



# EUGENE OCCUPIER

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# Capitalism vs. Climate: An Environmental SOS Action Plan

By CATHERINE SISKRON

Naomi Klein is an activist, award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist, and author of several books, including the New York Times' international bestseller, "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism." Since its publication in 2007, "The Shock Doctrine" has been translated into 30 languages with over a million copies sold.

On April 7, 2011, Klein joined the board of directors of 350.org, a global grassroots movement that Bill McKibben started to solve the climate crisis. Her enthusiasm for "the wacky plan to turn a wonky scientific target into a global people's movement," is apparent in the article she wrote on joining the board:

"In the past three years, we have all watched the number "350" morph into a beautiful and urgent SOS, rising up from every corner of the globe, from Iceland to the Maldives, Ethiopia to Alaska. In the process, 350.org helped to decisive-

ly shift the climate conversation from polar bears to people – the people whose island nations, cultures and livelihoods will disappear unless those of us who live in the high emitting countries embrace a different economic path. . . . Our single goal has to be radically cutting our emissions right here, right now – not a decade from now, and not by paying someone else to do it for us."

In order to achieve this goal she calls for building a mass movement that politicians cannot afford to ignore. That means showing

how making the deep emission cuts that science demands is not some doozy punishment that will destroy our economy (as the Koch-funded right is perpetually claiming) but rather our best chance of fixing

an economic system that is failing us on every level. Shifting to renewable energy and re-localizing our economies could create millions of good new jobs, while leaving us with cleaner cities and a healthier food system.

Since its inception, the 350.org movement has focused on rebuilding and strengthening our frayed communities. And, as a participant in some of its actions, I can testify to the joy of working with millions of others around the globe on what may be the most urgent task before us. Klein sees the campaigns of 350.org as a "breakthrough moment in the history of the climate movement, recognition that the struggles for economic justice, real democracy and a livable climate are all profoundly interconnected."

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, arrived at a similar conclusion as he traced climate pollution to "money pollution." It is clear to him that "unless we go after the 'money pollution,' no campaign against real pollution stands a chance." Klein takes McKibben's vision a step further when she asserts that, "The same can be said for any progressive goal, from labor rights to net neutrality."

Neither Naomi Klein nor Bill McKibben are dreamers, just hoping that a better world will materialize by magic, or that market

See Action Plan, p. 7



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE

Activists at last year's Social Justice Real Conference held a march and rally against the fossil fuel industries, coinciding with the 50,000 strong Forward on Climate march in Washington, D.C.

## GMO-Free Oregon

By GERARD BEACH

One of the most important political issues to take center stage this year is the fight for GMO labeling. According to figures compiled by watchdog group Maplight, the 522 ballot recently held in Washington State is the most expensive ballot initiative in Washington's history with a whopping \$30 million raised by both sides. Monsanto, DuPont, and others raised over \$22 million for their efforts. The final results of the 522 vote will be certified by Washington State on Dec. 5.

Since the first commercialization of GMO grain crops in 1996, technology of plant-based genetic manipulation has been received with skepticism by much of the planet. In 1997, only one year after GMO commercial release, the European Union imposed mandatory labeling of GMO foods with a 1% tolerance level, while Japan followed suit in 2001 with a 5% GMO content limit. Today, 64 countries have enacted GMO labeling laws. The EU and other countries have also proclaimed a large number of GMO-Free zones within their boundaries.

Unlike the EU, the United States does not require labeling of foods made with GMO ingredients. No independent studies are required to test the safety of GMO foods before releasing them into the market. The FDA asks only for voluntary industry studies. Corporations that want to sell GMO foods employ their own "scientists"

to "prove" GMO foods are safe, and that is the extent of the public safety net. If the GMO companies say it's okay, then the FDA says it's okay, and GMO foods make it onto the dinner table. An estimated 70% of processed foods on grocery shelves contain genetically engineered ingredients.

Through what many consider to be an abuse of patent laws, the threat of pulling funds for research, and a history of campaigns to destroy the credibility of scientists who speak out against GMO foods, the biotech industry has made it difficult and risky to do studies on GMO foods outside of their corporate labs. Despite this, several studies have shown results that justify applying the precautionary principles of further tests and immediate labeling of all GMO foods on the market.

A French study conducted for the lifetime of

subject rats (rather than the typical 90 days used in industry studies) and published in 2012 found that "Fed GM corn or Roundup, up to 50% of males and 70% of females died prematurely, compared with only 30% and 20% in the control group." Rats in the study began to develop tumors after 120 days; these tumors as well as liver and kidney damage were the causes of increased premature deaths.

Although the French study has been criticized, scientifically literate critics see



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE  
Bret the beekeeper drew people's attention to the plight of bees in the March against Monsanto held here earlier this year.

See GMO, p. 7

Welcome to the new issue of Occupy Eugene's newsletter! We hope you enjoy our articles and find a place to join Occupy Eugene in our efforts to bring about our vision. If you are looking for a way to get involved please visit <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer/>

# Occupy Eugene on the Web

**Web site:** <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/> Provides information about activities and upcoming events.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/375775672475381/> Used by our communications committee to promote actions and other events.

**Twitter:** @occupyeugene

**Occupy Medical blog:** <http://occupymedics.wordpress.com/>

**Occupy Medical on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434111789971743/>

## Where to find Occupy Radio

Occupy Radio is now part of the Occupy the Media Collective and puts out six Occupy and Social Justice shows, six days a week.

**Occupy Media Collective:** <http://occupythemedia.podomatic.com/>

**iTunes:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/occupy-the-medias-podcast/id663019726>

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/OccupyMediaPodcast/app\\_282096688512542](https://www.facebook.com/OccupyMediaPodcast/app_282096688512542)

**Monday:** Mic Check Radio <http://miccheckradio.blogspot.com/>

**Tuesday:** People Rise Up Radio: <http://peopleriseupradio.tumblr.com/>

**Wednesday:** Air Occupy <http://airoccupy.com>

**Thursday:** Talk Nation Radio: <http://davidswanson.org/>

**Friday:** Occupied Territory America <http://prn.fm/shows/political-shows/occupied-territory/>

**Saturday:** Occupy Radio <http://occupyradio.podomatic.com/>

Occupy Radio is live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on KWVA 88.1 FM, or streaming, at kwvaradio.org.

The original Occupy Radio shows, from February 2012 to May 2013, are available on the Occupy Media Podcast:<http://occupymedia.libsyn.com/>.

## Occupy Roundup

BY VICKIE NELSON

### Occupy Roseburg

On Nov. 8, Occupy Roseburg activists went before City Council to urge that the city help them establish a safe and legal winter campground in Roseburg for the hundreds of homeless in the area. Councilors and Mayor Larry Rich, however, were not receptive to OR's proposal. According to the Roseburg News-Review, Council Tom Ryan said, "Having a camp like that is enabling, it's not helping anybody." Longtime homeless advocate Jeri Benedetto reports the council meeting felt more like "an inquisition than a serious consideration of our proposal." On a happier note, earlier this fall, on Oct. 12, Occupy Roseburg celebrated both its 2nd anniversary and the 100th consecutive "Feed the Burg," their weekly community potluck at Eagles Park, where people come to celebrate community and share food.

### Strike Debt's Rolling Jubilee

On Nov. 14, Strike Debt, an offshoot of Occupy Wall Street, announced that its Rolling Jubilee campaign had bought \$15 million worth of mostly medical debt and forgiven it. Lending institutions, such as banks, sell debt for pennies on the dollars to third parties, who often use aggressive and threatening ways to collect it. This is where Rolling Jubilee comes in. The project buys debt, but instead of trying to collect it, forgives it. As they say on their website, "Think of it as a bailout of the 99% by the 99%."

### Occupy Sandy

On Oct 27, a year after Hurricane Sandy, individuals and activists from organizations such as Occupy Sandy, 350.org, Legal Aid, and faith and labor organizations, held a March to Turn the Tide. Despite many millions of dollars in aid, in the most vulnerable coastal communities, many homes still sit condemned and uninhabited, businesses remain shuttered, and displaced people feel frustrated and abandoned. People from all five boroughs of New York City walked, biked, and bussed to City Hall to demand a just rebuilding, including good jobs, affordable housing, community engagement, strong health care and sustainable energy.

### Occupy Madison

OM Build, an offshoot of Occupy Madison, is building tiny houses for homeless people complete with composting toilets and wiring for small appliances, all on a footprint of 98 sq. ft. The houses are on wheels so that they can move easily. The Madison Common Council recently voted to allow nonprofits and religious organizations to host up to three "portable shelters" in their parking lots. Organizers of OM build say their ultimate goal is to create an eco-village of tiny houses, where residents can form a supportive community.

## Important announcement on General Assemblies

There was quorum at the "Big" GA on Friday, Nov. 15 and by consensus it was decided:

1. There will be only one official GA each month, held on the third Friday of the month at Growers Market. A quorum of 15 Occupiers is still required to pass proposals.
2. The space at Growers will continue to be reserved on Fridays at 6 p.m. so that Occupiers can meet weekly for discussion when they desire.
3. An "Emergency GA" can be called for via Occupy Contacts. The subject of the meeting must be in the email. If Quorum (15) is reached, only proposals regarding the previously communicated concern may be passed.

## Occupy Eugene

### Newsletter Staff

*This issue of the Eugene Occupier is brought to you through the collaboration of Catherine Siskron, Christina Bellini, Jack Dresser, Graham Lewis, Jerry Brule, Ralph Bitter, Vickie Nelson, and the many participants and committees of Occupy Eugene.*

**Reader Feedback and Comments:** We welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback, as well as content and financial contributions for our newsletter. E-mail us at [newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org](mailto:newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org)

## Contact Occupy Eugene

541-525-0130

P.O. Box 744, Eugene, OR 97402

[www.occupyeugenemedia.org](http://www.occupyeugenemedia.org)

*We are a nonviolent, non-partisan, social-political movement for accountability and responsibility in government. We stand in solidarity with Occupy Movements around the globe and all people who will no longer sit back and watch corporate and special interests run their Government, and spoil the living Earth. For we, the people, are the government.*

*It is time to turn away from a culture of war and domination, and create a living economy which operates in harmony with our living planet. We must begin by opening our hearts to those the present system would discard and push into the shadows, because we believe that, in our United States, it's we the people who are sovereign- not global corporations.*

*We have come together to create a community that expresses our common needs, to organize, network, and participate in solutions and to remind one another that, as a society, we have unfinished business in our pursuit of social and economic justice.*

*Note: This excerpt has been approved by the OE General Assembly. You can find Occupy Eugene's complete vision statement at <http://occupy-eugene.net/vision>.*

# Violence, Football and War

By JACK DRESSER AND JERRY BRULE

The opulence and cost of the Duck training facilities have made nationwide news, and Oregon's new head coach, Mark Helfrich, will earn \$1.8 million yearly with additional bonuses if the team does well. Duck athletes have a new, exclusive study facility with tutoring more readily available than other students enjoy — a flagrant commitment to elitism. Meanwhile, UO faculty salaries lag behind those at other universities, student tuition continues to rise, and campus buildings are badly in need of maintenance. This situation reflects troubling priorities.

Moving our gaze to a wider angle, the U.S. federal fiscal 2013 budget shows \$728 billion allocated to the Pentagon, security and surveillance agencies based on artificially induced fears, with \$223 billion — almost 70% less — allocated to health and human services, education, housing and transportation to serve the real needs of the people. This also reflects troubling priorities. The trouble is more than financial. In addition to direct combat deaths there have been approximately equal numbers of suicides among U.S. soldiers.

Concurrent with our wars of choice, the NFL has systematically built a massively profitable industry through marketing the spectacle and violence of football using imagery recalling the legends of Roman gladiators and "highlight" films of flying bodies and violent "hits." High-profile and highly salaried players have obliged, providing interview clips such as that from New York Giants All-pro defensive end Michael Strahan in 2007, "It's the most perfect feeling in the world to know you've hit a guy just right, that you've maximized the physical pain he can feel. . . You feel the life just go out of him. You've taken all this man's energy and just dominated him."

Over 4,500 ex-NFL players recently settled a class-action lawsuit against the NFL for \$765 million for the long-term effects of repeated sub-concussive injuries compounded by occasional concussions, a condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Post-mortem examinations of ex-NFL athletes found the unique, telltale indicators of this condition in 46 of 47 brains examined.

The lawsuit charged the NFL with a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and players about the dangers of the game. The league had created a "Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" committee that allegedly pushed false data and concealed scientific research in order to hide the risks of repeated concussions. But research evidence aside, how can sports enthusiasts fail to imagine the potential damage inflicted repeatedly by expertly executed, crushing "tackles" by massive bodies hurtling at high speeds? Off the playing field, these "hits" would constitute aggravated assault and battery.

The U.S. public was similarly misled about costs and risks of invading Iraq, bizarrely minimized by Deputy Director of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and other Bush administration front men. Ironically, brain injuries caused by IEDs are the most common disabilities among Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

You can see the obvious parallel here. The common denominator among these brain

**It's the most perfect feeling in the world to know you've hit a guy just right, that you've maximized the physical pain he can feel.**

injuries is the American appetite for violence and conditioned indifference to its consequences. And one serves to prepare us to accept the other.

Pop Warner football introduces children early to the experience of violence in sport and the expectation of toughness. A 2011 study of seven 7-8 year old players found 753 impacts with 38 impacts of 40g or greater and six greater than 80g, which would risk concussion in a college player. Football critic Malcolm Gladwell reports, "the average lineman endures up to 1,200 subconcussive hits over the course of a season, and the damage appears to be cumulative."

Israeli professor Nurit Peled-Elhanan observes that societies educate their young not in objective facts but to prepare them for future social roles, describing the virulent dehumanization of Palestinians and misrepresentations of both history and geography through which Israeli school books prepare students for future IDF duty. Through other mechanisms our society similarly propagandizes our young to applaud and enjoy domination.

Animated cartoons for a half century desensitized young Americans to violence. Sylvester the cat vs. Spike the bulldog, Bugs Bunny vs. Elmer Fudd, and Wile E. Coyote vs. the Roadrunner all visited non-stop reciprocal violence on each other for six or seven minutes with the victim always restored in the next frame, teaching that violence has no real consequences.

More recently, violent video games have engaged middle schoolers and teenage Americans, teaching graphic violence as an invigorating interactive entertainment. And of course violent TV programs and films have proliferated relentlessly as well. Since the Defense Department has long used animated simulations and video games to train troops to kill dehumanized adversaries — from "gooks" through "hajis" — our military presumably believes these are effective in overcoming the natural human aversion to killing and injuring each other.

The American glamorization of football in mythic guise reflects this same desensitization. Gladwell compared football to dog fighting: "We take young boys, essentially, and we have them repeatedly, over the course of the season, smash each other in the head, with known neurological consequences. And why do they do that? Out of an allegiance to their owners and their coaches and a feeling they're participating in some grand American spectacle."

Pain and injury are concealed, fear and empathy are repressed as standards of machismo, and the triumphant pleasure of domination is dramatized. Conditioned by cultural glamorization of violence, these attitudes easily extend to cheerleading for America's imperial wars, with disastrous consequences for thousands of the world's citizens who remain faceless to our own. What are we training our children to become?

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/daviddisalvo/2013/07/21/is-malcolm-gladwell-right-should-college-football-be-banned/>

## Our Invisible Revolution

By CHRIS HEDGES

Adapted by Jack Dresser from *Information Clearing House*, Oct. 28, 2013

Chris Hedges, an author, journalist, and war correspondent for two decades, sees the neoliberal capitalist system as doomed by its own corruption and inherent injustices.

"As long as most citizens believe in the ideas that justify global capitalism," Hedges writes, "the private and state institutions that serve our corporate masters are unassailable. When these ideas are shattered, the institutions that buttress the ruling class deflate and collapse. The battle of ideas is percolating below the surface. It is a battle the corporate state is steadily losing. An increasing number of Americans are realizing that we have been stripped of political power. They recognize that we have been shorn of our most basic and cherished civil liberties, and live under the gaze of the most intrusive security and surveillance apparatus in human history. Half the country lives in poverty. Many of the rest of us, if the corporate state is not overthrown, will join them. These truths are no longer hidden."

Hedges sees us unprepared for this, "The ideas that are rising to take their place, however, are inchoate. The right has retreated into Christian fascism and a celebration of the gun culture. The left, knocked off balance by decades of fierce state repression in the name of anti-communism, is struggling to rebuild and define itself. Popular revulsion for the ruling elite, however, is nearly universal. It is a question of which ideas will capture the public's imagination."

But ready or not, Hedges predicts its inevitability: "Once the tinder of revolt has piled up, as it has in the United States, an insignificant spark easily ignites popular rebellion. . . No one knows where or when . . . but it is certain now that a popular revolt is coming. The refusal by the corporate state to address even the minimal grievances of the citizenry, along with the abject failure to remedy the mounting state repression, the chronic unemployment and underemployment, the massive debt peonage that is crip-

pling more than half of Americans, and the loss of hope and widespread despair, means that blowback is inevitable."

Hedges quotes Alexander Berkman, "Revolution is evolution at its boiling point," and, like a tea kettle, "it is the fire underneath that makes it boil; how quickly it will come to the boiling point will depend on how strong the fire is."

"Thus," Hedges continues, "the real work of revolutionary ferment and consciousness is unseen by the mainstream society, noticed only after it has largely been completed. Throughout history, those who have sought radical change have always had to first discredit the ideas used to prop up ruling elites and construct alternative ideas for society, ideas often embodied in a utopian revolutionary myth."

And Hedges sees danger involved: "An uprising that is devoid of ideas and vision is never a threat to ruling elites. Social upheaval without clear definition and direction, with-

See Revolution, p. 6

## Danger Lurks in the COMFORT ZONE!

By GRAHAM LEWIS WITH FERGUS MCLEAN

What, a Comfort Zone can be dangerous? Don't we all need a comfort zone of familiarity where we can relax for a while, recharge, find relief from the stress, worry, and conflict around us? Yes, but corporate America wants to permanently keep us in another kind of comfort zone in which we consume our way to happiness. Those fat cats want us distracted and oblivious to the

horrendous consequences of over-consumption.

So what does it take to see outside the latter comfort zone? What happens out there? Discomfort? Maybe, but that would be the initiation to a much better world. Professor Peter Dreier of California's Occidental College sounds the alarm: "We are at a crucial turning point in world history.

If the mass of humanity waits any longer to drastically change our lifestyle, it is likely to be too late; we will have passed the point of no return to a healthy planet. It's that serious."

Activists everywhere seek new ways to coexist in a sustainable, just environment. That takes courage and creativity. Gayle McLaughlin, mayor of Richmond, Calif., noticed and seized an opportunity to right some major wrongs. Forty percent of recent home sales in her working class town were "under water." To head off foreclosures and ensuing blight, the former school teacher hatched a plan to use eminent domain to obtain those homes from the banks, then sell them back to original owners at current market value. "It is not an option to stand on the sidelines," says McLaughlin. "We are going to stand up to Wall Street."

What are similar steps our City Councilors and County Commissioners can take to protect and serve the 99% here in Lane County?

As citizens we each have a choice: to either act as passive "bystanders in the grandstands" — just watch and complain — or to live as active "players on the field" like Richmond's Mayor McLaughlin. Our own Alley Valkyrie and Lauren Regan are leading the way, pressing hard for civil rights

and social justice. Every Sunday afternoon in the Park Blocks, Occupy Medical's team delivers free, high quality health care to all who ask for it. (BTW, OM always needs more help to set up their Mobile Clinic "camp" at 11 a.m., take it down at 4 p.m., and/or assist in between times.)

Imagination and humor can sometimes solve pressing problems. Lauren Kelly writes on the AlterNet that Women in Barbacoas, Colombia, "launched a 'cross legs' movement, forgoing all sexual activity until officials agreed to build a safe, direct road to their town. (In Aristophanes' comedy "Lysistrata," women used this device to end the Peloponnesian War). Whereas hunger strikes and other protests failed to get results, the sex strike worked." <[http://www.alternet.org/story/151940/the\\_22crossed\\_legs\\_movement%3A\\_how\\_a\\_sex\\_strike\\_got\\_things\\_done](http://www.alternet.org/story/151940/the_22crossed_legs_movement%3A_how_a_sex_strike_got_things_done)>

What's more important — that which divides us or unites us? In the local PANDA campaign (People Against the National Defense Authorization Act), our own Shane Oz has found success by meeting with grass-



GRAPHIC BY GRAHAM LEWIS

# Everyone Deserves a Grand Opening

## OVE Hosts a Grand Opening

By VICKIE NELSON

On a sunny Saturday in early October, Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) opened its gate and welcomed the community to a Grand Opening complete with music, food, tours of the village, and the chance to see inside the Conestoga huts and bungalows that the villagers have been busily furnishing and decorating.

Mayor Kitty Piercy, Dan Bryant (president of the OVE board of directors), and Tom Musselwhite (chairman of the Trainsong neighborhood) welcomed people to the opening, and the Raging Grannies, Walker T. Ryan, Cross Current, and Eden entertained. Visitors strolled around the village, talking to residents who seemed eager to show off their tiny new homes filled with pictures, comforters, bookshelves, and other items that help make a hut a home.

Located at 111 Garfield St. in the Trainsong neighborhood, OVE is a pilot program



Prints and a stuffed parrot give this Conestoga hut a unique look.

larger society and more stable living situations. In fact, a handful of residents have already transitioned out.

In addition to the huts and bungalows, the village has a community kitchen with a pantry and a 30-foot insulated yurt that will provide a heated space for village meetings. Plans also call for a bathhouse with a shower, water heater, two toilets, two sinks, and a washer and dryer.

Currently the village, which can hold 30 to 40 people, has about 25 residents. According to Dan Bryant, over 100 people have applied to live there. The villagers and the board of directors screen applicants to determine who will be a good fit for the village.

The residents of this self-managed village have committed to live by some basic rules including no drugs, alcohol, or violence. Those who break the rules are asked to leave. Villagers have also accepted responsibility for working at least 10 hours each week to support and maintain the village by doing shifts in areas such as construction, cooking, gardening, and security. By working, meeting, and making decisions for the village together, the residents are building the skills they will need to transition out — and building a community that can help support them when they have left.

**OVE was built with donations of time, skills, materials, and money. If you would like to donate to OVE, go to <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityVillageEugene> and click on the donate icon at the top of the page.**



A resident of OVE greets visitors at the Grand Opening.



A visitor chats with a couple at their Conestoga hut.

## Displaced Persons, SLEEPS, Whovilles and Potemkin Villages

By CATHERINE SISKRON



Advocates for the unhoused sign up to speak before a City Council meeting..

This article is based on an interview with homeless advocate Sabra Marcroft. I spoke to her about the eviction of 150 campers from the wetlands because she and her partner, Reagan Clarke, helped relocate the most vulnerable of the campers since neither Lane County nor the city of Eugene made any provisions ahead of time for the housing/shelter needs of these displaced persons.

The evictions were massive and coordinated: They began in July with BLM evicting at least 150 homeless campers from their land. Shortly after, the city of Eugene evicted people living in 22 camps, and the Oregon Department of Transportation evicted the occupants of another two camps.

While most of the campers could leave on their own, the least able — the elderly, the physically disabled and the mentally ill — needed help. OE activists Sabra Marcroft, Reagan Clarke, Gordon Sturrock, and other homeless advocates helped, but at times even the helpers were overwhelmed. What to do with the bedrolls, tents and other possessions? Some the campers took with them; other belongings were stored; some were stolen.

Where were the hundreds of displaced people to go? Only a few found friends who would allow them to camp in their backyards. Others with no legal place to be or to sleep dispersed out into the community looking for places under bridges, in alleys, and by the river.

At a meeting with representatives from BLM, the city, and local social service providers working with people evicted from the camps, including Pearl Wolfe (Lane County Social Services), Norman Riddle (White Bird), Jack Tripp (Eugene Mission), and Michael Carrigan (CALC), it was clear not enough help was available for the displaced campers.

And then SLEEPS began to stir.

SLEEPS (Safe Legally Entitled Places to Sleep), which began in the Fall of 2012, had not been active for several months. But with the evictions, several people who identified with the SLEEPS mission stepped forward. James Chastain, an original SLEEPS member, held a protest near the wetlands, demonstrating against the evictions and lack of safe places to sleep. SLEEPS was awake again.

In August, the citing of protesters for trespassing by remaining on the plaza back in the winter after it had been declared closed, was ruled illegal by Municipal Judge Karen Stenard in two separate cases. The SLEEPS protest immediately moved back to the Free Speech Plaza. Many people joined the protest — some committed to the protest, others who simply needed a safe place to sleep.

Problems emerged: The flood of people overwhelmed the plaza; personalities clashed; behavioral issues arose among people looking for a place to sleep but not familiar with protest protocol.

People began to separate themselves from SLEEPS and to move away from the Free Speech Plaza to sites on River Road and the Northwest Expressway and the Lane County Fairgrounds. Campers began calling these sites Whovilles, referring to both the Dr. Seuss book "Horton Hears a Who" and the Hoovervilles of the 1930s, the shantytowns that arose during the Great Depression. Sabra, who suggested Whoville as a term for any camp for the unhoused, likes the book's philosophy: "A person's a person, no matter how small."

In fact, the distinctions between Whovilles and SLEEPS are hard to pinpoint. Some people go back and forth between camps. Certainly, the needs of the residents of Whovilles coincide with the SLEEPS demands on the city. Historically, SLEEPS is more politically oriented and has more support from the community in demanding implementation of human rights for the homeless. Whovilles tend to receive more humanitarian aid, such as donations of supplies.

Some people in both SLEEPS and the Whovilles are involved in Occupy; others are not. Many individual occupiers are providing assistance to campers in the form of food, gear, supplies, and transportation. Other activists have offered training in communication and self-governance skills. However, these trainings are more effective in building more settled communities such as Opportunity Village Eugene.

As winter approached, the city finally took steps to address the needs of its more than 3,000 unsheltered residents. On Sept. 23, City Council passed an ordinance that allows Eugene to establish small homeless camps at sites proposed

by the city manager. At the Oct. 28 meeting, the councilors approved two locations for legal homeless camps of up to 15 people, each on city-owned parcels in the Trainsong neighborhood, one at Roosevelt Boulevard and Garfield Street, the other less than a half-mile away at Chambers Street and the Northwest Expressway.

These camps must be managed by non-profit organizations or volunteer groups. Two nonprofits, Community Supported Shelters (CSS), which makes the Conestoga huts, and Nightingale, Allie Valkyrie's organization, stepped forward to run a camp. In late November, the city signed an agreement with CSS to run the first legal camp at Roosevelt and Garfield.

It's not clear whether or not a second camp will open this winter. Both CSS and Nightingale have said the city's second choice, the Chambers site, is unacceptable because it floods in the rainy season. Valkyrie has proposed the ex-



Ambrose Holtham, Tzedakah Bat Eliyah (holding sign), and Jean Stacy want the city to let Whoville remain at the East Broadway and Hilyard site.

iting Whoville at East Broadway and Hilyard Street as the second site. But the city has rejected this option, not only as a second location, but even as a Plan B, in case of flooding at Chambers. (Too visible no doubt to visiting parents and athlete recruits.)

The number of people displaced by a contracting economy is growing. In the meantime, part of the discussion during the Oct. 28 City Council meeting was how to hide from sight the proposed camps, so as not to offend anyone's sensibilities.

This makes me think of the Potemkin villages. When the Russian Empress Catherine the Great went to inspect

**Continued on next page**

# a Safe Place to Sleep



PHOTO BY KAREN MOORE

SLEEPS and Whoville activists rallied outside before a City Council meeting on Dec. 9.

the outer reaches of her domain accompanied by foreign dignitaries, Potemkin, her councilor and consort, had murals depicting newly built villages put up along the route. I hope we consult the residents of these future Whovilles and see if they choose to have fenced in or open camps. Hiding homelessness from the rest of the population would be an insulting disservice to all.

Please show your support for the displaced and unsheltered in our city. Contact your

city officials. Contact Alley at the Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective to see how you can help. And visit the sites. Talk to the residents. Break down the barriers between the housed and the unhoused. Hundreds of thousands became homeless in the Philippines overnight. Homelessness can happen to anyone at anytime. Lets keep this in mind and act with compassion and understanding.



PHOTO BY KAREN MOORE

SLEEPS activists faced snow at the old federal building in early December.

## Alley Valkyrie Voted EW's Hellraiser of the Year

By VICKIE NELSON



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

Alley shows how she feels when someone violates the rights of the unhoused.

Eugene's Weekly's readers couldn't have made a better choice. Who else has been arrested protecting people's right to free speech and assembly, gotten banned from the Lane County Courthouse, and also been written up as one of EW's Happening People?

The founder of the Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective, Alley works with the people at the SLEEPS and the Whoville sites, and advocates tirelessly for the unhoused.

Once Alley starts working on an issue, she researches it thoroughly, and works tenaciously toward a solution. She has earned the respect of everyone from street kids to cops, and has taught the whole city that it's illegal to destroy the property of the unhoused.

So OE thanks EW's readers for voting for our own Alley Valkyrie. As a friend wrote on her Facebook page, "... there can never be too many badass open-hearted hippie warriors of love."

## Lead, Follow or Get out of the Way: Interview with Tin Man

By CATHERINE SISKRON

Tin Man is 49, slim, sunburned, with striking blue eyes and hair cut close to the scalp. The first time I saw him speaking at a City Council meeting, I guessed he was a vet. The military is there in his bearing, in his strategic thinking, in the discipline he brings to managing the Whoville site. In fact, he is an Air Force vet who served four years at the Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. After that he worked for the Veterans Administration in San Francisco as a recreational therapist. He hurt his arms in the process and had surgery on both arms, then came to Eugene with a promise of a job and continued treatment. The job fell through, and Tin Man himself "fell through the cracks," as he puts it. He has been homeless since February 2012.

I spoke with him at Whoville #9 Revisited, where Tin Man told me that with winter coming, he suspects the city is waiting for "mother nature to take its course." He says, "... the city should realize we are not going away. ... The unintended effect of the city dragging its feet is that these stalling tactics strengthened the resolve and dedication of the residents of Whoville."

As the Whovilles, which grew out of SLEEPS, emerged into an entity in their own right, residents felt the need to begin advocating on their own behalf directly with city officials. "We were the ones that have been out here on the various sites the city is proposing," Tin Man says emphatically. "We are concerned that throughout this entire process neither city officials nor several community members or organiza-

tions have felt the need to actually visit our site and ask people what it is that they need. So it's become the Whoville tradition, if the mayor and the council will not come to us, we will go directly to them."

Tin Man says that council decisions to break up existing camps without offering the unhoused alternative sites, have caused the unhoused to move into downtown, where their presence is upsetting, especially to some merchants. He sees the evictions, as well as the lack of direct communication with representatives of the Whovilles, as a lack of concern and understanding for a segment of the population in genuine need:

And now, after forcing individuals who were out of sight to begin with, the city continues to try to hide the homeless and isolate them by choosing locations that are unsafe and unsanitary, unable to be secured, with lack of sidewalk or disabled access, when they are fully aware that we have three individuals in wheelchairs in the current campsite.," he said.

Tin Man is frustrated with the city's failure to offer new solutions or to reconsider past decisions. "As the leaders of Whoville are entrusted by its residents to make decisions and hard choices that are in the best interest of the fellow protesters, we ask the Mayor and City Council to follow our lead and make the right choice, not the most popular one, not the easiest one, and probably not the one that would give them the most votes in the next election. As leaders they need to make the best choice for the City of Eugene. . . . This entire situation

reminds me of a plaque my First Sergeant had on his desk. It read, 'Lead, follow or get out of the way.' The city officials are neither leading nor following, so that leaves them only one option: get out of the way."

I asked if he had a list of demands, and Tin Man responded immediately with a well thought out list:

1. Negotiate directly with the Whovilles. As some members of the community put their biases against the homeless to rest, so should the city officials, and they should begin recognizing the contributions and value of all citizens of Eugene. The commitment of the unhoused to the city can be seen when people are willing to travel from city lot to city lot in all kinds of weather just to have a safe place to sleep. This protest shows a love for Eugene and a desire to make Eugene a better community for everyone.

2. Negotiate honestly. How can a group of individuals trust the integrity of the process when city officials knowingly offer an unsafe site for only 15 people when at the present Whoville site alone we have over 60 people?

3. Give Whoville proper consideration. The city is allowing other groups to put forth proposals for legal camps — groups, which, unlike Whoville, have not proven their effectiveness.

He is particularly frustrated that Whoville people were not chosen to manage the

legal camp at the Garfield site. "We have shown that we are not only capable of running the sites, but have shown they work. Unfortunately, instead of commanding us, the city disregards our request to run the initial site and asks us to come back 30 days later to prove that our site works."

4. Lead, follow or get out of the way. The site on River Road behind the Dairy Mart is ideal based on its location, seclusion, and access to services. It could accommodate four separate sites. Unfortunately, instead of recognizing the benefits of the site, the city is more concerned about negative commentary from members of the community.

One of Tin Man's biggest concerns is that part of the apparent psychological strategy being waged by the city on Whoville is allowing the camp to become overcrowded, which leads to rising tensions among the residents.

Tin Man echoes sentiments I have often heard our mayor, Kitty Piercy, express when making hard decisions: "Speaking for myself, any recommendations or solutions I have offered take into consideration the impact these decisions may have on all the residents of Eugene. Just because a decision is not easy does not mean that that option does not exist. If the city is unable to come up with a solution or offer alternatives, then please listen to those who have put forth solutions to serious issues and demonstrated the dedication it takes to create change."

# A Day in the Park Blocks with Occupy Medical

By BARBARA SHAW

On a perfect fall afternoon, guitar strumming wafts through the park blocks across from the courthouse in Eugene. People wait in line to sign up to see a doctor, while others gather with friends to laugh and talk. Volunteers are busy, handing out snacks or socks, managing medical files, keeping an eye out for trouble, making folks feel welcome or working directly with clients with health issues.

Thomas (62) is searching through an array of donated clothing, chatting with a volunteer. Disabled by neuropathy, he says he's busy these days working as the designated trash man at one of the homeless protest camps. "I keep the camp clean," he says. "That's very important. I started just picking up cigarette butts. Trash is evidence, if the place looks bad. Now we have a real garbage can. It's working."

Thomas says he really needs dental work but today he came to the medical team because of serious foot problems. Volunteers Jerry and Donna specialize in that. Thomas sits down by Donna, takes off his shoes and lets this RN in the cowboy hat examine him. Donna tells him a good foot soak is a mixture made from Usnea, a lichen that lives on dead branches and hangs down like an "old man's beard" (its common name) together with calendula and birch bark. "It's a powerful anti-fungal and very drying," Donna explains.

The tinctures, salves, herbal capsules and soaks used at Occupy Medical are made by behind-the-scenes volunteers

with years of experience with herbal medicine and natural remedies. Most of the vitamins and over-the-counter remedies are gifts from local businesses. Despite a tiny budget, clients who can't afford necessary prescriptions are not turned away. They can usually get meds at Bi-Mart's very generous pharmacy.

In a wheelchair, Mike comes weekly for relief for ulcers on his legs. Donna, who also does wound care, says, "He has diabetes. It causes major circulation issues and foot problems, especially with the toe nails." Mike's legs appear to be in bad shape. "But they look so much better than three months ago," says Donna. "He went backwards that one week OM was in Cottage Grove."

Irena grew up on a small farm near Puerto Vallarta and has lived in Eugene many years. A while back, she brought her mother for Jerry's help with a painful ingrown toenail. Irena chats today with one of several Spanish-speaking volunteers. This time, she's brought her husband, Javier. Skin eruptions and itchiness are driving him crazy. He works at a dairy near Creswell, has no benefits, and isn't paid enough

to afford regular doctor visits. The translator goes along when Javier meets with Dr. Willy and relays how to use the recommended medicines.

Clark's story clearly exemplifies economic displacement. He supported himself for 15 years selling books on e-Bay, while raising his kids as a stay-at-home father. He talks about the book business with obvious authority. "But when the economy crashed, it all came down. People stopped spending money that way. Then Goodwill got into online book sales and kicked the heart out of my business." He survives now on food stamps, and mostly camps out.

Loretta (44) recently moved here to be near two daughters and their kids. "All the kids seem to grow out of their clothes and shoes so fast." She finds a few donated children's items, then a few more. Loretta gets SSI but has two more months to wait until she is eligible for health care. Today, a painful earache brought her to OM. "I quit drinking and am going to AA," she says. "My goal is 90 meetings in 90 days. That'll make me proud of myself . . . and I might meet a guy!" When her name is called, she's escorted onto the bus to see Dr. Leigh.

Benjamin, a retired hairdresser, is cutting hair at the back of the intake tent. He does eight to twelve cuts each week for both women and men, and often includes a beard trim if requested. He also heads the unofficial mental health support team, is the OM board president AND is in charge of personal safety training for volun-

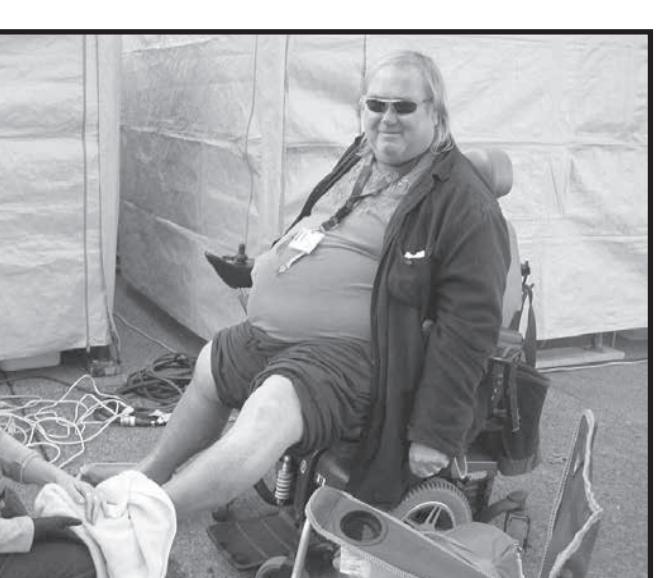


PHOTO BY BARBARA SHAW

Many clients come to the clinic seeking foot care.

teers. He says safety is "generally about de-escalation and knowing when to get help."

Later in the day, the haunting violin sounds of Stone Davis playing Marti, Kreisler and Rachmaninoff reach a receptive audience, some enjoying hot food brought by another group of volunteers. Davis, a software specialist, has been playing thirty years, since age seven. He enjoys playing here and hands out his cards to those interested, offering music instruction and performance.

Volunteer Jen sits down for a breather. She's here because she likes helping people. "I work in a hospital and I think it's unfair that some people can get good care and some can't. I came down here to see what was going on and got hooked." Her first day working in OM hospitality, a man asked for socks but none were left. A half-hour later, someone brought in a box of them and Jen went to find the first man to give him a pair. "He was so appreciative, he danced a little jig and said, 'You guys are wonderful.'" Jen thinks all the clients are fascinating people, even the few who have problems.

"Last week," Jen recalls, "a woman was upset, yelling 'I need a cigarette.' Travis found her one. After the first puff, she got all calm. If that's all it takes, we'll do it."

The folks with Occupy Medical believe strongly in doing all it takes, every Sunday from noon to four. Donations keep coming in. Now they are tax deductible too. Some Sundays, sixty or more people are seen. Some are able to put money in the kitty. Others have empty pockets. All are respected and listened to with sincere attention. No one is turned away. If they need a higher level of care, a way is usually found.

With the group's founder and number one grant-writer, Sue Sierralupe, on the scene each week, unexpected issues and complex problems find solutions. Always generous and simply amazed by all the talent that has showed up to help, Sue credits OM's outwardly simple triumphs and successes to the large group of volunteers, both seen and behind the scenes. Week after week, those generous souls just do whatever it takes.



PHOTO BY BARBARA SHAW

Clients wait outside the OM's bus on a chilly day.

## Revolution, continued from p. 3

out ideas behind it, descends into nihilism, random violence and chaos. It consumes itself . . .

"By the time ruling elites are openly defied, there has already been a nearly total loss of faith in the ideas — in our case free market capitalism and globalization — that sustain the structures of the ruling elites. And once enough people get it, a process that can take years, the slow, quiet, and peaceful social evolution becomes quick, militant, and violent."

"This," predicts Hedges, "is where we are headed." Although he prefers "a system in which our social institutions permit the citizenry to nonviolently dismiss those in authority . . . a system in which institutions are independent and not captive to corporate power . . . we do not live in such a system. Revolt is the only option left. Ruling elites, once the ideas that justify their existence are dead, resort to force. It is their final clutch

at power. If a non-violent popular movement is able to ideologically disarm the bureaucrats, civil servants and police — to get them, in essence, to defect — non-violent revolution is possible. But if the state can organize effective and prolonged violence against dissent, it spawns reactive revolutionary violence, or what the state calls terrorism."

Hedges expresses deep concerns as well as deep resolve, "Violent revolutions are always tragic. I, and many other activists, seek to keep our uprising nonviolent. We seek to spare the country the savagery of domestic violence by both the state and its opponents. There is no guarantee that we will succeed, especially with the corporate state controlling a vast internal security apparatus and militarized police forces. But we must try."

The rats, he says, are abandoning the ship: "Corporations, freed from all laws,

government regulations and internal constraints, are stealing as much as they can, as fast as they can, on the way down. The managers of corporations no longer care about the effects of their pillage. Many expect the systems they are looting to fall apart. They are blinded by personal greed and hubris. They believe their obscene wealth can buy them security and protection. They should have spent a little less time studying management in business school and a little more time studying human nature and human history. They are digging their own graves."

As Hedges describes it, we've reached the wall in our dead-end alley: "Our shift to corporate totalitarianism, like the shift to all forms of totalitarianism, is incremental. This process is now complete. The 'consent of the governed' is a cruel joke. Democratic politicians speak in the familiar 'I-feel-your-pain' language of the liberal class

while allowing corporations to strip us of personal wealth and power. They are effective masks for corporate power."

And movements such as Occupy are targeted by the threatened elite: "The corporate state seeks to maintain the fiction of our personal agency in the political and economic process. As long as we believe we are participants, a lie sustained through massive propaganda campaigns, endless and absurd election cycles and the pageantry of empty political theater, our corporate oligarchs rest easy in their private jets, boardrooms, penthouses and mansions. As the bankruptcy of corporate capitalism and globalization is exposed, the ruling elite are increasingly nervous. This is why voices of dissent — as well as spontaneous uprisings such as the Occupy movement — are ruthlessly crushed by the corporate state.

## COMFORT ZONE, from p. 3

roots right wing groups like Oathkeepers and the Patriot Coalition. Those guys have a ton of passion and an iron will to protect the people's basic rights. Shane and other Occupiers are working with them as allies instead of seeing them as rightwing adversaries. When we work together, we are more likely to accomplish the things we all want.

Dreier does claim that Big Business and Wall Street CEOs are becoming aware of their vulnerable underbelly and are redoubling their campaign to seduce us with a stream of high tech distractions. TV portrays ecstatic lottery

winners to make some believe that they too can get filthy rich and live in disposable comfort. Is that tactic working with you?

We find comfort amid what is familiar, however to really change the world, you and I are being called to willingly step into the unfamiliar. Let's call it the Adventure Zone! Standing together in that space, we can create new possibilities that inspire and invigorate our communities — build exciting, new realities on top of the progress we've already made. Life could and must be a whole lot simpler.

[www.occupyeugenemedia.org](http://www.occupyeugenemedia.org)

Just look where technological "progress" has brought us, and then look away! What do you see now? I see industrious, lively people laughing and building and tilling and nurturing like our friends at Opportunity Village Eugene. The small wooden structures they are building are not very comfortable, but sturdy and warm. These forward-looking people are together to create their next step to a sustainable, productive life. They are helping light the path for us all into the Adventure Zone and beyond: a future we can truly celebrate. So All Ahead Full! That future starts now!

# The 2014 Great March for Climate Action

By JOHN ABBE

I found out about the 2014 Great March for Climate Action from my long-time friend, colleague, and housemate Tom Atlee. He marched in the 1986 Great Peace March, a substantial part of the inspiration for next year's march. I've heard many of Tom's stories about it, and have always found such a journey appealing, both for the potentially profound evolution among the participants — individually and collectively — and for the direct personal effects of walking for so long (eight months). I've visited with friends who were in the middle of similarly long walks and I really want some of the glow and groundedness I saw in each of them.

As for climate change, I remember playing with James Hansen's temperature rise data over 20 years ago when I worked at a math and science education R&D company. It was convincing enough then that I took it seriously. Even if the far clearer data we have today was not available then, the social, economic, and other changes needed to reduce our carbon footprint have other benefits. So even if it turned out that pumping carbon into the atmosphere wasn't a big mistake, I would still want us to pursue most if not all of the same solutions, to address issues such as pollution, land and water degradation, overly-centralized power (social and energy), and alienation from ourselves and from the rest of nature.

I am not much of an issues activist. I'm more of a process activist, aiming to improve how we make decisions and work together. I share this with Tom. He made the shift because of his experience on the 1986 march, which fell apart when the sponsoring organization went bankrupt two weeks after the marchers left Los Angeles. One third of the marchers, about 400 people, refused to give up and made their way across the rest of the country, wrestling with hundreds of challenging issues and finding their way through, over, or around each one. He was blown away by the persistence, creativity, and group processes that made this pos-

sible, and became convinced that the same sort of approaches were perhaps the only way for us to handle the most challenging issues that face us — war, ecological disaster, and other systemic failures of our current way of life.

I share this perspective. If I think about issues, I care about dozens of them, and see that we address all of them far better when we put substantial attention on how we think about them, how we talk about them, and how we work on them with our allies and with those who are not yet part of the solution. Process to me includes everything from personal development, interpersonal communication, and group dynamics/facilitation, and good dynamics at every level up from there — families, neighborhoods, communities, networks, bio-regions, nations, and globally. So if I'm not an issues activist, why go on this march, focused on this single issue of climate change?

Because it is an issue which, if not addressed adequately in the next few years, promises to end our existence or at the least, kill off the vast majority of us and our entire way of life — the bad and the good. Quite simply, we are not even close to taking climate change seriously. If we were, we would undertake some fundamental shifts in how we think of ourselves and our relationship with the rest of the natural world. We would stop tearing down perfectly good buildings to build new ones, we would focus on reduce and reuse far more than on recycle, we would eat far less meat and see more bicycles on the road than cars, we would not be talking about natural gas or clean coal as solutions, and we would not easily dismiss nuclear or geoengineering solutions despite their serious risks. This is an all-hands-on-deck emergency!

The march, which will set out from Los Angeles on March 1, 2014, is a powerful opportunity to wake people up, raise a ruckus, and organize the power necessary to either make the powers that be change course, or simply make the changes ourselves if they won't.

I am proud to be taking the first steps on this journey with you, and look forward to our conversations about all of this and more as we make our way toward the starting line and then across the continent, a traveling alarm clock of love.

<http://climatemarch.org/>

<http://www.tomatleeblog.com/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Peace\\_March\\_for\\_Global\\_Nuclear\\_Disarmament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Peace_March_for_Global_Nuclear_Disarmament)



GRAPHIC BY GADFLYE/OE

## Action Plan, continued from p. 1

forces will somehow manage to solve the very problems that capitalism created. On Nov. 28, 2011, eight months after Klein joined the board of 350.org, her article "Capitalism vs. Climate" appeared in *The Nation*. The article is a bit of a rant, calling on progressives to wake up to the fact that members of the right wing Heritage Foundation have a deeper understanding of what it will take to stop the disastrous consequences of the warming of the planet than many of the environmental organizations that "paint a picture of global warming Armageddon, then assure us that we can avert catastrophe by buying 'green' and creating clever markets in pollution."

She reminds us that the earth's atmosphere simply "cannot safely absorb the amount of carbon we are pumping into it" and sees it as a symptom of a myth central to our current mind set and the basis for our economic model that nature is limitless. She sees the climate crisis challenging this "expansionist, extractive mindset, which has so long governed our relationship to nature."

Klein outlines a six-point plan to shift to a more sane, more people- and climate-friendly economic paradigm, which she summarizes as follows:

Responding to climate change requires that we break every rule in the free-market

playbook and that we do so with great urgency. We will need to rebuild the public sphere, reverse privatizations, relocalize large parts of economies, scale back over-consumption, bring back long-term planning, heavily regulate and tax corporations, maybe even nationalize some of them, cut military spending and recognize our debts to the global South.

She emphasizes that these changes will only take place if "they are accompanied by a massive, broad-based effort to radically reduce the influence that corporations have over the political process. That means, at a minimum, publicly funded elections and stripping corporations of their status as 'people' under the law."

In addition to reigning in corporations, Klein sees the need for a new civilizational paradigm, one grounded not in dominance over nature but in respect for natural cycles of renewal — and acutely sensitive to natural limits, including the limits of human intelligence. She sees OWS and Occupy at large as a nascent movement that has connected the dots between the runaway corporate power and the climate crisis:

"These connections go beyond a shared critique of corporate power. As Occupiers ask themselves what kind of economy should be built to displace the one crashing

all around us, many are finding inspiration in the network of green economic alternatives that has taken root over the past decade — in community-controlled renewable energy projects, in community-supported agriculture and farmers' markets, in economic localization initiatives that have brought main streets back to life, and in the co-op sector."

350.org's Phil Aroneanu put it well, "If Wall Street is occupying President Obama's State Department and the halls of Congress, it's time for the people to occupy Wall Street."

As I was writing this article, Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, and BBC reported that millions of people there have been affected and hundreds of thousands are now homeless. The report brought to mind the 350.org campaign, Connect the Dots, enacted worldwide in March 2012. The intent of the campaign was to counteract the tendency by mass media to treat each climate-driven catastrophe as a separate incident rather than as a disaster in a series of disasters, all stemming from climate change.

Almost two years later, the media and government officials still have trouble connecting the dots. However, this time the disaster was of such immense proportions

that the Philippines chief climate negotiator Naderev Saño spoke up at the concurrent meetings of the 19th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19), clearly linking Typhoon Haiyan to climate change and demanding immediate action:

"... We can take drastic action now to ensure that we prevent a future where super typhoons become a way of life. [...] Typhoons such as Haiyan and its impacts represent a sobering reminder to the international community that we cannot afford to delay climate action." Calling for an emergency climate pathway, Saño went on a hunger strike until "clear progress is made."

In the meantime, 350.org in conjunction with other progressive groups (including Occupy) is training for massive civil disobedience, demanding that our "leaders" wake up and connect the dots!

<http://www.naomiklein.org/articles/2011/04/joining-350-org-next-phase>

<http://www.thenation.com/article/164497/capitalism-vs-climate>

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/11/11-1>

## GMO, continued from p. 1

enough unresolved evidence to trigger a moratorium on GMO use. The evidence is quite alarming, considering that GMO ingredients are included in several major brands of baby foods.

A recent N.Y. poll shows that 97% of Americans say, "Just label it." Hopefully, Oregonians will have an opportunity to require labeling of GMO foods in Oregon by voting for a

2014 initiative. GMO-Free Oregon is working to get the initiative on the ballot. For more information or to volunteer, visit their website, at [GMOFreeOregon.org](http://GMOFreeOregon.org)

<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2012/09/gmo-corn-rat-tumor>

**You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. — Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Interview with Carla Newbre

By CATHERINE SISKRON



PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR

Carla Newbre

Carla moved to Oregon in 1979 to live on an organic farm in the woods 14 miles outside of Drain. She lived and farmed there for four years, then moved to Idaho, returning to Oregon a few years later, and settling in Eugene. Carla says she became involved with Occupy Medical because "these are my 'peeps.' We formed a community at the Occupy encampments." After the last camp at Washington-Jefferson was disbanded neither the community nor the issues went away, and she continued working toward economic and social justice with the people she had met there.

Her activism has deep roots in peace work. Her professional training and skills are in crisis de-escalation and mental health. For the last few years she has been teaching de-escalation in the community, so Occupy was a natural place to bring and share her skills. Many of the Occupy peacekeepers were trained by Carla, and many of those people are now training others involved in the SLEEPS

and Whoville protests.

She also participates in SUGAR, Occupy's conflict resolution working group, and is on the mental health team for Occupy Medical. As a peacekeeper, whether she is at the Park Blocks on Sunday afternoon doing support work for OM or acting as a monitor at a protest march, she focuses on resolving conflict between people and making sure everybody gets their needs met for safety and respect.

She observes that OM is a natural outgrowth locally of the Occupy movement, as economic injustice in Eugene is nowhere more evident than among people who are homeless. Basic needs here often go unmet, and health care is one of those needs. OM is committed to the goal of providing health care to all.

Compared to the experience of other Occupies around the country, the relationship of Eugene Occupy with the police is much more civil than most. We have a number of community activists to thank for their work with the Eugene Police Department (EPD), and

Carla is among those who believe in maintaining open channels of communication with the police department. She served on the inaugural police commission for eight years until she was term-limited out.

When the Police Commission got started in 1999-2000 there were several emergent issues. Community pressure was high to review EPD's handling of protests and demonstrations, especially among the local anarchist and environmental movements. The Commission reviewed existing policies on use of force, pepper spray, and access of alternative press on equal footing with establishment media. New policies were also established, including a policy on protests and demonstrations that emphasized First Amendment protections, which had not existed prior to the establishment of the citizen's commission to oversee the work of the EPD.

Two of the Committees she is most proud of serving on are the Complaint Review Committees that looked at the Intake Process and the Adjudication Process. The recommendations of these committees were accepted by the full Commission, and were forwarded to EPD and City Council with the intent of reforming the complaint process by establishing a dual system of citizen oversight of the Police. These recommendations were accepted by the Chief, the City Manager, the City Council, and ultimately the voters. Thus were created the Independent Auditor and the Civilian Review Board.

The third committee she is very proud to have served on is the Mental Health Committee, which recommended the implementation of a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for officers. These were accepted by the department, which has, several years later, trained their entire department in this area. Carla was one of the many trainers in the community who took part in providing these classes.

Despite her work and training with EPD, Carla has not done formal liaison work between Occupy Eugene and police. Instead she uses her relationships with the police and Eugene's well-known, long-time peace activists Michael Carrigan, Jen Frenzer, Paul Simon, Barbara Date, and many others to help keep the lines of communication open and to address situations as they arise. For the most part, the police trust our peacekeepers and take advantage of the opportunities for dialogue that participants in Occupy Eugene extend to EPD.

## EWEB Chooses Optional Smart Meters and a New Strategy

By JACK DRESSER

At 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) meeting room was packed to capacity. It was the night their board would decide whether to replace analog electricity and water meters with digital "smart meters" that send utility use information by radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation linked into "smart grids." This is part of a worldwide campaign described as "a dangerously dumb idea" (Scientific American, Oct. 5, 2010) that is meeting with increasing customer resistance. Thirty ratepayers that night testified why.

Some explained the health risks of electromagnetic radiation, which the World Health Organization has identified as a possible carcinogen and consequently recommends "the precautionary principle" pending conclusive research evidence. Ignoring this would open a black hole of liability, and EWEB was cautioned against risking unpredictable legal costs. Class action lawsuits already filed against Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and their smart meter manufacturers are charging "fraud and deceit," "negligence," and "products liability."

Others testified about smart grid vulnerability to hacking, disruption and complete takedown, government surveillance and privacy intrusions violating 4th Amendment protections, and price increases reported in other communities following smart meter installation.

Three options were formally under consideration: no change, opt-in, and opt-out. Most of those present appealed for no change — the "zero" option — holding up "0" signs. But the event had been carefully staged. Out came EWEB General Manager Roger Gray (a former vice president of PG&E). Each board member dutifully questioned him about a few citizen concerns, to which he provided

well rehearsed responses providing the commissioners cover to vote for the predetermined outcome. Only one resolution had been prepared, distributed to the commissioners a week earlier in a memorandum. It was an "opt-in" system, which received a quick, pro-forma, unanimous approval. With the opt-in plan, EWEB customers who want a smart meter must contact EWEB to get one installed.

This is not the option EWEB had originally intended, chosen apparently to provide protection from liability. One board member asked the manager, "With opt-in, they can't sue us, right?" But his assurance will prove illusory if they continue to withhold full disclosure of risks to prospective customers.

The well-informed, vigorous opposition by a small cadre of persistent citizens probably forced EWEB's compromise Opt-in choice, the first U.S. utility company to do so. For the past year critics of smart meters have provided EWEB with documentation of health and cybersecurity threats, cost increases reported elsewhere, audits of utilities by state attorneys general, lawsuits filed against utilities that have installed smart meters, other communities that are rejecting smart meters, and DVD copies of the film, "Take Back Your Power," which is viewable online and presents a persuasive and rather alarming case against smart meters.

Many questions remain. Who will choose these? Liability concerns should induce large customers (schools, workplaces, businesses, apartments, and condo associations) to decline smart meters, leaving how many willing takers? To counter doubts, EWEB will predictably respond with another disinformation campaign and generous incentive offers.

The groundwork for this was quickly laid. On Oct.

27 Mr. Gray published a Register-Guard guest opinion announcing resumption of a seductive "energy conservation assistance" program, including reduction of "peak demand" as a "cornerstone strategy." This, although unproven elsewhere, is the rationale for smart meters. "Such programs have a higher value to our energy future, and . . . will carry a higher incentive relative to other programs," he continued. Finally comes the predictable punch line: "Following pilot programs . . . to test time-of-use pricing. . . customers are likely to see an even broader array of options and improved services if they 'opt-in' to a smart meter that's connected to advanced metering infrastructure."

Until Oct. 1, EWEB had ignored all our citizen-provided data, which Gray declared were "not a factor at all" in their decision. This arrogant dismissal of contributions by owner-ratepayers led to questions by several speakers about EWEB's integrity and neglect of fiduciary responsibility to the public it serves. Why has EWEB stubbornly persisted in promoting smart meters despite overwhelming empirical evidence against them? Why did EWEB not provide objective data to community members? We owner-ratepayers were forced to perform the necessary research review ourselves. And why now, under the banner of a broad "conservation" program, is EWEB signaling a future campaign for smart meters as its highly incentivized centerpiece? There is a hidden agenda here that needs to be investigated.

But perhaps an awakened public can keep smart meters with their "electromagnetic smog" out of our community altogether. We must remind EWEB to whom they are accountable. Prepare yourself by visiting our website, [www.familiesforsafemeters.org](http://www.familiesforsafemeters.org), and give the board members your thoughts at [www.eweb.org/commissioners](http://www.eweb.org/commissioners).

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