



The Gainesville Iguana

Jan./Feb. 2012
Vol. 26, #1-2

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We the People, NOT We the Corporations

by Nancy Jones and Tommy Baker of
Gainesville Move to Amend

Grassroots movements across the country are gaining momentum at a rate unprecedented in modern times, due largely to Occupy Wall Street.

Ending "Corporate Personhood" with a Constitutional amendment is one such national movement that has taken root in Gainesville, where we've recently started a new local chapter of

the national Move to Amend organization (MovetoAmend.org).

On Jan. 21, 2010, the U. S. Supreme Court took an extreme step to further remove American citizens from the election process by allowing corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns. The *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* court

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He signed it on the dotted line

by Alexander Cockburn

This article was originally published by Nation of Change on Jan. 6. More op-eds can be found at www.nationofchange.org.

America changed as the new year stumbled across the threshold, but the big shift didn't get much press, which is easy to understand. Can there be a deader news day than a New Year's Eve that falls on a weekend? Besides, alive or dead, habeas corpus has never been a topic to set news editors on fire.

The change came with the whisper of Barack Obama's pen, as he signed

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Photo courtesy of CreativeCommons.org.

Dotted Line... cont. from p. 1

into law the National Defense Authorization Act, the annual ratification of military Keynesianism — \$662 billion this time — which has been our national policy since World War II bailed out the New Deal.

Sacrificial offerings to the Pentagon aren't news. But this time, snugly ensconced in the NDAA, came ratification by legal statute of the exposure of U.S. citizens to arbitrary arrest without subsequent benefit of counsel and to possible torture and imprisonment sine die. Goodbye, habeas corpus. I wrote about this here before Obama signed the bill, but when a president tears up the Constitution, the topic is worth revisiting.

We're talking about citizens within the borders of the United States, not sitting in a hotel or out driving in some foreign land. In the latter case, as the late Anwar al-Awlaki's incineration in Yemen bore witness a few months ago, that the well-being or summary demise of a U.S. citizen is contingent upon a secret determi-

nation of the president as to whether the aforementioned citizen is waging a war of terror on the United States. If the answer is in the affirmative, the citizen can be killed on the president's say-so without further ado.

We're also most emphatically not talking about non-U.S. citizens or possibly even legal residents (though I'd urge green card holders to file for citizenship ASAP). Non-citizens get thrown in the Supermax without a prayer of having a lawyer. Under the terms of the NDAA, a suspect's seizure by the military is a "requirement" if the suspect is deemed to have been "substantially supporting" al-Qaida, the Taliban or "associated forces."

By the military? Until Dec. 31, the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 limited the powers of local governments and law enforcement agencies from using federal military personnel to enforce the laws of the land. No longer. The NDAA renders the Posse Comitatus Act a dead letter.

Connoisseurs of subversion and anti-terror laws well know that "as-

sociated forces" can mean anything. See, for example, one of the definitions of "enemy combatants" minted after 2001: "associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners, including any person who has committed a belligerent act or has directly supported such hostilities in aid of such enemy forces." Like those memory pillows I saw on discount in Macy's on New Year's Day, the phrase "directly supported" will adjust itself to the whim of any ingenious prosecutor.

Obama issued a signing statement simultaneous with passing the act into law.

Theoretically, he's against signing statements. In 2008 he said, "I taught the Constitution for 10 years, I believe in the Constitution, and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We're not going to use signing statements as a way of doing an end-run around Congress."

Actually, whatever Obama may have taught, a signing statement, whether issued by Bush or Obama,

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doesn't have the force of law. Obama's Dec. 31 signing statement was designed to soothe the liberal vote, as the president expressed "serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation and prosecution of suspected terrorists" and insisted that, by golly, he will never "authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens."

This pious language was part of a diligent White House campaign to suggest that (a) there is nothing in the act to perturb citizens, but (b) anything perturbing is entirely the fault of Congress, and (c) Obama solemnly swears that so long as he is president he'll never OK anything bad, whatever the NDAA might be construed as authorizing, and anyway (d) there's nothing new about the detention provisions because they merely reiterate those of the Authorization for Use of Military Force, signed by Bush in 2001.

To take the last point first, the NDAA expands the 2001 law and codifies ample new powers, plus new prohibitions regarding any possible removal of prisoners in Guantanamo. As for Congress, its performance was lamentable, but as Senator Carl Levin, one of the bill's co-sponsors, has convincingly inferred, the real reason the White House threatened a veto was because the bill, as then drafted, might have limited what the executive branch deems its present powers of indefinite detention without trial.

Amid the mutual buck-passing, what Congress and the White House connived at, beating back all obstructive amendments, was the framing of cunningly vague language about the dirty work afoot. Jonathan Turley, a great champion of constitutional rights and civil liberties, puts the trickery in a nutshell: "The exemption for American citizens from the mandatory detention requirement ... is the screening language for the next section ... which offers no exemption for American citizens from the authorization to use the military to indefinitely detain people with-

out charge or trial" (emphasis in the original).


That's the heart of the matter. And in ambiguity we can see certainty: The writ of habeas corpus can now be voided at the whim of a president, whether it be Obama reversing himself on the personal pledges in his signing statement or any successor, as can the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel.

One day, perhaps soon, the Supreme Court will rule on the act's constitutionality. For now, as ACLU director Anthony Romero said after the signing, Obama "will forever be known as the president who signed indefinite detention without charge or trial into law." America is an empire on which the sun never sets, and so, appropriately, the statute applies across the planetary "battlefield" that constitutes the Great War on Terror. ☘

The Nation of Change team is dedicated to fighting back against the forces of corporate greed and US imperialism with one simple but powerful weapon: the truth. For more articles from Nation of Change, visit their website at www.nationofchange.org.

Labor Notes

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*Comments, suggestions, contributions
(written or financial) are welcome. To
list your event or group, contact us at:*

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Florida Legislature's Attack on Women

By Staci Fox

On Jan. 10, the Florida Legislature began its 2012 session. The focus of the 2012 legislative session should be on strengthening our economy and getting Floridians back to work, not attacking Florida's women and their access to reproductive health care.

Some of the most egregious bills attacking reproductive health care are:


HB 277/SB 290: These bills would limit access to reproductive health care services such as life-saving cancer screenings because a health center also provides abortion care. The proposed legislation only targets doctors that provide abortion care; therefore, it has only one purpose – to interfere with patient care and further restrict women's access to legal, safe abortions.

HB 839: This bill would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks with limited exceptions (if the pregnancy endangers a woman's life or could cause her "substantial and irreversible physical impairment"). There

are no exemptions for pregnancies that are the result of rape or incest.

HB 1151/SB 1374: These bills are a direct legislative attempt to challenge the US Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision by outlawing almost all abortions in Florida.

These bills do nothing to reduce unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. Instead these bills tell women and their healthcare providers that they are not to be trusted and reduce access to legal health care services. These bills will do nothing to create jobs or balance our state's budget. Planned Parenthood of North Florida will work hard to prevent these bills from becoming law, but we need your help.

On Feb. 21, hundreds of Floridians will travel to Tallahassee to lobby and make their voices heard in support of reproductive health care for Florida's women and families. Will you join us? Please contact Planned Parenthood of North Florida for more information at (352) 376-9000. 


Staci Fox is the CEO and President of Planned Parenthood of North Florida.

Unauthorized immigration in the South

The League of Women Voters of Alachua County and St. Augustine's Church present this panel discussion on Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 7:30p.m. to 9p.m.

The event will be held at the Hurley House behind the St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center, 1738 W. University Avenue in Gainesville.

Professor Dr. Philip Williams will offer background on unauthorized immigration and the reality of immigrants' lives. Dr. Manuel Vasquez will address the role of churches. Robin Lewy of the Rural Women's Health Project will address upcoming legislation and local immigration issues.

For more information, contact the League of Women Voters of Alachua County at (352) 375-6960 or info@lwv-alachua.org. 



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PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA GLOBAL

Screening of Christy Turlington Burns' Documentary *NO WOMAN, NO CRY*



Date: January 20, 2012 7:30 pm

Location: Civic Media Center 433 South Main Street Gainesville

Planned Parenthood is proud to partner with fashion icon and women's health advocate Christy Turlington Burns in the release of her film, *No Woman, No Cry*, a documentary that follows women in the US and abroad as they face the challenges of pregnancy-related care.

In her gripping directorial debut, Christy Turlington Burns shares these powerful stories, including her own. The film features PPFA's Guatemala Program Officer, Dr. Linda Valencia, and Planned Parenthood's work on the front lines of reproductive health in that country.

Tired of Gainesville "Politics as Usual"? *So are we!*

Gainesville has a reputation for being progressive...

But it took **2 years** of active protests and negative national media for our city commission to let a private charity feed the hungry!

Gainesville has a reputation for being environmentally friendly...

But we have Koppers - a **toxic superfund site** - right in the middle of town! And realtors aren't required to tell residents about the dangers before they move in!

Gainesville has a reputation for unique, local businesses...

But in recent years dozens* of these **unique, local** Gainesville "Mom & Pop" places have been forced out of business, some as a direct result of city policies!

Gainesville has a reputation for being a great place to settle down....

Yet **one in three** of our citizens lives in poverty, **one in six** families is poverty stricken, our median income is **half** that of the rest of the state, and our income inequality is the **5th worst** in the nation!

Gainesville has a reputation for its forward thinking politics...

But there is a growing disconnect between what the voters want and the direction our city is going!

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* see ElectJamesIngle.com for a list

The Real Black History of UF

By Jessica Newman

This timeline was originally published in 2008 in The Fine Print, an alternative student magazine in Gainesville. See more Fine Print articles at www.thefineprintuf.org.

1945-1958: 85 black students applied for admission to all levels of UF, and all were rejected.

1954: Brown v. Board of Education, Supreme Court ruling banning segregation in public schools.

1958: George Starke becomes the first black to be admitted to UF's law school following a Federal Court decision to integrate professional and graduate colleges.

1962: First black undergraduates admitted to UF; there are seven of them.

1962: Willie George Allen becomes the first black to graduate from UF from the Florida Law School.

1964: Alachua County schools are desegregated; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is passed.

1965: Stephan P. Mickle becomes first black to receive an undergraduate degree from UF; Center for African Studies established at UF; the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is passed.

1968: Johnnie Brown becomes the first black at UF to compete in intercollegiate sports (track).

1968: The Black Student Union is established at UF.

1969: Leonard George and Willie B. Jackson become the first black football players signed at UF.

1970: The Black Student Union is formally recognized as a student organization at UF.

1970: First black faculty and staff employed at UF.

1971: "Black Thursday" occurs where 66 students stage a sit-in in President O'Connell's office; 123 black students begin the withdrawal process from UF.

1972: Institute of Black Culture established at UF; Kappa Alpha Psi, first black Greek fraternity, established at UF; first black Student Government President elected.

1973: Cynthia Mays is selected as the first black Miss Homecoming.

1974: Zeta Phi Beta becomes

the first black Greek sorority established at UF.

1980: Sharon Bruton becomes the first black female inducted into Florida Blue Key.

1991: BAM! (Black Awareness Movement) stages a peaceful protest and takeover of SG offices over the allocation of Black History Month funds.

2000: Associate Dean Kenneth Nunn resigns deanship in protest over lack of diversity in Law School faculty.

2009: Brandon White, student senator, resigns from the Gator Party and makes a statement saying he was considered "a black man first and a qualified applicant second." 🐾

Black History Month Events at the Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.)

Feb. 6, Monday, 7p.m. - Film showing of "Black Power Mix Tape," newly released archival footage of 1967-1975

Feb. 12, Sunday, 4p.m. - 6th presentation in a series of workshops on Essential Afrikan History with Kali Blount

Feb. 17, Friday, 7p.m. - Film showing of "Power to the People," followed by a discussion, and then live music from The Babylonians at 9p.m.

Feb 20, Monday, 7p.m. - Film showing of "Sankofa," a mystical classic of slavery and resistance by Haile Gerima

Feb. 22, Wednesday, 7p.m. - Samuel Proctor Oral History Project of UF presents on the group's recent trips to Mississippi for local interviews

Feb. 27, Monday, 7p.m. - Film showing of "Through the Door of No Return," a documentary following a film maker who traces his father's ancestry back to Ghana.

Peg Libertus, Local Activist and Playwright: 1944-2011

The following is an excerpt from Peg Libertus' obituary published in the Gainesville Sun.

"Peg" Margaret Joan Libertus, 67, died September 26, 2011 from complications of ovarian cancer... In Gainesville, Peg taught drama at Santa Fe College's Continuing Education Program. She was awarded a State of Florida Individual Artist's Grant for her fiction writing. She encouraged many others in their creativity, especially local writers. Her greatest theatrical accomplishment was the completion of the musical "The Boxer of Basin Street" presented at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre in Gainesville.

Peg had a strong commitment to community service and political activism ranging from the street protests at the National Democratic convention in 1968 to the soup kitchen of St. Francis House here in Gainesville. Over the years, she served as board member or advisory committee member for various agencies: North Central Florida Health Planning Council, State of Florida Prevention of Disabilities Advisory Council, Alachua County/City of Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board, and the Center for Independent Living. Peg also contributed her writing and graphic skills to the St. Francis House newsletter and to the United Way of Alachua County. Peg was a staunch supporter of the Democratic Party and a Party volunteer during many national and local elections. She advocated for the rights of the handicapped.

The following are memories submitted by local friends of Peg Libertus.

Joe Courter: "My best memory of Peg came from her observation following her amazing summer and fall of registering voters prior to the 1992 election, when week after week she'd park herself in front of Publix or Walmart and proceeded to register over a thousand voters. She said that simply by interacting with the people prior to and as they registered she could predict whether they'd pick Democrat or Republican. Her conclusion? Said with good-natured generalization, 'Democrats are crazy, Republicans are nasty.' Be it well intended altruism vs. rugged individualism, international cooperation vs. American exceptionalism, Barney Frank vs. Newt Gingrich, it somehow holds for me."

Fred Pratt: "I remember Peg and I talking many times about the 'bad old days.' When we talked about the bad old days, we were talking about life for people with disabilities before the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. We always took the time to tell young people with disabilities what it was like for us before the passage of the ADA. When we talked about this, they were always amazed that there was a time when people with disabilities were not able to get into department and grocery stores because of barriers, that there was a time when people with disabilities did not work and were kept at home or in institutions..."

"I also remember the work that Peg did in the LGBT civil rights movement in Gainesville and Alachua County. I particularly remember when we were trying to get the county to add sexual orientation to its anti-discrimination ordinance. Peg and I had been in the Disabled Rights movement for years, and we worked to pass some of this knowledge on to the LGBT community. One memory I have in particular is the time we were going to hold a demonstration in front of the County Administration Building. I opened up my apartment to hold a strategy and sign-making session. After we were done, Peg and I talked to the group on how to resist any police action in a nonviolent, peaceful manner. These were tactics that we learned in the Disabled Rights movement that we wanted to pass on." 🐸

Memorial Service in Honor of Peg Libertus

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2p.m.

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The Iguana bids farewell to Editor Emeritus Mark Piotrowski

By Joe Courter

Homegrown Gainesville community organizer and swell human being Mark Piotrowski, who most recently designed the Iguana in its revived presence over the past year, has embarked on a new phase of his life with a move to Tallahassee to work with the Florida Education Association and his impending entry into fatherhood with his partner Janeen. That will be one well-loved kid.

Mark first came into contact with us while still in high school more than 20 years ago, when a friend of his passed a copy of the Iguana on to him. He became a student activist at UF in the Freedom Coalition and was part of the founding of the Civic Media Center in 1993. He also worked on the Freedom Coalition's newspaper as well as assisting the Iguana during that period. He has been a committed movement activist ever since, whether here in town with the Labor Party, or during his sojourns out of town in Boston or elsewhere.



When we produce this paper and turn each month's 4,500 copies out on the world, all we can hope is that the information within can raise the knowledge and consciousness of the persons reading it, let them know of events and struggles near and far, or connect them to historic movements of the past on which we all stand. We usually don't know what sparks we set off, but in Mark's case, thanks to his friend Lara,

we and the movement gained one hell of an organizer. We know he'll be back, but we want to publicly wish him and Janeen the best of luck as this next phase of life unfolds. 🐸

Dear Mr. Econ...

Are you confused about the economy and economics? Are you curious about the various economic proposals coming from presidential candidates or local politicians? Would you like to know what all the commotion about derivatives, credit default swaps, foreclosures and sub-prime mortgages is about and how it affects you?

Do you wonder how locally owned institutions like the Iguana, the local food co-op or credit unions help your community? Or how about demand side, supply side? Or wonder which side are you on or should be on?

Help is on the way! Beginning in our next issue, Mr. Econ will answer our readers' questions and answer them in plain English. Our goal is to give our readers a better understanding of the economy and how we might be able to change it in order to better serve our community.

So please send your questions to gainesvilleiguana@cox.net.

Who is Mr. Econ? Mr. Econ holds economics degrees from American University and the New School for Social Research, two of the premier centers for the study of alternative or what the profession calls "heterodox" economics. He is the author or editor of three books and numerous articles in scholarly and popular publications. He has taught on the university level, consulted to progressive policy makers around the U.S., and been invited to speak on economic and community development issues from Bath, Maine to Santa Cruz, Calif. 🐸

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Gainesville City Elections, Jan. 31

By Joe Courter

Whether voting early (Jan. 21 to 28) or on Election Day (Jan. 31), if you live in the City of Gainesville, please get out and vote in this election for City Commission.

With the Republican presidential primary on the ballot, there will be extra motivation for the R's to vote, while the D's and I's don't have the presidential primary to motivate them. Folks, staying home is a vote for the opponent; that was the story of the 2010 Congressional races. It wasn't that the right wing turned out so many more people, it was that the left and moderates were convinced that because Obama wasn't per-

forming to expectations, they should send him a message by not voting, thus lowering their own numbers.

At no time does your vote matter more than local elections, and city-wide we have an exceptional candidate in James Ingle running against eight other candidates for the at-large seat.

The others are Republicans, single-issue biomass critics and, well, some less qualified people. Also running in the at-large race is former commissioner Lauren Poe, who we'd be supporting if

Ingle wasn't in the race. The likely run-off will be Feb. 28.

In the District 1 race, we definitely like Yvonne Hinson Rawls, whose chief rival is a largely self-funded biomass critic attorney. As there is a third candidate, this could also go to run-off, but that is less likely.

But whoever you choose to support, make sure to get out there by Jan. 31 and VOTE! Our silence could be a disaster. 🐢

For voting locations, dates and more information on the candidates, visit the Supervisor of Elections website, elections.alachua.fl.us.

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Iguana Directory

Call if this includes misinformation or inaccurate phone numbers: 352-378-5655.

After School Art Club Collective of emerging artists who brainstorm, discuss and create 2 Tuesdays a month.
www.afterschoolartclub.wordpress.com

Alachua County Labor Party Just Health Care committee works on universal health care; LP also works on economic justice, labor solidarity. P.O. Box 12051, Gainesville 32602; 352-375-2832. www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua

American Civil Liberties Union Currently no local chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or ACLU info, contact Jax office 904-353-7600 or bstandly@aclufl.org

Amnesty International UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; www.facebook.com/ufamnesty or UFAmnesty@gmail.com.

Bridges Across Borders Florida-based international collaboration of activists, artists, students and educators supporting cultural diversity and global peace. office@bridgesacrossborders.org, 352-485-2594,

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group at UF. www.chispasuf.org

Civic Media Center Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, www.civicmediacenter.org.

Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW! Search for Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW on Facebook.

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. CodePink4Peace.org, jacquebetz@gmail.com

Committee for a Civilian Police Review Board Group that demands the creation

of a citizens' police review board to fight against the pattern of corruption, arrogance, bias and violence displayed by some members of the Gainesville Police Department. gvillepoliceireview@gmail.com

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. Non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-466-1178, Conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the second floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, AlachuaCountyDemocraticParty.org

Edible Plant Project Local collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. 561-236-2262 www.EdiblePlantProject.org.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums Work to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614, gnewburn@famm.org. 352-682-2542

The Fine Print An independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting specifically for Gainesville's students. www.thefineprintuf.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766

Florida Defenders of the Environment An organization dedicated to restoring the Ocklawaha and preserving Florida's other natural resources. 352-378-8465 FlaDefenders.org

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty concerned people in the Gainesville area who are working to abolish the death penalty in Florida. Participate in vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center (1738 W. University Ave.) 352-332-1350, www.fadp.org.

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets bi-weekly to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy

and action. gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com or www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville Women's Liberation The first women's liberation group in the South, formed in 1968, the organization is now part of National Women's Liberation. P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, FL 32604, (347) 560-4695, nwl@womensliberation.org, WomensLiberation.org

Graduate Assistants United Union that represents all UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, officers@ufgau.org, www.ufgau.org

Green Party Part of worldwide movement built out of four different interrelated social pillars, which support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. www.GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

Grow Radio Non-profit company that will provide the opportunity for community members to create and manage unique, engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of, but not limited to, the Gainesville community. growradio.org.

Harvest of Hope Foundation Non-profit organization that provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. www.harvestofhope.net or email: kellerhope@cox.net.

Home Van A mobile soup kitchen that goes out to homeless areas twice a week with food and other necessities of life, delivering about 400 meals per week; operated by Citizens for Social Justice. barupa@atlantic.net or 352-372-4825.

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 8pm. GainesvilleIWW@riseup.net.

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice Organizing faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 p.m. at Book Lover's Cafe. GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-215-4255 or 352-562-1386

International Socialist Organization Organization committed to building a left alternative to a world of war, racism and poverty. Meetings are every Thurs. at the UF classroom building at 105 NW 16th St at 7pm. gainesvilleiso@gmail.com

Don't see your organization listed here, or is the info out of date?

Contact us at 352-378-5655 or gainesvilleiguana@cox.net with the update.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

An ombudsman is an advocate for people who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. All services are confidential and free of charge. Toll-free 1-888-831-0404 or find us online at ombudsman.myflorida.com.

MindFreedom North Florida Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI) Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600, ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org.

National Lawyers Guild Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

National Organization for Women

Gainesville Area NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

Judy Levy NOW information, contact Laura Bresko 352-332-2528.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is working to create a better future for LGBTQ youth and adults through a partnership of parents, allies and LGBT people. PFLAG Gainesville has monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave.

352-340-3770. info@pflaggainesville.org / "PFLAG Gainesville" on Facebook.

Planned Parenthood Clinic Full-service medical clinic for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Now offering free HIV and free pregnancy testing daily from 9-11am and 1-4pm. Located at 914 NW 13th Street.

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4pm. Located at 3131 NW 13th St, Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org.

Protect Gainesville Citizens Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org.

Queer Activist Coalition Politically motivated activist group at UF fighting for full civil and social equality for the LGBTQ community. queeractivistcoalition@gmail.com.

Sierra Club Meets the first Thurs. of every month at 7:30pm at the UF Entomology & Nematology Building, Room 1035. 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Student/Farmworker Alliance A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. More info

on Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

Students for a Democratic Society

Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in our schools and communities. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30pm in Anderson Hall 32 on the UF campus.

UF Pride Student Union Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride.

United Faculty of Florida Union that represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, president@uff-uf.org, www.UFF-UF.org.

United Nations Association Group that educates people worldwide about the issues, projects and programs of the United Nations. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

Veterans for Peace Anti-war organization that works to raise awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as to seek alternatives that are peaceful and effective. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. 352-375-2563, www.afn.org/~vetpeace/.

WGOT 94.7 LP-FM Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. wgot947@gmail.com, www.wgot.org



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

Gainesville's Progressive Community Radio Station

We share 94.7 with other community groups,
WGOT is on the air:

Sunday: 1PM - 4PM

Mon, Wed, Fri: 1PM - 4PM & 8PM - 5AM

Tuesday and Thursday: 1PM - 4PM & 8PM - 9PM

Saturday: 1PM - 9PM

Check out wgot.org for upcoming events and a detailed schedule (and new shows *including David Barsamian's Alternative Radio, now on Saturdays at 4 pm!*)

94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car.

Questions? Comments? E-mail us at info@wgot.org

Democracy NOW! airs
Mon-Fri @ 1pm & Mon-Thur @ 8pm



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Sunday Domingo	Monday Lunes	Tuesday Martes	Wednesday Miercoles	Thursday Jueves	Friday Viernes	Saturday Sabado	
<div><div>Radio</div><div>Notes:</div><div>Hey, west G'ville – WGOT</div><div>low-power FM - on the air - tune in at 94.7 (and set your car radio, too): wgot947@gmail.com or or www.wgot.org/calendar.</div><div></div><div>Gainesville's public radio station is mostly NPR talk - it's located at 89.1 FM. Weekday schedule: 10 am–12: <i>Diane Rehm</i> (interview & call-in); noon–1 pm: Terry Gross, <i>Fresh Air</i>; 1–2 pm, BBC call-in <i>World Have Your Say</i>; 2–4 pm: <i>Talk of the Nation</i>. Evenings, 8–10: <i>On Point</i>, followed by <i>BBC World News</i>. <i>This American Life</i> airs Saturday at 2 pm & Sunday at noon, and <i>On the Bridge</i>, Gainesville's best two hours of radio, is on 2–4 pm Sundays – see schedule at www.wuftfm.org (or pg 15) for expanded weekend schedule and program details. Also check out internet station Grow Radio (www.growradio.org), based in G'ville.</div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div>Bill Moyers is back! <i>Moyers & Company</i> on WUFT-TV, Sundays at 1 pm.</div><div>Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice weekly potluck & ecovillage tour, 4 pm: fcpj.org.</div><div>Wayward Council volunteer meeting 6 pm every Sunday, 807 W. University Ave.</div><div>1561: <i>Francis Bacon</i> born. 1788: <i>Lord Byron</i> born.</div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div>Occupy Gainesville Day 104 - check out their web site for ongoing activities, support & reports at OccupyGainesville.org, and thanks to all the Occupiers!</div><div><i>Made in LA</i> - documentary on immigrant women workers, sponsored by IWW, CMC, 7 pm.</div><div>Early Voting for City Commission election through Saturday: downtown County Building.</div></div>	<div><div>17</div><div>School Board meets 1st & 3rd Tues, 6 pm.</div><div>County Farmers' Mkt on N 441 by Hwy Patrol Tues/Thurs/Sat, 8 am–noon.</div><div>Anti-war sign-holding 4–6 pm: 1st & 3rd Tues, Archer Rd & SW 34th St; 2nd & 4th Tues, University Ave & W. 13th St.</div><div>24 “State of the City” - Mayor Craig Lowe, Hipp, 25 SE 2nd Pl, noon.</div><div>Alachua County Comm meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens' comment, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm.</div><div>Alachua County Labor Party meets: 6:30 pm, 618 NW 13th Ave; info, 375-2832.</div><div>Biomass Plant opposition talk, 7 pm, CMC.</div><div>“Immigration in the South” panel, 7:30 pm, Hurley House (NW 1st Ave & 17th St) - see pg 4.</div><div>31 Gainesville City Elections: VOTE! (pg 9)</div><div>Wild Words, Wild Iris Books, last Tuesdays, open mic, 7 pm.</div><div>Burrito Bros. Taco Co. hosts CMC fundraiser, 6–8 pm: CMC gets percentage of moneys taken in for that period: go eat!</div><div>1968: 70,000 Viet Cong launch Tet Offensive.</div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div>Free confidential walk-in HIV testing at Alachua County Health Dept, 224 SE 24th St, 9 am–3 pm, M-F; & at Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St, 4–6 pm on 1st & 3rd Thurs; info: 334-7961.</div><div>Downtown Farmers' Market every Wed, Dtown Plaza, 4–7 pm; Edible Plant Project, 2nd Weds..</div><div><i>Into the Abyss</i> - death penalty doc by Werner Herzog, Hipp Cinema, 5:15 & 8 pm (also Thurs, 6:15 & 8:30 pm).</div><div>Anarchademics open discussion group, CMC, 3rd Weds, 7–9 pm.</div><div>Think Local Civic Forum - city candidates Q& A, 7:30 pm, dntn library (401 E. Univ Ave).</div><div>25 Stonewall Democrats, 901 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm, 4th Weds.</div><div>Gvl Area NOW program on <i>Roe v. Wade</i>, 6:30 pm, Wild Iris Books, 802 W. Univ Ave.</div><div>“Middle East Realignment” video & discussion, CMC, 7 pm.</div><div>Danny Glover speaks, Phillips Ctr, 7 pm.</div><div>Feb 1 Veterans for Peace meet, 7 pm: call 352-375-2563 for directions.</div><div></div><div>1902: <i>Langston Hughes</i> born. 1960: 4 students sit in at Greensboro NC lunch-counter.</div><div>8 Democratic Exec. Comm. meets, County Commission mtg room, 2nd Weds, 7 pm.</div><div>“What Evolution Can't Tell Us About Women's Sex & Work” - Carla Fehr talk, 7 pm, Millhopper Branch Lib. 31 45 NW 34th St.</div><div>“Beyond Intuition” - free classes by Marcus Dodd, 7 pm Wednesdays at UUFG, 4225 NW 34th St.</div><div>15 Water Symposium opens - see waterinstitute.ufl.edu.</div><div>Anarchademics open discussion group, CMC, 3rd Weds, 7–9 pm.</div><div>22 Stonewall Democrats, 901 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm.</div><div>Humanists meet, Millhopper Library, 6:30 pm.</div><div>Oral History report-back from Mississippi at CMC, 7 pm.</div><div>29 “Promoting Democracy” talk at CMC, 7 pm.</div></div>	<div><div>19</div><div>CMC Volunteers meet every Thursday, 5:30 pm.</div><div>City Candidates Debate, 6 pm, County Commission Auditorium.</div><div>Internat'l Socialist Org. meets Thursdays, 7 pm, 105 NW 16th St.</div><div>“A Sit-In with Margaret Block”, UF Ustler Hall, 7 pm - see pg 18.</div><div>Manhattan Transfer, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$25-35.</div><div>Open Poetry every Thursday at CMC, 9 pm: Gvl's longest-running poetry jam, open to all; informal & welcoming to both readers & listeners.</div><div>FULL MOON</div><div>26 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.</div><div>Open Poetry, CMC, 9 pm.</div><div>Ugly Radio Rebellion (playing music of Frank Zappa) & Big Bison at Backstage Lounge, 1318 S. Main St (across from Winn-Dixie).</div><div>Shanon Waters at Satchel's Pizza/Lightnin' Salvage, 6–9 pm: live music Weds through Sats: lightninsalvage.com/livemusic.html</div><div>2 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.</div><div>Florida Highwayman Mary Ann Carroll talk & painting exhibit, Matheson Museum, 6 pm.</div><div>Icarus Project meets, CMC, 7 pm.</div><div>Sierra Club general meeting, UF Entomology Bldg rm 3118, 1st Thursdays, 7:30 pm.</div><div>ISO planning discussion on Egyptian revolution; time & place tba; see gainesvilleiso.org.</div><div>Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm.</div><div>9 CMC Volunteers meet, 5:30 pm.</div><div>“Ignorance, Women, & Excellent Science” - Carla Fehr talk, Ustler Hall Atrium, UF, 7:30 pm.</div><div>Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm.</div><div>1944: <i>Alice Walker</i> born.</div><div>16 CMC Volunteers meet, 5:30 pm.</div><div>Icarus Project meets, CMC, 7 pm.</div><div>Celtic Women, 7:30 pm, O'Dome.</div><div>Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm.</div><div>23 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.</div><div>Arlo Guthrie “Boys Night Out”, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$40-55; pg 2.</div><div>1868: <i>W.E.B. DuBois</i> born.</div><div>Mar 1 Sierra Club meets - see 2/2.</div></div>	<div><div>20</div><div>“Occupy the Courts” rally with Dr. Cornel West, 1 pm, downtown plaza; West & Tavis Smiley speak at UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm; pg 24.</div><div>Penny Nichols, Steve Gillette & others at Prairie Creek Lodge, 7 pm, \$20.</div><div><i>No Woman No Cry</i> doc on reproductive health on <i>Roe v Wade</i> anniversary, 7:30 pm, CMC; talk by Helen Strain; pg 4.</div><div>Little Jake Mitchell at Kickin' Devil Café, 2017 NE 27th Ave, 8 pm.</div><div>WGOT 4-yr anniversary benefit at The Atlantic, featuring Whiskey & Co, Boswellians, & others, 9 pm.</div><div>1892: 1st basketball game played.</div><div>27 “Right to Health Care in Brazil” - lecture at Turlington L-011, 4-5 pm.</div><div>Critical Mass Bike Ride, 5:30 pm, UF Plaza of Americas.</div><div>Art Walk Downtown; many galleries & venues participate; 7–10 pm, last Friday of each month.</div><div>Gay Movie Night last Fridays, \$2, 7:30 pm, Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St.</div><div>Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff at Univ. Auditorium, 7:30 pm, \$20-30.</div><div>3 Soweto Gospel Choir, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$30-40.</div><div>Books for Prisoners book-packing parties Fridays at Wayward Council, 807 W. University Ave, 7 pm.</div><div>Daymoths, Lizzy Pitch, & Maria Carter in concert at The Laboratory, 818 W. Univ. Ave.</div><div>Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!</div><div>10 Official Blues Brothers Revue, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$20-30.</div><div>IGUANA Deadline for Mar '12 issue is Feb 26th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.</div><div>1898: <i>Bertolt Brecht</i> born.</div><div>17 <i>Power to the People</i> film & discussion at CMC, 7 pm; followed by live music from The Babylonians, 9 pm.</div><div>1942: <i>Huey P. Newton</i> born.</div><div>24 Cinema Verde Film Festival opens: 8 days of environmental films - see www.verdefest.org.</div><div>Art Walk Downtown; many galleries & venues participate; 7–10 pm, last Friday of each month.</div><div>2 1807: U.S. prohibits importing slaves.</div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div>Collectors' Show at Museum of Natural History, 10 am-3 pm.</div><div>Vocal Workshop w/ Penny Nichols, Prairie Creek Lodge, 11 am, \$ 30.</div><div>Songwriting Workshop w/ Steve Gillette, Prairie Creek Lodge, 2 pm, \$35.</div><div>Citizens Co-op-hosted block party: live music & booths, noon–11 pm, SE 5th Ave & Main St - gonna be great!</div><div>Gainesville Rocks (the Vote) - Bo Diddley Plaza: food, live music w/ Crash Pad, Mama Trish vs Godzilla, & Company Man: 1st day of early voting.</div><div><i>Hidden Battles</i> (doc on veterans after wars) at CMC, 3 pm; co-sponsored by Gvl Vets for Peace.</div><div><i>Galileo of Gainesville</i> play by Dan Kahn at Acrosstown Rep to benefit Home Van (sliding scale): Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm - runs through 29th.</div><div>28 Great Air Potato Roundup, Morningside Nature Ctr, 9 am.</div><div>Interfaith Readings, Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave, 10 am, 2nd & 4th Saturdays.</div><div>Book Release Party for Poetry Jam poet G.M. Palmer, 7 pm, CMC.</div><div>“Reaching Out Intimate Partner Violence Forum”, 5 pm, Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St.</div><div>4 Violinist Joshua Bell, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$45-65.</div><div>Veg 4 Life 1st Saturday potluck, 6:30 pm at UU Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St: 375-7207; \$1 + veggie/vegan dish..</div><div>Omi Ajamu Jazz Quartet, 6:30 pm at The Doris, 716 N. Main St.</div><div>11 Peg Libertus memorial service, 2 pm, Ctr for Ind. Living, 222 SW 36th Terr; see pg 6.</div><div>Vegan Fundraiser Dinner, CMC, 6 pm.</div><div>Hipp Cinema 30th Anniversary celebration, 6 pm, \$25 adv, \$35 door.</div><div>Fellow Worker social, Café Colette (Wild Iris Books), 7 pm.</div><div>18 Alternative Radio on local airwaves on WGOT-FM 94.7, Saturday afternoons at 4 pm; best listening in NW G'ville or in your car.</div><div>FULL MOON</div><div>25 Doug Clifford Saturdays, 11 pm-midnight; WSKY-97.3; show repeats Sunday nights 11 pm, WKTK-98.5.</div><div>3 Spring Break officially begins - in reality, it probably started Friday...</div><div></div></div>

2011: The end of U.S. hyperpower and its war with Islamdom

By Juan Cole

This article was originally published by Juan Cole on his blog "Informed Comment" (www.juancole.com) on Dec. 31.

Some years are pivotal and serve to mark off eras of history. 2011 saw the end of American hyperpower, and it announced the end of a decade of U.S.-Muslim conflict that began with 2001. It saw the killing of Osama Bin Laden, the virtual rolling up of al-Qaeda, the repudiation of al-Qaeda's methods by the masses of the Arab world, and the U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq.

The upheavals of the Arab Spring and subsequent elections have led to Muslim fundamentalist parties being drawn into parliamentary politics on a Westminster model, rather than remaining sect-like corporate groups outside the body politic. The changes in government have left the U.S. and the U.K. with no choice but to deal with parties such as al-Nahda in Tunisia and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, which right wing members of Congress had earlier lambasted as proto-terrorist organizations.

In Libya, the U.S. and NATO allied with the Muslim masses against dictator Muammar Qaddafi, and some of their new allies had been Muslim radicals earlier. Although the degree of U.S.-Muslim polarization of the period 2001-2011 was often exaggerated (Turkey and Morocco,

e.g., were American allies), the three unconventional wars (Afghanistan, Iraq and al-Qaeda), along with significant tensions elsewhere (Sudan, Somalia) did create an over-all bipolar framework.

The end of the Cold War, which had stretched from 1946 to 1991, had left the political elites of the United States and Western Europe without a bogeyman or security threat on which they could run for office and through which they could funnel resources to the military-industrial complex that largely pays for their political campaigns.

With Russia in steep decline in the 1990s and China still run as a small, cautious power, the U.S. emerged as what the French called a Hyperpower, the sole superpower.

U.S. hawks were impatient that Bill Clinton seemed not to realize that he had complete freedom of movement for a brief window of time. It was the new U.S. status of hyperpower that allowed the G. W. Bush administration to respond to the September 11 terrorist attacks by launching two major wars and a host of smaller struggles, all against targets in the Muslim world.

As of 2011, the age of the U.S. hyperpower is passing, along with the possibilities for American wars of choice, i.e., wars of aggression.

The most potent symbol of this change is Syria, where U.S. freedom of movement in staging any sort of

intervention is constrained by Russia and China.

In 1991, the U.S. was 25 percent of global GDP. Today, it is 20 percent. In 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. was the only country in the top 10 global economies with a substantial ability to act alone in projecting military force in the world. Japan and Germany maintained militaries only for self-defense. France, Italy, the U.K. and Spain typically worked within a NATO framework (except for French

As of 2011, the age of the U.S. hyperpower is passing, along with the possibilities for American wars of choice, i.e., wars of aggression.


interventions in Africa). Brazil was relatively inward-looking.

U.S. supremacy was announced with the Gulf War, even before the Soviet system had quite collapsed. Premier Mikhail Gorbachev was unable to protect a former Soviet client state, Iraq, from U.S. ire. And George H. W. Bush put together a coalition of two dozen allies with a UNSC mandate to push Iraq out of occupied Kuwait, thus underlining that the United States was now the successor to the British Empire as guarantor of security in the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

George W. Bush's 2003 war

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against Iraq, while it lacked the legal framework that the Gulf War enjoyed, was a continuation of that assertion of American dominance on a unilateral basis (not unilateral in the sense that the U.S. had no allies, but unilateral in the sense that none of the allies was indispensable and that the U.S. could do as it pleased).

In 2011, China and India are in the top ten world economies (by purchasing power parity), and each is a hegemonic military power now. China can help protect Syria, e.g., and India insists on buying Iranian petroleum. Russia is likely to rejoin the top ten by 2015, and it is militarily significant. Moscow is running interference for the Baath regime in Syria in part to protect the Tartus naval base on the Mediterranean, which the Russians lease from Damascus.

The United States is no longer the hyperpower. It can no longer necessarily act unilaterally by launching a major war of aggression at will. It lacks the resources. And, it has significant challengers in some theaters.

The Obama administration was only able to act in Libya because Russia and China had allowed a strong UNSC resolution in favor of intervention to be passed. Had either exercised a veto, the Libya War would have been forestalled. And, even with a UNSC resolution authorizing the use of force, Washington felt the need to lead from behind and let France, Britain and Qatar stay in the forefront, because it feared bad PR if it were perceived to be yet again unilaterally attacking a Muslim country.

A corollary is that each region of the world is now more independent of the

U.S. than it had been. Brazil defied the U.S. on Libya and Latin America is defying the U.S. on relations with Palestine.

The greatest trend to greater independence of the U.S. can be seen in the Middle East and North Africa. Some regimes that were almost sycophants toward Western capitals have been swept away. Indigenous and nativist political movements, especially those based in political Islam, are doing well. Religious parties came to power in Tunisia and Morocco, forming governments and selecting the prime minister.

A similar development will likely occur in Egypt, Libya and Yemen in 2012. All of these governments had been dominated by billionaire politicians and increasingly Neoliberal economic policies. The new cabinets dominated by political Islam are economic populists, but likely will not challenge the U.S. significantly. Neither can they be depended upon, however, to do as they're told, in the way that Mubarak could have been.

It is too early to say whether the assertion of people power, in part via the internet, in the Arab world marks a structural, long-term change in the way business is done. What can be said is that the Middle East is emerging as more independent than it had been since the 1970s.

President Obama gave a speech marking the end of the Iraq War. He should give one marking the end of the "War on Terror."

The U.S. is not actively fighting Muslim troops in Iraq any more. Bin Laden is dead. Whatever is going on in southern Afghanistan will have to work its way out alone.

Those are the three big changes in 2011. The U.S. is one great power among many, now. Muslim radicalism is running out of steam. And, the Middle East is declaring independence along the lines of Brazil. 🐘



WUFT-FM 89.1 programming schedule

Monday – Friday

6:00 a.m.	Morning Edition
10:00 a.m.	The Diane Rehm Show
Noon	Fresh Air
1:00 p.m.	World Have Your Say (Fri – Conner Calling)
2:00 p.m.	Talk of the Nation
4:00 p.m.	The Front Page Edition of All Things Considered
5:00 p.m.	All Things Considered
6:30 p.m.	Marketplace
7:00 p.m.	PBS Newshour
8:00 p.m.	The Story (Fri – BBC World News, Capital Report, 8:30 pm)
9:00 p.m.	On Point
11:00 p.m.	BBC World News (until morning)

Saturday

6:30 a.m.	Noticias
7:00 a.m.	BBC World News
8:00 a.m.	Weekend Edition Saturday
10:00 a.m.	Car Talk
11:00 a.m.	Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me
Noon	Sikorski's Attic
1:00 p.m.	Animal Airwaves Live
2:00 p.m.	This American Life
3:00 p.m.	Marketplace Money
4:00 p.m.	BBC World News
4:30 p.m.	Bioneers
5:00 p.m.	All Things Considered
6:00 p.m.	A Prairie Home Companion
8:00 p.m.	Soul Circuit
9:00 p.m.	Afropop Worldwide
10:00 p.m.	BBC World News (until morning)

Sunday

12:00 a.m.	BBC World News
7:30 a.m.	Florida Frontiers
8:00 a.m.	Weekend Edition Sunday
10:00 a.m.	Bob Edwards Weekend
Noon	This American Life
1:00 p.m.	Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me
2:00 p.m.	On The Bridge
4:00 p.m.	The Thistle & Shamrock
5:00 p.m.	All Things Considered
6:00 p.m.	BBC World News
7:30 p.m.	Humankind
8:00 p.m.	Ballads & Blues
10:00 p.m.	Music From the Hearts of Space
11:00 p.m.	BBC World News (until morning)

Veterans for Peace Connects with Occupy Gainesville

“Cost of War” seen in community violence, environmental impact, weakened economy

By Mary Bahr
Gainesville Veterans for Peace
member

Dennis Lane, executive director of National Veterans for Peace, said the cost of war can be seen today “in family and community violence, in the human and environmental impact of depleted uranium and a wide variety of chemical exposures, and in a weakened domestic economy and de-funded health, education and other social programs.”

You may have seen the Gainesville Vets for Peace Cost of War program. It gives the cost of war to our local community and to the state of Florida, as well as the national costs in blood and taxes.

The data is derived from the National Priorities Project Cost of War project at www.costofwar.com. These pages will give you the cost in tax dollars on counters that change every second and will also offer tradeoffs (what those dollars could have bought in our domestic economy had we not spent them on war).

Even with troops withdrawing from Iraq, many troops and support personnel will be left behind. We still have to pay the costs of equipment replacement and health care, which are projected to total a trillion dollars each. And then there’s still Afghanistan.

As I write this, the total taxes paid in Gainesville for both wars are \$232,649,897 and counting. Those hundreds of millions paid by our local citizens could have bought a year’s worth of college scholarships for 4,997 students, solar energy conversion for 7,742 households, or healthcare for 4,824 low income people. If you visit the site, these numbers will have increased, as we continue to pay far more for war than we do for the needs of our own citizens.

Because of the clear connection

Visit www.occupygainesville.org

between our government’s priorities and war, Vets for Peace finds a natural fit for support of the Occupy movement. On a national level, we passed a resolution to protect the Occupiers against police brutality, recognizing “that our common enemy is the wealthy power elite, those who control, ravage and exploit.”

On the local level, VFP Gainesville

and supplies the movement uses each day, arriving at the Plaza before 8 a.m. and loading up around 11 p.m.

On Nov. 11, two VFP members, John and Tommy Butler, were arrested along with 21 other Occupiers for staying in the “Free Speech Zone” of our public downtown plaza past 11:30 p.m.

John is also the liaison with Occupy



John Fullerton (left), of Gainesville Veterans for Peace and Occupy Gainesville, unloads the tents, tables, food and other materials for Occupy Gainesville. Every day, John sets up and takes down the Occupy camp in the Bo Diddley Plaza. Photo by Mary Bahr.

has supplied support to Occupy by organizing a Veterans Speak-Out at Bo Diddley Plaza, which resulted in moving testimony from young soldiers returning from war. We also invited Occupy to table at the annual Winter Solstice Concert, where we presented the group with a Peace Helmet award for their dedication to the fight for justice, and supplied them with Occupy buttons to give away and sell.

One VFP member, John Fullerton, has become a daily part of local Occupy, providing logistical support by delivering and removing the canopy

Supply run by the national blog Firedoglake. He went through online training for this position, which enabled him to receive supplies for our local Occupy, including blankets, hats and rain ponchos.

Occupy Supply has a mission of helping the movement make it through the winter, which is especially challenging for the encampments up north. It has raised more than \$174,000 and has spent more than \$150,000 on union-made, high quality clothing, tents, blankets, etc. for encampments across the U.S. You can donate online



Occupy Gainesville protests outside of Wells Fargo in Downtown Gainesville. Photo by Mary Bahr.

our burden

(In memory of PFC Keith Lloyd)

the sun's beating down, he's got him locked in his sights
another soldier lost, another pointless fight
i've lost good friends, they died before my eyes
i've seen families mourn, and i've heard their children cry

you could never understand the burden that is left
the million times i've wished for a bullet in my chest
it's easier to die than to live with what i've done
taken peoples lives and never thought to run

my dreams still haunt me, i always see his face
filled with so much anger, my life could never be the same
taught from birth to hate, they tried to take my life
and even though it's over, i still see them every night

*Recited by Tommie Butler, U.S. Army Iraq War Veteran and
Vets for Peace Member, at Occupy Gainesville's Armistice
Day Speak-Out on Nov. 11 at Bo Diddley Plaza*

to Occupy Supply, and 100 percent of your money goes directly toward supplies and shipment.

John said that in addition to coordinating supplies, his liaison position also puts him in touch online with fellow Occupy workers around the country. John sees Occupy as "an acorn that has been planted," which he hopes will acquire the critical mass to grow into a much larger movement.

His take on the movement is that it has a focus on getting money out of politics.

This theme was addressed at their GA as members connected with Move to Amend, a group that addresses the Supreme Court's Citizens United case treating corporations as people and corporate money as free speech.

John agreed with an analysis by Firedoglake blogger and Newark Occupier Tobiasfox, in an article called "Why We Occupy." He describes Occupy as consisting of three groups of people.

The first group is "solely interested in occupying public space and making that public space a community within a community, regardless of how organized or chaotic that community may appear. This is all they want to do: occupy public space. Occupying public space is critical because it's a place where we can establish the

commons and create a true democracy, and set up all the social systems needed to support a fully human society."

The second group consists of affinity groups within that community. For our local Occupy, those affinity groups include a women's group, Move to Amend, a food and comfort group, radical cheerleaders, a group focused on big Pharma, and a Koppers group addressing environmental pollution from Gainesville's own Superfund site. This is not a comprehensive list, but it is representative of the groups allied under the umbrella of the Occupy community.

The people in the third group are the activists who stir things up and organize actions like the one against Wells Fargo and Bank of America. The picketers focus on the fraud committed by these banks in the housing market and encourage passersby to move their money to community banks and credit unions.

The Occupy members I visited with generally agreed with this analysis but said it oversimplified the situation and pointed out that the group was fluid with many overlapping views and foci.

Occupiers responded to the One Percent comments that they should "get a job and quit whining." Nancy from the food and comfort group said she already worked full time and

that no one had a right to criticize if they did not attend a GA, i.e. join the community. Another Occupier answered more from the activist side of the group that "job" stood for "Just Over Broke," and he would not buy into the present economic system because it did not value its workers.

Deborah told her story of the benefits of the Occupy community. She attempted to close an inactive account at Bank of America and was told that she would have to wait 30 days. She informed the teller that she would be back with pickets from Occupy Gainesville. After checking with a manager, her account was closed immediately.

To see how to support Occupy Gainesville and a calendar of upcoming events, visit www.occupygainesville.org or stop by Bo Diddley Plaza any time you see the tent. Most days there is a GA or a working/affinity group meeting around 6:30p.m.

Occupy Gainesville will host the Southeastern Regional Occupy Gathering March 23 - 25 in efforts to connect the movement in the U.S. and also the Caribbean (occupysoutheast.org).

My visit to Occupy found a group of young and old people working together on community and organizing that community to make John's acorn sprout and grow. 🌱

History and The People Who Make It: Margaret Block

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

This is the sixth in a continuing series of excerpts from transcripts in the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Lifelong civil rights activist Margaret Block was interviewed by Paul Ortiz on September 18, 2008.

I got involved in the movement like in – when I was about 10 years old, I used to hang around with this man named Mr. Amzie Moore. They organized the Regional Council on Negro Leadership, and I was aware of something being wrong because listening to my parents and everybody talk about it. I wasn't able to do anything until 1961 when I graduated from high school. Then I joined the movement. I didn't join SNCC until '62 because we didn't have nothing in Cleveland [Mississippi] in 1961 but the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and I joined it. That was we were teaching people how to read and write and how to take that test that you had to take from the state of Mississippi interpreting the Constitution.

That's what we had to teach, the literacy test, which was insane. You know, one registrar asked how many bubbles is in a bar of Ivory soap, just dumb stuff. That's the most rewarding thing I'd ever done in my life, was teaching that citizenship school. It was the idea of me teaching my elders how to read


and write. I taught all over the Delta and Rosedale and all over, Cleveland and Shaw, just all these little towns in the Delta. That was in '63, '62 and '63. When we did that, that was way before Freedom Summer.

Well, SCLC was more Christian, religious, more spiritual than SNCC was, and SCLC was, they were the educational. You know, like they gave us training and they would get us out of jail and stuff like that. They led the mass movements and stuff, too. But SNCC was a lot of vibrant young people. You know, they were students, and I had met all – I didn't even go to college until real late because I was in the movement and my brother got kicked out of Mississippi Valley State for trying to organize a SNCC chapter on campus. So I figured, what's the use. Mmm-hmm. So I tell people I didn't get an education by going to college. I got an education working in the movement and coming in contact with people like Hollis and John Lewis and my brother and Amzie Moore and Diane Nash and Septima Clark.

SNCC was, we were risk-takers. We would do stuff and people, Dr. King would be goin', you know, "just look at you," because we were not afraid to challenge nobody. So that's what I like to emphasize. We used to party a lot, not all the time. But we used to have parties and just have fun and, you know, to relieve all that tension and stuff that was going on with being shot at and being chased. So it was more, well, it was more for young people, SNCC was.

Emmett Till was the reason we couldn't wait to get big enough to join a movement. He said that he was the fire, he started the fire. That's what they did when they killed Emmett Till. Because I remem-

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ber Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers, I grew up around those guys. You know, Medgar used to live in Mound Bayou with Dr. Howard when Dr. Howard was a surgeon. So when Emmett got killed, Medgar and Amzie Moore dressed up like they were field hands and went out to the fields and were talking to people, investigating it around which was brave, and crazy, and suicidal.

Music was extremely important to the movement. If it wasn't for the Freedom Songs, we would take a church song and, you know, just change the words. Those are all church songs we were singing up there but we just changed the words. But that was important, the music in the movement. The music was the glue that kept the Civil Rights Movement together. And it was the best organizing tool that we had, because we would be singing those songs at a meeting and people would pass by and hear us singing and say, oh, you guys going to sing that song next week? And we'd tell them yeah and we'd have the church full because people would enjoy the Freedom Songs.

So those Freedom Songs are really important. They're at the Smithsonian Institute. Bernice Reagon recorded them down there in Atlanta at the SNCC song-whatever they had in '63 or '62, you know, all those years ago. But anyway, Bernice, who sang with Sweet

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Honey in the Rock... Bernice Reagon – Bernice Johnson, when I knew her. Yeah, she recorded all those songs,

Kids going to school now, in my hometown, they know nothing at all about my brother Sam who is an icon in the movement. He was featured in African American National Biography by Henry Louis Gates. People, I think they just don't care. It's not just the children. It's the adults. And it's not good, either, that you don't even know your own history and you got icons walking around now that you could talk to, like Ms. Rogers or just people still around that was in the movement and that's being treated like, OK, we're going to half-teach it and we're going to do that half-truth thing with it.

Yeah, we had a shoot out. It was August the 7th, 1964. We had taken the Brewer Brothers from Sharkey Road, which was out from Glendora. We had taken them over to Charleston to the courthouse to vote, and we expected trouble because we knew those people – that was one of the strongholds of the Klan, too, Tallahatchie County.

So we knew it was going to come down the next night, and what did we do? We went. The Brewers, all of them were well-armed. So when they came, when these Klan came down there at night, we were out in the country and we was on this farm and it was one long road. When we came out from the country, they was gonna shoot at us.

And they were so surprised when we shot at them first. They took off. We had our spotlights. This lady named Ms. Elsie Brewer, she turned on a big ol' spotlight, turned it on, and they didn't know what to think of, and when we shot at them, we didn't hear nothing else from them.

They would harass us on the radio and stuff, but we didn't hear anything else about them coming out there to shoot nobody. Because we let them know that we were fully prepared to shoot it out with them. We even made Molotov cocktails.

Now, one time – that's the time when Stokely was out on the project with me out there in Tallahatchie, and Stokely tell me, we gonna make some Molotov cocktails, and I'm going, mmm-hmm.

He's telling me, gimme the cash money, we makin' Molotov cocktails tonight, and I'm looking at him, never have been nowhere but to Chicago and Memphis and Jackson all my growing up years. Pretty soon I went, Stokely, I don't drink, and I don't want no cocktail. I thought he was talking about something to drink.

O: Some people would find it surprising because the official ideology of the movement was nonviolence, but in this particular case, you're saying the Brewer family –

We made exceptions. Oh, that was just SNCC, the Student Nonviolent – I didn't tell them I was nonviolent.

I went on and carried the fight on to San Francisco when I moved—finally had got ran out in '66. My nerves had gotten just bad, you know, tired of being threatened and shot at and just going through stuff. So I had went to San Francisco. But I went on with the fight out there, joined the war, you know, Vietnam, the anti-Vietnam War and that, no intervention in Central America, helped write Proposition J, which we got put on the ballot. You know Prop J, where we – the first city to divest our pension funds and stuff from South Africa.

O: OK. Why did you come back [after 31 years]?

Well, my mom got sick, and then I just had to be, I don't know. My children were grown when I came back, and I own a house and, you know, rather than struggle to pay extremely high mortgage rates in northern San Francisco, I moved back down here to take care of my mom. Then I decided that the fight ain't over with here. I'm still fighting.

Yeah, like they're charging kids to go to school, public school. That's another fight I had. I was working for the Mississippi Center for Justice, the Youth Justice Center out of Jackson, and, yeah, they're charging kids school fees to go to public schools. Charging them, yeah, \$10 enrollment for elementary school, \$17.50 for middle school, and then it just went through the roof when they

went to high school, like paying for those classes

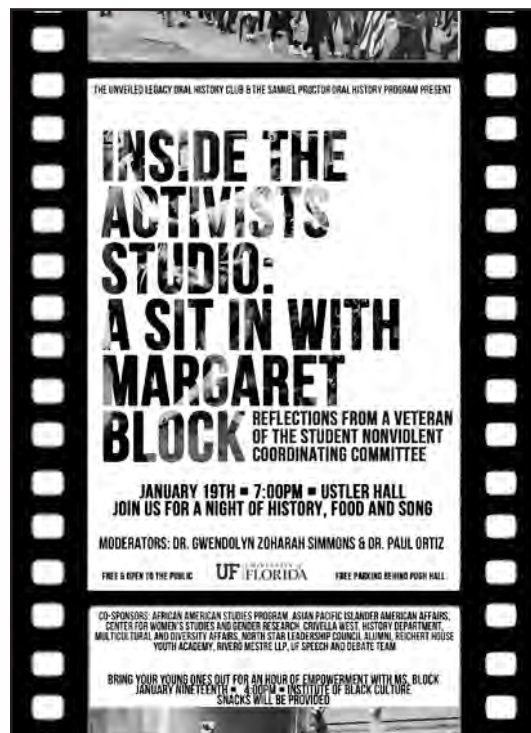
They know they got to have English, they know they got to have chemistry, and they charge for that stuff.

It's an incredible injustice. It's like a poll tax on education or something. Then there's no accountability for the money because each parent when you go to whatever school you go to, you have to pay the money to the cashier, the secretary at the school. It doesn't go into general budget fund. They do what they want to do with it, and God only knows what they doing with it. 🐸

An audio podcast of this interview will be made available, along with many others, at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/feature-podcasts.htm.

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Will 'zombie economics' prove Florida's proposed nuclear power plants are no longer competitive?

By Robert Trigaux,
Tampa Bay Times

This article was highlighted in an event by Mary Olson of Nuclear Information and Resource Service (www.nirs.com) and Mandy Hancock of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (www.cleanenergy.org) in a Civic Media Center presentation Monday, Jan. 9. Also shown was a film "Climate of Hope," a 28 minute Australian production on the nuclear film cycle, which was excellent and is viewable on Youtube. Another suggested site was www.fairewinds.com, with up to date coverage of Fukushima, Japan.

This story was originally published on Jan. 4 in the Tampa Bay Times (www.tampabay.com).

Wake up and good morning. Well, Progress Energy and Duke Energy, stalled in their merger by federal regulators worried about too much monopoly power, say they are again revamping terms of their deal to make the feds happy.

According to the Raleigh, N.C., paper, the News & Observer, Progress Energy CEO (who will also be CEO of the combined Duke-Progress giant should it happen) Bill Johnson said the trick of the latest merger proposal will be to "preserve the \$650 million in savings promised to regulators in the Carolinas while also selling off a sizable chunk of electricity into wholesale markets to appease federal regulators."

Why do we care here in Florida?

Obviously, Progress Energy Florida is part of this proposed acquisition by Duke of the Progress Energy

corporation. And both Duke and Progress Energy have long histories and big ambitions of becoming an even bigger player in building nuclear power plants to generate electricity.

Here in Florida, that nuclear ambition is being played out by political power that's allowed Progress Energy to charge its Florida customers for two questionable nuclear projects.

First, a hefty portion of the staggering \$2.5 billion repair bill for the Crystal River nuclear power plant, down since the fall of 2009 and broken by the controversial do-it-yourself fixes attempted by the power company.

Second, even as Progress Energy struggles to revive the aging, off-line Crystal River nuke plant, it's charging customers now for preliminary costs tied to a long-proposed new nuclear power plant north of Tampa Bay in Levy County that may yet never happen.

Here's the real trick. Duke and Progress Energy are committed to a nuclear power future that increasingly -- for reasons of both cost and safety -- is pricing itself out of the viable market for generating electricity.

Progress Energy no longer quotes fresh costs for the Levy

County plant because, in part, it's going to be a stunner. A plant (with two nuclear reactors on the site) that was once touted a cost just over \$10 billion, soon went to \$17 billion. Given the trend line -- not to mention the Japan nuclear disaster which will boost safety-related costs to any new nuclear plants -- it would not be surprising to see a plant cost topping \$25 billion or perhaps even \$30 billion by the time a Levy County plant actually comes online in the latter 2020s.

At some point, those costs will become clearly uncompetitive, despite Duke and Progress Energy's political power to convince legislators to see things their way.

There's been a steady flow of commentary in recent months about the declining competitiveness of nuclear power. And the federal government, for all its sporadic boosterism for nuclear power, is so financially pressed that it's proved unable to cough up the massive loan guarantees the nuclear power industry demands in order to break ground on large numbers of nuke plants.

Consider this latest commentary, dated Jan. 3 and headlined The End of the Nuclear Renaissance, in The National Interest. The key point?

"In 2011, nuclear power ceased

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Gainesville



Chapter 14



to be a serious option for meeting the world's energy needs." So writes John Quiggin, the Hinkley visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University and an Australian Research Council Federation fellow at the University of Queensland. He is the author of "Zombie Economics: How Dead Ideas Still Walk Among Us."

As Quiggin states in his commentary: "... after an initial rush of enthusiasm, proposals for new nuclear plants ran into economic reality. When the deadline set under the Nuclear Power 2010 program expired, twenty-six proposals had been received by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But by the beginning of 2011, more than half of these had been abandoned, and ground had been broken on only two sites, with a total of four reactors.

"The nuclear renaissance was already tottering, but the disaster of Fukushima was the coup de grace. It's true, as nuclear advocates have argued, that the plants at Fukushima were old and that a disaster as big as the March tsunami was hard to plan for. No doubt the failures in cooling and containment systems that gave rise to the present crisis can be overcome and reactor designs modified to improve safety.

"But safety doesn't come cheap, and redesigns mean delays. With no prospect of any further increases in subsidies and loan guarantees, it seems likely that most of the proposals for new nuclear-power plants in the United States will be abandoned."

Keep in mind this is just one view of a growing number of sharp minds that see nuclear power's role waning, not reborn, in the coming decades. It raises the key question for Floridians -- saddled now with repair and building fees in their electricity bills, charges that will skyrocket if the Levy County project continues:

What are we paying for? Projects that may no longer prove financially competitive? 🐸

Civic Media Center January/February 2012 Events

Every Thursday: Poetry Jam, 9pm

Tuesday, 1/17: Essential Afrikan History Workshop #5, 7pm

Wednesday 1/18: Anarchademics, radical history and theory reading and discussion group, 7pm

Thursday, 1/19: Icarus Project, radical mental health support group, 7pm

Friday, 1/20: "No Woman, No Cry," documentary on global issues in women's health and reproductive freedom for the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade with a discussion led by Helen Strain of Planned Parenthood, 7:30pm

Saturday, 1/21: Gainesville Vets for Peace matinee screening of "Hidden Battles," a documentary on soldiers' experiences of killing, 3pm

Sunday, 1/22: CMC Zine Library Organizing Party, 12-5 pm

Monday, 1/23: "Made in L.A.," documentary on immigrant women workers organizing on the job, co-sponsored by Gainesville IWW and La Casita, 7pm

Tuesday, 1/24: Presentation on opposition to proposed Biomass Plant, 7pm

Wednesday, 1/25: "Middle East Realignment," 1st in monthly series videos and discussions on International Relations, 7pm

Friday, 1/27: ArtWalk, featuring works by Gustavo Roca, others TBA, 7-10pm

Saturday, 1/28: Book release party for Poetry Jam poet G. M. Palmer's new book, 7pm

Monday, 1/30: "Silver City," John Sayles feature on rightwing, Bush-style electoral follies, 7pm

Tuesday, 1/31: CMC Fundraiser night at Burrito Bros. Taco Co.

Monday, 2/6: "Black Power Mixtape, 1967-1975," collection of previously unreleased footage, with commentaries by contemporary artists and activists, 7pm

Tuesday, 2/7: International Noise Conference Pre-show, experimental and noise music, 9pm

Wednesday, 2/8: Queer Reading Group, 7pm

Saturday, 2/11: Vegan Fundraiser Dinner, 6-9pm

Sunday, 2/12: 6th presentation in a larger series of workshops on Essential Afrikan History, 4p.m.

Friday, 2/17: "Power to the People" film showing at 7p.m., followed by discussion and then live music by the Babylonians at 9p.m.

Monday, 2/20: "Sanfoka," a Haile Gerima mystical classic of slavery and resistance, film showing.

Wednesday, 2/22: Presentation by Samuel Proctor Oral History Project of UF on their travels to Mississippi for interviews.

Monday, 2/27: "Through the Door of No Return," a film maker's tracking of his father's ancestry all the way to Ghana.

433 S. Main Street

Parking just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign) or after 7pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave.) or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC). Check our website for details or new events that may have been scheduled after this went to press.

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Tainted Coal: Mountaintop Removal and GRU

*By Jason Fults,
Gainesville Loves Mountains*

For the past few decades, Appalachian coal companies have sought to erase the gains of some of the most hard-fought labor struggles in U.S. history by reducing their workforce through mechanization.

Large deep-mining operations employing union miners have been replaced with millions of pounds of explosives and draglines more than 20 stories tall. This method of coal mining is referred to as “mountaintop removal” (MTR), and as its name implies, its impact on local ecosystems is devastating.

I lived in Appalachia for several years, and it was there that images of MTR and its effects on the people and landscapes of the region were burned into my consciousness—images that I carry with me many years later.

The Environmental Protection Agency describes MTR as “...a form of surface coal mining in which explosives are used to access coal seams, generating large volumes of

waste that bury adjacent streams.

The resulting waste that then fills valleys and streams can significantly compromise water quality, often causing permanent damage to ecosystems and rendering streams unfit for drinking, fishing, and swimming. It is estimated that almost 2,000 miles of Appalachian headwater streams have been buried by mountaintop coal mining.”

Residents and activists who have been fighting this practice would say that the EPA’s description is charitable. The nexus between the devastation of MTR and our personal consumption is our municipally owned utility, Gainesville Regional Utilities. GRU purchases coal and other fuels that they then convert into electricity and sell to ratepayers.

That is why we started Gainesville Loves Mountains, a local group dedicated to working in conjunction with organizations in Appalachia to end MTR and create a prosperous future for the region.

Currently, about 62 percent of GRU’s energy mix comes from coal, and about 60 percent of that coal comes from

MTR mine sites. Gainesville Loves Mountains has been meeting with GRU staff, a few City Commissioners and Mayor Craig Lowe for the past several months to discuss this issue.

Last March, we brought Larry Gibson, a resident of West Virginia and neighbor to MTR mining sites, to Gainesville to talk. While the Commissioners, and particularly our eco-conscious mayor have been sympathetic to these concerns, they have been rebuffed by GRU staff who want no restrictions placed on their coal purchases and who insist that they only purchase coal from “reputable, law-abiding” companies.

Appalachian activists who have been fighting against MTR disagree. One staff-person at the Boone, N.C. organization Appalachian Voices said, “It looks like their suppliers are the worst of the worst, particularly Massey, Patriot, ICG (International Coal Group) and TECO Coal C. Moreover, the specific mines—from Twilight to Patriot’s mines ... to ICG’s godawful complex north of Hazard—would make for the most awful visuals and compelling human stories out there.”



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One issue that emerged in the public meetings in recent months is that while GRU contractually requires their coal suppliers to “obey all applicable laws,” there is absolutely no monitoring or enforcement of this requirement. The staff members at GRU, when asked, were completely unaware of any violations of the law by any of our suppliers and have instead reassured us, consistently, that “we only deal with highly reputable providers.”

So the unspoken policy has been one of plausible deniability: the less that we know about the origins of our energy, it seems, the better.

In recent months, GRU has been performing “test burns” on coal from outside of Appalachia.

If these tests are successful, Gainesville would have a larger pool to choose from, and it would be easier to avoid MTR coal. In response to citizen advocacy, GRU has agreed to require their coal suppliers to self-report any major legal violations to the utility.

Yet even as recently as last month, Assistant General Manager John Stanton continued to maintain that the upcoming round of coal contracts would be “...awarded on the basis of low total cost.”

By “total cost,” Stanton was factoring in transportation and other financial costs of burning coal. He unfortunately was not referring to the environmental and social “costs” that residents of Appalachia are paying with their lives.

While it is doubtful that GRU will change course and agree to stop purchasing MTR coal right away, the efforts of Gainesville Loves Mountains, in concert with Appalachian activists and energy consumers nationwide, can



Photo courtesy of iLoveMountains.org, a website that uses cutting edge technology to inform and involve citizens from all over the country in their efforts to save mountains and communities.

bring this egregious practice to an end.

Please remember the people of Appalachia when you turn on your lights or power up your heater this winter.

If you want to learn more about MTR and our community’s connection to it, visit ilovemountains.org. And please let our local leaders know that you want to see an end to Gainesville’s connection to mountaintop removal mining (a list of key contacts is given below).

The communities that supply our energy deserve clean water, healthy livelihoods and respect!

Please contact:

Bob Hunzinger (GRU General Manager): HunzingerRE@gru.com, (352)334-3400
Susan Bottcher (City Commissioner,

chair of Regional Utilities Committee): bottchersw@cityofgainesville.org, (352)334-5015

Mayor Craig Lowe: mayor@cityofgainesville.org, (352)334-5015

Thomas Hawkins (City Commissioner): hawkinswt@cityofgainesville.org, (352)334-5015

Once you have notified local leaders and spread the message to your contacts, please “like” us on Facebook (GainesvilleLovesMountains). If you would like to do more to help win this victory, please contact Jason Fults via phone at (352)318-0060 or email Sisyphus@riseup.net. 🐘

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Move to Amend...continued from p.1

ruling was the culmination of efforts by the wealthiest individuals to hijack the people's government and increase their power and wealth.

The 2012 presidential election is expected to have the most extravagant spending of any election in history. Kantar Media, a company that tracks advertising, reported \$5.8 million spent on TV ads in the Iowa Republican primaries prior to Dec. 30, most of those being negative attack ads.

The ruling not only equates money to speech but also makes it federal law under the U.S. Constitution that corporations have the same 1st Amendment rights intended for people ("Corporate Personhood"). Corporations

are amassing more wealth than ever before in history, and it is time to push back. Efforts being taken locally include a protest, "Occupy the Courts", at the Bo Diddley Plaza in downtown Gainesville on Friday, Jan. 20 at 1 p.m., the day before the second anniversary of the court ruling. This event is particularly exciting because Dr. Cornel West, a long-time civil rights activist and national best-selling author, will be speaking.

To find out more or to be a part of the local chapter of Move to Amend, attend the rally, visit Facebook's MovetoAmend Gainesville page, or send an email to MoveToAmend@gmail.com. Help end corporate personhood and bring democracy to "We the People." 🐢

The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



The Gainesville Iguana is Gainesville's progressive events calendar and newsletter.

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OCCUPY THE COURTS

January 20th, 2012

**Time: Starting Bo Diddley Plaza
@1pm Gainesville, FL**

SPECIAL SPEAKER

DR. CORNEL WEST

**Special Local Speakers, Street Theater Performance
and a March to Federal Court Building
at 401 Southeast 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL**

Corporations are NOT people! Money is NOT speech!

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END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.