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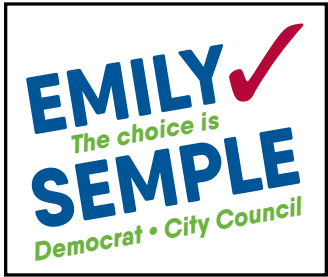
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Emily Semple Stands for Ward 1

BY ART BOLLMAN



Many Eugenians know Emily Semple as a SLUG Queen, others as a graphic designer, and still others as a mother of two and a good neighbor. Occupiers know her as Brave Beatrice, a staunch member of Occupy Eugene who has supported countless members in their actions and who successfully sued the Federal government to protect the rights of citizens to protest.

Soon, the citizens of Eugene will know her as Councilor Semple of Eugene's First Ward.

"I never really gave it much thought," said Emily. "George Brown was my councilor and I was very happy with his voting record and the way he represented Ward One."

But then George Brown decided to retire from council. Several candidates had already declared for the seat, but Brown found them unsatisfactory. He was delighted when Emily stopped by the Kiva to talk with him about running. "I endorse her wholeheartedly and without reservation," he said. In addition to George Brown's endorsement, progressive stalwarts Betty Taylor and Pete Sorenson have also endorsed Semple.

When she decided to run, Semple found herself in the middle of several controversial issues. One issue that spoke urgently to Semple was the pro-

posal to sell Kesey Square to private developers who would then build condos with taxpayer subsidies. "This was one close to my heart," said Semple. "It was when I read Kesey's book *Sometimes A Great Notion* as a teenager in New York that I first began to dream of moving to Oregon." Also, "Kesey Square is the last remaining public property where it is legal to occupy our First Amendment right to peaceful assembly and free speech.

Semple also distinguishes herself by opposing MUPTE, the tax subsidy program that has given Eugene the Capstone project and other unneeded and unsuccessful developments at public expense.

Environmental issues play a key role in her campaign. Semple declares herself against the expansion of Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary. "We have very fertile farmland in Eugene, and it is going to be increasingly valuable as the climate changes." Semple also chided the city staff for dragging its feet in finding ways to enact the Climate Recovery Ordinance passed by City Council, and has suggested that Eugene explore the idea of having free buses.

Voters reacted with enthusiasm to her campaign, as a coalition of neighborhood groups, progressives and environmentalists voted for her. With four opponents Semple finished first, but didn't get the fifty percent needed to be the outright victor so she faces one remaining candidate in November.

"It'll be a tough race," Semple says. "But even the Register-Guard admitted my last opponent outspent me by three-to-one but came in second." The voters of Ward One will decide their next councilor, not the Chamber of Commerce — who endorsed the other candidate.

"We have a broad coalition and all are welcome. This campaign is about making sure that my neighbors in Ward One have their voices heard at council."

Anyone interested in helping out in this fall's campaign should visit www.emilysemples.org

NPAC Peer Support Training Deemed Big Success

BY VICKIE NELSON

Troubled by the lack of support and resources available to volunteers who work with unsheltered people in our community, Mary Broadhurst created a plan and took it to Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective. She asked NPAC to bring Project Able of Salem to Eugene to offer a 40-hour peer support specialist training program to people currently working with the unhoused.

ProjectAble uses an Oregon Health Authority-approved curriculum and has trained over 500 peer support specialists throughout the state since 2010. Classes are interactive and cover a variety of topics centering on the needs of the unhoused such as: Community Engagement; Mental Health Recovery; Self-Determination; Partnerships; Person-Centered Planning; Strengths-Based Healing; Cultural Awareness; Trauma Informed Services; Mutuality; Compassionate Interaction; Listening to Hear; Barriers to Effective Communication; Ethics and Confidentiality; Documentation; and Wellness & Self Care.

The impetus for the project came from an unhoused woman who, at a meeting discussing the possibility of developing a women's shelter, said, "We need a course, or class, teaching us how to run it well." Mary liked the idea, and when she told NPAC about it, NPAC liked it too.

After months of fundraising, NPAC finally had enough to bring Project Able to Eugene to provide training to a diverse group of 15 people from NPAC, Opportunity Village Eugene, Community Supported Shelters, Egan Warming Center, Nightingale Health Sanctuary and Occupy Medical. Half of the trainees were unhoused and all but two had previously experienced homelessness. All were enthusiastic about the class—calling it "wonderful" and "awesome"—and attended all



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROJECT ABLE

NPAC presents its first class of certified peer support specialists.

Front, from left: Kevin Hanners, Nancy Forrest, Nathan "Red" Showers, Christina Kazlas, Sabra Marcroft. Middle: Spider, Barbara Denlis, Kristen Brandt, Tracy Jocelyn, Donna Jackson, Shanalea Forrest, Crystal Webb. Back: Jana Thrift, Michael Weed, Praise.

five days of training. NPAC has also heard from the trainers that the Eugene class was one of the best they had ever had.

The trainees have given NPAC terrific feedback. They are excited about the project and some of them plan to conduct mini-trainings to share the new concepts and skills they have learned with the people with whom they work. This "ripple effect" is what NPAC had hoped to achieve as the new peer support specialists returned to their work with the unhoused, armed with new skills and re-invigorated with new and deeper connections to others doing similar work.

Some of the new trainees are also enthusiastic about raising funds so NPAC can offer at least two more classes, possibly one this fall. More than 20 people from a variety of organizations that rely on volunteers in their work with our unhoused neighbors

have expressed interest in taking the peer support course. NPAC expects the need for peer support specialists to increase. Several local agencies who currently hire peer support specialists have also approached NPAC about training.

In this next stage of fundraising, NPAC plans to reach out to organizations throughout the community, making presentations that showcase the project. If you are connected to an organization, (business, labor, church, or community) and want us to come and present at one of your meetings, please let NPAC know at NightingaleCollective@gmail.com.

Also, you can help us make future training sessions happen faster with your own tax-deductible donation. Send a check (this is the best method for us as no fees will be deducted) with "Peer Support" in the memo line to NPAC, PO Box 1556, Springfield OR 97477. Or you can click on "Donate" at our website: RespectExistence.org.

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/>

Workshops to Build a Resilient Lane County

Would you like to learn:

- skills to build your personal resilience?
- skills to help the people you work with enhance their resilience?
- how to make your organization more resilient?

The workshops offered by **Building a Resilient Lane County** can help!

All workshops are free and, with thanks to the City of Eugene, will be held in the Bascom/Tykeson rooms at the Eugene Downtown Public Library. Preregistration is required to attend each workshop. For more information please contact: TR@trig-cli.org

Using Adversity as a Catalyst to Learn, Grow & Thrive

Tuesday, September 13 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn simple ways to use adversity as a catalyst to learn, find new meaning in life, and thrive. By learning how to turn toward rather than deny, ignore, or lash out during hard times, it is possible to use adversity as an opportunity to gain new insights into the world and ourselves and find powerful new sources of meaning and purpose in life. The workshop will also help you learn how to teach these skills to their families, friends, colleagues, or clients.

Using Resilience Skills to Respond to Systemic Oppression

Thursday, September 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to use simple resilience skills to respond constructively to racism, sexism, economic discrimination, and other types of systemic oppression. People can either become resigned to hopelessness when they experience these injustices and harm themselves, lash out and harm others, or increase their personal capacity and compel social change. Personal power can be increased by enhancing one's own skills and by joining arms with allies. Good resilience skills are helpful in both cases. Using historic and ongoing examples, this workshop will explain the type of personal resilience skills that leaders throughout time have used to promote social change when faced with system oppression.

Transitioning Your Organization to a Trauma-Informed Resilience-Enhancing Entity

Tuesday November 15 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This workshop will help people from private companies, non-profit, and government organizations learn how groups often respond to acute traumas and toxic stress by adopting practices and policies that are intended to protect them from the threats, but instead generate additional trauma for everyone. That is, they become 'trauma-organized.' Research shows that organizations that are trauma-organized have lower productivity, higher employee turnover, and are less competitive in the marketplace. The workshop will also teach participants the principles and practices used by trauma-informed resilience-enhancing entities, and help them learn how to begin the transition to this type of powerful organization.

Subject To Be Announced — based on requests about Building a Resilient Lane County

Tuesday December 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A growing number of communities have realized that the common thread that ties together many personal, family, economic, social, and environmental problems is trauma. When we humans experience acute traumas or persistent overwhelming stresses, neurochemicals are released into the body to prepare us to fight back, flee, or freeze. Unresolved trauma can lead to serious personal psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and suicidality, physical health problems such as cancer and heart disease, and psychosocial maladies such as drug and alcohol abuse, interpersonal aggression, crime, and violence. These harmful reactions diminish the safety, security, and wellbeing of everyone in our communities.

Letter to the Editor

A Review of Pixar-Disney's "Inside Out"

DAVID IVAN PICCIONI

Pixar-Disney films use high-quality images generated using Renderman software. I recently got to enjoy the movie "Inside Out" as part of some therapy I participate in. Not only was the quality of this "cartoon" excellent, but it's content was that of a graduate level psychology course.

The story is that of Riley, an 11-year-old girl who moves from Mississippi to San Francisco with her mom and dad. It describes her trauma and later on, her healing. The characters in this story are the girl's emotions personified: Joy, Sadness, Anger and some imaginary friends. The location of this drama is Riley's psyche in which the emotions confront difficulties such as fears, nightmares and other obstacles in ways learned by humans along their evolutionary path. Directing everything from "headquarters" are the console's captains. These personages can foretell some oncoming situations as well as see Riley's dreams (and nightmares).

Memories are depicted as crystal marbles where images and other sensory materials are stored. A cleanup crew whose purpose is to "trash" the memories which may not be useful create a dangerous situation. Stress increases as some very important pieces of Riley's psychology, some of her "core memories," start being tossed into the "dark hole" of her subconscious mind. When this happens, pieces that make up the central part of her personality get mixed up with unimportant psychic material such as TV commercials and memories of lesser value.

A major gift this presentation gives the viewer is recognition of parts of the personality which everyday consciousness tries to repress. Another is how parts of the mind can be anthropomorphized as cartoon archetypes in dreams, movies and other forms of art.

OPINION: City Asks about Unintended Barriers

By KRISTEN BRANDT

In December 2016 the City of Eugene asked people selected for their expertise to comment on the elimination of barriers that have negative consequences on the homeless population in Eugene. Below is an abbreviated response by Kristen Brandt, a local advocate for the unhoused, who has worked in unsanctioned camps and is a board member of both NPAC and ACT.

I don't consider myself an expert by any means, and anyone who claims to be should be viewed with some reservations. The diversity among the homeless population defies generalization; each person who has been homeless has their own experience and perspective. And those who have never wondered where they were going to sleep simply cannot be experts on something they have never experienced.

First, have some conversations with people from this population. Not just the ones handpicked from rest stops or other shelter programs; include some of the survivors who are still outside. Find and talk to people who are on waiting lists for the meager temporary shelters that exist; listen to their stories of how they are trying to keep things together while they wait. Bringing these folks to the table will educate you in ways you can't imagine, and will create a tone of respect and dignity that is badly needed. In terms of barriers, stereotyping and lack of understanding about the homeless population contribute significantly.

As I respond to your questions, fences are going up around the dry places in Washington Jefferson Park. A more literal barrier could hardly be imagined! Blocking access to public space and pushing the problem somewhere else makes as much sense as complaining about people defecating in public and then locking up every public restroom in town. This particular barrier is diabolical in its effectiveness; it ensures that people who might have stayed dry will surely be wet. And being wet outside in the cold is a prescription for illness and death. It's hard to see this consequence as 'unintended.'

The biggest barrier is the lack of a legal dry place to be that offers shelter, safety and sanitation. Our mayor has embraced 'housing first' recognizing that shelter and stability are key to being able to deal with addiction, unemployment, and mental health issues. In the meantime we need 'shelter first.' For the last two years along with others, I have supported unsanctioned rest stops in their efforts to make community and shelter people, proving that self-organized and self-governed groups can be good neighbors. We showed how housed and unhoused people can work together. When people get to know each other and have common goals, everyone is empowered. None of this can happen without shelter, safety, and sanitation. We must provide for temporary shelter while we work on Housing First and other creative solutions.

Those of us who have worked with people in both sanctioned and unsanctioned camps have found that in safe communities where they can rest safely through the night, people become rested and more stable and can look toward their next step. As people's skills and talents emerge, and as they experience being part of the community instead of shunned by it, our entire city benefits.

We must remove the barrier of nowhere to go. We must acknowledge that there needs to be more locations for rest stops and we must clear the way for that to happen right away. We must recognize that charity doesn't necessarily lead to empowerment, and that it will take a variety of models to genuinely address the diversity within the homeless population. We must understand that chasing and citing people and building fences to keep people out is expensive and a waste of resources that can be used in more productive ways. We must demonstrate a commitment to respecting the civil rights of poor and unsheltered people. If these things can be achieved, we won't have to worry about negative consequences, intended or unintended.

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/43411789971743/>

Newsletter Staff

This issue of the Eugene Occupier is brought to you through the collaboration of Catherine Siskron, Vickie Nelson, Jack Dresser, Graham Lewis, David Ivan Piccioni, Emily Semple, and the many participants and committees of Occupy Eugene.

Reader Feedback & Comments:

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

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We are a nonviolent, non-partisan, social-political movement for accountability and responsibility in government. We stand in solidarity with Occupy Movements around the globe and all people who will no longer sit back and watch corporate and special interests run their Government and spoil the living Earth. For we, the people, are the government. It is time to turn away from a culture of war and domination and create a living economy which operates in harmony with our living planet. We must begin by opening our hearts to those the present system would discard and push into the shadows because we believe that, in our United States, it's we the people who are sovereign — not global corporations.

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

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



PHOTO COURTESY OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST

Philip L. Gregory, one of the lead attorneys for the plaintiffs, stands surrounded by people of all ages on the steps of the Federal Courthouse in Eugene.

Kids' Climate Case Heads Back to Court

Youth v. United States Climate Case to be heard in Eugene September 13

By OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST

U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken scheduled oral argument for youths' landmark climate lawsuit for Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. in Eugene. The 21 young plaintiffs received a favorable decision in their case brought against the federal government and fossil fuel industry from U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin back in April. Now they are looking forward to their next opportunity to appear in court to fight for climate justice.

"I am excited that Judge Aiken is interested in hearing our oral argument this September," said plaintiff Kiran Oommen, a 19-year-old from Eugene. "The U.S. government's continued support of the fossil fuel industry, despite the obvious high risks, is hurting people all the time and it's getting worse. With incidents like the oil train derailment and . . . disaster in Mosier, OR, this month, we can see the direct negative consequences of the government's blatant disregard for the health and safety of the people. The longer this case lasts, the greater the evidence will be condemning their actions."

"We look forward to the opportunity to argue this case before Judge Aiken," said Julia Olson, counsel for the plaintiffs and executive director of Our Children's Trust. "The more these brave young climate advocates appear in court, with the tremendous public support we anticipate for this September 13 hearing, the better. This is another chance to tell the egregious story of this case: that for more than 50 years our government has exploited fossil fuels, hand in hand with industry, knowing it would destroy our climate system and the healthy futures for these young people. We are eager to show the court how these youth's fundamental constitutional rights are being infringed."

The plaintiffs sued the federal government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, and their right to essential public trust resources, by permitting, encouraging, and otherwise enabling continued exploitation, production, and combustion of fossil fuels. The case is one of multiple related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children's Trust, seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system. Recently, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the King County Superior Court in Seattle, Washington, also ruled in favor of youth in related actions.

OPINION: We Need a Moral and Realistic Third Party

By JACK DRESSER

From the inside, America's presidential elections are treated as urgently consequential, as if Democrats and Republicans represent polar extremes with the soul of America hanging in the balance. In reality, along the yardstick of political thought, they are about an inch and a half apart, toward the right-hand end, and with no trace of soul.

From the outside among America's allies and victims, our duopoly is easily recognized as simply two branches of the American Empire Party. The late Princeton political theorist Sheldon Wolin described our system not as democracy but as "inverted totalitarianism." In traditional 1930-40s totalitarianism, the state bent industry to its will. In our system, industry controls the state, so the actual political leaders irrespective of party affiliation or ideology make little difference to the unelected and typically invisible capitalist rulers. Like professional wrestling, the competitors engage in political theater contesting issues such as abortion or LGBT marriage that pose no threat to the system.

Our national history has been one of relentless and remorseless imperialism. The Monroe Doctrine defined the Western Hemisphere as our empire. Manifest Destiny laid claim to a continental empire. We have subsequently assumed dominion through military violence over Southeast Asia, South and Central America, and the Middle East. We now have a military presence in 175 countries.

Empires require armies, armies require supplies, and emperors must provide these with indifference to anyone in the way. Meanwhile our pathological duopoly assures us that we can't afford universal single-payer health care, free or low-cost higher education, or a full-speed-ahead program of renewable energy like other developed, actual democracies.

Hillary has twice accidentally exposed this truth. In 1996, while promoting her husband's repressive Omnibus Crime Bill, she declared that inner city gangs were "super-predators" with "no conscience, no empathy" that must be "brought

Commissioners Attempt to Keep the People at Bay

By ANN KNEELAND

The Lane County Commission is considering a proposed ordinance that would give five elected officials a stranglehold over the people's local initiative power.

Let's be clear: the initiative and referendum power belongs to the people free from government interference, as recognized by the Oregon Constitution. The people's right to circulate petitions is core political speech protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Commissioners' proposed meddling with the people's initiative rights is patently unconstitutional.

Why then has the Lane County Commission taken a sudden interest in interfering with the people's law-making powers?

Because Lane County residents are now circulating three initiatives to protect Lane County residents' health, safety, and welfare by banning industrial harms and recognizing our legal authority to make these decisions in our own community. With enough qualifying signatures, these initiatives will appear on county ballots next year for the people's votes.

Two of the initiatives ban corporations from engaging in industrial activities that harm local residents and the environment. One bans the aerial spraying of herbicides; the other bans the use of GMOs in agriculture, recognizing residents' rights to be free from these corporate harms.

The third initiative recognizes the people's broader authority to write and pass local laws that would recognize residents' rights to health, safety, and welfare; ban industrial harms; and prevent corporations from throwing out the people's laws. In a failed effort to stop this initiative, a farm and forest industry group recently lost a prolonged legal challenge in the Lane County Circuit Court (Case No. 16CV28768) that asked the court to find that the initiative was not "of county concern."

The court ruled that the question of whether or not an initiative addresses a "matter of county concern" cannot be decided pre-election, only post-enactment. This principle applies to the County Commission as well.

But did the Commissioners take note of this? No. Undeterred, the Commission has directed County Counsel, paid by the taxpayers, to revise a proposed ordinance submitted to the Commissioner by a forest industry executive.

Jay Bozievich continues to profess concerns about county funds wasted to advance "unconstitutional" initiatives. This is a transparent pandering to a reasonable concern of voters about fiscal responsibility. But the additional cost of adding an initiative to an existing ballot cycle is marginal. However, adding another level of legal review – an appeal that initiative proponents could file to challenge a Commission's decision about whether an initiative is "of county concern" – could be costly to taxpayers. Whatever the dollar cost, the value of the people's constitutional rights at stake – recognized and protected by the Oregon and U.S. constitutions – are far greater than any false promise of cost-savings.

In addition, Bozievich's concern about initiatives he believes are clearly unconstitutional ignores Oregon's established history of challenging existing laws. Oregon has passed legislation legalizing death with dignity, which is illegal at the federal level. Oregon has legalized medical marijuana, which is illegal at the federal level. Oregon denied marriage equality to residents, which has since been found to have been unconstitutional.

As Oregon voters, we may or may not agree with each of these laws, but we cannot deny that they are the seeds of social change and government reform. And this is the beauty, power, and obligation of our country's core democratic ideals.

Take note, when We the People of Lane County claim our inherent authority to protect our rights above harmful corporate practices and profits, our own local government is willing to take aggressive action to limit the people's law-making rights at the behest of corporate interests.

Behold this in-your-face reminder: corporate power and money operate at all levels of government.

Brace yourself: We the People must be vigilant to protect our constitutional rights from local government's efforts to erode them.

Take action: Support local efforts to protect and engage our local initiative process. Check out www.CommunityRightsLaneCounty.org and join the monthly Community Rights Action meetings on the third Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive.

Ann Kneeland, a Eugene-based attorney and member of Community Rights Lane County, has defended the initiative rights of citizen groups in six Oregon counties where residents seek to stop fossil fuel infrastructure development, GMO agriculture, and the aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides.

to heel." That was a projection and we are the actual predators. In 2011 following our wanton destruction of Libya — Gaddafi's uniquely successful socialist economic model with Africa's highest GDP — she triumphantly declared, "We came, we saw, he died!"

Paraphrasing Julius Caesar revealed the psychological truth about Hillary as well as the disturbing political truth that we are not a democratic republic — but an empire. A democratic republic has citizens, an empire has subjects. When Rome allowed Caesar to cross the Rubicon, it traded in its republic for an empire. As compensation for loss of citizen control, Rome encouraged self-indulgence among its subjects and provided sadistic entertainments to keep people's worst instincts sharp and empathy for their victims repressed. Sound familiar? Remember George Bush's encouragement to "go shopping" as he prepared to lay waste to two Muslim countries? George too inadvertently exposed truths about the manipulations of collective psychology supporting our imperium.

A 20-year study of 1,779 federal policy decisions from 1980-2000 throughout the Reagan, Bush I, and Clinton administrations, published by political scientists from Princeton and Northwestern universities, found that public opinion had virtually zero influence, while the economic elite and corporate business interests had called the shots entirely.

These hard data validate what people widely sense — their helplessness and invisibility between election seasons. With only 21% and 29% of the electorate identifying as Republicans or Democrats, respectively, half are up for grabs. Outsider candidates generated all the voter enthusiasm in both 2016 primaries, suggesting revolution in the air. Elections are the nonviolent vehicle of change in a democracy, but when these are defrauded as they were in Florida in 2000, Ohio in 2004, and as three lawsuits with strong statistical evidence allege in the 2016 New York, California, and several other Democratic primaries, what is left?

See THIRD PARTY continued on page 6



June 12 — Candlelight Vigil for Orlando

PHOTOS BY VICKIE NELSON

Mourners flooded the streets with candlelight and came together in loving support of those who lost loved ones to the tragic mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, on the night of June 11. Speakers included local activists, and young and old people of many races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities. Some people spoke hesitantly and emotionally, telling the audience this was the first time they had spoken in public. Organizer Gwen Iris wrote on Facebook, “We want to come together as a community in love and compassion.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF 350 EUGENE



PHOTO BY KRISTY MURRA

July 6 — Oil Train Vigil and March

On the 3rd anniversary of the Lac-Mégantic oil train disaster in Canada that killed 47 people, and on the heels of the recent oil train derailment in the Columbia River Gorge, activists from 350 Eugene and allied organizations gathered at the Park Blocks. A community speak-out and youth performance was followed by a luminary procession to the Train Depot and back to bring attention to the oil bomb trains that roll through Eugene.



Community Volunteers Watch Over Asian Businesses

In June, vandals threw rocks through the windows of a number of popular Asian-owned businesses, including Yi Shen Market, King’s Asian Market, LZ Chinese Dish, Sushi Island, Jade Palace, Lotus Garden, and Chingu Restaurant. Most of the businesses are near the West 11th area of Eugene.

The Asian/Pacific Islander Community Action Team (APICAT) believes that these businesses were targeted due to the racial or ethnic background of their owners and is grateful to the community for responding with nightly shifts of volunteer observers to report suspicious activity. Police arrested a suspect on July 10.

A Time for

Why the slaughter?

By LARRY LEVERONE

Killings based on hatred of sexual orientation. Killings based on untreated mental illness. Killings based purely on disruption of teachings of faith. Killings based on servitude.

What can help?

We need progress on many fronts: Accepting our differences. Education within the reach of all. Religious tolerance for the common good. Reasonable gun safety regulations. Access to mental health care. Increased respect for the rule of law.

If there is to be a diminishing of this constant hurt, we can no longer remain detached, silent, or uninvolved. Compassion, caring, or calls for action can no longer occur in isolation. In Dallas, Minnesota, Orlando, Newtown, Baton Rouge, Colorado Springs, Sanford, Aurora and so many more places.

Those of us, those many of us, who are hurting from these vigils and memorial services but also daily in our schools. Those in local and national political leadership. Those in our country for the better than getting re-elected. Those who are respectful and respected. Those of us who have remained silent and with loud and reasoned voices. Those of us on the front lines firm to the sacredness of non-violence.

Simply put, we must end the culture of silence; we must engage with, and listening to, each other — more.

Offensive Fences

By VICKIE AND CRYSTAL WEBB

Pictures of a fence going up at Washington-Jefferson Park hit social media and anger sparked an investigation. It was found that Parks and Open Space have a plan for fences in different areas. These fences block off areas underneath overpasses where there is a danger from the weather and safety in numbers. An email from Parks and Open Space included a 10-point outline of the plan and stated, “Our intention is to fence more of the problem areas where illegal camps [have] been set up, especially near the WJ Skatepark and Urban Plaza. The estimated cost of this project is \$67,000. Annually Parks and Open Space spend about \$10,000 on the project.”

The Badass Freedom Fighters and Humanity First Eugene chapters met on March 18, 2016 at 5 p.m. over 160 people made it to the meeting. The meeting enjoyed a social as well as political event. As people showed up, many gave thumbs up and horn taps, indicating many agreed with our message. Casey read poetry from his book, and speakers touched our hearts. Council Ward 1, Emily Semple, joined us.

“This is the next step in criminalizing homelessness and the Badass Freedom Fighters and Nightingale Public Advocacy Group are committed to this fight.”

“The City of Eugene has a responsibility to address the lack of adequate shelter, not cause more challenges such as taking away the right to life of Humanity First Eugene.”

People enjoyed hot food and at about 5:30 the march began. The fence on 1st Avenue. Our voices rang out in the spring evening. We held the fence and chose different ways of dealing with the fence. The fence is up, but the fight is not over.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

or Change

killings based on hatred or fear of race. Killings based on the seeking of fame or glory. Killings based on corrupting our country in blue. What next?

differences. Equality of opportunities. Good paying tolerance. Politicians working together for the countable and transparent policing. More availability of law. Wise and honorable leadership. Human carnage across our land, more (many more) of involved. The outpouring of grief, sorrow, anger, frustration only after recent tragedies like those that happened in Ferguson, Charleston, San Bernardino, Boston, NY, Colorado across this country.

and who deeply care, must join hands not only at neighborhoods, workplaces, places of worship and leadership positions must care more about changing our world. Those of us who are in positions of authority must be both patient and silent too long must now speak out frequently. Those on the brink of despair must hold onto hope and hold

on. We all must get to know each other better. That begins with listening more sincerely and more frequently than ever.

on 1st and 1st Avenue was discovered that "problem" areas. People seek shelter. Public Works in the past over time is to be established. The budget for cleaning up illegal camping activities." The group organized a protest rally and march. Interest grew, and 100 people expressed interest and/or promised to attend. On the day of the protest. Several unhoused neighbors were there, and people lined up with their signs, they were greeted by commuters with signs of outrage. The Raging Grannies sang, Plaid led chants, Paul shared his heart with personal stories. Our favorite candidate for City

and violating 8th Amendment rights," said Crystal Webb of the Collective. "The needs of our community members who are living without shelter and away dry and safer spaces to sleep," said Shanalea Forrest

beginning and we took our signs and our voices to the newest protest, asking the powers that be to consider the consequences of these "problem areas," like providing housing and services.



PHOTOS BY VICKIE NELSON

July 8 — Rally and March for Lost Black Lives

Over 300 people, including both UO students and local residents, gathered at the EMU Amphitheater for a memorial for Philando Castile and Alton Sterling, two black men recently killed by police. Pastor Kim McGrew of Eugene led a prayer and a moment of silence and asked the crowd to remain peaceful and non confrontational. The crowd, carrying large photographs of black people who have been killed at the hands of police since Trayvon Martin's death in 2012, later marched from the EMU to Agate and 13th. After listening to brief speeches, the mourners planted their photographs in the ground, creating a sea of lost men, women, and children.



PHOTOS BY DAVID GEITGEY SIERRALUPE

July 21 — Movement for Black Lives Rally and March

Showing Up for Racial Justice and Community Alliance of Lane County encouraged Eugene activists to respond to a national call to action by the Movement for Black Lives. At least 200 people of all ages and races responded with a rally that began at the Lane County Jail and marched to Kesey Square. The website of the Movement for Black Lives begins: "Guided by love, we continue to stand together for justice, human dignity and our shared goal of ending all forms of state violence against Black people."

RIP, Rainbow Warrior John Trudell

By JACK DRESSER

The courageous and talented American Indian Movement leader John Trudell died December 8, 2015. Trudell's gift for words had propelled him to the front of the 1969 Alcatraz occupation but his imagined threat to the colonial masters led to tragedy. He once said, "Historically speaking, we went from being Indians to pagans to savages to hostiles to militants to activists to Native Americans. It's 500 years later and they still can't see us. We are still invisible."

Born in 1946 to a Santee Dakota father and Mexican-Indian mother, John Trudell grew up near the Santee Sioux reservation in northern Nebraska, a tiny fragment of Sioux lands that once spread across what today are five Midwestern states. Attempting to assert his individual and ethnic identity, John's life closely followed his designated role in the American cultural script, disguised but little now from those of the Republic Westerns of the 1930s-1950s.

The FBI replaced the U.S. cavalry in the 20th century, introducing more covert methods of racist suppression including a 10-year, 17,000-page file on Trudell emphasizing his threat as a gifted speaker and organizer. In 1969, John first gained FBI attention as principal spokesman for the 89-member Indians of All Tribes' 19-month occupation of the vacated Alcatraz federal prison. The Indians of All Tribes, citing an 1868 treaty with the Sioux that gave American Indians the right to unused federal property on Indian land, demanded the right to develop Alcatraz as a cultural and education center. Trudell conducted news conferences, delivered



John Trudell.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUDELL FAMILY

regular "Radio Free Alcatraz" broadcasts, and rejected a government proposal that the island be turned into a park with "maximum Indian qualities," saying, "We will no longer be museum pieces, tourist attractions and politicians' playthings. There will be no park on this island because it changes the whole meaning of what we are here for."

"If you wanted to make it in America as an Indian," Trudell later reflected, "you had to become a hollow person and let them remold you . . . Alcatraz put me back into my community and helped me remember who I am. It was a rekindling of the spirit."

An organizer of the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties occupation of the Washington DC Bureau of Indian Affairs office, Trudell then became national chairman of AIM in 1973 following the 71-day standoff with federal marshals and FBI agents by Oglala Lakota and AIM activists occupying Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation protesting U.S. government treaty violations and interference in a tribal dispute. Trudell testified in the 1974 trials of two defendants, AIM leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means,

accused of conspiracy and assault, who were both acquitted on grounds of government misconduct.

In 1979 Trudell finally went too far by burning an American flag on the steps of the FBI building in Washington DC, and declaring the flag desecrated by our government's treatment of American Indians and other targeted minorities. Within 12 hours, fire destroyed his family home on the Shoshone-Paiute Reservation on the Nevada-Idaho border, burning to death his sleeping pregnant wife Tina, three young children and mother-in-law. He had previously received a warning that his family would be killed if he continued his work for Indian rights. The awful message was clear. John was certain this was a vengeful government atrocity to intimidate any other AIM activists unafraid for their personal safety who would nevertheless not risk the safety of their loved ones. It is noteworthy that the FBI declined to conduct an arson investigation.

To deal with this unspeakable tragedy Trudell turned inward, developing his expressive talents for poetry, music, and performing arts. His work in feature films included "Thunderheart" in 1992 based loosely on events leading to Wounded Knee, and "Smoke Signals" in 1998 based on Sherman Alexie's darkly comic novel about reservation life.

We mourn John Trudell's passing along with the destruction of the indigenous societies we treated with the same racist savagery inflicted on his family. Had an estimated 10-12 million indigenous North Americans in 1492 increased at the rate of the world's other peoples, they might now number 100 million. Only five million remain today.

To meet the John Trudell who emerged from his ordeal, I visit his haunting performances on YouTube integrating tribal and other inventive musical motifs, visual images and spoken words.

And while walking on asphalt and observing candidates for high political office I heed his words, "Protect your spirit, because you are in the place where spirits get eaten."

OPINION: It's No Crime to Be Homeless

By KEN NEUBECK

The criminalization of homelessness continues unabated in Eugene, despite numerous protests by people who are homeless and their allies. More than half of Eugene's approximately 3,000 people who are homeless are unsheltered on any given night due to insufficient shelter beds. Eugene's no-camping ordinance is used against those who lack places where they can legally engage in life-sustaining activities such as sleep and rest. People's attempts to self-shelter and protect themselves from wind, rain, and cold with tents or tarps are met with warnings to move, citations, fines, arrests, and jail time. Being homeless and unsheltered has effectively been turned into a crime.

The effects of criminalizing homelessness are widely acknowledged to be negative. A law enforcement approach to homelessness does nothing to reduce homelessness. It just forces people to keep moving around hoping wherever they camp next will not be detected by or reported to police. For the unhoused, the high likelihood of police interrupting their sleep is a reminder of their marginalized status and a source of constant anxiety. Those who seek to escape detection by camping deep in the woods or along the Willamette River, find themselves vulnerable to thefts and attacks. Unaccompanied women suffer high rates of sexual assault.

The law enforcement approach to homelessness is not only ineffective. It is also expensive. The use of sworn officers, who are often assigned to arrive in groups to disperse campers, is costly to taxpayers. The expensive training that patrol officers receive would be far better utilized responding to much more serious offenses and engaging in crime prevention activities.

Being out in the elements and constantly forced to move is traumatizing, particularly for people with disabilities, physical or mental illnesses, injuries, or in the process of recovering after a stay in a hospital. Such persons are frequently forced to turn to hospital emergency rooms, only to be turned right back out into the elements after treatment. Chronic illnesses and accidents are far more frequent among people who are homeless than among the housed, and it has been estimated that those who are homeless die on average twenty years earlier than people who have housing.

To the costs of police and reliance on emergency rooms we can add the expenses of processing those cited or arrested through the courts, the costs of trials in some cases, and the expenses of incarceration. Research shows that it is far less expensive for a city to house and provide needed services to people who are homeless than to have them living on the streets and interacting with police, courts, jails, and emergency rooms.

Being homeless is, in and of itself, traumatic, humiliating, and depressing. While people who are mentally ill or addicted to alcohol and other drugs may become homeless, causation may also go in the opposite direction. Being homeless can lead to or exacerbate mental illness or addictions, making it all the more difficult to find employment or a place to rent. Members of the public frequently react to the unhoused with fear or contempt and hold many negative stereotypes about why a

person may be homeless. When a city criminalizes its homeless residents, it sends the message to both housed and unhoused that the latter are the "other," people to be feared and who are undeserving of treatment with civility or respect. Indeed, the rate of violent hate crimes against people who are homeless is highest in communities where criminalization goes on.

While Eugene is managing homelessness with the law enforcement approach, other cities are forging ahead with alternatives to criminalization. Indianapolis for instance has developed a model policy that bears watching. That city recently passed an ordinance allowing camps deemed illegal to remain in operation until each and every resident can be provided with a safe and legal place to be housed. The ordinance allows exceptions but only in the case of emergency situations. This is in lieu of simply sweeping camps, dispersing their residents, and leaving them with no choice but to illegally camp again elsewhere, which is what happens in Eugene.

The pressures are building for the Eugene City Council to re-examine the no-camping ordinance and the harm it is doing. The U.S. Department of Justice recently filed a brief in a case in Boise, Idaho, stating that punishing unsheltered homeless people for camping, when there are insufficient emergency shelter beds, is a violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment." While the lawsuit in Boise went nowhere due to legal technicalities, the federal brief in the Boise case is being taken as a signal that the Justice Department will soon be weighing in and taking cities to court. In the wake of that brief, American Civil Liberties Union-Oregon just filed a lawsuit asking that Portland's camping ban be held unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment. Eugene is vulnerable to being the subject of such a suit and the City Council does not seem concerned.

Eugene also stands to lose federal grants if it continues its criminalization policy. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has begun to ask questions about what recipients of HUD funds granted to fight homelessness in Lane County are doing to eliminate criminalization. Eugene does not have good answers to those questions. The Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board, which signs off on HUD applications, includes representatives from the County, Springfield, and Eugene. The public has online access to the Board-approved answers to HUD's criminalization questions and HUD is opening channels through which the validity of these answers can be called into question by community groups.

Eugene is at a crossroads. Do we want to spend taxpayer money on unsuccessfully defending ineffective, expensive, and inhumane criminalization practices, only to end up having a federal court dictate how we work toward decriminalization? Or shall we plan and implement alternatives to criminalization right now, relying upon the skills, imagination, and commitment to human rights present in our city? The City of Eugene would do well to opt for decriminalization and tap into our community's deep well of talent for ideas on how to best get the job done.

THIRD PARTY continued from page 3

The obvious answer is a Third Party, an honest and reality-based political institution with moral integrity. And we now have the opportunity. Hillary has been chosen by the largely invisible imperium for coronation next January. Trump serves as an easily dismissible stalking horse. But Senator Sanders has become an unexpected nuisance, proposing a redefinition of subjects as citizens entitled to the benefits of their own labors and tax dollars. Sanders advances a model that threatens the imperium. His enthusiastic reception by tens of millions of voters despite inattention, marginalization, and ridicule by the imperial press has severely disrupt-

ed the script, necessitating desperate emergency vote fraud across the country.

Senator Sanders has proposed a reasonable, moderately socialist model resembling those developed in the other Western democracies. It's a well-developed and well-tested model that can be implemented progressively without inflicting chaos on the country. He has volunteered for the job and demonstrated his capacity for elective success. His sincere attempts to reform the Democratic Party have, predictably, proved fruitless.

We cannot permit another four years of murderous imperialism. It is time for a new party committed to

climate change abatement and economic justice in cooperation with the world's other peoples, established by non-violent revolution through the elective process.

We the People must lead rather than being led, and choose our government administrators, by draft if necessary. Only Senator Sanders meets acceptable criteria, has volunteered to accept responsibility as our lead administrator, and has demonstrated the capacity to win elections. I see no alternative but to place his name on every ballot in states that permit this and write in his name in states that don't. And we must then announce that the coronation has been cancelled.

Springfield Bans Panhandling Under Guise of Traffic Safety

By Terra Williams

This past April, Springfield City Council held a vote on an ordinance that would fine motorists for transferring cash or other items to panhandlers within city limits. A couple dozen people arrived for public forum, with 14 slated to speak against the ordinance versus two to speak in support. At the previous session, 9 out of 10 spoke against the proposal. Despite the pleas and arguments made by those in opposition, the ordinance passed 4-1, with Ward 2 councilor Hillary Wylie being the single dissenting voice. Eyes swelled with tears and activists and advocates gathered outside council chambers to debrief and discuss how to overcome this defeat.

The anti-panhandling ordinance was passed under the guise of traffic safety and Council stuck to their story throughout the session. That the City of Springfield was coming from a place of true concern for safety for all is difficult to believe for a multitude of reasons.

When the ordinance was originally proposed, it included a provision for fining the panhandler \$50 in addition to fining the motorist for violating the code. Across the country, courts have declared panhandling

to be “freedom of speech” and that punishing sign-holders violates first amendment rights. Springfield removed that provision just one month before the vote.

At their meeting on April 4, councilors still seemed to be in a quandary over whether to grant exemption to fundraisers such as “fill the boot” held by local firefighters and other organizations that accept drive-by donations for a cause. After much deliberation and Mayor Lundberg’s declaration that she would veto any ordinance discriminating among fund solicitations, council ultimately decided they couldn’t make exceptions for anyone as much as it pained them to see those fundraisers impacted by their decision. City officials didn’t express the same outward moral struggle when considering the impact of the ordinance on our unhoused neighbors.

It should also be noted that Springfield City Manager Gino Grimaldi is an active member of the League of Oregon Cities who once served on the Board of Directors and, according to their website, currently serves as the chair of the General Government Policy Committee. In September 2015, The LOC held their annual conference in Bend. One workshop was titled

“Meeting the Challenge of Homelessness.” The outline reveals the intent of the presenter to provide strategies for eliminating panhandling and erasing our unhoused neighbors from public view. It included a suggestion to legally justify their approach to the issue: “Smart to build a “record” of [attempts to address the problem], i.e. public safety concerns — this is not an attempt to regulate expressive activity!” The outline can be found on their website at www.orcities.org.

Is the crisis of homelessness not a public safety and health concern? In dire times, asking for help from others is a relatively polite and civil means of meeting wants and needs. When the city deters its citizens from helping with threats of citation, they place the panhandler in a desperate situation.

Many of the forum speakers identified themselves as givers from their cars and blatantly told council they refused to stop and they hoped others would not be discouraged by this law but continue practicing kindness. Our actions come with consequences: Do we ignore our fellow humans in need and force them into further desperation, or do we challenge this anti-kindness policy?

If your kindness leads to a citation please contact the Civil Liberties Defense Center at 541-687-9180.

Peg Morton, Presenté

By Sue Barnhart

From the February/March 2016 issue of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee’s newsletter, *More Than a Paycheck*.

Peg Morton, a long-time war tax resister and peace and social justice activist, died peacefully in Eugene on Dec 19, 2015, following an intentional end-of-life fast. Born in Cambridge, MA, on Oct 31, 1930, she spent her childhood summers in Maine where she developed a lifelong love of nature. She became a Quaker as a young girl and raised three daughters in Carbondale, Illinois. As soon as Peg divorced she became a war tax resister. She had a career as a mental health worker, and began to resist 50% of her taxes.

In 1989, Peg moved to Eugene where two of her daughters lived, and became a full time activist. Soon after arriving she got my phone number from NWTRCC, and we started Taxes for Peace Not War. We met in her living room and shared food, planned events, educated people about war tax resistance, provided support to members who were being levied, and ended each meeting with a group hug. Peg kept notes of every meeting and all of our decisions on where our resisted money went. Every year we gave away the resisted money to local causes on the steps of the post office on Tax Day.

Peg gave away money that she had inherited so that she could keep her income low. Some years her income was low enough so she didn’t owe any taxes, but she still gave away money at our Tax Day event. She loved counseling people who were interested in becoming war tax resisters and providing support and advice to people who were facing levies. She organized letters to the editor about war tax resistance and opinion editorials for both the Register-Guard and the Eugene Weekly, coordinated tabling at local events and educational workshops, always working on outreach to fellow activists to get them to become resisters. Peg was one of the few of us who still had a landline telephone, and she continued to resist the federal tax on that.

Peg also enjoyed having fun while we protested and educated people about the



Peg Morton speaks on Tax Resistance Day.

PHOTO JAIN ELLIOT

atrocities of war and their support of war through paying taxes. She organized exciting marches and demonstrations involving singing and pageantry.

Peg was also a long-time supporter of the Latin America Solidarity Committee. She was active in Witness for Peace and traveled to Latin America several times. She participated in many acts of civil disobedience, sometimes resulting in arrest. In 2004 she served a three-month term in federal prison for illegally crossing the grounds onto the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia.

She was a devoted member of several peace vigil groups and could be seen

outside protesting in all kinds of weather. In one action, she fasted on the steps of the state capitol building to protest budget cuts to health coverage for people with disabilities. Peg loved to sing and joined the Eugene chapter of the Raging Granies. She was also an active member of Eugene Friends Meeting, her spiritual home for more than 25 years.

Peg was a remarkable woman who leaves a legacy of commitment to social justice and peace. Throughout her adult life she was guided by the Quaker principles of simplicity, pacifism, equality, and integrity. She was a wonderful listener, and her love of life shone through her. She was someone who could get along with everyone and will leave a big hole in our community.

Peg’s memoir, *Feeling Light Within, I Walk*, is available from feelinglightwithin.com, or at CALC. To honor her memory: live more simply, take time to absorb the beauty of the natural world, speak out in support of people who are marginalized or oppressed, reach out in friendship to someone who is different from you, or sit in silence, listening to the still, small voice within you.



Demonstrators remind people of the dangers of Fukushima and other ongoing nuclear crises around the world.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE SISKRON

Fukushima Update 2016

By Clark Barbée

On March 11, 2016, five years from the day the three cores at Fukushima melted down, activists from Eugene PeaceWorks and Lane County American Peace Test gathered in front of the Eugene Public Library to bring light to the fact that Fukushima is nowhere near stable and has to be addressed now.

The current state of the three molten reactor cores is still officially unknown. We don’t know whether these cores have burrowed into the bedrock, rolled into the Pacific, or are still sitting in their containment vessels. The consequences of any of the missing cores having entirely escaped its containment vessel would be dire. The fact that we are now witnessing a massive die-off of marine life in the Pacific Ocean is extremely worrying.

What we do know is that a large number of fuel rods and most likely one core were vaporized into the atmosphere. A rain of highly radioactive glass micro-beads covered Tokyo. The west coast of North America got the brunt of the radioactive plume carried by the jet stream. Thousands of tons of highly radioactive cooling water has flooded and is still flooding into the Pacific Ocean (the recently attempted ice wall did not work well).

Fukushima is the worst of many ongoing nuclear crises around the world. Here in America our aging nuclear plant infrastructure is breaking down with plants leaking radioactivity into the environment in New York (Indian Point), Washington State (Hanford), and Florida (Turkey Point).

In 2014 the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico experienced a serious radioactive fire and leak. Currently an underground landfill fire is threatening a radioactive waste storage site near Saint Louis. We dispose of the ever-increasing radioactive waste produced by fracking in landfills that leach into the

ground water.

When you consider the many other human-made environmental threats and our tinkering with the highly evolved DNA of our benefactors the plants, it is clear that humans are in a race to the grave. We must wake up now or it’s all over.

All nations should take Fukushima seriously and attempt to develop technology, as Japan has requested, to mitigate this ongoing disaster — possibly by using a high power RF transmitter to bombard the cores with enough gamma energy to increase their decay rate? I am not an expert, but I do know we need to start paying attention to this problem now, not as individuals but as a species, if it is not too late already.

David Adkins: Keeping OE’s Media Presence Positive

By GRAHAM LEWIS

Reliability might as well be David Adkins’ middle name. David has come through for OE every week of every month since he first joined CommComm in January 2012. (He also participated in many earlier Occupy Eugene events, including the big Protest and March held on October 11, 2011.) There aren’t many who have David’s level of organizational and technical skills. As IT “admin” with help from Jana Thrift and Conner Salisbury, he monitors our OE Web site and the Rise-up listserv keeping them virtually troll- and bug-free. While others have come and gone, we Occupiers have long depended on David Adkins for our positive media presence.

David talks of being raised in a counterculture environment, mostly in the coastal redwoods of central and Northern California, the southwest, and Vancouver Island, BC. He moved to Eugene with his parents in 1971 in his mid-teens and, like many of us guys, eventually grew long hair and beard. Can you picture that? “I learned early that corporate and individual greed are bad for humanity and our environment.”

“Prior to the Occupy Movement, I found myself getting very indignant about all the cronyism in government and Big Business — the militarization of society. Environmental regulations were being cut everywhere to save dollars. I’d much rather have a system with red tape that’s slow than a government run on the cheap that allows catastrophes such as the Flint, Michigan, water crises to occur,” says David, who has been a member of organizations such as the Oregon League of Con-

servation Voters and Oregon Wild.

He’s done a lot of backpacking all over the Northwest. French Pete and Mt. Jefferson are two of his favorites. In his mid-twenties, David took five days to circle all Three Sisters by himself. He has also visited numerous ranger stations to advocate for limiting clear cutting. “I’ve been fascinated with wilderness from an early age,” he recalls. While a student at South Eugene High, David wrote a notable essay to protect Rock Mesa from becoming a pumice mine. “Conservation is an Occupy issue,” he observes, “because of ongoing corporate efforts to extract natural resources through mining, logging, and ranching.”

“I finally read Thoreau’s Walden all the way through. It made me want to further simplify my life and diminish my footprint on the earth.” David and his wife (aka “Nurse Karen” at OM) are off to a great start at the simple life.

During OE protests, we often see Mr. Adkins looking respectable and maybe a little “Ivy League,” yet his calm demeanor often belies his passion. “As activists, when we see social or environmental injustice, we [must] be indignant,” he says, “but it’s important to also show some humility.” That disarming combination has opened more than a few doors for David Adkins. He’s an ideal “man in the middle” of public disputes because he usually can empathize with both sides.

OCCUPY EUGENE salutes David Adkins for his devotion to Mother Earth and Occupy Eugene’s media presence.



David Adkins has been a mainstay of Occupy Eugene from the beginning. PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR



The staff of Occupy Medical believes everyone deserves good medical care. PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR

Occupy Medical: Five Years and Going Strong

By BENJAMIN HUNT AND CATHERINE SISKRON

In our view, the greatest contribution made by the Occupy movement in Eugene is the Occupy Medical Clinic that operates every Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Park Blocks. Its many awards, including the 2014 Mayor’s award and the 2015 HRC award, testify to the fact that it performs an essential service to its patients and the city as a whole. The clinic is managed by Sue Sierralupe, who relies on volunteers organized into teams by area of specialization for the smooth operation of this complex organization.

The unifying principle underlying the work of the OM volunteers is that, everyone, regardless of income and status, should have access to medical care without the fear of financial burden or being unheard by caregivers. We strive . . . to give the best care possible at no cost to the city and the people. (<http://occupymedical.org/>)

While Occupy Medical serves anyone who needs medical attention, the people in greatest need of the free and caring tending offered Sunday afternoons at the Park Blocks are people at the margins, often poor, many homeless, some mentally ill. In other words, people who are rarely treated with the patience, consideration, and respect that they need and deserve in institutions that may be available to serve them. Sue Sierralupe, the clinic manager, poses a question that all of us need to take to heart and propel us to action:

“What do we do when the problem that brings patients to our door is that they are homeless? What do we do when the problems are a direct result from the societal disdain tied with living in a town that sees their very existence as reprehensible? . . . What solution do we offer those whose crime is despair?”

The solution Sue proposes is only possible if we as a community open our hearts and take action based on compassion and the understanding that all of us are in this together, that an injury to one segment of our population is an injury to all:

“We need a . . . system with single payer healthcare for all and reasonable housing options that reflect the diversity of our community. We need a society that

stops seeing poverty as a crime for which the poor must be punished. Decriminalize homelessness. All citizens deserve care and caring.”

The OM healing approach is holistic, a positive example of respectful collaboration among practitioners of Western medicine, herbalists, mental health providers, and various allies ranging from weekly food providers (the Burrito Brigade and Catholic Workers among others) to individuals donating money, medical supplies, clothing, and active listening.

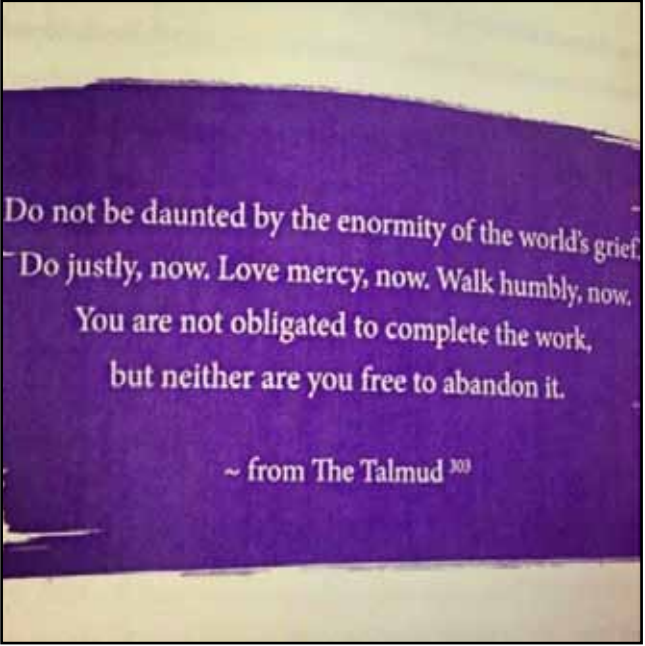
To best serve their patients, OM staff maintains close connections with allies in the community, including St. Vincent de Paul, Hearts for Hospice, CALC, the Rotary Club, Egan Warming Centers, Food not Bombs, Burrito Brigade, and HIV Alliance.

This striving for excellence among the OM staff also manifests itself in the training of volunteers. Workshops include various aspects of the health-care field, such as understanding the ins and outs of HIPAA, de-escalation techniques, and principles of harm reduction. Additional training in effective communication and sensitivity are projected for the current year.

Occupy Medical provides an extensive range of services to the community at large, which include triage, diagnosis, treatment, western medication and natural remedies. Some of the more common ailments treated at the clinic include: high blood pressure, diabetes, edema, wounds (primarily foot care), pneumonia/chest colds, and scabies.

The clinic also offers program referrals, mental health assistance, information on nutrition, and hygiene supplies.

OM’s goal is steady growth in order to provide more care and services to its patients. To accomplish this, the staff is writing grants for paid staff and, ultimately, a brick and mortar clinic. The good news is that the hard work of previous years has paid off, and last year Occupy Medical achieved its 501c3 (non-profit) tax status. Multiple hands went into this project, which is opening many doors for OM financially.



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