

## CAN'T MEND THE MILITARY WITH QUEER INCLUSION

The current discourse seems dominated by cheerleading for the marginal victory of transgender inclusion in the military, sidelining the queer community's historic resistance to dependence on exploitative institutions. Let us make one thing clear: The Department of Defense (DOD) should not be celebrated as an economic provider for the marginalized. Instead, we should re-imagine a more socio-economically just distribution of resources that does not depend on an institution that enforces war and occupation.

Many join the military not out of sheer patriotism, but to reap the benefits granted by an exploitative employer. Yet, following military service, many are left destitute, with veterans grossly overrepresented in the national homeless population. Veterans often return from service suffering from devastating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, contributing to a suicide rate of 20 veterans each day. Is the high likelihood of physical and psychic suffering worth the support of a system that, historically, has turned a blind eye on its most vulnerable?

Dean Spade, transgender activist and associate professor of law at Seattle University, spoke about the trauma trans individuals experience in the military. "If we know that the U.S. military is this site of extreme sexual violence ... then we could guess what it would be like for people to be trans in the military," he said. "Because whenever there is intense sexual violence, trans people tend to be targeted."



The U.S. government allocates approximately 48 percent of its federal budget on current or past military expenditures. Within that defense budget, more than three times as much is spent on its private defense contractors than is done for veteran services and pensions. The U.S. military is, and always has been, designed to dispose of those who the elite deem disposable. The violence that it espouses is the same violence the queer community has been historically fighting against. We must resist and reject the idea that the military is a body that can be mended with queer inclusion.

We must refocus our movement toward a future where affordable healthcare and education exist outside of military system, as many join specifically for those benefits. The Trump administration's ad-hoc, scapegoating practices, deliberately targeting a vulnerable population, should not distract from the increasing intersectional awareness motivating many social justice movements today. Military tactics

employed by TigerSwan to carry out operations on the

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and protestors of DAPL reveal further the parallels between U.S. imperialism abroad and at home.

It comes as no surprise that the movement for queer liberation has a long history in its fight against the military, precisely because liberation is an encompassing concept. Spade spoke to us about how the anti-police, anti-war in Vietnam, anti-racism, and queer liberation movements were all emerging and prospering around the same time, and so influence was fluid between all these movements. It was a time when solidarity meant intersectionality. "There needs to be meaningful debates about what our politics are committed to," suggests Spade.

Thanks to Tamara Nassar & Jake Valente *InThesetimes*

### EUREKA'S CANCER CONTINUED:

# Benign, Malignant, Terminal?

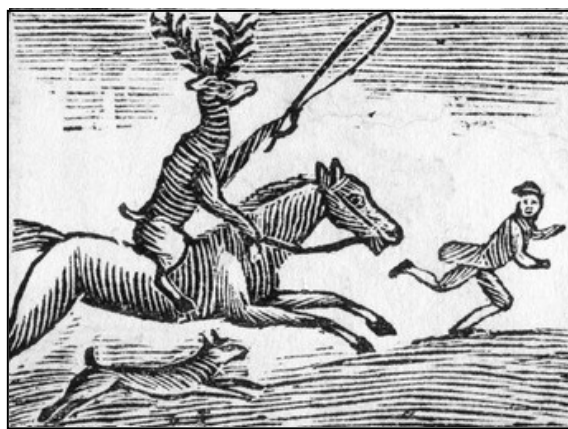
**Official Eureka's Cancer on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. has not been removed.** The steel fence remains as the instrument of what the old English called "enclosure". In those old days, the rich landlords were seizing peasant communal property via a corrupt legal system. Just like now - where public property - the sidewalk - has been privatized for the benefit of a contiguous business which gratefully subsidizes the fencing. No more loafing in front of Mercer Fraser. The loafers should count their blessings that Mercer Fraser didn't kick in an additional layer of free asphalt to pave them over with.

**Official Eureka's cancer on 3<sup>rd</sup> St.** is part of what in our modern era has been called not enclosure but "development." Concentrating the wealth and property in fewer and fewer hands. Terms like "colonialism" or "imperialism" are too crude for civil discussion." But truth will master language and the term "globalism" came forward to fill out the big picture. For Native Americans, the word is "genocide." All those terms are synonyms for our fauxBillionaire, **Rob Arkley**, who has made a fortune out of bankruptcy and foreclosure.

**Arkley must have added a heart attack** on top of cancer when Official Eureka got wind of his violent reaction during a call to a **KINS** talk show upon hearing that the City was making a gift of the entirety of Tulawat (Indian) Island to the Wiyot. He threatened a capitalist *jihad* at the very thought of "giving it away to the natives," going so far in his emotional lapse as to offer to pay more than market value.

"I don't know what these- the women on the city council are thinking," he snarled sexistly in Ryan Burns hilarious transcription. "I am not afraid of going to war with them." You get the idea that he actually looks forward to a little war with them -these- the women. His previous home in Baton Rouge may have worn out his unwelcome. There he tore down a Southern landmark visited by tourists and put up a gaudy home on the Winchester House model, the Carson Mansion on steroids.

Arkley's talk show performance may be only the beginning. In his salad days Arkley threatened onetime Supervisor Lovelace with troll-like emails, he drove Gallegos' stragegist Richard Salzman underground, he "assaulted" an opposing City Council member, Larry Glass, in a café. Just like every village has a number of idiots and every town a given number of schizophrenics, our region resonates more authentically when we have a fauxBillionaire to "analyze." You have to check out Ryan Burns material



on Arkley going back some years in the Lost Coast Outpost. Also worth it is the Tulawat Times with their feature **ARKLEYVILLE** (with a line through it.) Can Official Eureka itself absorb *Arkley-live* these days? When people in the know like Virginia Bass are allegedly moving to the center! Estelle even voted out Ulansky! Official Eureka is losing the artless but eloquent Police Chief whose farewell speech recorded on KMUD was another masterpiece of Gaslighting. The Chief hummed benign clichés for 8 minutes, enough to have the liberals nodding off, but then, to reward his base, he positively growled his threats at the poor. Alas, gone to Santa Cruz where the demos against the homeless remind you of racist white crowds in the South.

Normal incompetence gets you by on the City Council where the agenda is set elsewhere. Yet, they did something admirable with Indian Island by gifting it to the Wiyots so they can continue the ceremonies that were interrupted by vicious massacres. The City Council deserves praise for this gifting. But what do we say about Good Deeds? Now they have their master, the fauxBillionaire, furious at them. Fortunately he didn't see Mayor Jager's letter of Apology to the Wiyots when it was still live. Arkley more likely would offer: *Apology?* Dial up that radio station. **Apology?** *We let some of them live didn't we?*

Mayor Jager's apology hardly lasted long enough however for Arkley to get up a head of steam. The staff got hold of it - you know the "**Deep County**" - and they took the apology out. They put "*reconciliation*" in its place. Their emotional fallacy here is to assume that reconciliation comes before forgiveness. Forgiveness itself comes *after* apology. None of that concerns fauxBillionaires and their wannabees.

I am desperate enough at the situation as to suggest that we need a couple radical **Berners** to pick up the torch, dodge the pitchforks, and go for one of those Council or Supervisor seats. Then instead of trolling for dollars, but not dollar value, and fantasizing a big new RV park near the Samoa Bridge and the waterfront, we might get a new approach - a social value, not monetary value approach. We could shift our sights from an upscale RV Park to a low income mini home co-operative. Start solving our problems at the bottom instead of always at the top, for profit. preventing cancer instead of relentlessly creating it.

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### The Rise of Populism:

### Nothing New.

The People's Party (or Populist Party, as it was widely known) was much younger than the Democratic and Republican Parties, which had been founded before the Civil War. Agricultural areas in the West and South had been hit by economic depression years before industrial areas. In the 1880s, as drought hit the wheat-growing areas of the Great Plains and prices for Southern cotton sunk to new lows, many tenant farmers fell into deep debt. This exacerbated long-held grievances against railroads, lenders, grain-elevator owners, and others with whom farmers did business. By the early 1890s, as the depression worsened, some industrial workers shared these farm families' views on labor and the trusts.

In 1890 Populists won control of the Kansas state legislature, and Kansan **William Peffer** became the party's first U.S. Senator. Peffer, with his long white beard, was a humorous figure to many Eastern journalists and politicians, who saw little evidence of Populism in their states and often treated the party as a joke. Nonetheless, Western and Southern Populists gained support rapidly. In 1892 the national party was officially founded through a merger of the Farmers' Alliance and the Knights of Labor. In that year the Populist presidential candidate, James B. Weaver, won over one million votes. Between 1892 and 1896, however, the party failed to make further gains, in part because of fraud, intimidation, and violence by Southern Democrats.