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VICKIE NELSON

Dogs and their people parade by the WOW Hall together.

## Eugene Resists the Dog Ban

By VICKIE NELSON

On the first Friday in June, dozens of activists, dog owners, dog lovers, and dogs paraded around downtown Eugene, stopping at several of the art galleries on the First Friday Art Walk to let people know how they feel about the trial dog ban passed by City Council last March. Chanting “The Dog Ban hurts the poor; we don’t want it anymore” and carrying signs with slogans, such as “The Dog Ban Bites,” the marchers were both good humored and completely serious about their cause.



MEL HITE

Dogs and people belong together.

Literature put out by the newly formed group stresses that dogs are not a luxury for people living in poverty. Rather they are a means of survival, especially for the unhoused, women, trans- and gender- non-conforming folks, and people of color living on the streets. Many unhoused and formerly unhoused people report times when having a dog saved their lives.

The dog ban makes downtown less accessible for poor people with disabilities. Dogs are a huge help to disabled people and increase their owners’ safety and independence by guiding them and warning them of danger. Dogs also provide emotional support for people with emotional or mental challenges, many of whom might have trouble functioning in public situations without their dogs.

Many people, including lawyers at ACLU Oregon, question the constitutionality of the ordinance, which they see as targeting not dogs but a certain group of people. Council passed the ban for a trial period that ends on November 1. We have work to do to make sure this discriminatory and unneeded ban is not extended.



VICKIE NELSON

Mariah Leung and her pup wait for the march to start.



Many people feel safer with their dogs.



The Park Blocks were starkly empty for most of last winter.



PHOTOS BY VICKIE NELSON



PHOTO COURTESY LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Park Blocks “rest cottage,” circa 1955.

## City Council Wastes Citizens’ Time, Testimony, & Taxes

By JACK DRESSER

Assuming an afterlife, I’m inclined to agree with James Thurber that “certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.” In Vietnam, dogs were used for scouting, mine detecting, tracking, and other dangerous duties, and were often more trusted by troops than their commanders. But following a public hearing our illustrious city council pronounced dogs unwelcome in downtown Eugene.

An outdoor smoking ban was also proposed, but apparently recognizing that almost 20% of the employees and customer base of downtown businesses smoke, it was rejected.

These proposals followed expenditure of 160,000 taxpayer dollars on evaluation and recommendations for downtown improvement by Project for Public Spaces, which mentioned neither dogs nor smoking.

The prohibition of dogs is obviously discriminatory, aimed at excluding those without homes in which to leave their dogs. For a homeless person, their dog may be the last precious thing remaining in their life. It is a love relationship, and love relationships are

sacred. Excluding these degrades the humanity of both the homeless and the council.

Among the Project for Public Spaces recommendations, one seems obvious and easy to implement: With such a small downtown, the homeless are concentrated in a limited space, so open up and make better use of the Park Blocks “with more seating, a kiosk, a central plaza that provides room for games, such as foosball and chess, yoga, dancing and small-scale performances.”

Downtown is presently oriented to consumers rather than public socializing. This was not always so. Before WWI the Park Blocks were regarded as a “rest park” with benches and a “rest cottage” with restrooms. The cottage was handsomely upgraded to an inviting structure by 1930, only to be demolished in 1959 and never replaced.

If Eugene objects to non-spending people on the business-oriented sidewalks, attract them to the Park Blocks with porta-potties, picnic tables, and perhaps a volleyball net on a grassy area. Players could bring their own chess sets or volleyballs, or check them out from a friendly volunteer who could also monitor the area. A design-

nated smoking area with ashtrays could be included across a reasonable buffer zone from the activities areas.

This idea has now been introduced in part to Kesey Square by a private organization, Homeless Outreach Team, for two hours each Sunday. So far the city has contributed a permit through October. Meanwhile, the city council is beginning to implement some of the recommendations made by the Project for Public Spaces in the Park Blocks.

Many homeless people are mature, responsible and capable, however down on their luck, and some are employed full or part time but simply can’t afford the price of housing. Every small homeless encampment I’ve visited has had natural organizers and leaders. A typical profile is someone with food stamps, a modest disability stipend, an LTD pass, a cell phone and experience with resourcefulness. Most are long-time Lane County residents, not transients. There is no reason why small committees of the stable homeless could not organize and provide volunteer monitoring of others frequenting the downtown area, including the kiosk monitor and small rapid response teams that business owners could con-

tact by phone when problems arise.

Such citizen-to-citizen communication motivated by the self-interests of both the homeless and business communities would promote reciprocal understanding, be more effective, feel far less repressive, and be far less expensive than increased police presence. And it would display the goodwill and good sense of Eugene to visitors.

A related community objective is social integration and acceptance of the unhoused. Personal contacts humanize perceptions of the unhoused and can open employment opportunities for them as well. Dogs are a natural conduit of conversation between strangers, an emotional common denominator between people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic levels. When meeting an unfamiliar person with a dog, sweet-talking the dog is a natural conversation starter.

By enacting an ordinance prohibiting “non-resident” dogs downtown, the Council ignored the recommendations they solicited from Project for Public Spaces at public expense. It seems that politicians prefer making rules for other people than empathizing with rich and poor alike.

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/>



# Letters to the Editor

## Tsunami Seeks Pledges

SCOTT LANDFIELD

Our home, often seen as the “living room for the community,” is a 4,600-square-foot, 1949 building on a 16,000+ square-foot lot. It includes a light, airy events room filled with handmade bookshelves on wheels, a beautiful stage, world-class acoustics, and seating for up to 100. Because we are loved by the Community for many well-earned reasons, we are now in the middle of an original process to secure a new 5-year lease (with options).

On February 8 of this year we began a unique Pledge Campaign that now includes over 700 folks’ pledges of money or human energy. We have raised approximately \$125,000 of our goal of \$250,000. As a for-profit, sub-chapter S corporation, pledged funds are in two categories: loans, or for compatible businesses, advertising, if so desired.

Please feel free to contact us, and we’ll send you however many pledge forms you want.

<http://www.tsunamibooks.org/contact-us/>

## An Open Letter to Mayor Vinnis

JEAN STACY

As a homeless rights activist in Eugene I had hopes for the influence your leadership might have on Council.

I was deeply disappointed, and angered, to read your response to Mr. Porter in which you lamented that people did not want the Council-authorized rest stops on public land in their neighborhoods but that you hoped they would change their minds . . . thus insinuating that establishment of the rest stops would occur only when neighborhoods “welcomed” them.

It took me back in time to another bigotry-based issue. It made me wonder, had you been an elected official in the 1950s and 60s, if you would have told concerned constituents that the schools would be integrated “when white people welcomed it”? I thought not.

Though embraced by many righteous white people, segregation was wrong. Banning the ultra poor may be righteously embraced by the neighborhoods but it is wrong.

We now recognize how hateful and immoral it was for a white parent to say no black child would sit next to their white one. Why do we not see how hateful and immoral it is for the privileged to block the poor from a safe harbor “next to” them?

What are you doing, personally, as Mayor, to carry out the Council’s directive to establish more rest stops? To date under your leadership we have fewer rather than more safe places for the unhoused.

I would appreciate input from you regarding what you intend to do about this.

## Elliott Forest Is Heaven

DAVID IVAN PICCIONI

Where is Heaven? Heaven is on Earth. An objective description of it is the Elliott State Forest. Every conifer needle, every patch of moss, and every drop of dew are the jewels in this Kingdom. Neither the rich nor the poor will survive into future generations if we turn this, and other examples of God’s Grace, into clear-cut, mono-cropped, poison-sprayed abominations.

No race or species deserves the blessings it bestows more than any other. For every living organism forests produce oxygen, sequester carbon, regulate climate, purify water, and provide a habitat for those of us who choose to enter and behold divinity. Many of our brother and sister animals find this paradise home, and the Earth as a living breathing whole cannot survive if its most vulnerable members are trampled upon and robbed.

The administration of Oregon falls upon Governor Kate Brown, Treasurer Tobias Read, and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson. They as a group have so far been impotent to prevent the Elliott’s commercialization either by Indian Tribes or Logging companies. At this point there is posturing and huffing by those who seek to turn this refuge into millions of dollars for those who already have enough dough.

To Hell with them all! It doesn’t matter if men from Mars come and protect this treasure, as long as it is allowed to exist, persist, regenerate, and evolve naturally, unaffected. No portion of humanity can lay claim to the source of life for all.

## Pacific Green Party Offers a Third Party

ALAN ZUNDEL, PACIFIC GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE FOR OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE

Hi. I read with interest Jack Dresser’s opinion article on the need for a “Moral and Realistic Third Party” in your recent issue of *The Eugene Occupier*. I was with him until right near the end where he took an illogical turn and recommended writing in Bernie Sanders for President. How does that help create a third party alternative? Bernie has shown no interest in building a third party.

When Dresser writes of a need for a party “committed to climate change abatement and economic justice in co-operation with the world’s other peoples, established by non-violent revolution through the elective process,” he may not know it but he is exactly describing the Green Party of the United States.

What he seeks is already there and would welcome him to join us.

*(I’m already a Green. We received less than 2% of the vote, but Sanders could have won, which would have been at least a beginning.)*

# Resist Trump Tuesdays: Your Weekly Ruckus

We come with signs, banners, and posters. We wave flags, bang drums, and chant. From white collar to blue collar to no collar, we come. We show up. We resist. Welcome to Resist Trump Tuesdays: a weekly protest every Tuesday in front the federal building hosted alternatively by **Indivisible Eugene** and **Take Action Eugene**.

It’s got something for everyone. Disgruntled about the administration’s dismal views on climate change? We rallied for science and facts. Concerned about the disastrous cuts to Obama Care? We rallied to save it. Just pissed off about the lack of respect the current administration shows the people of this country? We vented, we raged, and we chanted.

No matter the shitstorm of the week, we’ll be there raising a stink about it.

**We’ll be there every Tuesday at noon.**

**Join us and add your voice to the ruckus!**

# 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/>

## Boxes of Allowable Activism

DAVID IVAN PICCIONI

There are many futile ways of attempting to help the Earth’s balanced life systems. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CLDF) categorizes its many pointless forms into “the boxes of allowable activism.” These containers encompass the ways permitted by each society to remedy its problems.

Writing letters to the editor along with lobbying, begging politicians, sign waving, trying to change legislatures are not even allowed in some other dictatorial, fascist regimes. In ours, unfortunately, they only portray a *semblance* of democracy, a hollow feeling that “here, if an individual is determined, he or she can shape everyday reality.” To be sure this has worked in some instances, although never unaided by stronger, riskier, more radical, even painful acts.

These “cages of allowable remedies” are the actions that the system, the global economy, the banks, the governments and the big corporations with their puppets, the regulating agencies, “allow” freedom fighters to “effect change” with. They have very little elbow room and aren’t beneficial even in the cases where their (limited) aims are attained.

Agencies to regulate food, the environment, labor standards, government, corporations, drugs, etc. restrict rather than aid the efforts of the most intelligent, compassionate and vital members of our world. They are a straightjacket upon the sane, psychiatric drugs meant to deaden the senses of the intelligentsia, lobotomies for healthy brains.

Methods needing another level of creativity and sacrifice are required today. This time, let’s all put our 2 cents, our sweat and our blood, into the mix

## 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](mailto:newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org)

# Contact Occupy Eugene

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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>



KRISTY MURRAY



# 350.org: We Resist, We Build, We Rise

By DEB MCGEE, 350 EUGENE

Water Is Life! Life needs water — it is water-dependent. If we don't resist, our government will allow our progeny's extinction for the profits of the four major fossil fuel corporations. As a species we are at a crossroads. We can avert the worst of global climate chaos or we can continue careening toward the brick wall of climate catastrophe. Nature is not moved to extend second chances for human mistakes. The laws of physics and chemistry persist. The window to prevent the irreversible destruction of ecological systems necessary for survival is rapidly closing. Only getting off fossil fuels will save us now.

Hard times are here. We are acidifying the oceans. Scientists say in time, the only surviving life will be jellyfish. What does that mean for millions of global families who feed their children on the bounty of the oceans? What does it mean for all life in Oregon, human and otherwise, when our salmon populations go out to a sea that is too acidic to survive?

These questions keep me awake at night. They are the reason I went to trial on May 15, 2017, charged by the State of Washington with "Criminal Trespass, in the Second Degree." I am a law-abiding public school educator, who hasn't had a ticket in forty years, let alone been arrested. But, yes, I was one of 200 people who occupied a railroad track spur into two Anacortes, WA, refineries for 37 hours — the longest blockade in the Pacific Northwest to date. We

successfully achieved our goal of disrupting the oil by rail industry and the American delusion that we can continue to burn fossils for energy, when Nature is telling us "No!"

We cannot allow the collapse of the ecological systems we are dependent upon. We must stop participating in our own destruction. Indeed we cannot destroy the planet without destroying ourselves. There is so much we could have learned from the Indigenous First Peoples here, if our hearts and minds had been open and not focused on profits, greed and power.

What do we love enough to give our lives for? Do we love the place we live enough to save it? We are writing the next chapter of the World. Will we stand in solidarity? Will we move as one to build our beloved community?

We must build a movement of historical proportions. We must embrace, enhance and bring forth the solutions to make a transition to 100% clean energy, which is 100% possible, right now. We must at the same time stop current harms: the extraction, transportation, refining, and burning of fossil fuels.

"It is hard to fight an enemy that has outposts in your head." That's where we find ourselves. We have been colonized, advertised, consumerized, and terrorized. Why is it easier to imagine the extinction of our species than imagine a fossil-free future?

We are at a time when we need to, as my friend Red

Dog used to say, "get off our dead asses, and on our dying feet" — 350 ppm of carbon in the atmosphere is the beautiful planet of the Holocene era, time of birdsong and elegant evolution. We have passed 406 ppm of carbon and the ice caps and glaciers melt on. Scientists tell us we are in uncharted territory. For me this is a moral issue: I am compelled to resist and organize against those whose products cause death and destruction. These corporate "people," with the help of our corrupted officials, have rigged the system to legalize the harms they cause. They can do it because our animal brains are fatally slow to recognize stealth threats like climate change. Approaching lion? Big human response. Death by slowly heating the planet to unsurvivable temperatures? The human animal brain is slow to take this seriously.

While global warming in itself is a huge problem, we must also resist infringement on our civil and human rights, and be especially attentive to a tendency to fear mongering and scapegoating. We must organize to reclaim our rights to live in safety and peace. We will love and protect one another; we will create community in new ways, seeking balance with Nature and a functioning biosphere. United nonviolence is the most effective way to create the lasting revolutionary change we need. This is the time we are born to, so together, we must give it our very best effort. Our all.

## Local Democracy Is All We Have Now

By ANN B. KNEELAND

The Community Rights Movement is gaining momentum in Oregon. Advocates of *We the People* are advancing efforts to recognize the right of local communities to decide for themselves what is in the best interests of their communities' health, safety and welfare. Here's what's happening.

### In Lane County

Two Community Rights initiatives are circulating in Lane County. One would ban the aerial spraying of herbicides, and the other would recognize the right to local community self-government in the Lane County Charter. After many months of signature gathering, proponents are very close to having the number of signatures needed to qualify the initiatives for the May 2018 ballot.

However, because of the recent court decision in the lawsuit filed by Stan Long, both initiatives must still meet one final test before Lane County voters can have their say at the ballot box. This final review will determine whether the initiatives each comply with the separate-vote test. This test requires that an initiative that would amend the County Charter present a single amendment to voters, and not multiple amendments wrapped into one.

While proponents are confident that these initiatives meet this test, it is important to note that the separate-vote test — *applied pre-election* — is more of the same strategy of the corporate and governmental power brokers to hobble the people's initiative power.

Keep an eye on Community Rights Lane County to keep up the fight to call out this unconstitutional interference, and strengthen the people's right to engage in direct democracy unencumbered by industry interests.

Learn more at [www.CommunityRightsLaneCounty.org](http://www.CommunityRightsLaneCounty.org)

### In Other Oregon Counties

The May 2017 Election Day was a huge day for the Community Rights movement, with unprecedented initiatives on the ballots in two counties. Lincoln County scored a preliminary victory for residents who voted the Freedom from Aerial Sprayed Pesticides Bill of Rights into law. Not only banning the harmful corporate activity of disbursing pesticides from helicopters, this initiative also would recognize Lincoln County's right of local community self-government and rights of nature, and would elevate the authority of local law above corporate "rights" to prevent corporations from having the law thrown out. At final count, the initiative won narrowly, by 27 votes, but 100 ballots had errors. Following the 14-day window to correct errors for their votes to count, the vote held and was certified.

In Coos County, voters failed to pass the Right to a Sustainable Future Ordinance that would have banned fossil fuel transportation, unless for local use, as well as prohibited land acquisition for and construction of non-sus-

tainable energy infrastructure. Like the Lincoln County initiative, this proposed ordinance also included additional provisions to elevate the people's law over corporate "rights" in order to protect the welfare of the people and planet rather than corporate power and profit.

In the wake of increased assaults on democratic ideals at the federal and state levels, local communities, like those in Lincoln and Coos Counties, are organizing to claim their power to protect the wellbeing of their residents and environment, curtail corporate power, and decide their future for themselves.

Learn more what is happening in local communities through the Oregon Community Rights Network at [www.orcrn.org](http://www.orcrn.org)

### At the State Level

Last year, Community Rights advocates filed a proposed initiative with the Oregon Secretary of State to amend the Oregon Constitution to secure the Right of Local Community Self-Government. In April 2016, the Secretary denied petition circulation on the claimed grounds that the initiative did not meet two procedural requirements: the separate-vote requirement and the amendment-not-revision rule. After the Secretary refused to approve the initiative for circulation, Oregon voters sued to have her decision overturned.

Last month, Judge Channing Bennett of the Marion County Circuit Court ruled that the Secretary's determination was unconstitutional, clearing the citizen-led initiative effort to gather signatures for the November 2018 ballot. A key question in the case dealt with whether there was an overreach by the State in its authority to interfere with the law-making powers of the people of Oregon, including violations of the people's rights of initiative and free speech. Ruling in favor of the initiative proponents, Judge Bennett wrote in his decision:

It is tempting to delve into the language and meaning of IP 55 [the Right of Local Community Self-Government amendment] . . . however, those are subjects for the Citizens of Oregon to consider and debate. It is not for a few members of the executive or judicial branch to chill public discourse by preemptively determining that the substance of IP 55 would be unconstitutional if passed. The Citizens of Oregon, in their legislative capacity, bear the burden of debating these issues and determining the course of action. Limiting, stopping, or directing discussion on IP 55 through Executive Action or Judicial Opinion is contrary to, and chilling of, public political speech.

In the wake of these powerful words vindicating the proponents' rights of the initiative power and free speech, the proposed constitutional amendment that would recognize Oregon voters' Right of Local Community Self-Government moves toward signature collection.

Please join this important statewide effort. Learn more at [www.OregonCommunityRights.org](http://www.OregonCommunityRights.org)

Ann B. Kneeland is a local attorney representing the Chief Petitioners of the Lane County initiatives, and of the State Constitutional amendment.





At Standing Rock.

CRYSTAL WEBB

## Last night at Standing Rock

By LAUREN REGAN (CONDENSED)

Lauren Regan is the Executive Director of the Civil Liberties Defense Center. This article was written on Nov. 21, 2016

Last night at Standing Rock was an appalling demonstration of what a militarized police state looks like in the Land of the Free. I’m not going to go into details on the egregious use of excessive force and the injuries that were intentionally caused by humans who took an oath to protect and serve their communities — the irony of this cannot be overstated when compared to a volunteer nonviolent unarmed citizenry standing up to an out of control corporation destroying land and a major drinking water source that sustains life.

It was below freezing last night, and the icy wind blew constantly. No matter how many layers of clothing or socks I wore, in only an hour or two, I was dreaming of a warm fire and my sleeping bag. But last night as the temperature dipped into the teens, water protectors stood out in the cold as a small group of them began to clear the 1806 road of debris in order to reopen it. This is the road where another standoff occurred a few weeks ago as water protectors attempting to stop DAPL from desecrating graves and sacred sites on behalf of the Standing Rock tribe were attacked by DAPL security and attack dogs.

The debris — two military trucks that were burned a few weeks ago — was purposefully left in the road by the State and DAPL. They planned to use this blockade to prevent the media and citizen observers from monitoring the actions of this criminal corporation in an attempt to ensure it can continue to destroy the environment with impunity. They also used this blockade to cause the locals to blame the water protectors for their personal inconvenience as they traveled an extra hour to avoid the blockade. The water protectors were not to blame — DAPL and the State intentionally caused their inconvenience. There was no real reason that the 1806 road had to be blocked and rendered unusable. DAPL and the State benefited from the increased animosity of the ranchers and locals toward the water protectors.

Clearing Road 1806 was long overdue. The State and DAPL should have cleared it weeks ago. Obviously they were not going to do so. And so once again Water Protectors were forced to act in the public interest. All they were going to do was pull those two trucks to the side of the road. The people’s road. The road that the public uses daily.

That night I watched as medics helped people who were overcome with tear gas or suffering hypothermia from the freezing water canons that were relentlessly fired into the crowd. I watched water protectors helping the medics and their patients when the police intentionally fired tear gas canisters at areas where medics were helping injured people. I watched water protector vehicles work like a well-trained rescue group shuttling people in and out of what looked like a war zone. I watched water protectors at camp create big warming fires, locate hundreds of blankets and towels, and help those who were literally frozen in their clothing get warm. I watched people take care of each other. I watched unprecedented dedication to the cause and of equal importance, to each other.

Last night the State may have thought they won the battle. They are wrong. The strength with which our movement fought — without weapons or violence toward the cowards wearing badges — was the stuff of historic legend. I am so honored to be playing a tiny part in this resistance movement. I’m heading back to Oregon now and as soon as I get home the CLDC will find some water protector plaintiffs and sue those cowards for the crimes they committed last night. And although Standing Rock and the water protectors will continue to fight regardless of our lawsuits, I believe it is important to make it clear that State actions we saw last night are not only illegal. They are morally indefensible. Those actions have no place in a free democracy. If we do not hold them accountable for their crimes, they will continue to perpetuate them on others.

## Freedom of the Press Threatened at Standing Rock

By VICKIE NELSON

A special video report on Standing Rock published by Democracy Now! early last September, shows Native Americans and their allies clashing with private guards hired by the pipeline company, guards who are spraying people with tear gas, encouraging dogs to attack people, including children, and breaking up the earth with bulldozers as they attempt to level land that is part of a Standing Rock Sioux burial site.

In the video Amy Goodman, the host and executive director of Democracy Now!, is seen wading into the chaos, and questioning angry and exhausted people, who show her where the dogs have bitten them, or how their eyes have been burned with spray. One of the dogs has a bloody nose and mouth.

Because of Amy Goodman’s on-location reporting, many people saw the ugly scenes between Native American water protectors, their allies, and the guards hired by the Dakota Access pipeline. The video, with its yelling people, lunging dogs, and hard-hatted guards is painful to watch but it was showing people what was going on in our country, which is essential in a democracy like ours, or at least a democracy like ours once was.

Five days after the video was taken, local law enforcement filed criminal charges against Amy Goodman, for trespassing.

According to a story by Matt Taibbi, published in Rolling Stone in October, local prosecutor Ladd Erickson “argued publicly that Amy was not acting as a journalist at the time of the protests. ‘She’s a protester, basically. Everything she reported on was from the position of justifying the protest actions,’” he said.

The title of Taibbi’s piece, “Journalist Amy Goodman Shouldn’t Be Arrested for Covering Dakota Pipeline Story,” summarizes his opinion of the charges against Amy quite well. “Amy Goodman was clearly acting as a reporter at the protest,” he writes. “Moreover, she’s as close to the ideal of what it means to be a journalist as one can get in this business.”

Taibbi goes on to tell us that he was “actually with Amy in Toronto when she got news of the arrest [warrant]. Ironically, she was being recognized at the premiere of ‘All Governments Lie,’ a film about journalists carrying on the independent muckraking tradition of I.F. Stone.”

Prosecutor Erickson dropped the trespassing charges,

but told one of Goodman’s lawyers that he was planning to file charges of engaging in a riot. And even after a judge rejected the riot charge, Erickson said, “Other charges were possible.”

According to the New York Times, Goodman said, “I wasn’t trespassing. I wasn’t rioting. The Democracy Now! team and I were there to report, to document what was happening on the ground. These charges are simply a threatening message to all journalists around the country: Do not come to North Dakota.”

Newspapers and TV news programs covered the protests using video that the Democracy Now! crew had filmed at Standing Rock, but surprisingly few mentioned the charges against Goodman as an assault on Freedom of the Press. Then less than a week after the charges, a story came from Vogue by Rebecca Bengal, and got directly to the question: “And what does the arrest warrant mean, not just for the future of the land, the water, the Standing Rock Sioux people, and for all indigenous Americans, but for our fundamental right to freedom of the press?”

Bengal went on: “The warrant issued for Goodman’s arrest is not a story of an oppressed journalist in another country; it is the story of a journalist oppressed in her own country, and more important, in our own country, in a country built on the very concept of freedom of speech. As Center for Constitutional Rights legal director Baher Azmy said . . . ‘This is clearly a violation of the First Amendment . . . an attempt to repress this important political movement by silencing media coverage.’”

With Trump’s disrespect for Freedom of the Press, the work of reporters is likely to grow more difficult in the next years. We owe a debt of gratitude to Amy Goodman and her crew for doing their jobs in spite of officials who feel free under the current administration to put restraints on the rights of Americans to know what is happening in their own country.



COURTESY OF DEMOCRACY NOW!

Amy Goodman.

## Standing Rock Journeys

By VICKIE WEBB

*The Dakota Access Pipeline protests began in early 2016, but had been brewing for years. As the situation intensified, thousands of supporters made the journey to Standing Rock to help. The participants interviewed for this piece include local activists Sandra Shotridge, Kat Lakey, Dana Jo Dannevik, and Crystal Webb.*

**Why did you decide to go to Standing Rock?**

SS: Standing Rock was asking for . . . other tribes to stand by them.

KL: Overreach of police state and excessive force/policy brutality.

DJD: Water protectors getting maced in Cannonball River.

CW: I was angry when I saw the treatment of the water protectors by the authorities.

**What did you see and how did you connect with people in Standing Rock?**

SS: On my first trip, I went with a family that was originally from the tribal people living at Standing Rock. I paid for meals and tried to honor the family whose land was being taken illegally

DJD: Hearing the singing over the speaker every morning and donating wood to the Sacred Fire.

KL: The smiling faces greeting us, and the experiences that I shared with two amazing people.

CW: We were greeted with hugs and thanks from all the people who met us. They were helpful in assisting us to deliver our donations to the appropriate areas.

**When thinking back to your Standing Rock trip years from now, what event or moment will come to mind?**

SS: What stands out is Nov. 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The authorities trapped our people on a bridge that was being blocked and kept our people from a supply route. Our people, our families were shot at with rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and water cannons. The authorities circled them, hemmed them in and kept them trapped so that if they ran one way, they faced rubber bullets; if they ran another way, they faced tear gas canisters; if they ran another way, they faced water cannons. For five hours, my people and our allies were shot at in weather that literally froze their clothes to their beaten bodies. Five hours. I watched a live stream for maybe a minute to see if my kids were in the video, and couldn’t look anymore. This haunts me. In one video, you can hear the authorities yelling, “Aim for the women! Aim for the women!” That day, a young woman lost her arm and another may have lost an eye. I saw the latter a few weeks later. I knew if I tried to offer words of encouragement and compassion, I would have cried so I stayed silent, feeling ashamed. It still makes me cry.

CW: Walking on the frozen Cannonball River, feeling like something bad was going to happen. Something else I will never forget is Winona’s Vagabond Kitchen, which served an average of 300 meals a day. Winona faced significant challenges, but three to five volunteers were up to the task, which was made all the more difficult because the ingredients were frozen and there was a lack of running water.

See JOURNEYS continued on page 5





PHOTOS BY VICKIE NELSON

## Food Not Bombs: We Have a Right to Serve

By JEDIDIAH WOMACK

On March 31 between 100 and 200 people showed up on Kesey Square for the Food Not Bombs Rally, many flying signs bearing slogans about food, others drumming, others serving food. Green-capped legal observers stood on lookout. Dozens of other people drifted about, some subversively energetic, others subdued.

Food Not Bombs doesn't usually have such fanfare. Not nearly so many people showed up the week before, but something that happened that week got the rally started.

It was March 24 and we were serving rutabaga home fries, green salad, tempeh, and rice with lentils. The old park-block folks, the street-kids and madmen, the

See **FOOD NOT BOMBS** continued on page 7

## JOURNEYS continued from page 4

With the pipeline now operational, do you have any further thoughts about DAPL and Standing Rock?

SS: I would do things different. I would be more frugal when paying for other people's journeys. I would carefully research what kind of integrity, networking, organizational skills and solidarity a people have before I help fundraise for others to help them, in particular my loved ones. My kids are loyal and deserving people. They are proud of their heritage and their culture. Family. Tribe. Culture. Community. I have raised my kids to be a part of their surroundings in this order. If we're ever faced with something that requires so much sacrifice, I will take a good hard look and gauge just how much I can give, so I'm not depleted and my loved ones are okay.

DJD: I think they played the weather against people and when they all left it was easier to continue. If the weather hadn't changed [things may have been different]. There were 10,000 people there.

KL: I feel that it is very telling of our cultural, social, and political climate. DAPL is clearly blinded by the dollar signs that follow the flow in the pipe. It is a typical "all now, who cares about the future" mentality. If there were to be another action for Standing Rock tomorrow disabling the pipeline, I would start fundraising and figuring out a return trip.

CW: Even though the pipeline is operational now, I feel continuing the divestment program is very important. The still-growing list of cities that pull money from the big banks shows that this issue is still important and the influence of Standing Rock is strong. Individuals divested more than \$55 million from the banks that fund DAPL.



VICKIE NELSON

Pink was the color of choice.



COURTESY OF EMILY SEMPLE

Councilor Emily Semple.



VICKIE NELSON

## Five Million in Women's March

By VICKIE NELSON

On Jan. 21, 2017, a veritable sea of pink spread out across the United States as Americans, including millions of women in pink hats, marched through sun, rain, snow, and freezing weather to let the new president know his opinions of women badly needed updating.

According to the Washington Post, "The Women's March on Washington was likely the largest single-day demonstration in recorded U.S. history." Large, small, and medium-sized cities held events. Marches were held in cities not known for marching and attended by people who said they had never been in a march before. The Post counted at least 653 marches in the United States. Wikipedia estimates that worldwide around five million people marched.

Why did so many march? As Whoopi Goldberg told the crowd in NYC, "What's at stake is everything you believe in."

Here in Eugene more than 7,000 people of all ages and genders gathered at the Federal Courthouse on a gray and drizzling morning and then after a rally that included speeches by politicians and activists moved down 8th Ave toward the WOW Hall. The crowd was both serious and good humored, the signs were creative, and the mood was determined. People had Trump and the rights of women on their minds, but also the protection of immigrants' rights, healthcare, climate change, LBGTQ rights, racial equality, and other social issues.

It was a good day.



DAVID GEITGEY SIERRALUPE

## The March Against the Muslim Ban

By VICKIE NELSON

On Jan. 29, Eugene activists once again gathered at the Federal Courthouse, this time to protest Trump's attempt to ban people from several predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States without "extreme vetting."

According to KEZI, organizer Karen Kelsky said, "This ban is wrong because the United States is a country that is based on immigration. We have a history and a tradition of welcoming immigrants. It is also unconstitutional and it is an absolute dangerous precedent for the current president to be using executive orders this way."

The crowd of around 1000 chanted "No ban, no wall, sanctuary for all," and carried an array of colorful signs, reminding us that we are a nation of immigrants, and Islam is not the enemy.

## A Rally and March for the Transgender Community

Honor our dead, and fight like hell for the living.

By THE ORGANIZERS OF THE TRANS JUSTICE MARCH

On April 8 at 3 p.m. people gathered at the Old Federal Building for a vigil honoring transgender women of color who have been murdered in 2017. The vigil set a somber tone for a short march through downtown Eugene, after which the marchers returned to the courthouse for a variety of speakers and opportunities to get involved. The Trans Justice March was a kick-off event for United Front's ongoing Trans Justice Campaign.

Since the beginning of the last election, bigots have felt emboldened to express their beliefs and to act on them as well. The current administration has revoked federal protections for the right of trans students to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender. While Oregon maintains its protections on a state level, irrational fear about transgender people in the bathrooms is spreading locally and around the country. Using the bathroom is hardly the summation of trans issues. Throughout the event, several transgender speakers addressed a variety of local and national political issues, including confronting racism, sex workers' rights, disability justice, trans healthcare, and more.

All were welcomed and encouraged to participate, including supportive cis community members. Organizers centered their actions and speeches on those in our community facing multiple intersections of oppression, particularly trans women of color, unhoused people, trans immigrants, trans Mus-

lims, sex workers, disabled trans people, and those living with mental illness — those who face the most violence.

Between 100 and 200 people attended the event. Attendees were encouraged to bring candles and sacred items for an altar. Organizers provided a wealth of information about local resources including a trans-specific Know Your Rights training, upcoming support groups, and places to access mental health and medical care for free or low cost.

For details, or to contact organizers, email: [transjustice@protonmail.com](mailto:transjustice@protonmail.com) or go to *United Front: Families Resisting & Organizing Nonviolently Together* on Facebook.



DANA JO DANNEVIK



LARRY LEVERONE



DAVID GEITGEY SIERRALUPE

The Women's March was one of Eugene's largest ever.





CATHERINE SISKRON

OM volunteers offer snacks and hot drinks at the Park Blocks on Sundays.

## OM Returns to the Park Blocks

By TERRA WILLIAMS

After Occupy Medical eagerly accepted the chance to work inside at Whitebird last winter, the City, in what they called efforts to create a “safe place for everyone,” beefed up downtown security and made a ghost town out of the Park Blocks. Advocates of the unhoused and economically disenfranchised stopped by the Park Blocks at various times and days to note the number of people who were using them. The advocates found the park blocks empty more often than not — a barren waste of public space.

We at Occupy Medical have been vocal in our opposition to oppressive ordinances and city codes that enforce gentrification, and this new effort to push the “undesirables” into the shadows did not sit well with us. We deliberated over the importance of returning to the Park Blocks. The logistics would prove to be more difficult than imagined but the Park Blocks were designed with the public in mind and we were determined to use them. Since April 2, we have been staffing a small hospitality tent there every Sunday from Noon to 3 p.m. We need more volunteers. If you want to help, please contact Occupy Medical on our Facebook page and let us know.

## Occupy Medical in Transition

By CATHERINE SISKRON

Currently Occupy Medical serves the community at two sites: A hospitality tent at the Park Blocks, and for the first time in its history, at an indoors Free Medical Clinic located at 509 E. 13th Ave. Both operate from noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The two locations reflect OM’s goals — to create a safe and supportive place for their clients and to provide the best free medical care possible in a country where free healthcare is hard to come by.

While the Clinic originated as a first aid station at an Occupy encampment almost five years ago, its most visible and continuous presence has been at the Park Blocks, where it joined Food Not Bombs, as a free community service providing a welcoming and caring environment to a segment of Eugene’s population in need of food and medical attention.

Sue Sierralupe serves as both the Clinic Manager at Occupy Medical and the Medical Office Manager at White Bird. The services provided by the two clinics differ. White Bird is a low-cost integrated medical and behavioral health clinic. Occupy Medical is a health clinic too, but also provides hospitality and alternative treatments. (Sue is primarily trained as an herbalist).

Perhaps the greatest difference between the traditional medical approach and the practice at Occupy Medical is that the focus of treatment at OM is not just on the medical problem and its manifestations, but also on the needs of people in the context of their life circumstances. Occupy Medical embodies the concept of the single-payer approach to healthcare, welcoming the insured and uninsured alike. In addition to medical attention, visitors to the clinic are offered “hospitality” in its broadest, and at the same time, therapeutic sense.

The clinic and its surroundings provide a safe gathering place for people who frequently feel unwelcome by our city officials. The clinic provides social services, haircuts, hot and cold beverages, food, clothing (especially socks), hygiene items, sewing kits, etc. No appointment is necessary. People can sign up for medical services and haircuts starting at 11:30 a.m.

There is no need to sign up for hospitality. Some people come every week to touch base, to socialize, to relax. The volunteer community at OM provides a reprieve from loneliness and isolation by offering a non-judgmental ear. “People come here on their worst day when they are sick, hungry, sad, cold and wet. And still they are brave, still working hard to do their best. I have so much respect for them — it restores my faith in humanity. Their courage has kept me coming back for five years,” says Sue.

The current inside space on 13th and Mill is on loan from White Bird. There are numerous advantages to having a brick and mortar clinic. An indoor space provides greater comfort and privacy for both patients and providers. Sue says that ideally, OM would have at least two or more locations in the community: A permanent brick and mortar clinic that would allow the staff to provide more thorough medical care, including the option of performing various lab tests on site, and an additional site at the Park Blocks, and, eventually, at other sites.

One of Sue’s main concerns is the current attempt to gentrify downtown. City government seems to ignore the fact that the unhoused in our community are economic refugees, that as long as we live in a capitalist society, full employment is not



COURTESY OF SQUARE ONE VILLAGES

Cory Aslin looks forward to cooking in his new home at Emerald Village.

## An OVE Resident Prepares to Move to EVE

By SQUARE ONE VILLAGES

Unlike most affordable housing projects, residents of Emerald Village will not simply be renters; they will be members of a housing cooperative with a share in ownership of the village — enabling them to create a modest asset that can be cashed out if and when they move out.

Cory Aslin lives at Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) and is planning to move into Emerald Village Eugene (EVE) when the tiny houses are ready for occupancy, toward the end of this year. While initial site development is just getting started, most of the EVE residents have already been selected so that people can make plans, get to know each other, and start to build community among themselves.

At a recent EVE resident meeting, everyone was asked to come up with a theme for the affordable tiny house community. Cory’s theme was “Unifying our community one person at a time.”

That pretty much describes Cory too. He’s a unifier and a peacemaker. When he first moved into OVE, he saw the good ideas on which the Village was founded. And he wanted to help maintain its goodness. So he spent a lot of time learning how the Village worked — the rules and processes, the decision-making structure, the work of all the committees. He’s served several times on the vetting committee and Village Council. At the weekly Village meetings, Cory is often the one who reads a pertinent section of the Village Manual — the “rulebook” of processes and procedures — not in a scolding way but as a gentle reminder. He knows that living in community is not easy, but it can be good.

Cory looks forward to living at EVE — not because of having electricity and heat, although that will be really nice — but so he can cook again. He loves to cook from scratch, and was a chef at the Black Angus restaurant before it closed. Favorite dishes are spaghetti, pizza (with hand-made dough), and pot roast.

“I believe in EVE,” Cory says. “You have to give people hope, and EVE does that. EVE will be a community, a stable place with reasonable rent. But more than that — we want EVE to be part of the neighborhood and the wider community. Outreach is vital. We want to change the perception of low-income housing.”



EDUARDO TAPIA CASTRO

Sue Sierralupe addresses a healthcare rally In January of this year.

an option. The system is designed to maintain high unemployment and to keep wages low and profits high. We are also facing unemployment due to automation and outsourcing, market fluctuations, and outright graft and corruption. In our city, as in the rest of the country, a great deal of stigma is attached to poverty and homelessness. Blaming the disfranchised for market forces beyond their control is cruel and unjust.

I ask Sue what can be done to help Occupy Medical’s work with the poor and the unhoused. “For one, the City Council needs to change its priorities,” she says. “Find ways to help those in need of support, rather than make life even more difficult. Public health should be a higher priority than the discomfort of business owners. My husband and I are business owners and these are our priorities.”

Sue cites as one of the most distressing examples of persecution of disfranchised the consistent harassment of the travelers. She points out that, “most travelers are kids. They run away from homes that hurt them. They are doing their best to survive in a hostile world. At this moment, for example, there is a camp in the woods with nine kids. The 18-year-old is encouraging the younger kids to attend high school.” Sue pauses for a moment then adds, “Harsh treatment by city officials is simply immoral.”

Since 2012 Occupy Medical has served over 8,000 patients, averaging 40 to 50 patients a week. Occupy Medical volunteers, along with Food for Lane County, recently served and distributed 1,305 lbs. of food. Occupy Medical staff and supporters hope that as the community develops a deeper understanding of how homelessness is the consequence of economic crises created by unbridled capitalism and fiscal policies that discrimination on the basis of economic status will be abolished, and basic services will be provided to all.



## New Community Radio Station

KEPW 97.3 LPFM is Eugene’s new Community Radio station! We are a grassroots effort sponsored by Eugene PeaceWorks, run by volunteers (many of us Occupiers) and funded by donations. Want to help? Want to be heard? Come to meet with us at Growers Market, 454 Willamette St. at 7 p.m on Thursdays. Email us at [staff@kepw.org](mailto:staff@kepw.org) or call Jana Thrift at 541-606-2025. Our website address is [www.kepw.org](http://www.kepw.org) and you can submit a show idea, a volunteer application, or make a donation there.



# Eugene Should Consider a Public Banking Option

By JACK DRESSER

On Sept. 26, 2016, the Eugene City Council passed resolutions supporting the Standing Rock Sioux in their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline, supporting reduction of greenhouse gas pollution, and supporting divestment from fossil fuel industries. But words are impotent if not aligned with deeds.

To take its own resolutions seriously, Eugene should discontinue its depository banking relationship with U.S. Bank, a Wall Street monster that has committed \$275 million in loans to Energy Transfer Partners and Sunoco Logistics for the Dakota Access Pipeline project. It has invested \$44 million in TransCanada Corporation securities and serves as trustee for \$400 million in securities issued by Enbridge Energy, both funding the Keystone Access and other pipelines exporting tar sands oil from Canada.

Our city might be receptive to ending its depository banking relationship with U.S. Bank if a realistic alternative is available. So what are the options? The other large international banks in Eugene are Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and JPMorgan Chase.

Wells Fargo is Portland's depository bank. The Portland City Council held a public hearing on April 5 to consider socially responsible use of public funds including their contract with Wells Fargo, which was recommended for termination by the council-appointed Socially Responsible Investment Committee due to its funding of the Dakota Access Pipeline, for-profit prisons and immigrant detention centers, demolition of Palestinian homes, and expansion of illegal West Bank settlements.

Bank of America was part of a lending syndicate that provided \$3.2 billion in financing to Duke Energy to build several coal-fired power plants in North Carolina and Indiana. In addition, Bank of America has financial relationships with each of the top five producers of MTR coal, which has destroyed more than a million acres across Appalachia and funds coal mining and coal-fired power companies while the bank hides behind a "greenwashing" PR campaign.

JPMorgan Chase has paid over \$8.5 billion in regulatory and legal settlements since 2009 for repeatedly mixing depository accounts with futures trading, bribing local officials, wrongful foreclosures, bid-rigging, derivatives sales fraud, misinvesting pension funds, and various illegal manipulations of credit accounts. They have a long predatory history. In 2008 Chase exploited the catastrophic failure of Washington Mutual that cost all WaMu shareholders their equity. During the Nazi regime Chase exploited the losses of German Jewish refugees and profited by cornering the banking business and refusing to release Jewish funds in occupied France.

All Wall Street banks gamble by investing in risky stocks and bonds, derivatives, credit default swaps, foreign currency markets, and other speculative financial instruments. As of last March, Wall Street banks had paid more than \$100 billion in fines and penalties for mortgage-related fraud.

A smaller, regional bank would be preferable, such as Umpqua, Pacific Continental, or Key Bank. These are big enough to provide a full range of banking services but focus their loans primarily on local needs and would not put deposited funds at risk in speculative investments.

Better yet would be development of a public bank, the model used in Brazil, India, Russia, China, and South Africa (the BRICS alliance), over 300 Islamic banks, and North Dakota, which has the only public bank in the U.S. China has used its national bank to fund massive infrastructure development projects such as high-speed rail. All sailed through 2008-09 undisturbed. Many jurisdictions are reviewing the North Dakota model, which has returned more than a third of a billion dollars to the state's general fund in the last decade.

Public banking operates in the public interest, owned by the people through their local governments, returning revenue to the local community. A public bank can set investment priorities that provide affordable credit to local small and medium-sized businesses historically ignored by the large conventional banks. A public bank can invest in projects of local public benefit not expected to yield profits, and prohibit risky speculative investing.

Washington State has cut its ties with Wells Fargo largely due to its DAPL funding, and now wants to escape Wall Street altogether and use local resources to benefit local economies rather than international bankers. Bills introduced in both the House and Senate of the Washington State Legislature have added Washington to the growing number of states now actively moving toward public banking.

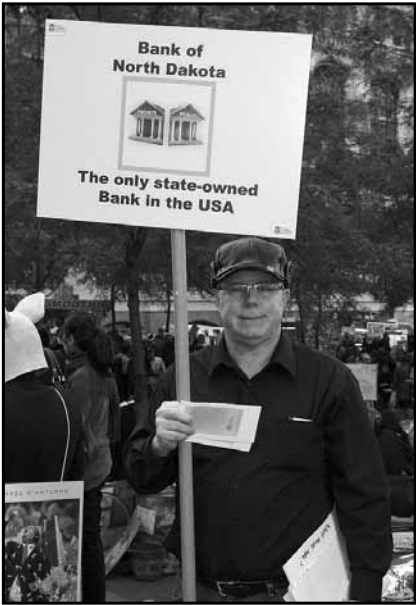
The Mayor of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has declared his city a sanctuary city, exposing it to Trump's threat to deny the city federal monies. The Mayor noted that Santa Fe has welcomed immigrants for over 400 years, and if necessary a public bank could replace lost federal funding.

A city slightly smaller than Eugene, Santa Fe is considering creation of a publicly owned bank. In October 2016, three council members introduced a resolution to take the "final steps to determine" feasibility of a public bank. Banking on New Mexico, a local advocacy group, proposed a five-year model projecting that a municipal bank could reduce annual debt service costs by \$1 million as well as earning a profit, netting the city over \$10 million in the bank's first five years.

Two Oakland, CA, council members have introduced a resolution to the Oakland City Council "directing the City Administrator to prepare an Informational Report with cost estimates for commissioning a study analyzing the feasibility and economic impact of establishing a public bank."

The city of Eugene is responsible for protecting the fundamental interests of the public as well as the city's financial well-being. We can create our own bank, keep our taxpayer dollars here and remain true to social responsibility values. Commissioning a feasibility and economic impact analysis for a city or regional public bank would be the first step.

In addition, Eugene should identify socially and environmentally responsible criteria for awarding city contracts for all other, non-banking needs.

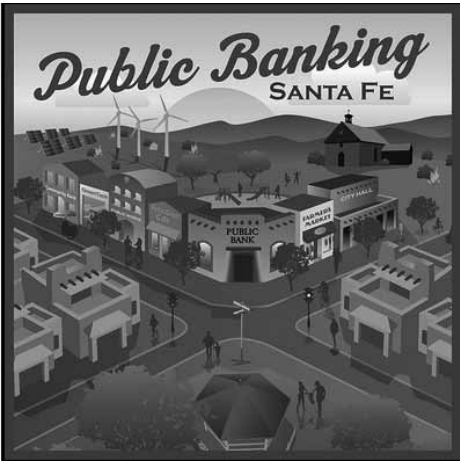


COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA



COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

An Oregon State Bank would make banking easier for owners of marijuana businesses.



COURTESY OF PUBLIC BANKING INSTITUTE

## Time for an Oregon State Bank

By SCOTT FIFE

An Oregon state bank — the time is now! Though reasons for creating a state bank are multiple, two reasons stand out: Banks are refusing to deal with incoming Marijuana tax money and by deregulating Wall Street, Trump is exposing citizens to a possible financial calamity. And we have a financial model in North Dakota where its century-old, state-owned bank survived relatively unscathed after the 2008 recession.

Oregon's economy is booming, but we're still facing a 1.5 billion budget shortfall. Of course taxes should be raised on the wealthy corporations, but another untapped resource would be an Oregon State Bank.

Interest in establishing an Oregon State Bank started when the 2008 recession occurred, severely affecting the Oregon state economy. When the Occupy Movement exploded in 2011, many Oregonians, including legislators, were talking about a state-owned bank. As the state's fortunes improved, the idea was put on the back burner. Now, Trump is revoking even the weak Dodd-Frank Act and deregulating Wall Street whose unrestrained speculation is setting the stage for another recession or worse, another depression. A state bank could provide a buffer against reckless speculation.

Secondly, marijuana was legalized in Oregon in 2016, but banks and credit unions are refusing to lend to or deal with money from marijuana-related businesses because of its illegal status federally. An Oregon State Bank could deal with the millions in marijuana business money. State banking revenues from this money, currently sitting in limbo, could be used for much needed social services.

If Oregon uses the model of the Bank of North Dakota, other benefits can be derived such as a depository account free of Wall Street fees for all state revenues as well as the promotion of agriculture, commerce, and industry in the state. A state bank could also provide low-interest student loans and guarantee loans to commercial and industrial enterprises that directly benefit the state. The BND was started by Socialist Republicans! For more on the fascinating history of the BND see <http://nyti.ms/2r16xgg>

Yes, there will be pushback from private sector banks and credit unions, but if they won't deal with marijuana money, who will?

State Representative Julie Fahey and State Senator James Manning have stated that they support the idea, but support and passing legislation are two different things. After multiple requests, Rep. Nancy Nathanson hasn't commented at press time.

Perhaps the only way to move forward is a groundswell of community support. Why make draconian budget cuts when the marijuana tax money is available? Why wait until the next financial crisis when Oregon can shore up its defenses now? This is a win-win for Oregonians. Citizens just need to spread the word and demand action for an Oregon State Bank now!

## FOOD NOT BOMBS continued from page 5

gentlemen vagabonds and transient yogis, the weed heads and the Deadheads were more rare than they'd ever been before. Just those who have learned to navigate the new rules. A little come-and-go crowd of 20 to 30 people would be approaching us for a Tupperware container of food before finding someplace inconspicuous to eat.

The lids were barely off the food when we were approached by someone who wasn't looking for a snack. We don't know her name. She claimed to be a city health inspector, but wasn't able to give us the definitive language that would prohibit our being there.

Only so many people allowed to congregate, and only for so long in Downtown Eugene. The dog ban, the loitering laws, the Exclusion Zone, the staffing of redcap security forces, have changed things. People claim the number of street-kids and drug abusers sitting at the Park Blocks were discouraging to public enjoyment of the space. The crackdowns have had their effect and things have changed.

The inspector contested our right to serve food without standard health sanitation in place. She also did not want us serving free food without a "temporary restaurant" permit, which she repeatedly prescribed for us. She attempted to persuade us to shut down immediately.

We refused and continued to serve even as the inspector chided our dismissal of the regulatory recommendations she'd made. Eventually she left the scene.

We wondered whether there would be repercussions for our refusal to submit, but one thing was clear. Food Not Bombs wasn't, is not, and never will be a restaurant, temporary or otherwise. We discussed the situation and concluded that the act of giving food should be a free one, that the act of accepting food is a personal responsibility, that the making and sharing of food should not become an onerously regulated function. Anticipating further pressure on our organization, we made a call to begin our food rally the following week.

Food Not Bombs is also not a vendor, venue, proprietor, or Pad Thai wagon, although we make a nice Asian-esque stir-fry sometimes. Kesey Square food carts have had a regrettable effect upon one of Eugene's last remaining free spaces. The part they've played has been one of entrepreneurs using freedoms granted them in ways that inadvertently displace the freedoms of the homeless populations downtown. The social conformity implied in a restaurant setting now overlaps and redefines Kesey Square as just another part of an unending city shopping mall.

What Food Not Bombs performs is Food Rescue — for both the food we save and the people we feed. We cook food that grocery stores are throwing away and prepare it for the poor, who have no convenient facility for cleaning and preparation of their own. The stuff that homeless people sometimes have to eat may not be as safe or as available as what we have to offer.

A headstrong heroine named Sunshine, pulled in the help of legal observers and began the online media push to make the rally happen. We would expand the size of our selection and invite others to bring additional foods, potluck style.

Again, many foods found by our homeless friends may not be nearly so safe as what we prepare in our food rescue, a select donation of foods from local grocery store owners. It is not rotten, merely in immediate need of use before it's wasted. There are people that capitalism isn't feeding, and that's who we're looking to feed. We believe the many people who made the rally on March 31 a success now have a better idea of how free we intend to remain. We will continue to be there for anyone who believes, in no uncertain terms, that we are allowed to serve.



# Finding Our Yes: Blazing the High Road to Social Justice

By GRAHAM LEWIS

The blame game gets louder and louder in an ongoing flood of bad news. Urgent, beneficial government programs and broad environmental protections are on the Trump chopping block and all a deadlocked congress wants to do is go on pointing fingers. Any good news is for people like Wall Street speculators. They can continue to wildly enrich themselves, betting other people's money that certain businesses will fail. Twenty years ago, a science fiction writer couldn't have imagined this stuff.

Letters to the Editor join the din of blame and denunciation. Everything is someone else's fault in an "us against them" free-for-all. Reaction begets reaction. For every approving comment, there seems to be a dozen angry condemnations. But isn't it always easier to find fault with stuff than to come up with constructive, new ideas that might actually help solve a problem or, better yet, make our life better!

So choose your path: the Low Road or the High Road. Divisiveness is not a destination, but a temporary distraction. It's time to take cooperation to a new level, beginning in our households, neighborhoods, cities, counties, on up. There's too much at stake and no time to waste.

We who were a part of last January's massive Women's March got the unmistakable first-hand experience of being part of a huge movement — millions who will never settle for lies, corruption, misogyny, or religious discrimination. Viewing other huge throngs in Washington D.C. and most major U.S. cities, we found new strength in numbers. If privilege has allowed us to be passive up to now, that time is over. It's time to switch off all the many distractions and actively participate in generating tangible solutions. Here in Lane County, groups like 350.org Eugene, Cascadia Forest Defenders, and the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network are seeing major increases in participation, yet the need continues to grow. There is one effort to motivate city governments and colleges to sequester their funds in socially responsible investments and another to form a state bank as a positive alternative to putting public money into big corporate banks.

We who are passionate about peace and justice are looking to alternative news sources for information — MSNBC and Democracy Now! for example. Rachel Maddow, Chris Hedges and Paul Krugman are telling us what the corporate-controlled Nightly News is not — the things that people like Sean Spicer and Steve Bannon don't want us to know. We're



GRAPHIC BY GRAHAM LEWIS,

talking with friends and family and at governmental hearings about real solutions. We're donating money and time to worthy efforts — finding how good it feels to actually get "out of the stands" as spectators, and "onto the field" as active players.

Each person's journey to the world we want starts with a single step. People are coming together and playing with possibilities — daring to share new ideas and build on them. The Conestoga hut concept and Opportunity Village Eugene grew out of shared ideas and experimentation. Collective inspiration gives birth to proactive transformation. It's up to each of us now to help turn a stale climate of divisiveness into fresh paradigms of innovation — to create more new things to say Yes to! Let's do what it takes to shift from a stale, ineffective top-down system and show our supposed leaders how a cooperative bottom-up system works. Yes?

## "Trump is the symptom, not the disease."

By JACK DRESSER

The precedent is long established. Trump has merely torn off the ceramic mask now shattering at our feet. In a May 15, 2017 Truthdig article, Chris Hedges wrote, "Forget the noise. The crisis we face is not embodied in the public images of the politicians that run our dysfunctional government. The crisis we face is the result of a four-decade-long, slow-motion corporate coup that has rendered the citizen impotent, left us without any authentic democratic institutions and allowed corporate and military power to become omnipotent. This crisis has spawned a corrupt electoral system of legalized bribery and empowered those public figures that master the arts of entertainment and artifice. And if we do not overthrow the neoliberal, corporate forces that have destroyed our democracy we will continue to vomit up more monstrosities as dangerous as Donald Trump. Trump is the symptom, not the disease."

And it goes back much further.

In a 1933 speech, the once most decorated Marine in U.S. history, Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler, recounted, "I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism."

"I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

"During those years, I had, as the boys in

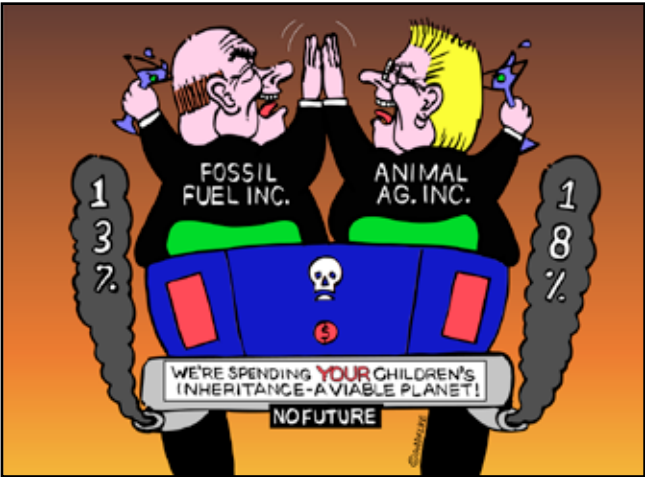
the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents."

In his 1935 book, War is a Racket, Butler continued, "A few profit — and the many pay. But there is a way to stop it. You can't end it by disarmament conferences. You can't eliminate it by peace parleys at Geneva. Well-meaning but impractical groups can't wipe it out by resolutions. It can be smashed effectively only by taking the profit out of war."

Butler's experience-based understanding was later formalized by Princeton political theorist Sheldon Wolin as "inverted totalitarianism" where industrial capitalism controls the state rather than 1930s fascism where the state dictated the industrial agenda. Now facing imminent, catastrophic climate change with human and most other life hanging in the balance, we must starve the military-industrial beast and shift our resources to massive alternative energy development, planetary reforestation and soil restoration, and other climate change abatement measures. To do so we must dismantle the propaganda machine propelling resources into species-suicidal international violence.

Every high school in America should assign Butler's short book as required summer reading, updated by lessons disclosing to every prospective military recruit the bloody truth of our monstrous, unbroken record of post-WWII industrial-scale violence and heedless violations of international law.

Similarly, on MLK day, more important than the "I have a dream" speech, students should study King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech where he declared our country "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." Nearly a half century later nothing has changed. New generations must demand to know why, urgently arise against the American war machine, and do so quickly.



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