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Autumn 2013

August Lowdown: Beware of the TPP

By JIM HIGHTOWER

Adapted by Catherine Siskron from the Hightower Lowdown, August 2013, Volume 15, Number 8. <http://www.hightowerlowdown.org/node/3402#.UhpjvOChDzJ>

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is promoted as a "trade deal" that will benefit 11 Pacific Rim nations (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam) that endorse this agreement and allow the possibility of China, Indonesia, Russia, and other nations to come in. However, only five out of the 29 chapters of the TPP address traditional trade concerns. The remaining 24 chapters are aimed at enhancing corporate protectionism, giving multinational corporations new means of escaping accountability to national governments, and by extension to us, the people.

The lack of transparency in the creation of this "partnership" highlights the awareness on the part of the White House and the proponents of the "partnership" that an informed public would never give consent to having their rights to "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness (which I read to mean the right to physical and emotional/mental well being)" violated, and in some cases, completely nullified to increase the profits of already engorged multinationals.

While the U.S. Congress is denied access to documents, the 600 participants invited to help write the agreement were chosen by the 16 Industry Trade Advisory Committees, mostly corporate executives. This corporate coup is aimed at stripping us of the rights to protect ourselves from corporate abuses in the following areas:

Food safety. Any of our government's food safety regulations (on pesticide levels, bacterial contamination, fecal exposure, toxic additives, GMOs, non-edible fillers, etc.) that are stricter than "international standards," as most are, could be ruled as "illegal trade barriers." Then our government would have to revise our consumer protections to comply with the weaker global standards. In addition, food labeling laws we rely on (organic, country-of-origin, animal-welfare approved, GMO-free, etc.) would also be subject to challenge as trade barriers.

Fracking. Our Department of Energy would lose its authority to regulate exports of natural gas to any TPP nation. This would create an explosion of the destructive fracking process across our land, for both foreign and U.S. corporations could export fracked gas from America to member nations without any DOE review of the environmental and economic impacts on local communities — or on our national interests.

Jobs. U.S. corporations would get special foreign-investor protections to limit the cost and risk of relocating their factories to low-wage nations that sign onto this agreement.

Drug prices. Big Pharma would be given more years of monopoly pricing on each of their patents and be empowered to block distribution of cheaper generic drugs. The deal would also restrict the rights of our government to negotiate with drug giants to get lower consumer prices with bulk purchases, as Medicare and Medicaid.

Banks. The deal favors Wall Street and the financial giants in other TPP countries at the expense of consumers. It explicitly prohibits transaction taxes (such as the proposed Robin Hood Tax here) that would shut down super-rich speculators; it restricts "firewall" reforms that separate consumer banking from risky investment banking (thus prohibiting Congress from reinstating the Glass-Steagall firewall in our country); it could roll back reforms that governments adopted to fix the extreme bank-deregulation regimen that caused Wall Street's 2007 crash; and it provides a backdoor escape from national rules that would limit the size of "too-big-to-fail" behemoths. These extreme provisions would be enforceable by the banks themselves — TPP empowers them to force governments either to repeal reform

laws or to compensate banks with taxpayer money for "losses" they say are caused by reforms.

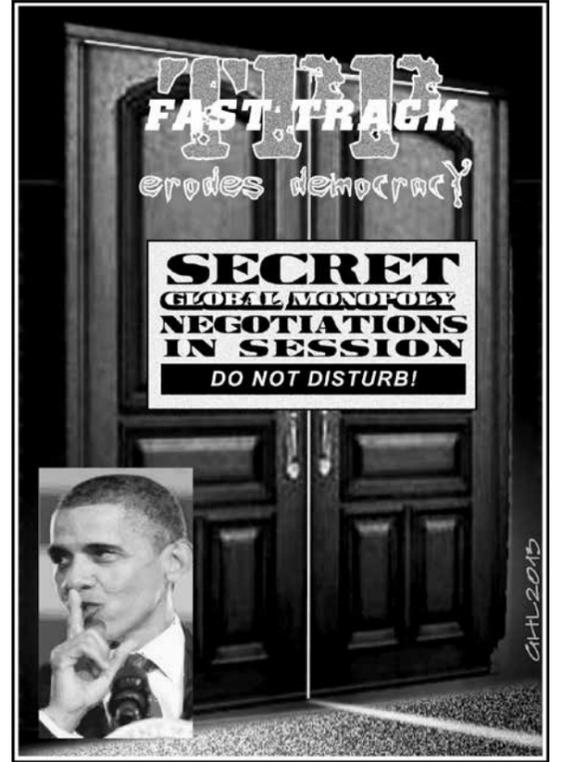
Internet freedom. Thanks to public rebellion, corporations hoping to lock up and monopolize the Internet failed last year to pass their repressive "Stop Online Piracy Act." However, they've slipped SOPA's most pernicious provisions into TPP. Corporate-created content, for example, would be given copyright protection for a stunning 120 years! The deal would also transform internet service providers into a private, Big Brother police force, empowered to monitor our "user activity," arbitrarily take down our content, and cut off our access to the internet. To top that off, consumers could be assessed mandatory fines for non-commercial, small-scale copying.

Public services. TPP rules would limit how governments regulate such public services as utilities, transportation, and education, including restricting policies meant to ensure broad or universal access to those essential needs. One especially insidious rule says that member countries must open their service sectors to private competitors, which would allow the corporate provider to pick the profitable customers and sink the public service. Also, corporations from any TPP nation must be allowed to bid on contracts to provide public services in the U.S. on the same terms as American corporations do.

Rep. Alan Grayson, a persistent critic of the secrecy surrounding the TPP process, has been repeatedly denied access to TPP documents. When he was finally granted a peek at the full draft — though not allowed to take a copy, he remarked, "It's easy to understand why [it's] been kept secret — it puts corporate interests ahead of American interests."

Corporate interests are lobbying for new Fast Track legislation to cram this bad deal through Congress. It is essential to inform ourselves on this latest maneuver by the multinationals and take a strong stand against its approval in Congress in October of this year. Please call Senator Wyden weekly and urge him to say NO to FAST TRACK for the TPP! Call his Eugene office at (541) 431-0229. And ask your friends and family to call, too!

For more information go to : <http://www.citizen.org/TPP>



No War with Syria Rally

On Sat., Aug. 31, 75 to 100 activists from CALC, Veterans for Peace, Occupy Eugene, and other Eugene organizations held a rally at the old Federal Building to urge that the U.S. not engage in war with Syria. After listening to several speakers and musical performances, the group marched to the Saturday Market, where they were enthusiastically received.



At the conclusion of the rally, demonstrators leave the plaza of the old Federal Building and march to the Saturday Market.



Activists at the No War with Syria rally protest the proposed action against Syria at old Federal Building.

PHOTOS BY JANA THRIFT

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

Occupy Eugene on the Web

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

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

Twitter: @occupyeugene

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

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

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

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

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

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OccupyMediaPodcast/app_282096688512542

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Occupy Wall Street, and Occupy news roundup, national and international: <http://occupiedmedia.us/category/news/>

Stop NDAA Stop Indefinite Detention of U.S. Citizens

Usually a bill that just funds the military, the 2012 NDAA violates over half of the Bill of Rights.

- You may be arrested and indefinitely detained if the president merely alleges you are a threat or "terrorist."
- You no longer have the right to legal representation and are not entitled to a phone call to an attorney or family member.
- You no longer have the right to a trial by jury of your peers.

Join us to restore our state to Constitutional Governance.

To lend your support in Oregon please contact Shane at 541-870-7160 or Email stopndaaoregon@gmail.com

STOP THE NDAA! RESTORING CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE RESOLUTION. Introduce it in your state, county, city or town.

For more information go to PandaUnite.org

Come to a General Assembly

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

Occupy Eugene

Newsletter Staff

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

Reader Feedback and Comments:

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback, as well as content and financial contributions for our newsletter. E-mail us at newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org

Contact Occupy Eugene

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www.occupyeugenemedia.org

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

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

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

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

Action Alert: Write Your Councilors and Mayor

Please write to your city councilor and Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy now to ask them to:

1. Release the now-completed but secret report on the investigation into police misconduct on an early summer after-midnight raid and arrest of 11 unhoused campers.
2. Act on permitting Rest Stops for the unhoused to sleep from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. The Council first made a motion to allow eight such stops with space for 15 people each. During the summer months, with everyone out of town, they have now reduced this to ONE stop, refused to pay \$120 per month to put a portable potty at it and ignored the common sense advice to allow camp "hosts" under the city's current RV/Conestoga camping law who will help regulate the sites.
3. Stop the coordinated raids on the unhoused in cooperation with BLM and ODOT. This is inhumane and further destroys already fragile lives.

Also, thank them for allowing the very small pilot project, Opportunity Village, to use city land to house 30 to 40 individuals for 13 months and remind them that this is not nearly enough for the city to do.

To write the Eugene Mayor, Councilors and City Manager all at once, email to: mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us

If you prefer to write to them individually, email or call:

MAYOR, Kitty Piercy: 541-682-5010 Kitty.Piercy@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 1, George Brown: 541-682-8341 George.R.Brown@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 2, Betty Taylor: 541-338-9947 Betty.L.Taylor@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 3, Alan Zelenka: 541-682-8343 Alan.Zelenka@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 4, George Poling: 541-517-3110 George.A.Poling@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 5, Mike Clark: 541-682-8345 Mike.Clark@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 6, Greg Evans: 541-682-8346 Greg.A.Evans@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 7, Claire Syrett: 541-682-8347 Claire.M.Syrett@ci.eugene.or.us
WARD 8, Chris Pryor: 541-682-8348 Chris.E.Pryor@ci.eugene.or.us

For more information about SLEEPS, contact James Chastain at 541-321-3629.

Death to Compassion

By Gregory Walker

Death to
compassion as
inflation makes
it too costly
voices crying out
into empty streets
filled with people
are not heard
pleas for help
that will one day be yours too
will not awake
the social consciousness
of an awkwardly
dispossessed
population
who know
deep down
that they
are us

Biomass and Fracking: Technology Is Not a "Fix"

By SCOTT FIFE

I am writing in reference to two articles by Occupier reporter Jerry Brule, "Let's Turn the Seneca Biomass Plant into a Biochar Plant" and "Natural Gas-What the Frack!" There are additional problems associated with these energy industries that the author and public should be aware of. Unfortunately, it seems our society keeps looking for a techno-fix rather than dealing with the underlying root causes of resource depletion — overpopulation and problems that result from living in a plutocracy.

In my view, one of the root causes of resource depletion results from population overshoot which humans reached in the mid-seventies — that is, the population is using more resources than can be regenerated by nature. The idea of controlling population levels seems a taboo subject in the U.S. Capitalism relies on constant growth as an economical model, i.e. expanding the consumer base.

The second root cause was succinctly summed up by author David Korten with the ultimate equation in comparing the earth to a spaceship's closed loop system. He said "the spaceship crew that uses up its own life support system to provide temporary luxuries for a privileged minority . . . doesn't have much of a future."

While turning the biomass energy plant into a biochar plant sounds like a sensible solution, taking the "waste" away from the logging site is not. The slash helps promote forest

health and biodiversity. The vast majority of the forest life lives not in the trees but on the forest floor. The slash is removed and unable to fertilize damaged and depleted soils or to help prevent erosion. The logging corporations often log on steeper hillsides than they should, as confirmed by numerous landslides.

One aspect of fracking for natural gas not mentioned in Jerry's article is that the practice further empowers Big Agriculture and is leading to a resurgence in nitrogen fertilizer production in the U.S. Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer happens to be made in a process fueled by natural gas fracking. The fossil fuel industry will have a powerful ally in Big Ag to influence regulation and fight opposition to fracking projects. The U.S. no longer needs to import nitrogen fertilizers and prices are down, enticing farmer use.

The environmental fallout of using nitrogen fertilizers includes excess nitrogen seeping into streams and out to sea, creating massive algae blooms that threaten ocean life and increase emissions of greenhouse gases and destruction of organic matter in soil.

It seems our society thinks that we can solve problems created by technology by creating another technology. Perhaps it's time we step back to more simple ways and work with nature, question the wealthy's role in plundering the earth and talk about population limits.

Our Food, Our Future Protecting Our Local Food System

By ANN B. KNEELAND

Our Lane County food system is under attack and in need of protection. To respond to this urgency, Support Local Food Rights has filed the Local Food System Ordinance of Lane County to protect our local food system from industrial agriculture and corporate takeover.

The Ordinance recognizes our community's rights to a local food system and to save and share seed, as well as rights of natural systems to support the local farming that depends on them. As a community, we care profoundly about the source of our food, and value the farmers, community supported agriculture, farmers' markets and local food producers and businesses that bring it to our tables every day.

The Local Food System Ordinance also claims our right of self-government and soundly rejects the corporate domination of agriculture in Lane County. A healthy, thriving local food system is critical to our local economy, our residents' well being and environmental sustainability.

The Ordinance bans the planting of GMO seeds in Lane County. Existing food and seed production cannot coexist with the uncontrollable biotechnologies of genetically modified crops. Plant foods pollinate and spread by wind,

bees and birds. GMO seeds planted in one field cannot be reliably contained because of the uncontrollable forces of nature. Therefore, the Ordinance bans the use of GMO seeds, which are used exclusively for industrial processing and not local food.

Who opposes this effort to protect our farmers, businesses and consumers whose economic and personal well being depend on local healthy food? It is Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS) and its board members from Monsanto, DuPont and Syngenta. Predictably, OFS spouts the corporate rhetoric that dismisses the voices and values of our community while touting the same kind of rigged research used to convince us that Agent Orange and DDT were safe.

OFS claims it supports farmers' choice, but the "choice" of GMO seeds they promote threatens the hundreds of other local farmers' conventional and organic operations. OFS claims that a few GMO-growing farmers should be able to decide for the whole Willamette Valley whether others' farms are exposed to GMO contamination, pesticide pollution and potential corporate law suits from unwanted GMO trespass. Its rallying cry for farmers' choice is based

on a lie that industrial GMO agriculture can coexist with conventional and organic farming. As the recent discovery of unauthorized GMO wheat in eastern Oregon bears witness, it cannot!

Therefore, Support Local Food Rights asks the Lane County community to support the Local Food System Ordinance. Through this Ordinance, we assert our inherent right to local self-government over a structure of laws and system of government that favors corporate interests. With this ordinance, we stand together to elevate our community's rights above corporate rights. We stand together to protect our farmers and our local food — an act of community law-making by the people and for the people. This is true democracy!

Please learn more and get involved with Support Local Food Rights' effort to save our fresh, healthy local food. Visit us at www.LocalFoodRights.com and on Facebook.

Ann B. Kneeland is a local attorney representing the Chief Petitioners of both the Lane and Benton County Food System Ordinances. She is a member of Support Local Food Rights.

Smart Meters Update

By JACK DRESSER

Since my story on "Smart Meters" in the last issue, there have been two important developments. On July 23 Dr. Paul Dart provided to EWEB a presentation by a six-member medical panel identifying serious radiofrequency (RF) radiation health risks from many studies worldwide (www.radiationreport.com/smart-meters/).

Despite the troubling facts he described, followed on Aug. 6 by the testimony of 18 members of Families for Safe Meters (www.familiesforsafemeters.org) addressing several other problems, EWEB commissioners have responded with indifference and appear determined to persist in their intended installation of these devices on Eugene residences.

Dr. Dart's presentation described health impacts of cellphone tower RF radiation significantly correlated with proximity to the radiation source. Microwave RF exposures can produce acute symptoms in some RF-sensitive individuals, including "headache, sleep disturbance, difficulty in concentration, memory disturbance, fatigue, depression, irritability, dizziness, malaise, tinnitus, burning and flushed skin, digestive disturbance, tremor, and cardiac irregularities." Laboratory research on both animal and human subjects has shown that RF exposure can alter EEG, immune function, and hormone levels including adrenal and thyroid hormones, testosterone, prolactin, and progesterone, and can reduce melatonin levels in humans, disturbing the natural function of sleep and producing insomnia. Melatonin is also a very potent antioxidant and helps to repair damaged DNA and heal the effects of oxidant stress.

Melatonin is protective against the growth of cancer cells, and disruption of the circadian melatonin cycle has been shown to lead to increased tumor growth in a variety of cancer types and increased risk for breast and prostate cancers. A large body of research has shown that microwave RF causes increased production of free radicals and reactive oxidant species in living tissues, which damages DNA. Dart concluded, "Existing scientific research offers strong evidence that the chronic exposure of the public to microwave RF transmissions produces serious acute and chronic health effects in a significant portion of the population."

Based on research from 14 countries, RF radiation has been identified by the World Health Organization as "possibly carcinogenic," requiring application of the "precautionary principle" pending definitive proof. These documented risks provide evidence for personal injury lawsuits against cellphone companies for health damage attributable to RF exposure. Proliferating worldwide with damages increasingly awarded, these will establish legal precedents for other RF-emitting devices.

Assuming continuous radiation and close proximity to the meters, the World Health Organization reports that wireless Smart Meters may emit as much as 160 times the whole body radiation of cellphones. The risk of harm will also be settled in courtrooms following expert witness battles as the legal expense meters run. Two large class-action lawsuits have already been filed against Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric in California, as well as their smart meter manufacturers and distributors, claiming fraud and deceit, negligence, and products liability.

Who will pay when EWEB is sued? Not the commissioners who make the decision on our behalf. We owner ratepayers will face the now unpredictable legal costs, judg-

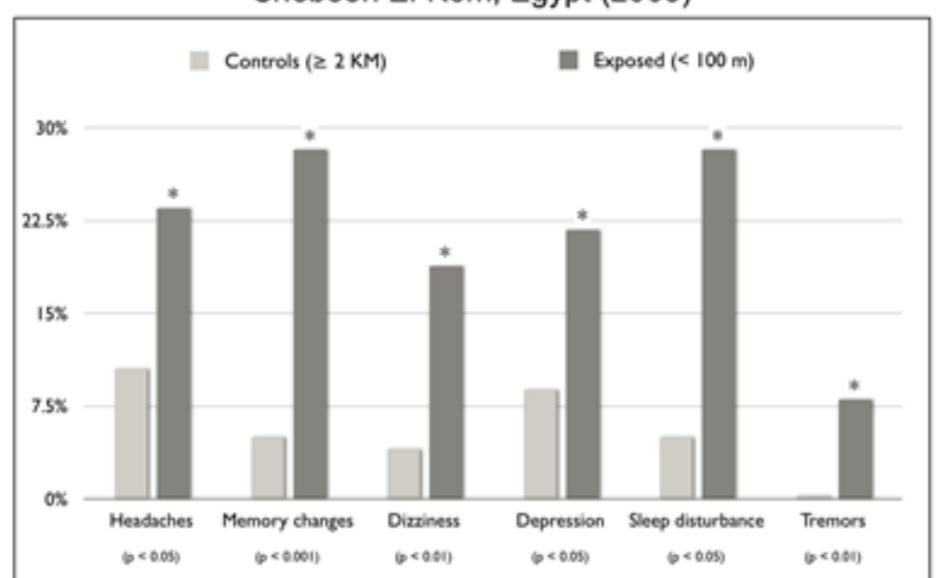
ments and settlements which are not factored into EWEB's projected "cost savings." The precautionary principle requires, at the very least, an indefinite moratorium until health and associated legal risks are clearly established. Meanwhile, our analog meters are functioning adequately, are repairable and replaceable if the market is not destroyed by the smart meter industry blitz, and will keep our meter readers employed rather than investing \$26 million in their technological replacements.

Families for Safe Meters has other serious concerns about Smart Meters, even if wired (e.g., using more costly fiber optics). The proclaimed cost savings have not been demonstrated elsewhere. More vulnerable to fires, the smart meters will connect into a "smart grid" that compromises privacy. Experts advise that it is impossible to protect the meters from hacking to steal power (which has already happened), to take down entire grid areas, and, as predicted by recent CIA director Gen. David Petraeus, to enable increased government spying on citizens. In post-Snowden America, this can no longer be dismissed as wing-nut paranoid fantasy.

EWEB may make a decision in early October. The simplest and safest option would seem to be to keep our analog meters and our meter readers employed. You can make your concerns known to the commissioners at www.eweb.org/commissioners.

This graph compares symptom incidence between residents living within 100 meters of a cell phone tower and those living at a distance of at least two km. Similar data were shown for several other cities in Europe.

Shebeen El-Kom, Egypt (2003)



Opportunity Village Opens

By VICKIE NELSON



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

Eileen Fonseca, who will be a resident of OVE, displays a graphic illustrating the layout of the village.

A dozen residents are now occupying Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE).

Volunteers and supporters of OVE, who have been working behind the scenes for over a year, began reaping the rewards of their efforts as residents started moving into the village in August.

The move-in was the high point of a series of successful August events.

First up was a groundbreaking and ribbon cutting on Aug. 16. About one hundred enthusiastic people gathered to celebrate, welcomed by Dan Bryant, president of OVE.

Then on Aug. 18, Cozmic Pizza was the scene of an OVE Fundraiser. Supporters enjoyed entertainment by Brian Cutean, the Raging Grannies, and the Steel Wool Band — and raised \$3400 for the village.

Additionally, throughout the month, bungalows and Conestoga huts went up at the village and new volunteers were trained in how to assemble the micro-homes. On Aug. 24, in an impressive one-day effort called “The Big Build,” volunteer workers built five micro-homes, created ten raised garden beds, and dug a 200-foot-long trench to run a water line.

Tine Hive’s Community Supported Shelters and Thrivent Community, both major contributors to the building effort, provided energy, training, materials, and funds to support the village.

Thanks to these, other organizations, and many individuals, the first dozen residents of OVE now have a space to call their own.



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

The ribbon cutting ceremony at OVE drew about 100 people.

See more OVE photos on page 6

SLEEPS Awakens To Protest EPD’s Failure to Release Results of Internal Investigation

SLEEPS protesters have reinvigorated their protests against Eugene’s unconstitutional and inhumane acts against the unhoused.

SLEEPS (Safe Legally Entitled Emergency Places to Sleep) had reduced its protests this summer in light of the City Council motion to open eight Rest Stops in which the unhoused could legally sleep from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. However, that idea has ground to a halt, replaced by the slim possibility of only one site. Concurrently, the City has ramped up its actions intended to sanitize downtown through harassing and evicting its most vulnerable citizens. Consequently SLEEPS is re-awakening its constituents to protest once again. Ten tents were erected in protest under the Ferry Street (6th Ave.) bridge at the site of an after-midnight raid and arrest of 11 homeless campers earlier this summer. Protesters claimed the raid violated state law and local police policies and procedures. In response to the public outcry, the City Council requested an investigation and promised to make the results of that investigation immediately available when completed. Protesters have learned from highly credible sources that the report was completed over a month ago and that nearly all allegations of wrongdoing were found accurate. The report has still not been made public.

The protesters hope to bring public attention to the failure of the City to provide the results of the investigation to the public.

In mid-August SLEEPS moved its demonstration to the Free Speech Plaza after EPD gave out citations at the Ferry St. Bridge site. SLEEPS activists are also protesting the synchronized “sweeps” of the unhoused that ODOT, BLM and the City of Eugene have launched. The simultaneous eviction of the unhoused from land belonging to all three public entities has placed a deep burden on the unhoused, leaving them absolutely no place to sleep at night.

Ticketing people for sleeping when there is inadequate shelter has been found unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*. EPD and the City of Eugene need to respect people’s constitutional rights, both the right to freedom of speech through protest and the rights of those who are unhoused to conduct activities that are essential to being human such as sleeping. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Eugene Municipal Courts should not have to repeatedly remind the city of its primary responsibility to protect the safety and rights of all of its citizens.

The Struggle for Free Speech

By JOHN MONROE

On the morning of Aug. 21, activist Alley Valkyrie met with the recently appointed Acting County Administrator Alicia Hays to talk about the new SLEEPS encampment in the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza (FSP). The protesters had set up Wednesday evening the week before. Both the meeting and the new camp were victories in a long struggle undertaken by SLEEPS and free speech protesters against Lane County.

An earlier SLEEPS contingent had set up a camp at the FSP last December to bring awareness to the city’s ban on camping. The mission of the SLEEPS demonstration was to end the harsh anti-camping policy, which essentially criminalizes homelessness in Eugene. The first camp was shut down within 24 hours. Then-County Administrator Liane Richardson, who has since been fired, alleged that there were feces in a plaza planter and blamed the SLEEPS protest. Metal barriers went up around the plaza the next day, presumably to further discredit SLEEPS. On Dec. 13, a free speech protest bypassed these barriers and held the plaza until Richardson came out and read the temporary closure order. Valkyrie remained

after the location was vacated and received a cite-and-release for practicing free speech in the Free Speech Plaza.

On Jan. 7, another group of protesters assembled on Free Speech Plaza. By this time, an 11 p.m. curfew had been established. Twenty-one people received trespass citations, including two minors. This was the largest mass arrest in Eugene’s history.

Over the next few months, the battle moved into the courts. Finally, at the end of July, a municipal judge heard both cases in a consolidated hearing. It became clear in session that Richardson and her counsel Stephen Dingle had shut down the camp without any actual evidence to back their claims that there were feces in the plaza. The judge quickly decided that Valkyrie’s arrest and the closure that prompted it were unconstitutional. Because a curfew had been established by Jan. 7, she took more time to rule on the second case.

The judge’s first decision came out the day after the Lane County Commissioners voted unanimously to fire Liane Richardson. In addition to persecuting the homeless and their allies, Richardson had defrauded

taxpayers to increase her pay, angered no-kill animal activists, colluded to shut down Glassbar Island to local residents, and engaged in other nefarious activities. Commissioners Bozievich, Leiken and Stewart, who had hired her in a 3-2 vote, remain under scrutiny.

During this time, an original SLEEPS protester, James Chastain, had established a new SLEEPS camp below Ferry Street Bridge. Other protesters joined him. EPD quickly responded, issuing first verbal and then written warnings. As the new contingent deliberated on what to do, Valkyrie received a call. The judge had decided in favor of the 21 defendants: it was unconstitutional to use a curfew to silence speech in a designated public forum.

After this ruling, the SLEEPS team established a new camp in Free Speech Plaza to continue protesting against

the camping ban. The protesters held the plaza for three weeks until they were once again evicted on Sept. 4, when the County Commissioners voted 4-1 to close the plaza for cleaning. When it re-opens, the plaza will close between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. each day.



PHOTO BY GORDON STURROCK

James Chastain receives a citation from EPD on Aug. 15 for camping under the Ferry St. Bridge. SLEEPS moved to the Free Speech Plaza shortly afterwards.

See more Free Speech photos on page 5

City Upholds First Amendment Rights at Free Speech Plaza: Closure and Curfew Unconstitutional

Eugene Municipal Court Judge Karen Stenard issued a ruling upholding the rights of protesters to hold 24-hour protests at the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza in downtown Eugene. The case arose after former Lane County Administrator Liane Richardson secretly amended a Lane County administrative regulation that imposes a nighttime curfew eliminating the right to assemble and protest at a traditional public forum. On Jan. 7, 2013, twenty-one protesters took a stand to challenge the unconstitutional curfew and were arrested by Eugene Police. Lawyers with the Civil Liberties Defense Center filed motions with the Court challenging the constitutionality of the curfew and subsequent arrest of the activists.

“We are hopeful that these rulings send a clear message to Lane County that they cannot eliminate constitutional rights because they do not like the inconvenience that protest some-

times brings about. Democracy and free speech can be acrimonious at times, but that does not give the government the right to silence the people. The Constitution is not suspended from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and curfews are a serious restriction upon the rights guaranteed to all of us.”

“We look forward to working with the acting County administrator to reinstate and reinvigorate the First Amendment rights of everyone in this community in an attempt to avoid another lawsuit against the County,” said Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center. “This is not a community that will tolerate censorship, and with the help of amazing activists, the CLDC will assist in zealously defending the rights of the people to exercise First Amendment rights to the broadest extent possible.”

Occupy Medical Update

By Leigh Saint-Louis, M.D.

When I arrived downtown, at noon on a hot summer's day, there was already a long line of patients outside. I hit the ground running. Washed my hands, grabbed my stethoscope, and I was ready to roll. I'm one of the Occupy Medical Clinic physicians.

Occupy Medical Clinic started as a first-aid station for protesters in October 2011. It grew organically, adapting to local conditions. Every Sunday, it's constructed anew, in a bus and two large tents. For four hours a week, it provides medical, nursing and mental-health care, herbal and nutrition therapy, and assistance in navigating the healthcare maze – all free of charge. Periodic dental, vaccination, and veterinary clinics are held. Patients stop in at Hospitality for a cup of tea or a bite to eat while they wait. Ten to fifteen patients will head to the Gorilla Salon for free hair care, a healing modality that restores self-esteem.

It's not only free of charge. It's free of judgment. Nobody asks a patient to prove they're poor enough to qualify. We're not worried about "free riders." Many of our patients are unemployed and struggling, with health problems that can't wait for better times. Many have insurance, but can't find a primary doctor. Others have insurance and a primary, but can't get an appointment when they need it. When you need your asthma inhaler or your birth control pills, you can't wait six weeks for "the next available."

When I arrived downtown, some of the nurses and mental-health workers were in a "huddle." Nurse Bill was saying, "If a chart has a sticker on it — any kind of sticker — that patient needs to be fast-tracked, for their safety. They go to the head of the line." I was glad to see a Medical Translator arrive; we kept her busy. At one point, we chain-translated, from Haitian Creole to Spanish to Medical English, and back again.

The unspoken language of physical medicine, of course, is universal. Touch gently, firmly. Unwrap and look closely. Listen carefully, to the breath in and out, to the heart, softly beating. It's the same for rich and for poor.

A year ago, we took care of 10-20 patients per Sunday clinic. Six months ago, 20-30. Yesterday, we saw 53 patients — a new patient every five minutes on average.

A Nurse Practitioner came to look around, and stayed to work. I gave her a drive-by orientation, in between seeing a bipolar patient unable to find a primary doctor, and an 8-year-old with acute vomiting and fever. Pertinent questions included: How do you prescribe

medicines, without a script pad? How do you order labs, when people can't pay for them? How do you evaluate dental problems, orthopedic injuries, heart murmurs, skin infections — without x-rays, EKG machines, microscopes, or even running water?

You do the best you can — and surprise yourself with your own ingenuity. Many of us rely on medical cellphone apps, on our small reference library, and on each other.

Since the bus was now full of practitioners, I saw patients outside, on the park benches. None of them minded. I visited with an older man who was sad because he'd lost his hearing. I irrigated his ears with plain water, sitting in a tent with a cool breeze blowing, until he smiled — he could hear again.

On a bench in the shade, a lady wiped away unexpected tears. "My doctor made me have these expensive tests, but then my insurance wouldn't pay for them. He won't see me again, until I pay him the last \$400. I'm almost out of my blood pressure medicine. I just don't know what to do." She smiled, like sunshine breaking through storm clouds, when I gave her a new prescription, with refills.

A young expectant mother dropped by to let us know that the herbs and vitamins we gave her worked. She's eating full meals again, and gaining weight normally. Several midwives are on our staff, so she can get questions answered every week, if necessary.

A row of people sat in lawn chairs at the Wound Care station, side by side, pants rolled up, feet in tubs of warm soapy water, joking with each other in the shade. Volunteers sat on the pavement in front of them, carefully washing and dressing their wounds. The Head Nurse rode herd on them, in her cowboy hat, boots, and utility belt. Kids ran around, playing nearby. Summer is the best time for outdoor healthcare.

At the end of the day, I asked our new Nurse Practitioner how it went. Her face fairly glowed. "It's a lot more fun and exciting than my regular job. Where I work, you can only do what the insurance companies say you can, and it's cold and sterile. Here, we're doing the work we're trained to do — really helping people. Why doesn't everybody want to do this?"

For more information about Occupy Medical Clinic, visit our website at occupymedics.org, or visit the Clinic any Sunday, 12-4 p.m., 8th and Oak Streets in Eugene, Oregon.

Occupy Medical in Cottage Grove

By SUE SIERRALUPE

Occupy Medical visited Cottage Grove for a working showcase clinic Sunday, Aug. 25. The clinic offered the same services at Cottage Grove it offers in Eugene: a free, four-hour event to provide medical care, foot care, nutrition guidance, alternative medicine, and haircuts. The intention is to inspire and provide guidance for Cottage Grove residents to spearhead their own clinic.

OM manager Sue Sierralupe started getting calls from local practitioners who were interested in shadowing the staff to see first-hand how the process works. This clinic was the first step in Occupy Medical's journey towards

duplicate service. The staff believes that real change is only possible through actualizing the message of healthcare for all.

The event was co-sponsored by South Lane Mental Health, a Cottage Grove-based nonprofit mental health services provider, and took place at their clinic at 1245 Birch Ave. in Cottage Grove. South Lane Mental Health shares the vision with Occupy Medical of equal access to care regardless of economic status. They provide a wide range of assistance to hundreds of Cottage Grove area residents, including many who are low income and lack health insur-

ance. "Our mission is to serve our whole community, no matter their ability to pay," said Valeria Mainwald, director of services for South Lane Mental Health. "Having Occupy Medical come to Cottage Grove seems like the next step in doing that."

Access to health care is more difficult in rural areas. Tom Wheeler, executive director of South Lane Mental Health, says his facility is looking to treat the whole person, aiming to address both physical and mental health needs. He hopes that they will be able to have a clinic similar to Occupy Medical at least once a month.

Free Speech photos from page 4

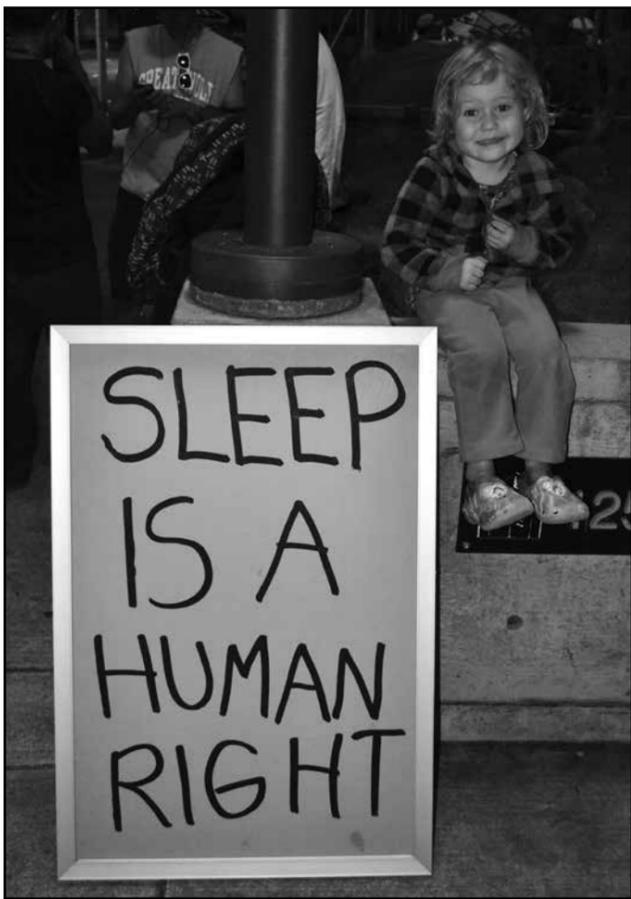


PHOTO BY JANA THRIFT

A child sits by a sign at the SLEEP protest at the Free Speech Plaza.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HUNT

Angie Bartow, one of the last four protesters on the FSP on Sept. 4, is escorted from the plaza.



PHOTO BY JANA THRIFT

Peter Grotticelli is one of SLEEP's dedicated activists.



PHOTO BY JANA THRIFT

Night Falls on the SLEEPS Protest at the Free Speech Plaza on an August evening.

Lessons for Occupy from Syria

JACK DRESSER, PH.D.

(National vice-chair, Veterans for Peace working group on Palestine and the Middle East)

As of this writing, the Obama administration is threatening to attack Syria, after lawlessly attacking and destroying the other modern, secular Arab states of Iraq and Libya. Syria has not attacked the United States and the U.N. has not approved this kind of unilateral action. Under international law, any military attack on a nation that has not attacked us and for which we don't have United Nations Security Council authorization is a war crime.

There are a number of lessons that activists and the general public can gain from this new threat of aggression threatened by our government:

Lesson 1: Expect no respect for your rights or the rights of others in the world without a struggle waged by American citizens — the only force on earth potentially capable of controlling our government and the forces behind it.

Our country, although a founding member of the United Nations and bound by its charter prohibiting "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state," operates beyond the reach of international law. In so doing, it also ignores the Constitution which defines these treaty obligations as "the supreme law of the land."

Lesson 2: Look with profound skepticism on media accounts that justify attacking demonized figures and squandering public resources on "defense" against chimera.

It seems that next in line for "regime change" is Syria's Assad, who has established a very similar secular, socialist state that has already negotiated a new constitution, endorsed last year by 89% of Syrian voters, resolving most of the legitimate opposition grievances, with elections scheduled next year. Opinion surveys last year found citizen approval of Assad as high as 70%, since Syrians are terrified of the violent Sunni fundamentalists who now dominate the opposition and are poised to replace Assad if he falls.

So why the deception and who is behind it?

Israel and its U.S. lobby — twice ranked by congressional insiders as the second most powerful lobby in Washington — is one answer. Kerry's "known" evidence of government-launched chemical attacks has come largely from Israel, which holds Syria's Golan Heights under U.N.-designated "belligerent occupation" from which it draws 15% of its water and which it would like to keep without effective opposition. Israel has envisioned dismemberment of Arab states as a strategic objective since at least 1982 when they invaded Lebanon, and Israel would like to see the "Shia crescent" severed that connects Iran and Hezbollah through Syria. The pro-Israel neo-conservatives are now lobbying hard in Washington to attack Syria. But former long-time Mossad chief Meir Dagan said during a Jerusalem Post Annual Conference in New York following the first such accusation in April that Assad did not sanction use of chemical weapons. U.N. investigator Carla del Ponte confirmed this assertion.

Another likely answer is provided by Public Banking Institute President Ellen Brown. Along with Iraq, Libya and the four other "rogue states" Gen. Wesley Clark reported as targeted for "regime change," Syria has a socialist economic system with its own national

bank operating apart from the Western-controlled international banking cartel, all hold-outs from the WTO and perceived as threats due to interest-free lending policies based on Islamic principles.

This begins to clarify the connection between Syria's embattlement and the origins of Occupy in Occupy Wall Street following exposure of the disastrous financial gambling of trusted brokerage houses. If Brown's analysis is correct, both destructive crises have resulted from international "bankster" greed and political manipulations.

Lesson 3: When unsure, follow the money — and now the water as well.

There is yet another connection. Planetary overheating now threatens every economy and human survival itself. If we are to master this challenge, Occupy and any subsequent similar grass roots movements must arise to declare and protect the human rights of the 99% as well as the other species with which we share the earth against hydrocarbon resource-extractive industries and the multinational economic tyrants.

A harbinger of this challenge, Syria has already been hard hit by climate change with drought causing massive economic impacts. Syrian aquifers have dried up and water tables have dropped below accessible levels for their wells, driving farmers from their land into cities in search of employment already overburdened by absorption of 100,000 Iraqi refugees we created added to another quarter-million Palestinian refugees Israel has created over the years.

This was a principal source of the initial public discontent, opportunistically inflamed further by the infiltrated jihadists and mercenaries planted in Syria by the Saudis, Qatar and U.S. Special Forces since 2008. This triggered a violent suppressive response from the Assad government which recognized the hidden, foreign-sponsored coup agenda, thus affording our propaganda machine the basis they needed to demonize Assad as "brutally attacking his own people."

Admittedly brutal, Assad is trying to save his country from the same dismemberment and destruction suffered by Iraq and Libya at the hands of overt and covert outside forces of economic imperialism that were and are also extremely brutal. The country has been overwhelmed. U.N. assistance has helped but not enough. External support from both sides should be spent on desalinization facilities and alternative energy sources built with Syrian labor to alleviate their ecological and economic distress, not weapons of reciprocal extermination. Syria needs help and freedom from U.S. and other outside forces, not cruise missile attacks.

Syria's challenge is the challenge all of humanity will soon face. By supporting the secular, socialist Syrian state and its right of self-determination free of U.S. and other foreign interference, we will declare the increasingly necessary brotherhood of humankind.

Lesson 4: Let's keep our eye on the ball and not be manipulated by diversionary ploys. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzDFqVdd80c>

Soldiers protest military strikes against Syria

American soldiers, Marines, and sailors are protesting the possibility of military strikes against Syria by taking to Facebook. With messages written on pieces of paper, cardboard, and more held strategically to block their faces, they defy the proclamation by President Obama of his intent to bomb Syria: "I didn't join the Marine Corps to fight for al Qaeda in a Syrian Civil War," declares a Marine in uniform. In another message, a man in fatigues declares "I didn't sign up to kill the poor for the rich."

The reasons for the protest range from disenchantment with military invasions of other nations that solve no international problems, enrich corporations and pauperize the 99% to the fact that al-Qaeda has heavily infiltrated the opposition in Syria. The rebels currently fighting the Assad regime are for the most part an assortment of fundamentalists from other countries (see article by J. Dresser, this page). Terrorism experts at the Bipartisan Center's Homeland Security Project (co-chaired by 9/11 Chairs Lee Hamilton and

Thomas Kean) report (page 24): "... the al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria is widely acknowledged as the most effective fighting force in the war against Bashar al-Assad's regime." No wonder our soldiers are asking "Is the enemy of our enemy a reliable ally?"

To see photos and read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/soldiers-protest-war-syria-facebook-article-1.1444535#ixzz2euaiOQ5>

More OVE photos from page 6



PHOTO BY HENRY SCHMALD

Volunteers put Conestoga huts together for Opportunity Village.



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

Dan Bryant welcomes supporters and future residents to the OVE ribbon-cutting ceremony.



PHOTO BY HENRY SCHMALD

Building Day at Opportunity Village.



PHOTO BY HENRY SCHMALD

Tine Hive's Community Supported Shelters is one of OVE's major supporters.

The Struggle Continues

By JERRY BRULE

I am writing this on the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, when Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech. Dr. King knew that jobs were tied to freedom. When Dr. King gave his speech, black unemployment was twice what it was for whites. The same is true today.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the election of the first black president, we are seeing a resurgence of racism. It is couched in terms like "birtherism," and "takers versus makers." We are still fighting voter suppression, with voter ID laws replacing Jim Crow laws. Today it is hard to imagine the blatant segregation, the open violence and opposition to civil rights, of Dr. King's time. It has become politically incorrect to be blatantly racist, but the same forces of intolerance and injustice are still attacking social programs. The attacks have just broadened. Instead of being focused primarily on blacks, now all of the poor are under attack.

Occupy Wall Street began on Sept. 17, 2011, in Zuccotti Park. I would like to think that if Dr. King were still

with us, that he would be working with Occupy, because the movement is essentially a struggle for justice and against social and economic inequality. Most of the power and wealth of the nation are concentrated among the 1% while the 99% have lost their voice in Congress because they can't afford lobbyists or campaign donations.

Yes, there has been some progress, but there is also an extensive backlash that affects ever-broader segments of society. The inequality is manifested, for example, by the growing number of homeless, which has increased dramatically while the wealth of the 1% has increased, also dramatically. Since Dr. King's time executive pay has increased 430% while average workers wages have only increased 26%.

The American dream of reaching economic success through hard work and education, has become even more difficult to achieve because jobs have been shipped overseas, and the cost of education has increased. The justice system has become considerably more punitive and all

inclusive, and for many in poor neighborhoods, especially in poor black neighborhoods, jail time has become a way of life.

Occupy Eugene is concerned with all who have been and continue to be oppressed and marginalized. On Sept. 29, 2011, Occupy Eugene held its first General Assembly. On Oct. 15, 2011, people marched in the streets to protest injustice and inequality, and then they occupied the Park Blocks. Since then, we have seen significant legal confirmation of the right to protest, there has been progress in helping the homeless, and in raising awareness about injustice and inequality. But thousands still have no place to sleep, and the rich continue to amass all wealth and power. We need to concentrate on jobs to insure freedom to all. Change comes slowly. Martin Luther King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" The struggle continues.

Challenges to Achieving World Peace

By JACK DRESSER

In August I attended the Veterans for Peace national conference in Madison, WI, with the theme "Power to the Peaceful." It was largely focused on well-informed activism against U.S. military and economic imperialism.

Speakers this year included war resister Kathy Kelly of "Voices for Creative Non-violence," an organization that believes "where you stand determines what you see." In this spirit, Kathy was in Baghdad during our "Shock and Awe" attack, in Beirut during Israel's 2006 attack on Lebanon, in Gaza during Israel's 2009 Cast Lead attack, has visited Afghanistan nine times with the Afghan Peace Volunteers, has investigated our drone warfare in Pakistan, and spent three months in federal prison for trespassing at Ft. Benning, GA during a 2004 School of the Americas Watch vigil.

Another noteworthy speaker was Vietnam veteran S. Brian Willson whose book, "Blood on the Tracks" relates his experiences in Vietnam, his opposition to the U.S. covert wars in Central America in the 1980s, and the loss of his lower legs when run over by a train that he and other veterans were attempting to block carrying weapons for delivery to the Contra death squads in Nicaragua. The train crew had been instructed not to stop since Brian had been branded as an FBI domestic "terrorist" suspect by President Reagan's anti-terrorist task force.

Both speakers, along with VFP board member Elliot Adams, had recently fasted in solidarity with the Guantanamo prisoners hunger strike.

Two days of workshops focused on U.S. aggression in the Middle East and Central Asia; U.S. militarism and alternative foreign policy options; nonviolent collective and personal revolutionary social change strategies; establishing communities and cultures of peace including resource re-allocation, the role of labor, the rule of law, PTSD and other costs of war upon veterans.

To my disappointment, however, attention to the global climate crisis was missing from the agenda. Climate change represents the greatest single threat to future world peace. With

disappearing aquifers, desertification of previously arable lands, and fisheries depleted by ocean acidification, the capacity of the earth to support human life is shrinking due to climate changes. Droughts, starvation, major population displacements and relocations, and water wars are anticipated by the Pentagon, for which it has been developing contingency plans for "increased wars" euphemized as "small, localized conflicts" as a result of global overheating.

Humanity is at a choice point. Our choices are defined by allocation of our finite and diminishing hydrocarbon energy resources. Simply stated, we must choose between the warpath and the peace path. Our federal budget allocations to military aggression that violates international law and human rights, while proposing token commitments to greenhouse gas cessation and development of clean, renewable energy sources, indicate that we have chosen the warpath.

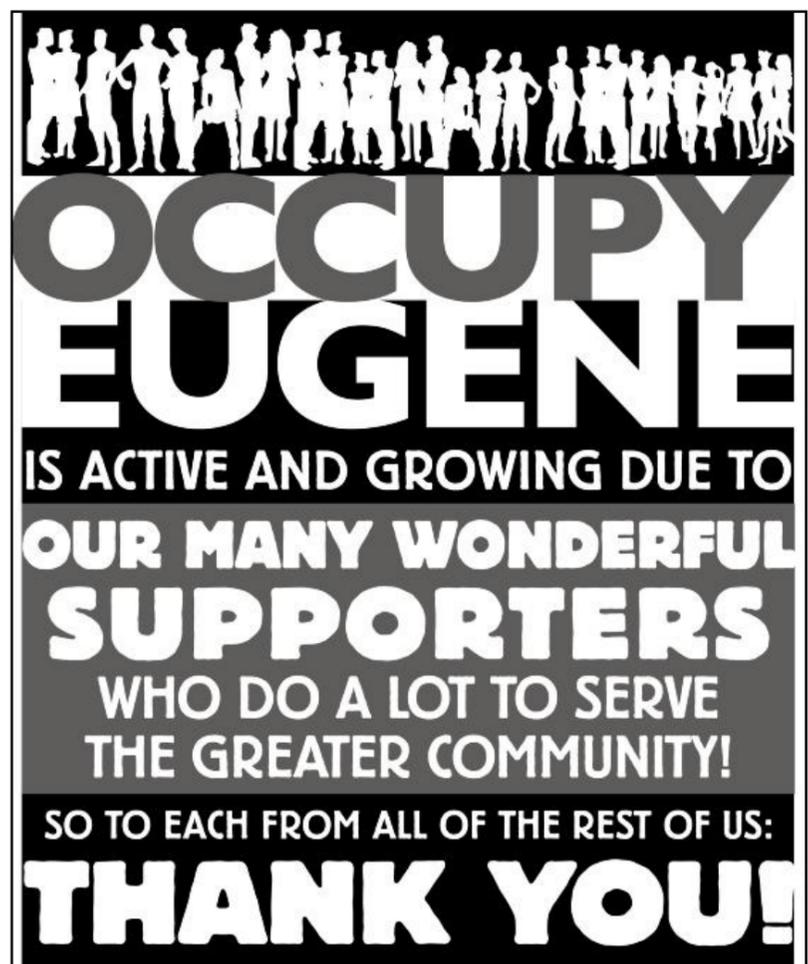
The peace path requires an egalitarian, humanistic worldview, actualized by adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which articulates the U.N. vision of conditions necessary for peace. This should be the centerpiece of U.N.-related "Peace Day" events, endorsed by all participating organizations. The peace path follows a route through cooperation and resource sharing rather than dominance and resource seizure rationalized by racist ideologies such as Islamophobia.

This choice of pathways is a matter of profound urgency that demands far more than conventional observances of narrow scope on International Peace Day to be commemorated in Eugene on Sept. 21. The International Peace Day website encourages attention to the impact of war on food, water and environments. To this I would add impacts on national budgets, diverting vast allocations away from what the world desperately needs.

Visit the Citizens Climate Lobby table at Eugene's Peace Day event at Alton Baker Park for more information.

Occupy Eugene Committees

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



Can anything be stupider than that a man has the right to kill me because he lives on the other side of a river and his ruler has a quarrel with mine, though I have not quarrelled with him? — Blaise Pascal

Jana Thrift: Behind the Occupy Lens

By GRAHAM LEWIS

Everyone who has “occupied” anything in Eugene during the last couple of years has seen or heard Jana Thrift. She rarely hesitates to speak her mind, usually with a useful observation. Nary a complaint or criticism. She mostly seems to look at where she can do better.

Visiting Jana in her natural habitat in Elmira, you'll find a warm communal living arrangement for several generations of her family and anyone else who needs a home for the night. We chatted by the fire pit that had lit up a drum circle the night before as her kids and grandkids contentedly came and went.

Jana spoke fondly of her childhood in the woods near Alsea where she was raised by wolves. Well, almost. Jana says, “My parents gifted me” to some good people, and “I



PHOTO BY CONRAD BARNEY

Jana and her family. L-R upper: Thomas Crowley (fiance), Jana, son Jacob Hartman, 25; and lower: Jericho Hablett, 17, Jasmine Hablett, 16, Jenah'Eve Hartman, 4.

was mostly raised communally on the coast.” Then between age 12 and about 30, she lived and grew in Alaska in the middle of “all that testosterone and three mountain ranges.” My jaw dropped when she said, “. . . and I became a mom at 14.” That was via a much older fella who was “not very nice and wanted a lot of kids.” Does she resent any of that? Nope. At 17 she received her AAS Paralegal degree in hopes of representing the unrepresented. “I wanted to change the world — The consumer madness kept bringing me to tears and then came Occupy. Occupy Eugene gave me hope. I was a big part of

starting the OE Welcoming Committee and the Occupy Media Group.” In addition, Jana has been active with the communications, actions, and the website committees.

Since she got to Eugene in 2000, Jana has earned three AAS degrees — Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, and Multimedia Design. Her multimedia degree is what has served Occupy. Jana and her cam showed up at virtually every first-year action, GA, and training session. “I wanted to document our history, so starting when Occupy Eugene was in Washington-Jefferson park, I began filming people who came and got to know them as they became part of our camp.” See her video composite of our first year at <http://tinyurl.com/k3ta67t>. Nearly fifty other videos she has made are available under “Jana's Videos” at the [occupyeugenemedia](http://tinyurl.com/ldp8bbf) youtube channel (<http://tinyurl.com/ldp8bbf>).

Follow Jana around and she'll wear you out. When her batteries are running low, “Creator takes care of me, providing opportunities to fill my cup...When I have really intense

dreams and wake up exhausted, I know it's break time,” preferably at the ocean.

Jana is also in the process of founding a non-profit called GEARS (The Green Energy Alternative Research Site) “to educate people about alternative fuels and energy in a community center, exploratorium and cafe. It will be fun for all ages.” Plus, if it hadn't been for Jana's passion and organizing skills, the past anniversary of the Fukushima tsunami and nuclear meltdown would have gone by unacknowledged in Eugene. People who attended the week-long event learned a great deal about the incredible dangers of nuclear power.

Family is what matters most to Jana. A fiancé, five sons, a daughter, and eight grandkids. Not all under one roof anymore; several of kids have homes and families of their own. “Activism is a family affair,” Jana declared with gusto. “I feel really proud to pass on the culture of caring to my family. My fiancé, Tom, has been behind me all the way!”

Several times, we were joined in her backyard by her youngest son, Jericho, 17, and her daughter, Jasmine, 16. They sat waiting for a pause and then Jericho shared what he is learning about the Indian movement (this year he will be in the new South Eugene High School Native American Student Union). He is also coaching fourth graders about good sportsmanship. “Someone that has the passion is [needed] to step forth so passion can be evoked in others.” Jericho is off to a good start.

Chimed in daughter Jasmine, “Our economic system...it's really out of whack!” She thinks our bank protests will get more people to realize credit unions are a better choice. Bank malfeasance and greed “go back to the Rockefellers, when six-year-olds worked in factories.” Jasmine loved joining the whole family for the tent monsters-cops-banksters Eugene Celebration parade entry last year as well as numerous other actions.

Jana's sweet granddaughter, Jenah, 4, quietly tiptoed around us. She has probably been to more political meetings than anyone her age anywhere and is the epitome of patience, finding chalk and blackboard or sidewalk to amuse herself. Jana says, “Mary B. refers to Jenah as her ‘favorite little Occupier.’” Everyone at Jana's place (including former hunger striker, Conrad) caused me to want to stay and get to know them better.

Bottom line to Occupy's success? Unity, says Jana Thrift. “Sometimes we tell ourselves it's enough to just do our small part, on our own, but to make the huge changes we want, need — demand, it's gonna take all of us.” It's up to each of us to educate ourselves to the truth the media ignores, “and then get together and do something about it!”

Unity is what Jana's life is all about. She is one bold and well-informed woman — just the kind of person that keeps a family together and engaged and looking ahead to what's next. Her family and the Occupy family.



PHOTO BY DUSK WINSTON

Jana shoots video documentation of 2012 State-wide GA at OEV.

When the Walls Will Fall

By Kevin Na Treasaigh

When the walls will fall
What shall we see
When the walls will fall
Will you look for me
When the walls will fall
We'll open up our eyes
And the dust will settle
And the sun will rise
When the walls will fall
On the chosen day
When you bear witness
What will you say

Over one hundred

Generations enslaved
Crushed in the cradle
Crushed in the grave
The tragedy infested
all the wild new lands
Grabbed groped and brutalized
by the Invaders hands
Over one thousand
Languages ancient
Killed without mercy
Killed without thought
With them their culture
With them their path
With them their stories

With them their past
Their ways of worship
Their ceremonies
Their ancient secrets
Their sacred songs

When the walls will fall
In their disgrace
And the chains are shaken
From our weary race
Terrible anguish
Horrendous pain
When the walls will fall
Shall not remain

Slaughter of children
Parents despair
When the walls will fall
Shall disappear
Do you hear the man speak
Do you see his hands
Dripping with warm blood
Of a far off land
Do you see the children
Underneath his boot
If we wait much longer
The point will be moot

When the walls will fall

Leaving no trace
And a fresh free breeze
Blows in their place
Shatter will mirrors
Drift away will smoke
When the walls will fall
With a fine fell stroke
Evil shall ponder on
What has been awoke
When the walls will fall
With a fine fell stroke



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