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The March against Monsanto

BY JERRY BRULE

On May 25, Eugene joined hundreds of cities world-wide in protesting Monsanto, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). An exuberant rally of between fifteen hundred and two thousand people took place at the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza. The Raging Granies warmed up the crowd with inspirational songs and were followed by several speakers. Melissa Wischerath, a managing attorney and cofounder of the Sustainable Law Center, told the crowd about Oregon Senate Bill 633, which

dressed in black with yellow stripes to represent bees. Others wore beekeeping outfits. Phillip Jones from Oregon Sustainable Beekeepers spoke to the crowd about the decline in the number of bees due to pesticides. He said that many European nations have banned a class of pesticide called neonicotinoids, which are suspected of causing colony collapse. Jones said that, here in the United States, lawmakers were not only unwilling to ban the use of these pesticides, they also approved the use of an additional insecticide. Due to lack of bees, the almond crop may not be pollinated this year.

After the rally, the long line of marchers, accompanied by the music of Samba Ja, traveled on sidewalks and through traffic lights with the aid of the Eugene Police. They crossed the Ferry Street Bridge both ways and ended up at the Campbell Center where there was additional entertainment and several other speakers. As Fergus Mclean said, "The gathering at the Campbell Center was nearly idyllic. So many bright, happy young people listening to the truth, being strong together!" It was a great march on a perfect day.

Follow Up: A week after the march, news of GMO wheat in the state hit the papers. The discovery of GMO wheat in Eastern Oregon resulted in Japan temporarily suspending purchases of any Western wheat. Genetically altered wheat is illegal in the U.S., and the rest of

Protesters display a sea of signs expressing their anger at Monsanto and GMOs.

PHOTO BY ROB AND TRACY SYDOR



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE

the world, so how did it get into Eastern Oregon? Monsanto



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE

was drawn up by ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) and has been introduced in 19 other states to benefit corporate interests like Monsanto at the expense of local control of what we grow and eat. It is called the Oregon Monsanto Protection bill because it prevents county and local governments from passing any laws that affect seeds or the products of seeds, and it prevents localities and counties from regulating GMO seeds and products. If passed, this bill would take away the power of the people to determine what is best for local farmers, the water, the soil, their own health, and that of other creatures.

As a theme, many of the participants in the crowd



was allowed to test GMOs in Oregon and 15 other states from 1998 to 2001. Although we were told the test plots were isolated and destroyed, some wheat must have escaped and contaminated other areas. This contamination illustrates the danger of GMOs to all farmers who want to provide organic produce and also to the health of us all.

The Danger to Bees

BY SCOTTY PEREY AND JENNIFER FRENZER

The May 25 March Against Monsanto, locally and across the globe, was a fantastic success on behalf of both our food supply and the pollinators that make it possible. We hope we can use this significant momentum to address a specific threat to bees in the community that is being manufactured by Monsanto and Bayer alike.

"Neonicotinoids" may be harder to say than "GMOs" — just think "neo-nicotine-oids" — but the danger posed by them has been even more conclusively and empirically determined. These chemicals are increasingly singled out as perhaps the most significant factor in the staggering collapse of bee colonies worldwide.

For one example, the success of beekeepers in Northern Italy in prohibiting maize seeds treated with neonicotinoids in 2008 resulted in an almost complete rebound by their hives the following season. The results were practically undeniable, and, accordingly, Europe countries have increasingly banned the use of this pesticide.

Locally, however, even trusted garden shops are generally unaware of the very existence of the neonicotinoid insecticides they sell, not only as a standalone treatment, but as a component included in potting soil that many of these stores offer. A growing number of concerned citizens as well as many groups such as "Beyond Toxics" and "Healthy Bees, Healthy Gardens" are actively campaigning to educate the public and businesses alike about this urgency, as well as petitioning stores in a leadership role such as Jerry's and Bi-Mart to discontinue selling any products containing neonicotinoids.

Please visit oregonsustainablebeekeepers.org to learn more about this issue and to sign the petition to stores asking them to take these products off their shelves.

http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/pdf/buzz_retailer_spring_06_web.pdf

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0039114>



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE

Bret the beekeeper explains the dangers of neonicotinoids to bees during the March Against Monsanto.

Occupy Eugene Launches Sustaining Donor Drive

Occupy Eugene's overhead is minimal. With no paid staff, its expenses consist of office rent, supplies for actions, and the printing of the Eugene Occupier five times a year. These costs total \$5000 a year. While we were at Washington Jefferson, donations came in steadily. However, these days, donations are few and far between, and, all too often, organizers and activists spend much of their volunteer time raising funds, time that would be better spent doing the work of Occupy.

If 40 people were to donate \$120 a year, just \$10 a month, Occupy Eugene's costs would be covered, freeing up people to do the work that brought them to Occupy in

the first place. Becoming a sustaining donor is easy and there are several ways you can do so. You can make a direct deposit to Occupy Eugene's account at Oregon Community Credit Union or mail a donation to P.O. Box 744, Eugene, OR 97440. Another option is to visit our website, occupy-eugenemedia.org, and click on the link on the left below "Donate to Occupy." There you can set up a recurring donation by downloading the form on the page to arrange for automated monthly debit from your bank account. The form can be mailed to the post office box or returned at the third Friday general assembly at Growers Market, 454 Willamette. Or donate using the WePay button on the page,

though please understand that 3 percent of your donations goes to WePay.

Donations below the sustaining donor amount of \$120 are gladly accepted, as are amounts over. You may donate anonymously if you prefer. If you are unable to donate financially, the donation of your time is greatly valued. Join our mailing list, on our website's left column, to receive Occupy Eugene Announcements which notifies subscribers, once a week, of various actions and events of Occupy Eugene and its allies.

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 Duck and Cover

BY SUSAN CUNDIFF

I grew up at a time when “duck and cover” was a drill routine that we did in school to prepare for nuclear war. Bomb shelters were advertised in local newspapers. All this was part of an absurd belief that the world might be habitable after Russia and the U.S. hurled nuclear bombs at each other.

I assumed that we would all be destroyed before I reached adulthood. For me, the threat of nuclear annihilation has always been an extremely personal and emotional issue.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons I have decided to participate in the Interfaith Peace Walk for a Nuclear Free Future from July 26 to August 11. I’ll be drumming and chanting with a pair of Buddhist monks as we walk about 210 miles through various Northwest cities.

It’s a labor of love for something I truly believe in: a future free from the severe damage to our health and environment caused by exposure to nuclear radiation and the threat of annihilation overall.

I have been involved with Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND) since 2001. WAND has its origins in the nuclear disarmament movement. In fact, that used to be our name, Women’s Action for Nuclear Disarmament

Even though I’ve lived in Oregon since 1973, until my involvement with WAND, I knew little about Hanford Nuclear Site, located on the banks of the Columbia. There are many Oregonians who are totally unaware of Hanford or its status as the most contaminated site in this half of the globe.

As a member of WAND, I have learned far more about our nuclear arsenal and industry, its enormous cost and the lethal legacy of production. Hanford brings geographic immediacy to this knowledge. Recent news articles indicate the increasing dangers of leaking tanks,

nitrogen build-up and the stalled and over-budget effort to build a vitrification plant as the long touted solution to this toxic dump.

In addition to knowledge gained through WAND, there are two connections that have tugged on my heart in that same personal and emotional way. I have become friends with Pat Hoover, a Hanford downwinder, and learned of the life threatening impact of the food she ate, the air she breathed and the river she swam in as a child living in the shadow of Hanford.

It was just a little over a year ago that I learned my nephew in Seattle was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia, a disease associated with nuclear radiation from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The total absurdity of those duck and cover drills is clear some 60 years later. Let’s commit to more meaningful ways to respond to this nuclear legacy.

As I walk this summer, I will blog about my experience. Each day I plan to highlight a particular organization or individual and the work they do striving for peace and a nuclear free world.

You can follow me on this journey and help me get the word out to as many others as possible. Bookmark the Oregon WAND blog, check it every day, and leave comments. Share it with your friends.

You can also attend the local Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration held at Alton Baker Park each year on August 6. This is a lovely cultural event planned with Japanese American Association, CALC, Justice Not War, and WAND. It ends with the floating of lanterns on the pond.

Why Is EWEB Pushing “Smart Meters” on Us?

BY JACK DRESSER, PH.D. FOR WWW.FAMILIESFORSAFEMETERS.ORG

Appealing to a technology-infatuated public despite evidence of multiple risks, EWEB is joining a nationwide stampede to replace analog electricity, water and gas meters with wireless digital “smart meters” that transmit utility use data via radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation linked into “smart grids.” An article in the October 5, 2010 Scientific American described the Smart Grid as “a dangerously dumb idea.”¹ EWEB must heed this as have other jurisdictions.

Health risks of electromagnetic radiation: Animal nervous systems operate through electrical signals controlling every living function and are vulnerable to RF electromagnetic fields. Research findings raise alarms. In 2004, in-vitro studies from 12 collaborating European laboratories found “compelling evidence” of DNA damage from RF exposure. Some 600 studies have shown negative effects of RF cell phone tower emissions on birds, bees, other wildlife, plants and humans. In 2011, scientists from 14 countries representing the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer classified RF radiation as a possible carcinogen. The WHO recommends “the precautionary principle” pending greater certainty.

Potential liability: Like cell phone towers, smart meters expose citizens involuntarily to RF radiation. Wikipedia’s entry on “Mobile phone radiation and health” includes 103 citations, representing abundant expert testimony for future lawsuits. Will smart meters be the next personal injury gold mine with cell phones establishing legal precedent for RF radiation damage?

Austria’s Workers Compensation Board affirmed that

cell phone exposure causes broken DNA, increasing cancer risk and potential personal injury claims. In France, the Versailles Court of Appeals ruled RF exposure risk estimates to be “serious and reasonable.” Four Israeli plaintiffs have filed a 3.68 billion NIS class action lawsuit against cell phone companies. An Italian executive won a “major award” for a glioma brain tumor from cell phone exposure. A U.S. law firm is inviting lawsuits by glioma patients.

Cancers are a long-term risk. Insurance companies fear “billions in insurance costs” in the 2020-2030 decade, with 60 percent of insurance companies no longer willing to insure cell phone companies.

But smart meters pose near-term risks as well. Unlike analog meters, these electrical devices are vulnerable to power surges and have sometimes burst afire. One Houston law firm already specializes in smart meter related fires. And two large class action lawsuits have recently been filed in Northern and Southern California against Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and several manufacturers alleging negligence, fraud and deception, and products liability for harms caused by smart meters. Compounding all other problems, the liability risk to EWEB ratepayers is unacceptable.

Privacy and Cybersecurity: Connecting meters and grids to the Internet will make hacking possible from many thousands of access points, facilitating theft of private information and possible takedown of entire grids. In a survey of 544 IT security professionals, 77 percent distrusted “smart grid cyber security.” Pike Research reported, “The attackers clearly have the upper hand. Many attacks simply cannot

be defended.” Hacking expert David Chalk said that all technologies are penetrable and predicted “a 100 percent certainty of total catastrophic failure of the entire power infrastructure within 3 years.” Former CIA director David Petraeus told a meeting that governments will use wireless “smart” technology to spy on citizens. In 2012, the FBI reported that hacks cost a single U.S. utility hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Who will suffer? Who will pay? Let’s remind EWEB who they work for. A medical panel has completed review of data on “Biological and Health Effects of Microwave Radio Frequency Transmissions,” and Dr. Paul Dart, the lead author, will report their findings to EWEB on July 23 at 5:30. Concerned public are encouraged to attend. Check their website for location.

EWEB will decide this fall whether to sign a \$26 million contract with a company that installed smart meters that have caused fires. Give the commissioners your thoughts at <http://www.eweb.org/commissioners>.

<http://smartmeterharm.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/1-smart-meter-problems-dec-2012-final.pdf>

<http://www.citizensforaradiationfreecommunity.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyvIHU0niDg>

<http://www.wnd.com/2012/12/smart-meters-turn-incident-diary/>

<http://krebsonsecurity.com/2012/04/fbi-smart-meter-hacks-likely-to-spread/>

Community Rights Group Plans to Submit Local Food Initiative

BY FERGUS MCLEAN

Community Rights Lane County will submit an ordinance called The Local Food System Ordinance of Lane County to Lane County Elections in early July. The ordinance grew out of the Democracy Schools co-sponsored by Occupy Eugene at the University of Oregon last fall.

This ordinance, drafted with the assistance of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, would prohibit GMO crops in Lane County and make saving seed legal for everyone. It aims to protect the right to grow local food, the rights of natural ecosystems to exist, persist, maintain themselves, and evolve, as well as the right of local communities to self-government, including regulation of corporations. This is an ambitious project, and CELDF has pledged to provide legal support to the campaign and to the county as necessary to carry it forward.

In a couple months we will need everyone's help to collect 12,000 signatures. We will have six months or less to accomplish that task. Visit <http://communityrightslanecounty.org/> for more info.

Occupy Eugene Fundraiser at Tsunami

BY CHRISTINA BELLINI AND CATHERINE SISKRON

On May 19 the Occupy Eugene Newsletter Working Group and the Library Committee held a successful fundraiser at Tsunami Books. We raised over \$1200 dollars, which was evenly divided between the newsletter and the OE general fund.

We would like to thank everyone who made this event possible: Scott Landfield for hosting; Robert Long Hill, Kirk Toncray, Plaedo, Scotty Perey, Eden, Zera and Art Bollman for performing; and Jen Frenzer for emceeing. And we are most grateful to the many donors who made this event a success.

Come to a General Assembly

Occupy Eugene holds a General Assembly (GA) every Friday at 6 p.m. upstairs in the Growers Market, 454 Willamette. The 3rd GA of each month attracts the most members. The GAs are open to all. Please come to a GA and find out what we are up to.

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

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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://occupyeugene.net/vision>.

Occupy Benefit

Learn more about our economic history and the promise of public banking at Occupy's benefit showing of “Jekyll Island,” the sequel to “The Secret of Oz,” on Monday, July 22 at 6:30, at Cozmic Pizza.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Solidifies Global Corporate Control

BY FERGUS MCLEAN

Have you heard about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations that may be finalized this summer? Are you aware that President Obama is currently pushing hard for a secret agreement with Pacific Rim countries that would deliver control and oversight of every aspect of United States government — national, state, and local — to secret panels of corporate lawyers accountable to nobody? Does that alarm you and make you want to know more? Did you know that Monsanto's chief lobbyist is the U.S. chief negotiator for agricultural policy? That the negotiations, which have been going on for three years now, are so secret that no member of Congress knows what the administration is up to?

It's all true. Our "Audacity of Hope" president is pushing hard to be given fast track, or Trade Promotion Authority, which would mean Congress has absolutely nothing to say about the agreements being negotiated on our behalf by 600 corporate executives. Furthermore, Congress could be asked to approve this Trade Promotion Authority this summer.

Does this sound like a plot for the next end-of-the-world blockbuster? Well, multinational corporate arch-villains are plotting, but it is not fiction. It may mean the end of Internet freedom, giving pharmaceutical companies an iron lock on drug prices, the end of single payer health care coverage, and rolling back the paltry "financial regulation" of the anemic Dodd-Frank reforms (open season for the too-big-to-fail banks). And even worse, under the TPP, each member government would be required to set up a "coherence" department which would modify or reject any national, state, or local law that the secret corporate "courts" might decide infringe on a corporation's profits. On top of that, governments would be required to pay damages to make up for theoretical lost profits. Furthermore, trial of the claim would be held in secret, ruled on by corporate lawyers not required to reveal or justify their ruling to anyone — corporate lawyers who might well be employees of the corporation doing the suing.

No doubt, much worse is lurking in this awful nightmare that Obama and his corporate cohorts are plotting. Trouble is that nobody on the outside, including our representatives in Congress, knows what it might be. The only information available on the TPP is that which insiders have chosen to leak. This is total domination over everybody else by the super elite richest global masters of the universe. Make no mistake: let go of any fantasy that Obama intends to deliver us from corporate subjugation. This is happening right now. We need to stop it now. We can start by stopping the Trade Promotion Authority from passing both houses of Congress. Let's all ask Ron Wyden why he hasn't spoken out against Trade Promotion Authority.

We came together and stopped the 1999 Seattle round of the WTO. We stopped the 2003 Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations, which would have extended NAFTA to South America. If we act immediately, we can stop the TPP. Once we've derailed the corporate engine for the third time, we might see real light at the end of the tunnel.

If you want information on where Trade Promotion Authority legislation is in Congress, check out www.itsoureconomy.us. This site is managed by the trade and finance people in Jill Stein's "Green Shadow Cabinet." We put around 2000 people in the streets to march against Monsanto on May 25. Can we afford to do any less to stop Obama and Congress from giving Monsanto a free hand to force GMOs — and worse — on an unsuspecting, unwilling world? Absolutely not. Activate!

Rep. DeFazio and Sen. Merkley oppose TPP. Let's call, thank and encourage them. Sen. Wyden remains undecided, we are told. He needs to hear from us. You can sign an online petition against TPP at http://act.rootsaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8036.

Working Together to Provide Shelter

BY GUY MAYNARD AND MARY BROADHURST

You've likely heard of the Conestoga Huts and Opportunity Village. Sometime this summer, OVE will open at a city-owned site on N. Garfield St. On Opening Day, eight new huts will be built. For this feat OVE needs volunteers, both "build leaders" and "hut builders." Interested people can email Community Supported Shelter at c.s.s.eugene@gmail.com to get on the volunteer email list to receive emails with information about OVE Opening Day, as well as other opportunities to build huts throughout the community.

How have people gotten involved in this wonderful project building shelter for the unhoused? Here's one volunteer's story. Henry Schmal, 72, makes the windows for Community Supported Shelters' Conestoga Huts in a small woodshop behind his house in West Eugene. The window frames are made from rough fence boards, but Schmal uses his lifetime of woodworking experience to make beautifully finished pieces. He and his wife Marcia Brett install the windows into the huts' end walls at CSS's Tine Hive workshop. This is what Schmal had to say about his work with CSS:

When Occupy Eugene got started, it reminded me of days when I was always involved with good people doing good things. I really admired the work that Sue Sierralupe and her team were doing with the medical bus and hair stylist Benjamin Hunt and all the Oc-

cupy people who volunteered at the Egan Warming centers. All these people made me think, "Man, I've got to find something to do." Then people started talking about Opportunity Village and that's when I first heard about the Conestoga Huts. At one point Erik [de Buhr, CSS program director] brought one of the huts to the Park Blocks and I went to look at it. I got a really good hit off of Erik and I loved his enthusiasm about the huts. I was impressed, too, that they were affiliated with St. Vincent De Paul, which does so many great things in our community. I wanted to do something with the skills I have. I've got a small shop, so I can do small things. So when I looked the hut over, I thought, "Oh, that back window could be just my gig" — and it has been.

From when I was a little kid, my dad had a wood shop, so I've always been involved with wood shops. When I was in the Peace Corps in Gabon, I helped build schools. In the '70s, I worked with Hoedads tree planning cooperative and after that helped start a woodworking and building cooperative called Boardfoot that was a great group of people to work with and a big influence on my life.

Erik and the people working on these huts are what the Dalai Lama meant when, in his talk in Eugene, he talked about younger people who will make good things happen in the 21st century. We're

the folks — like the Dalai Lama — getting ready to say bye-bye. But it's great to give these young folks a helping hand while we're still around.

The huts serve an important community purpose because they make it possible for people who might otherwise be homeless to experience how wonderful it is to have your own place. You can go to the Mission or other shelters but that's very different from going to your own place. I know how important it is if you are trying to go back to school or get a job to have a place to lock up your stuff, and to just be able to shut a door and be in your own home.

The quick answer to why I'm involved is that it makes me happy. I don't feel good unless I'm doing something to help somehow. I love making those windows.

So, how can you get involved? On July 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Community Supported Shelters will hold a sale to raise funds so that they can continue building huts. They are receiving donated goods until the July 19 at the shop space at 1160 Grant St., Eugene, where the sale will take place. Come on by, or contact them at c.s.s.eugene@gmail.com, and add some happiness to your life.

Opportunity Village Eugene

BY JANEL ETHERICKSON

Opportunity Village Eugene will be a new transitional micro-housing project for and by the homeless. OVE has submitted a conditional use permit for the city-owned site at 111 N. Garfield Street and expects to open the village in August.

The Vetting Committee has extended invitations to 14 people (two couples, 10 singles; nine men, five women) to join a core group of OVE residents. They will be getting to know each other, reviewing and helping revise policies, and attending training sessions. The Vetting Committee will continue to accept applications, but the screening process will be performed by the Village Council (to be established).

The most pressing volunteer need is for sourcing reused or donated materials and developing relationships with local businesses and organizations that have these materials. For more information about volunteering or making a donation, go to www.opportunityvillageeugene.org.



Volunteers help construct Conestoga Huts at local churches.

PHOTOS BY KRISTIN FAY CARTER

Tar Sands and Indigenous People — Idle No More

BY JERRY BRULE

The decision to build the Keystone XL pipeline might seem simple. It seems better to get our oil from Canada than to buy it from the Middle East, because the oil from the Middle East is tied to war and terrorism; however, the pipeline and the Tar Sands oil will transport carry enormous environmental costs, even higher than coal, currently held as the “dirtiest fossil fuel.”

The XL pipeline will bring oil from the Tar Sands in Alberta down to the Gulf of Mexico so almost all of it can be sold on the world market. The Tar Sands project will strip mine an area the size of Florida, eliminating Canada’s pristine boreal forests. Each barrel of oil produced requires two tons of oil shale and about 2,000 gallons of water. The amount of natural gas used to “cook” the oil out of the sand in one day could heat 3 million homes. The toxic tailing ponds left over are the largest structures made by man and can be seen from space.

The oil produced creates three times the greenhouse gases as conventional oil. It is thick and gooey and needs toxic additives to get it to flow through pipes, and, if it spills in water, it is almost impossible to clean up because it sinks to the bottom. Because it is thick and abrasive, twice as much pressure is needed to pump it, and it gets hot, which means more pipeline ruptures than normal. The pipeline company claims there will be only about seven spills during the 50 year life of the pipeline, but 35 spills occurred during the first year. One pipeline spilled 877,000 gallons of Tar Sands oil into the Kalamazoo river in 2010 to become one of the most expensive on-shore oil spills in history, and much of that oil is still on the river bottom three years later, because no one knows how to clean it up.

The members of the Athabasca Tribal Council, the Dene and Cree First Nations, and Métis live along the Athabasca River water basin area where the Tar Sand deposits are being strip mined. They own the land through which numerous pipelines are planned. They believe this land was protected by Aboriginal Treaty 8 and 11. The conservative government in Canada passed the Bills C-38 and C-45, which dramatically changes over 100 Federal Acts and Laws. These changes will affect the safety of the water, the fish, and the land, and they undermine treaty and Aboriginal rights. Out of 32,000 large lakes across Canada, only 97 lakes are now protected. And, out of 2.5 million rivers in Canada, only 62 rivers are protected under federal law.

An alliance of 10 native bands who are affected by the Tar Sands and the pipelines have come together to form a movement called Idle No More, which is working for justice, peace, freedom and recognition of the sacredness of Mother Earth.

The Idle No More movement, which has many allies in Canada and the United States, is a sign of the changing times — that indigenous people will no longer be silent while the land and Mother Earth is pillaged and sold off for profit.

http://www.dirtyoilsands.org/files/IEN_CITSC_Tar_Sands_Info_Sheet.pdf

Video: <http://vimeo.com/6455984>



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE

Idle No More members protest the Keystone XL pipeline.

Spread of Neonicotinoids and Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

BY BRET DIMOND

It is difficult to watch the news these days without hearing about the plight of the honeybees and other pollinators. Since 2005, beekeepers in the U.S. and Europe have reported mysterious and staggering losses to their apiaries. While it’s normal to lose 10 to 15 percent of their hives during the winter, lately many U.S. beekeepers are reporting losses ranging from 35 to 90 percent. This is a serious problem not just for the bees and their keepers, but for the rest of us as well. Approximately one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees, and some crops, like the \$3 billion a year U.S. almond harvest, are entirely dependent upon pollination by honeybees.

Scientists are working hard to understand what is happening to the bees, but so far no single culprit has been identified. While historically there have been several viruses and pests that have harmed honeybees, the severity of the losses being experienced now are unprecedented. Colonies aren’t just dying; they are literally disappearing. Aply named Colony Collapse Disorder, a tell-tale sign of this syndrome is when a beekeeper visits a healthy, thriving hive, only to return a short while later and find the hive virtually deserted with only the queen and a handful of workers remaining. No piles of dead bees — just no bees, period.

One of the leading U.S. bee research centers, Beeologics, has suggested that perhaps one of the main contributors

to CCD is the use of a type of systemic pesticide called “neonicotinoids” or neonics. Researchers noticed a correlation between the time period that neonics were approved and widely adopted for agricultural use and the time period that CCD first appeared.

Neonicotinoids are nicotine-based insecticides. Most of today’s GMO crops like corn and soybeans utilize systemic neonics, meaning that the plant seeds are coated with neonics like imidacloprid and clothianidin before planting, which then grow inside and throughout the plant as it matures. As target insects come into contact with or eat the plant, they are killed. The problem with neonics is that oftentimes non-target pollinator species, such as bees and birds, come into contact with the neonic plants and are harmed by them. Neonics are powerful killers. Just one kernel of neonic-coated corn seed contains enough poison to kill 100,000 bees. In a case this past spring, a beekeeper in Minnesota lost nearly his entire apiary when a neighboring farm was planting neonic-coated GMO corn and the wind carried the “planter dust” from the farmer’s fields over to the apiary, killing over 1,300 hives within 48 hours. Because neonics are neuroactive, researchers theorize that bees that come into contact with neonics become so disoriented and confused that they are literally unable to find their way back to their hive. On their own and without the support of their colony, honeybees will usually die within

6-8 hours.

As a result of the serious questions being raised about the safety of neonics and their effect upon pollinators, the European Union recently voted to implement a two year ban on neonics until more research can be conducted. Globally, neonics account for over \$2 billion a year in sales, and, barring further regulatory action, those numbers are expected to rise. Companies who sell neonics, like Bayer, Monsanto, and Syngenta, are not going to give up this lucrative product line without a fight. They lobbied fiercely to stop the ban in the EU and continue to work hard in the U.S. to stop similar efforts. Indeed, not long after research firm Beeologics issued the report that first linked CCD to neonics, Monsanto decided to buy the company. They claim that they want to further bee research, but one has to question how objective their research is going to be now that Monsanto owns them. Monsanto also recently partnered with Bayer and announced a new effort to study varroa mites, a small parasite that feeds on bees and has caused widespread problems for beekeepers. While more bee research is welcomed, one could get the idea that the manufacturers of neonicotinoids would much rather lay the blame for the decline of the honeybees somewhere other than the \$2 billion dollar a year neonics industry that they profit so handsomely from.

Eugene Joins Fossil-Free Divestment Movement

BY JERRY BRULE

The fossil fuel industry seems intent on extracting as much fossil fuel as it can, in spite of environmental harm, while we, as a nation, have made a commitment to reduce fossil fuel use. The U.S. joined 166 other countries that signed the Copenhagen Accord, agreeing to reduce greenhouse gases by 2020. These nations, including Brazil, China, India and South Africa, are responsible for more than 87 percent of the world’s carbon emissions. They all agreed to submit plans for deep cuts in global emissions to limit the increase in global temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

Bill McKibben, the noted environmentalist and co-founder of 350.org, said that scientists estimate humans can pour roughly 565 additional gigatons of CO₂ into the atmosphere by mid-century and still have some reasonable hope of keeping global warming below 2 degrees, which they consider uncomfortable but survivable. The fossil-fuel industries plan on burning all of the fossil fuels in their proven reserves, which would result in the release of 2,795 gigatons of CO₂, five times more than the amount that would surpass the 2 degree limit signers of the accord agreed to.

President Obama said he will do what he can despite a recalcitrant Congress. Since fuel industries are motivated primarily by profits, can we convince them that the survival of Earth’s environment is more important? Perhaps they will listen if we hit them in their pocketbooks.

Asserting that it is wrong to profit from destroying the environment, the Mayors Innovation Project and 350.org have started a campaign called Fossil Free that calls for cities, colleges, religious institutions, and individuals to divest from the top 200 fossil-fuel

companies because of the industry’s responsibility for the climate crisis.

Bill McKibben said, “Since every city public works department is already spending scads of cash to deal with the gathering storms and rising seas climate change is bringing, it’s clear it makes no sense for them to also prop up the industries that make it necessary.”

On April 25, 2013, Eugene, Oregon, joined nine other cities including Seattle and San Francisco to help launch the Fossil Free city and state divestment campaign. Mayor Piercy and the Eugene City Council agreed to pursue divesting its pension funds from fossil-fuel assets.

Six colleges and universities across the nation have agreed so far to divest from fossil-fuel investments, and the University of Oregon is being asked to join them. You can add your name to the following letter to President Michael Gottfredson: “Because it is unconscionable to pay for our education with investments that will condemn the planet to climate disaster, we call on the University of Oregon to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil-fuel companies, and to divest within five years from direct ownership and from any commingled funds that include fossil-fuel public equities and corporate bonds.” Sign at: <http://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/university-of-oregon>

<http://350.org/en/media/city-divestment>

Read more: <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719page=2#ixzz2WpSIABca>

Politics is the art of controlling your environment.
— Hunter S. Thompson

Let's turn the Seneca Biomass Plant into a BioChar Plant

BY JERRY BRULE

Originally, the Seneca plant may have sounded like a good idea. Take 132,000 tons of wood byproducts a year and turn that into enough electricity to power to 13,000 homes. Those same byproducts, if burned in the open, or composted and spread, would pollute the air much more than the power plant with state-of-the-art pollution controls.

However, Seneca's controls don't work as intended. Tests have shown that, when the plant's \$11.5 million pollution controls reduce high nitrous oxides that can form smog, it creates larger-sized particulates, called PM10, that can damage the lungs. Downwinders get either particulates if the controls are on, or high nitrous oxides if they are off. Since photochemical smog only forms in sunlight, most of the time the smog control is off. Beyond Toxics reports that the Seneca plant also produces "carcinogenic acrolein, styrene, formaldehyde and heavy metals, none of which are measured for air pollution permits". As a result, 60 percent of 350 nearby residents in the poll detected pollution, and 30 percent reported cases of asthma.

In the best of all worlds, Seneca, with its bad history of clearcutting and herbicide use, would leave the trees

standing. But people also need lumber and jobs. Getting a utility or corporation to shut down and abandon a \$50 million power plant investment is difficult, but, if Seneca can make money doing it, it may be possible to convince them to clean up the plant.

In Merced, California, Phoenix Energy has created the first grid-tied biomass gasifier in the United States that meets strict California air-quality standards. The plant produces biochar as a by-product. Biochar is charcoal that is used as a soil amendment. It turns poor soils, like the clay that is so common in this area, into dark, nutrient rich soil which dramatically increases crop yields. Biochar is produced in a process called pyrolysis. Wood wastes like those used at Seneca are heated in a low/no oxygen environment to produce three things: biochar, bio-oil, and syngas. The syngas can be used to produce power, only it will be much cleaner burning. The bio-oil can be used as diesel fuel in vehicles, or can be used in industry to produce things like plastic. The biochar will enrich the soil of local farms and boost crop yields, and it will actually sequester CO₂ in the soil to have a smaller carbon footprint.

There is a waiting list for Phoenix Energy's biochar, and the plant has been able to raise the price of the by-product. It started at a few cents per pound and is now sold for as much as 99 cents per pound in small quantities. Phoenix reports that the company eventually may make more money from the biochar than they do from the electricity they sell.

Converting the Seneca biomass plant into a gasification and biochar plant would be a win-win: a good investment for Seneca as well as for EWEB. Area residents and our environment would win too. It would keep the air cleaner and help slow climate change. Plus it would be a real boon to local farmers and gardeners.

Seneca biomass plant flunks first pollution test: <http://projects.registerguard.com/web/newslocal-news/26942508-41/plant-seneca-nitrogen-pollution-emissions.html.csp>

Phoenix Gasifier Plant: <http://www.renewableenergy-world.com/rea/news/article/2011/10/could-biomass-technology-help-commercialize-biochar>

Natural Gas — What the Frack!

BY JERRY BRULE

Don't get me wrong, I love natural gas, but there are problems and a need for more regulation. We are now told that we have a hundred years' worth of natural gas, and that, because of natural gas, we can become energy independent within fifteen years, so we don't need to go to war for oil. I think it is the ideal transition fuel until we can switch to entirely renewable resources. Natural gas is relatively clean burning and produces half the CO₂ of coal without the mercury, particulates, or sulfur. Recently, natural gas prices have become cheaper than coal, and so the nation's CO₂ emissions declined to 20-year lows because we are shutting down coal plants. Trucking fleets are converting from diesel to natural gas because natural gas sells for \$1.50 per gallon equivalent cheaper than diesel. They can make up the \$40,000 to \$80,000 conversion costs in a couple of years, and then each truck will save tens of thousands of dollars each year and clear the air too. Los Angeles claims that their buses have reduced pollution by 80 percent because they converted to natural gas. All we need is a better distribution system, and we could even convert private vehicles.

At the same time that our national CO₂ rates declined, the worldwide CO₂ rates climbed to 400 parts per million for the first time in three million years. We need to reduce those rates down to 350 ppm if we want to avoid catastrophic runaway

temperature increases. Fareed Zakaria, host of the foreign affairs show GPS and Editor-at-Large of Time magazine, suggests that, to reduce global CO₂ levels, we should share our fracking technology with China, so they can also transition from their reliance on dirty coal to clean natural gas.

But, hold on a second! Before we convince the rest of the world to start fracking, shouldn't we solve the many problems first? The film "Gasland" demonstrated drinking water that could be lit on fire and other serious health hazards. The most important problem is that each well needs millions of gallons of water, and in the near future, clean water may be more critical than energy. What do we do with the all of the contaminated wastewater that returns to the surface?

Sometimes it is stored in open waste pits which can leak into aquifers, streams, and rivers, and, therefore, into our drinking water. Sometimes it is pumped underground in injection wells. We know that this fracking fluid is full of toxic chemicals and that it also absorbs hydrocarbons, heavy metals, arsenic, radioactive radium, and radon on the way back to the surface. This wastewater can be filtered using a new technology called Forward Osmosis and reused, but what happens to the brine and the radioactive gunk that is filtered out? Is the radioactivity filtered out, or is it concentrated when re-used? Do well workers breathe in

the radon gas, and might they get cancer in few years because of that? Waste storage facilities are quickly being overwhelmed. A truck carrying drill cuttings from a fracking site set off a radiation alarm at a toxic waste landfill in Pennsylvania. It emitted gamma radiation 10 times higher than the permitted level. The waste was rejected by the landfill, so then what did they do with it? In Pennsylvania, the state wanted to spread the contaminated fracking brine on roads and sidewalks to melt ice, without telling the public about the toxic contents that might poison people and kill vegetation.

Who is monitoring this situation? Is anyone checking the safety of aquifers near fracking sites, or the waste injection wells, to see if they are contaminating water supplies? Is anyone monitoring how radioactive or toxic any of these waste materials are, or how they are disposed of, or even how effective any containment efforts have been? Is anyone protecting the public? Starting with President Reagan, the dangers of fracking were hidden. Dick Cheney's Halliburton Corporation had a lot to do with development of fracking, and under Bush/Cheney, natural gas drilling processes were specifically exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the Comprehensive Environmental Response,

Compensation, and Liability Act; and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Regulation is left to states, and there is essentially no federal regulation of fracking or of 'acid jobs' in which companies pump highly poisonous and dangerous chemicals such as hydrofluoric acid into existing gas and oil wells to "melt rocks" and objects that are obstructing oil flow. In many cases, the dangers associated with fracking may be far worse than any environmental or economic advantages.

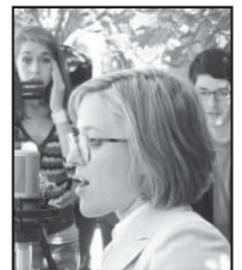
Still scientists are developing safer technologies like forward osmosis to recycle fracking fluids, and, this year, Halliburton is offering drillers a non toxic fracking fluid called CleanStim that is made from food industry ingredients. There should be stronger federal regulation to require the use of the cleanest technology and for better monitoring to make certain that poisons do not end up in our drinking water or our crops. In 2012, the EPA issued the first ever regulations of fracking which should reduce air pollution 95 percent. Hopefully, our water will be protected next. If there are costs associated with proper disposal of radioactive, toxic, and poisonous wastes, then the drillers, not the public, should pay for their safe disposal. Once we work out all of the problems, then we should export those safer solutions, not the dirty technology the industry started with.

More pictures from the March Against Monsanto

PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE



Phillip Jones from Oregon Sustainable Beekeepers spoke to the crowd about the decline in the number of bees due to pesticides



Melissa Wischerath, a managing attorney and cofounder of the Sustainable Law Center, told the crowd about Oregon Senate Bill 633.



Occupy Inter-Faith Eugene-Springfield is Going Strong

BY MARY SHARON MOORE, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY-AFFILIATED

Thanks to others' passion for social justice and their urge to get involved, the inner activist in me has started to wake up.

I have been a part of Occupy Inter-Faith Eugene/Springfield for over a year. This group's genuine welcome of new folks and desire to create a more just society has enabled me to become part of a vital movement for social change.

Occupy Inter-Faith has forged links with others in our community who are pressing forward for good, including Occupy Eugene, Opportunity Village Eugene, Homeless Solutions, Community Alliance for Lane County, Church Women United, Raging Grannies, Eugene and Springfield City Councils, Health Care for All Oregon, Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network, We The People Eugene, Huts for the Homeless, and others.

Under the empowering horizontal and organized leadership from several members, we have stayed on task, educated ourselves on pressing social concerns, educated our congre-

gations, held community dialogues, testified at council meetings, met with elected officials in Salem, linked arms, held vigils, rallied, and marched. We've sung and made noise in the public square, and joined in celebration.

Occupy Inter-Faith welcomes persons from all spiritual paths who seek to speak out and work on the pressing moral issues of our time. We hold our general meetings September through June on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at various locations.

We are committed to pressing on as a "coalition of conscience" to create a just society in which good can flourish. Health care finance reform, affordable housing for everyone, and true democracy remain the focus of our actions.

We are proud to be part of a grassroots movement that spans our state, nation, and world. We are in this together, and we are not going away. Contact Patty Hine at 541-343-5091 for more information or to get involved.

The Imperative for Public Banking, Part 1

BY FERGUS MCLEAN

Economies organized around the needs of investment capital (capitalism) were supposedly proved superior to those based on social needs (socialism) with the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. But less than 20 years later, capitalism's brightest financial engineers brought the world's economy crashing down around our ears despite the tens or hundreds of millions they were being paid to manage risk and shape the cutting edge of financial innovation.

The 2008 subprime mortgage collapse panicked bank CEOs who, forgetting their loud insistence that government should stay out of the affairs of business, pleaded for, and got, trillions in taxpayer handouts to keep their failed system afloat. So much for unregulated market capitalism. Though the huge bonuses for the one-tenth of 1 percent have continued to grow, the rest of us see little or no benefit. Social programs are crippled, millions of people have lost homes, jobs, and savings, and schools are dying. But our "global leaders" want us to believe that after opening our pockets to the perpetrators of this historic criminal economic disaster, things are just fine. We just need to tighten our belts and stop whining.

The little detail that free markets are supposed to be free and not need to beg for massive taxpayer handouts went down the memory hole. That was then. Right now we all need to sacrifice for the good of the world economy and the bankers. "Free markets" now means bankers take freely from public resources without apology. So the old thing

about markets self-regulating and needing only to be left alone is no longer operative.

The bankers' ripoff led to the Arab Spring and Occupy. Trillions pumped into the financial system and historically low interest rates created an enormous bubble in commodity prices, food prices soared, and people in Egypt and other poorer countries went hungry. Nothing like your children starving to make you get out and raise a ruckus.

We cannot have a functioning economy where wealth is continually concentrated in a tiny and shrinking elite. Who is going to buy the products? Who is going to pay the taxes when there are no jobs and the rich make a science out of tax avoidance? So-called capitalism polished off socialism and then died with the bailout. The economic wreckage we have left simply cannot continue to function without massive investment in job-creating production. And that is not going to happen while private bankers run the world. The best we can hope for from our financial elite is another ruinous bubble.

In an unregulated market, without elected government acting as referee, the only limit to increasingly risky financial speculation is system collapse. And that is what we have.

We were here before. During the second half of the 19th century, a long pitched battle between the banking oligarchy and the emerging American middle class culminated in the defeat of populism in the election of 1896 and and

the surrender of Congress to the elite with the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913 — both major setbacks in the centuries-long battle over who creates the nation's money supply.

The information revolution brought us supercomputer-driven financial derivatives that destroyed the old economy. We cannot put the information genie back in the bottle. But we can change the archaic dynamic at the heart of the present economic folly: private banking. It's frankly insane to allow private, profit driven actors to be in charge of money creation, which ought to be regulated like any other public utility, such as power or water. To counter this zombie-like march to self destruction, we the people must mobilize our own tremendous power through distributed networking of information and ideas. And we can start by adopting public banking.

Learn more about our economic history and the promise of public banking at Occupy's benefit showing of "Jekyll Island," the sequel to "The Secret of Oz," at Cosmic Pizza at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 22.

In Part 2 of this series, we'll explore the newly unacceptable risks of keeping public funds in private banks, the dynamics of wealth inequality here in Lane County, the incredible potential of public banking, and the simple steps we can take to create a public bank for ourselves.

Retributive or Restorative Justice?

BY JERRY BRULE

What is the purpose of prisons? When someone makes a mistake, the theory is that, if the offender is punished in prison, they won't break the law again. Unfortunately, the system does little to rehabilitate and can even cause more crime. Prison forces minor offenders into contact with violent career criminals, where they can learn even worse behavior. After serving a sentence, getting a job is nearly impossible. Some ex-prisoners commit more crime in order to survive and return to prison at a cost to the taxpayers of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year. The prison system destroys the lives of offenders, punishes families, and does nothing to help victims recover.

In contrast, the restorative justice system brings together the offender, the victim, and everyone else affected by the crime. Together with a mediator, they figure out what really happened and how the offense harmed everyone involved. The offender has a chance to take responsibility for the offense, apologize, and make some sort of restitution or appropriate punishment. This is a healing process for both the offender and for the victim.

If offenders complete the restitution, criminal charges do not go on their records. They can get jobs and their families are not harmed. According to Chip Coker, Executive Director of the Center for Dialogue and Resolution, only about 14 percent of the people who go through the restorative justice system commit another crime, compared to 60 percent who go through the prison system. In addition, post traumatic stress symptoms and costs are reduced for the victims, and many feel that they can begin healing and carry on with their lives much sooner.

The Center for Dialogue and Resolution in Eugene offers four types of voluntary restorative justice programs: Community Accountability Panels for certain adult crimes like loud partying; Victim-Offender Dialogues for youth who commit crimes involving a victim; Restorative Peer Court for youthful offenders whose crimes do not involve a victim; and Restorative Discipline for problem behavior in schools, in lieu of suspending or expelling the student. North Eugene High School will have a pilot project in restorative discipline in

the coming school year.

In Oregon, an organization called the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon is comprised of 12 or so agencies that offer one or more restorative justice program in their communities. They are currently developing a website.

According to Department of Justice statistics, 48 percent of people in prison are locked up for drug offenses, 11 percent for immigration offenses, and only 8 percent are there for violent offenses. Some of the people in prison are beyond rehabilitation, but, since restorative justice has proven more effective for the young, why couldn't we use it on all minor offenses to prevent further crime? While restorative justice is extensively practiced within the European Union, unfortunately, current local and national laws do not allow the legal system in our country to take full advantage of this much more economical and effective method to handle most adult offenders.

In the meantime, we are stuck with "get tough on crime" laws, such as mandatory minimum sentencing and Three Strikes legislation, which are counterproductive, because they do not allow the judge and others involved to fit the punishment to the crime, nor do they allow for restitution to the victim or rehabilitation for the offender so they will not offend again. Preventative and drug programs are the cheapest way to prevent crime, while restorative justice is best when an offender gets into trouble.

For more information about Restorative Justice go to : <http://www.corrections.com/news/article/29594-restorative-justice-transforming>

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/06-56290_Ebook.pdf

For more evidence see: http://www.iirp.edu/pdf/RJ_full_report.pdf



Raging Grannies

Would you like to join the Raging Grannies, or do you have an event you would like them to perform at? They rehearse at the First United Methodist Church parlor, at 1376 Olive St. from 11:30 to 12:30 on Fridays. For more information or to book an appearance contact Laurie at 541-844-1423 or send an email to raginggrannieseugene@gmail.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE GRANGER

From Occupy Medical: Thanks for the Herbal Support

BY PATTI LEAHY

Thank you, Eugene gardeners and herbal friends. Your response to the call out for herbal support to Occupy Medical Clinic truly amazes us.

This support is a huge boost to the clinic and people seeking OM's care. It is fabulous to know our community is behind us. OM is not just a small group of medical providers and their backup crew. It's the whole heart of Eugene and Springfield coming together in loving kindness and concern for each other.

In fact, the response for herbal support has been so generous that we now realize we caused some confusion and frustration to some people wanting to make donations. We apologize for not getting back to you quickly and for the

confusion about how to get your donations most efficiently to the clinic.

In addition to organic, chemical-free garden and wildcrafted herbs and tinctures, once approved by clinic, the other most used herb forms are those that are already packaged, labeled and ready for distribution. The manufactured pill forms of herbs and vitamins donated by the local stores just prior to the shelf pull dates are very valuable to meeting the needs of patients. At times we receive items from individuals who either purchase an extra bottle or two for the clinic or no longer take that kind and have a full unopened container to share with us. We do take labeled, pre-packaged salves and tinctures in jars for re-bottling by

the herb team. Please contact us for more information; you are welcome to come visit and observe our community in action.

Coming downtown to the clinic with your items on Sundays is the best way to contact the Clinic Manager and Head Herbal Team member, Sue Sierralupe. Drop items off at 8th and Oak, Eugene, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you need your donations picked up, you can make arrangements by calling 541-915-6704. We appreciate your support and hope it continues for the clinic's herbal and other departments, for the long haul of continuous health and wellbeing for our community. You are welcome to come visit and observe our community in action.

Occupy Medical Needs Skilled Volunteers

BY PATTI LEAHY AND SUE SIERRALUPE

After the noticeable increase in the number of patients attending the June 9 clinic, Sue's response was, "OM treated 63 patients today. This is an all time record. The numbers are going to be increasing over the next few months. We have to be at the top of our game to keep up. According to the latest numbers, we are losing 30 percent of Lane County's physicians to retirement during the next 18 months. Our entire medical system is going to have to change quickly. Occupy Medical is leading the way with a new vision of patient care — economical, practical, and compassionate. Encourage your health care providers to look into OM's system of care delivery. We don't have much time left and lots of work to do."

As with every enterprise, there are many aspects to running this clinic. We are working on building needed volunteer support for the rapid growth of the clinic. Especially now, Occupy Medical Clinic needs people who can organize or oversee the different groups of volunteers as their numbers grow.

Some of the current volunteer needs are:

Nurses

Licensed, experienced bus drivers so our current bus driver can take a day off

Human resource manager and volunteer coordinator

A steady crew and crew leader to set up and tear down tents, each Sunday: 10:30 a.m. set up, 4 p.m. tear down

Bookkeeper to document expenses and donations, etc.

Licensed, experienced bus drivers so our current bus driver can take a day off

A mechanic to check the bus engine so it doesn't break down and freak us out

A team to assist with remodeling the bus (cabinets, counters, seats, etc.)

Professional hair cutters to help Ben

Foot care team members

An official meeting secretary note taker

Donation and fundraising organizers

Spanish interpreters every week; ones who can translate medical terms are ideal

A reliable, accessible, and secure location for donation collections, some of which may be perishable and need refrigeration .

We need steadfast volunteers. If you can give one Sunday a month or help staff for one of our 2-hour Sunday shifts, we welcome you. We need people who work reliably with a schedule and who can work respectfully with patients and their fellow volunteers. It seems like a lot to ask, but I assure you that it is worth it.

If you have any of these skills or a strong desire to serve the community through Occupy Medical, please look on the web page under Documents for the volunteer application, then contact Sue Sierralupe by email at sierralupe@comcast.net. All volunteer inquiries should be subject-lined "re: Volunteer Interest."

Donate to Occupy Medical

BY SUE SIERRALUPE AND PATTI LEAHY

People frequently ask what OM needs. The fact is, besides being a clinic, there is a business side of operations and, like most others, many facets to its operation. So, just about any items used for office and clinic operations would be considered. Some ideas are found at <http://occupymedics.wordpress.com/wish-list/>.

Here's a short list of frequently needed items:

toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss

lavender essential oil

clean socks

vitamin C

multivitamins

combs

poison oak medicine

allergy relief

inhalers

bus passes

hand cleaner

disinfectant wipes

blood glucose strips

cash

healthy, portable food

gift certificates from local stores for food and miscellaneous supplies

To get a donation to clinic, drop off items at 8th and Oak, Eugene, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you need donations to be picked up, arrangements can be made by calling 541-915-6704. If you have questions about your donation, contact OM.

Website: www.occupymedics.wordpress.com

Manager: Sue Sierralupe

Email: sierralupe@comcast.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/434111789971743/

Mailing address for check donations and clinic information only:

Occupy Medical Clinic

3575 Donald St. #230

Eugene, OR 97405

Winter's End

BY CATHERINE SISKRON

in memoriam

The clouds gather

and scatter,

scatter and gather,

driven by mid March

wind.

The shadows

come and go

like vestiges

of loss

on a beloved face

grieving.

The firs,

tall and stern

sway

keening softly.

Under the firs,

among

the crumbling

headstones,

two men died.

One chose a bullet,

the other

a rope.

I wrote this poem in response to two suicides in March of this year at the Masonic cemetery. Suicide was the second leading cause of death among Oregonians ages 15-34, and the 8th leading cause of death among all Oregonians in 2010 (Suicides in Oregon: Trends and Risk Factors 2012 Report).

Occupy Eugene Committees

Dozens of activists put energy into Occupy Eugene. While the heart of our decision-making process lies in our General Assemblies, held every Friday upstairs at Growers Market, much of our work in specific areas, such as homelessness, foreclosures, and publicity, takes place at committee meetings. We have numerous committees and working groups. These groups meet regularly and carry out Occupy Eugene's goals through a variety of actions and events. If you are interested in working with us, please come to one of our GAs or to any of our committees or working groups to see if any are a good fit for your interests and skills.



**OCCUPY
EUGENE**

S ACTIVE AND GROWING DUE TO

OUR MANY WONDERFUL

SUPPORTERS

WHO DO A LOT TO SERVE

THE GREATER COMMUNITY!

SO TO EACH FROM ALL OF THE REST OF US:

THANK YOU!

Debra and Bruce Harrow: New Volunteers at Occupy Medical

By CATHERINE SISKRON

Debra and Bruce Harrow, a recent addition to the Occupy Medical team, emit warmth and a lightness of being so rarely seen these days. It is apparent that some of the glow comes from being newlyweds. Theirs is a storybook love. They were high school sweethearts, whose lives took different turns in college. Originally from Houston, Debra found herself on the West Coast. Bruce ended up in Florida. A lifetime later, they reconnected on classmates.com, married and started their new life in Florida. A year later, they moved to Eugene.

What brought them to Occupy Medical? Prior to leaving Florida, they researched volunteer opportunities in the area and OM seemed a perfect fit because both Bruce and Debra have medical backgrounds. Bruce is a physician who takes the Hippocratic Oath seriously. His frustration with the medical industry as managed by the insurance companies makes volunteering both a way to give back to the community and a way to relieve his frustration with health care that is driven by the bottom line rather than patient needs.

Occupy Medical has the earmarks of a MASH unit. Although no surgeries are performed at OE, it is medical practice at its most raw and basic. Bruce revels in treating the person, not just the symptom. "For insured patients, a physician is pushed to limit his time, prescribe a pill and order a test rather than teaching good health habits and help people live healthier lives. Doctors are economically rewarded for poor outcome. Trips to the ER and hospitalizations generate income for the hospital, the pharmaceutical companies, and the physician."

Occupy Medical does not profit from prescribing pills or prescribing expensive tests. Also, the director of the clinic,

Sue Sierralupe, is an herbalist, so alternative medical approaches are encouraged, which addresses another of Bruce's frustrations in current medical practice — the reluctance of insurance companies to pay for naturopathic, chiropractic, herbal, or traditional Oriental therapies.

At OM, the focus is entirely on the patients. Bruce, like other physicians at OM, sees patients on or off the bus since some patients are too anxious to be confined in an enclosed space. Since there are no primary care referrals at OM nor pre-existing records to review, he relies on triage and his own ability to take patient histories and perform exams as diagnostic tools. He also likes the emphasis at the clinic to teach and support patients to live healthier lives.

Debra describes herself as being right brained and left leaning. Perhaps you had to be there to appreciate the joke, but she is funny, vivacious, and kind. She is trained as an occupational therapist and sees her job as going beyond teaching patients how to compensate for their disabilities, whether permanent or temporary. She works with patients in a broader context, helping them find activities that have purpose, to empower them to become a viable part of the community. Her focus is "to help them find a reason to overcome the challenges of getting out of bed, dressing, etc."

At Occupy Medical, she is part of the counseling team. One of her self-assigned tasks is to seek out those who remain on the fringes, hesitate to get in line, anxious about approaching the take-in desk. So many OM patients are traumatized by life on the street and by criminaliza-



PHOTO BY CARLA NEWBRE

tion of poverty that their hesitation and anxiety are factors that need to be addressed before they can access medical services. And Debra is good at calming the anxious and agitated. She is grounded, kind, and respectful. That's what makes her such a wonderful counselor.

Occupy Medical is very lucky to have Debra and Bruce join its volunteer staff. Occupy is equally lucky to have them as activists. Their sincerity and dedication to creating a better world for future generations and alleviating some of the hardships faced by so many in today's world is deeply moving.

Son of the 1

By GRAHAM LEWIS



It may sound like bragging to confess that I was born into the 1% and had an "over-privileged upbringing." It's not. What I am proud of is that it didn't "take."

There didn't seem to be anything abnormal about having tailored Brooks Brothers suits at age 8 or flying East to visit our richer "Old Money" cousins at Beechwood, the family estate in Scarborough, New York.

When Mom and Pop were off traveling, David and I were entrusted to governesses. We had a live-in housekeeper and a gardener and went to snobby private schools.

In 1956 and '57, the family took a four month trip to the Orient and Australia, where we visited Sir Kenneth, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and "Leftenant" Governor of New South Wales, a cousin on my mother's side, and his extended Australian family. Imagine the thrill at age twelve of riding with Sir Kenneth in his chauffeur-driven Rolls with flags flying from the front fenders as policemen stopped all traffic at intersections in downtown Sydney — and saluted — as we breezed through.

This confession runs the risk of my becoming an Occupy Outcast, but I offer it with real humility as a counterpoint to our plight at the front of the 99%. You see, what all that left me with was a tight, sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. What it taught me was how stiff and stodgy and deeply unhappy most rich people really are.

As in PBS's Downton Abbey, when visiting our ever-formal Eastern relations, David and I also had to "dress for dinner" in our best suit-and-tie. The servants and staff at Beechwood, as on Downton Abbey, were far more interest-

ing and complex characters. Believe me, it was much more fun down in the basement.

It wasn't until I was sent to boarding school in the High Country of Colorado that I became my own person. The school was on an unpretentious working ranch. I learned the joy and satisfaction of hard physical work, digging post holes, bucking hay and herding cattle. There I shed the skin of family expectations, like following Pop's footsteps and graduating from Princeton, found real happiness in simple things and freedom from all the trappings of wealth.

So please don't anyone envy my 1% childhood. Yours may have been a lot more fun. The downside of the Good Life, which even a young child could sense, made the 99% life call to me.

Mainstream media can make wealth look wonderful and carefree. Many viewers of those primetime soaps are convinced, "Someday, I'm gonna win the lottery and be filthy rich!" That's why so many people refuse to identify with us activists in the 99%, instead looking down on us "freeloading bums" who always seem to be bitching loud about something. Our success looms in reaching those in the middle who sense the truth in our mission and are curious. We must exercise this opportunity to win them over and keep growing.

The only vestige of my 1% connection is an ironic joke. Serving on the Board of Directors of the family corporation, I should be assisting to find a new lessee for our Benton Mine, one who is equipped to extract maximum yield of gold while the price is still high. The most recent lessee turned out to be a sleaze whose

company broke every environmental regulation in the book, so our future looks less than bright, capitalistically speaking. Oh well. The Board knows I'm a liberal; it's impossible to try and pretend otherwise. But let's be real. There's no denying an inner conflict around the prospect of sharing royalties from a working gold mine.

Behind the Signs

By DOE TABOR

*She stood near the busy intersection
where the streetlamp cast a spotlight,
two signs, each cradled on a forearm
held chest high, flanking her
near perfect, near naked breasts.
"I love you" on the left.
"Help us out," on the right
with a small peace symbol below.
In case you missed her point.*

(SALEM, Ore.) — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo today released data showing that 20,545 students in Oregon's K-12 public schools lived in homeless situations at some point during the last school year. This is 1,500 more homeless students than were reported in the prior school year (September 28, 2011). The title of this poem refers to Kirk Toncray's novel, *Behind the Signs*.

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