



The Gainesville Iguana

September 2013

Vol. 27, Issue 9

Chomsky still coming

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center has a special relationship with noted linguist and political dissident Noam Chomsky. The CMC opened its doors on Oct. 18, 1993, coinciding with a speaking engagement by Chomsky, and indeed had him dedicate our space and host the first events there — back-to-back discussions with local independent media publishers and with the UF Linguistics department.

Ten years later, in 2003, Chomsky returned to speak in the O'Connell Center, where just over 6,000 people turned out for an event cosponsored by ACCENT, the student speakers bureau.

So, with the CMC turning 20 this year, Chomsky was approached to return again, and this spring he agreed to come on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

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Photo courtesy of Dream Defenders.

Our struggle has just begun

by Lauren Byers, Dream Defenders

This full version of this article was originally published on SocialistWorker.org on Aug. 27. To read the full version, visit <http://socialistworker.org/2013/08/27/our-struggle-has-just-begun>.

The Dream Defenders ended their month-long occupation of the Florida state Capitol in Tallahassee on Aug. 15 with a press conference that included civil rights legend and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee founder Julian Bond.

Organizers made it clear that this isn't the end but the beginning of a new phase in the fight against racism in the state of Florida. As Bond said, "You're ending a protest because you've started a movement."

The occupation, which lasted 30 nights and 31 days, was the longest occupation of the Capitol in Florida's history. However,

breaking that record was just the tip of the iceberg. While occupiers were unable to convince Gov. Rick Scott to call a special session to discuss Trayvon's Law, they were able to get a legislative poll taken for the first time in the state's history.

The protesters convinced some 32 legislators to ask for a special session in writing, which by state law triggered an official poll of the entire 160-member Florida legislature. Unfortunately, the Republican-dominated legislature voted against the special session. ...

At the press conference, the Dream Defenders also announced their goal of registering 61,550 voters—the voter margin by which Rick Scott was elected.

However, Scott isn't the only elected official who has made the Dream Defenders' target list for eviction. So, too, will the

See **DREAM DEFENDERS**, p. 16

CHOMSKY, from p. 1

So how to go about this? Well, ACCENT was contacted in June once their new Chair was into office. In July, they said they were "very interested" and actually proposed a generous honorarium as well. The main point of contention was whether we could expect the crowd we had in 2003. ACCENT thought not, and expressed wanting to have it at the Performing Arts Center (seating 1,700 people). That was the main point of discussion. At one point in July, ACCENT chair Daniel Landesberg said he was "99%" positive toward the event happening. An ACCENT reservation on the O'Connell Center was in place; things seemed fine and moving forward.

But then things seemed to stop, communication became scant, and there seemed to be no impetus to finalize the event. In August, ACCENT asked to contact Chomsky's office to do their contracts, and that was furnished, but then they did not get in touch with the office. In late August, an email from ACCENT said their "research" informed them that only a thousand students would be interested in coming to hear Chomsky. This seemed low, and a continued case for the larger venue was made to ACCENT. And as the Performing Arts Center was reserved for Oct. 16. for another event, could Chomsky change his date? As he books way ahead, this was not going to be easy, and seemed needless if we were to just think big and go for the O'Connell Center. Then on Aug. 28, in a phone conversation, ACCENT made the request that no advance publicity be made on the event until contracts were signed. Well, the CMC had the arrangement for his coming already set, and the only question was where and if ACCENT would take advantage of this opportunity offered them. That he was coming was not a question. Neither ACCENT nor any specific location were never on any flier or article. That we were talking to ACCENT, well, yes, we were.

So that day, as had already been planned, a table with a sign saying "Chomsky is Coming" was on the Plaza of Americas, and notes supporting Chomsky's visit collected on a large sheet of paper to show ACCENT there was student support. A picture was emailed to ACCENT with a friendly note of encouragement to finalize the event on the O'Connell Center. That led to this email, received one week later:

Joe,

I am very disappointed to see that you ignored my request after our conversation last week when I explicitly requested you not speak publicly on the show before everything was finalized. I have had a number of ACCENT staff members come to me about someone promoting a Noam Chomsky show on campus as well as administrators upset by the violation of university policy. Every attempt at this show has caused problems for ACCENT. It is clear that we do not operate in the same way, so I must insist we part ways on this project. ACCENT will not be bringing Noam Chomsky this year.

So there we are. Chomsky is still coming; it is now a question of where. Still, will ACCENT relent if there is an upwelling of support for the event? We can hope. It's frustrating. Things seemed to be in place but just not finalized by ACCENT, and then this cone of silence request over ... what? What policies, which administrators? "Every attempt at this show has caused problems for ACCENT." How? Ya try to do a good thing.... 🐱

Remembering the 1973 coup in Chile

by Jack Price

Sept. 11 has an additional significance. That date in 1973, now 40 years ago, marked a coup in Chile, which overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. The coup, a project of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, ushered in 17 years of the Pinochet dictatorship.

Official human rights reports have established that more than 3,000 people were killed or disappeared during the Pinochet years. Some 40,000 more were tortured, among them Michelle Bachelet and her mother. Dr. Bachelet became president after the restoration of democracy and is currently a presidential candidate. Thousands more went into exile, several of whom became friends of mine.

I have been deeply involved with Chile solidarity and human rights since 1977.

Ten years ago, on the 30th anniversary of the coup, the Civic Media Center screened the powerful Costa-Gavras film, "Missing" starring Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacek at the Hippodrome. The movie tells the story of Charles Horman, an American filmmaker working for the Allende government. Horman became missing in the wake of the coup, and so he is today, his body probably having been tossed into the Pacific or down a mine shaft. His widow, Joyce Horman, has been pursuing truth and perhaps a measure of justice all these years. She created the Charles Horman Truth Foundation and has organized an ambitious event in New York City on Sept. 9. I urge you to visit the Hormantruth.org website.

Through heroic efforts in Chile and extraordinary international solidarity, democracy has been restored, and Chile's courts have begun meting out jail sentences for human rights abuses. But details of the U.S. involvement in the coup and the deaths of several American citizens remain veiled.

To read more about the U.S.-backed coup in Chile, check out Joyce Horman's article, "Missing Charlie, 40 Years Later," in the September 2013 issue of the Progressive at <http://progressive.org/justice-in-chile>. 🐱

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From the publisher ... **Think globally, act locally**

by Joe Courter

As we've been planning this edition of the Iguana, the overriding question has been "What are we gonna do about Syria?" In a country that is a mess, in a region that is a mess, Syria exhibits all the problems so many others in the area have: decades of authoritarian rule, a legacy of international power games, stockpiles of ever more potent weaponry, a rise in social media and technology both within the country and out to the world, destroyed infrastructure, inflamed religious rivalries and now, with all the death, injuries and refugees, enough bad blood and bitterness that peaceful resolution seems impossible. So tragic.



Joe Courter

NPR's series "Back Story" on Aug. 31 had a show devoted to the impact of ethics and technology on conflicts over time, and it is a depressing commentary on what humans are doing in our time on the planet. Ever more powerful weapons affect not only the devastation but also the distance at which conflict is carried out. That distance also allows for a dehumanization of the "enemy," with distance not only meaning proximity but cultural, too; a particular characteristic of white Europeans fueled with a religiously based sense of superiority. In the show they talk about a conflict between two Native American tribes in the New England area, and how one of the tribes allied with some English colonials. They went on their raid and were horrified when their white allies just devastated the other tribe with firepower. It talked about how Germans justified using poison gas in WWI as more humane than leaving enemy wounded and dying slowly in trenches.

I feel what Obama has done by putting the potential attack on Syria to Congress, and theoretically, the people, is a good thing. That public opinion is running so strong against the Syrian attack is encouraging. Country after country has had to endure U.S. military solutions in their lands and in most cases come out worse for the experience. As Michael Franti sings: "You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb the world to peace." We citizens have had enough of the destruction and corruption of the military industrial complex and the policies that enrich them. They are the ones who win at war, they win at our expense, stealing our tax money that should be going to education, healthcare and infrastructure.

No to war, yes to diplomacy. Andrew Bacevich nailed it on the head on the Sept. 6 Bill Moyers show. It is U.S. foreign policy over the past 30 years that has led to where we are now. This must change.

Closer to home, there is a rise in labor organizing among lower income workers. From Walmart workers to the fast food industry, people are starting to stand up to exploitative labor practices and low pay. Here locally workers at the northwest Tasty Buddha location went on strike July 20 and were able to successfully negotiate their grievances and return to work. Key to their success was knowing their rights and acting within the laws that protect the right to strike. Their article can be found on the Iguana website at www.gainesvilleiguana.org. Additionally, Labor Daze was a great success thanks to Trish Ingle and all the people and businesses she was able to organize. Represented there were Alachua County employees seeking their first pay raise in six years who seemed thrilled to see such support coming to their table. And that's what it's about, and why we do this paper: while we may focus and worry about bigger and distant issues like war and climate change, we roll up our sleeves (okay, poor metaphor for this hot summer), organize with others and work locally to have positive impact in our community. 🐢

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The Gainesville Iguana
*is Gainesville's progressive
events calendar & newsletter.*

*Individuals: \$15
(or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20*

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P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville, FL 32604*

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

by Joe Courter

Every year about this time there is an infusion of new people to Gainesville, and to them we say WELCOME. This goes out to them especially, but is also for everyone: You have landed in an amazing little city, with many hidden treasures. Do get out and explore, be it nature-related, food-related, music-related, or whatever. Spread your wings and fly from the campus cocoon, the malls and the familiar corporate logo-ed businesses. Hey, you've already found the Iguana!

Supporting local businesses is important to the vitality of this town. Money spent in a local business stays in town and circulates around. Lots of small shops, be it clothes, bikes, restaurants, groceries, books, music; can provide you with what you need. Talk to natives.

Get out and explore yard sales on weekends for economical goods, from kitchen to recreational; i.e., cheap bikes, etc. There has been a great expansion of bike lanes, get a decent bike, a good lock and you've got a way to get around.

Here is an important nugget to plant in your brain about getting around Gainesville: CLAP and STDs. No this isn't a safe sex message (though by all means be sensible in that regard). This involves navigation, and here it is: Courts, Lanes, Avenues and Places are East-West in orientation. Streets, Terraces and Drives are North-South. Roads have a sort of diagonal component. That concept, coupled with the fact that University Avenue and Main St. are your zero numbered axes that divide East from West, North from South, and you can find that friend's house or store.

Support local Credit Unions and not the big banks 'cause it's the right thing to do. Period.

Plug in to ways to make the town better. Advisory boards from the city, volunteer at non-profit groups, or local organizations for social activism. Radical Rush is a good way to find such organizations; see the article in this issue of the Iguana for more details. Register to vote here, and represent the future generations of folks coming here. Or maybe your future self, because you may just find you like it here and decide to stay. 🐸

Conversations about mental health

Mind Freedom Florida, The Center for Clarity and the Mental Health Coalition of North Central Florida are inviting the community to participate in conversations on the topic of Mental Health Recovery.

Daniel Mackler will be in Gainesville from Sept. 13-16. Mackler graduated from Swarthmore College and worked as a psychotherapist in New York for 10 years. He now devotes his time to filmmaking, writing, music, and travel. He has travelled extensively, and studied treatment of mental illness around the world, which is reflected in his films. His films document the lives of people that have recovered from severe Mental Health Diagnosis and his presence will invite the Gainesville Community to talk and learn about this important and controversial issue.

Join us in Gainesville for these exciting events!

Friday, Sept. 13, United Church Of Gainesville

(1624 NW 5th Ave.) in Fellowship Hall

7 pm - Meet and Greet

7:30 pm - Movie "Take These Broken Wings" followed by Q&A with filmmaker (Mackler)

Saturday, Sept. 14, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.)

8 pm - Movie "Coming Off Psych Drugs"

10 pm - Music with Daniel Mackler & Friends

Sunday, Sept. 15, United Church of Gainesville, Fellowship Hall

11 am - noon - Seminar with Daniel Mackler

Sunday, Sept. 15, Trinity United Methodist Church

(4000 NW 53rd Ave.)

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm - Movie "Healing Homes" followed by Q&A with filmmaker (Mackler)

Monday, Sept. 16, United Church of Gainesville, Fellowship Hall

1 pm – 5 pm - An Open Dialogue on Mental Illness (includes showing of the film "Open Dialogue: An Alternative, Finnish Approach To Healing Psychosis, Q&A with director Mackler, and panel discussion with Daniel Mackler (filmmaker and social worker), Marcia Morris (psychiatrist), Neil Chonin (civil rights attorney), Frank Blankenship (survivor and human rights activist) and Dave Byrd (consumer and peer counselor))

For information, visit facebook.com/DanielMacklerGainesville. 🐸

Check us out online!

The Gainesville Iguana

www.gainesvilleiguana.org



SILHOUETTE MAN WONDERS WTF IS WRONG WITH AMERICANS

Here in the Nordic countries*, universal access to free higher education is a no-brainer.

* Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden

That's because we know that education is the ultimate investment in the future.

In addition to not having any tuition fees, all students receive a monthly grant to help cover their living expenses.

Of course, that does result in higher taxes.

But free education reduces social inequality, and benefits both individuals and society in the long run.

An educated population equals a strong, stable state, ready for the future. So the investment is well worth it.

It's really as simple as that...

...which is why I've been doing a lot of thinking lately.

If I may be so direct, just WTF are you Americans thinking?

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

2011
2000
1990
1980

You make *your own people* go into often crippling debt, just to become educated, and just as they're trying to get started in life.

SOURCE: Economics Research, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

You've unleashed 100s of expensive for-profit "schools" to prey upon your own citizens.

SOURCE: <http://huff.to/for-profit-dereg>

PRISONS OVER STUDENTS

You spend more on your prisons than on your students.

SOURCE: <http://bit.ly/secarcasualor educate>

And among the top 15 countries by military expenditures, you're number 1 ... and spend as much as the other 14 combined.

SOURCE: <http://bit.ly/SIPRI-yearbook-2011>

MILITARY OVER STUDENTS

Meanwhile, your rich *own* most of your politicians, and fool many of your citizens into fighting to keep it that way.

It's all a recipe for a lost generation at best, and a nation hurtling toward decline and eventual unraveling at worst.

So that's why I've been thinking...

...when is enough going to be enough for you Americans?

University of Phoenix
KAPLAN UNIVERSITY
Everest
COLLEGES, INSTITUTES & UNIVERSITIES
DeVry University
Shareholders' UNIVERSITY

From Occupy Posters - owsposters.tumblr.com

The Gainesville Eight, 40 Years Later

by Jessica Newman

On Aug. 31, 1973, the Gainesville Eight were acquitted of charges of conspiracy to violently disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach. Their acquittal came at the end of a 14-month long, highly publicized legal battle, and many of the truths it exposed still ring true today. That's why, 40 years later, three of the original defendants (Scott Camil, Peter Mahoney and Don Perdue) and 12 others involved with the trial reunited in Gainesville—preserving history to prevent it from repeating itself.

The Gainesville Eight were made up of eight anti-war activists, seven of whom were members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Their plans for a peaceful, anti-war demonstration at the 1972 RNC were disrupted by law enforcement agents—from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on down to the Dade County Public Safety Department—who infiltrated the group and attempted to sway VVAW toward a more violent approach.

Eventually, the Gainesville Eight were indicted by grand jury investigation with conspiracy “to organize numerous ‘fire teams’ to attack with automatic weapons fire and incendiary devices police stations, police cars and stores in Miami Beach” using “lead weights, ‘fried’ marbles, ball bearings, ‘cherry’ bombs, and smoke bombs by means of wrist rocket slingshots and cross bows.”

The Gainesville Eight posed only a political threat to the U.S. government, if they posed any threat at all. They came back from Vietnam and actually saw firsthand what was going on there. And people listened to them.

“... We have been to Vietnam, so the government could not say that we weren't willing to serve our country,” said defendant Scott Camil in his opening statement. “We have first-hand knowledge of what was really being done in Vietnam, in the name of the American people, and the government can't claim that we don't know what we are talking about because we did it.”

In its prosecution of the Gainesville Eight, the government manufactured evidence by using agent provocateurs and informants, lied under oath, and eavesdropped on confidential client-attorney deliberations. Federal Judge Winston Arnou placed unreasonable limitations on the evidence that could be brought by the defense, and not a single defendant testified during the month-long trial.

“The judge did everything he could to rule against the defense,” said Brady Coleman, a Texas National Lawyers Guild attorney at the time from the Gainesville Eight's trial team.

One of Coleman's most memorable moments from the case was when the defense team, after a long day at trial, went to confer in their supposedly private room of the courthouse. But on the way, defendant Peter Mahoney saw the shadow of two men hiding behind a door in the corridor. The defense team summonsed



From left to right: Nancy Stearns (Gainesville Eight defense lawyer), Scott Camil (defendant) and Brady Coleman (defense lawyer) peruse the “treasure trove” of items collected by jury foreperson Lois Hensel during the trial. Photo by Joe Courter.

the judge, who sent U.S. Marshals to investigate. When the door opened, they found two FBI agents covered in wires and electronic gear, allegedly listening in on the defense's confidential deliberations.

Another noteworthy moment from the trial was when the prosecution called Emerson Poe to the stand. Poe was one of the 23 VVAW members subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury just prior to the indictment of the Gainesville Eight. The government testified, under oath, that none of those 23 people were government informants. But Poe, who was thought to be a very close friend and confidante of defendant Scott Camil, turned out to be working for the government all along. Effectively, Poe had “infiltrated the defense camp, had been represented for a time by defense attorneys, had eavesdropped on defense strategy,” according to an article from the Nation from October 1973.

In the end, the fate of the Gainesville Eight was in the jury's hands. The jury deliberated only 4 hours before reaching a verdict of “not guilty.”

Now, 40 years later, those who attended the Gainesville Eight reunion last month saw, for the first time, what it was like for the jurors during the trial. Lois Hensel, the jury foreperson, is now deceased, but her husband Jim who still lives in Gainesville came to the reunion. With him he brought a box of artifacts from the trial, or a “treasure trove,” as Camil called it.

Contained in Hensel's box was everything the jury had received from the trial—including the newspapers with all political coverage snipped out, Lois Hensel's notes about each of the personalities from the case, and even the “guilty” packet from the court that she

would have signed had the jury ruled differently.

"I never really thought about the trial from the jury's perspective, but their sequestration really impacted their lives and their families' lives," Camil said. "The most important thing you can do in this country, the most powerful action you can take is to sit on a jury. It's more important than voting."

Camil, Don Perdue and Peter Mahoney from the Gainesville Eight were present in Gainesville for the reunion. Also present were three other VVAW members who were subpoenaed to the grand jury, Richard Hudgens, John Chambers, Jack Jennings. John and Jack spent 40 days in jail for refusing to testify to that grand jury. Three of the trial lawyers, members of the defense committee, one juror, and two husbands of jurors attended as well. The reunion was organized by Camil with the main goal of recording their history—the people's history—before it disappeared. Because the Gainesville Eight's story is not the kind of story that's written down in history books; it's not the kind of history that those in power want to remind people of.

Students and staff from the University of Florida Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) also attended the weekend's festivities and interviewed all but two of the reunion attendees involved in the trial. The transcripts of those interviews will be combined with the case's primary source documents from different people involved in the case (like Jim Hensel's "treasure trove") to form the Gainesville Eight Collection, maintained by SPOHP.

"This generation needs to know [the Gainesville Eight] history so they don't repeat it," said Nancy Miller Saunders, another attendee of the reunion and member of the defense committee. Saunders eventually went on to write *Combat by Trial* about her experience working with anti-war veterans and the trial itself.

"It's important to see when the government makes mistakes," said Nancy Stearns, defense attorney for the Gainesville Eight from the Center for Constitutional Rights.

It's how we hold them accountable; it's how democracy works. But whistleblowers and those who work for transparency today—Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden—are being persecuted in exactly the same way, if not more ruthlessly.

Like the Gainesville Eight, the whistleblowers of today are laying bare the dirty laundry of the U.S. government. And just like the government tried to silence the VVAW and other anti-war activists in the 1970s—through lies, through intimidation, through surveillance and secrecy—those in power are trying to silence, to criminalize and demonize, to discredit the modern-day heroes of transparency.

But while there are a lot of parallels to draw between the Gainesville Eight case (and similar cases from that era) and today, things are undeniably worse now.

"Nixon was hobbled by laws that Bush started removing after 9/11," Saunders said.

Nixon tried to justify Watergate and his crackdown on radicals like VVAW as actions in the nation's best interest. He painted the VVAW as a "grave threat to national security," according to an August 1973 article in *Ramparts*. Sound familiar?

Indeed, President Obama has brought seven indictments for whistleblowers under the Espionage Act; before him, there were three presidents who each brought one.

"The people are supposed to have the privacy, and the government is supposed to be transparent," Camil said. "But now it's all backwards. The people have no privacy and the government has no transparency."

Amy Goodman summarized the current state of whistleblowing best on Aug. 22 in an editorial for TruthDig: "Miranda is rattled, but free. Manning will soon head, shackled, to begin serving his sentence. NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden remains in temporary political asylum somewhere in Russia, and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange continues his residence in exile, not far from Heathrow, in the cramped Ecuadorean Embassy in London."

This is why the people's history is important, like that of the Gainesville Eight's. And it's why the whistleblowers of today need our support. Because the people can't perform their job in a democracy without being informed.

A common theme throughout the Gainesville Eight trial, repeatedly iterated by the pro-prosecution judge, was, "The government is not on trial here."

But it was, and it still is today. Whistleblowers and truth-seekers may be our best chance at putting the government back on trial.

"I see the government really as the people's employee, and we're the employer," Camil said. "We have to hold them accountable, and we can't do that without access to information." 🐸

Unity Day

March & Vigil for Peace

Please join the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding and Peaceful Paths as we march together in solidarity in an effort to end bullying and violence.

Where: The march begins and ends at the corner of 13th Street and University Avenue.

When: Wednesday, Oct. 9, 4–7p.m.
Peace Vigil starts at 5:30p.m.

Working Together to Build Safer Communities



Visit www.centerforpeacebuilding.org for more information.

Striking Syria: illegal, immoral, dangerous

by Phyllis Bennis

As of press time, the U.S.'s actions in Syria were still being determined, but this potential new war is too important for us to ignore. The article below provides a great analysis of why war isn't the answer, and we've also thrown in some links at the bottom of the article for you to keep up with the coverage and avoid the propaganda.

The excerpt below came from a longer piece originally published by Al Jazeera on Sept. 2. To read the full article, visit <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/09/201391142319670421.html>.

ILLEGAL

... The United Nations Charter, the fundamental core of international law, may be vague about a lot of things. But it is unequivocal about when military force is legal, and when it isn't. Only two things make an act of war legal: immediate self-defense, which clearly is not the case for the US. ... The other is if the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, authorises the use of force in response to a threat to international peace and security. That's the authorisation President Obama knows he cannot get—certainly Russia and China would veto, but right now a British veto would certainly be a possibility if Cameron wanted to respond to his public. ... The US is thoroughly isolated internationally.

The problem for President Obama is he still is determined to use military force, despite the requirements of international law. He says he doesn't need that authority—that maybe he'll use the 1999 Kosovo precedent to “go around” the Security Council. The problem, of course, is that the 1999 US-NATO assault on Serbia and Kosovo was illegal—faced with a sure Russian veto, Bill Clinton simply announced he would not ask for Council permission. Instead, he would get permission from the NATO high command. ... [N]othing in international law allows NATO to substitute for the Security Council. ... So any new decision to go to use military force without Council authority means that use of force is illegal. ...

IMMORAL

Pentagon officials have confirmed what logic tells us all: every use of military force threatens civilian lives. More than 100,000 Syrians have been killed in this civil war

so far, and hundreds more were killed in what appears to be (remember, we still don't know for sure) a chemical strike last week — US cruise missile strikes won't bring any of them back, and more important, won't protect any Syrian civilians from further threat. To the contrary, low-ranking conscript troops and civilians are almost certain to be injured

DANGEROUS

A US military strike on Syria will increase levels of violence and instability inside the country, in the region, and around the world. ...

A US strike will do nothing to strengthen the secular armed opposition, still largely based in Turkey and Jordan, let alone the heroic but weakened original non-violent democratic opposition forces who have consistently opposed militarization of their struggle and outside military intervention. ... Striking Syria: Illegal, Immoral, and Dangerous

There is also the danger of escalation between the US and Russia, already at odds in one of the five wars currently underway in Syria. ...

Crucially, a military strike without United Nations authorisation undermines the urgent need for serious, tough diplomacy to end the Syrian war. ...

And finally, what happens the day after? If Syria retaliates against a US missile strike—with an attack on a US warship, or a US base in a neighbouring country, or on US troops in the region, or against Israel ... do we really think the US will simply stand back and say “no, this was just a one-time surgical strike, we won't respond”? ...

What should the US do?

First thing, stop this false dichotomy of it's either military force or nothing. ...

First, do no harm. Don't kill more people in the name of enforcing an international norm.

Recognise that international law requires international enforcement; no one country, not even the most powerful, has the right to act as unilateral cop. ...

Recommend that whoever is found responsible be brought to justice in The Hague at the International Criminal Court. ...

President Obama can distinguish himself powerfully from his unilateralist predecessor by announcing an immediate campaign not only to get the Senate to ratify the International Criminal Court, but to strengthen the Court and provide it with serious global enforcement capacity.

Move urgently towards a ceasefire and arms embargo in Syria. Russia must stop, and must push Iran to stop arming and funding the Syrian regime. ...

LINKS

- On the fence about Syria? Why this potential war is not the answer and why people are having a hard time accepting that. <http://fpif.org/fence-syria-read/>

- “Nobody Wants This Except the Military Industrial Complex” The American people are against this war; the international community is against this war; Syrians are against this war. So why is it still on the table? <http://www.thenation.com/blog/176017/nobody-wants-except-military-industrial-complex#axzz2e8JZomVQ>

- Civil War in Syria: Some Valuable Resources A list of articles, interviews, and essays to help folks understand the crisis. <http://www.war-times.org/civil-war-syria-some-valuable-resources>

- Obama and Putin: Time for Diplomacy on Syria Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! asks why would the U.S. would risk killing innocent Syrian civilians to punish the Syrian regime for killing Syrian civilians? <http://www.nationofchange.org/obama-and-putin-time-diplomacy-syria-1378478000>

GENERAL, ONGOING COVERAGE

- Democracy Now! (democracynow.org)
- Glenn Greenwald of the Guardian (www.theguardian.com/profile/glenn-greenwald)
- Juan Cole, Informed Comment (juan-cole.com)
- Common Dreams (commondreams.org)
- AntiWar.com (antiwar.com)
- Veterans for Peace (veteransforpeace.org)
- The Peace Alliance (thepeacealliance.org) ☞

Civic Media Center events - September 2013

- Every Tue Morning Yoga, 9am
 Every Wed Zine Workday, noon-2pm
 Every Thu Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30pm
 Poetry Jam, 9pm
 Every Sat "Introduction to Drawing" with Turbado Marabou, 11am
 Wed, Sep 11 Citizens Co-op Quarterly Member Meeting and Nominee Panel, 6-7:30pm
 Thu, Sep 12 Kickstand Bicycle Collective Volunteer Meeting, in Courtyard, 6pm
 Sat, Sep 14 MindFreedom Florida presents: "Coming off Psych Drugs" and Music with director Daniel Mackler, 8-11pm
 Sun, Sep 15 CMC Volunteer Training, come out and get involved, 5pm
 Mon, Sep 16 Radical Rush at Santa Fe's Oak Grove, 11am-2pm
 Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County present: "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria," little known story of the first act of collective resistance to the social oppression of queer people in the United States, 7pm
 Tue, Sep 17 Radical Rush at Santa Fe's Oak Grove, 11am-2pm
 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Meeting, 5pm
 Wed, Sep 18 Radical Rush at UF's Plaza of the Americas, 11am-2pm
 Intervention Skills Workshop/Discussion, 7pm
 Thu, Sep 19 Radical Rush at UF's Plaza of the Americas, 11am-2pm
 Fri, Sep 20 Radical Rush Social, local politically conscious musicians, pizza, and the opportunity to get involved and make a difference in our community, 7pm
 Sat, Sep 21 Other Voices Fall Equinox Party and Music Show, 8pm
 Sun, Sep 22 WGOT Fall Organizational Meeting, 6pm
 Mon, Sep 23 "The Century of Self" Parts 1 and 2, Adam Curtis documentary about the use of psychology by governments and corporations to analyze, deal with, and/or control people, 7pm
 Wed, Sep 25 Gainesville Restaurant Workers Alliance Meeting, 7pm
 Fri, Sep 27 ArtWalk, 7pm-10pm,
 Music with Sinners and Saints (Greenville, NC), Julie Karr, Wax Wings, and Dust Congress, 10pm
 Sat, Sep 28 Radical Press Coffee Collective Benefit Show with Malcolm Tent, Loose Bearings, Frog, James Wesson, more TBA?, 9pm
 Sun, Sep 29 cultmoviemania.com presents: "Adjust Your Tracking," (documentary on VHS collecting/collectors) VHS Swap Meet, and Music with the Post Teens, 6pm
 Mon, Sep 30 Uhuru Solidarity Movement presents: "Rosewood," based on the true events of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in Florida, 7pm
 Wed, Oct 2 Music with Ricky Kendall and others, 8pm
 Fri, Oct 4 CerridwenWorks presents Tiger Monkey Extravaganza 2.0, interactive art show and open mic, 6pm-10pm
 Mon, Oct 7 River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding presents: "Being with the Energy of Love and Forgiveness," with director Mark Umbrecht, 7pm
 Fri, Oct 11 Hispanic Heritage Art Show, 6pm-10pm
 Sat, Oct 12 Laboratory Music Experimental Music Improv Festival #6, 6pm-midnight
 Mon, Oct 14 Radical Press Coffee Collective presents: "Zapatista" and "Resistance in Education: Autonomous Education in Las Chiapas," 7pm

433 S. Main Street (352) 373-0010
www.civicmediacenter.org

Parking just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign) or after 7 p.m. at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave.) or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC)

Check website for details and additional events.



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Notice to readers: If there is inaccurate information in this list, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed about your contact information. Thank you.

Art Lab is for artists who are continually expanding their skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from various backgrounds and a range of mediums from forged iron to spun wool to graphic design. We hold technique workshops, artist talks and critiques, professional practices meetings and critical thinking discussions. GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com. <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

Alachua County Labor Party meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Memberships are \$20/year. Contact: FloridaLaborParty.org, ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org, 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave., Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

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.

Citizens Climate Lobby (Gainesville Chapter) provides education and activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, usually at the downtown library's Foundation Room. 352-672-4327, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, cclgainesville@gmail.com

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.

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating

Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group at UF. www.chispasuf.org

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.

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 held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the 2nd 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 www.midwiferyschool.org

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

Gainesville Area AIDS Project provides toiletries and household cleaners at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. Hot meals and frozen food also available at no cost, www.gaaponline.org, info@gaaponline.org, 352-373-4227, Open Tuesdays 10-1 and last Friday of month 5-7.

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. Meet 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 Food Not Bombs is the local chapter of a loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals made from local surplus with all who are hungry. Meals are at 3 p.m. every Sunday at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11 am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets biweekly 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 Loves Mountains works with Appalachian communities to end mountaintop removal coal mining and create a prosperous economy and sustainable future for the region and its people. The single, best path our community can take toward a stronger economy, better jobs, and a healthier environment is energy efficiency. We are building a campaign for an ordinance requiring rental properties to meet energy efficiency standards. gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com <http://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleLovesMountains> 352-505-2928

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. WomensLiberation.org

Graduate Assistants United Union that represents 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 a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that 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. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

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

Home Van A mobile soup kitchen 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 6 p.m.. Gainesvilleiww@gmail.net. www.gainesvilleiww.org

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd Mondays at 6 p.m. at La Casita, 1504 W. University Ave. (across from Library) GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-377-6577

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 7 p.m. gainesvilleiso@gmail.com.

Kindred Sisters Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. KindredSisters@gmail.com, www.kindredsisters.org.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Special training and certification is provided. Interested individuals should call toll-free (888) 831-0404 or visit the program's Web site at <http://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 www.gainesvillenow.org. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

Occupy Gainesville is about engaging the people of our community in grassroots, participatory democracy. We are about diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the rest of the world. www.occupygainesville.org and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>

PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 p.m. with a programmed portion and informal meeting with an opportunity to talk and peruse their resource library. pflaggainesville.org. Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email info@pflaggainesville.org.

Planned Parenthood Clinic Full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling for \$10 from 10am-noon and 2-5pm. Located at 914 NW 13th St. 352-377-0881.

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. 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.

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides innovative ways to resolve conflict in Gainesville and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice.

www.centerforpeacebuilding.org. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

Sierra Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville - 4225 NW 34th St. 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>.

Student/Farmworker Alliance A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. On Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

Students for a Democratic Society Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in schools and communities. Meetings held every Monday at 6:30 p.m. 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 represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, president@uff-uf.org, www.UFF-UF.org.

United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter. Purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the UN efforts to deal with those issues. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

United Way Information and Referral. Human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211.

Veterans for Peace Anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. Meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.. 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.

History and the people who make it: Alan & Nancy Bean

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

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

Dr. Alan Bean [AB] & Mrs. Nancy Bean [NB] were interviewed by Jessica Taylor [T] in 2012.

NB: We were run off from this church in Derby, Kansas. The kids were in good schools, but there was no community. We decided to move back to my hometown. We quit our jobs and moved to Tulia [Texas].

What was a Ph.D. in church history going to do in this little bitty town? He said, I'll finish my novel and I'll get part-time, interim pastorates. I was able to get a job teaching. Lydia headed off to college and the boys came with us. We had in mind this family reunion: quilting bees, re-introducing the kids to living in community and belonging. That kind of backfired.

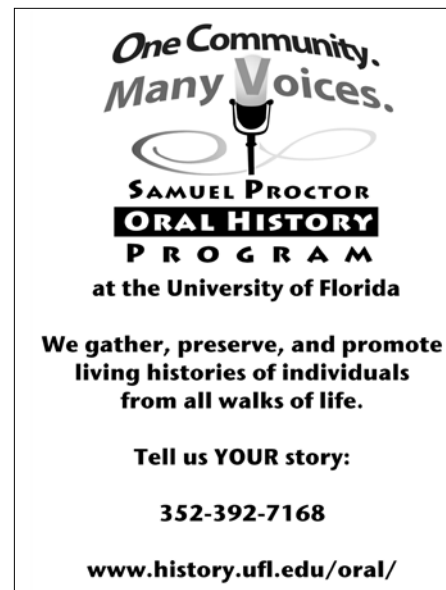
The first few months, we actually got invited to the quilting bees — which my family still does — and family dinners. Then we read about this kid named Jamie Moore who received a 75-year sentence for rape. I said to Alan, is he one of my kinfolks? My mother's mother, one of her family's names is Moore. We were attending the Baptist church at the time. So, on Wednesday night, I said, I can't sleep at night because I read about this boy who was 17, 18, given a 75-year sentence.

The pastor says, the victim of the rape is our pianist's daughter, and he might be your relative, but he's black, and a thug. I put it out as a prayer request, and, poof. I could feel all the curtains closing.

That's when the drug bust hit. We started looking at the names in the paper to see who had been caught, because I had cousins involved in drugs. We didn't find their names, but my dad started reading the addresses, and he said, oh, these people are all on the black part of town.

My mother says, how can this town have 46 kingpin drug dealers? This can't be right. That's when we started doing this investigation. We didn't realize what we were getting into. We kind of assumed that the Civil Rights Movement had made justice, right?

It wasn't a sociological question. These were our neighbors. We started putting out calls: the Justice Department, NAACP, ACLU, nobody cared. Finally, a local chapter of LULAC [League of United Latin American Citizens] set us up with one of the lawyers working for the defendants. The lawyer told Alan and my father that they didn't want to get involved. That, the DA would not be above putting a hit out on our family, and certainly not above planting drugs in our vehicles.



That night, we took it home to our boys. They said, somebody's got to do it and it's going to be us. It changed our lives, because we were ousted from the family — not my parents, but the extended family. When we go to basketball and football games where our kids are playing, no one knows us any longer.

AB: We're excommunicated.

NB: By now, I'm teaching in Tulia, and there's no place for me to sit at a faculty meeting. No one speaks to me anymore in the school except the Mexicans. [Laughter] The custodians, the TAs, the cafeteria workers, they became my spies. They were invisible. They could be in a room and people would just keep talking as if they weren't hearing, and then they would tell me what was going on.

Our phones were tapped. My brakes were cut one morning. We didn't ever call the police because it was the police that we

were afraid of. Our boys didn't tell us at the time, they told us years later — they were being pulled over regularly.

AB: We wanted our kids to have a faith that worked for them. Because our involvement brought out the absolute worst in the local religious community — the white religious community — they got a very jaundiced view of religion.

NB: When [Lydia] graduated, I sent an invitation to the matriarch and patriarch of our family, Aunt Lucy and Uncle John. They sent it back with additional pages scrawled, disinviting us from the family, telling us that they had torn up all of our children's pictures.

Empowering the least of these is our ministry, it's what kept us together. The boys were hurt — not just by what happened in Tulia, but by our experiences in churches all around. Amos, our youngest, says he gets nauseated when he walks into a church — yet, he's teaching Special Ed. So, he is empowering the least of these. Adam's starting to have a perspective that's not quite so negative.

T: *How did you pick this path?*

AB: The whole Civil Rights thing was over, but I wanted to be involved in something like that.

NB: We joined Mobilization for Survival in Louisville, an anti-nuclear organization, and we worked with Fellowship of Reconciliation. I entered Seminary, but was very unwelcome there. We went as co-pastors to the Baptist Union of Western Canada. When we got there, they made it very clear they were kidding; they just said yes to our co-pastor thing so they could get Alan.

AB: They weren't ready, they said, to ordain Nancy. So I wouldn't put my name in for ordination.

NB: No one ever said to me, we're not ready to ordain you. They told Alan. I was not empowered enough to take it on. I had never been taught how to negotiate. I knew how to love.

We were so isolated, in these rural Alberta, British Columbia, churches. So, I stayed at home. I had three babies. The big action that said, we are going

to build our own life, was when we moved to Tulia. Small towns are totally integrated. There's just one school. We were moving our kids from a very segregated to a very integrated community, from a white community to a majority Hispanic community.

Mr. Freddy Brookins, one of the activists in the Tulia fight, said, you know, you've traded in your white card, but we never got a black card. The black community in Tulia was so fragmented that there really wasn't a community to be invited into.

AB: We did a lot of activism in the Hispanic community. We got two young boys out of prison who had been charged in bogus circumstances. Then, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission did a Graduation Night raid on a Hispanic family.

NB: They were having a multi-generational party, barbeque in the backyard. They busted into the party and had everybody on their knees with their guns, because they were serving alcohol to minors. They had no search warrant. Also, in Texas, you're allowed to serve your children alcohol if you are the parent. We were able to overturn that.

AB: We interviewed about 25 people, put their stories into a timeline, and then told the story through their eyes in a very graphic kind of way. Then published this in independent newspapers, in Spanish and English versions. Eventually, they sent six bureaucrats from Austin.

NB: They came to tell us the way the cow eats the cabbage. They were going to tell us why they could do whatever they want. I said, you either listen to us or we're all walking out. They stopped their lectures and we started talking.

AB: It boiled down to a conversation in Spanish between the mother and this administrator. She said, how dare you send these big men into my backyard? Break into somebody's house to interrupt our gathering and to spoil the graduation of our first child who's ever graduated from high school. How dare you do this?

As a result of that meeting, they ended up firing two of the officers and they completely rewrote their search and seizure policy statewide. That really gave us ...

NB: Sense of empowerment. Now, we can make a difference.

AB: We understood the power of story, getting the story together and giving people a voice. We didn't do the talking for them, they did their own talking. They taught us the story, and we put it all together and taught it back to them.

NB: Disempowered people often don't know how to tell a story. They have no sense of chronology. The people in Tulia wouldn't tell you a story. They would tell you incidents from all over their life. The role that Alan had, was in listening and writing down every incident so he could get it into a chronology. By the time we had the Rosales raid, he had learned this as a strategy. We worked on Tulia five years, and that was very, very painful.

T: *You've mentioned a lot about the Civil Rights Movement. Clergy people were very important in shaping that. How did that shape your own philosophy?*

NB: The Civil Rights Movement totally informs our faith. The new Civil Rights Movement is about immigration and incarceration and defunding of education and but it's the same movement. It's becoming even clearer with the disenfranchising movement.

We founded Friends of Justice and we tossed around names with Thelma Johnson, she was kind of the auntie of the black community. We said, who are we? I think Thelma said, it's Friends of Justice. We were ready to go to Austin, so I had us made our t-shirts, Friends of Justice, and our logo was, do justice, love mercy, walk humbly, because the other scripture which propels us is Micah 6:8. He has shown the yeoman what is good and what the Lord requires of you. There's nothing else.

AB: One of the things that's so impressive about the Civil Rights Movement is how many young people, black and white, came streaming into this movement during the Freedom Ride. Nobody had a good word to say about them, yet, there was this thirst for experience and justice, and being part of something bigger than themselves. There's nothing like that now. Community is so essential to the Civil Rights Movement, music and community. Because we have to sleep in each other's homes and cook each other's food, and the person who has a job has to cook for the person who doesn't.

NB: I want to challenge young people: raise your children with empathy and

compassion and not with privilege.

Value formation and expectation. Expectation. I expect for you to be a world changer. We always used faith language for that.

AB: High expectations, complete acceptance. Halberstam's book, *The Children*, brings this home—that almost every one

See *ORAL HISTORY*, p. 17

SPOHP wins Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi Award

The Oral History Association has named the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) a recipient of the 2013 Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi Award. The award honors individuals or organizations who have accomplished outstanding achievement in using oral history to create a more humane and just world. Nominees may include those who use oral history as a means of furthering social justice as well as those collecting oral histories of social justice advocates.

"This is a signal honor for our program, a testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and volunteers," said Paul Ortiz, director of SPOHP. "The Kennedy award is also a reflection of the tremendous support we enjoy at the University of Florida and in the broader community. This award is particularly meaningful to us given the decades-long friendship between Sam Proctor and Stetson Kennedy."

The Vox Populi Award was created to recognize work that has made this kind of difference in the world, while advancing our sense of the power of oral history in the process. The award is co-sponsored by The Stetson Kennedy Foundation (<http://www.stetsonkenedy.com>), a non-profit foundation dedicated to human rights, racial and social justice, environmental stewardship, and the preservation and growth of folk culture.

The Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi ("Voice of the People") annual award will be presented at the OHA 2013 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 🐾

ORAL HISTORY, from p. 16

of those kids involved in the Civil Rights Movement had a parent, usually a mother. That drove them and had great dreams for them. If we don't do that for our children, we won't raise exceptional children. We're going to raise technology-addicted, purposeless pleasure machines, who exist for entertainment.

AB: Their conversation consists of swapping popular culture references. There's no visionary thinking.

AB: There's got to be something beyond politics. I think it's got to spring from a religious vision. There are claims placed upon us, moral claims. And what Martin Luther King called a beloved community. We've lost that vision.

A full transcript of this interview is available at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu//AA00016739/00001>.

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations.

Donate online at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html or make checks to the University of Florida, specified for SPOHP, and mail to PO Box 115215, Gainesville, FL 32611. ☞

DREAM DEFENDERS, from p. 1

overwhelming majority of elected officials from both major parties who voted against the call for a special session in the legislative poll.

And in case words weren't enough to strike fear into elected officials, at the end of the press conference, activists marched from the Capitol building onto Gov. Scott's mansion down the street to deliver an eviction notice in person.

For the next phase in their movement, the Dream Defenders are planning a multifaceted approach in order to build a united organized resistance to racism in Florida.

This fall, youth organizers across the state will return to their communities and continue to build locally, bringing with them their experience and knowledge gained during the occupation. LaQuinta Alexander, a student organizer in Tallahassee, said during the press conference:

The support we have garnered has propelled us to the gains we are celebrating today, but we cannot rest until we have changed the reality for young people in Florida. As we leave the Capitol, we are not leaving the fight. I'm looking forward to returning to my campus and the Tallahassee community to continue to build momentum for Trayvon's Law and the movement to end the criminalization of young people of color in Florida and across the nation.

As we return to our campuses and communities, we will be organizing to bring awareness to our criminal injustice system and encourage people to take action.

The eight established Dream Defender chapters across the state will hit the ground running this fall. On a local level, chapters will engage in various struggles against the criminalization of people of color and the working poor, whether around the three components of Trayvon's Law, prison divestment or student-worker alliances.

In preparation for the next legislative session in March 2012, activists are planning to continue to organize efforts to pressure elected officials to support Trayvon's Law and evict Gov. Scott and other officials like him.

The next major statewide mobilization to Tallahassee is set for September 23, the opening of committee week, which is when the House subcommittee is scheduled to hold hearings on Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law. ☞

“Civil” Society? On the Future Prospects of Meaningful Dialogue

*Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere,
University of Florida*

In 2013-2014, the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere at the University of Florida has organized a nine-month speaker series that seeks to understand the dialogues (or lack thereof) about major issues that have gained political traction in the United States. These issues are as basic as the future of our planet, the price of minority discrimination, and how we construct and remember our collective history.

Fall 2013 – Social Fragmentation

Dan Kahan (Prof. of Law and Psychology, Yale University) – Democracy and the Science Communication Environment
Sept. 11, 5:30pm, Smathers Library (East), 1A

Stephen Steinberg (Prof. of Urban Studies, Queens College, CUNY) – The Perennial Racial Divide: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back
Oct. 15, 5:30pm, Smathers Library (East), 1A

Benjamin Carp (Assoc. Prof. of Early American History, Tufts University) – The Fractured Teapot: Debating the Legacy of the Boston Tea Party
Nov. 12, 5:30pm, Smathers Library (East), 1A

Learn more, including the line-up of speakers for Spring 2014, at <http://www.humanities.ufl.edu>.

United Nations Day: Oct. 10

by Lisa Renner

The Gainesville Chapter of the United Nations Association invites you to join us for our annual UN Day Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 9a.m.–1p.m. at the Gainesville Woman's Club.

Our theme this year is "Why the World Still Needs the UN and Why the UN Needs the World."

Our UN Day Chair is Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Adjunct Associate Professor of African-American Studies at the University of Florida. The program will open with a panel discussion by Dr. Linda Cottler, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, College of Medicine and College of Public Health and Health Professions, and Brian Mitchell, who worked with the non-profit Peacekeeping Operations Training Institute.

The Keynote Speaker is Stephen Karnik,

Chief Administrative International Officer of the Baha'i Community at the United Nations and the European Union.

There will be a luncheon at the event as well, and co-sponsors and community organizations will have information tables set up.

If you are a member of an organization that would like to be a co-sponsor of the program, please send a suggested \$25 donation to Lisa Renner at P.O. Box 358361, Gainesville, FL 358361, along with your completed Luncheon Reservation Form, no later than October 5.

As a Co-sponsor, your name will be listed in the program. Tables will be available if you wish to set up a display to inform the community of your activities. For access to a copy of the co-sponsor form and luncheon reservation form, email Lisa Renner at ejrenner@hotmail.com. 🐾

Gainesville Loves Mountains Sept. 12 ordinance hearing

by Gainesville Loves Mountain

Mountaintop removal (MTR) is arguably the most devastating form of energy extraction our nation has yet encountered—and Gainesville, FL can help bring it to an end!

To-date, MTR has permanently erased more than 500 peaks from the Appalachian mountains, buried or polluted more than 2,000 miles of pristine headwaters streams, and swept away more than 800 square miles of one of America's most diverse and valuable ecosystems. The social, health, and economic toll on the region has been equally dire.

Our City Commission can end Gainesville's connection to MTR by asking GRU to avoid any future purchases of coal mined using this method. Let's help make Gainesville an example of how communities can embrace a clean energy future!

Gainesville Loves Mountains has proposed an ordinance to the Gainesville City Commission that would prevent

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) from buying coal extracted by mountaintop removal mining.

The Gainesville City Commission will give the proposed ordinance a hearing on Sept. 12 at 5p.m. at City Hall. Supporters are needed at the meeting to show the City's commitment to end MTR.

In the meantime, you can contact the City Commissioners directly and tell them that you want to end Gainesville's connection to MTR. In particular, Commissioners Lauren Poe & Todd Chase, as well as Mayor Braddy, need to hear from you. Contact information for these elected officials is available here: <http://www.cityof-gainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/MayorCityCommission/tabid/362/Default.aspx>

You can also help by signing the petition supporting the ordinance at <http://www.change.org/petitions/gainesville-fl-city-commission-end-gainesville-regional-utility-s-purchases-of-mountaintop-removal-coal>. 🐾

Loblolly Woods saved ... for now

by Melissa Elliott, Save Loblolly Woods

On Aug. 27, Nathan Collier withdrew the bid he presented to the Gainesville City Commission in May to purchase 5.17 acres of Loblolly Park. Collier led the idea of the purchase of city park land with privacy concerns, as the proposed parcel runs the length of his home's eight-foot fence.

The city commission agreed to move ahead with the sale, and declared the land as surplus, but limited it to less than five acres to ensure that the parcel would not be developed.

At the time, there wasn't a lot of public information being released, apart from Collier and his representatives. For one local resident, it became crucial to increase community awareness.

The Save Loblolly Woods group began in early June with one Facebook page. Within the space of a month, that page garnered over 500 fans and became a hotbed for local activists who wanted to help.

The original aim of the page was to provide a forum in which concerned locals could learn about more about the proposed sale. Not surprisingly, a small working group began to form.

The online group soon connected with homeowners in the neighborhood who would be directly affected by the sale. Meetings took place, a logo was designed, and flyers went up around the town. Members of the group met with city commissioners numerous times, and had multiple editorials published in The Gainesville Sun, as well as articles and interviews in The Iguana and The Alligator.

The group also started a website, placed "Save Loblolly Woods" signs in affected neighborhoods, and began making in-depth public records requests. By the end of August, the Facebook Page had over 780 fans, including two city commissioners and many other prominent community members.

On Aug. 25, Save Loblolly Woods held a "hike-in" on the Loblolly parcel. Over 70 residents and environmentalists came out to hear Dr. Michael Andreu speak of the natural history of the parcel and why that part of Loblolly is so biologically unique.

Though Collier did withdraw his latest bid, it's on city record that he's been attempting the purchase since 2008. Members of the group will be making a presentation to the city commission on Sept. 5 to place all 160 acres of Loblolly Woods Nature Park on Gainesville's Registry of Protected Public Places. 🐾

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

HOURS: Mon-Fri: 4-6pm & Sat: 10am-6pm

The Repurpose Project is a non-profit community based effort to divert useful resources from the landfill, redirect these items to the public for art and education, inspire creativity, and help us all rethink what we throw away.

Valuable materials are thrown away everyday. We believe that everything is a gift from the earth and should be used and reused as much as possible before taking more. Join us on our journey to a sustainable future.

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www.repurposeproject.org



2013 Concert Series Schedule

Through November 8, 2013, 8-10 pm
Bo Diddley Community Plaza, Downtown Gainesville

- 9/13 The Impostors**
Beatles Tribute Band
- 9/20 Heavy Petty**
Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers Tribute
- 9/27 Tropix**
Latin Fusion
- 10/4 The Relics**
Woodstock Era Tribute Band

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Introducing Daily Green

Gainesville's latest restaurant addition

by Adam Reinhard

Overall our goal is to create a restaurant that we would like to patronize. We have always loved restaurants, and most definitely love Gainesville, its community vibe, its nature. Plans have been in the making for several years, and when Lou's Lunch became available, it all came together. The three owners have been working for over two years to create our vision of Daily Green. John Arana and Adam Reinhard, general manager/owner and business manager/owner, respectively, are transplants from south Florida for over 20 years. Eddie Cromer, owner/executive chef is all local. Eddie has developed the entire menu and food creations. The idea, which the three of us definitely need due to our schedules, was a healthy quick place to eat lunch.

Daily Green is a counter service establishment. The kitchen is open to customers so they can see and smell the good-

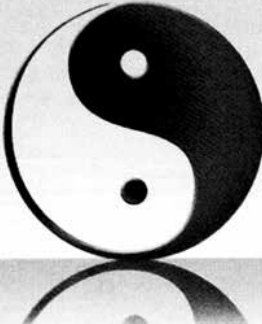
ness of what we do. Daily Green offers a unique experience where everyone can find something to eat. We serve unique waffles, sandwiches (in both waffle cones and on various local breads), homemade soups, salads, and also have fresh vegetable juices and smoothies. Our menu has been developed to offer something for everyone. Regardless of what one's eating regime is, they should be able to find something to their liking. Although, it is more labor intensive, all of our food is hand-cut and prepared fresh daily. We believe in the benefits of eating food that is prepared fresh from healthy ingredients.

Most of our items are made with organic ingredients. When cost or availability are prohibitive, we choose natural ingredients before anything else. We also use as many local individuals and businesses to help us achieve our goals as possible. From the development of our logo, web-

site, and menu, to choosing our suppliers and selecting our building materials, we strive to be as local, regional, and natural as we possibly can.

Daily Green is a space that will further enrich Gainesville's unique food scene and culture. Patrons will see local art work in the building and will eventually enjoy outside seating and local music. We love the idea of developing something for Gainesville as well as ourselves. We are so happy to be able to use this unique and historic building that previously held Gainesville's oldest restaurant.

Please come by and visit. Take a seat in a rocking chair and enjoy some fresh food and pleasant atmosphere. Daily Green is located at 436 SE 2nd Street in downtown Gainesville. We're open from 10a.m.-3p.m., Monday-Saturday. For more information, visit www.dailygreendowntown.org. 🐾



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Gainesville  **Chapter 14**

Pfc. Chelsea Manning post-sentencing statement

“Sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society”

The following is a rush transcript by Common Dreams of the statement made by Pfc. Chelsea Manning as read by David Coombs at a press conference on Wednesday following the announcement of a 35-year prison sentence by a military court.*

The decisions that I made in 2010 were made out of a concern for my country and the world that we live in. Since the tragic events of 9/11, our country has been at war. We’ve been at war with an enemy that chooses not to meet us on any traditional battlefield, and due to this fact we’ve had to alter our methods of combating the risks posed to us and our way of life.

I initially agreed with these methods and chose to volunteer to help defend my country. It was not until I was in Iraq and reading secret military reports on a daily basis that I started to question the morality of what we were doing. It was at this time I realized in our efforts to meet this risk posed to us by the enemy, we have forgotten our humanity. We consciously elected to devalue human life both in Iraq and Afghanistan. When we engaged those that we perceived were the enemy, we sometimes killed innocent civilians. Whenever we killed innocent civilians, instead of accepting responsibility for our conduct, we elected to hide behind the veil of national security and classified information in order to avoid any public accountability.

In our zeal to kill the enemy, we internally debated the definition of torture. We held individuals at Guantanamo for years without due process. We inexplicably turned a blind eye to torture and executions by the Iraqi government. And we stomached countless other acts in the name of our war on terror.

Patriotism is often the cry extolled when morally questionable acts are advocated by those in power. When these cries of patriotism drown out any logically based intentions [unclear], it is usually an American soldier that is ordered to carry out some ill-conceived mission.

Our nation has had similar dark moments for the virtues of democracy—the Trail of Tears, the Dred Scott decision, McCarthyism, the Japanese-American internment camps—to name a few. I am confident that many of our actions since 9/11 will one day be viewed in a similar light.

As the late Howard Zinn once said, “There is not a flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people.”

I understand that my actions violated the law, and I regret if my actions hurt anyone or harmed the United States. It was never my intention to hurt anyone. I only wanted to help people. When I chose to disclose classified information, I did so out of a love for my country and a sense of duty to others.

If you deny my request for a pardon, I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society. I will gladly pay that price if it means we could have a country that is truly conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all women and men are created equal.

** Subsequent to this statement on the following day, Manning announced, via legal counsel, the desire to be regarded as a woman and to be called Chelsea, rather than Bradley, a request the Gainesville Iguana intends to honor moving forward. 🐢*

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World Peace Day: Sept. 21

On Sept. 21, Gainesville will celebrate World Peace Day. Starting in the early 1980s, honoring peace on a special day has grown to take many forms around the world from ringing Peace Bells to planting Peace Poles. In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution 36/67 establishing the International Day of Peace "to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways." In 2001 the UN made Sept. 21 a permanent day for honoring world peace in ceremonies and good works.

In Gainesville, we will begin at 11 a.m. with a Peace March from campus (13th St. and University Ave.) to the Plaza carrying flags from 30 countries. We are looking for participants to carry flags. When the march reaches the Plaza at noon, the flags will be used in a flag ceremony around a temporary Peace Pole erected on the Plaza. This simple ceremony, done around the world on this date, honors peacemaking. Thousands of Peace Poles have been dedicated around the world including one in Gainesville's Veterans Park. Our portable Peace Pole will be erected until 2 p.m. The pole has inscribed in eight different languages on its sides "May peace prevail on earth."

There will also be a children's art activity connected with the Peace Pinwheel Project associated with World Peace Day, and tabling by sponsoring organizations United Nations Association of Gainesville, Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville and the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. ☺

International Day of Peace Celebration

Bo Diddley Plaza

Peace March

Peace Pole

Flag Ceremony

Peace Pinwheel Project

September 21st

11:00AM - 12:00 Noon

March from University & 13th Street to Bo Diddley Plaza

12:00 Noon - 2:00PM

Peace Pole Flag Ceremony on the Bo Diddley Plaza



The public is invited to join the Peace March

And participate in the Flag Ceremony

Flag holders needed

Children's Art activities

Make a Peace Pinwheel

Sponsors

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

River Phoenix International Institute for Peacemaking

For more information Contact

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Sundays \$2 domestic pints all night 1st & 3rd Sundays are Reggae Night 2nd & 4th are Serenation Sundays (eclectic local music on the patio :))

The Midnight Downtown Gainesville
223 S Main St (352) 672-6113

How to create a dictatorship

by Juan Cole

Oil to pollute and destroy the planet.

This article was originally published on Aug. 19 on Juan Cole's blog, Informed Comment. Read more at www.juancole.com. The original includes a lot of informative links. You can read more at <http://www.juancole.com/2013/08/greenwald-terrorist-dictatorship.html>.

How to turn a democracy into a STASI authoritarian state in 10 easy steps:

1. Misuse the concept of a Top Secret government document (say, the date of D-Day) and extend classification to trillions of mundane documents a year.
2. Classify all government crimes and violations of the Constitution as secret.
3. Create a class of 4.5 million privileged individuals, many of them corporate employees, with access to classified documents but allege it is illegal for public to see leaked classified documents.
4. Spy on the public in violation of the Constitution.
5. Classify environmental activists as terrorists while allowing Big Coal and Big

6. Share info gained from NSA spying on public with DEA, FBI, local law enforcement to protect pharmaceuticals & liquor industry from competition from pot, or to protect polluters from activists.

7. Falsify to judges and defense attorneys how allegedly incriminating info was discovered.

8. Lie and deny to Congress you are spying on the public.

9. Criminalize the revelation of government crimes and spying as Espionage.

10. Further criminalize whistleblowing as "Terrorism," have compradors arrest innocent people, detain them, and confiscate personal effects with no cause or warrant (i.e. David Miranda, partner of Glenn Greenwald).

Presto, what looks like a democracy is really an authoritarian state ruling on its own behalf and that of 2000 corporations, databasing the activities of 312 million innocent citizens and actively helping destroy the planet while forestalling climate activism. ☹️

South Main update

by Joe Courter

First off, again, the cluster of activities we call the South Main Arts and Culture Center (which includes Citizens Co-op, the Civic Media Center, Display Gallery, Sequential Artists Workshop, and Wild Iris Books) IS NOT HAVING TO MOVE.

What has taken place is the City of Gainesville has signed the purchase agreement contracts on the land south of SE 5th Avenue, pending an environmental survey of the soil. The test samples have yet to be analyzed completely, but if all goes well, and the purchase goes through, construction on the new Fire Station will commence beginning January 2015. That means that for ALL of 2014, things will be as normal, except the Repurpose Project will need to find a new home, which may happen before the end of 2014.

But meanwhile, tables and umbrellas have sprouted in the courtyard, Wild Iris is open; the Radical Press Coffee Collective inside the CMC has seen improvements with new counter-space and volunteers, and things are very much alive. Come visit for Art-walk on Sept. 27, or whenever you can. ☹️

Grassroots Support Keeps it Going



What the Civic Media Center does:

- repository of information
- creator of community events
- incubator for future activists and organizers

What you can do:

- become a member or monthly sustainer
- keep up with events on email
- attend and bring friends to events

For information:

- web: www.civicmediacenter.org
- email: coordinators@civicmediacenter.org
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Labor Daze Fest builds community

At the 3rd Annual Labor Daze Fest on Sept. 1, five bands, more than 50 vendors, hoopers, jugglers, puppeteers, dancers, a guy on stilts, a unicyclist, and thousands of attendees gathered in the Bo Diddley Plaza to celebrate responsible local business, grassroots politics, and the people that make the city of Gainesville go. Labor Daze Fest was a FREE event by locals, for locals, about locals. Photo by Diana Moreno.



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

**Gainesville's Progressive Community
Radio Station WGOT is on the air**

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1 - 4 p.m.. 8 p.m.-midnight

Tuesday, Thursday: midnight-5 a.m., 1- 4 p.m., 8-9 p.m.

Saturday: 1- 9 p.m.

**Check out wgot.org for upcoming events
and a detailed schedule.**

We are streaming 24/7 using Shoutcast. You can find the WGOT stream under the Shoutcast directory.

To listen from your iOS, Android, or Blackberry mobile device, you can use any radio streaming apps such as Tune In. We are listed in iTunes Radio under the Eclectic category. Direct feed at www.wgot.org/listen/.

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. 1 p.m. & Mon.-Thur. 8 p.m.

GROWRADIO.org

programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community.

Sunday

- 3 p.m. Paper Beats Rock
- 5 p.m. Joe and Craig Show
- 9 p.m. The Sum of Your Life

Monday

- 11 a.m. Dr. Bill's Super Awe ...
- 3 p.m. Seoulmates-Kpop Radio
- 7 p.m. Maïum
- 8 p.m. New Day Rising
- 10 p.m. Female Trouble

Tuesday

- 8 a.m. Narcolexi
- 10 a.m. Funhouse
- 12 p.m. What's the Story?
- 2 p.m. Street Nuts
- 4 p.m. Patina and Gold
- 6 p.m. America in the Evening
- 8 p.m. river rail rhythm
- 10 p.m. The Experiment

Wednesday

- 9 a.m. Sax and Violins
- 1 p.m. The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
- 3 p.m. The Quiet City
- 5 p.m. A Brazilian Commando
- 7 p.m. Homebrew Talk
- 8 p.m. Downtown Sound
- 9 p.m. The Otherness
- 11 p.m. Radiodeo

Thursday

- 12 a.m. Radiodeo
- 11 a.m. Get on the Right Thing ...
- 12 p.m. Things Be Blowin' ...
- 4 p.m. Hope & Anchor
- 6 p.m. No Filler
- 8 p.m. florida rules
- 10 p.m. Lost Sharks

Friday

- 11 a.m. The Breakup Song
- 1 p.m. 4D Meltdown
- 5 p.m. Acme Radio
- 7 p.m. A Train Full of Tricks

Saturday

- 11 a.m. Jazzville
- 5 p.m. Alewife Outbound
- 7 p.m. Planet of Sound
- 9 p.m. Reality Bites

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by Robbie Czopek

The Civic Media Center will once again sponsor Radical Rush at Santa Fe's Oak Grove, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 16-17 and at the University of Florida's Plaza of the Americas, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 18-19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. This week-long event culminates in the Radical Rush Social on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. at the CMC.

Radical Rush (RR) is an organizational fair for progressive, alternative and radical activist groups of Gainesville to recruit new members and publicize their work to students at UF and Santa Fe. The Rush is presented in the form of a collaborative tabling effort on the Oak Grove and on the Plaza of the Americas, and the Social on Friday night. Anyone interested in learning about progressive social change and/or becoming more active in the community has the opportunity

to talk with group members about their organization.

Campus and community-based groups participate, with the bonus of helping bridge the "town/gown" divide and allowing activists working on a variety of issues to meet one another, network, and learn about other organizations. RR also helps break through the generation gap, fostering inter-generational collaboration as students and younger activists are introduced to older, seasoned organizers.

Radical Rush will culminate in a social on Friday, September 20 at the Civic Media Center. The social is in the form of a pizza party (with vegan friendly options as well) that will begin at 7 p.m. Speakers from the various organizations will give 2-3 minute speeches about their groups, followed by an evening of music from local politically conscious musicians starting at 9 p.m. 🐸

The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



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You can find the current and past issues of the Gainesville Iguana online (complete issues are available as PDFs) at www.gainesvilleiguana.org