

Washington Free Press

Nº 100
2009 Sept/Oct & beyond



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Free Press"

WA FREE PRESS
PMB #178,
1463 E. REPUBLICAN ST
SEATTLE WA 98112



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PAPER ISSUE**
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when WA homebuyers get ripped off, all they hear is

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Send your letters of personal opinion to the WA Free Press, PMB #178, 1463 E Republican St, Seattle 98112, or WAFreepress@gmail.com. Please include full name and phone for verification. Short is sweet!

READER MAIL

Why There's No Single-Payer Proposal

Please go to toopensecrets.org/news/2009/06/name-office-party-health.html to uncover the ugly truth concerning political contributions (bribes) to our congresspersons. The site has all contributions since 1989 to all congresspersons as well as Barack Obama. This should help us understand why "universal, single payer health care" is "off the table". The health industry doesn't want single payer and our congresspersons and president have been taking bribes (err... political contributions) from them, big time, to keep it off the table!

Barack Obama, \$20,163,933
Patty Murray, \$924,168
Maria Cantwell, \$561,826
Rick Larsen, \$602,865

How in the world can folks believe that our president and congress persons will represent our interests in the face of such a vast monetary investment by the health care industry?

This ought to be front page news!
Howard Pellett

Public Option is Accountable

Someone has to be in charge of our healthcare system. Who would you prefer: a Washington bureaucrat whose position can ultimately be eliminated through our electoral process, or an insurance company executive who may receive a multi-million dollar bonus for denying an appendectomy, for example, to your child (and others) because he has decided the procedure is not cost effective? He is accountable only to company bean counters.

Bob Markey

Toilet Paper Tax

Democrats are hitting us again! Taxing toilet paper, cooking oil, toothpaste, cosmetics and other products we dispose in our wastewater, was proposed by Oregon's Democrat Representative Earl Blumenauer. His tax will be aimed at the manufacturing level. HR-3203 is called the Water Protection and Reinvestment Act of 2009 but will further burden our economy.

Taxes at any level become a part of corporate expenses, increasing corporate profit. Blumenauer's "financed broadly by small fees" will multiply before it reaches you, the consumer. The toilet tax will increase the profits for the companies by increasing prices far beyond that of the original tax. The 3% excise tax will ultimately take much more out of our pocketbooks than just 3%.

As prices rise, the value of our money declines. Democrats contribute to inflation with every tax implemented. Bigger government, more taxes and regulations become oppression to the worker and the poor. The adage is that "Democrats are for the poor." It sounds more like the Democrats are for corporations, increasing their profits. Taxes and regulation increase inflation and unemployment rates. Democrats prove they are not for the working family and the poor.
Roger Hancock

Editor's reply: While I agree that excessive taxation can be a drag on the economy, I don't follow the logic that a tax on corporations would increase corporate profits, though the cost of it—in part or whole—would surely be passed on to consumers.

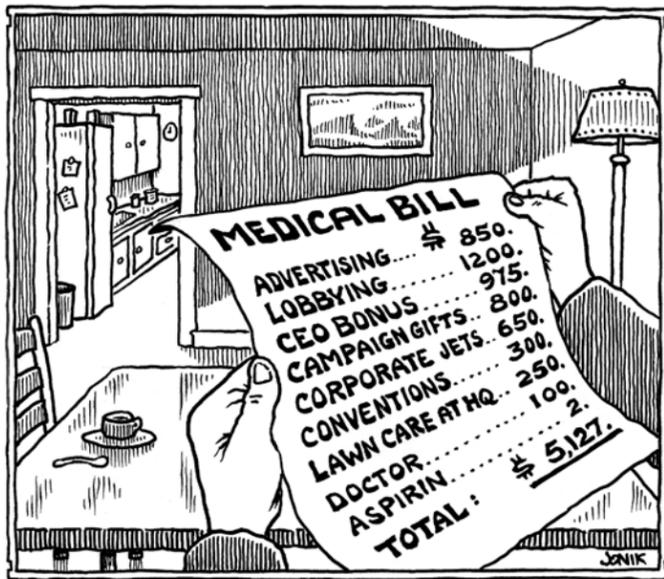
Considering the current economic quagmire, I would furthermore argue that taxation is possibly one of the better alternatives out of the country's deep indebtedness. Basically, the government has three options to balance our dismal public budgets: taxation, budget cuts, and the printing of money.

If any one of these methods is limited, the other two are more likely to be used. So if Americans successfully fight any new taxation, it increases the likelihood of the "printing press" solution, which could be much more destructive in the longterm because of the risk of runaway inflation.



FEAR MONGERS AGAINST THE HEALTH CARE PLAN

John Jonik



THANKS FOR YOUR RECENT DONATIONS

Here's a few people that we should have honored earlier.

J. Newman, S. Eidenschink, J. Merriam, I. Graham, D. Hultberg, C. Smith, K. Orme, and J. Baker

Sincere apologies if we have missed any names.



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elections

One Million WA Voters Deprived of Secret Ballot

Plaintiffs seek relief from state supreme court

FROM SMITH & LOWNEY LAW FIRM

In recent elections, over a million Washington voters have had unique bar codes placed on their ballots, violating their right to a secret ballot as guaranteed by the Washington Constitution and state law.

In mid-July, four Washington voters and a local political party sued Washington's chief elections officer, seeking to prohibit placement of unique bar code identifiers on ballots.

The suit alleges that actions of Secretary of State Sam Reed required approximately one million voters to vote on ballots that contained unique bar code identifiers, in violation of the State Constitution's guarantee of "absolute secrecy" of the ballot and statutes requiring uniform ballots within a precinct. The suit also claims that Reed has encouraged and subsidized an uncertified ballot tracking "audit" system that links the ballot identifiers to voters' identities, further undermining ballot secrecy by potentially permitting vendors and officials to inspect how a citizen voted.

The petitioners filed *White v. Reed* directly in the WA State Supreme Court using an unusual judicial procedure for fast-track adjudication by the high court. According to the petition, Reed's actions have led to the introduction and proliferation of ballot IDs in most Washington counties by activating an option of the Hart Intercivic voting system. Reed also has encouraged and subsidized many counties to deploy the VoteHere ballot tracking system which links the unique ballot ID with the voter's ID. Petitioners claim that these systems are not necessary for election auditing or security.

As of this writing, the Supreme Court is deciding whether to accept review of this case.

Seattle's King County prohibited ballot identifiers after finding that voters perceived the identifiers as compromising ballot secrecy.

Hart and VoteHere vendors are aggressively marketing the systems across the country for both poll site voting and absentee mail voting. Washington State requires paper ballots, and votes almost entirely by mail.

Seattle public interest attorney Knoll Lowney represents the four voters and the Green Party of San Juan County, where the offending systems were first deployed. According to Lowney, "Reed's actions have violated the constitutional rights of one million Washington voters just because of where they live. In King County, where I vote, there are no unique bar codes on my ballot and I am certain of the secrecy of my ballot. Every voter in our state deserves the same confidence."

A statement supporting the case was released by the national public interest organization, Voter Action, which has participated in lawsuits throughout the country involving election integrity concerns. The statement can be accessed at www.VoterAction.org.

Petitioner Tim White said, "An absolutely secret ballot means your blank ballot is exactly like your neighbor's. Nobody can reconnect it to your hand. Secretary Reed's new system permits just that. He subsidized this system with a no-bid contract with VoteHere, a corporation led by Reed's mentor Ralph Munro and past heads of the Pentagon and the CIA. Voters should not have to trust this or any private company to maintain ballot secrecy."

see next page

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Says Petitioner Allan Rosato, "Few voters realize that the bar code they see is unique to their ballot, and in many cases linked with their voter ID. When they learn this, they are very concerned. Our Constitution and statutes do not allow this experiment with ballot secrecy. It certainly is not necessary since two-thirds of Washington voters are not subject to it."

The above article is from the law firm representing the plaintiffs. Detailed information about the case can be found at <http://smithandlowney.com/secretballot>.

COUNTIES AFFIXING UNIQUE BAR CODES TO INDIVIDUAL BALLOTS AND COUNTIES EMPLOYING MAIL IN BALLOT TRACKER

Counties using HART system w/ unique ballot ID's	HART counties using Mail In Ballot Tracker (MiBT)	Other counties using MiBT
Asotin		Douglas
Benton		Grant
Chelan	Y	Grays Harbor
Clallam		Walla Walla
Clark		
Columbia		
Ferry	Y	
Garfield		
Island	Y	
Kittitas		
Klickitat		
Lewis		
Lincoln		
Mason	Y	
Okanogan		
Pacific	Y	
San Juan	Y	
Skagit		
Skamania		
Stevens	Y	
Yakima		

Source: Communications with Washington Secretary of State

A FAREWELL TO PRINT

BY DOUG COLLINS, EDITOR

The WA Free Press is taking a big step after this issue. We are going to stop issuing a print version and post only online. This issue, number 100, is our last paper issue.

I first started feeling uncomfortable with all the work I was doing in print when I realized something very simple: I myself was already shifting toward doing the large majority of my reading online, and many WA Free Press readers have certainly been doing the same.

Although subscriptions for almost all print media have been declining in recent years, our decision to go web-only is just as much due to the constraints of volunteer time. Basically, it's double the work to produce both a decent website and a decent printed publication. It's better to concentrate our work on the website.

In fact, I can't really figure out if this publication is a victim or a beneficiary of the internet. There are both disadvantages and advantages of this change.

The advantages include much less time spent on mailings, and no more weighty

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bundles of paper. There is also the quicker relaying of information, and a readership from people around the world. Perhaps the internet also saves a tree or two. Mostly, though, the internet is fun. It's my dream-come-true.

In about 1974, my childhood fantasy was to have a magic projector in my bedroom that could answer any trivia question I put to it by projecting the answer on my wall. Well, the internet is about as close to that as I could ever hope for. It's like a big, magical brain with a screen.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of going web-only include not having the satisfaction of seeing someone in my neighborhood reading a copy of the WA Free Press in a cafe or on a park bench. It's nice knowing that he or she is considering—at that moment—the under-reported topics that all of our writers have been striving so hard to get out. You can't witness that happening on the internet.

Another regret is that many of our prisoner subscribers (and other readers with no computer access) will no longer have access to new WA Free Press articles. For years, we have offered free mailed subscriptions to incarcerated people, and I'll miss receiving their appreciative letters. We'll strive to be accessible to prisoners when possible in other ways in the future.

The web is generally less social. I'll no longer regularly see the great people at the printing company we've used for years.

Regardless of the pluses and minuses, issue number 100 is a good milestone to make this change. It feels satisfying, like something has been completed.

The WA Free Press has a long history with the internet, if that's possible to say. It was among the first periodicals to have a viable website. Our pioneering first webmaster—though that term hadn't been coined yet—was Matt Robesch, who steered the site to receive a number of web-related awards in the mid 1990s (see wafreepress.org/Web.html). The article posts on our website stretch all the way back to 1993 (see wafreepress.org/back.shtml), and still show the original "cutting edge" web design of that era, an era when internet commerce was still taboo among most web geeks (hard to imagine now).

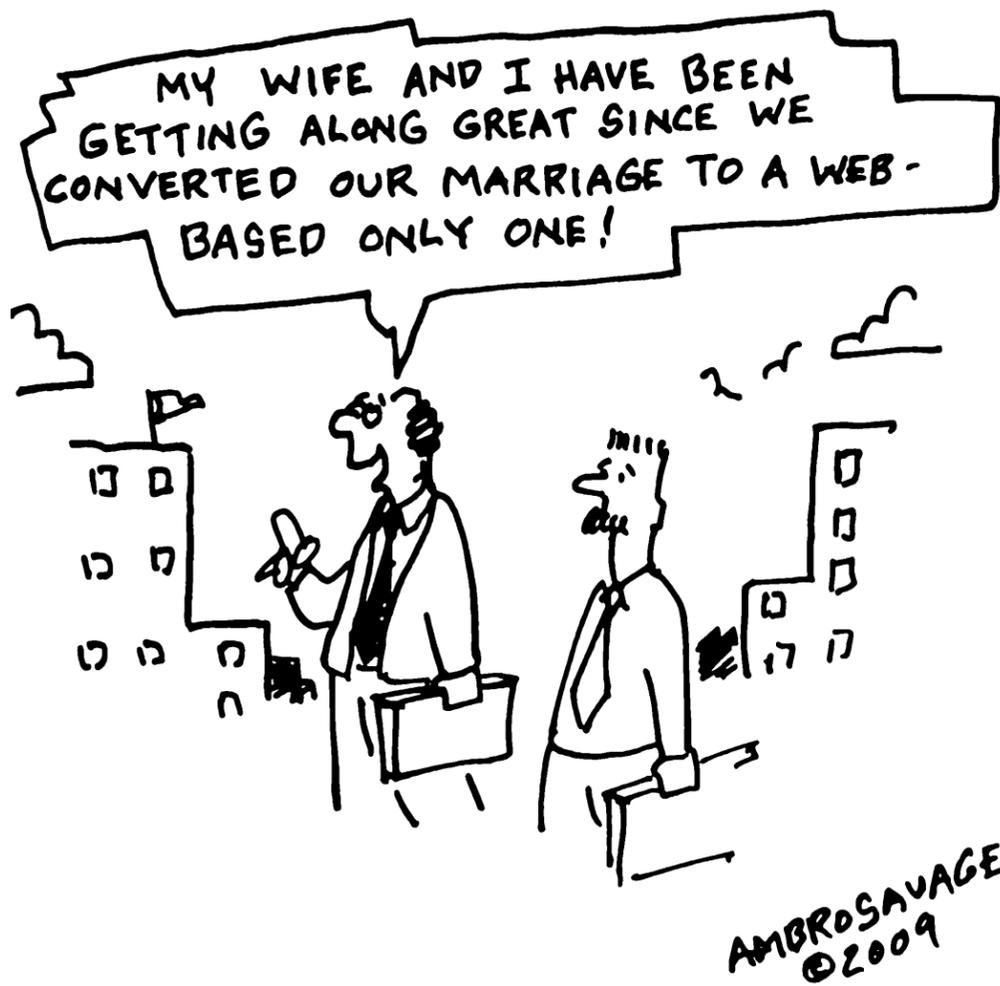
Managing a long-lived website is probably a bit like managing a library. Many small things need to be fixed and sometimes updated. The readership of our website—much like at a library—is just as much of the older articles as it is of the newer ones. As the "library" gets bigger, it naturally demands more attention.

I've done the major print editing and layout for the majority of this newspaper's lifetime of 16 years, and I modestly (a-hem) feel that it's been a Herculean effort, though it wouldn't have been possible without the help of dozens of others. One example is John Ambrosavage, who was our main cartoonist in the early years and who has again contributed his humor to this issue to mark the occasion.

The chief success of our "journalistic activism" has been that we've produced and distributed a newspaper—an often outspokenly iconoclastic one—which has been almost completely funded by subscriptions and donations. It has not had the editorial constraints that advertisement unspokenly places on papers. That's no easy accomplishment.

Fortunately, the same lack of constraint is even more possible on the web, and without all the extra work of printing and distributing. Let's cross our fingers that the web stays that way.

Some people might think that going from print to web-only is like the passage from life to death. Well, if there is an afterlife that is as fun and intriguing and open as the internet, then I suppose we all have something to look forward to.



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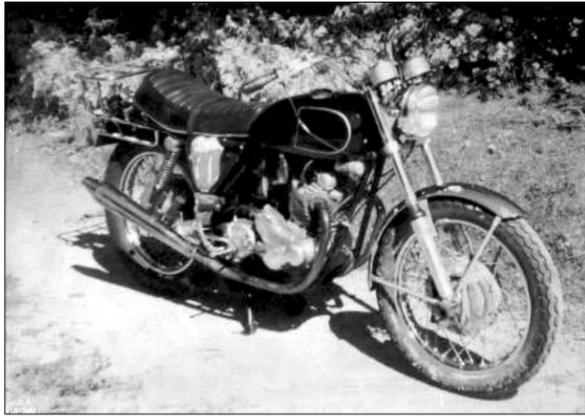
Reckless Driving

BY JOHN MERRIAM

I: THE CHASE

"Pull over, boy!" Two cops glared menacingly from the passenger window of their cruiser at the motorcycle rider to their right. Both vehicles were stopped at a traffic light on Pacific Avenue. The driver of the car pointed to a loading zone in front of University Hospital. The cops sported insignia from the University of Washington and were driving a blue Plymouth Fury III. Johnny Horizon was astride his Norton P-11 motorcycle. Pacific Avenue was maintained by the City of Seattle, outside the jurisdiction of U.W. police. Johnny wasn't about to let campus cops give him orders when he was on city property.

The P-11, a bastard child of the merger between the Norton and Matchless motorcycle companies in England a few years before, was designed as a dirt racer for contests like those in Baja, California. For starts off the line it was one of the fastest production motorcycles



in the world. In 1971, Japanese engineers were catching up quickly when it came to top-end speed, but they had yet to produce anything that could compete with the Europeans for acceleration from a dead stop. The P-11 had so much torque that, given traction, it could climb a brick wall. Even if the squad car had a supercharged V-8, it was no match for the Norton. Johnny decided to ignore the cop's directive to pull over.

Johnny Horizon was a draft-dodging freshman at the University of Washington. He'd never intended to go to college, until he went to Saigon as a crewmember of a merchant ship and saw what was going on in Viet Nam. He started college at the U.W. just after various malcontents, also holding student deferments, had taken over the campus to disrupt ROTC recruiting and other activities related to the war. In a 'them and us' atmosphere, the length of Johnny's hair made him a target for guardians of the Establishment like the two cops trying to pull him over.

Johnny assumed that the officers wanted to talk because he'd left campus without paying for parking. In fact, he had never once paid for parking during his attendance at the U.W. To park a motorcycle cost 25 cents for all day. Johnny felt that was outrageous—especially since bicycles got to park for free. To avoid the parking fee, collected upon exit from, rather than entry to campus, his preferred route involved an elaborate series of maneuvers starting on a pedestrian path off Stevens Way and ending with a brief wrong-way jag on a connecting road to the eastbound lanes of Pacific Avenue. It was just after he had emerged from this last

law & disorder

stretch that the cops pulled up.

Johnny looked to his left and thumbed his nose at the campus cops. Not waiting for the light to turn green, he eased out the clutch, twisted the throttle, and left some rubber on the road in his rapid departure. The cop behind the wheel knee-jerked the accelerator to the floor. The chase was on!

It was not a fair race. By the time the P-11 approached the Montlake Bridge it was traveling at almost triple the speed limit, while the Plymouth was still busy cutting off cars on Pacific Avenue.

Johnny was not concerned about the traffic jam he encountered. Southbound cars were backed up over the bridge he needed to cross to get home. He simply eased off the throttle, feathered the brakes and coasted between lanes of stopped cars at 50 m.p.h. The squad car hadn't even reached the traffic jam.

Johnny relaxed; it was no contest. Assuming he had ditched the cops on the congested bridge, he leisurely pulled into a left-turn lane on Montlake, bound for East Hamlin street. Waiting to turn, he looked into the rear-view mirror and gasped. The squad car was fishtailing in the northbound lanes, swerving to avoid oncoming traffic.

'Wow!' Johnny thought. 'Those idiots are going to kill someone. They must take that parking fee seriously.' The cop car was still accelerating on the bridge and looked totally out of control. 'I'll ditch those bozos once and for all.' He mentally laid out an escape route through the U.W. Arboretum that would thwart all chance of pursuit.

The squad car managed to get across the bridge without a collision. The Plymouth was only a block away from the P-11 and approaching fast. Johnny suppressed his amazement and let out the clutch. His plan was to go left on East Hamlin to 24th Avenue East. There was a road divider on 24th, about eight inches high, blocking access to the Museum of History and Industry parking lot. The space was wide enough for two wheels but not four. The P-11 could pass through that gap at high speed but, if the Plymouth followed, jumping the divider would destroy its suspension if not rupture the oil pan. The way the cops were driving, it would blow out all their tires as well.

If the divider didn't work, Johnny had some other ideas. After the Museum of History and Industry, on the other side of Lake Washington Boulevard, a tortuous route through alleys led to a footbridge into the Arboretum. Located at the dead-end for East Lynn street, the footbridge was too narrow to be traversed by car. Johnny relished the thought of the chase lasting that long. 'If these clowns keep this up,' he thought, 'they'll blow up their V-8 cruiser when it hits the rock sides of that overpass.' Johnny felt it his duty to prove,

once more, that even a supercharged Plymouth had no business trying to catch a P-11 anywhere this side of the Bonneville Salt Flats.

The squad car was getting dangerously close. The motorcycle bolted left towards East Hamlin, cutting off an oncoming pick-up truck in the process.

BANG! Johnny heard a noise like a small caliber gunshot from the direction of his front forks. It was followed by the sound of metal clanging on metal with each rotation of the front wheel. The P-11 was wobbling badly as it entered East Hamlin. Johnny looked

down at his front wheel, where the brake was creating sound effects. Normally the front brake is stationary, so the fixed pads can slow wheel rotation when the rider squeezes the brake handle in front of the right handlebar grip. Now the entire brake apparatus was instead spinning in tandem with the front wheel. The lever on the brake drum, that activated pressure for the brake pads, was also rotating with the wheel and—like a club whirled by demons—destroyed everything it contacted. The cable connecting the front brake to the handlebar had snapped in the process.

Damage was extensive. The brake lever had knocked out such a large chunk of metal that the right fork had broken and collapsed on itself; thus the wobble. The front suspension was shot. Only the rear brake remained operative.

Johnny was dismayed. He had recently adjusted clearances for the front brakes and thought: 'How could the brake shoes have seized on the drum? It must be defective design.' He cursed out loud: "Goddam English engineers!" He knew that Norton hadn't changed its basic engine design since before World War II and concluded the factory consultants were all senile.

Even without front suspension, Johnny felt he could still ditch the badge-punks with the escape route he had in mind. The P-11 was still moving, but it was screaming in agony. He decided to quit the chase. His motorcycle was more important than a minor traffic ticket, after all. He pulled over to the side of East Hamlin.

Still traveling at an unreasonable rate of speed, the U.W. squad car careened around the corner and screeched to a halt behind the P-11. Two of the U.W.'s finest emerged with guns drawn. Their hands were shaking. Johnny got nervous. He realized he could easily be shot for the quarter he owed.

"Howdy, sir." Johnny greeted the cop whose hand was shaking the most.

"Freeze!"

"What's the problem?"

"You're under arrest!" The officer's index finger was quivering on the trigger. The would-be cops obviously assumed they'd just collared a member of some major Mafia family. Why would they want to arrest him for a parking violation?

"What's the charge?"

"Reckless driving."

"Reckless driving?! I thought you guys were from the U.W. We're on a city street. How can you charge me with reckless driving when you never saw me on campus?"

"Hot pursuit."

Johnny didn't know what "hot pursuit" meant. He did know the U.W. cops had guns and he didn't. "Hey you guys,

I live just a few blocks from here. If you put me in jail I'll miss my classes. Do you want me to lose my draft deferment?" He showed them his driver's license. The two officers themselves looked like they were still of draft age. Holstering their guns, they wrote Johnny a citation for reckless driving and let him go. Johnny pushed the P-11 back to his house.

A few days later, Johnny bought a new tube for the front fork, along with a brake cable, to replace the destroyed parts on his P-11. The cost of the brake components was several times—to powers of ten—the 25 cents he'd saved on parking the day of the chase. He never figured out why asbestos brake shoes froze on the metal brake drum.

II: THE CONSEQUENCES

Johnny Horizon wondered how to deal with the ticket he received for reckless driving—a criminal traffic violation that could result in jail time. He had to post \$200, in lieu of bail, when he went to the Public Safety Building to get a court date. He didn't understand how it was legal to get charged by campus cops for reckless driving on city property. He went to the law school library for the University of Washington and tried to find out.

According to the law books, the cops could indeed charge him with reckless driving if they exaggerated a bit about what they saw him do on campus. The Seattle Municipal Code classified reckless driving as a gross misdemeanor, rather than a traffic violation, punishable by up to a year in jail.

Johnny went to see a friend who lived in the Magnolia district of Seattle. Willie Maybee had been hauled into court so many times that he considered himself an expert on the traffic code.

"All you have to do is say you panicked. If you show

see next page

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that there was no intent to drive recklessly, you'll win. Then all they can get you on is negligent driving." Willie was giving him terrible advice, but Johnny didn't know it at the time.

Johnny also didn't know that the possibility of jail time automatically entitled him to a public defender. The day of the trial he cockily sauntered into Seattle Municipal Court, confident in acting as his own lawyer.

The driver of the squad car, the one who'd almost shot Johnny, testified first. He embellished Johnny's misdeeds outrageously. The cop claimed to have actually caught the Norton, ignoring the fact that Johnny pulled over voluntarily. His description of the apprehension concluded with: "The defendant acted in a very cavalier manner."

Johnny's testimony was short and to the point: "I panicked and didn't know what I was doing."

The judge hearing the case, who was later to become a senator in the state legislature, was not impressed. "Guilty," she announced after approximately three seconds of deliberation. She directed Johnny to the pre-sentencing unit to set a date for an "evaluation" before sentencing.

Several days later, Johnny showed up for his pre-sentencing interview. The woman volunteer conducting what she called an "investigation" was young, overweight, and very gullible.

"Why did you drive recklessly?" Johnny told her he'd had an LSD flashback. "Wow! Some of my friends have told me about having flashbacks. It must have been really scary. . .?"

"It was." Johnny played it for all it was worth. "When I saw those blue lights on the police car, I freaked out. I was flashing on the time that a friend almost got killed in the tunnel on Highway 10 to Mercer Island. The only thing I could do was get away from those lights as fast as I could."

"You poor thing." The woman gave him a glowing pre-sentencing report.

Johnny's sentencing was not scheduled until April, the day after spring break was over. After bullshitting his way through final exams, Johnny used spring vacation to visit a woman in California named Laura who'd picked him up hitchhiking the year before.

On his way south he collected a sheaf of speeding tickets. But once he'd left Washington, Johnny wasn't concerned about accumulating citations from jurisdictions outside his home state. He used the tickets to start his campfires at night.

Johnny left California behind schedule and was worried about being late for court. He rode the Norton even faster on his return trip north, outrunning police in both California and Oregon. He drove recklessly so he wouldn't miss his sentencing for driving recklessly.

In his haste, Johnny had neglected routine maintenance for his motorcycle. North of Portland, just before crossing the Columbia River, he was going 85 m.p.h. when he heard a muffled explosion beneath him, followed by sounds of metal grinding on metal. Behind the motorcycle stretched a long, constant sheet of blue flame from the right exhaust pipe, looking as though the P-11 had turned into a large propane torch. He looked at the engine. Most of the casing covering the primary drive was gone. The motorcycle would never make it to Seattle in that condition.

Johnny discovered the source of the problem after he pulled over. The motorcycle had run dry on oil. He had a quart of Castrol in his pack, enough to allow the P-11 to limp to Vancouver, Washington. There he made a distress call to a friend in Seattle who owned a VW van. He and the P-11 were carried back to Seattle. Johnny made it to court on time.

The judge sentenced Johnny to community service, suspended his license, and fined him six dollars in court costs. Thanks to the pre-sentence report, after miscellaneous charges \$184.00 of his bail would be refunded upon completion of the community service.

"Hot shit; no jail time!" Johnny suppressed his exuberance, making sure the judge did not hear. He wasn't worried about his license being suspended, figuring he could get another one in a different name.

III: THE SEQUEL

After he was convicted of reckless driving, Johnny Horizon pondered the best way to perform several hours of "community service" that was part of his sentence. He approached court personnel and got approval to work for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Johnny was enrolled in a class called "Courts and Civil Liberties" that spring quarter at the University of Washington. He got his professor to agree that Johnny should receive credit hours for his "volunteer" work at the ACLU. "Best to kill two birds with one stone," Johnny philosophized.

Most of his work for the ACLU consisted of being the solo staffer at the office for the Seattle city chapter, a small room above Gilly's Sub shop in the University District. The ACLU also wanted him to act as "parade marshal" on occasion. By ACLU definition, a "parade"

meant anti-war demonstrators blocking various arterials. A "marshal", by the same token, was a person assigned to monitor overzealous crowd control techniques used by the Seattle Police—of which there were plenty. Johnny's "community service" function was to obtain badge numbers and to be available as a witness in police brutality lawsuits that the ACLU was bringing against cops.

On his first stint as a parade marshal, Johnny suffered a failure of nerve. He was in the middle of a noisy and disrespectful crowd blocking the entrance to the Seafirst Building on Fourth and Madison. The concerned citizens, most of whom were barely old enough to vote, ignored the order to disperse that blared out from police bullhorns. The Tactical Squad for the SPD charged the crowd, waving billy clubs in such an unfriendly manner that Johnny jumped over the wall to Spring Street and ran away.

Sprinting north on Fourth Avenue, he rationalized that the ACLU would surely want to save his services for another 'parade'. 'There is a fine line between dedication to duty and stupidity,' he thought. As Johnny watched the rout from a safe distance, he realized he'd been in so much of a hurry that he hadn't written down a single badge number.

While paying his debt to society, Johnny was also trying to fix his P-11. Running out of oil when traveling at high speed had melted the right piston onto the cylinder sleeve and burned a hole in the top of the piston crown. He also had to replace the primary drive cover since most of it had exploded onto the side of the road.

WHY DON'T TAIWANESE BOYS LIKE TO READ?

BY BILL COSTELLO

The percent of college enrollees who are male has declined dramatically in recent decades in the US. Bill Costello has found that the decline in education of boys—compared to that of girls—is a problem in other countries as well. He's been traveling the world in an attempt to find out why, and to learn about good educational practices in other countries. —Ed.

While Taiwanese students earn scores among the highest in the world in science and math, they do not perform as well in reading.

Taiwanese fourth graders only scored slightly above average in reading performance on the most recent Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). Taiwanese 15-year-olds only scored average in reading performance on the most recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

A major problem facing Taiwan is that boys there do not perform nearly as well as girls in reading. As an educational researcher, I have been trying to understand why.

Recently I was invited to observe classes at two public elementary schools in Taiwan: Dan Fong Elementary School located in Taipei City and Affiliated Experimental Elementary School of Taipei Municipal University of Education (ESTMUE) located in Taipei County.

As I observed Taiwanese students learning language arts, it became clear to me that girls enjoy reading more than boys. The girls participated more in class discussions about the books they were reading. When asked, the girls more often indicated that reading is a pleasurable activity.

Research shows that students who view reading as a pleasurable activity tend to read more frequently. Research also shows that reading more frequently is one of the best ways to improve reading skills.

It's not surprising, then, that the average reading score for Taiwanese fourth graders on the most recent PIRLS was 13 points higher for girls and the average reading score for Taiwanese 15-year-olds on the most recent PISA was 21 points higher for girls.

The research is clear: greater reading skills equates



Costello, center, on a visit to a Taiwanese school.

He needed more parts than he could afford.

After fulfilling his service, to at least part of the community, he was refunded his bail. That was enough money to buy the parts he needed but not enough to pay a repair shop. He rented tools and rebuilt the engine himself. The work was far from perfect. Even though it ran again, Johnny knew the P-11 was on borrowed time.

Johnny got a driver's license in a fake name so he could keep driving the P-11. He started taking chemistry classes at the UW to learn how to synthesize cocaine in his basement. It didn't work. The decision to take chemistry classes contributed to the loss of his student deferment because of low grades. Johnny received a notice to report for an induction physical at the Selective Service building on Elliott Avenue—later to become the dog pound. He reported for his induction physical shortly before Christmas 1971, and was classified 4F. That's another story. . . .

After Johnny beat the draft, he dropped out of school, got a job and started saving his money. He bought a brand new Norton Commando 750 Roadster that went even faster than the P-11.

John Merriam is a lawyer practicing in Seattle who represents commercial fishermen and other seamen on wage and injury claims.

"Thirty-Five Cents," another adventure of Johnny Horizon—the frugal scofflaw 1970s motorcyclist—can be found on page 14 of www.wafreepress.org/92/issue92.pdf (May/June 2008 issue).

education

to greater success in school. If something isn't done to improve boys' reading skills in Taiwan, then fewer and fewer boys will continue on to higher education.

Ever since 1998, more Taiwanese women have been enrolled in higher education than men. The proportion of educated women has increased each year while the proportion of educated men has decreased.

As jobs that require little education have increasingly diminished, more and more men have become unemployed. Ever since 1996, male unemployment rates in Taiwan have been significantly higher than those of females. This unemployment rate gender gap has widened over the years and is partially responsible for Taiwan's unemployment rate hitting a record high this year.

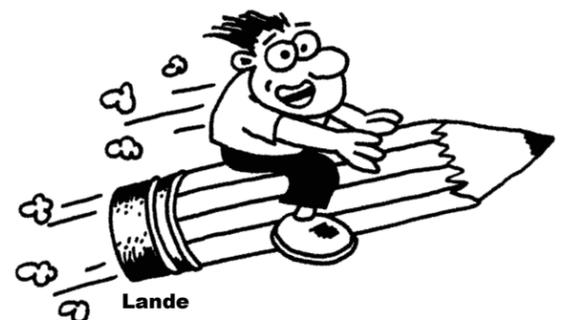
Taiwanese boys lag behind girls in reading partly because most of their teachers have not been trained to recognize how the learning style of boys differs from the learning style of girls.

For example, boys learn better when teachers use more competition, physical activity, and hands-on learning in the classroom. And boys are more likely to enjoy reading nonfiction, stories with action and adventure, and stories with male protagonists.

In some countries—like America—new training programs and teacher education programs are beginning to train teachers to understand these learning differences between boys and girls. Newly trained teachers are improving boys' reading skills without disadvantaging girls.

Taiwan can improve boy's reading performance by training teachers to recognize how the learning style of boys differs from the learning style of girls.

Bill Costello, training director of Making Minds Matter, teaches parents and teachers the best strategies for educating boys. He can be reached at www.making-mindsmatter.com or trainer@makingmindsmatter.com.



FANNING THE FLAMES OF DISCONTENT

Part 1: the Spokane Free Speech Fight

BY DALE RAUGUST

Did you know Spokane was likely the site of the first hunger strike in the US? It happened during a time when the IWW was waging—and winning—many “free speech fights.” One of the most bitterly fought of these was in Spokane. Here’s the story.

During the winter of 1909-10, Spokane Washington was the battleground of one of the most significant free speech fights in the history of the United States. Men and women stood in defiance of a law which prohibited public speaking on the downtown streets of Spokane. This was the gathering place for migratory workers who assembled along Stevens Street every morning except Sunday, and were charged a dollar or two by corrupt employment agencies which sent them off to non-existent jobs or jobs which lasted only a few days.

After a few days on the job, workers were often fired, to be replaced by other men sent by the employment agencies. This created what union organizer and agitator Elizabeth Gurley Flynn called “perpetual motion—one man going to a job, one man on the job, and one man leaving the job.”

William Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners testified before a Senate Committee in 1916 that the IWW had documented thousands of cases, including Deeks and Deeks, a mining firm near Weatherby, Oregon which hired and fired 5,000 men during the summer of 1908 to fill a crew of 100 men. At other times an employment agency would send a hundred men to fill 10 vacancies or dozens of men to a job site that did not request any workers.

Not only did the men have to pay the fee to get the job but they had to spend the money and time to travel to nonexistent jobs as far away as the mines of Montana.

The newly organized Industrial Workers of the World came to Spokane during the summer of 1908 to stop this abuse of working men and organize a local chapter of the IWW. This is the story of that effort and the men and women who led the fight for free speech and unionized labor in Spokane, including Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, one of the best speakers on the IWW circuit.

Prelude to the Fight

The Industrial Workers of the World conducted approximately 26 free speech fights in western cities between 1908 and 1916. During 1908 and 1909 several short free speech fights were fought in the northwest.

In Portland the law prohibiting free speech was declared unconstitutional and the city responded to the employment shark allegations by opening up a free employment agency to help people get jobs, thus decreasing the profits of the employment agencies and reducing the conflict in the city.

The Seattle and Missoula battles against the employment agencies were also short lived with good results for workers. In Missoula the charges against the speakers were dismissed and the IWW was allowed to organize the workers.

The issues in Spokane were the same as in Missoula, “shark” employment agencies charging fees to send men to nonexistent jobs. The men were then stranded in remote places without money or friends. The city of Spokane would prove to be, however, more resistant to the efforts of the IWW.

Spokane was significant in the free speech and labor fights because in 1909, the city had a population of over 104,000 in the 1910 census and was considered the central metropolis for all of the inland Pacific Northwest. In the winter the harvest and railroad construction workers, miners and lumbermen came to Spokane to rest up and spend what little money they made on skid-row hotels, whiskey and women.

Spokane was also the central location for unemployed workers to gather and be dispersed to new jobs by employment agencies. A long time Wobbly, Richard Brazier, described Spokane in 1907 as “one of the few wide-open towns, so common in the Northwest.” What you wanted you could get, “vice was rampant, prostitution and gambling were legalized.”

James H. Walsh, a union organizer with the IWW arrived in Spokane during the summer of 1908. Walsh had just left Nome, Alaska, where he organized a local branch of the IWW and started a newspaper called the Nome Industrial Worker, the predecessor of the Spokane Industrial Worker. Spokane was considered the greatest challenge to the IWW. Not only was it a large city, but it

was also the employment hub for eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, northern Idaho and western Montana. At that time there was no prohibition against street speaking.

During the summer and fall of 1908, James Walsh was so successful in signing up new members, 1,500 by October, 1908, that the employment agencies formed an association and took their complaint to the City Council, which passed in October, 1908 an ordinance prohibiting “the holding of public meetings on any of the streets, sidewalks, or alleys within the fire limits.” The purpose of the ordinance was purportedly to control traffic so that fire wagons would not be delayed. The ordinance was to be effective on January 1, 1909.

The IWW was allowed to meet in public parks or vacant lots but was prohibited from speaking in front of the employment agencies which were all located within the central business district on Stevens street. After their first union hall was burned down Walsh and the IWW rented a hall at the corner of Stevens and Front Street, 412-420 Front Street, (now Spokane Falls Blvd.) where they published their newspaper, The Industrial Worker, and where they could hold indoor meetings.

At first there were no disturbances. IWW organizers did speak on streets in defiance of the ordinance, sometimes resulting in arrests.

In early January, 1909, Walsh spoke on the streets to prevent a large crowd of angry workers from rioting and destroying the office of the Red Cross Employment Agency, one of the worst offenders.

As reported by the Spokesman Review, an angry crowd of 2,000 to 3,000 workers had gathered outside of the Red Cross Employment Agency ready to riot and destroy the offices “when James H. Walsh, organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World, mounting a chair in the street, stemmed the rising tide of riot and pacified the multitude. In the opinion of the police had it not been for the intervention of Walsh a riot would surely have followed. Walsh discouraged violence and summoned all workers to the IWW hall where he warned the crowd against any outbreaks.”

Walsh was eventually arrested in late March, 1909. The Industrial Worker reported in the April 8, 1909 issue that “Judge Kennan tried J. H. Walsh in the Superior Court on Tuesday, April 6, and made short work of it.” The Industrial Worker reported that the jury was out for six minutes and “might have taken longer to ‘arrive’ at a verdict but it seems the cow belonging to the jury foreman was sick and the juror had to go home.”²⁴

The Battle Begins

Flynn did not stay in Spokane until mid-November, 1909, after the free speech movement had started and hundreds had been arrested. Flynn had been following IWW campaigns in other cities that summer, but had made trips to Spokane during the summer of 1909 to raise awareness and funds for the IWW. She spoke in Spokane on June 29, 1909, declaring that:

“The working class of this country have not learned that they must organize an international union, a union that lays aside secondary considerations of creed; the language that they worship their God in; the nation and place that they are born in; and the color of their skin and the texture of their hair and all of these minor features, and remember the fact that first and last and all the time they are wage slaves lined up against a solid capitalistic force.”

The Spokane City Council responded to the Flynn attack on capitalism and the “slave labor system” by amending the prohibition against street speaking on August 10, 1909, to exempt religious groups like the Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America from the ordinance. The response from the local IWW chapter was to openly challenge the law.

On October 25, 1909, James Thompson, local organizer for the IWW, had been arrested and charged with violating the ordinance. At his trial the new amended law which exempted religious groups was declared unconstitutional but Municipal Judge Mann, who then declared “that the old ordinance, 4881, was now in force, which provides for the arrest, of persons obstructing the streets or otherwise committing nuisances or infringing upon the rights of others.”

Thompson was convicted under the original law. The IWW then announced their intention to challenge the original law. They called out to all IWW locals to come to Spokane to join the fight which was scheduled for November 2, 1909. Elizabeth Flynn wrote for the Industrial Worker that “only going to jail by the hundreds will” accomplish their objectives.

On the morning of November 2, 1909, the Spokesman-Review announced that Police Chief Sullivan had called in every available officer to deal with the expected disturbances. Chief Sullivan said: “We have plenty of room and can accommodate 500 or more if necessary.”

County Commissioner F. K. McBroom announced that the county has established a special rock pile on the property owned by “Colonel D. P. Jenkins at Monroe street and Broadway...” That evening the Spokane Daily Chronicle reported that “between 3 and 4:30 this afternoon...well over a hundred” men were arrested.

The paper reported that the IWW intended to put 500 more on the soapbox tomorrow and that

“Orders have gone in to the fire department that if the IWW continue what they term their ‘matinees’ tomorrow to assemble and with well directed streams from the big hose scatter the crowd.... The law breakers are packed into jail 20 and 25 to a cell. Several women have met the same fate and others are expected to follow their feminine companions in the street speaking.”

In addition to the speakers, union leaders were arrested in the union hall at Stevens and Front and charged with criminal conspiracy, the encouragement of others to break the law.

The next day the call went out by telegraph for additional men. The Portland IWW announced they would send 500 men with 200 already on the way. In the next issue of the Industrial Worker, November 10, 1909, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn wrote:

“This fight is serious. It must be won. Remember, ‘an injury to one is an injury to all’. We must never give up. We have just begun to fight. The men in jail have refused to work on the rock pile. They are starving rather than eat the dry bread flung at them. These men are brave loyal supporters of the cause. They are heroes in the battle for labor. ‘Can you afford to be a coward?’ (emphasis in original) Sympathy won’t win this fight. Only going to jail by the hundreds will do that.”

The Spokane Socialist Party and the Women’s Club, a suffrage group, announced their support for the IWW. A mass meeting was scheduled for the evening of November 3, 1909 at the Masonic Temple “with addresses by Mrs. ZW Commerford of the College Women’s Equal Suffrage Club, Mrs. Rose B. Moore, (wife of IWW attorney Fred Moore), chairman of the social economics department of the Women’s Club, and by a clergyman whose name was not given.”

The Spokane Press announced its support for the street speakers by publishing the IWW advertisements of meetings and reporting on the conditions of the men and women in the county jail. The newspaper reported that a recall petition had been started against Mayor Pratt for cooperating with the Industrial Workers of the World and that “Eugene V. Debs, the great socialist leader of the nation in politics, has started west,” to speak in Spokane.

see next page

We Need Fishmongers

The WA Free Press is a volunteer publication. We need help from fishmongers, dogcatchers, manicurists and practical jokers to keep the publication flourishing. Really!

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The Spokane Press referred to the men and women arrested as “volunteer martyrs” and that another two hundred men plan to be arrested the following day. The following day under the headline “Human Bedlam in the City Bastille” The Spokane Press reported on the deplorable conditions of the jail declaring that: “One of the men, James D. Gordon, who claims to have been kept for more than 30 hours in a veritable sweatbox with 33 other prisoners is said to be in a serious condition...”

In an editorial The Spokane Press declared that the IWW has represented itself well, “all rowdyism (sic) has been strictly prohibited... In the same manner the police must carry out their program. Every brutal arrest, every unfair use of power, will only react (sic) on the city government, and thus forward the cause they are instructed to suppress.”

On November 3, 1909, The Spokesman Review reported that 103 men were arrested and that the prisoners stayed up all night giving speeches “in six different languages” followed by the songs of the IWW.

The police shut down the press of the IWW’s Industrial Worker.

That evening the Spokane Daily Chronicle reported that any man convicted of disorderly conduct in an attempt to speak on the streets would be given a sentence of 30 days on the rock pile and that any man who refused to work would be put on bread and water and kept in a dark cell.

To counter the quickness of justice and cause more hardship on the city, the IWW announced that each man arrested would demand a separate jury trial. On the second day 97 more men were arrested. All the men and women arrested from both days were charged with disorderly conduct instead of violating the street speaking ordinance. Chief of Police Sullivan, in consultation with Judge Mann, determined this charge would be more difficult to attack in court.

On November 4, 1909, the Spokesman-Review reported that two of the three women arrested the previous two days had been released. 33 of the men were sentenced to 30 days on the rock pile. Additional arrests were made of men who were not speaking but who were instead union organizers or editors of the Industrial Worker. Also arrested were men reading or speaking to the crowd from their office window overlooking the street. Attorney Steven Crane was arrested and charged with inciting a riot as he spoke from his office window.

“Justice Mann, irritated by the flat contradiction of officers’ testimony uttered by prisoners charged with disorderly, told the men that if the practice of denying all charges was kept up, there would be some arrests for perjury.”

The right of jury trial was effectively quashed by the court’s announcement that jury trials would be held only one hour a week, thus requiring weeks in jail awaiting the opportunity for a jury. Later that evening the Spokane Daily Chronicle reported that the men arrested refused to work in the rock pile and instead were content to survive on a diet of bread and water.

That night, The Spokane Press announced that an “indignation meeting” would be held in the evening to protest the free speech arrests. No arrests were made on the third day of the demonstrations, the police apparently deciding on new tactics.

The Chronicle reported that: “A detail of officers was sent to the place and succeeded in dispersing the crowd, after a few minutes. It was necessary for the officers to use a little violence in many cases to make the men move on.”

It was not only the Spokane papers that covered the arrests. The Portland Oregonian gave the story complete

coverage and within a week the story had gone national. On November 4, 1909 the Oregonian reported that “1,000 men were on their way to Spokane in empty freight cars to join their IWW brothers. By November 5, the city jail was filled to overflowing, ‘Still they come, and still they try to speak.’” The men arrested were subject to brutality and torture by “sweating” them in crowded cells, then transferring them—drenched—into cold cells.

Other men were arrested not for street speaking but for showing support to the street speakers. F. Bordine, “a well known Swedish music teacher” was arrested for “unlawful assembly” when he applauded one of the street speakers.

William Z. Foster, a correspondent for the Seattle based labor paper, The Workingman’s Paper, was arrested for just being in the crowd at a free speech event. He spent 47 days in the Spokane City Jail and published his report on January 22, 1910. After his arrest he was interrogated for half an hour and then placed in the sweatbox.

Five witnesses testified at his trial that he was a correspondent and was not speaking, yet he was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days plus a \$100.00 fine. He was immediately placed on a bread and water diet. He received, like all the prisoners “one-fifth of a five-cent loaf of bread twice daily”. Despite his refusal to work he was shackled by the leg to another man and by the other leg to a fifteen pound ball and lead to the rock pile. The weather was very cold and many of the men worked just to stay warm.

Back at the jail Foster reported how the men, even in jail, held “rousing meetings” electing officers and set aside specific time for strategy sessions. Prisoners arrested for the crime of being poor (vagrancy) and other minor crimes were signed up. Procedures were put into place to deal with complaints of police brutality.

Jail authorities, decided the men were getting too organized so they remove those prisoners perceived to be the leaders and placed them in the “strong box” (solitary confinement), normally reserved for hardened criminals. There was no medical treatment. Foster describes a man who died from what was apparently a seizure.

Foster, suffered from an ulcerated tooth which prevented him from sleeping as the pain was so intense. For ten days he suffered until he was released on a day bond to go to the dentist.

Torture of the Prisoners

When the jail overflowed an abandoned unheated school house, Franklin School, was used for the prisoners. Conditions at Franklin were even worse than at the city jail. The building had no heat and Spokane was going through a cold spell. The men slept in below freezing temperatures at night. To make matters worse, at the slightest provocation the police would turn the icy water from a fire hose on them and then make them stay in their cold wet clothing.

“Three times a week the police shuttled the prisoners from the school, eight at a time, to the city jails for baths. Guards stripped the prisoners, pushed them under a scalding spray followed by an icy rinse, and brought them back to their freezing quarters in the school. Three Wobblies died in the completely unheated Franklin School. One month, 334 prisoners were hospitalized, another month 681.”

The Wobblies on the street rallied to the support of the prisoners being transported, throwing fruit, bread and tobacco at them. Those who managed to catch a piece of fruit were beaten by the police until they dropped what they had caught. One man had an apple in his mouth and a police officer broke his jaw to force him to release it.

Another man, Joseph Gordon, in a letter to the edi-



tor of The Workingman’s Paper, a Seattle based labor newspaper, described his own experiences in the Spokane jails. Gordon said he was one of the first to be arrested on November 2, 1909. He was “thrown into the Spokane sweatbox, well-named ‘The Black Hole of Calcutta,’ along with... about 28 others....” Gordon said that the jailor “closed the air-tight steel door” on the prisoners and turned on the heat. There were 28 men in the cell crammed so tight that “we could not sit down. We were so crowded that we could not conform to the ordinary decencies of human beings, and were compelled to stand in our own offal.”

The prisoners spent 29 hours in the cell without food or water and were then moved to an unheated cold cell for four hours until it was time for them to appear in court before Judge Mann. Many of the men fainted in court including Gordon who consequently could not enter a plea. When he woke up he had been discharged.

To protest the rations of bread and water many of the men went on a hunger strike which lasted for about ten days. The Spokane Press reported the start of the strike:

“The stomach pump will be in demand at the city jail. Like the women suffragists of England who refused to eat the meager prison fare offered by the authorities, and starved till, alarmed at their condition, the police attempted to force food into their stomachs with the pump, 200 members of the Industrial Workers of the World, under sentence in the city jail, on bread and water, have begun a hunger strike... Thus Spokane claims the distinction of having seen the first hunger strike in the United States.”⁶⁹

Two days later The Spokane Press reported under the headline “Hunger Strikers Sick But Still Fight” that the hunger strike was continuing and that the men in prison were in high spirits. In the same issue the newspaper reported on the treatment received by attorney Samuel Crane. Crane had not spoken on the street but from the window of his law office. He declared that he was beaten and punched and kicked before arriving at the jail and once at the jail was immediately placed in the sweatbox.

He described his entrance into the cell: “On entering the cell a hot fetid gust as of a fiery furnace struck me. The bottom of the cell was wet and soggy; the odor insufferable, like the stench of a cesspool.”

The women in jail did not receive the physical torture of hot and cold water and beatings that the men received; but theirs was another kind of terror. Agnes Thelca Fair was arrested on November 5, 1909. She was first confined with another woman, who Agnes Fair described as a “fallen woman.” Then the police removed the other woman and put Fair in a dark cell by herself.

Later “about ten, big burley brutes came in and began to question me about our union. I was so scared I could not talk. One said, ‘We’ll make her talk.’ Another said, ‘She’ll talk before we get through with her.’ Another said, ‘F**k her and she’ll talk.’ Just then one started to unbutton my waist, and I went into spasms...”

Fair passed out and when she awoke she was in bed. Next to her was a “man disguised as a woman... I thought it was a drunken woman until the officers went out. Then I felt a large hand creeping over me...” Fair see next page

Scene in Municipal Courtroom at Arraignment of I. W. W. “Free Speech” Rioters



Photo circa 1909 from the Spokane Spokesman Review newspaper. This paper had a generally hostile editorial stance toward the free speech fight, though a number of other newspapers and civic organizations were supportive of the Wobblies’ efforts.

SPOKANE HISTORY from previous page

screamed “frantically” and was “frothing at the mouth.” She was relieved when two other female IWW prisoners were brought to her cell.

As the men in jail fought to stay alive, the men on the streets continued to fight to get arrested. The city of Spokane decided on some new strategies. About half of the men arrested were not US citizens; so the solution seemed to be to deport those foreigners arrested. This would take the cooperation of the federal government and time for processing. On November 7, 1909, the Spokesman-Review published a story that the city was now working in cooperation with the federal government to deny citizenship to those foreigners who were participants in the free speech fight.

The city also pressured landlords not to rent to the IWW, thus forcing them into open air meetings. Inside the jail the leaders were separated from the other prisoners and then the rank and file members were told that the leaders are enjoying steak and potatoes while they survive on bread and water.

A picture of the leaders with plates of food set in front of them was taken by the Spokesman-Review and published in an attempt to drive a wedge between the leaders and the membership. The tactic did not work as the leaders went on a hunger strike in solidarity with the workers.

The tactic of the hunger strike, meant to evoke sympathy for the cause in the conscience of the oppressor, was called off after city officials declared that the men in jail should be allowed to kill themselves by hunger, that this mass suicide would be good for the city as it would rid the city of the rabble.

By November 10, 1909, both the city and county jails were full as was the Franklin school. New prisoners were now taken to the federal prison at Fort George Wright. Within a day, 100 prisoners had been confined at the fort.

The public's opinion of the Wobblies was a reflection of the attitude of the city of Spokane. In editorial after editorial the Spokesman Review described the Wobblies as less than human. The Wobblies were described as men with no work ethic “who have learned to despise all human authority, (and) have become worse than worthless units of society...”

A Salvation Army worker attempted to conduct services at the jail and reported that: “In all my experiences with prisoners, I have never seen such a hard-looking lot of men as those now in jail for street-speaking.... I am at a loss to find a name which would apply to them. They are not men.”

The suffering and dedication of the street speakers generated national publicity and seemed to obtain results. On November 15, 1909, the Spokane Daily Chronicle reported that Charles F. Hubbard, state labor commissioner, was starting an investigation on the employment sharks and that the problem was not confined to Spokane but existed in every major city in the state.

It was announced by the labor commissioner that the investigation would begin in Bellingham, which did not immediately help the situation in Spokane.⁸³ Into this tense situation arrived the “girl agitator”, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

The Arrival of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

When Flynn arrived in Spokane she reported to the IWW hall and surprised the men in charge with her obvious pregnancy. It was decided that it was too dangerous for her to speak on the streets and risk arrest so she was assigned to indoor speaking events and fund raising activities.

When the editors of the Industrial Workers were arrested once again, Flynn took over as the new editor. On November 30, 1909, as she was walking to the IWW hall she was arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy, a state charge carrying a maximum penalty of five years in prison. Flynn described her arrest in an article from The Workingman's Paper and in her autobiography: “I was taken to the chief's office where Prosecutor Attorney Pugh put me through the ‘third degree.’” Flynn's attorney, Fred Moore came to the door “and asked for admittance but was denied.” Flynn refused to answer the questions. She said that the police were “all extremely courteous, probably due to the information conveyed to them over the phone that my physical condition was such that it would be dangerous to be otherwise. But the ordeal of a rapid fire of questioning is not as easy as it looks from the outside.”

Flynn goes on to describe the night she spent in the city:

“I was placed in a cell with two other women, poor miserable specimens of the victims of society. One woman is being held on a charge that her husband put her in a

disorderly house. The other is serving 90 days for robbing a man in a disorderly resort in Spokane. Never before had I come in contact with women of that type, and they were interesting. Also, I was glad to be with them, for in a jail one is always safer with others than alone. One of the worst features of being locked up is the terrible feeling of insecurity, of being at the mercy of men you do not trust for a moment, day or night. These miserable outcasts of society did everything in their power to make me comfortable. One gave me the spread and pillow cover from her own bed when she saw my disgust at the dirty gray blankets...the girls gave me fruit that had been sent to them. They moderated their language.... in the morning they gave me soap and clean towels...”



an anti-IWW editorial cartoon from the Spokane Spokesman Review

Next Flynn made allegations that the two women in the cell with her were prostituted during the night. These allegations sent shock waves through the community and prompted the police to raid the IWW office and take every issue of the Industrial Worker that the article was to appear in. They then shut down the presses damaging the equipment so that no further issues could be printed.

Despite this action the story went national, first published in the December 11, 1909 issue of The Workingman's Paper, and reprinted in many other newspapers across the country. This is how Flynn described what happened overnight in the city jail:

“The jailers are on terms of disgusting familiarity with these women, probably because the later cannot help themselves or don't care... They are unconscious of their degradation and solicit no sympathy. Perhaps they shouldn't be conscious, for society is to blame and not they. I was put in with them about 11 o'clock, yet the lights were burning bright... so I threw my clock over me and tried to sleep... The younger girl remained up... Finally the jailer came, opened the cell door and took her out. She remained a long time and when she returned I gathered from the whispered conversation with the older one, the following: that she had been taken down to see a man on the floor below... she went again and remained a long time... Taking a woman prisoner out of her cell at the dead hours of night several times to visit sweethearts (the term that the woman used to describe the men) looked to me as if she were practicing her profession inside the jail as well as out.”

The police seized the paper under the criminal libel law, a law commonly used to suppress the freedom of the press, and which no longer exists on the books in Washington State. The Spokane Free Speech Fight was a fight for more than just free speech, but also freedom of the press and the right to peaceably assemble.

The day before this article appeared Flynn was convicted in Municipal Court of criminal conspiracy, but immediately appealed to Superior Court. Meanwhile the free speech fight in Spokane had hit a snag caused by the switchmen's strike against the railroads. With the rails shut down there was no way for the migratory workers to get to their jobs, or to get to Spokane to participate in the free speech fight.

Meanwhile, without the railroads to bring in new recruits, the IWW shifted tactics, filing dozens of damage lawsuits against the city, and city officials totaling about \$120,000. These lawsuits were filed by IWW members who had been beaten or otherwise mistreated while in the custody of the city. Personally named were all the city officials

and selected police officers who were identified as being the worse of the lot.

The Spokane Press editorialized on November 9th that Spokane should adopt the same street speaking law that the IWW won in their fight in Seattle, an ordinance which prohibited street speaking only during the hours of 5 to 7 pm, as the purported purpose of the law was to regulate traffic and keep the fire lanes open during rush hour.

The Industrial Workers were willing to accept such a law and a week later, on November 22, 1909, began circulating a petition to put an amendment to the anti-street speaking ordinance on the ballot for the registered voters of the city of Spokane to vote on. Twenty percent of the voters could have put the matter on the ballot.

Even with no additional arrests for street speaking, arrests continued for IWW workers. On December 1, 8 boys, ages 11 to 16 were arrested in the IWW hall as they were getting ready to deliver the latest issue of the Industrial Worker newspaper. The boys were all transported to the juvenile court. The Spokesman-Review reported that delinquency charges would be filed against their parents for allowing the boys to be employed by the IWW.

Chief Sullivan said that: “If we stood by and did nothing these boys would (learn) revolutionary principles which would influence them throughout life.”

In responding to the arrests Gurley Flynn wrote “Is the time coming in this United States when Socialists are to be deprived of their children because they are Socialists? There is no insult too gross, no trick too low, no act too heartless for these brutal representatives of law and order to resort to. Who is to fix the standard of what constitutes proper care for children and correct ideas to teach them—shyster lawyers, drunken judges and ignorant, illiterate police officers?”

On December 20, 1909 the IWW hall was again raided in an effort by the police to shut down all IWW operations in the city. This time the police drove about 200

IWW men into the streets where they assembled next to the rock pile where IWW prisoners were breaking rock. An outdoor speech was given and more arrests were made.

Earlier in the day five men had been arrested for vagrancy when they attempted to sell the Industrial Worker on the street. The vagrancy law was normally reserved for men who appeared to be out of work and who were hanging about in the downtown area, but now that crime had been extended to cover a man who was working, although at a job that the police did not agree with. Nine additional arrests were made on December 22, 1909.

After the end of 1909, the arrests stopped for a time. Flynn was out of town speaking at mining camps and cities across the Northwest. By now she was five months pregnant and out on \$5,000 bond posted by several women's clubs in the city. The Municipal Court verdict had been appealed to the Superior Court and her retrial was scheduled for early February, 1910.

During this time there was only an occasional mention of the IWW in the Spokane papers. The Industrial Worker was now being published in Seattle where it could do so without weekly police raids. Everyone was catching their breaths for what was announced as the second phase of the Free Speech Fight set to begin in early March. In the interim, Flynn's lawyers were preparing for their new trial.

The Trial of Flynn

Flynn was first tried in Justice Mann's Municipal Court in early December, 1909, and was convicted of conspiracy to violate the anti-street-speaking ordinance. Her attorneys immediately appealed the conviction to the Superior Court where she would receive a trial before a jury of twelve men. The trial was set to begin in early February, 1910.

Often the newspapers presented the testimony in an amusing manner. On February 17, 1910, the Spokesman Review reported that Hartwell Shippery of Chicago was called as a witness. Shippery was at that time confined in the Spokane City Jail where he was serving six months on a conspiracy charge. He was not one of the men originally tried with Flynn but was tried separately and did not appeal.

Shippery admitted he was the author of the article that appeared in the Industrial Worker entitled “The Story of the Spokane Fight”. He admitted “having written the line ‘the illiterate and parasite lackey of the capitalistic class, Judge Mann,’ and ‘that long, lean, lank, fish-eyed monster, Chief of Police Sullivan’” which brought the audience and

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Elizabeth Flynn to laughter.

After Shippery was dismissed from the witness stand he was, according to the Spokesman Review, surrounded by many women "and feminine hands pressed their encouragement and pretty lips whispered congratulations to him while the deputy sheriff waited, disgustedly, to escort him back to the remained of his six months' service for Spokane County."

Other witnesses were called by the defense to testify about the conditions of the prisoners, technically not relevant to the issue of guilt or innocence, but information that the defendants wanted to make public.

The star witness, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, took the stand on February 17, 1910, and answered each question with a speech denouncing the capitalistic system, the employment agencies, and city and jail officials. "The most bitter partisan could not but admit her sincerity and frankness as she gave her testimony, although there may not be the smallest agreement in the detail of her statement."99

With the testimony concluded, all that was left was closing arguments. Before the arguments were scheduled one member of the jury, a Mr. Ford, became ill with rheumatism, which delayed the closing arguments for several days. It was during this time that Prosecutor Pugh gave an interview to the local newspapers that caused a bitterly contested motion to dismiss the charges or grant the defendants a new trial in a different venue.

This interview was claimed by the defendants' counsel to be a deliberate attempt to influence the jury. The jury men were not sequestered but allowed to go home after each day in court so it is likely that they read the coverage in their newspapers and in conversations with friends and members of their family, although the judge instructed not to do so.

Pugh told a Spokesman Review reporter that he feared for the jury's safety should they return a verdict of "not guilty."

On Saturday, February 20, 1910, his interview was published. Pugh said that "it is well known that a great uprising is now being planned by the Industrial Workers of the World for Spokane in March and the scenes that have been laid in Spokane in the fight over will be insignificant in comparison with the viciousness of what may be expected in March. I cannot think of such a state without blood being spilled, and as sure as there is bloodshed, someone is going to get hung."

The next Monday, as court resumed, motions were filed to dismiss the charges and declare a mistrial and once again for a change in venue. The motions were both denied.

Final jury deliberation continued for over seventeen hours until a verdict was reached. Flynn was declared not guilty, but a co-defendant, Charley Filigno was found guilty. Some thought this was because Flynn was obviously pregnant and the jury took sympathy on her. Flynn insisted on making her own closing argument and in doing so she appealed to the emotions of the men on the jury describing for them in vivid detail the working and living conditions of the transient workers as well as the incidents of police brutality and the condition of the jail.

She also acknowledged that she tried to convince men to come to Spokane to speak on the streets, and thus to violate the law in order to be arrested and fill the jail. The prosecutor was furious by the finding of not guilty. As the jury foreman, George R. Cheney, told the prosecutor: "She ain't a criminal, Fred, an' you know it! If you think this jury, or any jury, is goin' to send that pretty Irish girl to jail merely for being big hearted and idealistic, to mix with all those crooks

down at the pen, you've got another guess comin'."

Flynn was surprised that she was acquitted. She later wrote in her autobiography that: "By this time I was obviously pregnant and even the fast-fading Western chivalry undoubtedly came into play."

A more reasonable explanation for the acquittal was that the conspiracy alleged by the indictment was to have taken place between October 20 to November 12, 1909, and Flynn was not in Spokane during this time, arriving on November 16, 1909. There was also testimony that her image and name were used on postcards without her knowledge.

It was not unusual for Flynn's image to be used on promotional mailings and posters. The verdict was analyzed as a compromise by the Spokesman Review, but it can fairly be concluded that the jury followed the law and rendered a verdict that complied with their instructions. The jury instructions, available within the microfilmed court file also appear to have followed the law and been fairly given.

With the trial over the IWW prepared for another demonstration to begin on March 10, 1910. Prior to the deadline the IWW organizers and the city engaged in negotiations and reached a compromise which essentially gave the IWW a complete victory.

Participants in the negotiations included for the city of Spokane: Mayor Pratt, Chief of Police Sullivan, Prosecuting Attorney Pugh, and corporate city attorney John Blair. Representing the IWW were JJ McKelvey, JJ Stark, DJ Gillispie and William Foster.

Spokane agreed to allow the IWW to hold public meetings within their hall, to release all men and women confined in jail for public speaking after the conclusion of their sentences or within 90 days whichever occurred first, to publish their newspaper, the Industrial Worker without interference subject to the normal libel laws. Mayor Pratt also agreed to use his influence to convince the city council to repeal the anti-street-speaking ordinance, and replace it with an ordinance similar to Seattle's.

In return the IWW agreed to dismiss all damage suits against the city and officials of the city which had now totaled about \$130,000 in requested damages, to follow any new street speaking ordinance passed by the city council as outlined above, and to not file any appeals of recent convictions including that of Filigno. The most significant victory for the IWW was the repeal of the licenses of 19 out of the 31 employment agencies that were the biggest abusers.

The compromise was generally well received although it required the agreement of individuals who had suffered abuse at the hand of the police and who had filed individual lawsuits. The IWW could not negotiate the dismissal of these lawsuits; only exert influence to do so. The lawsuits were mostly dismissed, however, and the IWW went on to organize the workers in Spokane.

With the investigation of the employment agencies by the state labor secretary new laws were passed requiring the employers to pay the fees for the procurement of employees, thus ending the abuses. Laws which prohibited employment agencies from charging workers a fee for finding them a job were declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in 1939, although as the depression ended and World War II began, jobs became plentiful and it was no longer a labor issue.

Stay tuned for "PART 2: free speech fights in Everett, Aberdeen, and elsewhere," which will be published in our online version at www.wafreepress.org in November.

Dale Raugust is a Spokane historian and a retired lawyer who is in the process of writing a book on the early history of Spokane. The above article is a condensed version of his thoroughly footnoted draft.

media

AFGHANISTAN GAP: PRESS VS. PUBLIC

Media Beat

by Norman Solomon

Recently, a lot of media stories have compared President Johnson's war in Vietnam and President Obama's war in Afghanistan. The comparisons are often valid, but a key parallel rarely gets mentioned—the media's insistent support for the war even after most of the public has turned against it.

This omission relies on the mythology that the US news media functioned as tough critics of the Vietnam War in real time, a fairy tale so widespread that it routinely masquerades as truth. In fact, overall, the default position of the corporate media is to bond with war policymakers in Washington—insisting for the longest time that the war must go on.

In early 1968, after several years of massive escalation of the Vietnam War, the Boston Globe conducted a survey of 39 major US daily newspapers and found that not a single one had editorialized in favor of US withdrawal from Vietnam. While millions of Americans were actively demanding an immediate pullout, such a concept was still viewed as extremely unrealistic by the editorial boards of big daily papers—including the liberal New York Times and Washington Post.

A similar pattern took shape during Washington's protracted war in Iraq. Year after year, the editorial positions of major dailies have been much more supportive of the US war effort than the American public.

In mid-spring 2004, a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll was showing that "one in four Americans say troops should leave Iraq as soon as possible and another 30 percent say they should come home within 18 months." But as usual, when it came to rejection of staying the war course, the media establishment lagged way behind the populace.

Despite sometimes-withering media criticism of the Bush administration's foreign policy, all of the sizable newspapers steered clear of calling for withdrawal. Many favored sending in even more troops. On May 7, 2004, Editor & Publisher headlined a column by the magazine's editor, Greg Mitchell, this way: "When Will the First Major Newspaper Call for a Pullout in Iraq?"

Today, the gap between mainline big media and the grassroots is just as wide. Top policymakers for what has become Obama's Afghanistan war can find their assump-

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George Jantos



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Them? Oh that's just the mainstream media

AFGHANISTAN from previous page

tions mirrored in the editorials of the nation's mighty newspapers—at the same time that opinion polls are showing a dramatic trend against the war.

While a recent ABC News-Washington Post poll found that 51 percent of the public says the war in Afghanistan isn't worth fighting, the savants who determine big media's editorial positions insist on staying the course.

Recycled from the repetition-compulsion department, a spate of new hand-wringing editorials has bemoaned the shortcomings of Washington's allied leader in the occupied country. Of course the edifying pitch includes the assertion that the Afghan government and its armed forces must get their act together. (Good help is hard to find.)

"President Obama has rightfully defined success in Afghanistan as essential to America's struggle against Al Qaeda," the New York Times editorialized on Aug. 21. Yet Al Qaeda, according to expert assessments, is scarcely present in Afghanistan any more. There are dozens of countries where that terrorist group or other ones could be said to have a much larger presence. Does that mean the US government should be prepared to wage war in all of those countries?

Paragraph after paragraph of the editorial proclaimed what must be done to win the war. It was all boilerplate stuff of the sort that has littered the editorial pages of countless newspapers for many years during one protracted war after another—in Vietnam, in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

When congressional leaders and top administration officials read such editorials, they can take comfort in finding reaffirmed support for their insistence on funding more and more war. If only public opinion would cooperate, there'd be no political problem.

But, increasingly, public opinion is not cooperating. While the media establishment and the political establishment appear to belong to the same pro-war affinity group, the public is shifting to the other side of a widening credibility gap.

In a word, the problem—and the threat for the press and the state—can be summed up as democracy.

Now, one of the pivotal questions is what "liberal" and "progressive" online organizations will do in the coming months. Many are led by people who privately understand that Obama's war escalation is on track for cascading catastrophes. But they do not want to antagonize the leading Democrats in Washington, who contend that more war in Afghanistan is the only viable political course. Will that undue deference to the Obama administration continue, despite the growing evidence of disaster and the sinking poll numbers for the war?

A cautionary note for those who assume that the impacts of public opinion will put a brake on the accelerating US war in Afghanistan: That assumption is based on a misunderstanding of how the USA's warfare state really functions.

Under the headline "Someone Tell the President the War Is Over," the New York Times columnist Frank Rich wrote: "A president can't stay the course when his own citizens (let alone his own allies) won't stay with him." That was way back in August 2005. (nytimes.com/2005/08/14/opinion/14rich.html)

(The next day, I wrote a piece headlined "Someone Tell Frank Rich the War Is Not Over" comondreams.org/views05/0815-24.htm)

The war on Vietnam persisted for several horrific years after the polls were showing that most Americans disapproved. The momentum of a large-scale and protracted US war of military occupation is massive and cataclysmic after the engine has really been gunned.

That's one of the most chilling parallels between the wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan. The news media are part of the deadly process. So are the politicians who remain hitched to some expedient calculus. And so are we, to the extent that we go along with the conventional wisdom of the warfare state.

Norman Solomon is the author of many books including "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," which has been adapted into a documentary film. For more information, go to: www.normansolomon.com

When WA homebuyers get shafted, what response do they get from a monster real estate firm and from state regulators?

'So Sue Us'

BY MARK & CAROL DECOURSEY

Is Washington a consumer-friendly state? Or do government watchdogs work with predators to help them evade our laws? Learn about some local history and decide for yourself.

Newcomers to Washington in 2004, we were looking for a house and put our trust in a licensed real estate agent. As a former real estate agent myself, we knew that state licensure imposes a public trust and fiduciary duties. By statute, a Washington real estate agent is obliged to exercise reasonable skill and care and to deal honestly and in good faith. The agent must be loyal to the buyer by taking no action that is adverse or detrimental to the buyer's interest, and must disclose to the buyer any conflicts of interest.

The agent we selected was recommended and experienced. He had worked for years for one of the largest real estate firms in the Northwest.

In 2004, this agent helped us buy a home, but without revealing some critical conflicts of interest. These conflicts of interest resulted in our losing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The short story is that our agent set us up with a renovation package for the house he sold us in the city of Redmond, but he did not reveal that he was a shareholder and officer of the renovation company (which has since gone out of business). He also didn't reveal that the same company was not licensed or insured according to state law. It was a betrayal of fiduciary trust. The results? The renovations were a disaster. Structural damage was done. Our home does not meet construction code, and we cannot obtain an occupancy permit. We cannot even sell it.

The upshot was that we became defendants, cross-claimants, and counter-claimants in a million dollar law suit which began on March 29, 2006 and is still not settled. In the process, we found many other cases of such betrayal that—in our opinion—point to a pattern of abuse by the real estate firm we used.

In July, 2006 we filed a complaint with the Department of Licensing against the agent, his brokers, and the agency. Among other things, we asserted that the agent's failure to disclose his conflicts of interest (as required by Washington law RCW 18.86.050) had damaged us. We also charged the agent, his brokers, and the agency with betrayal of fiduciary trust and violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Ten months later (and before the matter went to trial), Sandra Spencer, Investigations Manager of the Real Estate Unit of the Department of Licensing, wrote:

"After examination of the documents and information available to us, we have determined that the evidence does not rise to the level to support the issuance of charges against [the agent's] real estate license... However, we reserve the right to reopen this file if a court of competent jurisdiction were to issue findings against any real estate licensees."

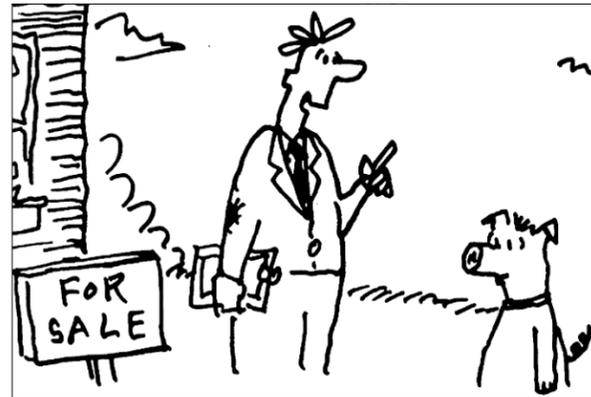
We were surprised, and asked why DOL took no action. Spencer said the DOL did not have the resources to prosecute.

Seeing public policy issues, we wrote to the Senate Consumer Protection and Housing Committee. They showed no interest. We then discovered that our very own senator, Rodney Tom, had a seat on that committee. Tom, it turns out, was an associate broker for the same real estate firm, and had sold entire subdivisions for his builder clients. We publicly decried the Committee's conflict of interest.

(In early 2009, the Consumer Protection and Housing Committee was disbanded. We now have the "Financial Institutions, Housing, and Insurance Committee," and the "Labor, Commerce, and Consumer Protection Committee." Sen. Tom does not have a seat on either committee.)

As we were pursuing our case, we discovered a similar one. An agent from the same firm had knowingly sold a rat-infested house in Shoreline to another newcomer to Washington. Victim Gary Kruger complained to DOL, but DOL similarly took no action against the agent, his broker, or the firm, despite undeniable documented proof.

Meanwhile, the firm's lawyers made no serious offers to settle our lawsuit. Instead, they used "scorched earth" legal tactics, apparently betting that we'd run out of money before the trial and that our lawyers would abandon us, as happened to Kruger.



Despite the costs and risks, we went to trial in October 2008. The jury found that the agent's undisclosed conflict of interest caused our damages and that he had violated the Consumer Protection Act. We were awarded \$522,200. A few months later, the judge awarded us an additional \$508,000 in costs and legal fees.

The firm, as you might expect, is appealing the ruling.

Remembering DOL's words, about a "court of competent jurisdiction," we notified DOL of the court's findings, in hopes that they would finally do something about our unethical agent. This time, Karen Jarvis, Program Manager of the Real Estate Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, wrote back. She had a new reason for not taking action. She told us DOL would take no action because "violation of the Consumer Protection Act is not a violation of the real estate licensing laws."

We wondered how "unfair and deceptive practices" (to quote the Consumer Protection Act) could not be a violation of the Law of Real Estate.

At this point we were making other discoveries about the influence of the large firm we were fighting, such as the fact that the firm's lead lawyer, who himself owned several franchises, helped rewrite Washington real estate law—at DOL's invitation.

We eventually discovered many other cases like ours. The firm used deceptive practices, damaged customers, forced them to sue, and used "scorched earth" legal tactics to ruin the customers or force them into submission before trial. Whenever the firm lost at trial, it appealed, sometimes all the way to the Supreme Court. This was a pattern of behavior. The cases we found include these:

- Agents knowingly sold a meth lab house as a family residence without disclosing the home's history. When the new owners heard about the drug history of the home, they called the Department of Health, who ordered the owners out of the house with only the clothes on their backs.
- An agent worked a foreclosure scam, in which a newly divorced and unemployed mother of a disabled child was eventually evicted from her home and the equity she'd built up was transferred to the agent.
- An agent, while representing both the seller and the buyer, forged a seller's signature to one document and then the buyer's signature to another, causing the buyer to sue the seller.
- Agents persuaded a mentally confused old widow to give one of them power of attorney. They then persuaded the widow to subdivide her 24 acres of waterfront view property on Whidbey Island. They sold the lots to themselves and their relatives at prices vastly below market. (The firm's lead lawyer—who rewrote our state's real estate laws—owned this franchise.)

According to the DOL records available to the public, none of the above agents have been disciplined by the state, despite the court findings, as summarized here.

On December 28, 2008 we wrote to DOL Director Liz Luce and asked her how a jury's findings that the firm had used "unfair and deceptive practices" could not be a violation of the real estate licensing laws. We cited trial and appeal court findings, DOL's refusal

see next page

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business

from previous page

to take action despite those findings, and other evidence that DOL was colluding with the firm to evade Washington real estate and consumer protection law.

Luce didn't reply, but forwarded our letter to Lee Malott, DOL's Administrator of Real Estate Programs. We are still waiting for Mr. Malott to tell us how engaging in "unfair and deceptive practices" is not a violation of the law of real estate.

Gov. Christine Gregoire appointed Luce as Director of the Department of Licensing. Gregoire also appointed three agents of this firm to the Real Estate Commission. Surely she'd be interested in seeing how real estate law was being applied?

On May 28, 2009, we wrote to Gregoire, citing cases and showing evidence of DOL collusion with the firm.

Gregoire did not reply, but forwarded our letter to DOL to answer.

Think about that. When Elliot Ness received documented reports that Al Capone wasn't paying his income taxes, did Ness turn the reports over to Capone so Capone could answer the charges?

Ralph Osgood, DOL's Assistant Director of the Business and Professions Division, answered for Gregoire. He ignored the multiple court condemnations of the firm's predatory practices and all evidence of DOL collusion. Instead, he focused on an issue we had not raised—and in the process contradicted the two previous excuses used by Spencer and Jarvis for taking no action in our case.

On June 15, 2009, we wrote to Attorney General Rob McKenna. McKenna boasts of his consumer protection advocacy and his war on meth. We cited ten documented cases of the firm's predatory practices and charged that DOL was colluding to evade state law. We asked McKenna to take steps to compel DOL to enforce the law.

Assistant Attorney General Jody Lee Campbell responded on McKenna's behalf. Without addressing any of the facts or the court findings, Campbell stated that the attorney general supported DOL's decisions, and that if anyone challenged those decisions McKenna would defend DOL in court.

Astonished, we wrote back, asking how permitting this firm to knowingly sell a meth lab house without disclosure could advance McKenna's war on meth or his consumer advocacy program. We also asked if the attorney general had counseled DOL not to take disciplinary actions in the meth lab case.

Campbell wrote back. She ignored our questions about McKenna's war on meth and his consumer advocacy program, but said if we had complaints about real estate licensees to get in touch with DOL. She gave us the address and phone number.

And in answer to our question about the attorney general's advice to DOL concerning the meth lab house, she stated:

"My role is to give the Department option-based advice, but any advice I give my client is subject to the attorney-client privilege."

Option-based advice? This seems to imply that the DOL has the "option" to follow the law or not. Why would the attorney general's office give them such an option?

OK, Washington. Tell us about your liberalism and your consumer protection laws.

For more information, see Carol and Mark DeCoursey's website, RenovationTrap.com.



The DeCoursey house in Redmond, WA: five years and still no occupancy permit.

WA State Attorney General Rob McKenna: not much help with unethical real estate practices



TIPS TO AVOID PREDATORY REAL ESTATE DEALS

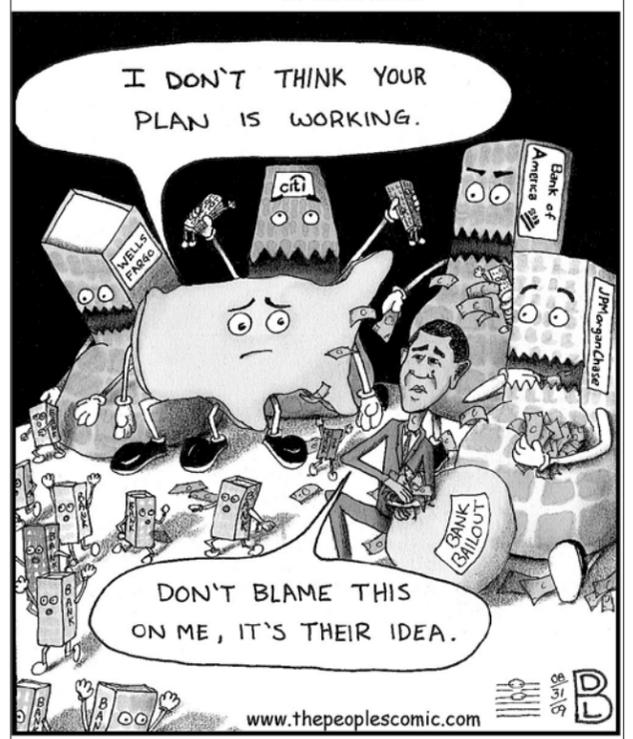
BY DOUG COLLINS

None of the below suggestions can guarantee that you won't get bamboozled, but they might be good general "self defense" techniques when you're buying a house.

- Consider using a smaller real estate firm. Larger firms are likely more experienced with legal maneuvers and more able to use them in the event of disagreements.
- Be skeptical of any renovation or construction deals suggested by your agent. It might be better to set these up yourself through your own contacts. If you suspect there may be conflicts of interest, ask your agent outright, and get a written assurance that there are none.
- Agents in Washington often retain their licenses even when there is a court record of unethical behavior. Check out the background — court histories and business affiliations — of your agent and/or of the real estate firm.
- Don't depend solely on a home inspection that was arranged by another party. Use your eyes, ears, nose, and common sense. Thoroughly look at the property yourself, with a friend that is knowledgeable about houses, or with an inspector that you hire yourself (it's better to do this with the agents not present, if possible). Even if you have "fallen in love" with a particular house, be willing to nix the deal if you don't feel comfortable with the house's condition.
- Review all your real estate and loan documents carefully. Keep a file and bring it to the signing sessions. Make sure all money amounts are what you expected, and make sure you understand the purpose of each document. Ask questions, point out inconsistencies, and demand changes if you need to.
- Scam artists are often very friendly and excel at seeming trustworthy. They also often try to rush you into deals. Don't make any commitments hastily or on the basis of trust alone.
- Be realistic. "Buyer's remorse" is very common after any home sale, but the large majority of home sales are, in fact, clean. Before you consider legal action, you'd better be sure that (1) you have ample evidence that the people or companies you've dealt with have acted unethically or illegally, and (2) that you have ample assets to fund an extended legal battle. Even if your opponents are in the wrong, they may be able to force you to drop the case by outspending and bankrupting you.

THE PEOPLE'S COMIC

BY DAVID LOGAN



environment

Maury Mine Halted

BY DOUG COLLINS

Environmental activists on Maury and Vashon islands in Southern Puget Sound were elated in mid-August to receive news that the permit for Glacier Northwest to build a gravel-loading pier on Maury island had been suspended.

US District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez ordered Glacier to produce an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the effects of the gravel mining operation on both the Puget Sound orca and chinook salmon.

Residents of Maury and Vashon islands are also



Anti-mine activists celebrated on August 15 by forming an orca image with open umbrellas.

worried about potential damage to the character of the islands as well as to the underground aquifer that supplies the local drinking water.

A detailed history of gravel mining on Maury and the concerns it causes was published in our July/August 2005 issue "Mined Over Maury" (www.wafreepress.org/76/minedOverMaury.shtml).

Activists say this recent court order will shut down the operation for at least a year, and are hopeful that the company may be willing to sell the land to the state, preventing further such development.

The ruling was issued just a few days before Glacier was scheduled to begin construction under a permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Backbone Campaign, which has in recent years spearheaded the anti-Glacier efforts there, celebrated with a rally and flotilla at Gold Beach on August 15, the day construction was due to begin.

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ACTIVIST CALENDAR

The calendar entries below have mostly been chosen from Jean Buskin's email Peace and Justice Calendar. To post activism events on her email/web version, send event notices to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org. To receive updates of the complete calendar, have Ms Buskin add you to her email list by contacting her at the same address, or view her full calendar anytime at www.scn.org/activism/calendar.

PLEASE CONFIRM ALL EVENTS BEFORE GOING TO THEM!

TUES SEPT 22, and subsequent Tuesdays, 5 to 7 pm, at the intersection of Tolt Ave. and Bird St in **Carnation**; PEACE VIGIL. info Mary Crane, epjc@songdog.eskimo.com

WEDS SEPT 23, and subsequent Wednesdays, noon, on Comcast cable access channel 77 in Seattle/ King County and live on the web www.scantv.org; Talking Stick, a LOCALLY PRODUCED INDEPENDENT PROGRAM by Mike McCormick with coverage of progressive events and viewpoints; with program TBA. info talkingsticktv@yahoo.com or www.talkingsticktv.org or www.scantv.org

THURS SEPT 24, 5 - 8 pm, at Planned Parenthood, 813 Martin Luther King Jr Way, **Tacoma**; Phone banking to Approve Ref 71 and PROTECT DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS in Washington. RSVP to micah.project@yahoo.com

FRI SEPT 25, and subsequent Fridays, noon - 1 p.m., at the SE corner of Colby and Hewitt Avenues, downtown **Everett**; Everett Peace Action hosts a PEACE VIGIL. This group has vigiled every Friday since Oct 1, 2002. Come join us! info Albert Penta 360-792-2129 or albertpenta@hotmail.com

SAT & SUN SEPT 26 & 27, noon - 5 pm, at Ballard Commons Park, **Seattle**; SUSTAINABLE BALLARD FESTIVAL - Year 6. Lots of great how-to workshops, all your favorite local, sustainable businesses, good resources for saving money and the planet. Plus - Music & fun! To Volunteer call 206- 713-7154, info <http://fest.sustainableballard.org>

SUN SEPT 27, 6:30 pm, at University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd St, **Seattle**; Fundraiser for GI coffee house, Coffee Strong with INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST DAHR JAMAIL on Iraq and Beyond: Soldiers Who REFUSE TO FIGHT IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN tickets \$15 www.brownpapertickets.com/event/71589, info www.givoice.org or 360-412-1519 or mollygibbs3@gmail.com

MON SEPT 28, 7:30 pm, at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue, **Seattle**; Town Hall presents David Byrne: A Talking Head on a Bike. David Byrne might be best known as leader of the new-wave band Talking Heads, but he's also an author, an artist, and an avid cycling advocate. Byrne, author of BICYCLE DIARIES, lives and rides regularly in New York, but he's also cycled through some of the world's busiest cities - London, Berlin, Istanbul, Buenos Aires, Paris, Belgrade, Sydney, and Manila chronicling what he saw from his "big window positioned at bike level that looks out on a dense man-made landscape." Presented by Elliott Bay Book Company. Tickets TBD. info 206-624-6600 or www.elliottbaybook.com

THURS OCT 1, 7 p.m., at Marcus Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, St. Martin's University, **Lacey**; ACLU-Thurston County and St. Martin's University cosponsor a talk by DEATH PENALTY ABOLITIONIST, Human Rights Activist and Author Sister HELEN PREJEAN in The Robert A. Harvie Social Justice Lecture Series. Admission free. info Robert Hauhart 360- 438-4525 or rhauhart@stmartin.edu

FRI OCT 2, and subsequent 1st Fridays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Bellingham Dharma Hall, 1101 N. State Street, third floor, corner of Maple, **Bellingham**; MEDITATION FOR PEACE 5:30 - 6, Sponsored by the Bellingham Buddhist Peace Fellowship and Bellingham Dharma Hall. Followed by BUDDHIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP meeting, 6:15 - 7:30. All community members welcome. info 360-527-9101

SAT OCT 3, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., at Richard Hugo House, 1634 11th Avenue, Capitol Hill, **Seattle**; Participate in SLICE: STRENGTHENING LOCAL INDEPENDENT CO-OPS Everywhere! Community Alliance for Global Justice CAGJ is collaborating with our community partner Central Co-op along with BALLE Seattle in a day-long workshop for people starting or interested in starting new co-ops, and anyone who supports co-ops and cooperation. info and registration www.centralcoop.coop

TUES OCT 6, We Are Not Your Soldiers. A day of RESISTING RECRUITMENT IN HIGH SCHOOLS, nationwide with programs & protests. In support of these actions, we urge people to hold war protests on October 6 at recruiting stations, or city centers. If you are a teacher or a student, invite an Iraq vet and World Can't Wait activist into your classroom. Wear an

orange bandanna or ribbon (the color against torture and war) to show there's a movement. Contact us at seattle@worldcantwait.org

WEDS OCT 7, 6:30 p.m., at Microsoft Auditorium, Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave, **Seattle**; UW Medicine/ Seattle Public Library Lecture Series. Does CAFFEINE REDUCE THE RISK OF SKIN CANCER? Research suggests that consuming caffeine in coffee and other beverages may lower the risk of skin cancer. info www.spl.org/

OCT 8 - 11, at the Dumas Bay Centre, **Federal Way**; The National Conference of the United States NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE Chapter Association (USNPCA) will be meeting. We are especially interested in persons with skills and experiences in protection work and monitoring. We are also interested in persons with conflict experience, and persons with related skills. Others with less skills or direct experience will also be considered. Nonviolent Peaceforce is an unarmed, professional civilian peacekeeping force that is invited to work in conflict zones worldwide. contact Bob Edgerton 206-325-0757 or bobcello@aol.com, info www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

MON OCT 12, and subsequent 2nd Mondays, 6 - 8 pm, at Lutheran Community Services NW, 433 Minor Ave N, Suite 100, **Seattle**, located one block east of Fairview Ave N and Republican St. Did you know that the US is the only country in the world that receives refugee youth without any family? contact Erika at eberg@lcsnw.org or 206-694-5780 to sign up for our REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT FOSTER CARE INFO NIGHT. info www.refugeechildren.net

SUN OCT 18, and subsequent 18th of each month, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E, **Seattle**; People of all faith traditions are warmly welcomed for readings and community prayer. INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. info www.pepm.org and click on "Peace Vigil" or Tom Walker 425-641-9247 or www.eappi-us.org

TUES OCT 20, in **Seattle**; Idealist.org presents a GRAD SCHOOL FAIR. You can meet representatives from 50-200 graduate programs in fields such as Nonprofit Management, Education, Social Work, Global Health, International Affairs, Law, Public Policy, Urban Planning, and many more. free, but registration required, info and to register www.ideal.org/grad-fairs

WEDS OCT. 21, 10 am - 3:30 pm, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, **Bellevue**; The Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness invites you to their 9th annual political will conference, Stand by Me: Creating the POLITICAL WILL TO END HOMELESSNESS, Ability-to-pay registration donation of \$25 includes lunch. Register online www.brownpapertickets.com/event/80438. info www.itfhomeless.org or Bill Kirilin-Hackett 425-442-5418

WEDS OCT. 21, 7 - 9 pm, at **Seattle** University; the Holocaust Center presents Dr. James Waller, author of Becoming Evil: HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE COMMIT GENOCIDE and Mass Killing. Geared towards educators with some background in teaching the Holocaust, but open to anyone. Clock hours available! To register or info ikennedy@wsherc.org

SAT OCT 24, at Green Lake, **Seattle**; Sustainable Green Lake will participate in the largest CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION the world has ever seen. We will be working with other sustainable / green / community groups to put together a rally at and around Green Lake. info Daron Williams, darongw@gmail.com and www.350.org

SAT OCT 24, at The Brockey Center, South **Seattle** Community College; Seattle Office for Civil Rights presents the 2009 SEATTLE RACE CONFERENCE: Where Goes the Neighborhood: Community Displacement and Equitable Development. Join us for presentations, workshops, and community collaboration. info info@seattleraceconference.org

TUES OCT 27, and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Phinney Ridge Center, Blue Bldg, Room 6, **Seattle**; NW BIODIESEL MEETING. Alternating months between special topic and Biodiesel 101, see website for details. info Aaron Kahn akahn@windermere.com or www.nwbiodiesel.org

THURS OCT 29, 5:30 pm, at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue, **Seattle**; Please join Puget Sound Sage in celebrating our second annual VISION FOR JUSTICE DINNER. Sage welcomes Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, CEO of Green for All, as the featured speaker. Green for All is the leading national organi-

zation dedicated to building an INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY strong enough to lift people out of poverty. info dwest@pugetsoundsage.org or <http://pugetsoundsage.org> or 206-568-5000

FRI OCT 30, and subsequent last Fridays, 5:30 p.m., at Westlake Park, downtown, 4th & Pine, **Seattle**; CRITICAL MASS, an organized coincidence of bicyclists who ride around the streets of Seattle en masse. It happens when a lot of cyclists happen to be in the same place at the same time and decide to cycle the same way together for a while. Come join the fun! info <http://students.washington.edu/spiegel/cmss.html>

FRI OCT 31, Looking for FAIR TRADE HALLOWEEN CANDY to distribute to kids at your door? Visit <http://store.gxonlinestore.org>

SUN NOV 1, and subsequent 1st Sundays, 4 - 5 p.m., at the intersection of Park St. & North Bend Blvd. next to the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum and the Visitor's Center in **North Bend**; SNOQUALMIE/ NORTH BEND CITIZENS FOR CHANGE will hold a PEACE VIGIL to honor our troops in Iraq and to encourage their safe return home. Join us. Bring candles or flashlights. info rubin51@comcast.net

TUES NOV 3, election day, REMEMBER TO VOTE. King County has all mail-in ballots which must be postmarked by this date or hand delivered to special sites. info King County 206-296-VOTE

TUES NOV 3, and subsequent 1st Tuesdays, but please confirm, noon - 2 p.m., at Al Rochester Room, Floor 2, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, downtown **Seattle**; Public Meeting on POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY held by the Office of Police Accountability Review Panel (OPARB), info 206-684-8146 or opareviewboard@seattle.gov. Listen to meetings in progress on the Boards & Commissions Listen 206-684-4718

WEDS NOV 4, and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, 7 p.m., at Burien Library, 14700 8th Ave. SW, **Burien**; SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE presents the Wednesday Night at the MEANINGFUL MOVIES. If library parking lot is full, please park at nearby church parking lot. Sponsored by Southend Neighbors for Peace & Justice, info rdare2@yahoo.com

SAT NOV 7, 10 am - noon, at 21 Acres, 13701 NE 171st Street, near **Woodinville**; The Sustainable Saturday Series at 21 Acres presents an opportunity to the community to learn and participate in a variety of activities showcasing and demonstrating SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. info 206-442-2061 or www.21acres.org

TUES NOV 10, and subsequent 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, at Marina Park Pavilion on the **Kirkland** waterfront park, on 255 bus route; KIRKLAND PEACE VIGIL meets monthly. We call ourselves "Citizens Along the Lake". info <http://mysite.verizon.net/resuxn0n/citizensalongthelakeforpeace/> or Donna Schill 425-821-5596

NOV 12 - DEC 9, in US, Canada, and Central America; Join the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization IFCO/Pastors for Peace Caravan to HONDURAS & NICARAGUA, an historic SOLIDARITY AND HUMANITARIAN AID CARAVAN. info Manolo E. De Los Santos 212-926-5757 or p4p@igc.org or www.IFCOnews.org

NOV 20 - 22, at **Ft. Benning, GA**; School of the Americas Watch Vigil. Ten thousand plus activists, many of them college students, attend the annual vigil to close the SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS the weekend before Thanksgiving. It is the largest gathering of Latin America solidarity activists each year

FRI NOV 27, BUY NOTHING DAY, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year. Get together and take a stand against the chronic overconsumption that is the mother of all our ecological, psychological and political problems. Don't succumb to the advertising! Don't buy worthless gifts! an annual celebration of non-consumerism, info www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd

NOV 28 - DEC 3, **Vancouver BC, Bellingham, Seattle, Portland, Eugene**, and other places; Pacific Northwest convergence march into the WORLD MARCH FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE. Organizers needed, info 253-627-3007 or parkeburgess@gmail.com or www.ourtragicflaw.com

ARRESTS AT TRIDENT BASE IN BANGOR, WA

Civil disobedience marks 64th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

FROM GROUND ZERO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION

PHOTOS BY LEONARD EIGER

Some 87 people participated in a vigil and non-violent direct action against the Trident nuclear weapons system at the Main (Trident Avenue) gate to Bangor nuclear submarine base early on Monday August 10. Nine of the participants were voluntarily arrested.

Joy Goldstein, 74, of Vashon, WA, and her passenger, Swaneagle (Mary Tremblay), 59, of Vashon, WA, drove onto the base and were arrested by Naval security, processed and released.

Jessica Artiega, 24, of Tacoma, WA, Lynne Greenwald, 61, of Bremerton, WA, and Tom Shea, 80, of Snoqualmie, WA crossed the blue line onto the submarine base and attempted to block traffic entering the base while holding a large banner with a sunflower and broken Trident missile saying, "Abolish Nuclear Weapons: Resist Trident", and a peace flag. All three were arrested by Naval security, processed and released. Tom Shea offered the Naval security personnel copies of an article by Larry Kerschner, titled "August 9, 1945: Ruminations on Nagasaki."

While vigilers held a variety of banners, flags and signs calling for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons a second group broke the yellow "caution" tape designating the "free speech zone", and strung it across the County roadway, blocking traffic entering the base. One member of this group walked among the vehicles waiting to enter the base, offering drivers sunflowers, a symbol of nuclear disarmament. Anne Hall, 64, of Seattle, WA, Jackie Hudson, 74, of Bremerton, WA, Brenda McMillan, 75, of Port Townsend, WA, Jean Sundborg, 69, of Seattle, WA, and Alice Zillah, 36, of Olympia, WA, were arrested by Washington State Patrol officers.

Next, Jessica Artiega and Lynne Greenwald, who had already been arrested, processed and released by Naval authorities, re-entered the roadway on the county side, carrying the same banner as before. They were then arrested by the State Patrol. All those arrested by the State Patrol were taken to Kitsap County Justice Center in Port Orchard where they were booked and released. Veterans For Peace, Squadron 13, who brought their Peace Bus to Ground Zero Center in Poulsbo for the weekend, picked up the arrestees and returned them to Ground Zero Center.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the US. In November 2006, the Natural Resources Defense Council declared that the 2,364 nuclear warheads at Bangor are approximately 24 percent of the entire US arsenal.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolence resists Trident, and offers education, training, and action for a world free of nuclear weapons. See www.gzcenter.org, email info@gzcenter.org.

military

war

Olympia Anti-war Group Succeeds Despite Infiltration

FROM OLY-PMR

Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) is a grassroots coalition of individuals who oppose the use of our ports in the service of imperialism and war. PMR works to block the military's use of local ports through direct action campaigns, community education and outreach.

As widely reported, PMR and other anarchist and anti-imperialist groups in the Northwest recently exposed an infiltrator (John Towery II) who worked with the military at Fort Lewis and the Pierce County police. Working undercover, Towery had been deeply involved with several anti-war groups and had attempted to disrupt PMR organizing activities for nearly three years.

Despite Towery's involvement and government harassment including ongoing prosecution, PMR has achieved several significant victories. Since 2004 PMR has waged seven major campaigns, successfully disrupting military shipments at the ports of Tacoma, Olympia and Grays Harbor.

With recent deployments of equipment and Strykers through San Diego and Beaumont, Texas, and with the current pattern of military withdrawal from local ports starting with Olympia and Grays Harbor in 2007, it seems that further use of Puget Sound ports is unlikely. Forest Student, an anarchist associated with PMR, remarks "We chased them out of Grays Harbor, we chased them out of Tacoma, we chased them out of Olympia, now we're going to chase them all the way to Texas, and if they come back, we'll be waiting."

PMR celebrates these apparent successes while remaining organized and committed to readiness should shipments in the Puget Sound recommence. KteeO, long-time PMR participant and Olympia resident asserts that "through community cooperation, community education and innovative direct action ideas, participants with PMR have remained vigilant and will continue to show solidarity for future actions, regardless of where they are and how their communities decide to act."

PMR recognizes that organizers locally, in Texas, and in other communities across the country are engaged in a shared struggle against the militarization of our ports and continued US imperialism.

Editor's note: Just as during the Vietnam war, spy agencies will continue to conduct undercover surveillance on peace groups. Organizers should assume that there are spies in their midst without letting their organizations fall into a witch-hunting mode. An excellent reference for how to manage peace groups under such conditions can be found in the short book "War at Home: Covert action against US activists and what we can do about it" (South End Press) by Brian Glick and Abbe Smith.



Alice Zilla, one of those arrested on the county side, carries a large photo of the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing, and offers sunflowers to drivers entering the submarine base on their way to work.



These seven women were arrested for blocking traffic on the county side. Photo was taken after their release from the Kitsap County Justice Center, and before boarding the Squadron 13 Peace Bus for the ride back to the Ground Zero Center.



From left: Lynne Greenwald, Jessica Artiega and Tom Shea block traffic at the Main Gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.



MEDVEDEV BALKS AT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY



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Well I don't agree with Hitler's policies, but I still believe that we should "support our troops"

help get the word out

Would you like to help spread the news? Then help write, select, or edit articles for the WA Free Press! Contact us at Wafreepress@gmail.com with subject "volunteer."

the adventures of Hasty Hank

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

SHORT STORY BY HENRY LEE

Circa '86, having returned from Florida to ole Orange, Texas, the butt of the USA-Man reclining (see USA map), Hank decided a toe surgery was in order. Hank most Hastily one morning in Hudson Florida got his right foot underneath a fly mower. A what? A gas mower that hovers a bit off the ground, rounded even, somewhat like a flying saucer.

Quite a lot went on in the '80s with the hovercraft-type things, but it all seemed to disappear in the '90s. (Expect a big comeback one day.) There were those Harrier jet planes, all the Star Wars weaponry talk, drone aircraft. Even the actual two and four seat flying saucer manufactured in Mesa, AZ that flew to 5,000 feet. Not cheap, but should have been popular for a few rich folks. Perhaps there was a fear factor, of townspeople with shotguns, ala Orson Welles' radio broadcast.

Anyway, Hasty Hank's mid-'80s Florida excursion wasn't too great, but what to do back in Orange? Well, golf, and that he did, even getting a tournament win and a big quarter page write-up in the Orange paper. Something positive, unlike numerous negative write-ups he got in the '70s.

Hank also managed to sell his trusty product—waterless cookware—again. Though not overly successful, it was employment, and for Hank in Orange, a major step.

It led to a better sales job with the newfangled water purification systems, assembled on site. There were leads galore, with a boss whose local family so mirrored the ABC-TV "Dynasty" show.

Money was good, getting great, and Hank had truly seemed to come up in the world, even had a half decade of no legal trouble behind him.

Of course selling legally now made a couple illegal sales seem like a trifle, a few ounces of something lime-green and skunky, and middle-manning a pill deal to an "old friend." Hasty Hank felt that as long as he was dressed in a shirt and tie he was (ugh) safe, even in Orange.

Well, life starts to get good with a true chosen ambition of becoming a club golf professional. One might think Hank was very Hasty, quitting his sales job where less than forty hours of talking put more than 800 bucks in his pocket, the same salary for a month at this new golf job.

Money aside, it was a most nice country club, number two ranked course in the state, with numerous wealthy—and nice—members. There seemed an abundance of "New Yawkers" there, Italians and Jews.

Anyway, as the weeks went on, the job and life for Hank so improved, good things and even money started growing, along with—sad to say—Hasty Hank's ego. Oh no!

It was exciting for him to sell sportswear for commissions and he really put the high pressure pitches to all those out-of-town non-members who would come in on Mondays and pay the big green fees to have their Nassau match headed by our excellent golf pro, who later made a big name for himself in the senior PGA tour.

Hank grew to love his life, and taught golf to non-member beginners to supplement a growing salary and commission. Members were so kind, even providing a luxury townhome at half price to reside in. Hank was given cartons of cigarettes from big distributor friend, tons of clothes, shoes from his boss who said he may break tradition and have Hank employed another season.

As the summer wore on, Hank thought of a relationship with a sweet young woman with a child's mind and a Playboy bunny's body who would come into his pro shop clad in bikini at times. Luckily the floor was carpeted and his jaw was cushioned on its drop from her warm words and exquisite visionary delight.

One day a most pregnant woman escorted by two older club matrons came by his door and our golf pro was quickly introduced to this reasonably attractive brunette.

Hasty Hank didn't think much of it till later he found out the girl was actress Demi Moore, whose husband, Bruce Willis, was filming a movie nearby (one he wishes he didn't, I guess). But a couple years later Hank was surprised to see a pregnant Demi nude in a bathtub for

the movie "Seventh Sign," probably shot days around that time he saw her.

A short time later our non-reluctant now-hero got to spend an hour or so alone, one-on-one, talking with his new buddy, singer BJ Thomas. Hank went that night to his show downtown at the big riverfront hotel, but Hastily left early and probably missed a great party. But such was his early-to-work dedication.

He loved his job, couldn't wait to get to work, and was now halfway to becoming a qualified PGA Club Golf Professional, not just an assistant.

Hank mostly ran the place anyway, as his boss stayed gone a lot, due to sick Mom and playing in tournaments elsewhere. Hank felt his job fit him like a golf glove. And then one morning after doing his daily bookkeeping in the luxurious office upon the 5K cherrywood desk, he called his parents to see if he could send them some money, as it seemed to be pouring into his hands these days.

He inquired into his dad's goings on, joyfully stressing his own, but his dad interrupted then told him, "Son, your life is not good, not good at all. The police were just by here with a warrant looking for you. A five-count drug indictment, habitual criminal. And son, they know you're up there, too."

Probably never has Hasty Hank been struck with such a debilitating trauma of sadness, exasperation, remorse, as those moments on the phone. Not even when he lost the sailfish from his line in Acapulco. He knew then that his career was shot. He had to disappear as to not embarrass the club.

So within minutes he was packing his car with all the great and valuable things he had. Then to the bank and the highway. But where? He might as well run north to Chicago, but decided "not my kind of town." Veering west from Champaign after a stiff drink, to Iowa, and amidst more Harley motorcycles than he thought existed, he ended up in Rapid City, South Dakota, where at Mount Rushmore paranoia set in with Teddy's glare, and then Sturgis, where he felt out of place.

West through Wyoming and Hank had the Hasty desire to become a firefighter with the huge fire around Yellowstone that year, but didn't.

Up he went into and across Montana up the Bozeman Grade, where despite having his pedal to the metal 15 mph was the top speed, though his ears were popping 100 for hours, passing big trucks like they were standing still. His car, possibly his nicest ever, wasn't your typical Chevrolet Citation, but the best model they every produced, with low years and miles.

When Hank reached the height, and all those massive evergreens and mountains, he began coming downward and arrived in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, quite possibly the most attractive small city he'd seen, with its large lake and the logs being floated on the famed Columbia River. He stopped and stayed a couple days in Spirit Lake, unbeknownst to Hank the home of wrestler Andre the Giant.

It seemed to Hank the newly fabled city of Vancouver, Canada was the place to go, if not Seattle, but first a call to Spokane to his cousin and her husband, as his Mom said he should do. Maybe they will help Hank's situation as his parents once helped theirs.

Well! Hasty Hank, you should have thought that out better, since it's always family that turns one in. And did that hurt. At least fifteen grand worth of car and belongings lost to impound, hair falling out in jail.

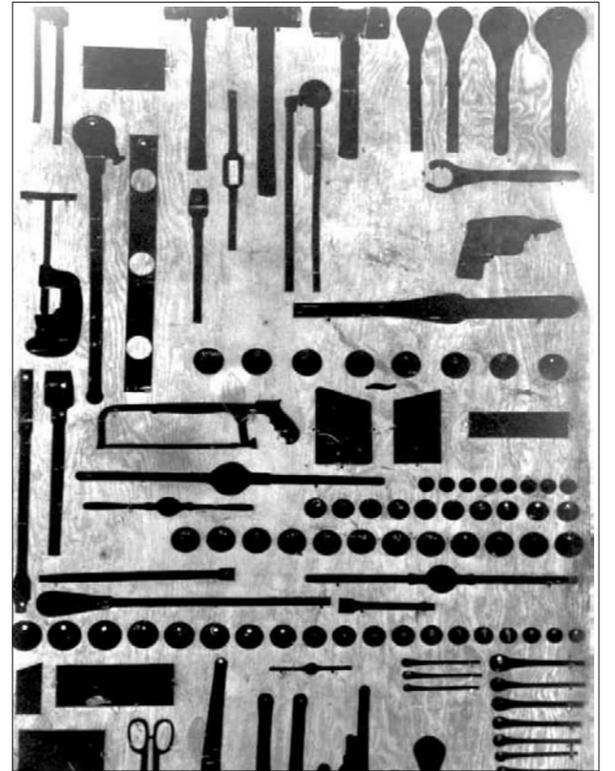
Some weeks later and after several flights, one from Seattle—a most beautiful and so green and enchanting city, even if briefly felt in handcuffs—Hank was back where he started in ole Orange County Texas jail, with a big bail, feeling like hell. Oh, well.

Anyway, some Hasty choices and bad events, but even for Hank there's always some future. He did get out of jail, purchased the best area lawyer, and ended up having to spend but two years in prison. The best thing was that Hank Hastily but happily got married and had a beautiful baby boy. So the losses hurt but diminished in time.

So as usual with Hasty Hank what goes up (high) goes down (low) but goes up (high) again in time. And yes, low down again, but that's another story for the King of Haste Makes Waste, our Hank. •

poems and photo by
Robert Pavlik

Tools



Hammer

You are both a steel driver and a music maker.
Be it fingers or claw
you pull nails or strings with an effortless grace.
Building houses and playing in them
You are at home among the handy.

Plumb Bob

Hanging by a slender
Thread of hair
Glistening brass
Tapered body
Like the Venus of Willendorf
A fecund homage to gravity
A ballast ballerina
En Pointe
Pirouetting in the wind
Pointing to the
Center of the Earth
And to the heavens
Your quiet roundness shows us
How to be upright and square
In the world.

Twist Drill

You bite into the plank
with a sharp edge
powered by mechanical or muscle power.

Turning
turning
cutting fragrant curls
that spin and drop
to the shop floor.

You are not distracted by
knot or warp
heating and burning
as you spin
emerging on the far side
then retreating
to your
calm
shining
self.

An Adage To Live By

A very wise man once
said this to me:
"Become aware of your
limitations,
then learn to accept them."
The adage made
sense long ago... still does.

I wonder if Pete Rose
would have heeded
that advice... or tricky
Dicks Nixon and
Cheney (whatsisname's veep),
remember him?
Accept limits, them? Nah...

But how about Truman
Capote who
failed to make the cut on
his little league
baseball team because he
threw like a girl.
He tried writing instead.

Or weird Albert Einstein...
Al had training
wheels on his bike until
he was eighteen,
but was good with numbers.
His theories
still stand today, big time!

I reckon there must be
an adage that's
a fit for anyone
who believes it.
In the end everything
will turn out well
for some... not for others.

Love Is

"I Love You":
once a cherished phrase
used in rare moments
of intimacy.

It fell out
of fashion as to
meaning when someone
regurgitated

that old chest-
nut, "Have A Nice Day"
as the way to end
dull conversations.

Then **it** morphed
into... ah... "Luv ya".
Are we ready for
something fresh and new?

How about
using another
pop fave... making it
"acceptable" to

sex-up the
common usage of
verbiage. Do ya
think the F-bomb might
fit in there somewhere?

A Time To Dream

Oh, where has my
beloved gone?
My fondest dreams
have crashed upon
economic
slag-heaps before
my very eyes...
Yes, before my
time to learn of
secret pleasures
known only to
those who own a
Caddy SU
V.

There may be time
in two more years
when I'm sixteen,
when I become
me...
with thee oh my
beloved Caddy.
If...
President "O"
still has them in
production... **and**
daddy still has
the means to buy...
(gulp).

right brain

poem by Carl Palmer

66489

Wheel-chaired into the lobby
from his assisted care room,
the elderly Jewish gentleman
squints into bright camera lights,
accepts the lottery check,
smiles at the television crew.

A newspaper reporter asks,
Was this a computer pick

*or did you already have
some numbers in mind?*

He focuses on her microphone,
as his hand rubs the sleeve

of the frayed gray sweater
covering his faded blue tattoo.



technology

CELLPHONES AND BRAIN TUMORS

New report shows links, finds fault with telecom-funded studies

BY LLOYD MORGAN & ALASDAIR
PHILIPS

A new report, "Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern" was released in late August by a collaborative of international EMF activists, including a number of medical and academic leaders.

The exposé discusses research on cellphones and brain tumors and concludes:

- There is a risk of brain tumors from cellphone use;
- Telecom-funded studies underestimate the risk of brain tumors, and;
- Children have larger risks than adults for brain tumors.

This report also details eleven design flaws of the 13-country, telecom-funded Interphone study. The Interphone study, begun in 1999, was intended to determine the risks of brain tumors, but its full publication has been held up for years.

Components of the Interphone study published to date reveal a systemic skew, greatly underestimating brain tumor risk.

The design flaws include categorizing subjects who used portable phones (which emit the same microwave radiation as cellphones) as 'unexposed'; exclusion of many types of brain tumors; exclusion of people who had died—or were too ill to be interviewed—as a consequence of their brain tumor; and exclusion of children and young adults, who are more vulnerable.

Exposure to cellphone radiation is the largest human health experiment ever undertaken without informed consent, and has some four billion participants enrolled.

Science has shown increased risk of brain tumors from use of cellphones, as well as increased risk of eye cancer, salivary gland tumors, testicular cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukemia. The public must be informed.

International scientists endorsing "Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern" include Ronald B. Herberman, MD, Director Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; David Carpenter, MD, Director, Institute for Health and the Environment, University at Albany; Martin Blank, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, Columbia University; Professor Yury Grigoriev, Chairman of Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, and many others.

Groups affiliated with the report include Powerwatch and the Radiation Research Trust in the U.K., and in the US, EMR Policy Institute, ElectromagneticHealth.org and The Peoples Initiative Foundation.

Download the report at radiationresearch.org/pdfs/15reasons.asp. You Tube Introduction to the report is at youtube.com/watch?v=JwjC_OUto8I.

poem by Steve Hood

dubya

fascism marched with a goose step,
and hitler rose from the grave,
merger of state and corporate power
karl planned deceitful goebbels campaign
cheney directed torture and illegal war

when it's clear 9/11 was the reichstag fire,
when it's known his grandfather was a nazi,
a million dead, a dictator's dallas retirement
a 21st century nonexistent nuremburg trial,
silently screaming out evil's triumph

PORT GIVES MILLIONS TO COMPANIES WITH BILLIONS

Community leaders question Port of Seattle priorities, want money to go toward environment and small business support

FROM THE COALITION FOR CLEAN AND SAFE PORTS

Community leaders and environmentalists are criticizing the Port of Seattle for wasting millions in taxpayer dollars in rent breaks for companies worth billions. They say the taxpayers' money would be better spent on needed environmental improvements, mitigating the port's impacts on its neighbors, and helping small businesses in the tough economy.

The Port of Seattle calls its plan, presented to the Port Commission in late August, a "customer retention" program. But Port officials have previously admitted there's no guarantee the rent breaks would attract more cargo or result in lower rates from terminal operators.

The Port's plan gives \$7 - \$10 million in rent breaks to Elliott Bay cargo dock operators including:

- Terminal 5 - Eagle Marine Services, a subsidiary of Neptune Orient Lines Group (Singapore), which made \$155 million in profits in 2008.
- Terminal 46 - Total Terminals International, LLC, a subsidiary of Hanjin (South Korea). Hanjin reaped a 2008 net profit of \$238 million, up 122.7% from 2007.
- Terminals 18 and 25 - SSA Terminals, LLC and SSA Containers, which both belong to Carrix, Inc. Goldman Sachs is 49% owner of Carrix, and the remainder is privately held. Goldman Sachs made \$2.32 billion last year.

While giving away millions in rent breaks, the Port of Seattle has:

- tried to raise fees on small independent fishermen at Ballard's Fishermen's Terminal.
- allowed port properties in Burien and Seatac to decay, creating "jet ghettos";
- told SeaTac Airport neighborhood residents it doesn't have money to buyout or noise proof homes in the path of the new runway.
- moved slowly on cleaning up cruise ship sludge, Duwamish River clean up, and other needed environmental remediation.
- put the costs of buying or leasing clean diesel trucks on the backs of the individual truck drivers, not the trucking companies.

"The Port says it doesn't have enough money to update the net sheds and storage lockers—some dating from the 1940's—to comply with fire codes, yet it can subsidize billion dollar corporations. Small businesses are getting shafted by the Port of Seattle, once again," said Pete Knutson, fisherman and director of Friends of Fisherman's Terminal.

"So the Port of Seattle tells us they don't have the money to protect the value of thousands of King County taxpayers' homes in the path of the runways in Boulevard Park and Seatac, but they can give millions away to international corporations? What's really going on here?" asked Washington ACORN member and South Park resident Michael McGrath.

Port truck drivers and labor, environmental and community groups say the clean truck part of the program, which gives \$2 million to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for a loan and lease program, is ineffective and unsustainable because it puts the costs of clean air technology on individual, mostly immigrant, truck drivers, not the profiting trucking companies.

"These billion dollar corporations are pressuring the Port of Seattle to make me and my fellow truck drivers pay for retrofit diesel trucks out of our own pockets," said Olufemi Dosunmu, a truck driver at the Port of Seattle. "I've testified over and over again that the Port's truck drivers cannot afford to pay for clean diesel trucks. This will put hundreds of us out of business while the Port of Seattle does exactly what Wal-mart wants."

"The Port continues to claim they don't have the funds to assist the community in dealing with the impacts of port-related activities while at the same time giving hand-outs to businesses worth billions. They're not willing to take meaningful action to improve working conditions for port truck drivers, which is what it will take to truly clean up the dirty trucks," said Bang Nguyen, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice board member.

This give-away plan shows the Port is contradictory,

hypocritical, and more interested in giving away money to its corporate clients than achieving environmental justice.

The Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports is group of labor, environmental, community, and economic justice groups. It can be reached at 206-265-0417.

Port of Seattle

Port Reformers Shine in the Primaries

OPINION FROM KING COUNTY CITIZENS FOR PORT REFORM

The August primary election returns indicate voters are ready to reform the Port of Seattle, the agency that is in charge of SeaTac airport, Seattle's cargo shipping facilities, as well as other significant waterfront property.

Despite spending almost \$100,000 each in the primary, business-as-usual candidates Albro and Doud failed to pull in even 40% of the primary votes.

The next few months will pit the people who want to stop the Port's fraud, waste and pollution against the Port of Seattle's established big money insiders.

Port Reform candidate Rob Holland wowed supporters by earning almost 55% of the vote so far in the Port Position 3 race. Rob will be facing Republican real estate developer David Doud in November's general election.

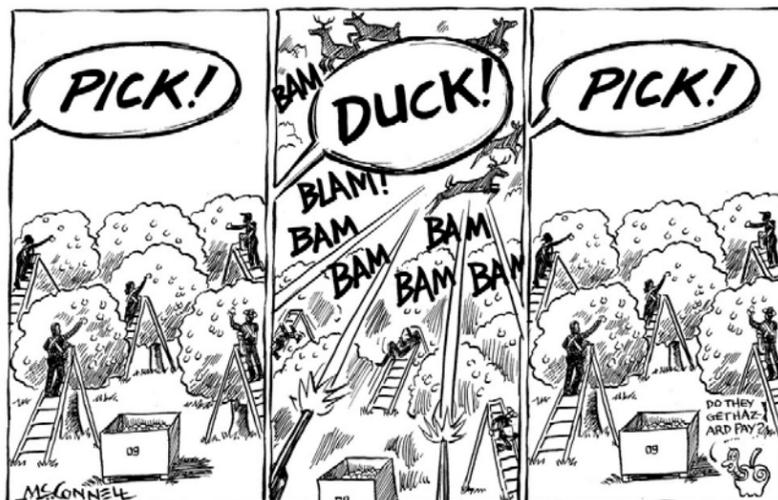
Port Reform candidate Max Vekich received 28% of the vote so far, a strong return for a late entry into a four-person race for Position 4. It looks like Max will be facing businessman Tom Albro in November.

Max and another candidate with a reform message, Robert Walker, split 50% of the vote in that race. It's clear voters are rejecting the port's business as usual candidates and want to see real change at the Port of Seattle.

The platform of Port Reform includes:

- End inflated Port staff salaries and financial mismanagement
- Prevent corporate giveaways and back room deals for Port contracts
- Ensure Healthier Port Neighborhoods
- Clean up high cancer risk areas near the Port
- Stop Port pollution in the Duwamish River and Elliott Bay
- Address declining property values in Port communities
- Improve the Port's efficiency, profitability and competitiveness
- Generate more local, family wage jobs at the Port
- Use our tax dollars wisely, not to cover the Port's losses

King County Citizens for Port Reform is an independent expenditure committee largely funded by local labor unions.



THE PEAR HARVEST ELK HUNT

rights

Puyallup Bans Door-to-door Religious Speech

FROM THE ACLU OF WA

A suit was filed on July 30 against the City of Puyallup to uphold the religious freedom and free speech rights of United States Mission. The suit seeks an injunction against enforcement of a solicitation ordinance that prevents the religious organization from carrying out its mission of preaching the "Social Gospel." The suit was filed in US District Court in Tacoma.

"Puyallup's ordinance interferes with the rights of a religious organization to spread its message. The law is unfair because it places restrictions on religious groups while exempting some door-to-door salespeople," said ACLU-WA staff attorney Harry Williams.

"Individuals can limit solicitation at their homes by posting 'No Soliciting' signs on their property. Local governments may reasonably regulate solicitors, but the Supreme Court repeatedly has struck down laws like Puyallup's that restrict religious speech," he added.

United States Mission is a Christian-based nonprofit organization that operates transitional housing for homeless persons. Residents engage in door-to-door solicitation on the mission's behalf to evangelize and practice the Social Gospel and thereby advance their personal and spiritual growth. Door-to-door solicitation also is the mission's primary means of support for its social programs.

Due to restrictions that Puyallup has imposed, United States Mission has been unable to engage in door-to-door solicitation in the city. Puyallup's ordinance requires religious organizations to obtain a license from the city before its members may engage in religious solicitation.

The lawsuit asserts that the ordinance violates the Mission's rights under the US and Washington state constitutions. The ACLU points out that forcing the Mission's members to obtain a city-issued license is an impermissible prior restraint on a religious organization's free speech rights.

Puyallup's ordinance also unconstitutionally restricts speech on the basis of its content: It regulates solicitation by religious organizations while exempting from the licensing requirements an array of other groups, including farmers, gardeners, lawn-care service providers, and some political advocates. Further, it accords city officials nearly unfettered discretion to decide whether and when to deny licenses, giving officials free rein to discriminate against speech and causes with which they disagree.

The ACLU represented the Mission in 2000 in successfully challenging a similar overly restrictive solicitation law enacted by the City of Medina in King County. In that case, the city repealed licensing and background check provisions after the US District Court in Seattle issued a permanent injunction barring enforcement of the law.

Numerous court rulings have upheld the right of citizens to engage in religious and charitable solicitation without unreasonable restrictions. As the US Supreme Court found (in *Watchtower v. Stratton*, 2002), "It is offensive—not only to the values protected by the First Amendment, but to the very notion of a free society—that... a citizen must first inform the government of her desire to speak to her neighbors and then obtain a permit to do so."

Handling the case are ACLU-WA cooperating attorneys Kevin Hamilton, William Stafford, and Lisa Marshall Manheim of Perkins Coie LLP, along with staff attorney Harry Williams.

A few years ago in the Cashmere Valley area of WA, there were only about a dozen elk. Farmers were allowed to shoot the elk if they were on their property, but still the herd kept growing. Now in 2009 there are some 100 in the herd, so the state has opened the elk hunting season, and it happens to coincide with the beginning of the pear harvest. Currently, the deadliest job around here is picking pears and dodging bullets.
Dan McConnell, cartoonist