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/

Volume 1, Number 7
Nov. - Dec. 2012

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OCCUPY EUGENE!

By Graham Lewis

There would be rain but the die had been cast, the posters posted, and we were already celebrating at the Park Blocks. Canopy after canopy popped up on that Monday morning until it looked like Junior Saturday Market. Big John, Diesel, and crew got there early and were already set up, peeling and chopping. The immense banner reading “No Jobs on a Dead Planet” was hoisted into the trees — no small feat. People from every era of Occupy Eugene began the schmoozing.

As Jana Thrift’s masterpiece video of OE’s first year started, somebody put eco-friendly detergent in the fountain, creating a sea of white foam. We were like school kids on a snow day, throwing the foam in the air and giving each other white headaddresses. Across town in the Whiteaker Neighborhood, Plaedo and a group of OE activists mixed up cement they would use to patch sidewalk potholes in service to the community and in conjunction with the budding group Eugene Philanthropy Network. Meanwhile downtown, Scotty and Jen prepped the rest of us for a banker march based on Scotty’s “Breaking up the Banks” lyrics. Some activists donned color face-masks of bank CEOs; I never ever thought I’d see Scott Fife in a business suit! The group had a raucous rehearsal and then left in an endless stream.

The march targeted Wells Fargo, Chase, and Bank of America locations downtown. The large group carried posters denouncing banking fraud. Each bank received a theatrical performance on its doorstep: the denouncing and jailing of their CEOs. Occupy mic-checked the reasons for their arrest, shouting accusations in front of all the banks. Then their CEOs were chased by our policemen who “pepper-sprayed” them with silly string before locking them up behind cardboard jail bars. Finally, everyone broke out in expressive song, singing and kazoowing the titled “Breaking up the Banks” to the melody of “Puttin’ on the Ritz.” It was both raucous and organized, joyful and serious: we celebrated our union in defying the unjust powers that be.

After the march, rain came in shifts and when we started setting up the music PA, the ‘stage’ went from a wide open area to one small section of the scalloped shelter shared with pot washers and street kids and their gear. But we are all family and it worked out fine. Scotty improvised on his keyboard and then local musician Walker T. Ryan beltied out classic folk/blues. There was plenty of spaghetti, rolls and salad for all. It was a montage of colorful sights and smells, laughter and music: a perfect follow-up to an exciting year that started with a spirited march in much the same weather.

OCCUPY EUGENE FUNDRAISING HEADS TO HOLIDAY MARKET

By Sharon Peters

Last May, Occupy Eugene began staffing a fundraising table at the Free Speech Plaza during Saturday Market. Spearheaded by Cary Thompson of the Financial and Fundraising committees, the Occupy fundraisers offered T-shirts, badges, scarves, and newsletters. A can placed on the table encouraged people to make donations. By September, things had slowed down and so fundraising at the plaza was put on hold.

Now fundraising is looking ahead to Eugene’s Holiday Market. You can visit the Occupy Eugene table at Holiday Market during the weekend of Saturday, December 22, and Sunday, December 23. Fundraising is putting out a call to artists and craftsmen to donate items to the Holiday Market table (consignment arrangements can be negotiated). Organizers are also seeking folks to staff the table, and people who have ideas for fundraising that they are personally willing to work on. If you want to help or have ideas for fundraising, please call Cary Thompson at 541-686-5562.

IF YOU ARE NEUTRAL ON SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE, YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSOR.” —Desmond Tutu

Plaedo and a group of OE activists mixed up some cement and patched sidewalk potholes on October 15.

Activists urge predatory banks to get out of town.

“If you are neutral on situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” —Desmond Tutu

Plaedo and a group of OE activists mixed up some cement and patched sidewalk potholes on October 15.

Occupyers in the street on the first anniversary of Occupy Eugene.

Jean Stacey protests big banks on October 15.

Big John works the grill at the Park Blocks on October 15.
**Occupy Eugene Events**

**Occupy Interfaith:** Nov. 4, 1 to 3 p.m. at UUC*E*

**Act Against Apathy:** Nov. 17, 12. Help raise awareness of homelessness and the depletion of resources for the unhoused. Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza

**Mondays**

**Houseless Solutions & Support Committee:** 10:15 a.m. to noon at CALC*

**Education Alliance:** 4 to 6 p.m. at the Ben Linder Room, EMU*

**Actions Committee:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at OA*

**Tuesdays**

**Newsletter Working Group:** 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at GM*

**Fed-Up Committee:** 5 to 6 p.m. at OA*

**Free Medical Clinic:** 5 to 6 p.m. at PB*

**Wednesdays**

**Library Committee:** Noon to 1 p.m. at OA*

**Housing & Foreclosure Actions Committee:** 5 to 7 p.m. at GM*

**Thursdays**

**Welcoming Committee:** 2:30 to 4 p.m. at OA*

**Kesey Square Revival:** Noon to 6 p.m. at EMU*

**Communications Committee:** 1:30 to 3 p.m. at GM*

**Bank of America protests:** 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at BOA*

**Facilitation Committee:** 5:15 to 6 p.m. at FSP*

**General Assembly:** 6 p.m. at GM*

**Fridays**

**Outreach Committee:** Noon to 1 p.m. at GM*

**Kesey Square Revival:** Noon to 6 p.m. at EMU*

**Communications Committee:** 1:30 to 3 p.m. at GM*

**Bank of America protests:** 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at BOA*

**Facilitation Committee:** 5:15 to 6 p.m. at FSP*

**General Assembly:** 6 p.m. at GM*

**Sundays**

**Media Working Group work sessions:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CCTV*

**Free Medical Clinic:** 1 to 5 p.m. (Spanish interpreter available) at PB*

**Allies Working Group:** 2 to 4 p.m. at WG*

**Occupy Heart & Mind meditation:** First Sundays, 2:25 to 3:35 p.m. at FED*

**Fed Up Committee:** 5 to 6 p.m. at OA*

**Finance Committee:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at NDB*

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Community allies**

- **Health Care for All:** First Mondays of the month, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room at EWEB*
- **No Coal Eugene:** Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Potluck followed by meeting at CMP*
- **Kesey Square Revival:** Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. at KSQ*
- **Health Care for All:** Nov. 4, 11:45 a.m. Special program at FUCM*

**The Invisible War:** Nov. 4, 7 to 9 p.m. Film on sexual trauma in the U.S. Military, presented by Veterans for Peace, Truth in Recruiting/CALC, and the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society. UO, 177 Lawrence Hall

**Pasta for Peace:** Nov. 12, 9 to 9 p.m. CALC fundraiser. Print and present this coupon (http://tinyurl.com/96x373p) so CALC receives 30% of the cost of your meal. Mazzi’s Italian Restaurant, 3373 E. Amazon Dr

**The New Jim Crow:** Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. Lecture by Michelle Alexander. Nov. 13, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at UO’s 7th Avenue Rm. 182, 955 E. 15th Ave.

**Oregon WAND Monthly Program:** Plume: A Poetry Reading by Kathleen Flenniken, Poet Laureate of the state of Washington. Poems about the dangers of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Nov. 15, 6-6:55 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. Free.

**Whiterake Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** Nov. 22. Giveaway (gloves, hats, blankets etc.) starts at 9 a.m. Dinner served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Whiterake School, 21 N Grand St.

**OE at Holiday Market:** December 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Lane County Fairgrounds

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**Committees and Working Groups**

The Occupy movement here in Eugene exists due to the devotion of dozens of activists. They are a group of people united by their sensitivity to injustice and their resolve to oppose it. The heart of the decision-making process lies in the weekly General Assemblies. The creative process happens during various encounters among participants, mainly at committee meetings. We have numerous committees and working groups. Committees are like boats, used when there is necessity and left behind when necessity changes. Thus, groups have taken form as well as dispersed during the movement’s existence. Thanks to these miniature think-tanks, the movement has activity, fin...
OE wins twice at Eugene Weekly’s Best of Eugene Awards Show

Congratulations, Occupy! Occupy Eugene was one of the big winners at Eugene Weekly’s Best of Eugene Awards show. We won Best Local Hell-Raiser and Best Local Uproar. Accepting the awards at the McDonald Theatre on October 26 were Vickie Nelson, Majeska Seese-Green, Carla Newbre, and Vickie Embree.

“I'm fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in.” George McGovern

http://www.occupyeugenemedia.org
FROM MASH TENT TO SHINY MOBILE CLINIC: OCCUPY MEDICAL IS HERE!

By Sue Sierralupe

 Occupy Medical has been the focus of my weekends for eight months now. The Sunday clinic is only four hours long in theory, but patients often show up before we are ready.

In the early days, they waited on park benches or volunteered to help hoist our MASH-type tent. I remember fumbling with the directions, spreading the canopy over ice cold poles, and tying the posts to concrete bricks for stability in the wind.

Last March, it snowed. While it was nice to have shelter from the elements, we knew by the end of the day it all had to go back in the box again. Winter weather made taking that tent up and down a miserable task. We were serving an average of 20 patients a shift and needed a warmer dry place to see them. We were limited in what we could do for our patients with donated supplies. We eagerly looked forward to the possibility of someday finding a bus and outfitting it for proper medical exams and lab tests.

Our patients range from homeless families to working class moms to retired veterans. Some seek our help because they have no insurance or they can’t afford their co-pay. Others have insurance that doesn’t cover their pre-existing conditions. Some just come to enjoy the gathering of volunteers, old friends, and a nice day at the park.

And who can blame them? This has become a place to engage in fascinating conversations, maybe get a warm meal from our allies (Food not Bombs), or a free haircut. And it’s THE place in Eugene to sit and laugh at horrible puns.

By summer, we had our routine down. We set up four stations from intake to treatment. We had HIPAA forms, a system to ensure confidential patient records, and a steady stream of patients fully embracing the holistic health system. Our success was due to the talent and professionalism of our volunteers.

After much research and negotiation and with the help of CALC Oregon Community Foundation (http://www.oregoncf.org/) offered us a sizable grant to improve our services. We learned how to refine our fundraising approach as the bus became more than a faraway pipe dream.

Before we knew it, our genius pharmacist Jerry Zook was driving down from Portland in a slightly used and very clean Blue Bird bloodmobile converted from a school bus. After our tent initiative the Occupy Medical Mobile Clinic is heaven. It is so exciting to continually be developing and refining the interior design to better serve our patients.

The community has gotten used to seeing us every Sunday at the Park Blocks and now happily welcomes us. The doctors, the nurses, our many volunteers -- and especially our patients -- are very happy with our new mobile clinic. That someday is finally here. Oh, and I am no longer afraid of winter. You can read more about the Occupy Medical Clinic saga at http://occupymedics.wordpress.com.

The medical bus stands at the Park Blocks, ready to offer services to all who need them. PHOTO BY RANDY CAIN

SUNDAY ADVENTURES IN THE PARK BLOCKS

By Laura Flaxstern

On a recent sunny, breezy Sunday afternoon my partner and I set out for a walk. We are seniors and need exercise. When we arrived at the Park Blocks, where we are used to finding the Farmer’s Market, we instead found three Occupy tents. The first two were housing medical and dental clinics. The third was the Gorilla Hair Salon, where the talented Benjamin Hunt was cutting hair.

I ventured into the dental clinic. I was overdue for a cleaning. I have been reluctant to visit a dentist because most of them insist on a full mouth X-ray too often and an “inspection” which means a one-minute peek at my teeth and a $40 charge. Lima, the Occupy dental technician, sat me down in a lawn chair, clipped a bib on my chest and scraped away at my pesky tartar. She explained that Occupy is working on having “real” dental facilities in the near future. Personally, I think the makeshift operation was charming and efficient. My next stop was the Gorilla Salon.

Before long, I had a new look from Benjamin. His hair is “oohed” and “aahed” at my improved appearance. Later, when I posed by the donations jar, nobody asked me to contribute.

Your Teeth!

By Laura Flaxstern

Why, when there are dozens of dental clinics for people seeking low- or no-cost care, and all kinds of “programs” purporting to deliver care to people with no insurance, do so many local residents swear that they simply can’t get dental care until their teeth are falling out? The problem is limited access to primary care (preventive cleanings) or secondary care (such as fillings). But ironically you may eventually arrange for a bad tooth to be extracted, which is clearly a sign of failure of care, and a condition that will get you to the emergency room for pain and infection.

So if you don’t have dental insurance, you only get “help” when it’s too late to save your teeth! This end-treatment, emergency-only approach is insulting to the whole dental profession that knows how to do so much better.

It’s time to turn this around. Occupy your teeth!

Out of the Occupy Eugene Medical Clinic, where many patients arrive with tooth pain each week, a new aim of providing dental care has emerged. Three extraction clinics have been planned, funded by St. Vincent de Paul and Medical Teams International. The first took place in June, the second in September. But the primary goal is not to continue to allow teeth to reach the point of failure. The goal is to prevent tooth disasters in the first place.

The first step to Occupying your teeth is to take matters into your own hands. Yes, brush your teeth and floss between them! Prevention starts with the same basics you learned as a kid. It’s the same basic science: bacteria grow back every 12 hours and pour acid onto your tooth enamel, eating it away. If you don’t want that to happen, don’t ever go out without your toothbrush. Dry-brush your teeth any time food goes into your mouth, then wash the brush out as soon as you can. Floss when you get a chance. Whatever you can do is a step on the road to Occupying Your Teeth.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss are provided free at the Occupy Eugene Medical Clinic. Meanwhile, some of us are gathering in a Dental Task Force to scratch our heads together and ponder about why adults struggle to get the dental care they need. If you’d like to join us, please contact Lina at linalibre@gmail.com. We would like to hear your experience trying to obtain dental care at any level. Most of all, we want to come up with solutions.

www.occupy Eugenemedia.org

Sue Sierralupe proudly shows off the new medical bus, which went into service on October 7.

The medical bus stands at the Park Blocks, ready to offer services to all who need them. PHOTO BY RANDY CAIN
POWER PAST COAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST COAL EXPORTS

By Catherine Siskron

While the coal industry wants us to believe that coal exports are inevitable, Lisaarkin of Beyond Toxics argues that “a beautiful community and renewable energy future is our destiny.” The coal industry is not the only one at risk for failing to coal’s.” Lisaarkin called for a march and informational rally on October 8 to let the members of the City Council know that there is a strong opposition to coal exports. Representatives of various environmental organizations, including Sierra Club, Power Past Coal coalition, and a number of Occupiers responded to the call.

We gathered at the Eugene City Council meeting in support of the Zelenka opposition to having coal trains pass through Eugene. Although the City Council postponed its vote after an informational work session, on Monday, October 23, the City Council passed the Zelenka resolution by a 5-3 vote. The previous week, the Board of Lane County Commissioners postponed their vote on a resolution in support of a coal export terminal in Coos Bay.

So what was a burning issue, now is unbinding. The non-binding resolution cannot by itself stop the coal trains. The problem of shipping and burning coal is still with us. As more residents become aware of the numerous cancers caused by exposure to coal ash in Asian markets to maintain profits. What is wrong with coal companies shipping 150 million tons of coal through the Pacific Northwest to Asian markets? Why are environmentalists and many local residents opposed to coal export trains rumbling through our communities?

Two intersected areas are of concern: environmental degradation and enhancement of human health. Burning coal pollutes the atmosphere. Several recent studies have shown that powerful spring trade winds can carry Asian pollution into the atmosphere above North America. Some of the imported pollution descends to the surface, where it affects ground-level concentrations of ozone, mercury, sulfur compounds, and soot. Ground-level ozone can cause severe respiratory problems, including asthma, in susceptible individuals. A 2008 study found that mercury reach concentrations of more than 1,000 parts per billion on Mount Bachelor. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin. Snowpack runoff ends up in our rivers and lakes where the mercury contaminates the fish we eat. Pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of mercury. Between 300,000 and 600,000 children are born in the U.S. each year with dangerous levels of mercury in their bodies, putting them at heightened risk for developmental delay and neurological impairments. In addition, the coal produced in the West is friable and sloughs off coal dust when collected and loading coal dust and the inevitable result of shipping coal in coal trains and cargo ships can cause serious long-term health problems like lung and heart disease and cancer. Coal dust would pollute our clean waters, air, and land.

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Organizers for Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) announced the formation of a new OVE Board included the following community members: President: Dan Bostwick, Andrew Heben, and Jean Stacey. The above is the primary source for this article.

Opportunity Village Eugene

Organizers for Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) announced the formation of a new non-profit for the purpose of establishing a community village that will provide opportunities to those homeless and encamped without housing. The work of Opportunity Eugene and many other homeless advocates, OVE will enable the homeless to work with other community members to transition away from the streets into a lifestyle that is more sustainable and self-fulfilling.

In a press release from OVE, the OVE board said, “We are eager to work with the Eugene City Council to establish a new, cost-effective model for alternative housing based on best practices of a number of other communities. The dramatic rise in homelessness coupled with the growing gap between the market and minimum wages has created a crisis in our community that we must address with new, creative solutions.”

Opportunity Village Eugene is asking the City Council to create a three- to six-month pilot program to explore the idea of building and accompanying children, with oversight by OVE. Using concepts of micro-housing, the village needs only a few acres of land. The OVE Board comprised of: President: Dan Bostwick, Treasurer: Tyson Cary, Secretary: Michael Carrigan, Robert Bolman, Lorne Bostwick, Andrew Heben, and Jean Stacey. More information on OVE and its proposal to the City of Eugene can be found at www.opportunityvillageeugene.org.

SIZZLING: HOMELESS PEOPLE’S PROPERTY NOW ILLEGAL

By Alley Valekire

A few days ago, I was riding my bike down 11th Avenue, past the corner of Willamette and the YTD 20-D zone, when I saw a man on the corner holding a sign that said, “Punk ass bitches.” Must be a good story there, I thought.

It turned out to be quite a sad story. Jim had been camping down by the river at Delta Ponds for a while. Camping is illegal anywhere in the city, but there are a few spots where one can legally camp. Delta Ponds is one of those places. But on Tuesday afternoon, while he was away for a while, the Parks Department cleaned up his campsite, which contained everything he owned, and disposed of it.

Unfortunately, violating the constitutional rights of the homeless is de rigueur as far as the City of Eugene is concerned. I was saddened, but not the least bit surprised, to hear this recent development in our so-called “Human Rights City.” It has been a longstanding policy of the City, and Baker, Dolan, and Deegee. It is illegal to dispose of personal possessions found on public property, although I foolishly assumed that in light of the Ninth Circuit ruling, the city would have changed its policy.

The issue is so-called “dangerous criminals” out of the downtown core and into neighborhoods which have virtually no police presence at all. It creates a separate and expensive exclusion court system, the sole purpose of which is to bypass due process, thus violating constitutional rights. The purpose of the DPSZ is well-documented in the public police reports the department has finally delivered.

The DPSZ is a microcosm of the problems of greed and corruption in our country in which business interests are put before the rights and well-being of its citizens. We need to tell our mayor that we are not interested in small improvements to the disgraceful quagmire created by the DPSZ; we want her to lead us out of it. Ask her to call for a re-vote and to vote differently.

Mayoral Pledge Votes to Extend DPSZ

On October 8, Mayor Kitty Piercy broke a Council tie and voted against Brown, Taylor, Ortiz, and Zelenka to extend the Downtown Public Safety Zone (DPSZ) for another year, despite overwhelming evidence that had been presented to her that 64% of exclusions were given to the homeless who comprise 2% of the population. Any existence of strong concerns that the DPSZ improves resident safety, the Mayor took the position of trying to reconcile human rights with business interests and voted to continue it. On the positive side, the DPSZ has been modified, so that minor infractions will no longer result in an exclusion.

Mayor Piercy has the skills to bring antigamblers to the table and find common ground. This is a great mayoral attribute for finding consensus, something everyone can buy into, when it comes to business decisions such as “Em-X or No Em-X.” However, when it comes to protecting the constitutional rights and safety of our most vulnerable citizens, a solution that has “something in it for everyone” is inappropriate. The sacri- fice of a group’s basic rights and safety in order to pacify a small but vociferous minority within the business community is not an adequate solution.

The DPSZ encloses people who dress or act “differently” out of the downtown core, thus violating their rights. It gives the downtown area an elitist status, not only providing a policeman for every 2.5 square blocks but then forcing purportedly “dangerous criminals” out of the downtown core and into neighborhoods which have virtually no police presence at all. It creates a separate and expensive exclusion court system, the sole purpose of which is to bypass due process, thus violating constitutional rights.

We need to tell our mayor that we are not interested in small improvements to the disgraceful quagmire created by the DPSZ; we want her to lead us out of it. Ask her to call for a re-vote and to vote differently.

Go to eclej.org to make your donation to Civil Liberties Defense Center to support a constitutional suit against the DPSZ if it remains, and so that they can continue to sue the City for its many other human rights violations. As history has proven, when elected officials can’t fix things, the courts can.

COMMENTARY ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

By Noam Chomsky

Suppose we had a functioning democratic society. Let’s just imagine that. What would a primary look like, say, in New Hampshire? What would happen in a primary would be that tens of thousands of people would get together and discuss, talk about, and argue about what they want policy to be. Sort of like what’s been happening here in the Occupy movement. They should formulate a conception of what the policy should be. Then if a candidate comes along and says, “I want to come talk to you,” the people in the town ought to say, “Well, you can listen to us if you want. So you come in, we’ll tell you what we want, and you can try to persuade us that you’ll do it; then, maybe we will vote for you.” That’s what would happen in a democratic society.

What happens in our society? The candidate comes to town with his public relations agents and the rest of them. He gives some talks, and says, “Look how great I am. This is what I am going to do for you.” Anybody with a grey-cell functioning doesn’t believe a word of it; so you come in, we’ll tell you what we want, and you can try to persuade us that you’ll do it; then, maybe we will vote for you.” That’s what would happen in a democratic society.

That business interests are put before the rights and well-being of its citizens. What happens in our society? The candidate comes to town with his public relations agents and the rest of them. He gives some talks, and says, “Look how great I am. This is what I am going to do for you.” Anybody with a grey-cell functioning doesn’t believe a word of it; so you come in, we’ll tell you what we want, and you can try to persuade us that you’ll do it; then, maybe we will vote for you.” That’s what would happen in a democratic society.

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www.occupyeugenemedia.org
BY MAJESKA SEESE-GREEN

On September 13, a group of approximately 25 activists showed their support for Occupier Brave Beatrice at the new Federal Courthouse where she was being arraigned for her arrest last July 11. Some Occupy Eugene activists remained outside the courthouse holding signs proclaiming our First Amendment rights while others went into the courtroom to provide a supportive presence. Lawyer Lauren Regan represented Beatrice. Although the federal judge did not appear, Beatrice’s case was scheduled for November 8.

Beatrice volunteered to be arrested last July 11. Occupy Eugene’s permit to remain at the old Federal Building plaza 24/7 had expired after a 60-day protest. Occupy would not accept a permit that did not allow protesters to remain on the plaza overnight. At the time, OE activist Mary Broadhurst said, “Occupy’s constitutional rights do not cease between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. except for compelling reasons.”

Beatrice’s court date is November 8 at 1:30 p.m. but Lauren Regan has filed a motion to dismiss. The case, according to Regan, has the potential to create national precedent regarding First Amendment rights to assemble and exercise free speech in federal public spaces.

BY VICKIE NELSON

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER TO KAREN FROM HER NEIGHBORS

It was great to learn you have been in contact with the Occupy Foreclosure folks. When they came to our door early this summer to speak with us about their proposal and what they hoped to accomplish I was impressed with their sincerity, consideration and thoughtfulness in their approach and goals.

Prior to Occupy Foreclosure becoming involved in your property having the house empty has been an ongoing and very unpleasant challenge. People shooting up, hypodermics, excrement on the porch and in the yard, garbage, broken windows, verbal threats and fearful hit on our property values.

The condition of the property continued to deteriorate affecting the property values in the neighborhood. That along with the bad economy meant we have all taken a double negative hit on our property values.

Occupy Foreclosure’s presence has meant we are safe from harassment. The use of the property for drug activities, drinking and as a very large toilet has ceased. Although the house is in poor shape with broken and boarded up windows along with other structural and cosmetic deterioration they have attempted to keep it looking as nice as possible. We have made water available to them and they have tried to keep the beds in decent shape, painted the fence and have prevented the property from reverting back to a garbage dump.

Until such time as you return to take the property back over or it is sold we are grateful to the Occupy Foreclosure movement for the work they have done in protecting the property and keeping the neighborhood safer overall.

“Half of Americans Don’t Pay Taxes”

HALF OF AMERICANS DON’T PAY TAXES, A FAVORITE REPUBLICAN REFRAIN.

They said, “Half of Americans don’t pay taxes.” As government income wanes and waxes, it’s the right’s song and dance; their pitch.

SHOTTY TEENAGERS WHO LIVE AT HOME AND CHABBY BABIES IN THEIR CRIBS:

Stalwart soldiers, soon impaled, hookers, nèèè—well, deaf mutes, con-men, crooks and the jailed, the half, lame, blind and goofy coots,

BARKEEPS, WAITRESSES AND THEIR KIND:

Many of whom live off the cuff, artists whose works don’t inspire; stalwart soldiers, soon impaled, hookers, nèèè—well, deaf mutes, con-men, crooks and the jailed, the half, lame, blind and goofy coots,

ARTISTS Whose Works Don’t Inspire;

The unemployed, OK, the lazy.

If they don’t pay, why should the rich?

HALF OF AMERICANS DON’T PAY TAXES,”

If they don’t pay, why should the rich?

Although their logic’s refutable, it’s the right’s song and dance; their pitch.

Half of Americans Don’t Pay Taxes

By Jean Marie Purcell
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: HEALING COMMUNITY

By Catherine Sigmon

In Eugene, as in much of our world, the criminal justice professionals are trained in retributive justice. That means our legal professionals are less concerned with the reasons for the crime, the effect on the victim, or with changing the behavior of the offender. Retributive justice is primarily concerned with proving an individual broke a law and punishing the offender by having him or her pay a fine, do community service or be incarcerated. In the case of extremely violent crimes, the offender may pay with his or her life. Unfortunately, this approach does nothing to help the victim, heal the affected community, or rehabilitate the offender.

On October 15 Community Mediation Services (CMS) held a forum on restorative justice to offer a different model for addressing antisocial behavior. The panel included Peter Kerns, Chief of EPD; Greg Hazarabedian, Executive Director of Public Defender Services of Lane County; Dr. Howard Zehe, Professor of Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University; Rupert Ross, author and former Assistant Crown Attorney for the Canadian government who incorporated restorative justice processes into his work as prosecutor; and Ted Lewis, Executive Director of the Barren County Restorative Justice Program in Wisconsin.

Restorative justice is based on a very different principle from retributive justice. The focus of restorative justice is not punishment, but healing of the rupture in relationships caused by those who do harm to members of their community. This is an aboriginal concept of justice that originates in a world-view where everything is seen in context, everything is in relationship to everything else. Consequently, the focus of restorative justice is to restore harmony within the community by healing both the victim and the perpetrator of harm. It is an approach that is high in both accountability and support for both victim and perpetrator. The intent, whenever possible, is to reintegrate both the victim and the perpetrator into the community by restoring balance.

SUGAR WORKSHOP SWEETENS ACTIVISM

By Catherine Sigmon

On September 22, Barbara Daté led an all-day workshop for Occupiers to learn ways to understand ourselves and others better as well as to learn more options to work cooperatively. The workshop was designed to provide practical skills utilizing the Friendly Style Profile (FSP), a personal style inventory tool. Sustainable Relationship Resources Working Group (SUGAR) members have studied this model with Barbara since February and have found it helpful in all settings: at work, in the community, at home, and of course, within Occupy Eugene.

During the workshop, participants examined differences of personality and temperament and shared specific examples of how these types of differences interact. This exploration helped to develop practical behavioral options for drawing out our strengths and abilities and to develop self-care, self-management and interpersonal skills that promote healthy relationships and prevent dysfunctional conflict.

Feedback from the 17 Occupy Eugene participants to the workshop was enthusiastic and included appreciation for SUGAR’s peer-training approach, tips on how to reach out to people with different styles of communication and different psychological needs, learning how to receive validation, and discovering that most people aren’t being difficult on purpose.

Perhaps the most eye-opening aspect of the workshop was learning how we vary in temperament and how easy it is to push someone’s buttons when we don’t understand their preferences and priorities. We also learned about our own knee-jerk responses and inclinations, how to manage our own excesses, and how to understand others better in both “calm” and “storm” conditions.

Neutrally re-framing and restating what we are experiencing in FSP terms can help us keep perspective and feel empowered to talk about what is bothering us in a personally responsible way and to be less entangled in a negative dynamic. It’s a good start anyway. The beauty of this workshop is that we can apply what we learned immediately in our daily lives and in our daily work. Jen, one of the SUGAR workshop participants and organizers, says she has observed people “catching” themselves about to say something, maybe complain about someone’s behavior or maybe even decide themselves about their own behavior and restate the complaint as a neutral observation. She thinks “the impact of the workshop is particularly helpful, depersonalizing behaviors a bit and giving ourselves and each other just a little space to accept we have certain traits and not get so triggered by them. Once folks get comfortable identifying traits, they can learn better how to manage them and take care about the impacts they have on people around them.”

Benjamin, another SUGAR organizer, enjoys hearing people use the language of the FSP class: “On more than one occasion, I’ve had people tell me that they are thankful that we have a common communication tool. One person told me, ‘it’s like having a new toy, but all your friends have the same toy, too, so you can play together better.’”

REFLECTIONS ON ART AND ACTIVISM

By Sharon Peters

I see in Occupy an opportunity for artists who want to contribute and serve, to promote change. Occupy provides an opportunity to become involved in the visual and verbal language of liberation and to work with others who are seeking a similar purpose. Involvement doesn’t make demands on my time or devotion beyond what I have to offer. It is also democratic and open to all. “Experts” are not running the show. I have felt a wonderful freedom in getting to know the people of Occupy Eugene because they are resisting the soul-murdering control of a culture where only the rights of the violent and the rich are indulged.

One of the ways the cruelty of this culture is manifested is vis a vis its opposition of artists who don’t endorse its values. As a consequence, I feel vulnerable, disposable and alone. OE has helped me resist the temptation to give up the struggle to remain alive to my experience even when the situation is traumatic. Freedom means feelings and intuitions kept intact. Freedom enlightens and motivates me to witness and artfully express my verbal and visual critique of the millennial plague: social, economic, and political. I see patterns emerge and can write about launchings and landings. With visual and verbal metaphors I hope to inspire faith in the process of liberation.

As Dave Graeber says, "Occupy’s potential beyond the encampments ... is to help dream up and live out the expression of self-organizational forms ... to connect [communities] ... to become a dynamic laboratory for ideas ... art can engage with politics and activists can engage with structures of art.”

www.occupyeugenemedia.org
The image that comes to mind at the mention of Jen Frenzer-Knowlton is one of spherical-lightning. She is determined, energetic, and energizing. Jen currently serves on two Occupy Eugene committees: the Zinn/Chomsky Library Committee and the Sustainable Relationship Resources Working Group (SUGAR). But her contribution to the movement goes beyond committee work. She has proven to be a voice of reason and a guiding light in many difficult situations.

Jen has been with Occupy Eugene from its inception. “My fellow Eugene social justice activist friends brought Occupy Wall Street to my attention last summer. Most of those activists I met 10 years prior organizing to stop the invasion of Iraq and have a great deal of respect for them so, when it was clear there was going to be a full demonstration here in Eugene, I was happy to get to work however I might be able to contribute,” she said at a recent interview.

So she met up with long-term activist Michael Carrigan at the second General Assembly at the University of Oregon’s EMU and they joined a committee that was working on preparing “peacekeepers” for the march of October 15, 2011. Part of the training was teaching future Occupiers how to hold a non-violent protest. Both Jen and Michael are Quakers and peaceful resistance is their common ground with Occupy.

In general, she strongly supports street protests and public demonstrations, saying, “People feeling they can spontaneously gather in public is a very important part of exercising our Bill of Rights. I am definitely one of those folks who feel we need to exercise all our rights or we could lose them. So, I will show up for most activism that involves exercising free speech by protesting in the street.”

Jen considers Occupy a cultural movement and a long-run effort, saying, “I’m sympathetic to folks who want to see visible evidence of system injustices being remedied right away. People are suffering unnecessarily and it is wrong.”

But she understands that many Occupy projects will take time. For example, she sees reforming our democratic system so that it isn’t so easily corrupted by moneyed interests as an important idea and yet she realizes that mobilizing the support to make reforms will take time.

Finding more creative ways to bring awareness to people who are uncomfortable with inconvenient truths and to get such awareness integrated into people’s lives is necessary to the movement. A big smile lights up her face when she says, “Yes, that is what change takes: time, creativity and optimism.”

Maintaining a balance between activism and raising a family is no easy task. Jen has a son and a daughter. Luckily, Scotty, her partner, is also part of Occupy Eugene, so that makes balancing her life a little easier. They encourage one another and help each other out on projects. And they laugh a whole lot, which also helps. As for her kids, “They sort of thought I was nuts last year, spending so much time typing emails but it wasn’t entirely out of the ordinary behavior either since activism is very much part of our Quaker community.”

As very little kids, during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, they had attended many peace rallies and vigils. “Come to think of it, they even had their own tent!”

The opportunities come in volleys. For the choice television interviews, you must catch notable activists and political scholars on their way through town, even if it’s in the wee hours of the morning.

Until recently, David “Getch” Sierroalpe and Joe Tyndall have taken turns interviewing or producing the 49 "Occupy TV" (OTV) hour-long programs that are now “in the can” and rotated in the Community Television of Lane County (CTV) mix. Needless to say, Jana Thrift has been our field producer with assistance from her partner Tom Crowley and Mike Elliott. We see them at almost every Occupy Eugene public event or political action. We don’t see them when they go home or to the studio to edit the footage into a product that flows coherently and draws interest.

In the past year, Getch, Joe, and Jana have really gone the extra mile to spread the word about Occupy Eugene’s growth and passion as well as the purpose and commitment behind successes like Occupy Medical and its sustained ability to bring free medical care to those in need at least one day a week.

Getch and Joe have spent hours making OTV programs and the Wednesday night radio show on KWVA (88.1 FM) into podcasts that are now being acknowledged by a significant international audience. In fact, OTV is the longest-running, most-widely circulated media effort in the entire movement. Recently Mike Elliott has joined the team on the radio show.

Nevertheless, there is a lot of room for growth. In recent months, Graham Lewis has been in training to assist with operating cameras, control board, and editing equipment. KLCC engineer and announcer Matt Laubach has acted as technical consultant. The usual CTV background of potted fake trees and a fake brick wall are being transformed for the new season of OTV. With the help of a green screen, topical photographs will be projected onto a backdrop behind host and guest to add visual interest and illustrate the conversation.

Just in the last month, the media group has started renting an office in the Grower’s Market building for OEMG to plan, edit, and grow. We are always looking for new people with useful talents and skills to round out our team. Our hopes are high for taking OTV to the next level with exciting, new interview guests and features. We will be meeting Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at our new office in room 206, upstairs at the Growers Market at 454 Willamette St. Come join us!