**WHAT IS OCCUPY EUGENE DOING THESE DAYS?**

*By Larry Lefevere*

Occupy members get this question from a broad spectrum of people in the Eugene-Springfield community almost every day. Hopefully, our media programs, our website, and our public presence in various downtown locations help answer this question. You can find us at city council meetings, at events held by our allies, at neighborhood association meetings, in our open committee meetings, in our open public General Assemblies, at the old Federal Building, at OEV, and at our Medical tent. The Eugene Weekly, the Register Guard, and local TV stations regularly report on our work. But the question keeps on coming. So, for now, here is our answer in a nutshell.

We are providing medical services to the needy. We are building a strong community coalition to help the homeless on our streets and in our community. We are vigorously assisting troubled homeowners who are facing foreclosure. We are working hard at making our downtown more accessible. We are supporting efforts to abolish corporate personhood and to create a better healthcare system for all. We rally to condemn incidents of hate. We work with schools to teach our children about environmental concerns. We are.convincing our citizens to move their assets out of banks and into local credit unions. We hold our meetings and make our proposals transparently and openly and work under a consensus model. We are communicating with the public through a monthly column in the Eugene Weekly. We are keeping the public informed on the pressing issues of our day through our newsletter and our personal conversations. Finally, through our actions, we are constantly living the truth and striving to be the change we wish to see in the world.

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**HOMEOWNERS FIND SOLIDARITY WITH OCCUPY MOVEMENT**

*By Nicole Medema*

The banks know that knowledge is power and they have most of the knowledge because they have legions of attorneys and the small, unorganized person out there by themselves is powerless. However, all these smaller people attorneys and the small, unorganized person out there by themselves is powerless. However, all these smaller people attorneys and the small, unorganized person out there by themselves is powerless. However, all these smaller people attorneys and the small, unorganized person out there by themselves is powerless. However, all these smaller people attorneys and the small, unorganized person out there by themselves is powerless.

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**OCCUPY OREGON COUNTRY FAIR**

*By Laura Asprooth*

Occupy Eugene is proud to announce that it has been accepted to be part of the Peace and Justice booth in Community Village this year at Oregon Country Fair July 13, 14,15. Since 1976 Community Village has been bringing together Eugene's most vibrant environmental, social, justice, peace, and spiritual groups to promote and network for progressive social change. Occupy Eugene is excited to have the chance to be a part of this tradition and collaborate with one of our biggest supporters, Oregon Country Fair. John McCahill and Lauren Asprooth will be the Occupy booth representatives. The Occupy Eugene Foreclosure Actions Committee will be holding a workshop on how to successfully save your home from foreclosure.

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**WELCOME TO OCCUPY EUGENE’S FIFTH SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE**

Welcome to the fifth 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 your vision. You can find our complete vision statement at http://occupyeugenemedia.org/vision-statement/. If you are looking for a way to get involved please go to http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer/
We hold these truths to be self-evident:

That the real, physical world is the source of our own lives, and the lives of others. A weakened planet is less capable of supporting life, human or otherwise. Thus, the health of the real world is primary, more important than any other social or economic system, because all social or economic systems are dependent upon a living planet.

It is self-evident that to value a social system that harms the planet’s capacity to support life over life itself is to be out of touch with physical reality.

That any way of life based on the use of nonrenewable resources is by definition not sustainable.

That any way of life based on the hyper-exploitation of renewable resources is by definition not sustainable: if, for example, fewer salmon return every year, eventually there will be none.

That the real world is interdependent, such that harm done to rivers harms those humans and nonhumans whose lives depend on these rivers, harms forests and prairies and wetlands surrounding these rivers, harms the oceans into which these rivers flow. Harm done to mountains harms the rivers flowing through them. Harm done to oceans harms directly or indirectly connected to them.

That you cannot argue with physics. If you burn carbon-based fuels, this carbon will go into the air, and have effects in the real world.

That creating and releasing poisons into the world will poison humans and nonhumans.

That no matter how powerful, should be allowed to create poisons for which there is no antidote.

That no one, no matter how rich or powerful, should be allowed to create poisons that cannot be cleaned up.

That no one, no matter how rich or powerful, should be allowed to destroy places humans or nonhumans need to survive.

That no one, no matter how rich or powerful, should be allowed to drive human cultures or nonhuman species extinct.

That reality trumps all belief systems for what you believe is not nearly so important as what is real.

That on a finite planet you cannot have an economy based on or requiring growth. At least you cannot have one and expect to either have a planet or a future.

That the current way of life is not sustainable, and will collapse. The only real questions are what will be left of the world after that collapse, and how bad things will be for the humans and nonhumans who come after. We hold it as self-evident that we should do all that we can to make sure that as much of the real, physical world remains intact until the collapse of the current system, and that humans and nonhumans should be as prepared as possible for this collapse.

That the health of local economies are more important than the health of a global economy.

That a global economy should not be allowed to harm local economies or land bases.

That corporations are not real living beings. They are certainly not human beings.

That corporations do not in any real sense exist. They are legal fictions. Limited liability corporations are institutions created explicitly to separate humans from the effects of their actions—making by definition, inhuman and inhumane. To the degree that we desire to live in a human and humane world—and, really, to the degree that we wish to survive—limited liability corporations need to be eliminated.

That the health of human and nonhuman communities is more important than the profits of corporations.

We hold it as self-evident, as the Declaration of Independence states, “That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends [Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness], it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it...” Further, we hold it as self-evident that it would be more precise to say that it is not the Right of the People, nor even limited liability corporations need to be eliminated.

That the health of human and nonhuman communities is more important than the health of a global economy.

That you cannot argue with physics. If you burn carbon-based fuels, this carbon will go into the air, and have effects in the real world.

That the health of the real world is primary, more important than any social or economic system, because all social or economic systems are dependent upon a living planet.

We are a nonviolent, non-partisan, social-political movement for accountability and responsibility in government. We stand in solidarity with...
Making Health Care a Reality
For All of Oregon
By Ruth Duemler
In every other industrial country, health care is a human right. People in these countries can go to any hospital or clinic, and over 60% of our foreclosures because of health costs, incomes. Why don’t we Americans think it is inhuman? Is there a growing call for health care as a human right? Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) now has approximately 100,000 members in over 40 organizations working to obtain health and dental care for everyone in Oregon. Should we wait many years until we get national legislation or should we do as over 20 states are attempting, to have it pass sooner in Oregon?

A new initiative drive is taking place in New York and we hear other states will follow. Many of us have been in this fight for single payer for many years and we have seen a huge change in our population’s views that health care is a human right that is desperately needed now.

In Vermont, during a 10-day volunteer campaign spent years convincing their legislators to pass a bill for health care as a human right. In May of 2011, Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin finally signed such a bill into law. Some new members of HCAO believe Oregon should follow Vermont’s lead on this issue. Others, myself included, believe that our legislators receive too much campaign money from the insurance industry to ever leave them out of the picture.

Recently, California legislators who had previously given support withdrew it because of large donations delivered for their campaigns. I can easily see this happening in Oregon. With over 100,000 members it would be hard to obtain the necessary 87,000 signatures needed for an initiative on the 2014 ballot. After that, the next chance would not be until 2016. What are your thoughts? What effect will the Supreme Court’s decision have on The Affordable Care Act? Will that improve the chances for Single Payer or Medicare for All? Come to our next local meeting at EWEB on August 1 at 7pm and join the discussion!

For more information call Ruth Duemler (541-484-6145).

Link to articles of interest
Occupy Eugene Foreclosure Action Committee Website: occupy-your-home.com
Occupy Eugene Medical Dental Van: http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/06/rhode-island-homeless-bill-rights
Big Banks: http://truth-out.org/news/item/9658-how-big-banks-run-the-world-at-your-expense
Occupy National Gathering: http://www.occupynationalgathering.com/#/what-is-national-gathering/
Homeless Bill of Rights: http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/06/rhode-island-homeless-bill-rights
Click here for some fantastic pics and videos of the rally for women’s voices—and vagnas—and please share with friends on Facebook, Twitter or something else: http://kos.sulahs.com/dia/travels2/plain/tab/t=2&c=v610Od3InNhMGWFXN2X%3ExoYbbzhzMHKX%2B
You Tube links to Plaido’s Poetry at the Oregon Statewide Assembly: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4Wr5LHwpA, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnwJH5UDqRQ
Reflections on a Revolution: http://roamags.org/
Take the Square, a map of the Global Revolution: http://takethesquare.net/
Occupy Together, Occupy networking and directory: http://occupytogether.org/
Library of Occupy-aligned software, tools, and projects: http://occupy.net/
Occupy wiki farm: http://occupymediawiki.org/
“First-person news from the occupy movement”: http://occupiedhistories.com/
Collaborative curation of Occupy-related media: http://99percentmedia.org/
To facilitate communication across committees, GAS, and the Occupy movement: http://interoccupy.org/

The brave volunteers at Occupy Eugene Medical Clinic (OECM) have opened the doors even wider to the citizens of Lane County because as healthcare professionals we have seen patients truly suffer from neglect. Our society does its best to isolate its members under the guise of rugged individuality, which begets a malfunctioning, unhealthy country. This is seen most clearly in the poorest of the poor.

To facilitate communication across committees, GAS, and the Occupy movement:
Collaborative curation of Occupy-related media:
“First-person news from the occupy movement”:
http://occupiedstories.com/
http://occupy.net/
http://occupytogether.org/
Occupy Together, Occupy networking and directory:
Occupy National Gathering:
Bank Bailouts:
Bank Bailouts:
Occupy Eugene Medical Clinic is open every Sunday at the downtown Eugene Park Blocks at 8th and Oak, from 1-6pm.

The question is not “Can you make a difference?” You already do make a difference. It’s just a matter of what kind of difference you want to make during your life on this planet.” —Julia Butterfly Hill
The Occupy movement has seen a diversity of action and activities. They are a group of people united by their sensitivity to injustice and their willingness to challenge it. The heart of the decision-making process lies in the twice weekly General Assemblies. The creative process unfolds during various encounters among participants, mainly at committee meetings. We have numerous committees and working groups. Committees are

**Welcome Committee**

The Welcome Committee is working toward better ways to get people welcomed into the movement. For several months, we have organized regular meetings at our Occupy Eugene venue at 7th and Polk, with a schedule to sign up for a shift on our website at http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer. We seek to facilitate the building so generously donated these past months and have been happily helping to make the best possible use of it. We meet at OEV Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and are planning future potlucks.

The Welcoming Committee hosted the Communication

**Finance Committee**

The Finance committee pays Occupy Eugene’s monthly bills, responds to financial requests, and keeps a watchful eye on the money OE is raising and spending. Jan Wostmann, who has been with the Finance Committee since October, sat down with one of the co-founders of Our Homes Over Wall Street to find a complete list and learn more.

The Finance Committee meets 6-7pm on Sundays and 5:30-6:30pm on Thursdays at the New Day Café.

**Foreclosure Actions Committee**

If you heard that major banking institutions like Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Chase, and others were stealing from homeowners who are facing foreclosure or have been foreclosed and people evicted from their homes because of mortgage recording fees each year, you’d think this was the plot of a Hollywood movie.

Unfortunately, it is, because not only of the above is happening right here in Lane County. Houses are illegally foreclosed, mortgage foreclosures have been evicted from their homes are being brazenly think they are above the law. They lie, cheat, and steal to kick people out of their homes.

That’s going to stop if Occupy Eugene Foreclosure Action Committee has anything to say about it. Our mission is to keep people in their homes and fight against the robber-baron banks.

Foreclosure Actions Committee meets twice each week. Our Wednesday meeting is Homeowners Assistance. In that meeting we work as a support group for homeowners who are facing foreclosure or have been foreclosed upon. It is a time for sharing stories, resources, and discussing strategies. In this meeting, we navigate the complexities of the foreclosure process and the nightmare of bureaucracy.

We assist with researching who has title to the home. When finding evidence of fraud, we challenge the legality of the foreclosure. We have also attended foreclosure auctions at the Lane County Courthouse in support of homeowners.

Our Thursday meeting is for business and planning actions. One way we were inspired was by the movement branch of Wells Fargo Bank where we held a memorial vigil for Norman Rousseau. Rousseau took his own life two days before the eviction of his home in California.

Other actions have included pushing the passage of SB 1552, which will take effect in July 2012; testifying before the Lane County Commissioners to get them to sue MERS for unpaid fees; petitioning the Oregon State Attorney General John Kroger and Governor John Kitzhaber to declare a moratorium on foreclosure; and contributing to news articles in the Eugene Weekly. Several of our members regularly protest on Fridays from 4pm to 5:30pm at the 11th Ave Bank of America.

Currently, we’re getting ready on developing a new campaign, “Our Homes Over Wall Street.” The foundation of this campaign is the belief that housing is a human right. We want to work both to keep people in their homes and to move families without homes into homes without families.

We are inspired by the work of Max Rameau and with him, we see the ultimate result of our work as a transformation of our relationship to land ownership. The slogan for our campaign is “We’re Not Leaving” and we think that this will resonate across the community, mobilizing more people to take a stand and assert that all of us have a basic human right to be housed.

A major component of the campaign will be outreach. We have a timeslot on Friday, Sept. 2nd during the Eugene Black Friday, advertising Homeowners Assistance support group, putting on educational events, developing campaign materials, and doing creative actions such as street theater. Some of us will be performing a skit at the Eugene Fair and we’re looking into a table at the Whiteaker Block Party. We are also starting to actively network with others within the Occupy Movement and outside groups working on similar issues in order to share skills, develop strategy, and plan direct actions.

We need now is for more Occupiers and good beings in general to come and work and play with us. Together we can change the system. Please see our committee website at occupy-your-home.com.

**Communications Committee**

Occupy Eugene’s Communications Committee, or ComCom, works on all forms of communication, both internal and external.

One of our main responsibilities is to make sure people know what we’re doing and why actions and events are happening, including everything from regularly scheduled committee meetings to special events, such as the Occupation Communications Education Series held in June. We strive to make the occuper’s week is reporting on which misrepresent Occupy Eugene’s actions or intentions or miss important points on any situation we are interested in. We meet each Monday night at ComCom does everything.

We have specialists who take photographs, make postcards, produce videos, and manage the website, forum, and listservs. Other members make web posts, create Facebook pages, hold press conferences, write press releases, update the calendar, and send out messages from our Twitter account.

We welcome new members who can help us with a variety of tasks. We need people who can:

- Write web posts and put them on the Occupy Eugene website.
- Make calendar posts and keep the calendar up to date.
- Write and edit press releases and send them out to local media.

Write Action Alerts for Eugene Weekly.

We will hold training sessions to help new members learn the ropes, including the software they need to use to perform any of the tasks listed above. We will also provide support, editing, and any other technical help needed.

If you want to plug into Occupy Eugene and put your talents into helping Occupy Eugene shape our message, get in touch. Come to our regular weekly meetings on Fridays from 1:30pm at Growers Market, 454 Willamette. You can also write to us at oe_comms@lists.riuseup.net.
We may be the 99% of the US population, but as American Citizens, we are still among the wealthiest elite of the planet. We are among the 1% with access to a college education. Many of us spend our private lives as “corporate persons,” our best hope is to overwhelm this powerful, richly funded, and well-endowed system, shaping policy that disenfranchises about everyone here and now. We believe the Citizen’s United decision is a moral and social justice issue for people of faith.

Occupy Inter-Faith has met monthly since December in response to Occupy Wall Street and the Arab Spring. We are 60 people from 15 faith communities, committed to joining with others to make the Beloved Community of justice and shalom the centerpiece of American life. We believe the Citizen’s United decision results in huge amounts of money flowing into our political system, shaping policy that disenfranchises about everyone you name.

We are putting our faith to work on three fronts: Health Care for All Oregon, Homeless Solutions & Foreclosures, and Corporations Are Not People. The longer we work, the more we all realize that the unconstitutional power we now allow corporations is the problem at the root of all the others.

In 2010, the Supreme Court decided with the “Citizens United” case, that corporations qualify as “persons” under the law and have a guaranteed right to free speech. The decision holds that free speech (which may not seem logical to many) is that money spent by corporations equates to free speech. Now corporations may make unlimited donations anonymously to campaigns. This obscenely huge influx of money to influence elections means that corporations, not people, play the biggest role in deciding who represents us in the political process. This political system is not a government by and for the people, but by and for the 1%, the very wealthy, the very powerful, primarily big corporate interests. The results are easy enough to see: big corporations, without impunity, poison us and kill the planet for short-term profits in order to enrich the already extremely wealthy and powerful few.

Since we, the people, are not the “corporate persons,” our best hope is to overwhelm this powerful, but small minority, with our voices (in protests, by voting, and any other way you can think of) to limit their power to determine policies and legislation.

This is a moral and social justice issue for people of faith.

We can see that serving the will of corporate “persons” most frequently violates the needs and well being of the last, the lost, and the least.”

We hope the city leaders support deeper conversations and understanding on this issue, and will allow The People to vote on this issue by putting this advisory question on November’s ballot.

Occupy Inter-Faith is Eugene taking a summer break but will be back in full swing this September. Join us! You Do not need to be a “member” of any faith community. Just be a person motivated by the spiritual intention of loving your neighbors.

For more information, contact Patty Hine, Convenor at 541.343.3091 or ap_oregon@msn.com.

www.occupyeugenemedia.org

The Newsletter Working Group Ralph Bishop, Melissa Lambright, Katia Sikron, Larry Medema, Mary Jo Snell, Neich Medema, Jerry Brule. Not pictured, Chase May.

Eugene and ally websites for ongoing and upcoming events for the calendar section of the newsletter and links to additional articles of interest.

Prior to our weekly meetings, each team member reads Google articles related to the topics submitted by members of Occupy Eugene or our allies. There are always two documents being worked on at any given time, the current month’s draft and an outline of the following month’s planned edition. When we have a set of edited articles in place, we dedicate meeting time to decide on the lead story and each article. An Occupy Eugene member draft from Crabbag for a few days for Occupy Eugene members to comment on and to star (identify approval.) Each by each article is then examined and make necessary changes to our Google Docs draft. After receiving approval, our newsletter layout person works for several days to do the final layout incorporating photos, graphics. He produces a draft of the newsletter. Typically two members of the newsletter team make a formal written proposal to the Finance Committee and to the General Assembly. We have lowered our cost to deliver the newsletters and ask for donations. Our needs are many. We need writers, photographers, editors, graphic artists, composers, folks to help distribute, contribute time and interest in The Eugene occupier. Any member of the team gets a set of newsletters to distribute. When we hand a newsletter to a member of the Eugene community we try to have a conversation about Occupy Eugene. Several Occupy Eugene activists help us deliver the newsletters and ask for donations.

The Occupation Library has an important part of Occupy Eugene in all of its incarnations. It was originally started in the park blocks, Occupy Eugene’s first protest site, with the donation of seven books. New donations came in almost every day as the Occupy moved to the “camp.” At the protest site, the Occupation Library in the Pacific Northwest occupied was housed at OEV, the Eugene warehouse headquarters, where it helped (people) to make a living area. Fiction and literature, as well as a broad range of nonfiction, was the focus of that collection.

The library is a project of the Community Alliance of Lane County that focuses on politics, current events and history.
Oppportunity Village will give people a chance without houses who are in our schools. Opportunity Village will lead other neighborhoods to fender” category that the police then use to justify issuing offenses inevitably place individuals in the “chronic of
enforcement the exclusion law not only violates the basic civil liberties of those affected, but also in direct conflict with our values as a community and with the City of Eugene’s designation as a “Human Rights City.”

Originally adopted as a two-year ordinance, the law was renewed for another two years in 2010, with a sunset scheduled for November of 2012. Due to the uncertainty of the future of the DPSZ ordinance, the police Department strongly recommended that the ordinance be made permanent, and the City Council seemed to be headed toward approving another two-year extension until strong opposition was raised by many groups and individuals, including several members of Occupy Eugene. Eugene’s downtown activists associated with Occupy Eugene and the related Kesey Square Revival project have been closely monitoring police behavior, especially the various citations that are issued during interactions between the police and the homeless population. Backyard, continued from page 3

DOWNTOWN EXCLUSION LAW SLATED FOR DEBATE IN CITY COUNCIL

By ALLEY VALGORE

Eugene’s Downtown Public Safety Zone (DPSZ) ordinance, which was first enacted as a temporary measure intended to address safety concerns by allowing the City to exclude “chronic of-offenders” from the downtown area in July 2010, with a set date of April 2012. Earlier this year, the Police Department strongly recommended that the ordinance be made permanent, and the City Council seemed to be headed toward approving another two-year extension until strong opposition was raised by many groups and individuals, including several members of Occupy Eugene. Eugene’s downtown activists associated with Occupy Eugene and the related Kesey Square Revival project have been closely monitoring police behavior, especially the various citations that are issued during interactions between the police and the homeless population. Backyard, continued from page 3

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247 community that provides a legal place to stay and will keep people from becoming homeless. Homeowners, continued from page 1

Her lender, Bank of America, demanded that she leave her home. The McCoy ruling, set powerful legal precedent everyone. A 2011 landmark court ruling, The painful reality is that foreclosures hurt own homes are worth. Among the most common violations that individuals were cited for were jaywalking
and violating park rules. Repeat violations of citations, Homeowners Assistance group has seen about 16 homeowners come through its lobby in the past year, and tenants are often the last to know. In fact, many are not even aware that they are homeless or that they are being evicted. Many on housing, a community organization that we feel compelled to medicate and wind up trapped in our addictions. We are an extremely diverse collection of individual stories and circumstances, doing our best to get by through some very challenging times. We could all use a bit more Love and Compassion from our friends and neighbors. However, if we are going to survive a species or evolve beyond our present circumstances, we are all going to need to make some drastic changes in the way that we relate to one another and the more-than-human world.

I have spent many years, as an activist, working within and outside of the system. I have seen a great deal of what does and does not work, the pros and cons of a wide variety of tactics. I’ve suffered my share of depression and rage at the failures of our social institutions, and of my own ego. Yet, the one thing that I have discovered—which has never failed any individual, or movement, or at any time—is the willingness to listen to the heart. Through meditation and/or contemplative practices we are able to deepen our connection to the source of strength and clarity, which is needed more than ever. I am not going to say anything about what you should or should not do. I’m simply offering the encouragement to create the time to occupy your own heart and mind, and listen deeply to the message arising from within. Do it for the wellbeing of us all. If you’d like to join us, we meet Sundays 2:25 to 3:35 pm at the Federal Building on 7th Ave. and Pearl St.
Opinion

Occupy the Democratic Party
by Jerry Brue

Occupy Eugene has numerous allies in the progressive community. We are working with We the People, and Move to Amend, to reverse corporate personhood as well as the Citizen’s United decision. We are also working with Health Care for All Oregon and the State Health Care Al- liance, to work for Single Payer Health Care. There is the Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), the HE- LCO Community Network, the Eugene Springfield Solidar- ity Network (ESSN), Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND), and many others that join us in our actions and help in many ways. We call them allies because they share our core belief in redistribution and that government programs are necessary to help the people and to help the system. We think that both parties are equally corrupt, that the political system is totally broken and that refuse to take part in the political system.

But what is the purpose of the occupations, the protest marches, and everything else Occupy has been doing? The purpose is to get people’s attention, and then to educate them, and to do what we can to help improve the system. When we have demonstrations, we tell everyone that we are going to the polls and vote to change the system. Do we really think that we can change the politi- cal system through protests alone? We call for revolution but we are dedicated to non-violence, so the only way to change the political system is from within.

It is true that most of the people in Occupy would prefer a Green Party to the Democrats, but that would just be a spoiler vote similar to what happened when people voted for Ralph Nader. We ended up with 8 years of Bush, two wars and the destruction of the economy. To say that there is no difference between President Obama and the Republican Party and Governor Romney and the Republican platform is absurd. There has never been a greater contrast. Once people are aware that the Republi- can Party is the architects of everything that Occupy opposes, they should vote for the Democrats because that is the only game in town. People are afraid of Occupy being co-opted by the Democratic Party, but they have that backwards. Occupying should be the platform of the Democratic Party as the Tea Party took over the Republican Party. We should be finding Occupiers to run for every office in the land, and supporting them so they can change the political system.

Yes, we are all disappointed in the President. He is far more conservative than we thought, and he sold out to the special interests, to Wall Street and to the warmongers, but he is still far better than the alternative.

Moreover, it is not fair to condemn the local Demo- cratic Party for the failures of the National Party. The DPLC Platform is very progressive. They advocate all of the causes of Occupy and they go even further. They call for Single Payer Health Care, an end to Corporate Person- hood, restoration of Glass Steagel, a cap on executive tax system (including a financial transaction tax), support for education, protection of the environment, support for the Dream Act, and much more. Go to DPLC.org and click on the resources tab to see for yourself. During the great depression President Roosevelt set up the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that gave millions of unemployed people jobs. The DPLC party advocates creating a similar program to hire unemployed Oregonians to restore our crumbling infrastructure.

We should be supporting the DPLC for its progres- sive stance and consider them our allies because they are the only organized group at the local, state and national level. They can marshal thousands of people to canvass neigh- borhoods, to knock on doors, to talk to people about the issues we care about, to get people to the polls, and thus get them to the bank ballot. We need to help get the word out about our important issues.

It is highly unlikely that OE will consent to become part of the Democratic Party and offer a candidate in every race opposed to everything we think is right. The Republicans and their billionaire backers are trying to buy the elec- tion and doing everything they can to keep people from voting. They would never allow us to use the issues opposed to everything we think is right. The Republicans and their billionaire backers are trying to buy the election and doing everything they can to keep people from voting. They would never allow us to use the (See next page)
Solidarity Action for Winnemem Wintun Women

By Lisa Mitchell-Torel

On the shore of the McCloud River, California, two Winnemem Wintu women demanded their right to perform a cultural ceremony in their ancestral territory. For the last five months, students in Quebec have been marching to keep their tuition affordable. Provincial Premier Jean Charest announced major cuts to the education system that would raise tuition fees at Quebec universities by 82 percent, or $1,700, over five years in order to rein in spending and support what they call basic rights: home, work, culture, and quality education. They are violently met by tanks and police dogs. We are Tribal Indians born, passing down our traditions from far and wide. It was a terrific moment of coherence and coordinated effort.

I was called to go as a Legal Observer, trained by the National Lawyers Guild to be present during conflict and record incidents that may have legal ramifications for citizen s. While I was there, I found that for me, I had a long list of things to do, I didn’t want to go to California, my back hurt...then I read the whole email...In Winnemem Wintun, the coming of age ceremony for the Winnemem Wintun girls transitioning to womanhood. The ceremony has been on hold for generations of cultural genocide, even amid contemporaneous insanities, including drunken boaters and verbal and sexual harassment. This year it was performed on behalf of the tribe’s future chief. Four hundred yards of the river’s end needs to be temporarily closed to take place in peace. Winnemem efforts to close this section of the river have endured on and off for generations, unanswered phone calls and last minute stalling with the US Forest Service. A baptism, a mitaviva, a call to prayer would express unfettered access to a suitable holy place. This is Wintun territory; the US Forest Service could accommodate the tribe’s request, but did not.

The Winnemem Wintun People, a band of Wintun, have been doing sacred ceremony on these shores of the McCloud River for centuries, although their lands were taken and flooded by the Shasta Dam Project and they were displaced along with their Wintun relatives during the Reagan era, their “official” tribal status was removed and the bands of the Wintun disbursed. Nonetheless, the Winnemem People continue to blend traditional cultural values with a modern world whilepaginate with US governmental bureaucracy to regain tribal recognition. After reading the entire email, I was outraged. Sailboat races get more consideration than the Winnemem plastic debris due to McKenzie River get more consideration. My list would have to wait. I went to California, with my bright green Legal Observer hat in hand. We arrived late at night during the last round of the first night’s dance. In the morning, it was easy to jump in and find ways to help. It was clear that for the next few days we were there for one reason: Marisa, the future chief of a Nation’s tribe. She was knocked down, her body was layend and we were there to defend her. We worked together. We closed the river. We stood at the US Forest Service and We took pictures. We made friends. The US Forest Service, the US Coast Guard and the County Sheriff visited us often. Needless to say, they didn’t like that we closed the river.

So who do we think we are anyway? We are Occupy Eugene, Civil Liberties Defense Center of Eugene, and American Friends Service Committee and University of Oregon Survival Center. We are Northern California Riverkeepers and Earth First. We are Tribal Indians born, growing up near and far. We are Occupy Oakland and American Indian Movement. We are American Friends Service Committee and the Coalition Against Environmental Racism.

The list is incomplete, but I remember the faces of those four days and am grateful to have learned that solidarity is not an ambiguous. It is vital.

Donations Welcome

Plaedo believes the Occupy movement as a preparation to utilize the next burst of energy within the populace of building a network of human connections that can lead us to the next steps involved in radical change to our system—hopefully in direction to a truly sustainable world. He is also waiting for the next time. "Plaedo hopes over time to encourage more joyful activism including performance art and community resilience projects. He calls for more understanding between the left and right branches of activism and believes solutions will organically emerge because the root causes of concerns are the same. Solutions will evolve from the good ideas and the open minds of both wings. He warns, "We can’t get too stubborn. We all need to pragmatically address our many common problems."