



EUGENE OCCUPIER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OCCUPY EUGENE

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SOCIAL JUSTICE REAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

By JERRY BRULE



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE
Dr. Cornell West energized the audience at the SJRC conference.

Thousands of people attended the Social Justice Real Justice Conference at the UO Feb. 14-17. The conference offered workshops on a wide variety of topics and presentations by nationally known activists such as Winona LaDuke, Norman Solomon, Cornel West, and David Barsamian. The conference,

planned and put on by UO students, was presented by the UO Multicultural Center. For seasoned activists, it was refreshing to see so many fresh faces eager to learn how to organize, network, talk about social justice issues, and develop leadership skills. The conference fostered cultural pluralism, encouraged community education, and presented information on how to bring about positive social change.

The conference kicked off on the morning of Feb. 14 with caucuses for several under-represented groups, including women of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. At noon, outside the EMU OE's Scotty Perry did a presentation on racism in Oregon. That evening, attendees heard a stirring performance by Climbing

PoeTree from New York who have mastered spoken word and use theater to expose injustice and provide healing from violence.

The keynote speaker for the night was Dolores Huerta, a labor leader and civil rights activist, who worked with Cesar Chavez to co-found the National Farmworkers Association, which became the United Farm Workers. She



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE
Climbing PoeTree from New York, who use the spoken word and theater to expose injustice, performed Thursday night.

talked about the economic colonization of Latin America by corporations through NAFTA and other "free trade" agreements. She encouraged unionization, universal health care, and feminism us all to come together to end social injustice.



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE
Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, spoke at the conference Thursday night.

The keynote speaker for the Feb. 15 was Cornel West. Dr. West gave a passionate and stirring speech that kept alive the legacy of Martin Luther King. He spoke about the injustices in the nation and how we can come together to fundamentally change the institutions and the government to bring about social justice.

200 ACTIVISTS MARCH AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRIES

By VICKIE NELSON

In the final event of the Social Justice Real Justice Conference, about 200 activists rallied at the UO campus on Feb. 17 to protest against the fossil fuel industries. Carrying signs, many targeting the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and coal trains, the protesters marched off the campus and into the streets of Eugene, chanting and beating drums. The marchers made their way to the WOW Hall where they listened to speakers urge politicians and industry leaders to stop putting profits over the health of the earth and the living

systems on it.

The march and rally coincided with the 50,000 strong Forward on Climate march in Washington, D.C., and had multiple sponsors, including Idle No More, No Coal Eugene, and the Tar Sands Blockade. Scotty Perey of Occupy Eugene said, "This collaboration between campus and the community has been a long time coming!"



PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE MAKES PROGRESS

By JANEL KLINGMAN

Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) volunteers continue to make progress toward the goal of providing a transitional, safe, sanitary, self-governing micro-housing village for the unhoused.

Residents of R2D2 and Dignity Village (both located in Portland) visited Eugene over Presidents' Day Weekend and met with the OVE design committee to work on preliminary plans for the Garfield Site, which is on North Garfield Street near Roosevelt Boulevard.

Board Member Dan Bryant recently met with city employees to discuss the Garfield Site and reports that a more

simple Landlord-Tenant Conditional Use Permit probably will be used for OVE. A map of the proposed site, as well as specific information about the utilities, is available now and will facilitate planning.

The Board of Directors continues to work through the necessary steps to achieve 501(c)3 status.

A variety of fundraising campaigns have secured significant funds to build many initial units of housing. Additional fundraising will be necessary for infrastructure and Village operating expenses.

OVE volunteers have been working closely with

Tine Hive's Community Supported Shelters to streamline production of the Conestoga Hut and modify the design, as needed, for increased resident comfort and structure longevity.

The OVE Vetting Committee meets regularly to work on the three-stage Village application process: 1) Village rules and expectations, 2) written application, and 3) formal interview. A proposal will be presented to the OVE Board soon.

OVE will hold a fundraiser at Cozmic Pizza, 8th and Charnelton in Eugene, on March 26 from 5 to 9 p.m.

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/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women Amplified to Hold Benefit for Womenspace on March 8

Women Amplified will hold its second annual International Women's Day event, Still Not Asking for It, on March 8 at 8 p.m. at the WOW Hall as a benefit for Womenspace, a non profit dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The event will include a silent auction and raffle, spoken word, and other performance pieces that amplify the delicate dance women and those who identify as women face every day. Special guests include the Gypsy Circle Belly Dance Troupe and Gypsy Rhythms (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gypsy-Circle/295086101629>).

For more information, email womenamplifiedeugene@gmail.com.

Anti-nuclear Activist to Speak in Eugene on March 14

On March 14 Kevin Blanch, an anti-nuclear activist from Salt Lake City, Utah, will discuss the Fukushima disaster that occurred after the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. Blanch will speak at Harris Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. A media blackout on news about the ongoing Fukushima catastrophe has made the story Number 3 on Project Censored's list of most-censored stories for 2013. Nuclear activists say the Japanese government is under corporate pressure from the International Atomic Energy Agency, GE, and other vested partners to lie about the effects of radiation and about the levels of radiation being spread in Japan and around the world. Come and learn about the extent of this critical catastrophic nuclear disaster.

OE and Bankbusters Present The Secret of Oz on April 8

Want to get in on some secrets? Come to Cozmic Pizza on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. and learn about the monetary symbolism hidden in one of the most popular children's books written, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Pick up a coupon that gives a 30 % cut of pizza sales to Occupy and come on down to see The Secret of Oz.

OE Calls for Poetry and Art for May 19 Fundraiser

Occupy Eugene will hold a poetry reading and silent art auction at Tsunami Books on May 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. Organizers welcome art and poetry from all poets and artists and are especially interested in work that reflects ideas about social justice. If you have a poem you would like to read or a piece of art you are willing to donate to OE, please send email to vmn56@hotmail.com.

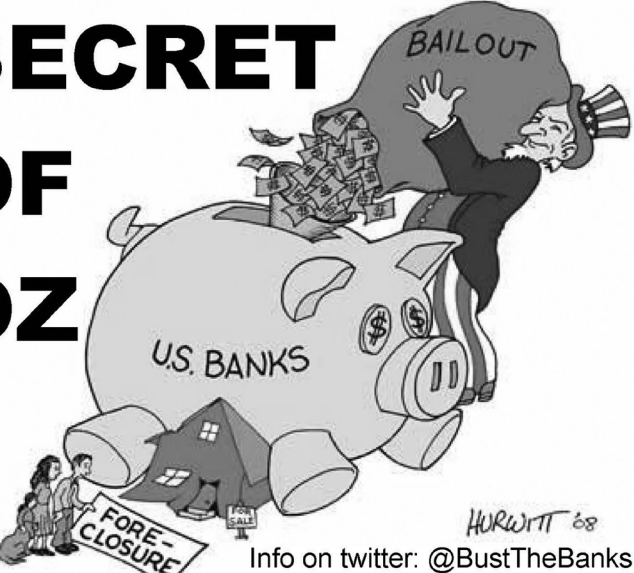
For more upcoming events, check out these calendars:

Occupy Eugene Calendar
<http://occupyeugenemedia.org/calendar/>
Helios Calendar
<http://www.heliosnetwork.org/calendar/events/>
CALC
<http://calclane.org/>

We Are the 99% benefit screening for Occupy Eugene & Occupy BankBusters

A movie that reveals the banker's secret behind the bailout that's killing the dreams of the 99%

SECRET OF OZ



Info on twitter: @BustTheBanks

Learn how our current monetary system forces the nation into debt to enrich the bailout bandits

6 pm/Monday, April 8th
@ COZMIC 8th & Charnelton

Endorsed by Lane branch-Industrial Workers of the World

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 2nd 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, CHASE MAY, 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 ROUNDUP

By VICKIE NELSON

Occupy Missoula

OM started in early Oct. 2011 in solidarity with OWS. Currently, the group is working on issues of foreclosure defense, GMOs, ending corporate domination of our politics and politicians, runaway technology, and regaining our human rights. OM has also started a Free Church of Occupy (FCO) to explore “the borders where our political and spiritual motivations meet.” (<http://occupymissoula.wordpress.com/church-of-occupy/>)

Occupy Oakland

On Feb. 11, the Occupy Oakland Foreclosure Defense Group (OOFDG) announced it had successfully held off the threatened eviction of Jodie Randolph, a grandmother and cancer patient, for one hundred days. Morgan Stanley had been set to send in the sheriffs and a moving truck on the morning of Nov 7 to evict Jodie Randolph from her house in Alameda, California, when OOFDG took direct action by invading Morgan Stanley's Oakland offices. The sheriff never showed up. Since that time the OOFDG and friends have been maintaining watch on Jodie's house, 24/7.

Occupy Seattle

On Feb. 17 hundreds of people gathered at Golden Gardens Park to protest coal trains and listen to special guest Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn who spoke about the importance of clean jobs and a clean environment. After the rally demonstrators, many wearing red No Coal Train T-shirts, began “The Walking Train Against Coal Trains.” Sponsored by the Sierra Club, the march was held in solidarity with the Forward on Climate marches in Washington, D.C., and around the country urging President Obama to reject the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Occupy Chicago

On Feb. 23 OC activists joined the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and many other allies, including victims of police crime, for a Second People's Hearing on Police Crimes at Ida Noyes Hall on the University of Chicago campus. The hearing looked into “how police crimes affect violence in the community, and encourage distrust and violence between the community and the police.” Plans called for developing a comprehensive victim's plan of action and information on forming a police crimes victims' support group.

DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO DEBT SLAVERY AND CORPORATE FEUDALISM

By FERGUS MCLEAN

Bad news for the thousands of Lane County folks who turned out with Occupy Eugene a little over a year ago to voice the outrage of the 99% over the corruption in the banking industry that put the world economy in the tank in 2008: nothing much has changed since then, at least for the better. The banks are bigger, more powerful, and more crooked than ever. Funny thing is, this is a repeat of an old story told in the most popular children's storybook ever published: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

The housing bubble that burst in 2008 was the latest in a chain of financial bubbles dating back to the earliest days of the American Republic. The story of the American economy can be seen as wave after wave of monetary excess followed by economic collapse and foreclosures concentrating Americans' wealth in fewer and fewer hands. Today another mortgage securities bubble, legalized by the Dodd-Frank “financial reforms,” is being created, fueled by an \$85 billion a month handout to the Banksters from the Federal Reserve. \$85 billion a month dwarfs the \$12 billion a month cuts looming if Congress can't agree on a budget. Spent on health care, foreclosure assistance, clean energy, education and small businesses, that's enough to completely turn our society and economy around. That will not happen while private bankers run the place. Frank Baum told us about it in 1900, in disguise, in The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

Instead of Congress fixing our broken financial system after the collapse, they let the Banksters double down on their reckless speculation and trashed Dodd-Frank.

President Obama's new Secretary of the Treasury, Citibank insider Jacob Lew, helped dismantle Glass Steagall and commodities regulation and is Obama's main cheerleader for the disastrous austerity policies the Banksters are pushing on Civil Society. Don't look to Washington, D.C., for solutions.

What the 99% can look forward to is debt. Unbearable Student Debt. 20 million homes worth less than what's owed. \$15,000 in credit card debt per household. Four million good paying jobs wiped out between 2007 and 2009. Debt and more debt. People are borrowing to try to keep their heads above water. What we're looking at is permanent debt and slavery to financial institutions which are above the law. In other words, Corporate Feudalism.

Only the top 1% benefited from the collapse — 150,000 families (averaging \$4 million income), whose income shot up by 93%. And 60% of that increase went to the top 1/10% — about 15,000 families, with \$30 million average income. Everybody else lost ground.

The movie The Secret of Oz explains the history of bankers' manipulation of the American economy clearly enough to show us the path we must follow to get out of this fix — and it's not the yellow brick road.

Occupy Eugene and Occupy BankBusters will present a benefit showing of The Secret of Oz at Cozmic Pizza on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. Pick up a coupon that gives 30% off pizza sales to Occupy and come on down to see The Secret of Oz

21 CITED FOR PROTEST AT FREE SPEECH PLAZA

By CHRISTINA BELLINI

On Jan. 7, Eugene police arrested 21 people at Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza for defying an 11 p.m. curfew. County Administrator Liane Richardson had recently imposed the nighttime curfew at the plaza in a reaction to ongoing protests there by Occupy Eugene and SLEEPS activists.

About a hundred Occupiers and other activists gathered on the perimeter at the west side of the plaza to cheer on the 21 who elected to remain inside the plaza after 11 p.m. in spite of the certainty of arrest.

Signs with slogans like “Bill of Rights — Good All Night” and “Free Speech Doesn't Sleep” proclaimed a constitutionally protected right to peacefully assemble, at any

time, in Free Speech Plaza, a place long used for protest and demonstration.

For over two hours, the crowd stood to witness the well-planned act of civil disobedience, chanting and shouting words of encouragement like “We love you!” to the people facing arrest. Police escorted one protester at a time from the plaza, issuing each a citation and releasing them.

One protester, a military veteran, re-entered the plaza immediately after police cited and released him. Police arrested him again and took him into custody. A second man refused to give the spelling of his name when escorted off the square and was also taken into police custody. Both were released from jail the next day.

Two of the protesters cited were 16 year-old girls who had joined the protest with the blessing of their parents.

The police carried out their task with professionalism. At one point, some of the officers smiled when someone in the crowd asked that the people who were not being paid to be there raise their hands, and everyone but the officers raised a hand.

On Jan. 28, at a municipal arraignment, nineteen of the protesters maintained the right to protest at any hour, day or night, requested jury trial, and pled not guilty. A joint motion is expected to be filed arguing for dismissal of all cases on constitutional grounds.

SLEEPS POPS UP EVERYWHERE

By VICKIE NELSON



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

SLEEPS Team member Coyote stands with a sign outside the EMU on the University of Oregon Campus at the start of the Social Justice Real Justice Conference.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

SLEEPS team and supporters, some wearing clown makeup, demonstrate outside the Trude Kaufman house on Feb. 9.

The SLEEPS Strike team has been busy this winter, popping up with tents and chalk at the Old Federal Building, the Free Speech Plaza, Kesey Square, the Trude Kaufman House, and the Whiteaker’s Last Friday Artwalk. Wherever you see them, they are shining a spotlight on how society treats its most vulnerable citizens and speaking out against Eugene’s anti-camping code, which criminalizes the use of tents or sleeping bags on city property.

On Feb. 9, the SLEEPS Strike Team and their supporters, some wearing clown makeup, displayed signs and waved to cars at the Trude Kaufman House at 996 Jefferson Street in Eugene. The house, which used to house a senior center but has been shuttered for over two years, is still city property. Some SLEEPS activists believe the house has the potential to provide shelter for unhoused families.

On Feb. 14, members of the team showed up outside the EMU as the Social Justice Real Just Conference was beginning. Later that weekend, on Feb. 17, they took part in the conference’s culminating event, a march from the UO to the WOW Hall against the fossil fuel industry.

SLEEPS needs your help. The team often uses their Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/EugeneSLEEPS>) to lists items they need. Recent lists have included bicycles, bicycle trailers, fabric paint, colored chalk, and graphics-free T-shirts. And, of course, your support and attendance at SLEEPS events is always appreciated.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

Coyote, of the SLEEPS Team, holds a sign outside the Trude Kaufman house.

CONRAD BARNEY BREAKS FAST

By VICKIE NELSON

On Dec 11, SLEEPS activist Conrad Barney started a hunger strike to bring awareness to the problems the unhoused face every day — problems such as sleep deprivation from being awoken multiple times by police during the night and citation and arrest for huddling on the concrete by a downtown heating vent on a freezing winter night.

During the fast, Conrad took juices and supplements and lost over 40 pounds. He said fatigue and hunger came and went and he “learned the limits of his body.”

At a SLEEPS strike team appearance at Kesey Square on Feb. 9, Barney broke his fast with some yoghurt. It was the 60th day of his fast. He said he felt he had met his goal of raising people’s awareness of the way our society treats the homeless and that he had gotten “lots of positive response.”

On Feb. 24 SLEEPS, OE

and other supporters held a Breakfast-for-Dinner celebratory meal from 4 to 8 p.m. in the downtown park blocks to mark the ending of Conrad Barney’s fast. Proceeds from the meal went to SLEEPS.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

“We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

HEALTH CARE RALLY IN SALEM

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE

On Monday, Feb. 4, Eugene activists filled two busses and went up to Salem where they joined others from around the state to form a thousand strong rally for health care on the Capitol steps. Later most of the protesters went inside the Capitol to petition lawmakers to support LC 1914, The Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Act. This act would insure that all Oregonians, individuals, families, businesses, and the rest of society, have access to a full range of affordable health care, including inpatient, outpatient, mental health, dental, and vision services, and prescription medications.

The act’s main sponsor Rep. Michael Denbrow came out and addressed the crowd, saying that a single-payer system would not be possible until 2017 (because the State would need a variance from the Affordable Care Act). Although the delay is unfortunate, it will give supporters time to build support. Rep. Denbrow read the names of the 19 co-sponsors of the Legislative Concept and said the act needed three more co-sponsors. Note: the Health Care for All Oregon Bill, HB 2922, has now received sufficient sponsors and has been introduced in the House.



Among the many speakers was Portland Rep. Jennifer Williamson, who co-sponsored the act..

One of the most popular groups at the rally was the Raging Grannies from Portland. A few Eugene activists commented that they had aprons too — Will there soon be a Raging Granny group in Eugene?



FRIENDS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM STILL HAVE WORK TO DO

By MARY SHARON MOORE

Even with the 2012 Affordable Care Act, access to affordable health care remains out of reach for too many Americans. People needing medical attention often go without or hope for some unlikely intervention (the lottery, say, or some miraculous healing). America can do better. And right now Oregon stands a chance of doing just that.

But what does “doing better” actually look like? The recent rally at the state capitol for health care finance reform offered me a first glimpse. Oregon Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) has drafted the Act for the Affordable Health Care for All Oregon (LC 1914). The bill has some support among Dembrow’s colleagues, but needs much more support in the House, the Senate, and from Oregonians who feel pinched by health care costs.

Dembrow’s Health Care for All Oregon bill ensures access to quality patient-centered and affordable health care, to improve public health overall, and to reel in costs of health care. Who wins? Individuals, families, business, and society as a whole.

The bill, which covers everyone residing or working in Oregon, would eliminate co-payments and deductibles. This bill is not about changing the actual delivery of health care, but about reforming the convoluted means of financing it. Under this bill you and I would no longer be penalized for “going out of network” to get the care we need, nor would we lose our coverage through job loss.

The new plan would be funded by a progressively structured tax paid directly to “The Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Fund.” If you don’t want to pay another tax, consider the hidden “tax” in every insurance premium and bill you pay for doctors’ visits, lab tests, scans, surgical procedures, emergency room visits, and hospital stays, not only to cover those who cannot pay, but to “give a little something” to insurance companies’ shareholders.

Socialized medicine? Not at all. With socialized medicine doctors and hospitals are employed by the government. With the proposed plan, doctors retain their private practice, and the patient-doctor relationship is not dictated by an outsider as it is today with insurance companies.

Which brings me to a second glimpse of what “doing better” in health care looks like. I think of the paralytic in the Gospels who was carried on his mat by some people who recognized his need and his obvious inability to get to a source of healing. They took him to the house where Jesus was. But the house was so packed that the four men carrying the man went up and tore a hole in the roof over the place where Jesus was, and lowered the man down.

They would not let anything stand in the way of this stranger’s needs. They recognized the situation and did the courageous thing. Because of their bold action Jesus healed the man.

If we want our fellow Oregonians to have access to affordable health care, we each need to do the next courageous thing. That might mean educating yourself on the proposed legislation (<http://hcao.org/legislative-tools>). It might mean telling your state representatives we urgently need their support of the Affordable Health Care For All Oregon Plan. Or it might be attending a health care rally, or house party, or making noise in the public square until affordable health care as a basic human right is established in our state.

As hole-in-the-roof friends of the medically afflicted, we still have work to do. It’s high time for real conversation and courageous action on the moral and social dimensions of affordable health care for all Oregonians.

HUGE TURNOUT FOR HEALTH CARE RALLY!

By RUTH DUEMLER AND LOU SINNIGER



PHOTO BY JERRY BRULE
Ruth Duemler demonstrates support for Health Care for All in Salem on Feb. 4.

The Hundreds of Oregonians gathered in Salem on Feb. 4 urged lawmakers to move further toward establishing a universal single-payer system. Representative Mike Dembrow greeted the crowd and gave them the good news that he was busy enlisting co-sponsors for his Health Care for All bill.

Instead of paying private health insurance premiums, co-payments and other extra medical expenses, residents would fund the universal health care plan through a tax based on their ability to pay, according to Health Care for All Oregon, a coalition of 65 labor, education and health care organizations that hosted the rally. This plan would save Oregonians billions of dollars.

“We feel that every Oregonian deserves health care and there are minimal steps that are being taken,” said Mike Huntington, M.D., president of Health Care for All. Even with the expansion of health care coverage under the Obama administration,

Huntington said studies show an estimated 28 million people would still be uninsured in our country.

Many of the rally’s participants came dressed in red — some as Supreme Court justices with umbrellas — while waving signs that read “We want health care not wealth care” and “Everybody In. Nobody Out.” It was an exciting event and everyone said they wanted to return soon.

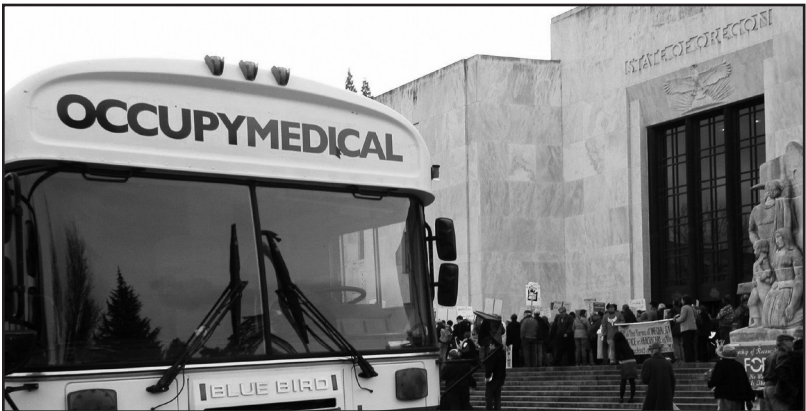
Health Care for All Eugene will meet at EWEB March 11. at 7 p.m. For information, call Ruth Duemler 541-484-6145.

OCCUPY MEDICAL GETS SUPPORT AT STATEHOUSE

BROOKE ROBERTSHAW AND SUE SIERRALUPE

“There’s a war on the poor and we’re the MASH Unit of the war on the poor. The insurance companies have deserted our patients and we are patching people up as best we can until we get single payer health care for all Oregonians. We need you to support healthcare for all. We want you to put us out of business,” said Sue Sierralupe, of Occupy Medical (OM), to House Majority Leader Rep. Val Hoyle (D-14) during the Health care for All Oregon (HCAO) Rally in Salem. While other OM volunteers were giving tours of the OM Clinic Bus, Sue, and new volunteer, Brooke Robertshaw went to meet with Oregon lawmakers. In their meeting with her, Rep. Hoyle expressed support for OM’s work and said she would tell constituents who wanted to help about the OM Clinic.

Sue and Brooke, along with other Eugenians, also had a productive meeting with Rep. Nancy Nathanson’s (D-13) aide who was very receptive to the message the group carried about getting health care for all Oregonians. Rep. Nathanson’s aide was also interested in the work of Occupy Medical and promised to pass Sue and Brooke’s invitation to see the OM Bus on to Rep. Nathanson. Invitations were extended to all lawmakers from Lane County to make time to see the Occupy Medical Clinic Bus.



The Occupy Medical Bus sits outside the State Capitol in Salem.

PHOTO BY BROOKE ROBERTSHAW

The Non-Physical Side of Occupy Medical

By [Becca Perry](#)

Since October of 2012, I have volunteered as a mental health specialist at Occupy Medical. My background is peer counseling and personal growth workshop facilitation, with some mediation training thrown in. I also teach meditation and do a bit of ad hoc social work. I listen carefully to people and try to help them solve their problems in a calm, constructive way. That helps to free up medical staff to do the job they came to do.

And what a job! Four hours a week in all weather conditions, our staff selflessly gives people their attentive skills, simply because it's a need that has gone too long unmet. The nurses and doctors, herbalist and pharmacist, students and nurse assistants who show up every week are high quality practitioners who are as frustrated with barriers to health care as everyone else. We also have other lay mental health workers/social workers, including one who disguises himself as the Occupy hair stylist.

Whether you live on the street or are working but uninsured — whatever your “status” or income level — Occupy Medical is there for you with no barriers. We strive for as little bureaucracy as possible — just the minimum required by law. If someone has elevated symptoms of PTSD or claustrophobia preventing them from going on our bus, a doctor will see them outside. We are free to let anyone in, no HMO auditors to breathe down our necks

Occupy Medical Receives Two Grants

By [Arwen Maas-DeSpain](#) and [Sue Sierralupe](#)

Occupy Medical received two \$500 grants Jan. 31. The first came from Emerald F.E.A.S.T.(Financing Eugene Area Sustainable Talent), a local non-profit that seeks to increase awareness of local nano-businesses and to stimulate organizations that benefit the community. This grant will be used to help pay for the most expensive prescription medications. Currently, OM can get the first \$50 of a prescription covered for patients without insurance through neighborhood voucher programs. The rest of the cost of prescriptions has come out of our donation jar. We were honored and surprised to receive the F.E.A.S.T. grant, given the compelling and inspiring presentations of the three other groups competing for the award.

The second grant came from Mountain Rose Herbs. These funds will go for our nutrition and herbal supplement program. OE uses herbs such as milk thistle, dandelion, echinacea, and osha regularly for our patients. Some patients prefer treatment with herbs rather than prescription medication. Mountain Rose Herbs is well known in our region for actively supporting community health projects like ours. They boldly stepped up to the plate last year when we were just getting started, and more than doubled their donation this year.

These grants literally help save lives in our community, for which we are all grateful. To learn more about Mountain Rose Herbs and Emerald F.E.A.S.T., check out their websites at <http://www.mountainroseherbs.com/about/about.html> and <http://emeraldfeast.weebly.com/>

and no accountants to get between us and our patients.

Grassroots action at its very finest, our mission has inspired others to share their generosity with us, including the amazing gift from the Lane Blood Bank of our clinic on wheels. Our microcosm community is so human and raw and connected. It makes me wonder why in the name of all that is good did we ever consent to be subject to bureaucratic rule in so many of our important human endeavors? It's bad for those being served, but it is also bad for those who are serving: excessive bureaucratic insurance paperwork, for example, leads to burnout. While rates of suicide and depression are very high among health workers, we at Occupy Medical manage to stay surprisingly happy.

I think the biggest gift the Occupy movement has given is to show that when people show up and care, more can be done with fewer resources. Occupy Sandy put Red Cross and FEMA to shame. They’ve been effective because they're not going for mass one-size-fits-all solutions. They take the personal, proactive approach, free of bureaucratic barriers and red tape. It's empowering for those of us on the ground and it truly saves lives. So much life energy can be freed up — energy giving us even more capacity to care.

Occupy Medical Gives Community A Shot In The Arm

By [Sue Sierralupe](#)

Occupy Medical (OM), in conjunction with Lane County Public Health, was honored to start offering free Dtap vaccines to all citizens 18 and older beginning Jan. 20. Dtap vaccines protect the patient from Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough). Health officials are concerned about the rapid spread of a particularly virulent strain of whooping cough. In 2011, close to 300 were reported cases in the state of Washington. Then, in 2012, close to 3,000 reported cases in the state of Washington. The number of reported cases of whooping cough in Oregon is also growing at an alarming rate.

The dangers of whooping cough are vast. Some patients suffer from broken ribs due to violent coughing spasms. Some patients suffer from anal fissures. Others pick up subsequent infections such as pneumonia.

Pertussis poses a special danger to the unhoused. The bacteria can spread easily through the air in infected water vapor from a cough. In close quarters such as those found at a shelter, the disease spreads like wildfire. For people with a compromised immune system (from the stress of living on the street, for instance), whooping cough can be fatal.

More free Dtap clinics are expected in March. See Occupy Medical's website <> for these dates. Thanks to Bill Henley from Occupy Medical and Heather and Cindy from Lane County Public Health for helping to put together this much needed event.

Occupy Your Mouth

By [Lina Howison](#)



Volunteers Dennis Maricle, Lina Howison, and Inola Jones Russ outside the Mobile Dental Van. PHOTO BY LINA HOWISON

With hats, gloves, and a small radiant heater, a group of volunteers huddles around a picnic table at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the St Vincent de Paul Lindholm Service Center on Highway 99. Despite the mid-January chill, smiles are the order of the day. In fact, it's the reason everyone's here: Repairing smiles for people who have waited years for dental care.

Planning a wintertime mobile dental clinic was daring. The volunteer crew would be

outdoors, communicating by radio with the dental team staying warm inside the Medical Team's International (MTI) van. Luckily, Jan. 12 proved sunny.

Real warmth that day came from the satisfaction of coming together to provide relief to those in need. In the weeks before, the team sought out prospective patients at the Service Center and the Occupy Medical bus. Adrienne Stewart, the team's hygienist, screened each

applicant, then volunteers followed up with phone interviews. From the dozens of desperate sufferers applying to the clinic, 15 were treated that chilly morning.

This was the team's third event in conjunction with MTI, which split the cost with St Vincent de Paul through a grant engineered by long-term St Vincent volunteer Dennis Maricle. He was approached by Occupy Medical's Jerry Zook at the urging of fellow clinic volunteer Lina Howison who, while assisting her husband Dr. Peter Howison, noted the high percentage of untreated dental problems presenting at the street clinic.

Dental pain is “a source of constant misery,” notes Lina, a grant writer and program evaluator for Oral Care Access, a dental non-profit, “but having to extract a bad tooth is a sign of long-term neglect. We call it end-point failure.” Ideally, regular preventive dental clinics would save teeth. The level of urgency at the street clinic, however, led to the decision to focus on extractions; a mobile clinic last June and a second in September treated nearly fifty patients with close to seventy teeth extracted by periodontist Dr Dan Harper. The January clinic included fillings and reconstructions for the first time, a step closer to prevention.

It's cold, but the look of relief on each patient's face after being treated by general dentist Dr Joseph Greenwood brings new warmth to the group as volunteers deftly guide patients through the process, their tools a few clipboards, some buzzing walkie-talkies, and an uncanny recall of names, faces, and each person's dental history.

A week later, the volunteer group, now calling itself the Dental Task Force, appealed to the Board of Directors of Oral Care Access for assistance to continue dental outreach in Eugene. The result was an influx of supplies — toothbrushes, disposable dental mirrors, and temporary use of OCA's portable dental chair as well as access to a mobile dental clinic owned by two board members — and a new program for the non-profit.

Deep January Clinic

By [Dr. Leigh Saint-Louis](#)

As one of the primary physicians at the OM Mobile Clinic, I learn a lot about street life from my patients.

“Dude. Winter is here and we’re making it — most of us!”

Another patient said, “Remember a few months ago, you told me to quit smoking? Well, I did it!”

Another said, “The blood pressure medicine you gave me last time? It's working.”

Yet another told me, “I ran out of refills last week. I thought I was just S.O.L.” I simply changed the dosage by a few milligrams, and saved the patient \$40 a month. One patient needed a “simple” skin surgery – simple under normal circumstances, but here on the bus? I asked them to get a second opinion. In the interim, they got a tetanus shot. Then the second doctor examined them and said, “You should just come into my office. I'll do it for free.”

Several Public Health Department nurses were with us recently, giving free tetanus/pertussis vaccinations. That made us a full Triage team. A well-oiled machine. We take all medical record keeping seriously and our new volunteers are learning to help track patients and their records. I told one newbie, “This clinic is for everyone, for free, every Sunday. We see a fair number of people who are unemployed and unhoused — who don't have many resources. I think our success is mainly because of where we park the bus: downtown.”

No matter where we parked the clinic bus, we'd always be busy because injury and illness happen in every social class. People are falling through the cracks in our broken social system faster and faster as budgets are cut and insurance premiums rise. At the clinic we don't ask people to prove they're poor enough to deserve our services. Health

care is a human right.

In winter months, we see a lot of folks who are really cold. Actually, we are too. When I got out of my nice warm bed one morning, it was 28 degrees with freezing fog. Local shelters generally kick everybody out every morning, no matter what the weather. If people don't have a job or school to go to, they must basically walk around all day in the cold air, often getting sick. Over in our tent, we made a big crock pot full of hot vegetable bean stew, hot tea, and home-baked bread for whoever was hungry. Faithful assistant Donna said, “I'm still trying to give away these boots!” Meanwhile, Food Not Bombs set up next door, with more hot soup and bread for everybody.

I'm seeing more people with bad asthma attacks from this freezing fog and today I saw a person with pneumonia. She called it “Occuplague,” after the terrible bronchitis

See Clinic, p. 6

WANDERINGS

By [DIANE SCIACCA](#)

In mid-August 2012, Diane and her geriatric cat, Feitlebaum Horus, joined the ranks of Lane County's not inconsiderable homeless population.

August 27, 2012. A mountaintop south of Eugene, Oregon. Big plot of land owned by the county fire district, lots of trees. Big parking lot — fenced off — and an open parking lot with reserved spaces and no fences. There is a small open gate that allows access to the big parking lot, the shed and the back of the station.

The fire station has a port-a-pottie in the back, no lock on it! Thank the gods for small favours. No Internet, but we can deal, at least for tonight. I am still somewhat nervous, though: treading unknown territory.

First night completely on my own, and despite the fact that I'm hungry, low on gas and nearly penniless, it feels good.

Hours go by. Lots of cars pass by the crossroads, but none have stopped to challenge. I'm physically and emotionally tired from the bug-out from my friend's back yard. The cat and I settle down to sleep. Hopefully I'm not awakened by the sheriff pounding on the door.

Bed is very comfortable, lights are on. I have music, milk, light, the moon behind the clouds and cat. And a surfeit of pillows.

Tuesday, August 28 2012. Awoken by voices outside the trailer. They sound light, smooth, not angry. I go out to see a trio of bicyclists stretching and chatting. I bid them good morning, but don't offer any personal details aside from my first name. They are a local biking club, they climb the mountain every Tuesday morning, and they've never heard the siren go off at this station. They always stop here because of the port-a-potty in back, and because the downhill portion of the ride is a lot of fun. Too soon, they're gone, and it's back to me and Feitlebaum.

Not for long, though. We have a neighbour, and she's kinda friendly. She's a Plymouth Barred chicken that I dubbed "Chancery."

There's firewood, but burn season doesn't start for another month and a week. They have a box in the front of the station with fliers in it that state exactly that.

Found the telephone box; there may be Internet, I'll check it shortly.

There's a hose bib on the shack, and it looks like the parking lot may be accessible with a bit of overland.

I thought of a ruse to get free gas. Go into town, call AAA, and tell them I need gas. Five free gallons, courtesy of the AAA Plus membership. Check to see if it's expired, though...

Confirmed :) Good through Dec. 15. And it would buy me 87 miles to add to the 20 already in the tank for a total of 107 miles range.

First order of business: strips of fabric for the hanging of baskets. These will be my new storage system.

Tape LED lights to the ceiling, or at least the ledge above the bed.

Store hope chest under bed. This will be clothing storage.

Prime and paper walls.

Get tile for next to the stove.

PROPANE TANKS FILLED. This is most important. I need it to fuel the fridge and to cook hot meals. I can't use the firepit until October.

Get a hitch lock. Render the trailer theft-proof, by either authorized or unauthorized parties.

Hang the bathroom cupboard.

WHO ARE MY CLIENTS AT THE SUNDAY GORILLA SALON?

By [BENJAMIN HUNT](#)

Some of my haircut regulars who come to our tent are Occupy people. Some are working poor, some are homeless. Some folks come down to see a doctor and are surprised to see that we offer haircuts.

Some are job hunting or actually have a forthcoming interview so they want me to clean up their look. Some of my long-haired clients are very attached to their hair and just want the frazzled split ends cut off. Once in awhile people like teen street kids let me have extra fun and create wild, fun new styles. One regular needed to have his "Hawk" cleaned up because it was “fuzzing” out so I took the sides back down to the scalp. When I pulled out the mirror he looked at himself and said, “Great, now I look like an asshole again!" Looking scary on the streets is a survival technique and not always just a statement of rebellion.

To perform this service, I need supplies and equipment. Just in case, here is my wish list:

My most desired new piece of equipment is a new pair of professional shears (scissors). The shears I have now are at least ten years old and will no longer take an edge. Unfortunately shears are one of the most expensive items for a hairstylist (\$200+). I always need paper towels for many reasons as well as hand sanitizer. I use Barbacide disinfectant for cleaning my combs, brushes, clipper guides and clips. This disinfectant kills everything nasty and is extremely important for me to protect my clients from infection. Unfortunately Barbacide is \$32 for the smallest container.

I have been purchasing all of these items myself, but my friends are relentlessly telling me that I should accept donations for these items. I will never accept money for any hair services but donations for supplies are gratefully accepted.

Clinic from p. 5

people got last winter in the outdoor Occupy camps, nationwide. I told her that her lungs sounded like a boiling teakettle. “They’re gurgling!” That can dangerously prevent her lungs and heart from getting the needed amount of oxygen.

We are excited about two new developments. After months of wrangling, the City has stationed a porta-potty near our mobile clinic! This makes a huge difference to our patients, plus for our volunteers, who stay on site for four to six hours at a time. Beforehand, we had patients come with severe gastrointestinal ailments and there was no bathroom! We can now also do pregnancy tests and simple urinalyses.

Also, the City has recently allowed us to plug into the park’s power supply to replace our generator. We had to take out an extra-large insurance policy, the kind appropriate for a giant rock-and-roll show, but at least we have good lighting, and a wee space heater at the chilly doctor’s elbow. All in all, there’s a lot to feel good about. By golly, if elected officials can’t yet figure out how to provide health care as a human right, we just have to do it ourselves!

Fish out my solar shower bag.
Get a cargo box installed on the roof.

The station is basically a garage with an engine, ambulance, desk and a television. It seems the last is always on.

There is no Internet, and I can't get my modem to work. This could be a good thing, though...

Cat food had maggots in it! Big maggots, wriggling vigorously! :(I dumped it outside, where it was seen to by Chancery. She never misses anything and she's taken to hanging out in my trailer's shade.

Gradually making boxes disappear and surfaces cleared off. Closet is jam-packed, though; I'll need to re-organize it.

Couple hours later: Only one box left and that's going to the locker tomorrow. Feitlebaum met Chancery, his first (live) chicken, during a rest break when he came to keep me company. I put water out in a tureen that has since been smashed during one of my moves.

I have to go to town tonight for ice and milk.

- Trip into town:
- Gas (courtesy of AAA :))
 - Food (courtesy State of Oregon) \$10 spent, \$22 available.
 - Internet connection
 - Dump trash and recycling
 - Locker run

Bring the cat! If the trailer is towed and THEY find him in there, I could be facing big time charges! Don't be gone long! Find the trailer's title!

Town had mixed results. AAA brought only 2 gallons. I'm out of the red, but I can only do one trip into town now. Make it count! I used my SNAP to get ice, milk and blueberries at the Darimart drive-thru. Can't leave the cat alone in the car while I grocery shop...

I rounded the bend, praying that the trailer was still there. It was, thank the Gods. This seems to be a safe place, but there's NOTHING up here. Bathroom and water, no harassment, nice forest. I am cut off except for the phone.

In town, I will be close to services but also prone to crime and harassment. Family have more or less turned their backs on me. Aunt keeps saying, get a job.

There HAS TO BE a happy medium: a place that is safe, and connected to vital services.

Would it be worth it to sue the family estate? Probably not but there are no jobs where I am.

Or are there?

There is a lot of traffic here. People passing by all the time. I have my pop-up, I have food stamps now, I can get olive oil and yeast. I can grow herbs, it's pretty sunny up here and I can do a hanging garden of roof gutters on the side of my trailer. I brought a planter with me. A one-person farmer's market? Why not? And best yet, I am the Standards Committee.

I have a board, I can get paint at Mecca.

Fruited green tea drink, whole grain power bars, cater to bicyclists. Would they pay \$1 to fill their water bottle or Camelbak when there's a free water tap across the parking lot? Probably not unless I gave them a taste first ...

Twenty-four little hours, without a roustage in sight. I think I am safe here.

UO LAW SCHOOL HOLDS PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

By [JERRY BRULE](#)

The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC), held Feb. 28 to March 3 at the UO Law School, attracted thousands of participants from all over the country and from as far away as China. Nearly 140 workshops and speeches were presented. The conference was organized and paid for by UO Law School students, and I was encourage to see so many young people working to preserve their future. One 12 year old, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, has already made a film and sued the government to protect the environment.

My impression is that our understanding of environmental Science has become much more comprehensive. Data has increased exponentially, and computer modeling has become even more accurate. As a result many states are now turning to ecosystem management systems, which work much better than managing just one species or area

On the negative side, concern is growing that due to the increasing influence of corporate money, rules and regulations are now doing less to protect the environment and the people, and doing more to protect corporations. We need to work for more rights-based regulations that value nature and protect the basic right of people to have clean air, water, and food free from toxins.



PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE
Thomas Alan Linzey, one of the keynote speakers, gave a stirring call for the end of corporate governance and a return to democracy.

“We have too many high-sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them.” — Abigail Adams

WHAT ABOUT INEQUALITY?

By JERRY BRULE

When the Occupy movement started, it was to protest the enormous income inequality in the nation. The heart of the problem was centered in Wall Street and that was where the movement began. Since then, Occupy has made Americans aware of income inequality and perhaps had an influence on the recent election.

Occupy Eugene has put a lot of effort into helping those at the lowest end of the spectrum: the homeless, the victims of foreclosure, and those without medical care, but the inequality is still there. We haven’t done anything about those at the other end of the spectrum, the super rich.

A TED talk by Richard Wilkinson demonstrates how economic inequality harms societies. If you look at a list of health and social problems by nation, problems including life expectancy, literacy, infant mortality, violence, imprisonment, teenage births, and most other social problems, you’ll find little correlation with wealth but a strong correlation with income inequality. The same relationship is also true within a nation. The social problems of the states are not tied to how rich the states are, but to the gap between the rich and the poor in the state. The UNICEF index of child wellbeing shows the same correlation. Children do better in societies with less income inequality. Having a big gap between the rich and the poor harms all societies. The people in societies with more income equality are happier and healthier.

Letters

Expanding Humanism

The revolution that would benefit us all is one that ends our domination of nature. The herding culture should see its days end. The idea of enslaving and exploiting sentient life keeps us from loving and respecting them. Children should be allowed to love animals and not taught to love some but not be concerned about those they are being served in their meals. A friend who works in a local school was talking about how much uneaten food and milk was being wasted by the kids. It could be that the children would like to be given the opportunity to be complete animal lovers and not be constantly bombarded by messages that they must be carnivores to be healthy with no regard for the animals themselves.

As Sixto Linares, a vegetarian and record holder for the longest single-day triathlon, and other world class athletes prove, you don't need animal products to win. Our young will be here longer than us and they need all the help they can get to adapt to a more crowded planet with limited resources. We could help kids by our not being complicit in the current paradigm of the self-centered eating and using food which clogs our bodies with toxins, pollutes our environment, rips animal families apart, and gives rise to an uncaring world. Lets start new humane traditions and enlarge our circle of caring and healing.

Cindy Biles and David Ivan Piccioni

SLEEPS Strike Team Needs Help to Move Forward

The biggest challenge SLEEPS faced when it was recruiting to build a Strike Team was getting people to step outside of their everyday survival mode. Living on the streets is difficult, and it takes time to develop a routine that is almost all about surviving. Once a routine is developed, an unhoused person lives their life according to that routine. That's why you can see that same man or woman on the same corner, at the same time, every day. It's safe, has worked, is now second nature, and, thus, little outside of this routine is workable.

The SLEEPS Strike Team was a challenge right from the start, as the team is made up of mostly unhoused people who had been living a life in survival mode. However, with great perseverance, a Strike Team was created, and it set out to do what it was designed to do. As the team worked toward its objectives, it struggled to maintain its stability while slipping in and out of survival mode. Even with community support, it is a huge endeavor for an unhoused person to do the work of an activist and maintain an adequate survival mode routine. Most unhoused people are not even sure how to maintain the minimal necessities of life while doing the heavy workload of an activist, especially when the work of an unhoused activist is as an organizer.

If the SLEEPS Strike Team is going to keep moving forward, it is going to need more help. I'm honestly not one hundred percent sure what that help would look like, but it is a necessity. I welcome any constructive feedback on how to take the successes that the SLEEPS team has built and forward them to an end game beneficial and equitable for all.

Hedin Manus Brugh

Vegan living part of the solution

The greatest problems in the world today are overpopulation, resource depletion, and pollution. The population problem can be addressed with education and free birth control. Some think free birth control would be a big expense to society, and would encourage youngsters to have sex, but contraceptives would be cheap if and when the worlds governments negotiate with big pharmaceutical companies for lower prices.

The causes of the last two, resource depletion, and pollution, can vary greatly depending on many factors. From my perspective, veganism would reduce both, because to produce 1 lb of meat for human consumption, you need to feed an animal between 16 and 21 lbs of plant food. In today's factory farms these animals like chicken, cows, pigs etc are also fed ground up remains of other animals including roadkill and euthanized pets. In dairy farms the rationale for this is that cholesterol in the diet will produce more milk and heavier animals, because plants aren't a natural source of cholesterol. My point here is that if we were to eat plants, or animals lower on the food chain, we would waste less water, fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones, and it would decrease the cruelty to these sentient creatures. This matter could be resolved simply with our dietary choices.

David Ivan Piccioni

“The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out ... without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane, intolerable.” —H.L. Mencken

If income inequality is at the root of all of the social problems in the nation, shouldn’t we do something to change it? Isn’t income inequality why most people joined the movement? But how can we reduce the huge disparity between incomes in the nation? To influence the lawmakers, we need to get money out of politics and reverse the Citizen’s United Case. The Occupy movement is working with Move to Amend and many other organizations to amend the Constitution to clearly establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech. <https://movetoamend.org/other-amendments>

But, even if we are successful in these goals, how can lawmakers reduce the inequality? Congress is talking about tax reform now, but conservatives want to eliminate progressive taxes and replace them with flat or sales taxes that would hurt the poor while giving the rich huge breaks. This would increase inequality dramatically and make our social problems worse. A fair plan would be more progressive, and would include a carbon tax to reduce global warming and a financial transaction tax (Robin Hood Tax) on hedge funds, derivatives, and leveraged transactions, because that is where the most money is. There are \$700 trillion in derivative products being sold, while the entire Gross World Product is only a tenth of that amount. An Automated Payment Transaction Tax of only 0.6% every time any money is moved would eliminate the need for all federal and state income taxes, sales taxes, excise taxes and corporate taxes. See APTTAX.com

Homeless Rights

It seems whenever I hear about a controversy, I start seeing the "elephants in the room." The issue of whether housing is a right brings to mind what we mean by "rights". I see the ultimate right being the self respect of serving greater communities, from family to village to planetary biosphere. (It sometimes seems like arresting a person is mainly about taking away this basic right.) The governments that speak for these

communities, at least in their own best interests, should ensure that we have all that we need to continue such services to our communities, thus "rights".

In Eugene, if a homeless person puts a blanket, backpack or anything interpreted as "camping equipment" on the sidewalk, or sometimes just carries such, they can be arrested for illegal camping. This doesn't apply to a person with a home address. So suppose two people are sitting on a blanket, one homeless and one not. Is it legal only if the "homed" person owns the blanket?

I guess it comes down to, the officer on hand interprets the sloppy law and the city backs him up. If you have much more than you need, you can keep it, but if you have barely what you need, then authorities can take it away. How is this different from our economic system in general, and how is it different from fascism?

Dan Robinson

WARS, MILITARISM AND THE POLICE STATE

The governments of this world’s empires and even poor countries seem to arm with power the most cowardly of their citizens. Not the bravest. It doesn’t take heroes to go armed to the teeth, with body armor and with a gang of fellows to beat up civilians. It takes a person with a need to please someone else even if this act goes against their conscience. The leaders of these “men” who order them to commit atrocities have only a fictional authority given to them by their insecure subordinates.

There is a place for this training, but it should remain dormant and not come out unless a legitimate need arises.

This is not to be understood as a passive stance, a “turn the other cheek” philosophy. Military campaigns for the right reasons, with the correct understanding and with total peace as the aim are justifiable. They are a last resort, not to be taken lightly. My view is also not strictly individualistic. The process of individuation (growth and transformation) can be undergone by everyone before rejoining society as a complete person. This can be done in special retreats, schools or the proverbial “leaving home.”

A quote from Lao Tzu, ancient Chinese master composer of the Tao Te Ching poems relates to this: “ Going to a battle field is to be approached as if going to the funeral of relatives. Death is no cause for happiness.”

Eva Kasparek

David Ivan Piccioni

PIE-DC Strategy: Plan, implement, establish, divide and conquer

The effort to eliminate legal constructs such as 'Corporate Personhood' is commendable, but, for Occupy and activism in general to be effective in shifting the legal political dynamic back towards people and away from corporations we need to begin working towards establishing local laws that prevent the exploitation of workers.

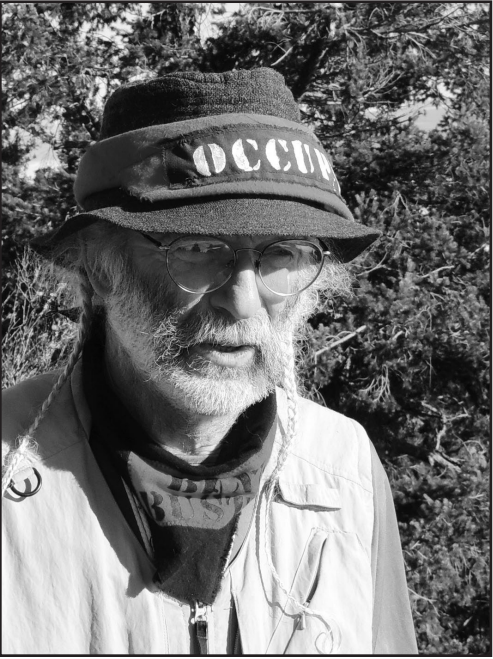
We can accomplish this by pushing for city and county ordinances that protect workers from issues like random work schedules. It is the establishment of laws of this nature on a local level that can be leveraged to affect laws on a larger level. Each and every ordinance that strips corporations of the ability to abuse their workforce is a win for the people.

I am ready to take the fight to their level, and if we can begin to do this on so many fronts at once that the legal struggles become overwhelming and confusing for them to manage and sustain, we have an opportunity to use our numbers that will be effective in pursuing the peoples’ goals on the corporations own turf. We can win this, we will win this, it is merely a matter of shifting our efforts away from the defensive mannerism we have established to one of a more offensive nature.

Joshua Mcwhorter

FERGUS McLEAN

By JERRY BRULE



PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE

because both are self-regulating democracies. His experience in Salem came in handy when he challenged Oregon House Co-speaker Bruce Hanna for his house seat during the last

Fergus McLean, who has been an activist for most of his life, came to Occupy Eugene in the early days and worked on several committees, including Collective Visioning, Communications, and Foreclosures. Born in California, he arrived in Oregon when he was five. After attending the UO, he dropped out to live in Haight Ashbury during the “Summer of Love,” then returned and earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Health from Oregon State in 1974. Later Fergus joined the Hoedads, a tree planting co-op, and did graduate work in Industrial Relations to learn more about worker co-operatives. He did an internship with the Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, Bob Baugh, who lobbied in the state legislature. Fergus thought Bob was the brightest guy in Salem.

Fergus thought that the way the legislature worked was analogous to what happens with co-ops but on a larger scale,

election. He received a respectable 30% of the vote — a good showing for a newcomer with no funding or party support in District 7 in which Republicans outnumber Democrats 40% to 30%. Fergus ran primarily because the seat was unchallenged, and Fergus, who was active in the Occupy Eugene Foreclosures committee, disagreed with Hanna and other Republicans who supported the banking industry and tried to kill Senate Bill 1552. The bill passed and will protect homeowner’s rights. Those facing foreclosure can now request a mediation session with their lender and a third-party arbitrator.

Fergus has forty years experience in forestry and opposes current clearcutting practices because they destroy forest ecosystems, preferring to harvest floral greens and botanicals like essential oils extracted from the needles of pine and fir trees, which have a huge global market. He supports a carbon tax on fossil fuels and increasing logging taxes on private timber lands.

Now Fergus regards big banks as the nation’s largest problem. He views the banks as criminal enterprises, and regards the recently sworn-in Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew, as terrible. Fergus says Lew was a disaster when in Citi Corps, is the author of Obama’s austerity programs, and was involved in the deregulation of derivatives.

Fergus recently helped create Occupy BankBusters, a new committee inspired by the OE foreclosure committee (OH-FAC) and the Occupy Wall Street Strike Debt campaign. Occupy BankBusters plans to challenge fraud and predatory lending by the banks not only with foreclosures but also with credit card and student loan debt. Bankbusters also wants to change the the way we think about money, debt and community. Occupy BankBusters uses a new governing process called Dynamic Consent to streamline and focus decision making. You can join BankBusters Fridays at 4:30 to protest in front of Bank of America at 11th & Pearl, and can follow BankBusters on twitter: @BustTheBanks.

PORTLAND HOUSING JUSTICE COMMUNITY FIGHTS EVICTIONS

By KARI KOCH OF WE ARE OREGON, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALEJANDRO JUAREZ, ADAM COBLE, AND ANGELA MACWHINNIE

In late January, the Austin family, who has been fighting eviction since 2011, was forcibly removed from their home by the Multnomah County Sheriff and the Portland Police at the behest of national mortgage giant, Fannie Mae. After the family was kicked to the street, armed security guards were posted at their home to make sure it remained empty while Debbie, Ron, and their two children were left houseless. This problem goes beyond one family and speaks to the deep fraud and failures in our housing system.

The housing justice community, alongside families like the Austins, has been fighting back against the banks, developers and their legal protectors. Families across Portland have come forward to put a face on foreclosure and to say that they will not move out, that they will fight to keep their homes. Homeowners partner with community members, renters, and the houseless in this struggle to name foreclosure as nothing more than bank fraud for profit as they fight for a core social value of housing as a right.

In Portland, Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Staton carries out evictions. The housing justice community has approached the Sheriff about fraud and irregularities and asked him to stop enforcing foreclosure evictions until those injustices are addressed, as other sheriffs across the country have done. Families have presented evidence, told their stories, written letters, and applied traditional civic pressure to encourage the Sheriff to reconsider his role in kicking families out of their homes.

In the past few months, the Sheriff and the Portland Police have dispatched more than 15 officers with assault rifles to early morning evictions. Fed up with this injustice

and brutality, the housing justice community decided to act. On Jan. 24, activists hosted a rally at the Sheriff’s SE Hawthorne office. In an impromptu meeting, the Sheriff again said that he could not change his enforcement of court orders. The delegation told Sheriff that they refused to leave until he called a moratorium on evictions in Multnomah County. Hoping folks would just give up and go home, the Sheriff’s department told housing justice activists they could stay in the office overnight.

During the night, social media flurried, supporters dropped off blankets, solidarity pizzas were delivered, and, most importantly, activists were still out in the neighborhoods defending homes and supporting families in the struggle. Commissioner Cogen, whose office is suing banks over their faulty mortgage registration system (MERS), reached out with an offer to bring himself, the Sheriff, and the housing justice activists to a meeting the following morning. That night, housing justice activists finalized their demands for a real path toward eviction moratorium.

The next afternoon, the community gathered to support those sitting in at the Sheriff’s office and hear the announcement about what demands had been met. Because the housing justice activists refused to take no for an answer and escalated direct action, they were able to get the Sheriff and the County to publicly support the idea of a moratorium and commit to the following four agreements:

1. Publicly support a moratorium and work for a change in state statute to provide more time for families fighting evictions.
2. Hold a meeting with the primary judge that issues

eviction orders, Judge Waller, and a community delegation to talk about the judge’s role in stopping foreclosure evictions.


3. Sheriff to personally attend all foreclosure evictions to be accountable for the use of force.

4. Work with the County District Attorney’s office to pursue bank fraud and irregularities in foreclosures. When San Francisco did a foreclosure audit, they found that 84% of foreclosures had fraud or irregularities, providing grounds to stop issuing eviction orders.

In the short term, a moratorium would directly buffer homeowners and renters from houselessness. More broadly, a moratorium and the work of the housing justice community would force the state to stop blindly enforcing the will of the financial industry. Instead, the state would be charged with keeping the banks on a leash and punishing them for manipulating families out of their homes. This is a direct change in the relationship between the state, the community, and the banks. Currently, the state enforces banks’ legal and property rights above all else – partially because these corporations have a fully funded aggressive legal program. A moratorium would provide some time away from on-the-ground defense, so that the housing justice community can build support for the vision of housing as a preeminent right.

As Frederick Douglass said, “Power concedes nothing without a demand.” The achievement at the Sheriff’s office demonstrated that when those in positions of power refuse to work for the people, the people will not stay silent. Collective action is our strongest tool for exercising power and affecting change, and we will continue to use it.

“THERE’S CLASS WARFARE, ALL RIGHT, BUT IT’S MY CLASS, THE RICH CLASS, THAT’S MAKING WAR, AND WE’RE WINNING.” — WARREN BUFFETT



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