Post–Mortem of EPD Response to Brian Babb

By Jack Draper

After Eugene police killed veteran Brian Babb through a clumsy and heavy-handed intervention while Babb was on the phone with his therapist, Chief Kerns assured us the EPD had now learned not to interrupt a conversation between a person in crisis and a mental health professional. They had also now learned. Kerns added, that combat veterans with PTSD may react badly to an armored military vehicle. What replaced ordinary common sense and sensitivity in this situation, and why? What is described below. We may learn more about why through the lawsuit the Babb family intends to pursue.

Militaristic thinking played a conspicuous role in Babb’s death. The EPD employed a rigidly militarized and entirely inappropriate response, reflecting a disturbing nationwide trend that includes distribution of surplus U.S. military supplies to civilian police through the Pentagon’s 1033 program. This practice comes dangerously close to violating the Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits use of the federal military for civilian law enforcement and ended occupation of the former Confederacy in 1878.

Although Babb’s therapist Becky Higgins called to request an EPD “welfare check,” her call instead activated a confrontational, militarized response. In later police interviews and the police report, Babb was identified repeatedly as the “suspect.” Police safety rather than Brian’s safety emerged as the compelling concern due to the two-story house from which Babb could shoot down at them rather than Brian’s safety emerged as the compelling concern due to the two-story house from which Babb could shoot down at them and the “deep panhandle lot” police described as “terrible” from the two-story house from which Babb could shoot down at them and the “deep panhandle lot” police described as “terrible” from

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Militaristic thinking played a conspicuous role...
Occupy Eugene Media Releases the Community Solutions Media Library

In July 2014, the Occupy Eugene Media Group (OEMG) received a grant from the University of Oregon Wayne Morse Center to create a project called the Community Solutions Media Library. After a full year of working diligently on the archive of photos, videos, and podcasts — it is now finally available! You can find it on the Occupy Eugene website at www.occupyeugene media.org or go directly to the Library page at http://occupyeugene med ia.org/mediagroup/community-solutions-media/.

The library is a table of contents full of media. We have more work to do but you can now find a considerable amount of media there, beginning with Rob Sydor’s photos of Occupy Eugene’s first General Assembly on September 29, 2011 and going all the way to our current narrative — describing the Occupation in Eugene and all the good work that it has inspired.

We hope for the library to be a platform for Occupiers to share media about their efforts and the work others can find out about our good work easily. Please feel free to make a donation to Occupy Eugene or our media group. Anything helps and we promise to use it well as content and financial contributions.

Please email Jana corrections if you spot a mistake in the library.

Vigil for Lac-Mégiec Oil Trains Disaster

About a dozen Eugenians gathered next to the Amtrak station on July 6, the second anniversary of the deadly fracked oil train derailment and explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Québec. The names of the 47 people who died were read, and a bell tolled for each as the group stood in silence. The same kind of oil trains regularly run through the heart of Eugene, and the half-mile “blast zone” extends down to Broadway. This is just one of the more tangible risks caused by proposed “man camps” which would house thousands of transient workers brought in to build the pipeline and terminal. They talked about damage to our atmosphere caused by greenhouse gas emissions, saying that if this project is built, it will be the largest source of CO2 emissions in the country.

As well, we also encourage you to volunteer your time. We greatly appreciate any offer to help with recording, editing, or data input. We have a computer for use as well as camera equipment, thanks to the Wayne Morse Project Grant!

We are a nonprofit, 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 livelihood. 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 lifeblood. 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 lifeblood.
Opinion

Restoring the Excitement of Revolution

By Jerry Bruns

I remember the heady early days of Occupy Eugene. We had 2,000 people come out in the street to protest the inequality in the nation. Those were exciting days and we all believed we could change the world. Occupy has accomplished some amazing things. The most important achievement was educating the public about the enormous income inequality in the U.S. While Occupy was not able to do much about the prices of Wall Street, it was able to alleviate some of the suffering of the homeless with projects like Opportunity Village and Occupy Medical and it is still working and spreading the word in Occupy Interfaith.

When I was active in the vision committee of Occupy we worked to consolidate all of the things we wanted to accomplish in a single sheet. Next would come a simple set of goals and then tactics to achieve those goals. Somewhere along the way we got bogged down with a rambling vision statement that says the occupation is the message. We felt that the only way to bring about change was to protest. But people grew tired of protest and frustrated it that accomplished little. We lost that sense of excitement.

There were many idealistic things that we wanted to accomplish, reclaiming our democracy from corporate rule, getting money out of politics, reducing inequality, providing jobs and a living wage, a fair and progressive tax system, single payer health care, protection of the environment, justice for women and minorities, and peace. Occupy was unable to accomplish any of those things, but now we have a champion, Bernie Sanders, who is fighting for those goals, and there is a clear and possible path to achieving them.

During Occupy’s hey day we got excited about having a couple of hundred people join us for a march. Now the 16,000 people who listened to Bernie in Portland, are joining together to fight for the same goals. Now the excitement is back. Join the Bernie Sanders revolution and help change the world. Come to our weekly Bernie Sanders Meetings. Email for locations and times at: LaneCountyForBernieSanders@gmail.com or contact us on facebook: www.facebook.com/laneforbernieSanders2016

A Metamorphosis: How I Became an Environmental Activist

By David Ivan Piccioni

LSD transformed me into a environmentalist the day I took two very pure doses of this medicine. It happened during a period in my life when as an overworked chemist student I pondered my own mortality. At one of the parks near campus an awareness of the interconnectedness between all life forms and our habitat seemed to happen throughout my entire nervous system. After leaving my bicycle under a tree, I climbed onto a low hanging branch. When my rabbit came out of the bushes the sight triggered a change in me, a brand new way to look at the world, like that of a newborn baby.

Experiences like this are common, reported often in magazines and websites that document this type of “trip.” The journal MAPS (Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies) has many accounts similar to mine, as do books by Stanislav Grof, Sasha Shulgin and many other physicians and scientists.

I thought environmental work and efforts to end the war on drugs can and should be done simultaneously. Casualties of this battle are enorhous, or rather their users. Entheogens are the many kinds of substances that can dissolve the invisible barrier between ourselves and the world. The oneness of humanity, nature and God is the insight most needed for our age. It's pathological to dilute this trinity; to see each as distinct from the others.

I am convinced the invisible, intangible barrier which affects all of our relations is the mythical tree of good and evil. From it all duality and separateness arose. Even though this fable was created by religious figures to illustrate a timeless separation phenomenon, it is most useful when seen in a unifying context: originally all existed in blissful unity until individity came into play. Yes, we are all unique but more important than our differences are our similarities. That which is common to all sentient beings, life and ultimately all that exists is the most sought after “alchemical gold” or philosopher's stone.

Choice: The Acceptance of Responsibility

By David Ivan Piccioni

When in my youth I left virginity behind me, there was an unwanted consequence: pregnancy. I wanted an end to this ominous problem. My partner knew this could be her only chance for having a baby because as a diabetic late pregnancies are harder to come

You are not seeing the full answer because this text contains sensitive personal information. Please request additional information or assistance if you believe you need it.
"When adequate shelter space does not exist, there is no meaningful distinction between the status of being homeless and the conduct of sleeping in public. . . . It should be uncontroversial that punishing conduct that is a universal and unavoidable consequence of being human violates the Eighth Amendment . . . Sleeping is a life-sustaining activity — that is, it must occur at some time in every day. . . . Being homeless is not a crime — it is a state of mind caused by a lack of alternative housing. . . . It's important to know that Prohibited Camping is not a crime. Violators cannot be arrested for that offense alone. . . . It's raining. The new lights installed in Kesey Square of smell and lack of sanitation for the luxury of safety from the rain and a minimum of warmth. I am guessing that most of the unsheltered are by the river. Seems like a terrible night for it.

3:30 a.m.

By Art Bollman

It is raining. The new lights installed in Kesey Square keep it brightly lit all night and seem to deter people from gathering there after dark, regardless of whether it is raining or not. I am told there are also security cameras installed. But tonight there are very few people downtown; I walk through Park Blocks and see one woman sleeping on a bench, without a blanket, a bicycle beside her. A few people are huddled in doorways. I notice that the downtown port-a-potties seem to always be occupied. I wonder if people choose to sleep there, choosing to pay the price of smell and lack of sanitation for the luxury of safety from the rain and a minimum of warmth. I am guessing that most of the unsheltered are by the river. Seems like a terrible night for it.

Things are worse for the unsheltered now than I can ever remember. I cannot help but think of the silence of Kitty Piercy and the city council on Monday’s meeting. I cannot help but think of the way that Jon Ruiz and Pete Kerns wereכתב about "an enforcement action where folks have a campsite that has all kinds of durable goods and things they can use as weapons." It seems he wants the public to think of the unhoused people in the camp as armed and dangerous.

These days police do not have time to respond to reports of stolen cars or bikes. People go to the police station and file their own reports. We accept this. The police are overworked, and a stolen bike is pretty small potatoes. But how big a deal is a small band of exhausted campers, who have already agreed to move in under 24 hours. Personally, I don’t want my taxes to go toward bringing a huge number of vehicles and public servants on overtime to an unnecessary eviction of a handful of tired campers. Whatever the reason was behind the strangely overwhelming force that showed up at the camp on Saturday — to create in the public the fear that the unhoused are dangerous or simply to demonstrate EPD’s ability to bully — it is a cost of money that could be much better spent. Let Chief Kerns, your city councilor, Mayor Piercy, and the City Manager know if you would rather the EPD not waste Eugene’s money bullying the unhoused.

Citizens to City Council: Lift the Ban — Let Them Sleep

By Vicke Nelson

People had so much on their minds that it was standing room only at the City Council public forum on Sept 14. Several people spoke on such issues as a downtown smoking ban, safer crosswalks, and zoning changes for the South Willamette Street area, but by far, the majority of the 67 people who signed up for their two minutes to speak, were there to let the councilors know they want an end to the camping ban, and they want police to let sleeping people sleep.

Many people brought up the recent statement of interest by the Department of Justice, which says among other things: "It should be uncontroversial that punishing conduct that is a universal and unavoidable consequence of being human violates the Eighth Amendment . . . Sleeping is a life-sustaining activity — that is, it must occur at some time in some place.”

Some speakers spoke dramatically, such as Jean Stacy, who asked, “Are you going to continue to play the ugly role of Gov. George Wallace and defy the courts and the Constitution?” Others made their points with a more restrained passion, like Chris Bellini who quietly told the council, “I really would like to ask you to stop harassing people who are just trying to sleep, just trying to survive.”

Two days after the City Council meeting, the Register Guard ran an editorial that said of the activists, "They offered emotional and political arguments, both of which the council can choose to ignore. They also made a legal argument, one that may not be easily set aside.”

Meanwhile, in Portland Mayor Charlie Hales announced a state of emergency for housing and homelessness and in Los Angeles the City Council declared a state of emergency on homelessness and asked for $100 million to help address the growing crisis. Two west coast cities are ready to act. So how about it, Eugene?
between the status of being homeless and the conduct of sleeping in public...mping ordinance against that person criminalizes her for being homeless.”
— Dept of Justice

**Housing is a Human Right**

By Jack Dresser

Sixty-seven years ago, soon after the devastation of World War II, the United Nations established the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It states in Article 25(1) that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and medical care.” In 1976, this principle was reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 11(1), “Everyone has the right to housing... It’s let’s see how it measures up.

Homelessness is an artifact of capitalism, which interferes with this as a right. It saves money, despite decades of economic crumbling under U.S. embargo, housing has always been recognized as a responsibility of government. In socialist Libya before we destroyed the state, our mayor’s declaration that homeless “knighten” are “travelers,” 90% are local, not transient. Half are fami-

A human rights policy basis differs markedly from the standard, graduated rescue approach, which identifies problems that homeless people must solve before they can become settled. They must first prove themselves worthy. But even in capitalist America, in which receiving some sort of handout is uncommon unless it is inherited wealth, some political jurisdictions eliminate homelessness by providing housing. The rationale is pragmatic without embracing this as a right. It saves money, and at least Cuba by contrast, to a standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and medical care...”

Panhandling is a Form of Free Speech

By Ken Neubeck

Panhandling is a Form of Free Speech

 drifted, including economic disruptions and population disloca-

results. The Interagency Council on Homelessness reports costs between $30,000 and $50,000 per unhoused person per year, with cost savings of about 40% from Housing First programs. And sometimes more. Denver found that costs declined 75% for people in Housing First, from $44,000 to $11,000.

In the Utah experiment, Housing First residents were provided rehabilitation and medical care if they requested it. After five years, 88 percent were in apartments, and the estimated annual cost to taxpayers for each chronically home-

also considered water a human right.

Solving a problem requires clear-headed analysis rather than judgmental assumptions. Nationally, 85% of the homeless are temporary, who once stabilized can move on. Despite our mayor’s declaration that homeless “knighten” are “travelers,” 90% are local, not transient. Half are fami-

families and 30% are children. Most chronically homeless grew up in abusive or disadvantaged families without equality of opportunity. Their life expectancy is 48, comparable with Afghanistan and Nigeria. Do they deserve to be simply discarded? Some cities think not.

The all-out commitment of Salt Lake City has made it the Housing First poster city, but it is not alone. In 1992, NYU psychologist Sam Tsienbergs founded Pathways to Housing, which provided apartments to 242 chronically homeless individuals. They could drink, use drugs, or remain otherwise dysfunctional as long as they didn’t hurt or bother anyone else. This approach has been replicated in several U.S. cities and is similar to the approach of Dr. Gabor Maté in Vancouver, BC.

An early study of 4,679 New York City homeless people shows that 81% are homeless because it is a necessary human function of sleeping in public when they cannot be trusted and will abuse charitable donations to the point of being criminalized but status cannot. Since homeless-

We are herding our homeless about like cattle with the police our border collies. This continuous harassment under color of authority arguably penalizes the status of homeles-

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There is no question that panhandling and solicitation of charitable contributions are protected speech...”

4th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2015

Panhandling is legal under the Constitution as a form of free speech. It is not an expression of laziness or a refus-

Panhandling is legal under the Constitution as a form of free speech. It is not an expression of laziness or a refusal to work, nor is it necessarily a sign of dependence on alcohol and drugs. Although some studies done have been done, we’ve needed more formal systematic research on those factors. We need to be able to analyze items that ease their survival on the streets. It could be a sandwich, or coffee, or aspirin, or feminine hygiene products, or dog food, or a co-pay on a prescription drug. We can’t know without asking. Panhandlers need jobs and wages to get that food and certainly not a crime when done properly and within the rules of law.

We have to arm ourselves with the argument that it is better to give to social service agencies than to panhandlers. We need to realize this type of giving cuts people off from access to cash they may immediately need to help them live on the streets. It also assumes that all services provided by these agencies are run honestly and with respect for those in need, which in some cases is apparently not true. The cam-

Panhandlers are herded about like cattle with the police our border collies. This continuous harassment under color of authority arguably penalizes the status of homeles-

This is a serious effort to empower people by offering them opportunities to write for a newspaper, to provide them with some income and self-respect through becoming salespersons of the paper, and in general to giving them a role in the community that generates inclusion and respect. I dislike the public campaign against panhandling because it is a damaged message that does not garner support for people who are poor and unhoused and for whom standing on a street corner flying a sign is an embarrassing effort to have at least some small source of legal cash income.

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Gay Marriage:
A Sacred Wow for All

Marriage? Yuck!! Not for me. Marriage was one of many “privileges” I could be spared by choosing to love someone the way I choose to love someone. Each of these private choices was on the list of personal attachments.

So of course, I was asked to write this piece from my perspective as a happily married gay man. Did I change, or did society, or both? What did this change have to say about me, our culture, and quite critically about a community’s ability to adapt and grow?

For my case, I’ve learned that we all exist in a relational sense to each other, in all places, in all times. It is not new age mumbo-jumbo that puts a grin on my face all the time and allows aggressive people to walk all over me without a cost, expecting me to sacrifice integrity, identity, and honest feelings. Gay marriage rights mean unconditional inclusion, a recognition that our common sense of accountability, of justice — and yes, of having fun with one another — doesn’t exist in a void. To know love is to know that it thrives in many forms.

Those who argue that there is only one way of loving and that it must be legally sanctioned and prescribed are limiting themselves in experiencing the power and breadth of love. To say love is a byproduct of which parts of people go into which other parts infantilizes both the GLBT and the straight communities.

For straight society, our inclusion in this basic institution enforces the circle of those who belong and the celebration of those who make different adult choices. More people are open to who, the how, the why, and the norms of how I would govern my life’s most important relationship. If I wanted to take a sacred vow with my life partner, I didn’t need an official stamp of approval. I was the kind of person who made personal agreements, and I was one who kept the agreements I entered into. I considered myself emancipated from the need for religious and societal blessing and approval for my deepest personal attachments.

Heck, it took many years and hundreds of thousands of words of deaths before a U.S. president could utter the word AIDS, and most politicians who supported gay rights did so after making a simple calculation: to say as how many votes they could gain or lose. I had better things to do with my energies than go down on bended knee in front of Hetero Power begging for equality and basic human rights.

By CHRISS BARGHOUT

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By CHRISS BARGHOUT
On Aug 12, International Youth Day, 21 young people from across the United States filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. World-renowned climate scientist Dr. James Hansen also joined the youths as Plaintiff. The Complaint asserts that, in causing climate change, the federal government has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, property, and has failed to protect essential public trust resources. The Complaint alleges the Federal Government is violating the duty to protect its constitutional rights by promoting the development and use of fossil fuels. The young Plaintiffs are challenging the federal government’s past as well as the procedural authorization of the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export terminal in Coos Bay, OR. Plaintiffs seek to hold President Obama and various federal agencies responsible for continued fossil fuel exploitation.

“By our children’s trust, condensed by Vickie Nelson,
Youth Return to Court as Promised with Lawsuit against U.S. Government and President

By Dr. James Hansen

In 1953 the U.S. overthrew Iran’s elected prime minister Mohammad Mossadeq and destroyed Iranian democracy in order to maintain Western control of Iran’s oil. The U.S. then installed Shah Pahlavi and his brutal police state, which maintained power for a quarter century until overthrown by a popular revolution in 1979. Given U.S. stakes in controlling the region, taking U.S. embassy hostages at that time to destroy Mossadegh was awarded the Legion of Merit, a decoration second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor. Not only were there no disciplinary consequences, but the Captain of the Vincennes was intimately involved. Seymour Hersh reported the long-planned IDF/Pentagon agenda behind Israel’s 2006 attack on Lebanon to test the effectiveness of air power against Hezbollah’s Iran-style buried defenses. Had this succeeded in both encouraging an air campaign and significantly degrading Hezbollah’s retaliatory capacity against Israel as an Iranian ally, it would have cleared the way for a direct attack on Iran. Despite the failure of this strategic move, former Mossad chief Meir Dagan reported four Netanyahu plans to attack Iran between 2010 and 2012 that were derailed by more prudent Israeli leaders.

Other than submission to Saudi and Israeli influence, what independent U.S. interests are involved? A nuclear Iran is not a strategic choice. Billions of dollars in Iranian assets have been frozen and Iranian oil exports are down 49 percent. In 1980 the U.S. supported Iraq in launching an eight-year war against Iran that caused an estimated half-million Iranian deaths. During this war, the U.S. increased sanctions, which bankrupted Iran with huge debts and sanctions under which the regime changed from a monarchy to a theocracy. Billions in dollars in Iranian assets have been frozen and Iranian oil exports are down 49 percent. In 1980 the U.S. supported Iraq in launching an eight-year war against Iran that caused an estimated half-million Iranian deaths. During this war, the U.S. increased sanctions, which bankrupted Iran with huge debts and sanctions under which the regime changed from a monarchy to a theocracy.

The most effective defense against the U.S. or Israel without needing a nuclear deterrent would be to provide Iran with effective defense against the U.S. or Israel without needing a nuclear deterrent. This would include building up Iran’s conventional forces, acquiring so-called “ballistic missile deterrent” – nuclear weapons built to be delivered by ballistics missiles, which are inaccurate and suicidal. The U.S. has destroyed two modern, advanced, secular Arab nations – Jordan and Syria. Without nukes, Iranians are neither crazy nor suicidal. In contrast, Israel has attacked the young people’s constitutional rights by promoting the development and use of fossil fuels.

The Complaint responds to the federal government’s unfulfilled promise to reduce carbon emissions, and stop promoting fossil fuels, which force our nation’s climate system toward irreversible impacts. Based on the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Complaint explains how Defendants, knowing CO2 emissions cause dangerous climate change and ocean acidification, the Federal Government failed to restrict those emissions and committed a continuing conspiracy that exemplifies the Federal Government’s failure to act with the necessary speed and foresight to change the fundamental course of civilization.

The Complaint describes how the Government needs to immediately and aggressively reduce carbon emissions, and stop promoting fossil fuels, which force our nation’s climate system toward irreversible impacts.

“This bold action by youth in the United States challenges federal government actions that are causing and exacerbating, rather than abating, the climate crisis,” says attorney Roger Cox, who recently won a court order in the Netherlands ordering the Dutch government to decrease emissions.

“The Court in the Dutch case, the U.S. government also has a duty to safeguard the climate for generations to come,” said Dr. James Hansen, director of the Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions program at Columbia University, says: “Solutions need to rapidly phase down CO2 emissions, to a zero, a rising carbon fee coupled with fossil fuel companies with funds distributed to the public. Indeed, our President proposes ineffectual actions, demonstrably short of what is needed, and persists in approving fossil fuel projects that will drag us into dependence on fossil fuels at a time when we should be transitioning toward a renewable energy economy.”

The Complaint includes each Plaintiff’s individual story and the ways in which they are harmed by climate change now and will be in the future if the Court does not order the Federal Government to decrease atmospheric concentrations of CO2 to a safe level. For example, Tia Hatton, from Bend, OR, has experienced record low snowfall for the past three years, threatening her water supplies and winter sports. She knows carbon pollution will harm her and her generation with the specter of severe water shortages, and is concerned she will be forced to stop skiing competitively.

“This lawsuit asks whether our government has a constitutional responsibility to leave a viable climate system for future generations.”

By 2020, the Jordan Cove Energy Project will be the largest gathering of greenhouse gases in the whole state of Oregon, says 18-year-old Alex Lomak, one of the eleven Oregon young plaintiffs. “Science tells us we must sharply cut back on CO2 emissions, but my Federal Government has failed in the greatest national plan to protect our atmosphere and our exports from this terminal. If constructed, the terminal would process one billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, locking us into dependence on fossil fuels until we can no longer afford to use them before we should be transitioning toward a renewable energy economy.”

As ever, U.S. covert and proxy operations are intimately involved. Seymour Hersh reported the long-planned IDF/Pentagon agenda behind Israel’s 2006 attack on Lebanon to test the effectiveness of air power against Hezbollah’s Iran-style buried defenses. Had this succeeded in both encouraging an air campaign and significantly degrading Hezbollah’s retaliatory capacity against Israel as an Iranian ally, it would have cleared the way for a direct attack on Iran. Despite the failure of this strategic move, former Mossad chief Meir Dagan reported four Netanyahu plans to attack Iran between 2010 and 2012 that were derailed by more prudent Israeli leaders.

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I see nurturance and cooperation by Graham Lewis

Chaos or Cooperation: Random Journal Entries

back...Jan 28, 2013). We must demand that Congress and the
from criminals and the mentally/emotionally unstable (www.
halting sale of military assault weapons and keeping guns
out of politics, which up to then had been treated as a
non-issue.

The specific way they were protesting appealed to me. Martin says, “people were amplifying their speech in opposition to the fact that the Supreme Court allowed corporations to amplify their speech with money.” Martin attended protests at Eugene’s Bank of America in the fall of 2011 and went to the big march on Oct 15, one of the best experiences of his life. At the Occupy sites and at the OEV ware-
house he joined Donna Riddle in organizing dish-
washing, worked with peacekeeping, helped at the info booth, and even became a minute taker at the General Assemblies.

Martin had received peacekeeper training when he was engaged in actions against the Gulf war. In addition, since 2000 he has been working with people with cognitive disabilities and had both training and experience in de-escalation with kids and young adults. He had also been working as a volunteer at the Egan warming center for three years. His training and experience with de-escalation naturally translated itself into an inclination to provide a safe environment at the camps and eventually at Occupy Medical.

When Becca asked for help with interviews for incoming volunteers and peacekeepers, Martin was the perfect man for the job. And when Jason organized a peacekeepers’ team, Martin recruited Connor, Travis, and Michael, aka Cowboy/Buffalo. While peacekeeping,
and by extension offering support to the support team, has been Martin’s main contribution at the clinic, he also helps oversee setup and takedown, and generally makes sure everything runs smoothly.

Peacekeeping responsibilities range from making sure everyone observes the no smoking zone to the de-escalation of physical potential confrontation. “The bottom line is to prevent physical fights on the park blocks.”

Many of the clients at Occupy Medical are on edge — they suffer from PTSD, addiction to various substances, and may not have regular meals. The main objective of peacekeeping is to keep both patients and volunteers safe.

For Martin, successful de-escalation is based on having good relationships with the crowd, many of whom are regulars. “It is important to treat people with respect,” he points out. “They respond best to that.” He reminds me about Maslow’s pyramid, and says, “I do many things to keep people from escalating; I help them by meeting their needs — by offering food, coffee, an opportunity to talk — so they feel safe, which helps them calm down.” He always tries to be clear, firm, to the point, and polite.

He feels Occupy Medical is important because not everyone can get the healthcare they need at tradition-
al clinics. “We help a lot of people who may not have anywhere else. Not everyone is comfortable or even able to deal with paperwork. And then there is the issue of trust. People trust OM because we are on the street, ready to serve.”

Martin suffered a concussion at work (actually the second in two years) that kept him away from Occupy Medical for six months. Visiting the doctor paid for by

Martin Champion: Peacekeeper

Martin discovered Occupy Wall Street online. As an undergraduate at the UO, he had studied political theory, focusing on democracy and popular move-
ments. His work was informed by the revolutionary uprisings in Eastern Europe in the early ’90s and by the Tiananmen Square protests.

Twenty-some years later he was working in special education. Although he has different political theories in a formal setting, his interest in popular movements persisted. Both the Arab Spring and the Occupy move-
ment that followed caught his attention. The Occupy movement demanded a broader distribution of power, opposition to corporate hegemony, and getting money out of politics, which up to then had been treated as a non-issue.

As the people’s business gets mixed in Congressional Committee and our infra-
structure c rumbles, corporate profits explode. How did we get here — economic inequal-
ity with the planet in decline — from the productive social and economic growth of the 50s and 60s? What’s the primary deciding factor?

In the few systems that are working, there is a tan-
gible sense of cooperation. No need to compete or dominate, to blame, condemn, or seek vengeance. When a challenge materializes (like Nightingale Health Sanctuary relocating their whole operation), they solve it collaboratively. Young people who are nurtured learn how to cooperate. They’re less likely to be angry and “act out” (Biglan, “The Nurture Effect: How the Science of Human Behavior Can Improve Our Lives & Our World.”) Teen gymmenn Dyllan Roof and Adam Lanza were mentally unstable and probably got little if any nurturance. What par-
ettles their disturbed adolescent son an assault weapon?

Another school shooting in Roseburg. I knew Kip
Kinkel’s dad back in ’98 and it still hits me hard. What are we doing as a society to consume more than we really need (e.g., I just had to com-
pile a shameful amount of uneaten, raw vegetables I’d felt

While male “leadership” — save Pope Francis — ap-
pear to be more about blame, competition, and aggression, I see nurturance and cooperation as being hallmarks of the female nature. Women like Carly and Hillary are still trying to act like the Male Game, yet others like Elizabeth Warren are endeavor-
ing to proactively collaborate on progressive legislation. It’s time for men to again cooperate.

President candidate Bernie Sanders has been rallying huge crowds which can no longer be called radical splinter groups. Though he orates with a forceful tone, he offers common sense solutions and takes no corporate hush money. That level of zeal can’t help but worry the corporate infrastructure.

I often feel like Chicken Little because, in case you haven’t no-
ticed, the sky is falling. We are passing the threshold beyond which it’s too late to keep the planet habitable, except maybe for plankton and bacteria. Nevertheless, most of us continue to consume more than we really need (e.g., I just had to com-
pile a shameful amount of uneaten, raw vegetables I’d felt virtuous about buying.) And don’t we still feed our addiction to convenience?

Most people are pretty good at rationalizing selfish behaviors. In order to protest anything, there has to be some degree of feeling “better than.” With really bad guys like Karl Rove and the Koch brothers in mind, we can feel moral

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