official documents to the contrary keep leaking.

No government wants to face documentation of actual policies, goals and priorities that directly contradict its public claims of virtue. In societies with democratic freedoms, the governments that have the most to fear from such disclosures are the ones that have been doing the most lying to their own people.

The recent mega-leaks are especially jarring because of the extreme contrasts between the U.S. government's public pretenses and real-life actions. But the standard official response is to blame the leaking messengers.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the unauthorized disclosure of classified documents and sensitive national security information," the White House said on November 28.

Meanwhile, Sen. Joseph Lieberman denounced "an outrageous, reckless and despicable action that will undermine the ability of our government and our partners to keep our people safe and to work together to defend our vital interests." For good measure, he tweeted: "WikiLeaks' deliberate disclosure of these diplomatic cables is nothing less than an attack on our national security."

But what kind of "national security" can be built on duplicity from a government that is discredited and refuted by its own documents?

Norman Solomon is national co-chair of the Healthcare Not Warfare campaign, launched by Progressive Democrats of America. His books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." For more information, go to: www.normansolomon.com

Activists Condemn Condi Conundrum!

Activists Condemn Condoleeza Rice visit to Portland, and she cancels her Book sale trip.

BY HERSCHEL SOLES



It wasn't a large group. But enthusiastic Portland activists showed up to celebrate that Condi Rice had cancelled her book promotion visit to Portland Oregon.

While many see Condoleeza as a former leader deserving of respect, others

see no need for deferential treatment.

Condoleeza Rice is a war criminal. Through fear-mongering, misrepresentation, and flat lies, she provided cover while the Cheney and Bush administration plunged us into a disastrous war of choice. She bears responsibility for the consequences on all sides: trillions of dollars of wasted public funds, more than a million casualties, and more than five million refugees.

In a more just world, Condi would be serving time instead of selling books.

Herschel is a board member of the Portland Alliance and a local progressive activist.



"Condoleeza Rice is a war criminal. Through fear-mongering, misrepresentation, and flat lies... she provided cover while the Cheney and Bush administration plunged us into a disastrous war of choice."



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Readers respond: *Portland Alliance* survey

We asked our readers to let us know what they wanted to see in future issues of *The Alliance*. We appreciate the feedback we received, and are listening. Responders indicated they appreciated our analysis and the information we provide which is missing in mainstream media. Our local coverage is highly valued. Those who took time to respond wanted us to continue featuring stories on the PDX Police Bureau and expect us to continue holding city, state, and national leaders accountable. Other readers wanted even more war and peace coverage. Most enjoy our focus on community building. And multiple readers want us to remain proactive advocacy for affordable housing, fair labor and employment practices, and effective schools. Some requested more information and analysis on immigration. A variety of requests from individual readers included global warming, homelessness, the GLBT community, and food safety issues. We look forward to following up on these requests.

When we asked about our last two issues, readers appreciated the one-spot color, calling it "fresh and eye catching." A few felt the July layout was somewhat easier for them to track. Both issues were individually praised for specific articles and content not found in the corporate press.

We had new and old readers fill out and return our survey. Some of the constructive criticism we received was a surprise. A number of readers wanted more national and international news. All the responders indicated they take note of and frequent *Alliance* advertisers, and one wrote that he goes out of his way to support those who support *The Alliance*. Our advertisers appreciate his loyalty and we hope this becomes a trend!

Most responders liked or OK'd the vast majority of the features in *The Alliance*. Several indicated, as expected, they had never seen a few of the features that have been absent from the paper for the last few issues. Two responders disliked the poetry pages, although one complaint related more to layout than content. In what was not a surprise for an alternative paper, several people seized the opportunity to include personalized feedback and provide opinions beyond the constraints of the check boxes and comment lines. One reader wants more coverage of disability rights and culture, what he called "the poorest group in the USA and the most oppressed." Several readers want more information on labor issues and concerns.

This will not be the last time we request input from readers, supporters, and critics. One of the most creative methods for feedback is to volunteer, submit articles, send in photos, call us on the phone, or stop by for a visit. This is your paper. Help us provide this forum to speak our minds, and make a difference. by Andrew Wilkins and Buddy Bee

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