

## Issue of the Quarter, winter 2012

- 1.) In light of the ASBOD recent opposition to the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT), we have a lot to consider. The BNSF (Burlington Northern and Santa Fe) Railway Company hopes to transport 48 million tons of coal through Bellingham each year regardless of whether or not the terminal is constructed at Cherry Point. Canadian ports have nowhere near the export capacity as will the proposed GPT, so SSA marine and BNSF Railway may look to expanding those facilities in Canada. We are concerned with the environmental affects and the health risks the terminal may pose, which will impact us either way. What can do as a privileged community to lessen these affects, rather than taking on a "not in my backyard" mindset?
- 2.) How do you feel about changing the language surrounding restroom facilities from "Men" and "Women" to "Male-Bodied" and "Female-Bodied"?
- 3.) Whether or not you agree with any of the positions articulated by any of the protesters or their critics, what is painfully obvious is that American education is not only torn by divisions of ideology, but is also experiencing a crisis of confidence. When a significant number of people across the country are so disenchanted, so alienated, and so despondent over the current state of affairs that they take to the streets and parks to protest, it is important to pay attention and ask what such actions reveal about the state of mind of the American people—and what that means about the health of our society.