

A few words on beginning anew

The issue you're holding is the first edition of the third year of the *Counter Point Journal*. There have been some good issues and some bad issues, more or less corresponding to how things were going on in our collective. Since we're off to a fresh start this year, we thought we'd share some of what's been going on in the CxPJ collective and explain why we feel like the project slid downhill last year. There are some lessons we gleaned from the experience that we think will help us move forward in our effort to create a forum for information and ideas that affect us as members of the Evergreen and Olympia communities.

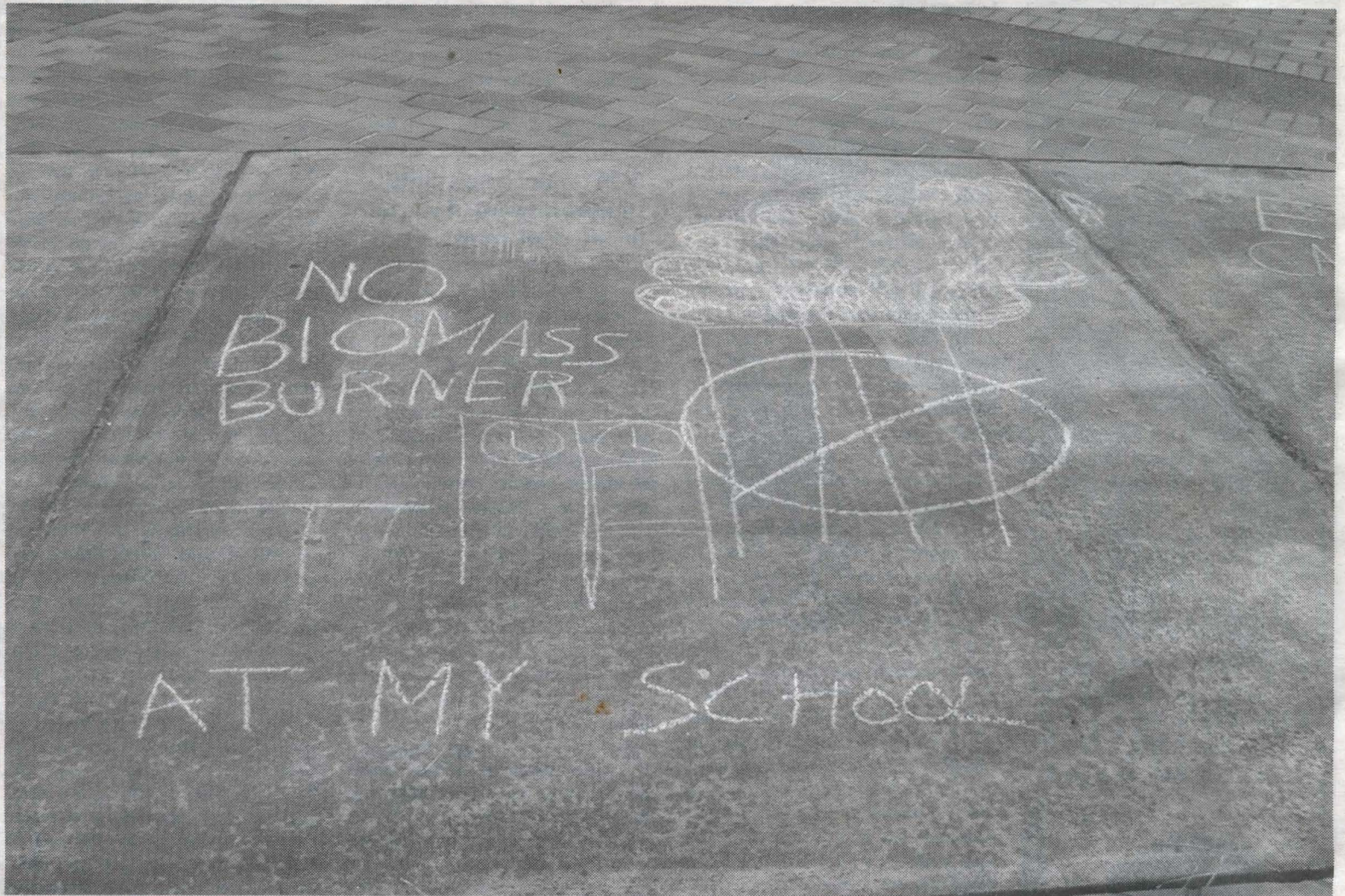
The collective circa spring 2009 was a standard Oly collective: people came together with common ideas for a project, had no formal structure and did their work with a loose "consensus" model. The things that set it apart were that it was a group that was initially mostly women and people of color, the group as a whole was made up of radicals not in the anarchist scene, and that it had to create a concrete product in a short timeframe.

So we finished our first year feeling pretty good about ourselves and decided pretty quickly that we were going to commit to doing the paper again in the fall. The dynamics of the group changed, though, when two collective members moved away and another was less interested in continuing. Some new people joined, which was awesome, but since we had previously been a group of friends just exploring what we could accomplish, we had no formal structure for how to make decisions, and no spelled out roles (like editor-in-chief, treasurer, advertising, etc). The result was that every issue was created ad hoc, so new people often felt overwhelmed when we couldn't tell them exactly how things worked and instead expected them to somehow just jump in.

Furthermore, we'd never articulated our political perspective, since the founding members shared pretty similar views, so more than a few times there was confusion regarding what *Counter Point* was supposed to be about and what kinds of stories we were going to run. With our membership in flux, we struggled to establish a shared understanding of what purpose the *Counter Point* served and what was newsworthy to us.

In terms of the work that had to be done, things started to get a little, shall we say, fucked up? The women and people of color in the collective often took on a disproportionate amount of work, making sure the paper would actually be produced (editing, layout, finance, "shit work"). We also took on a website, which was not accessible to most members of the collective and would, from time to time, post things that not everyone had agreed upon. It's no surprise that after a few months of this, people started leaving the collective.

If in the fall we felt like we were slowing down, by winter the collective was at a near standstill. Because we had never worked out our structure and created roles, we never succeeded in having a real fundraiser.



Biomass protest at Evergreen

It Isn't Easy Being Green: Biomass, Sustainable Energy, and the Year 2020

by C.V. Rotondo

"The Evergreen State College will be a laboratory for sustainability as demonstrated in our operations, curriculum, and quality of life for employees and students. We will nurture values and practical skills that motivate a lifetime commitment to a sustainable, intergenerationally just way of living on a healthy planet."

—Evergreen's Vision for a Sustainable Future, available at the college's website: <http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/home.htm>

While residents of the Gulf Coast face the aftermath of yet another ecological disaster, the people of

Pakistan demand more aid after unprecedented flooding, and people organize against a biomass incinerator proposed for Shelton, members of the Evergreen and Olympia community wrestle with solutions to climate change. You may ask: What do these things have to do with a biomass facility at Evergreen? A great deal. Shelton is the poorer, rural community next door, without a college or the state capitol to buoy its economy. Why does the larger, dirtier biomass incinerator get built there? The same questions can be asked of the situations in the Gulf and Pakistan. Would Obama have squatted on a beach in Martha's Vineyard shaking his head as oil crept up the sand? Would people in Palm Beach have

had to wait, knee-deep in the debris of their flooded homes, for enough aid to reach them?

Maybe it's easier to rescue Martha's Vineyard and Palm Beach for reasons purely practical, like terrain and accessibility. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers in the world of global capitalism. Iraq and Afghanistan contain seemingly inaccessible terrain, but the "war on terror" finds a way. So what makes the revival of the Gulf and aid for Pakistan such a challenge for the advanced capitalist world? Maybe for the same reasons it isn't easy being "green" at Evergreen.

The struggle over a proposed biomass gasification facility, intended to reduce the college's dependence

on natural gas, highlights the complexities of putting visions of sustainability into practice.

The story of Evergreen's biomass facility begins with gasification technology, discovered in the nineteenth century. Simply put, material is heated in an oxygen-deprived environment to prevent combustion, which produces a gas that can be burned to produce energy. Unlike a direct burn, gasification creates what's called a synthesis gas or "syn-gas" from carbonaceous material. This syn-gas is burned directly or liquefied for future burning, to generate heat or electricity.

► BIOMASS continued on page 4

Cops in the Classroom: from Pedagogy to Oppression

by Charlie Hicks

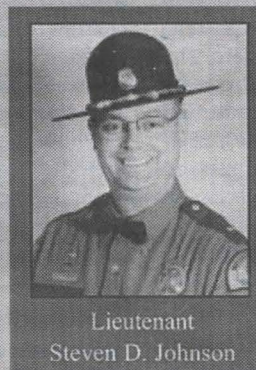
In documents obtained through a public records request made by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington a strange exchange is revealed. On March 13th, 2007 a former Masters of Public Administration adjunct faculty named Steve D. Johnson copied and forwarded on to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) a post on TESC Crier advertising a March 15th anti-war protest at the Port of Tacoma rallying against use of ports for military shipments.

This daytime protest, planned as a mock funeral mourning the departure of a ship laden with weapons and supplies headed for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was called for by Port Militarization Resistance and Olympia Iraq Veterans Against the War. Statements in the call-to-action such as "Wear mourning clothes, bring many flowers to honor the victims" and "The Ship is gone and it is now time to mourn those who have died and those that will," seem questionable as to the necessity of this faculty alerting the Washington State Patrol. But this is also where a seemingly simple situation of an overly paranoid adjunct faculty takes on a different dimension.

Included in the members of the WSP that Johnson forwarded the TESC Crier announcement to is a WSP patrolman also named Steven Johnson. A look at the payroll for Evergreen and the Washington State Patrol shows a Steve D. Johnson listed in both for the 2007 pay period. While Steven D. Johnson could not be located for comment, a bio of Washington State Patrol Lieutenant Steven D. Johnson contained in the WSP newsletter, "Inside Out", from October 2009 states that Lieutenant Johnson received his BA and his Masters in Public Administration from Evergreen, the same department in which the adjunct faculty Johnson was employed.

Further lending credence that Lieutenant Johnson and Professor Johnson are one and the same, the subject of the email forwarded to WSP was short and informal enough to imply previous communications, containing only the phrase "FYI", with no further reasons given for

why this TESC Crier announcement may have been of interest to the State Patrol. It would seem that if a faculty felt it necessary to forward a TESC Crier announcement of a mock funeral to the State Patrol they would have, at least, included some contextualizing statements of why they felt this information needed to be brought to the State Patrol's attention. The October 2009 "Inside Out" newsletter also contains some further interesting information on Lieutenant Johnson. Beginning



Lieutenant Steven D. Johnson

his employment with WSP in 1986 and transferring to District 1, Olympia on January 17, 2005, Lt. Johnson received numerous promotions and awards. Included among these is a commendation for "outstanding response to a riot situation" and a Chief's Coin for "actions during a civil disturbance at the Port of Olympia."

While adjunct faculty Johnson appears to have broken no criminal laws by removing a message from

a closed college community listserve, there are a few points of Evergreen policy that this action could be violating. Besides the effect such actions could have on cooling political speech on campus, there are also clearly laid policies for Evergreen under the "Appropriate Use of Information Technology Resources".

These college policy guidelines state that "the college [which includes faculty and staff] has a responsibility to treat information about, and information stored by, the system's users in a manner that respects both user privacy and the value of that information."

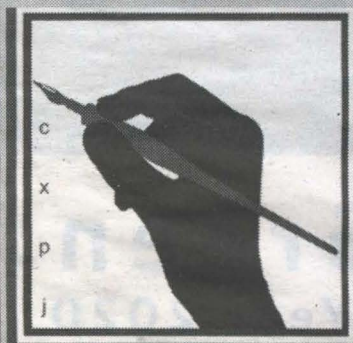
The policy further prohibits any use of college resources, and specifically TESC Crier, for the purpose of, "personal gain or financial profit", defining personal gain as, "Any use of resources that is associated with receiving a financial profit is considered a personal gain. The profit does not need to be direct." By using college resources such as a faculty email and TESC Crier in furtherance of an outside, wage-paying job, Johnson may be violating State and College ethics laws by using his position and resources as faculty to accomplish his job as a Washington State Patrol Lieutenant.

CxPJ

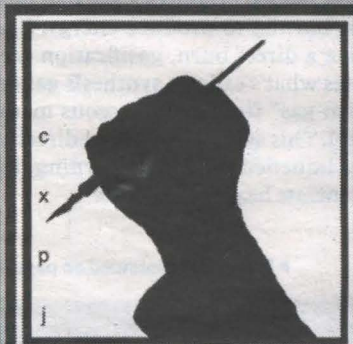
The Counterpoint Journal (CxPJ) is a collective of Evergreen students, staff, and alumni who publish an independent, alternative newspaper. The paper is designed as a space for voices, issues, and analysis silenced or marginalized by mainstream media in our community. Originally a direct response to the questionable policies of Evergreen's campus newspaper, the Cooper Point Journal (CPJ), the CxPJ has expanded its coverage and readership beyond the college through two years of quality journalism.

We accept submission of articles that deal with timely, relevant, and local issues. We specifically seek submissions based on research and include interviews with folks directly affected by the issue being discussed. We also accept photography, poetry, art, and other creative works.

Submit original work to submissions@counterpointjournal.org.

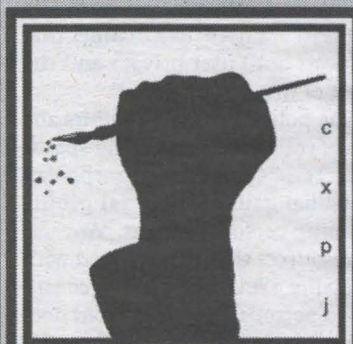


org. Contact us with questions or comments at contactus@counterpointjournal.org



The editorial collective reserves the right to question, edit or refuse any content it receives. The collective will make every attempt to consult the author(s) in regards to any potential revisions.

The Counter Point Journal is also available online at counterpointjournal.org.



CxPJ logos by Lamise Al-Shawahin

Water Column

by Rene Soto

In their April 2010, Special Water Edition, National Geographic Magazine announced its formal commitment "to explore the World of Water." Marked in the "Editor's Note" this proclamation was officially enacted with the appointment of Sandra Postel as the Society's first National Geographic Freshwater Fellow. "The initiative she heads will not only educate, it will 'reshape how people and communities think about, use, and manage fresh water. It will provide the tools to enable individuals, corporations, and communities to become part of the solution.'" But what needs reshaping? Aren't water issues pretty straight forward? If you're thirsty, drink some. Flipping through the pages of the National Geographic Special Water Edition, one begins to get the picture; mixed in with articles focusing on water scarcity in Africa and breath taking images of large bodies of water, pristine aquifers, and holy water rituals, are advertisements from Pepsi Cola, Monsanto, and large pharmaceutical companies like Bayer. It seems at the very least ironic and, to me, flat-out tasteless to read eye-catching phrases like "Sacred Waters" or "Water is Life" and then see the very companies responsible for water pollution and water supply land grabs portrayed as concerned corporate citizens. Interestingly enough, I recently discovered a previous National Geographic Special Water Edition published in 1993. In that edition there are no advertisements and the focus was entirely on the United States' water supply and the big ticket, technocrat friendly water projects. Images of huge dams, manmade lakes and large networks of piping and tunnels fill those pages. In that introduction by the editor, the problem of water is chalked up to population and indi-

vidual use; it seems that the context was missing then, as well as a critical perspective which has only grown to now be co-opted by the marketing trend of "going green."

Within the past several decades, humanity's relationship to water has changed dramatically and the world is facing some pretty dire consequences. According to leading water justice activists, such as Maude Barlow, the world is facing two synergistic crises around water.

Aren't water issues pretty straight forward? If you're thirsty, drink some.

For one, the world is running out of fresh water. While freshwater is not a completely finite source (since it is replenished by the global hydrologic cycle) it is a limited one. Only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater and more than 2% of that is locked away in glaciers, leaving less than 1% to be used by the entirety of humanity for agriculture, industry, and personal use. The water sources that we do have are becoming increasingly polluted. Phrases like "Peak Water" are already being used to describe this problem and professionals like Peter Gleick are leading the way. Second, more and more people are living without access to clean water; something like 1 out of every 8 people on earth lack access to clean water and it's estimated that 10 million people die every year from water-borne diseases. But more than water-borne diseases, water can be contaminated by radioactive particles (Hello nuclear power plant) and any one of the 500,000 man-made chemicals. Both of these crises are compounded by the growing economy of water.

In January of 1992, the United Nations officially cited water as an "economic good." Like coffee or tea, water became a commodity, and like other commodities, Wall Street Indexes were formed and water-for-profit was internationally legitimized. But what happens when water is sold? Well, nothing for those that can afford it. Those that can't must find

other sources of water, sources that are often compromised and contaminated. In the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - the precursor to the World Trade Organization - water was listed as a "good" that can be traded and exported. This is to say that a shift has occurred in the way that we view water and its supply. Suddenly water moved from a common resource that should be provided at a minimum cost to citizens by governments to its modern Neoliberal progeny of being a "good" that can be sold for a profit by private corporations with legal impunity to whoever can afford it. Furthermore, now there are powerful cartels of Corporations, Trade Agencies, World Banks, and their NGO's that are solidifying their strangle hold on large bodies of water. With desalination plants (plants that treat salt water and produce freshwater), large dams, treatment plants, bottling plants, and new infrastructure popping up around the world, water has become a multi-billion dollar industry.

Here in Olympia the issue of water revolves around: providing water (supplying), the building and maintenance of infrastructure, securing viable sources, extrapolating future demand, treating waste water, and restoring water sources along with conservation education. It is important to keep in mind that as water use goes, 70% of freshwater is used for agriculture. If there is to be comprehensive change in water use, we must address the commercial agriculture complex's use of water. Industry makes up another 20% of water use (i.e. coal burning power plants, fracking, mineral extraction, etc.) leaving 10% for personal use.

But what happens when water is sold? Well, nothing for those that can afford it.

This column isn't about helping you make better consumer choices - although I hope it does. It's about informing and encouraging you to look at yourself as more than a consumer, to explore what can be

done as an active, concerned, and informed citizen.

One might look around Olympia and think that water isn't an issue. After all the Heritage Park Fountain spews water like Old Faithful and the Artesian Wells flow 24 hours a day, year around. As residents of Thurston County we are very fortunate, we get most of our water from groundwater aquifers. But even those water sources are dwindling. For one, our population is growing every year (p.s. welcome to all the incoming freshmen). And two, we use a lot of water. Sometime when you're free, go downtown to the newly built Water Education and Technology (WET) Center on Thurston Ave. and Adams St. located in the new LOTT (Lacy, Olympia, Tumwater, Thurston County) Clean Water Alliance's building; inside you'll find a large calculator that can help you calculate your personal water use and compare your water use to County, National and Global water use averages. I found out I used 50 gallons a day! Yeah, no one's perfect and we all start with informing ourselves. The Water Column was created as an informational tool, but more than that as a source to begin the conversations around water issues here in Olympia.

The LOTT Alliance has acknowledged that over usage of water is an issue here in Washington. Just this past March the Governor's office released a statement that snowpack in the Washington Cascade Mountain Range was more than 25% below average, and because of that the likelihood of a severe drought was greatly increased. The Governor asked for additional "relief funds" to be set aside and allocated to high risk areas and industries. Less snow fall in the winter means less snowmelt in spring or just less snow left after the melt in spring. Which means water shortages are coming to Olympia.

On a positive note in July of 2010 the United Nations voted to include Article 31, the right to clean water, in the Declaration of Human Rights. People are fighting and some battles are being won.

tech_talk: installation_0

Students:

Let me tell you a little goddamn story once:

Creation closes doors. That's what the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), and the rest of the Media Industrial Complex (M.I.C.) would have you believe. Since the advent of digital media, these criminal corporate organizations have bribed lawmakers, bullied information services companies, extorted the American public and sued and imprisoned those who they deem criminal.

This in the name of protecting the alleged rights of their clientele: musicians and filmmakers etc. The rights in question are property rights, and the property in question is "Intellectual Property" (IP), an ill-defined term. In 2008, Congress created the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act as a means of promoting their definition of this term, one that sides rather squarely with that of the MiC. According to Victoria Espinel, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator at the White House, "Intellectual property are [sic] the ideas behind inventions, the artistry that goes into books and music, and the logos of companies whose brands we have come to trust."

WTF?

There is a huge distance between a company logo and the abstract concepts which give life to inventions and art, namely that one is a beautiful and complex function exclusive to the human consciousness and the other is a fucking corporate logo. But

it is this very distance that provides the necessary torque to leverage public support for fascist legal precedent on behalf of the MiC and against the freedom of everyone.

As a result of this legal kinship between world governments and the MiC, copyright laws (copyright: historically used to denote the ownership of certain trade secrets, currently bent and misused to denote IP) were updated in countries around the world to protect ideas, artistry, and logos. Unfortunately and not unexpectedly, these laws, while protecting the rights of the MiC, trampled the rights of individuals and smaller organizations who wanted to have ideas or make art. This sparked a world-wide debate surrounding copyright law. "Should the 'pataphor of property be extended to include ideas, artistry, and logos?" the infosphere queried. ('pataphor: a pseudo-analogy used to demarcate that which lies beyond the realm of

There is a huge distance between a logo and the abstract concepts which give life to inventions and art. Namely that one is a beautiful and complex function exclusive to the human consciousness and the other is a fucking corporate logo.

metaphor)

In recent months, this debate reached a new level of violence. Once a cabal of Suits sophisticating

the delicate nuance of copyright law, the MiC now takes the George Walker Bush approach, with rogue tech firms as their Blackwater. While the rest of the world Napster'd their way into a warez-topia (warez: a 1337 name for illegal software and such (1337: leet, as in leet-speak)(leet: elite, as in elite hacker)), these Suits instituted anti-piracy legislation which instantly criminalized a large percentage of the internet population (piracy: "a too benign term that doesn't even begin to adequately describe the toll that music theft takes" (according to the RIAA)).

Case in point: consider Aiplex, a company which specializes in medical billing transcription and making websites appear better in Google

searches. In order to improve revenue they recently introduced a new service: illegally shutting down other organization's web sites via DDOS attacks (DDOS: "distributed denial of service; a method of attacking a computer system by flooding it with so many messages that it is obliged to shut down" (according to the poets at Dictionary.com)).

In the month of August, the MPAA hired Aiplex to attack The Pirate Bay servers at www.piratebay.org Pirate Bay is a very popular and highly controversial bittorrent indexing site (bittorrent: a way to get files from teh internetz). They have been involved in many copyright and licensing lawsuits and have been exposed to a number of raids by Swedish authorities. Even still, they continue to operate, calling themselves "the most resilient bittorrent site" on the internet.

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THINKING OF BUYING FROM AUDIBLE.COM OR iTUNES?

REMEMBER, IF YOU PIRATE SOMETHING, IT'S YOURS FOR LIFE. YOU CAN TAKE IT ANYWHERE AND IT WILL ALWAYS WORK.

BUT IF YOU BUY DRM-LOCKED MEDIA, AND YOU EVER SWITCH OPERATING SYSTEMS OR NEW TECHNOLOGY COMES ALONG, YOUR COLLECTION COULD BE LOST.

AND IF YOU TRY TO KEEP IT, YOU'LL BE A CRIMINAL (DMCA 1201).

SO REMEMBER: IF YOU WANT A COLLECTION YOU CAN COUNT ON, PIRATE IT.

HEY, YOU'LL BE A CRIMINAL EITHER WAY.

Anti-immigrant bill might emigrate

by Anna Simonton and Charlie Hicks

Ever since last April when Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer, signed into law the most overtly racist piece of legislation since the pre-Civil Rights Movement era, thousands of people across the U.S. have been mobilizing to resist SB 1070. The bill requires police officers in Arizona to demand documentation from anyone they suspect of being an "illegal" immigrant, and arrest anyone who fails to immediately provide proof of citizenship. The bill was closely followed by the passage of an equally outrageous new law: HB 2281, which banned ethnic studies classes in Arizona state schools.

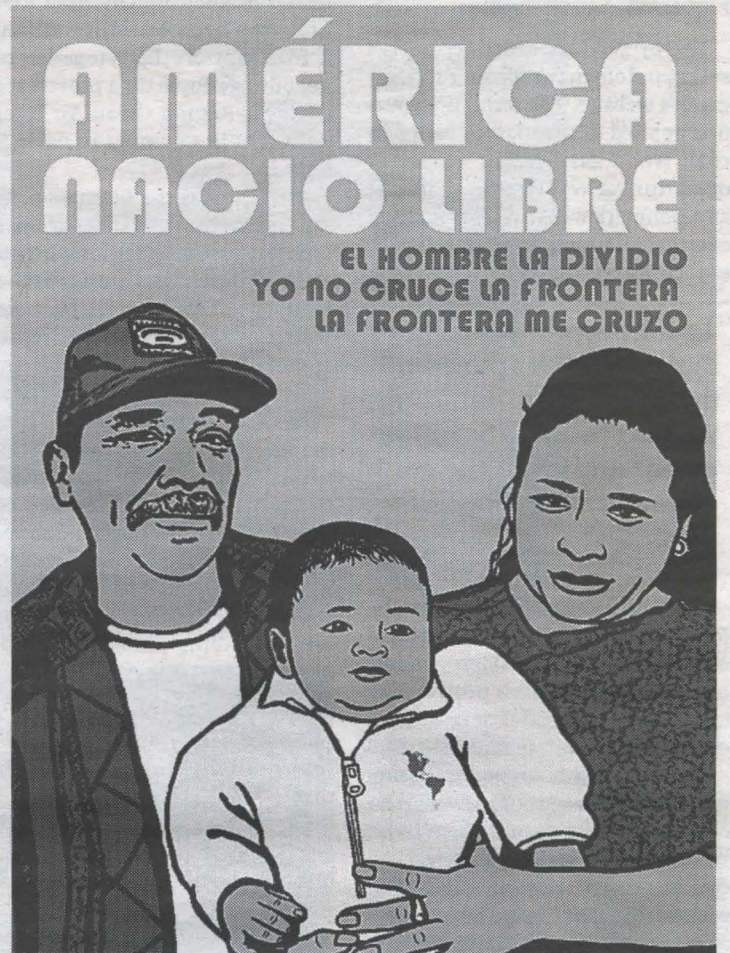
Three days before Brewer signed SB 1070, nine students were arrested for chaining themselves to the Arizona State capitol in protest. That was only the beginning. Alto Arizona, an organization that formed in response to the new racist laws, de-

clared the summer of 2010 "Arizona Human Rights Summer," named to draw connections with the "Mississippi Freedom Summer," of the Civil Rights Movement. The summer started with a 100,000-person march in Phoenix, the arrival in Washington of the Trail of Dreams students - four undocumented students who walked from Florida to Washington D.C. to demand justice for immigrants - and hundreds of solidarity events all over the country. In July, the Justice Department filed a lawsuit challenging SB 1070. The lawsuit could be a huge step towards achieving justice on this particular issue, but ultimately it's up to us and our communities to reclaim political power and define justice ourselves. To this end, the struggle continues.

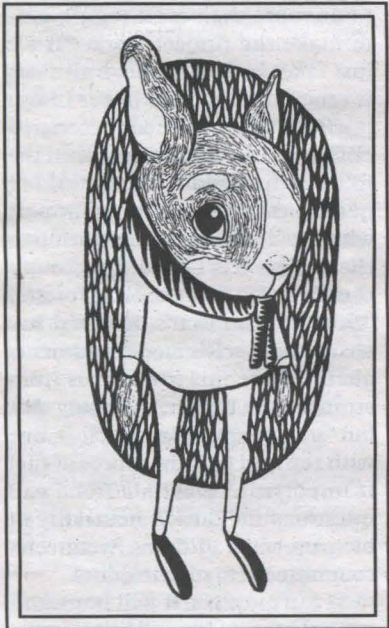
As we follow the news in Arizona, it is crucial to understand that SB 1070 was not created by the Arizona

State Legislature alone. It was originally drafted by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization that the Southern Poverty Law Center designated as a hate group. FAIR's intention is to see the bill reproduced in other states and one of their employees, attorney Kris Kobach, gets paid to draft copycat bills for that purpose. Washington is one state that is likely to see such legislation in the near future, as it is home to two anti-immigrant organizations that share a P.O. Box with FAIR.

The CxPJ is printing this flowchart to illustrate the connections between what's happening in Arizona and the potential for the same thing to happen in our own state. If we can stay informed about who is involved in this scary shit, we'll have a better chance of keeping our state safe for everyone.



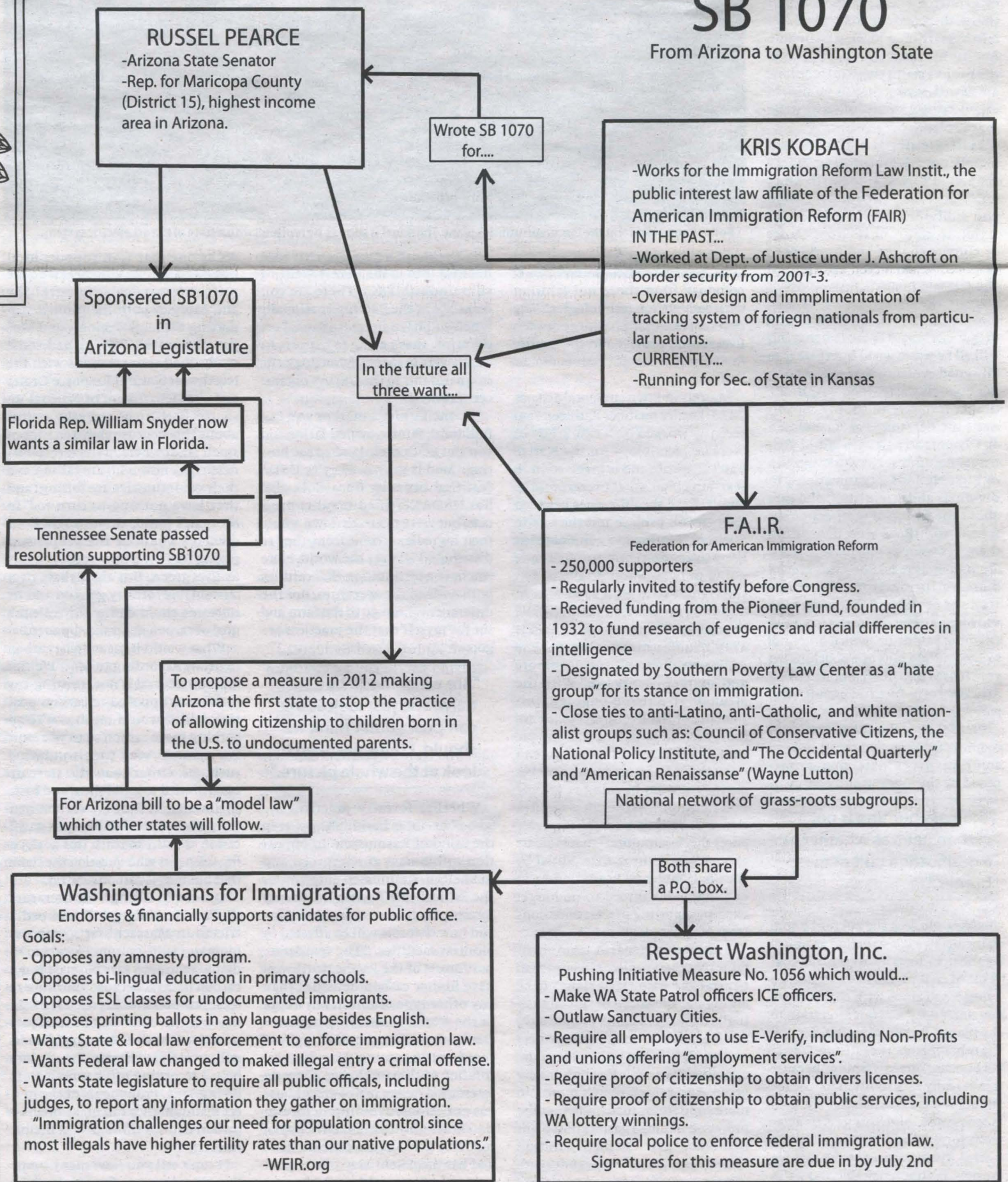
Artwork by Melanie Cervantes



Art by Scott Young

SB 1070

From Arizona to Washington State



Charlie Hicks

BIOMASS continued from page 1

The by-product, called “char,” is a soil supplement according to Evergreen’s website. The technology was first applied to streetlamps fueled by coal. Wood gasification was developed during WWII, when Finland and Denmark were cut off from their external oil supplies and they turned to their forests for fuel.

“I think people have realized that to make this project go through, it has to be ‘green.’ We can’t lie about being ‘green.’ And I think there’s more and more support for that.”

Though biomass gasifiers can be fueled by bamboo, other grasses, and municipal waste (trash), proponents of Evergreen’s biomass project plan to utilize local wood. For reasons of climate and land availability, fuel sources such as bamboo or another grass wouldn’t work for Evergreen. Morgan’s research leads him to believe that if the college’s project can utilize a waste stream, the model will work, that is, be carbon neutral and save money on energy. If you have to grow your own fuel, such as bamboo or other grasses, “it’s kind of a wash,” Morgan explains. For Evergreen’s calculations to work out, especially concerning carbon neutrality, the wood has to be “slash,” or leftovers, from a local, sustainable forestry operation. But opponents of the project claim these calculations are flawed, saying there is no such local, sustainable source of waste wood for the plant.

Matt Pfeiffer is a student and member of Olympia Rising Tide, a chapter of Rising Tide North America, “a grassroots network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change and promote local, community-based solutions to the climate crisis.” (www.risingtidenorthamerica.org/wordpress/what-is-rising-tide/) According to Pfeiffer, “A lot of homage is paid to the fact that this will all be waste wood but there is really good evidence that says there is not enough waste wood within the timber industry to supply the biomass incinerator.” Pat Rasmussen, an Olympia activist with World Temperate Rainforest Network, a group of First Nations, organizations, individuals and scientists, “who care about the future of temperate rainforests and those who live within them.” (www.temperaterainforests.org/about.htm) agrees. She cites eleven biomass incinerators in various stages of permitting that propose to use forest resources (trees) from the Olympic Peninsula, which amounts to 2.75 million tons of woodchips per year. (Based on a map compiled by PT Airwatchers in Port Townsend: <http://ptairwatchers.spruz.com>).

Pfeiffer sees the construction of biomass facilities as a trend in false solutions to climate change proposed by the logging and energy in-

“Biomass burning is not carbon neutral, whether in a gasification unit or mass burner.”

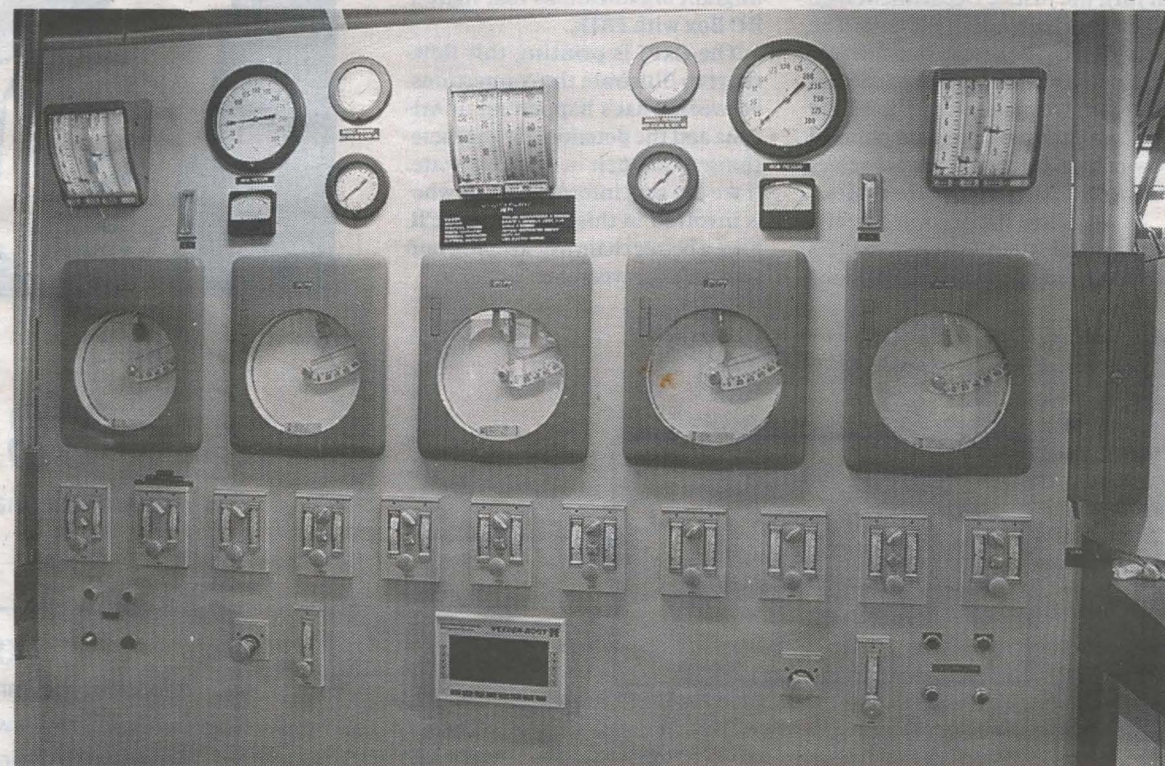
dustries. He sees the current boom in incinerator construction as a push by these industries to replace coal. “A lot of coal plants have started co-firing wood chips with coal because you don’t need a major alteration to the plant,” he explains. Pfeiffer and the other members of Rising Tide label biomass “greenwashing” because it is “a really easy solution for the fossil fuel industry, which can say: ‘this is renewable,’ and ‘this gets us away from foreign oil.’ This is pretty deceitful, since cutting at the rate we are now, it’s not renewable and we’re decimating our forests.” The most immediate example of this trend is the biomass incinerator being con-

tested in Shelton. Olympia Rising Tide has been building alliances with organizers there, together turning out 75 people for a protest at the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) in Olympia in early September.

Pfeiffer calls the biomass project an “incinerator,” rather than gasifier, because companies who build these facilities “will always fight the language of incinerator, because incinerator sounds bad. Incinerators combust material to generate heat or energy. A gasification facility does that in a particular way.” This, in Pfeiffer’s estimation, makes incinerators and gasifiers equally damaging to the environment. College engineer Rich Davis says that “incinerator” connotes eliminating waste, not producing heat. “I have objected to the characterization of slash as waste and describing the Evergreen proj-

ect as an incinerator because it is an opportunity to elicit an emotional response from those not familiar with combustion technologies.” The differences and similarities between Evergreen’s project and the facility in Shelton are major points of contention.

Masters in Environmental Science (MES) faculty member Kathleen Saul recently worked on a case study of biomass technology for the Native Cases Institute and is involved in researching biomass at Evergreen. She emphasized the difference between Evergreen’s project and the one in Shelton. “I wanted to point out that the project going on in Shelton is going to burn wood products, but they’re not creating a fuel. It’s a really different beast, so I want people to separate the two in their minds. They’re different processes, the end results are different, and people are getting them confused.” With the struggle in Shelton ongoing, proponents of the Evergreen plant are hard-pressed to paint a positive picture. The alleged differences aren’t enough for Rasmussen, who makes clear, “Biomass burning is not carbon neutral, whether in a gasification unit or mass burner.” She references the “assumption” that biomass was carbon neutral, discredited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who agreed to no longer exempt reporting of CO₂ emissions from biomass plants in May 2010.



Boiler Control Panel at the Evergreen utilities plant. The panel is soon to be replaced with a state of the art electric system.

Whether forestry practices are “good” or not is beside the point in the mind of Rasmussen. In opposition to biomass at Evergreen and in Shelton, Rasmussen emphasizes the critical role Pacific Northwest forests play in carbon sequestration and how that role will be affected by biomass facilities. “The temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest have higher carbon densities than any other type of forest, anywhere in the world. Conserving these forests for the carbon they hold and will sequester in coming years is a real solution to climate change. Since deforestation causes 18% of greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding deforestation is a highly cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has the potential to offer significant reductions fairly quickly — no new technology has to be developed.” Rasmussen bases these claims on the

certification Evergreen has been looking into is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). There are concerns about the FSC internationally. When you have an international certification, that’s going to happen. Industry gets in there.” As analogy, she compares this to the USDA’s organic certification. “At the farmer’s market you can find local, family-owned farms and you can go to their land to see how their food is grown. They’re USDA certified organic. Coca-Cola also has USDA certified organic products, but you can’t track down where their ingredients come from, they’re distributed all over the world. Here you have a certification that certifies both ends of the spectrum, but the difference is I can go to the farm and see for myself that the practices are good.”

“Are we going to be naïve and just look at the campus? I don’t think we should. I think we need to look at the whole picture.”

Whether forestry practices are “good” or not is beside the point in the mind of Rasmussen. In opposition to biomass at Evergreen and in Shelton, Rasmussen emphasizes the critical role Pacific Northwest forests play in carbon sequestration and how that role will be affected by biomass facilities. “The temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest have higher carbon densities than any other type of forest, anywhere in the world. Conserving these forests for the carbon they hold and will sequester in coming years is a real solution to climate change. Since deforestation causes 18% of greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding deforestation is a highly cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has the potential to offer significant reductions fairly quickly — no new technology has to be developed.” Rasmussen bases these claims on the

findings of the Washington State Department of Ecology. (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/TWGdocs/for/091907FORpolicyoptions.pdf>)

Despite the unanswered questions about carbon neutrality and sustainable forestry, Morgan is optimistic about the project. “The exciting thing is biomass gasification is a shift in the energy model; a shift away from extractive forms of energy. Right now our energy is extracted in Wyoming, British Columbia and Alberta and we’ve got no connection with those people. And in Wyoming there are some serious impacts now from the extraction processes. We have no connection with that. Biomass gasification is the kind of model where we can get our energy from someone down the road.” So who will that “someone down the road” be?

Madrone views the biomass project as one that “can support local, non-corporate landowners who are practicing sustainable forestry.” She and Morgan both mentioned supporting the local economy and Morgan elaborated. “We’ve had some really good conversations with the Northwest Natural Resource Group and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who are really excited about this because they see a lot of small landowners in the forest business right now who are failing and their communities are failing, and they have nothing to turn to.” In Morgan’s mind, these “small landowners” would be the people supplying fuel for a new energy model at Evergreen. But the debate over sustainable forestry goes on and its outcome could define the college’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2020.

What would it mean to be carbon neutral? According to Matt Pfeiffer, “Carbon neutral is not emitting any carbon, as opposed to carbon positive, which would mean you’re absorbing more carbon than you emit. For example, solar panels and wind turbines. Other than the start-up costs needed to build them and basic maintenance, they are carbon neutral.” He’s critical of biomass gasification as a way to reach this goal, citing scientists who question the claim that biomass is carbon neutral. Quoted in Rising Tide literature, William Sammons, MD and pediatrician in Massachusetts, opposes biomass facilities from Florida to Indiana. Sammons says biomass is not carbon neutral because “burning releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) in minutes but the CO₂ won’t be re-sequestered for centuries. Burning biomass will accelerate climate change, not help,” according to a handout from Rising Tide. Proponents of the project maintain they can make biomass carbon neutral through sustainable forestry. “I can’t tell you how many hours I’ve spent trying to figure out where the fuel supply needs to come from to be green,” Rich Davis said. He

explains that people claimed calculating carbon neutrality was complicated, based on the time of harvest and carbon sequestration rates over time. But he has come to a decision of his own. “I finally came to the conclusion: it doesn’t matter. If we burn fuel from a sustainable forest and the growth rate exceeds the harvest rate, it’s sustainable. It’s the carbon cycle: we’re putting carbon back at the rate we’re using it.” This is the logic that Rasmussen and Pfeiffer see as intrinsically flawed. But Washington State Law supports this understanding of the carbon cycle, saying biomass emissions in the form of “fuel wood, wood waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals,” are not considered greenhouse gases “as long as the region’s sequestration capacity is maintained or increased.” (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RW/default.aspx?cite=70.235.020>)

Based on Pfeiffer’s research, Evergreen staff are actively supporting future laws, such as House Bill 2481 (HB 2481) (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2009&bill=2481>), that would enable the biomass project. The bill would, among other things, enable the DNR to enter 15 year contracts with operators of biomass projects costing at least 50

million dollars as well as maintain access to wood for existing biomass facilities when it deems necessary. “Evergreen staff have done a number of things that make it clear they’re very intent on this project,” says Pfeiffer. “One is testifying to the Senate Ways and Means Committee about DNR regulations that support biomass.” He went on to quote the college’s statement. “Evergreen believes that the passage of House Bill 2481 would provide the DNR with tools necessary to become a major player in the biomass industry and potential partner with Evergreen as we move forward to construct our biomass gasification project.” (<http://blogs.evergreen.edu/officeofgovernmentalrelations/2010/02/27/senate-ways-means-hears-biomass-bill/>)

Rich Davis says Evergreen needs to do more than meet regulations to make the project work. “If we just take the federal view: all slash is renewable, and we put it in our process, I think we’re subject to criticism. And I don’t like that. I want the folks in the middle who are asking questions and thinking to support what we do.” He says opposition to the project has honed the group’s commitment to sustainable forestry. “The criticism that’s occurred has sharpened us. It’s made arguments about where this fuel comes from stronger and clearer.” Not only that, but “it’s brought more people in line with the idea that the source of fuel is important.” Dani Madrone still questions the carbon neutrality of biomass, while affirming Evergreen’s commitment to sustainability.

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“I can’t say, yes, it will be carbon neutral because I’m still learning the science,” says Madrone. “But it’s very clear that Evergreen does not support clearcutting.” Clearcutting is the process of cutting all the trees in an area every given number of years, then replanting to start the process over. In the case of Green Diamond Resource Company, a lumber corporation that lauds itself as “green,” this practice is called “even-aged management.” Madrone goes on to describe “conversion,” a process she claims is worse than clearcutting.

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to, so they cut down all of the trees and sell the land for development. That's a much bigger contributor to climate change than clearcutting in the grand scheme of things," she says. Criticism of clearcutting and conversion are not new at Evergreen and neither is biomass.

In 2008, Nexterra, a company that builds biomass gasifiers, brought a proposal to Evergreen. The proposal was dismissed because, according to Scott Morgan, "no one wanted to open that discussion on campus." Geothermal heat pumps, or ground source heat pumps, were studied as an alternative. Ground source heat pumps draw heat from the ground using electrically powered machinery. According to both Morgan and Rich Davis, the college can't afford them. But Pat Rasmussen, citing a paper on energy options for the college, says biomass and heat pumps are comparable in cost: between \$15 – 23 million for ground source compared to approximately \$15 million for biomass. Rasmussen also cited data from Ball State University, which claims the pumps can pay for themselves in two to ten years. (<http://cms.bs.u.edu/About/Geothermal.aspx>) Rasmussen is talking about closed loop, or VRF, pumps, which she claims would cost only \$8-9 million to install at Evergreen. According to Rasmussen, closed-loop pumps have not been studied by Evergreen. Paul Smith, Evergreen's facilities director, only discussed a different kind of technology, open-loop geothermal, at the most recent information session on September 23, she says. Ground source heat pumps do rely on electricity for power, which Rasmussen says can be renewable and lead to carbon neutrality. But Evergreen staff are skeptical.

Rich Davis explained Evergreen's position on the cost of ground source. Instead of two to ten years, his calculations say it would take the college 50 years to recuperate the money spent installing the pumps through energy savings. Because of dependence on electricity, Davis also doubts the potential for ground source to lead to carbon neutrality or savings on energy bills. "With ground source heat pumps," continues Davis, "we're one hundred percent electrical and our electricity bill goes through the roof."

Other alternatives have been researched, including plasma gasification and anaerobic digestion. The first, like ground source, is dependent on electricity and the primary fuel is municipal waste, which can give off toxins such as heavy metals, mercury, and dioxins. The second amounts to capturing and burning methane, the primary component

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of natural gas, from landfills, sewage treatment plants, or manure. As Morgan explains it, "we could set up a compost pile or we have to haul in sludge of some kind." He also says anaerobic digestion can't be accelerated and decelerated as needed, which is a criteria for the college's heat source.

But Pfeiffer and Rising Tide want more resources put into researching alternatives. They feel that, despite using student fees on the feasibility study, the project's proponents have presented students with the "false dichotomy," of "choosing between fossil fuels and our forests." They say this is part of the administration's position that, "if we're against biomass, we're for fossil fuels." Pfeiffer rejoinders, "A fundamental demand of the climate justice movement has always been leave fossil fuels in the ground. But if we're left with the choice between fossil fuels and our forests, it's one form of destructive for another. And we're not going to

have a future if we have to choose one of those."

According to Pfeiffer, not enough is being done to incorporate students or community members into the project, especially by means of outreach, education, and debate. Pfeiffer initially heard about the project from activists elsewhere in Washington opposing similar facilities. From meeting minutes available online (<http://www.evergreen.edu/committee/cleanenergy/minutes.htm>), we can make a rough timeline of events since the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

In fall of 2009 the CEC got a proposal from Paul Smith, Evergreen's Facilities Director, to fund one third of the cost of a feasibility study for biomass, which would mean 125,000 dollars from the student Clean Energy Fee. "We knew it was going to be controversial because we're dealing with trees, and there are a lot of environmental justice issues involved, especially deforestation, one of the major contributors to climate change," Madrone explained. The Committee held a student forum before coming to a decision. Madrone said the forum, which took place in October 2009, only drew two students. One of them asked the soon to be familiar question, "where is the wood going to come from?"

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On October 16, the Committee decided to fund the study. This meant a total of 375,000 dollars would go to the study, one third from the student fee, one third from the college's reserves, and one third from the legislature. A portion of this money is paying for a third party feasibility study being conducted by a company called McKinstry, due out sometime between now and December. After the decision, students were invited to come to the CEC with questions, and they did, reiterating concerns about the source of the fuel and raising questions about emissions from the proposed facility.

Though Madrone stressed "transparency with students so that their voices are heard," Matt Pfeiffer isn't convinced the process has been or will be democratic. Over the summer, communication about the project seemed to break down. "I was told by some other activists there was going to be a private meeting on July 16, which I and other activists attended. Many administrators were disgruntled by our presence, but we sat in on the meeting and aired our concerns. All the meetings since then have been kept well enough under wraps that we didn't even hear about them even though we were told we'd be kept informed."

Madrone, who is focusing her energies on community outreach, cites a serious need for more help. "With the way the economy's been going, more and more of the responsibilities get dumped on the same people because Evergreen can't afford to hire new employees. One of the big problems with the research is everybody's busy." Scott Morgan, leading the project as the college's Sustainability Director, is researching alternatives on his own and he is part time. "I seriously want some students engaged with researching alternatives this fall," he says.

Morgan was specific about the kind of engagement he's looking for. "My responsibility here is to make sure we are able to make a completely informed decision and we can't do that without including the opposing voices. I want them to engage with some of the discussion groups and get involved in the research." He proposed a schedule of two to four information sessions before the end of the



Biomass protest outside Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) in Olympia

quarter, spread out over the course of three months. Madrone sees her role as "generating a community-based learning experience, where we present what we've learned about forestry, and ask what have you heard? We want to pull knowledge out of the community, pull people's concerns out, so we can address them along the way, rather than going ahead with our research and later finding out that we should've looked at this or that." Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to write contracts or develop class projects based on biomass. The debates, research, and unfortunately, environmental destruction continue, but this project, like any alternative form of energy, requires participation not just of college staff, but, as Evergreen's website states, "the entire community."

But who belongs to that community? According to Kathleen Saul, there's definitely a need for outreach regarding this project's relationship to indigenous communities. "Especially in Washington," she explains, "where there are so many tribes and they're active on environmental issues. Not just because we have treaties with the tribes, but because they have some great scientists and it behooves us to draw on their expertise." This is also "an energy model that a lot of indigenous communities are using or looking into around the country," says Morgan. Unless indigenous communities are directly engaged in the project, race and class disparities in energy production and distribution, stressed by Pfeiffer and Rising Tide, may fetter any strides towards sustainability.

Despite these concerns, Rich Davis sees biomass as a means to better the already encouraging history of sustainability at Evergreen. "So,

"Conservation's not going to make us 'green' or carbon neutral by 2020. Biomass can do that."

when our critics say, Evergreen, you should conserve to become carbon neutral. I say, we have. We're working on that all the time, we're below average, we're outside the box, we're innovative in a lot of things we're doing now. There's more to do and I want to go further." It's going to take more than conservation, according to Davis, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. "Conservation's not going to make us 'green' or carbon neutral by 2020. Biomass can do that." Not according to Pfeiffer. "Biomass is capital's answer to the climate crisis. If Evergreen certifies biomass, with its significant influence as a green institution, then we're saying this is something everyone should do." His conclusion is grim. "We are opening up a new way of 'green' eco-apartheid by endorsing this new trend of biomass incinerators."

Scott Morgan concludes by addressing the project in the context of energy production. "We need to stop assuming that a centralized

power production and distributed infrastructure model is the only one that works. "It may or may not work for biomass," he says, "but we need a better sense of where our energy comes from, how it's managed and a lot more responsibility for it."

The struggle over the biomass project demonstrates that addressing ecological devastation is not only about how Evergreen produces and uses energy, but who decides and what makes it possible. We remain fettered by the destructive, racist, and capitalist logic operating on a global scale, producing travesties in the Gulf and Pakistan. Biomass may be able to loosen certain of those fetters, by making our heat local and potentially renewable, providing economic options for communities without them, and making us more aware of the resources we consume. Yet it is still bounded by disconcerting limitations, such as appeasing industry's insatiable hunger for "green" markets, an uncertain science of carbon sequestration, and, in the case of Evergreen's project, lack of participation from directly affected communities, particularly indigenous communities. Only more widespread education, participation, and debate in the struggle over biomass can resolve these questions and raise those yet unasked.

▶ A FEW WORDS continued from page 1

In order to secure regular funding, the CxPJ had become a student group. As a result, we got some shit from the Cooper Point Journal, who wanted all of our documents, kept trying to get our funds denied by the school, and later threatened to get a lawyer because a public records request wasn't fulfilled quickly enough for them. (This wasn't such a big deal, it took up some time but mostly it was funny.) The administration also told S&A that they wanted four copies of our paper delivered to the Student Affairs whenever they came out.

In March, we got into a number of serious fights inside the collective that lowered morale pretty seriously. The first was over how to represent the occupation of the HCC and of campus occupations that were happening across the country. There was nearly a half and half split, and in trying to arrive at an adequate solution we had to delay production and write extra articles to represent the differing opinions.

Lastly, in what we might call "our shittiest issue," we basically fell apart over the State Avenue black bloc. Most members had abandoned the paper and the entire focus was a bizarre spotlight of the arrests, without much of the investigation or analysis that we had formerly prided ourselves on. Plus, it was a horrible full-color paper that looked like a tabloid.

At this point, the collective was basically in shambles. We were stretched over-capacity trying to

manage a website we couldn't run, a really great intern to whom we failed to offer support and guidance, new members who also did not receive any sort of training, and a series of developments (internal and external) that were just too much for us. There were regular fights about stories and representation, many of which were resolved by perseverance and not a democratic process.

It's important to note that even though all this was going on, we still produced a lot that we were very proud of. The fall and winter editions had important stories on the Labor Center audit (which the Labor Center circulated), the new student conduct code, and the bookstore monopoly debacle to name a few. When we did things well, we had a significant impact on the community by raising questions that furthered campus dialogues and disseminating important information.

Lessons:

1. Groups need structure. Power exists, formally or informally. Creating and rotating specific roles, and keeping an eye on who is regularly doing the "least glamorous" work, can produce a non-hierarchical, and at the same time, functional, structure.
2. New members should be intentionally educated about what the mission is and how things work, but with room for suggestions and growth.

Olympia reflects the national radical culture that mostly postures and creates cliques where either you accept the implicit program or you're forced to leave—there's very little open debate. We need to pass on our knowledge because it strengthens our own sense of what we're about, brings new folks up to speed, and creates a space for new ideas.

3. Don't take money from the school for "radical" projects. We didn't really get into it here, but you have to open yourself up to anyone who wants to join, hold regular meetings in regular locations, and there are some indirect ways the school can control what you do. This isn't to say never take money from Evergreen, but your funding should come from your base.
4. Work to your capacity and grow smart. It's important to know what you can do and don't overextend yourself, otherwise everything sucks.

So that's the year in review. We're sharing it because we want our readers to know why our issues have turned out as they have, and instill some confidence that we're steering this shit right. For the folks who had some issues with our papers, know that you weren't alone, but we're serious that if you want to see this thing reach its full potential you should think about how to contribute, and we'll do our part to make contributing more accessible.

Yours,

Counter Point Collective

The Roots Coalition: A Queer Lesson in Movement Building

An Interview by Rebecca Wyllie de Echeverria

At first glance it appeared to be a normal conference room and as I walked in the loathsome college lecture flashbacks began. Then I realized: the room was full of queer people. We were everywhere. My first People's Movement Assembly was stuffy, the room had no inches to spare and we were jam packed inside, but it hummed with excitement. We are all radical queers and we were all gathered to discuss movement building across and between our communities. Many of us shared the question that filled my mind: how is it possible to build a movement which encompasses the vast landscape that is queer identity? I went to the United States Social Forum in search of intentional queer organizing and found the Roots Coalition. They are attempting to prove that we, by the nature of our naturally fragmented communities, can work separately but we must also work in unity. The word queer itself is problematic, as some of the older people in our communities denote queer as a slur and not an identity. Many of our communities have different needs which cannot always be reconciled. But if we try we can find common ground amongst LGBTQQAI (Lesbian, Gay Bi, Trans, Queer Questioning, Asexual and Intersex) people and use our identities to connect and not divide.

I contacted Caitlin Breedlove after she and her colleagues at Southerner's on New Ground (SONG) released the Trans Report, a document which quantifies the experience of 127 Trans people who are from or currently living in the South (available on SONG's website). The following interview consists of her explanation of the formation and progress of Roots, the Queer PMA, and an introduction to the Trans Report.

What spawned the Roots Coalition and how is it organized?

If you know much about groups that make up the roots of the Coalition you know that we actually do a variety of different things. The Sylvia Rivera Law Project, for example, focuses on legal services for marginalized Trans and gender nonconforming people. Affinity is focused primarily on African American lesbians and they do work in Chicago. FIERCE is a Trans and Queer youth organization. SONG, the organization I work for, is a Southern Regional organization. So both in terms of local and national organizing, we do a variety of different kinds of work with different people. But basically what brought us together as a coalition is the fact that we are all interested in alternative visions of what it looks like to build strong infrastructure for our communities. We see two specific needs: one, to build infrastructure and create new and inventive ways to build our own communities and two, on a resistance level, to challenge neoliberalism, particularly how it affects our communities. We define neoliberalism pretty simply as all of the facets of capitalism and imperialism that put profit over people. We are interested in challenging neoliberalism from our perspective. We have two arms within our coalition which work together to create the change we envision. One of our arms is the community schools team. They are building a curriculum that centers on base building and recruitment of LGBTQ people of color (POC) in our different organizations. The idea is to make a super curriculum that takes all of our gross curriculum and puts it together to create organizational spaces to do political education with our folks. For us this

means a space to do visioning, to do listening, to understand more about the issues that our communities are experiencing. The community schools arm is dipping into the well and bringing forth what is often at the bottom. Our communities are often put at the bottom and we are trying to illuminate what is really going on "down there" and how we can envision the future together.

The other arm, which I am the temporary point person for, is the campaign piece. That is the arm that is engaged in revisioning. We are interested in campaign strategies, policies, and struggles that are really impacting LGBTQ people of color. We are focused on campaign development. We picked the umbrella of identity policing and surveillance to work under. We are looking at different trends, policies, and situations our communities are dealing with that involve identity policing. One concrete example of that would be SB1070 and that kind of legislation in Arizona that creates regional and immigration profiling. Another example is the Real ID which is less well known currently. [The Real ID card] is legislation that would create a central ID. This would mean that everyone's gender and sexual history, felony history, criminal history, medical history (things like how many abortions you have had), political history, all of your personal and professional information would be available to the government and easily accessed by one swipe of the card.

That kind of surveillance has always been a fundamental ark of fascist regimes throughout history, particularly in our communities. By our communities I mean it greatly affects communities of color, formerly incarcerated communities, and gender non-conformant communities, in intersexual areas of struggle. The coalition itself is still in development but that is a little more about where we are and what we are working on.

How did the social forum play into the organization's progression?

We have been in formation for the past three years and a majority of our groups are funded through the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice which, for folks that don't know, Astraea is the kind of foundation that



The Queer PMA Photo by FEIRCE

is really working to deepen and support left political LGBTQ organizations. They paid for some of us to get together and think through the idea of forming a coalition, and then they provided seed money and infrastructure support. In the process of forming we tried to figure out our main criticisms of top-down, mainstream white male run LGBT initiatives. Well, one of our main criticisms is that no one has asked us what we think, no one has asked us about issue development, no one has asked us what the most pressing issues in our lives are, what is important to us, they have just told us what to work on. So we thought from the very beginning we need to do things differently. We represent different groups, we represent different communities

and we represent different pivotal strategy. From the very beginning we want to think about how to do things differently. So we thought the Social Forum would be a great place to do some listening and get feedback, particularly on some campaign ideas.

Now what happened was, it turned out there was no LGBTQ People's Movement Assembly (PMA) in place. For folks who don't know the PMA is a process that came out of the social forum to help communities come together and speak for themselves about key issues, key resolutions and strategy. We use the PMA platform to demonstrate our demands and the support we need in order to move forward with other groups at the Social Forum. We realized that no one else was stepping up to facilitate the Queer PMA, which in itself is significant and speaks to how those of us on the left in LGBTQ communities are not working as well together as we need to be at this point. We are so incredibly overrepresented number wise. Some people estimate that over 1/3 of the 18,000 at the Social Forum were LGBTQ which I think speaks drastically to how incredibly involved our communities are, not in single issue politics, but around self determination and liberation in general.

I point this out to bring attention to the fact that we are not as organized within our own communities, given our numbers, that we need to be. So we thought, our plan was to do this training and feedback workshop at the Social Forum, but there is this big gap. We are not the best or biggest coalition but we were the only ones who seem to be ready to hold the Queer PMA.

What we did was an experiment, a hybrid of a PMA and a platform to gather feedback on our campaign ideas. This approach had pros and cons, but we were able to make a resolution called the Self Determination Resolution, that overall incorporated the voices of more than 500 LGBTQ leaders on the left, primarily immigrant and working class people of color. This was possible because some of the ROOTS groups were able to do feeder PMA's and were able to feed that information into the conversation. SONG, for example, did a 127 person PMA with Southern Trans people who wouldn't have a chance to go to the forum and was able to feed that information to the more than 400 people who were at the PMA. So that is how we used the forum and actually more than 500 is a pretty conservative estimate, it was probably upwards of 600 people. We saw that as a big victory, to be able to get that kind of information out there.

Thoughts of the queer people's movement assembly?

I think the PMA process is really promising. I think that it is a process that is still in progress. However, I think it is a key process that creates the opportunity to move the Social Forum as a whole from a collection of workshops that are individual, to a site for discerning some sort of direction for the left. I think that is really exciting, especially considering how much privilege the United States as a nation has as a whole and how incredibly behind we are in the World Social Forum process. There are countries involved in civil war that are able to hold forums and come up with directions that the US is not able to do so I think that is really exciting. It is not about a perfect process, it is messy and its about understanding that self organization means that if we don't like it or think it is not good enough, we will take it upon ourselves to make it better. We can't just be critical, which so many of us are so good at being, myself included. We have to actually be working for change. In retrospect we realized that trying to make a PMA and also get this other

feedback was trying to do too much. But the goodwill that people had to work with the process I think really spoke for the need for some kind of national voice that does LGBTQ and POC led work specifically.

Do you feel that queer and trans voices were heard at the forum?

I feel that a lot of our voices were heard and I think that, like I talked a little bit about before, sometimes we are not as organized as we need to be, especially given how many members of our community attended the forum. However, I do think that we still have a lot of work to do that is on us. It is not anyone's job to create the kind of safety and infrastructure that we, particularly Trans and gender non-conforming folks, need. I know there were incidents with bathrooms (all bathrooms at the Social Forum were supposed to be gender neutral but they were never marked as such). That continues to be an issue. I think we made progress, and that it is really on us as communities to make sure that we are leading and that the forum gets it right. Overall, I think that it is always going to be a mix. Negative things and positive things are going to happen but I think that there is real progress in the forum process.

What are the next steps for the Roots Coalition?

The next steps are to make a timeline of the first year of the community schools and build a website. The campaign team has to decide on our first action step but we still have some research to do. Our biggest

How is it possible to build a movement which encompasses the vast landscape that is queer identity?

next step is to figure out, between now and next March, entry points for individual leaders and other groups to get involved with the coalition. We have created some already but it is key to build entry points not only for people to enter the work, but also to integrate and come up with things like infrastructure and decision making processes before we start opening it up beyond 14 original groups. So we've been struggling with getting ourselves to the point where we have everything ready to open the coalition. In terms of our development, we are really excited about that because we feel like there has been a real positive response, even when we have made mistakes and moved slowly, there has been real positive response to the concept of us doing this work.

How did the Trans Report fit into the social forum?

We brought the Trans Report, to the forum as a way of including the voices of Southern Trans people who did not attend the forum in the PMA and the resolution making process. The actual resolution that came out of the national queer and trans PMA, which was also the national Queer youth PMA, is available on www.pma2010.org.

What kind of responses have you gotten from the community?

We have gotten really positive responses overall. Particularly from Trans leaders that work with SONG who have documented how they are going to use it. They have talked about using it with allies and using it within their groups. We are working on doing something in Atlanta with Trans people of color leadership to talk about the report and its usage and talk more deeply about conditions in the places that are discussed in the report. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and the Northern allies have appreciated the opportunity to understand more

about Southern conditions without having to take our members aside and ask them a whole bunch of questions. Southern Trans and gender non-conforming communities had a lot of research collected about them. Not much of this research has benefited them and very little that has been used to hold people accountable to the work. At SONG we feel like we have this information and now we can weave it into our work and be accountable to it.

When I spoke with Caitlin she informed me that the Roots Coalition is made up of 14 Roots which are LGBTQ, primarily people of color led groups. The groups themselves are: Queers for Economic Justice, Southerners on New Ground, FIERCE, Affinity Community Services, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, The Audre Lorde Project, The First Nations Collective, Disability Justice Collective, Esperanza Collective, Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project, Austin Latino Latina Lesbian & Gay Organization, Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, Center for Artistic Revolution and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. You can find out more about these organization from the resource links on SONG's website (www.southernersonnewground.org) or through a simple yet fulfilling web search.

FIERCE in Detroit

FIERCE is a membership-based organization building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color in New York City. We develop politically conscious leaders who are invested in improving ourselves and our communities through youth-led campaigns, leadership development programs, and cultural expression through arts and media.

FIERCE is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of social justice movement leaders who are dedicated to ending all forms of oppression. This past June, FIERCE joined hundreds of thousands of social justice leaders, organizers, advocates, activists, and visionaries in Detroit for the United States Social Forum (USSF). A FIERCE crew of eleven members and staff participated in workshops, organized discussions, created media and connected with organizers from around the country. The reflections below are from FIERCE Members Christopher and Balder.

My name is Christopher Baez, and I'm an active member at FIERCE. I have been involved with the organization for a year and a half. Growing up as a low-income LGBTQ youth of color in New York City, I wanted to create change for my communities. Over the past several years, I began to see that social justice work and organizing is where my passion lies. Throughout my time at FIERCE, I've been told that I am a very warm hearted person who attracts people. I feel that it is up to each of us to carve our way and build strong ties with people. The more people you know, the more you learn about yourself. In my lifetime, I aim to create change for my community, and part of creating this change is learning about social justice movements on a broad scale. We are all connected, and one fight for justice should not be isolated to just one issue, group or community. We must build together.

It's important to look at our community as one collective movement. We are one heart that keeps beating and pushing

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New Arrests, New Charges: Oakland Community Criminalized for Response to Unsatisfying Verdict

by Jesse Strauss

In a two week period in early September, 7 people were killed by police in Washington. Two of those stories especially stand out.

On August 30th, a Seattle cop unleashed 4 shots aimed at John T. Williams. Williams was an indigenous an indigenous totem carver who sold his work at Pike Place Market. He was holding his 3 inch knife and a piece of wood when he was killed. Contrary to the officer's statement that Williams was lunging at him, witnesses have come forward saying that the victim was not acting aggressive or advancing toward the officer at all.

Early on New Year's morning of 2009, a group of young men were pulled off of a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train car by a group of police officers responding to a call about a fight. Moments later, Oscar Grant, one of the young men, found himself lying face down on the BART platform with a cop's knee in his neck. As Grant struggled to breathe under the weight of the 250+ pound officer, he managed to yell out that he was a father. Without warning, BART police officer Johannes Mehserle stood up, grabbed his firearm, aimed down, and shot Grant point blank. Mehserle's next action was to handcuff the wounded 22 year old father before calling for

streets and discussing, chanting or shouting their frustrations with and hopes for justice.

Less than five minutes later, the OPD announced, "We are declaring this an unlawful assembly."

Without a permit, those who came to speak out in anger against police brutality and support for the family of Oscar Grant were immediately criminalized. Until that point, the afternoon's events had been remarkably peaceful. A newly criminalized peaceful protester spoke out over a megaphone, explaining the irony of the police's approach. "They've been talking for weeks [about] how we are going to be allowed to be out here and express our feelings. Well, here we are, and these are our feelings, and they're going to beat us down and arrest us for doing that."

A few moments later, the speaker's fears turned real. Dan Siegel, a legal observer with the National Lawyers Guild, described his account of the first gruesome police provocation of the evening. "We're down at 12th street and all of a sudden the cops start pushing to clear the street... There are some people moving kind of slow, and then they start shoving them, and they shoved her [a nearby legal observer] with a club, they shoved a couple guys, they knocked them down, they took a couple guys down there and arrested them for no absolute reason at all." From this legal witness, the police action was no joke. Siegel continued, "It's like they provoked this whole scene. You know, the demonstration is calm. People are demonstrating, they're speaking out. Some people are just having a good time; but the cops just provoked us by trying to clear this block off."

After a night of chaotic clashes which left windows broken, dumpsters ablaze and protesters in jail, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums expressed a completely different perception of the police-community interaction that night. A City of Oakland press release from Friday morning explained that Dellums "lauded the efforts of the Oakland Police Department for showing great restraint and respect for people's civil rights." At best, what the press release speaks to is a version of events which offered a strong expectation for unrest and violence.

Dellums' approach, however, juxtaposed with Siegel's testimony of police provocation in only the first moments after the gathering was declared illegal, shows a great deal of disconnect between the experiences of officials and those in the streets.

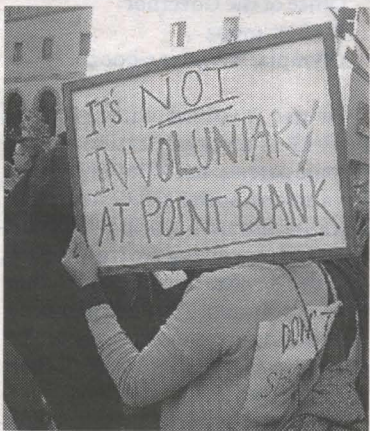


Photo by Jesse Strauss.

Clearly, according to Siegel, restraint and respect for civil rights was far from his legal observation. My own experience in the streets that night also suggest that Dellums was far off, leaving community members as well as store fronts unsafe.

Grant's mother, Wanda Johnson, after the announcement of the verdict, spoke clearly about the need for justice

in the face of an unjust system of accountability. "My son was murdered; and the law has not held the officer accountable the way that he should have been held accountable." Johnson added that she still strives for justice for her son, but the formal justice system as we know

it will not support an appropriate level of accountability. "The system will fail us and let us down."

Lack of organization on all parts after the 8 pm criminalization of the gathering left community members without a place to vent their frustration and anger. On the path toward justice for Oscar Grant, those feelings need to be recognized, respected and coherently organized.

The day after the verdict, a community member shared with me her disappointment in the verdict along with her disappointment with the community reaction to it. "I was mad. Mad about the verdict. Mad about people tearing up my city. Mad about the powerlessness I feel toward it all. Mad about a lot of things I can't really express... Right or wrong, I guess I just wish there had been a better avenue for venting our collective disappointment."

Just before he learned there was a verdict, Jack Bryson, the father of Jackie and Nigel Bryson who were on the Fruitvale BART platform with Oscar Grant when he was killed, spoke with me about his understanding of justice for Oscar Grant. Standing outside the LA courthouse, he explained that any version of a guilty verdict (involuntary/voluntary manslaughter or second degree murder) would prove that most police witnesses lied under oath.

For Bryson, the first simple step toward justice is to charge each and every one of them with perjury. Bryson especially focused on the charge for Tony Pirone, the BART cop who was holding Grant down when he was killed and who had yelled the phrase "bitch ass nigger" twice just moments before the shot was fired.

Also as part of that conversation, JR Valrey of Block Report Radio spoke about the need for Mehserle's formal imprisonment as a first step toward justice. He explained that even while incarceration in this country is faulted, from disproportionate racial representations to the private profiting off nearly unpaid labor, those who enforce that system should be accountable to it. If that system of policing and incarceration puts people away for murder, the exact same needs to be done with Mehserle.

That is, as a first stepping stone. But justice is a much larger struggle—much larger than Oscar Grant, much larger than Oakland, and probably much larger than we can imagine.

As the Oakland community grapples with frustration, anger and a longing for justice for Oscar Grant, our experience reflects one struggle in a much larger context of police brutality and a broken justice system.

In a conversation with Anita Johnson, a producer of Pacifica Radio's Hard Knock Radio, she emphasized a reminder of that context. "We need to make sure that justice is secured, and I don't want to leave this conversation without saying that we can talk about what happened at Footlocker and the vandalism that took place, [but] the larger issue is justice and that police terrorism should not be allowed."

However controversial Oakland's response to the Mehserle verdict might be, Johnson was adamant about the positive parts of Thursday night's events. She continued, "Maybe we can be a model, an example, if everyone works together collectively—different parts of the city, different economic, social backgrounds—coming together to really stand up for justice and speak out loudly and really be present in the moment." What she spoke about is Oakland's legacy of uniting for justice despite our differences. Johnson continued, "I want to challenge the system. We can do that collectively... We can make a

difference, but we have to come together, so I'm hoping that this will be an example for [others]."

The Oakland 100 Support Committee is calling for support from the community to help in the defense of the people who were arrested during the verdict protests. A list of court dates and locations as well as a way to donate to support court and lawyer fees are available on their website (<http://supporttheoakland100.wordpress.com/>).

Jesse Strauss is an Evergreen Alumni who lives and writes in Oakland, CA.

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through all the obstacles we face. We have to break the barriers that exist for all of us. Often our communities suffer from oppression, phobias, and biases. We have to demonstrate that we are united and strong.

On June 21, 2010, I decided to face my fear of flying and go to the US Social Forum in Detroit, with a FIERCE team of fellow youth members and staff. Part of why I went to Detroit was to continue to work with Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ) on solutions following the G20. People were split up into groups according to region. I was in the North East. I learned that the only way we will see a better tomorrow is if people take the power and fight for reform collectively. We must seek reform through mobilizing and sticking together. Some of my other highlights from the USSF were seeing Detroit. Detroit was definitely a city hit hard by the economic crisis and at times, it felt almost empty. I saw tent cities and remember there were tent cities in Pittsburgh too.

I am motivated to fight so that everyone can have access to their rights. We still have a lot of work to do!

Hi, my name is Balder, but during the United States Social Forum, I went by Elegost or Rudy. I am an active member of FIERCE. I attended the USSF because it was a great chance for me and FIERCE to meet new people outside of New York; to really connect with activists and organizers from around the nation.

It was also an amazing chance to learn new things from the huge selection of workshops. One of my favorite memories of the USSF was back at the Westin Hotel pool. It was the first day of the USSF and we had just participated in the long opening march to CoBo Hall where most of the workshops and assemblies were held. It was close to closing time for the pool when security came in saying that the pool was closing and that we all had to leave. Everyone in the pool starting doing chants like "Whose pool? Our Pool" and "Security needs a raise" to help keep the pool opened longer. It worked for about 15 minutes!

I really enjoyed that moment, most of all because it showed our unity. Whether we were queer or straight, we all chanted for our love of the pool.

As a FIERCE member who had the opportunity to be in Detroit for the USSF and the Allied Media Conference, I really want to bring a contagious momentum to keep everyone involved and the centering practices to keep us calm and focused as we lead and continue building our movements. I can use the breathing activities to help keep us calm in stressful times, and I can keep the thought of unity and remember we are all in this fight for social justice and social freedom for all people.



Rally after the verdict. Photo by Jesse Strauss.

Only about a week later on September 7th, Nikkolas W. Lookabill was killed by three police officers in Vancouver, Washington. Lookabill was a veteran specialist with the Army National Guard, and had recently returned from a 12 month tour in Iraq in 2009. Reportedly, Lookabill had also recently gone through Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment, along with his entire Army unit. Lookabill was holding a handgun, and this seems to be the reason police felt threatened to the point of shooting him somewhere between 6 and 12 times, ending the young man's life.

One would hope to think that the saddest part of these stories is that someone's life was ended. Unfortunately, put in the context of patterns of police brutality, these people were not an exception to the use of violence by police. There are a wide range of issues that connect these abuses, from systemic racism that allows cops to target people and communities of color to the strong connection between veterans dealing with PTSD and interacting with the law (whether as a profession or being arrested or attacked by officers

any kind of medical assistance. All this was recorded by the cell phones and cameras of numerous BART passengers. Oscar Grant was killed that morning, but the Oakland community will never forget his name.

About a year and a half later on July 8th, for the first time in California's history an officer was tried for murder. And a completely non-Black LA jury found that Mehserle killed Grant with "criminal negligence", giving him the charge of involuntary manslaughter. Mehserle's sentencing will occur in November, but from what I understand at the time of this writing the verdict could mean that Oscar Grant's killer will serve anywhere from as little as two to fourteen years in jail.

The Oakland community was unsatisfied with the jury's decision, and immediately following the verdict announcement, the community took to the streets in a showing of passion and rage. As a result of that evening's action, new arrests are being made and new charges being brought by the city of Oakland. The most recent charges include: Unlawful Assembly, Remaining at the Scene of a Riot, and Rioting. Five people have remained in jail since the July 8th protests, including one who received no charges for over 30 days.

Soon after the protests, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) issued a press release explaining that some of the people arrested were taking "advantage of a chaotic situation by looting Oakland businesses." While to some extent this appears true, Rachel Lederman of the Bay Area chapter of the National Lawyers Guild made it very clear that it was the police forces themselves who made the situation chaotic. In a statement, Lederman said that "The aggressive use of police formations, baton beatings and indiscriminate arrests were unnecessary and violated people's constitutional right to protest. To make things even worse, OPD violated state law by jailing people for long periods of time who had been arrested for very minor offenses."

In response to the the verdict that day, the community held a powerful and peaceful rally at the downtown corner of 14th Street and Broadway. The city forced organizers to shut down the stage and sound system at 8 pm. A small portion of the thousand-strong crowd chose to leave while most stayed, standing in the

"My son was murdered; and the law has not held the officer accountable the way that he should have been held accountable."

for doing things which could have been seen as very normal during their military service).

Moreover, it is important to recognize abuses of power and authority by law enforcement agents as a regular part of our communities. Both the Evergreen Police Department, and the Olympia Police Department have faced accusations of targeting people and communities of color. The Evergreen cops easily have the capability to take someone's lives—they didn't always have guns—and last year they tried to get funding for more advanced weaponry.

While the story below is about Oscar Grant, a victim of police violence in Oakland, California, patterns suggest that it is not unique. Washington's officers seem to be following similar patterns, and whether in the form of murder or prejudicial targeting of marginalized communities, there is a clear potential for that violence to occur in any of our communities.

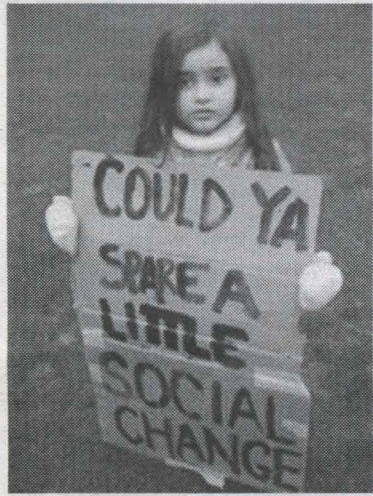
Families Shocked by Gregoire's Welfare Cuts, Students Should Be Too

By POWER and Anna Simonton

In August Governor Gregoire announced \$51 million in cuts to welfare programs to families. These will be achieved by cutting off a family's welfare grant after 5 years even if they have been participating in job search or job readiness programs the entire time. This will leave these families with only food stamps and no way to pay the rent.

Families protesting budget cuts to safety net programs met with members of Governor Gregoire's staff on September 1st. They chose September 1st in solidarity with nearly 2,000 disabled adults who had their sole income, a \$339 disability grant, terminated because of a retroactive five-year time limit the Legislature passed and the Governor signed last session.

"These are people who have already proven to the state that they are too disabled to work. We invite



One of POWER's younger constituents.

them to join us to ask the Governor what she expects them to do?" announced Monica Peabody, Director of Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) in a press release.

Gov. Gregoire has said that the solution to Washington's projected \$3 billion budget shortfall for the next two-year budget cycle is for everyone to tighten our belts financially. But the people having to "tighten their belts" the most are those who don't have any room left to do so. Washington state's disability benefits, formerly called GAU, now called Disability Lifeline, have not had a cost of living increase in over 20 years.

Cash benefits to parents with no or low incomes are called TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). They have had one 3% increase in the past 17 years; a single mother and her child receive \$453 per month.

Further cuts will be achieved by limiting support services, like childcare, that provide parents the ability to successfully meet the onerous work requirements that accompany TANF Wendy Davis, a POWER in-

I can't work without childcare, but can't afford childcare to work."

tern and mother, says cutting childcare will "shoot me in the foot. I'm maxed as it is and can't even afford to pay the bills. I would have to decide between childcare and rent, which is illogical. I can't work without childcare, but can't afford childcare to work."

There were no welfare recipients invited to join the WorkFirst Redesign team, the group that made recommendations of which programs to cut to the Governor. This was a mistake according to Jade Souza, a POWER board member. "If they ask people who rely on these programs where to cut, we can suggest improvements that could provide the savings without creating the job loss and homelessness the Governor's cuts will engender."

POWER members are recommending the following cuts, instead of those proposed by the Governor:

1) Streamline the welfare to work program to the unemployment program. Currently TANF recipients are required to make 15 job contacts a week, go to the Work Source office every day, and log 35 hours a week of job search. Unemployment recipients are required to make 3 job contacts a week and send in weekly reports. Parents who live 60 miles from the Work Source office, or for whom it is a 3-hour bus ride each way, are told there are no exceptions. They say that the requirements get in the way of their finding a job. Governor Gregoire's staff agreed that the requirements are unattainable and streamlining the program would save money.

2) Make work requirements

voluntary. California legislators admitted they could no longer afford to adequately run their welfare to work program and made participation voluntary, saving a proposed \$510 million in childcare and administrative costs. Rather than playing the dangerous social experiment of withdrawing support services while maintaining work requirements, allow parents to choose whether to look for work outside the home, or save the state millions of dollars in childcare costs by caring for their own children.

In addition to making money-saving changes instead of cutting programs, our legislators could close the budget gap by supporting I-1098, an initiative that will be on the ballot in November. If passed by voters, I-1098 would institute an income tax on individuals who make more than \$200,000 per year, or joint filers

People making less than \$20,000 a year pay 17.3% of their income in taxes, while those pulling in \$537,000 or more pay only 2.6%.

making more than \$400,000 per year.

The tax would only affect 38,400 Washingtonians and would generate \$2 billion dollars annually. This would give Washington a shot at no longer being the state with the most regressive tax system in the country. Currently Washington only has sales and property taxes. The sales tax requires everyone to pay the same amount, so people making less than \$20,000 a year pay 17.3% of their income in taxes, while those pulling in \$537,000 or more pay only 2.6%

Sisters Organize for Survival, a Seattle-based group is working to raise awareness and support for I-1098.

You can get involved:

•CALL 206-722-6057
•E-MAIL
RWSeattle@mindspring.com
•VOTE!!!!

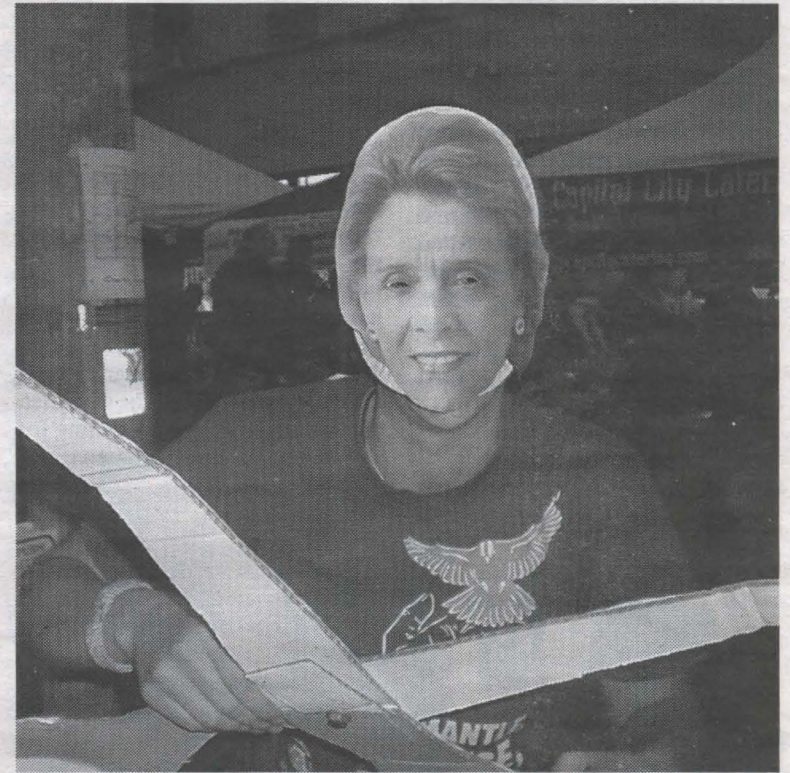
To take action against cuts to welfare and disability, contact Governor Gregoire and tell her you don't support legislation that hurts families:

•CALL:
360-902-4111 (for the deaf or hard of hearing, dial 7-1-1)
•WRITE:
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Or get involved with POWER. POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. They are planning on holding demonstrations at the Capitol every Wednesday until their voices are heard.

As students facing the increasing costs of higher education, cuts to programs, and less financial aid, we have a vested interest in joining those who are fighting budget cuts in other areas. If we work in solidarity with families facing welfare cuts, collectively we can make changes that will benefit us all.

To join with POWER you can call or e-mail them, visit their website, stop by their office, or find them on Facebook and Myspace!
701 Franklin Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716
welfare@riseup.net
http://www.oly-wa.us/power/



Gregoire made a surprise appearance at Arts Walk, wielding the scissors she used to cut welfare and other critical services.

▶ TECH continued from page 2

The attack funded by MPAA brought down the site for a number of days and was one of the first major criminal attacks proven to be perpetrated by the M.I.C. Consider again: ACS:Law, a UK based firm that, since 2009, has been dedicated to filing suit against individuals they claim to be illegally sharing files on the internet. They have sued thousands of people and intend to sue 25,000 more. A recent leak of internal corporate information showed that ACS:Law used illegally obtained information to target the defendants, violating one law (the UK's Data Protection Act) so that the they could find out which of these users was violating another (the Copyright Designs and Patents Act).

Well, that's too bad. But thank the flying spaghetti monster for the rampant anarchy governing the blag-o-sphere. In response to these attacks by MiC, the mob known as Anonymous (of 4chan and Scientology fame), has been organizing retaliatory attacks against the MPAA, ACS:Law and others, DDOS'ing their servers for days and days. For many members of Anon, the rationale is simple: The MiC's idea of Intellectual property and the licenses that they use to control it go too far. And their response has been powerful and with effect:

"OH SNAP!"

And now you are thinking, "Holy Fuuuuuuuuu... Crazy! How do I feel about this?"

We will tell you:

o. You are pro-piracy of course because as Greens you are adamantly opposed to the oppressive MiC and their bullshit, let alone the fact that you don't, as a matter of course, recognize os and is as the IP the MiC demands you would. Assertions about the legitimacy of IP are used by profiteers to retain ownership of information. Ranging from certain large prime numbers, to the genetic code for propriety species of corn, the umbrella definition for IP has too much coverage for you to support it.

1. Simultaneously, you are an advocate of alternative licenses such as Creative Commons and the like. These non-commercial licences appropriately consider both authors' rights to protect their works from profiteering as well as patrons' rights to use the media as they

wish.

2. Contrarily (to o) and contrapositively (to 1), you are vehemently opposed to opportunists who would break copyleft by selling for a profit works which are protected from such sales under non-commercial licenses.

3. As pseudo-Anarchists, you vehemently support autonomous vigilante action (re: the HCC/ACC occupations of last year) and would be both inconsistent and remiss if you chastised any other autonomous persons or group thereof for similar actions.

4. Finally, as artists, the vacant and aesthetically-worthless works of the mainstream media disgust you. You look down on everyone and hence (and especially) on the subset of people who think enough of these pieces to steal them.

Morally, we're all outraged at the corporations. They're fucked and shit only gets more so under their dominion. But how is what they're doing here any different from what Anon did in response? (Hint: it's literally not.) The fact of the matter is that the internet is the wild west and anything goes. Power on the tubes is quantified in millions of bots (bots: compromised systems used by hackers and corporate-hackers alike to launch attacks such as the above-mentioned DDOS). If you want cut and dry stories with easily identifiable morals then go work in print media. The internet is messy and that's how we like it.

And herein lies the conundrum:

:o ;* o_o

In conclusion, the future is now. We must hack the planet for our child-processes, for our child-processes' child-processes.

This is u\$3r/pa\$\$ and rootcanal signing off from the front lines of the underground

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POWER Must Move!

After 12 incredibly generous years of rent-free office space, the First Christian Church sadly needs to reclaim the Payne Room/POWER office. So POWER is looking for a home.

Spread the word!

What rent free has meant for us is that we have been able to spend our funding on program expenses: paying staff and providing support to our low-income members in the form of childcare, food, and transportation to meetings. If possible, we would love to continue this tradition. The First Christian Church considered POWER's work helping low-income families prevent homelessness and poverty an extension of their ministry.

We are hoping there is another church or organization who would benefit from housing POWER, either rent-free or at a low-cost. Are there other organizations who are interested in sharing space? Is there a landlord who needs a tax write-off or care taker? We are open to exploring options. Let us know if you have ideas.

POWER (Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights)
701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716
welfare@riseup.net
http://www.oly-wa.us/power/
Find us on Facebook and Myspace.

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.