

# The Gainesville Iguana

January/February 2016  
Vol. 30, Issue 1/2

## When Trump came to Vermont The rise of the decent people

by Kelly Mangan

When people heard over the holidays that Donald Trump was planning to come to Burlington, Vermont, the universal reaction seemed to be, “What? \*Why?!” It’s not a popular campaign stop for those angling for the White House. And it’s also home to our own presidential hopeful, Bernie Sanders, and his campaign headquarters. It was pretty clear Trump’s goal was doing it simply to lift his leg on Sanders’ doorstep — ‘cause he’s classy that way.

It should be a surprise to no one that Trump blew into town and summarily pissed off city hall, the mayor, the entire police department, the staff of the Flynn, much of the Vermont Republican Party, and a majority of the residents.

Vermont Republicans, who already have to walk a pretty careful line when it comes to socially conservative issues, were not aware that Trump was planning a visit to Vermont (prior to reading about it in the paper), and they were not particularly happy about it either. Several Republican legislators wrote to state Republican leaders urging them to publicly denounce Trump for



Bernie Sanders. Photo by Jacquelyn Martin/AP.

his stance on blocking all Muslims from entering the country. “He is damaging to all Republicans,” wrote Rep. Carolyn Branagan (R-Georgia). Rep. Patti Komline (R-Dorset) said on Facebook that Trump was a “racist” and a “misogynist who

needs to go,” and if he got the Republican nomination for president, she would vote for Bernie.

While the Vermont Republican Party

*See TRUMP, p. 2*

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## Enough with the abortion apologetics Four lessons from the 1960s abortion fight

by Jenny Brown and Erin Mahoney

A version of this article was originally published by Jacobin on Dec. 31. View the original at <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/12/abortion-planned-parent-hood-supreme-court-womens-liberation/>.

Just weeks after the deadliest abortion clinic shooting yet, the Supreme Court

agreed to review Texas abortion restrictions, with a decision expected in June.

The attacker at the Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood left three dead and nine injured. The Supreme Court has a chance to do even more damage when it considers *Whole Woman’s Health vs. Cole*. Men

*See ABORTION, p. 14*

## TRUMP, from p. 1

stopped short of condemning Trump publicly (the most they would say was that they didn't invite him to come), the top of their ticket wasn't so shy. Lt. Governor Phil Scott, the current Republican candidate for Governor, was quick to differentiate himself from Trump. He tweeted "Real leaders don't reject American values, incite anger, or exploit fear for political gain."

Trump reserved the historic Flynn Theatre for his three-ring circus, which seats about 1,400 people. His campaign (amid rumors that activists were picking up tickets with plans to no-show) then proceeded to give out more than 20,000 free tickets for the event, sending city officials into a panic over the public safety concerns associated with having 20,000 people jostling for the first-come, first-serve seats in the middle of Burlington's small downtown. Despite calls from city officials and local police to Trump's campaign to make accommodations for ticket-holders not able to get in, the campaign effectively responded that what happened outside the doors of the venue was not their problem. The campaign then, reportedly, stopped returning the police department's phone calls.

Streets, businesses, public transportation, parking, schools and childcare facilities in downtown Burlington were shut down from midday on as a result of the Trump circus, causing many people to have to take days off work, scramble to pick up kids early, or find alternate routes of transportation.

Ahead of the event, police chief Brandon del Pozo issued a warning to local residents that downtown Burlington was going to be a cluster, and that the police presence in downtown would mirror the size and scope of a major festival, like the annual Vermont City Marathon, the largest single sporting event in the state. "If Phish was holding a free concert at the Flynn and gave away 20,000 free tickets, we would cancel the event out of public safety concerns," del Pozo told press. He said the only reason they aren't doing so in this case was because they were committed to accommodating First Amendment speech.

No less than five demonstrations were planned against Trump's visit, each with a different tone and tactic, ranging from silent, candlelit vigils to loud anti-racism demonstrations. Office buildings across from the Flynn put up signs in their windows saying things like "Tolerance," and even those public employees working in City Hall (right across the street) put up signs in their windows saying "Refugees Welcome."

As television media went down the line of folks waiting to get into the theatre (a line which began at 4:30 a.m. that morning), I wasn't surprised to see that most of those in attendance were actually from across the lake, in upstate New York. At the door, the Trump campaign forced every ticket-holder to swear that they intended to

vote for Trump before they'd be allowed in. Non-supporters and undecided voters weren't allowed in. At least a half-dozen folks who lied to get inside shouted Trump down at different points during his speech, and were escorted outside by security. Like the class-act he is, Trump tried to get security to take protestors' coats away before ejecting them into the 20-degree temperatures, but that didn't happen, much to The Donald's disappointment. Some of the protestors chanted "Bernie! Bernie!" as they were ejected, and then went to join those protesting outside with a little victory dance.

Trump's campaign also managed to piss off the staff of the Flynn Theatre by passing out campaign signs (there was a strict no-signs-allowed-inside rule that the campaign had agreed to prior to the event), and when staff tried to shut it down, the campaign viciously accused them of being Bernie supporters. The director of the Flynn eventually instructed staff to leave it alone rather than continue to fight with Trump's staff.

From all the tweeted-out pictures I saw from inside the event, I was surprised to see that the balcony of the Flynn was almost empty during Trump's speech. I'm not exactly sure how you manage that when you've given out 20,000 tickets, but I guess they did. It's not much, I would like to pat myself on the back for being the proud owner of one of those empty seats.

Nobody from Bernie Sanders' campaign staff went to the event, as they were all working at the time. But Bernie did say from his successful campaigning in Iowa that he hopes Trump's presence in Burlington "will help him better understand Vermont values: social and economic justice, tolerance, respect for all people and the environment."

A noble sentiment. Though, I suspect, a futile one. There's only one thing that Trump understands. On January 8, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger said in the Burlington Free Press that he believed the lack of organization and communication by the Trump campaign resulted in higher costs for the city and much unnecessary disruption for local businesses. He said the campaign would be billed for the full cost to the city for handling the event.

*Kelly Mangan (third from the left) currently lives in Vermont where she is the Executive Director of the Vermont Progressive Party. In 2012 she was Bernie Sanders' Field Director for his Senate Re-Election Campaign. She is a past coordinator of the Civic Media Center, a former women's liberation activist, and has also worked as a union organizer.* ☞

## Black lives matter, Black history matters

February is Black History Month, so keep watch for events in the community.

There are Black History Month events on the Civic Media Center website at [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org), and the Alachua Co. Library site at [www.aclib.us](http://www.aclib.us). Many are on the Iguana's calendar as well. There are also UF centered events. Highlights at press time include a program on the evolution of Black Media on Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m., location to be announced; a concert sponsored by Student Government Productions at the O'Dome on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.; and a program on multiculturalism in the workplace on Feb. 23 from 6:30-8:30, at a location to be announced. ☞

From the publisher:

## Iguana hits 30: Origins and purpose

If you noticed on the upper right corner of the cover of this Iguana, this is "Vol. 30, Issue 1/2." That means that this year will mark the 30th year that the Iguana has been publishing. (Okay, we did take time off between Jan. 2010 and March 2011.) The math tells you that 1986 marks when we started, and since then a lot has taken place. Like a good percentage of you readers were actually born, a fact which kinda boggles my mind.

1986, and that general time period, was a major time for events which are still playing out in major ways. It was in the Reagan era that a lot of banking and finance laws changed which allowed massive mergers and creative financial practices which set the wheels in motion for the financial crash of 2008. See the documentary "Inside Job" which lays this out really well.

It was in the '80s that the Christian Right, and politicized evangelical groups such as the "Moral Majority," were organized into powerful voting and lobbying blocks by Republican operatives. This led to attacks on women's right to abortion, which then spurred a strong rise in the Feminist movement.

It was in 1986 that the height of the wars in Central America were impacting that area. The U.S.-funded Contras were waging an insurgency in Nicaragua against the elected Sandinistas, who overthrew 30-plus years of U.S.-supported dictatorship just six years earlier. In Guatemala and El Salvador, U.S.-supported governments were ruling with a cruel, murderous hand, leaving thousands of dead in their wake. The blowback from that period of destabilization in those two nations led directly to the roots of the wave of migration fleeing the violence in those countries.

It was out of organized resistance to Reagan's Central American policies here in Gainesville that The Gainesville Iguana was born in October of 1986. There was a very active broad-based movement here in town, and for that matter, around the country. Demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, congressional visits, public education programs, material aide support, and weekly meetings were all going on as we tried to prevent an expanded war against Nicaragua. It was in this year that congress voted to end support for the Contra with the Boland Amendment, and then found the Reagan administration selling missiles to Iran to raise funds for their war efforts, leading to the Iran/Contra scandal. Jenny Brown and I, in meetings with others, thought maybe it was time for a newsletter to support all the organizing, and out of all that ferment came this paper.

Why the name? Well, as we were focused on Central America, where iguanas are as common as alligators are here, and people here already read The Alligator, we thought we could keep the reptilian theme, and with the bonus of alliteration came the Gainesville Iguana.

When the Iguana started, it was a newsletter mailed out to three combined lists—the Nicaragua solidarity anti-war list which had been growing, and the mailing lists of the Quakers and the Humanist Society of Gainesville. At first it was four folded legal-sized sheets, refined to sheets folded in half with a staple (like a booklet). Then in 1990, we switched to newsprint and the very form you are holding in your hands.

Thank you for reading this paper, we hope you get a lot from it. Or even a little bit. Your support is, of course, welcome, as is your input. We who work on it get no money to do it; it is all volunteer and always has been. Funding is grass roots. We pay the printer, put some gas in the tank to get to Jacksonville and back to pick up the printed issues, buy the envelopes and stamps. Why do we do it? It is a belief and commitment that an informed citizenry is a necessity for making the community and world a better place. This is our part. It is up to you to figure out yours. ☞



Joe Courter

## Subscribe!

*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

Gainesville Iguana  
P.O. Box 14712  
Gainesville, FL 32604

Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at: (352) 378-5655

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[www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org)  
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## “Enough is enough!”

Florida Education Association’s march and rally at Florida’s Capitol, Jan. 14



“Policy makers and education reforms are cheating our children out of a high-quality education. These reforms are designed to meet the needs of adults rather than the needs of our children, and they include high-stakes testing, demonizing of teachers, voucher school and charter school profiteering disguised as ‘choice’ and schemes to undermine Florida’s class size amendment,” said FEA President Joanne McCall about the largest rally in Tallahassee in at least a decade.

Parents, teachers, and community leaders came together – from as far south as Key West and over 600 from Miami, to the tips of the state from Jacksonville and Pensacola and every county in between, including a full bus from Alachua – to kick off the legislative session.

In addition to the teachers’ union’s steady stream of phone calls and visits to key representatives all session, this year new statewide leadership started out by flexing their people power muscle. Only teachers, parents and community leaders spoke. Over 3,000 came and filled the courtyard and pledged to go home and keep up the fight. *Photo by Candi Churchill.*

## Every Student Succeeds ... really?

by Martin Maldonado

The passage of a landmark education bill, Every Student Succeeds (ESS) has brought recent attention to Congress as a rare display of bipartisanship. It has even been hailed as a “Christmas miracle” by President Obama himself.

The federal retreat from the supposed invasiveness of the Bush era No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program marks a new era of education. Unsurprisingly, it has easily drawn in Republicans whom for decades have zealously pursued state-led education policy and the removal of federal performance mandates generally advocated for by Democrats and the Bush family statesmen.

The Bush era bill was ridden with issues. Signed in 2001, the bill enacted a byzantine system of testing mandates, private sector access to curriculums and menacing “teach to the test” incentives for teachers. NCLB has received criticism from both sides of the political spectrum for years despite widespread acknowledgement of the law’s good intentions.

Enter Every Student Succeeds. Lamar Alexander from South Carolina is quoted in the Times stating that “we’re too big and complex a country” for a national education program. This common argument is far too simplistic. ESS resembles Reagan-like devolution policies of the 1980s, whereby significant government powers were transferred to state and local authorities. This has drawn praise from Republicans and even President Obama spoke of the bill with highly rhetorical language, stating that it “replaces the one-size-fits-all approach to education” and that it “affirms the fundamental ideal that every American child deserves a chance to make of their lives what they will.”

Not so fast. These wonderful things will unlikely come to “every American child.” Some? Maybe. Think children residing in places like Connecticut, California or Maryland. The children of Alabama, Mississippi and South Dakota may not have the same luck.

News outlets and organizations like U.S. News, the Huffington Post, Wallethub and the conservative think tank American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) have ranked the states by performance, strength of state standards, and public school funding per pupil. In all of these rankings we find similar patterns, where affluent north-

ern and west coast states perform significantly better than their poorer southern or southwestern counterparts. The National Center on Education Statistics (NCES) records similar patterns where Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana score lowest in 8th grade mathematics. NCES also finds that the ten states with lowest expenditures per pupil include five southeastern states and five southwestern states. Even more troublesome are the disparities within these states, where of the ten most unequal states in performance between white and black students seven are in the south.

According to The New York Times, the amendments made to the rewrite of NCLB allow for federally mandated tests but “eliminate punitive consequences for states and school district which perform poorly.” The same article also reported that the bill “bars the government from imposing academic requirements like the Common Core.” The key words here are “punitive” and “barring.”

While it is true that some penalty measures incorporated in the previous NCLB were excessive — needless to say counterproductive — the penalties were never designed in a way that significantly improved outcomes for poorly performing states in the first place. To take the power of penalty away from the federal government gives incompetent governments in Mississippi, South Dakota or Alabama discretion over whether or not to take an action against a school or school district.

Furthermore, “barring” the government from creating standards gives the same incompetent governments a greater ability to

decide their own academic requirements and curriculum. For the future of these states, and the country, this is a very worrisome dilemma.

In 2015, scandals were addressed by national media, where state legislators in Oklahoma and Texas battled the College Board over their Advance Placement American History curriculum, calling for adjustments to what they considered “revisionist” and unpatriotic. States that perform relatively well comparatively to the rest, like Florida, have still witnessed major inequities in primary and secondary education, in this case possessing large numbers of C grade schools in districts outside of the Tampa, Broward, and Miami-Dade metropolitan areas.

These disparities between states carry a historical and very nuanced political complexity, yet there is no promise that the new ESS law will correct the structural problems within the American educational system.

We are in dire need of serious reform, especially in states that poorly administer education policy whether it be federally mandated or led by the states themselves. Regional division and inequality in education can be incredibly dangerous, and, unfortunately, the state institutions endowed with the responsibility of educating American citizens are failing too often. Feeding future generations with intellectual power is essential for long term political and social sustainability. We should do so in the most pragmatic and effective fashion — not the most popular one.

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## Planning Commission vote tainted

Proposed amendments to the county’s Comprehensive Plan are first considered by the Planning Commission, a citizen advisory board appointed by the Alachua County Commission, before going to the County Commission. After public hearings in November, the Planning Commission over-rode staff objections and voted 4-2 to recommend approval to the County Commission. The staff had recommended DENIAL. The circumstances surrounding the Planning Commission hearings are now raising serious questions about the fairness of the process.

The chair of the Planning Commission is Jennifer Springfield, a local attorney who has been hired by Plum Creek to assist with their development plans. Plum Creek has now annexed a part of their land into the city of Hawthorne, where it will be exempt from the county’s environmental safeguards. Springfield did not recuse herself from the planning commission vote, nor did she disclose her relationship with Plum Creek before voting to approve their application.

Under suspicious circumstances, another member of the Planning Commission was forced to resign just hours prior to the first public hearing. Forrest Eddleton, a planning technician with the City of Gainesville, has served in the “Citizen-at-Large” position for over a year. Following a phone call to Interim Gainesville City Manager Anthony Lyons from an undisclosed source, Eddleton has publicly stated that he was called into Lyons’ office and instructed to resign that afternoon, or lose his job. The City has no policy regarding its employees serving on County advisory committees.

We have since learned that there was a 14 minute phone call between Mr. Lyons and Rose Fagler of Plum Creek, at 12:14 p.m.. Less than three hours later, Mr Lyons notified Forrest Eddleton that he must resign from the planning commission that day.

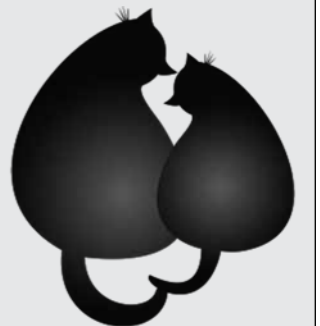
See *COMMISSION*, p. 11

## Support Operation Catnip Feb. 4

At Operation Catnip, we have a dream of living in a world where every cat is safe and cared for, and you too can help this dream become a reality by supporting Catnip’s free spay neuter and vaccination services for stray or feral community cats in your area.

On February 4, from 5 pm until 9 pm, Blaze Pizza at 3617 Archer Rd. in Gainesville will donate 20 percent of every meal purchased by customers who say that they are there to support Operation Catnip. Make a difference in your community by helping improve the quality of life in Alachua County’s community cats.

<http://ocgainesville.org/about-operation-catnip/special-events/>



**“Imagining Climate Change: Science & Fiction in Dialogue”**  
 An international colloquium featuring climate scientists and science fiction authors  
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**Editors' picks: news that didn't fit**

**Men Explain Lolita to Me**, by Rebecca Solnit - Art makes the world, and it can break us - <http://lithub.com/men-explain-lolita-to-me/>

**Thanks to Republicans, Nearly a Quarter of Florida's Black Citizens Can't Vote**, by Spencer Woodman - <https://theintercept.com/2015/12/09/floridas-ex-felons-struggle-to-regain-their-voting-rights/>

**Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie**, by Peter Wagner and Bernadette Rabuy - <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2015.html>

**Dear Gov. Snyder, You Have to Go to Jail**, by Michael Moore - "I'm asking everyone who agrees with me to sign on to this petition and call for your arrest." - <http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/01/07/dear-gov-snyder-you-have-go-jail>

**Back to Basics: Clearing the Fog of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**, by Sami Al-Arian - <http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/12/08/back-to-basics-clearing-the-fog-of-the-palestinian-israeli-conflict/>

**Bernie Sanders for President**, by The Nation editors - <http://www.thenation.com/article/bernie-sanders-for-president/>

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**Peace Scholarship Program for Alachua County students**



Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its annual Peace Scholarships for the spring of 2016. We are awarding two scholarships of \$500 for high school seniors or college students with demonstrated commitment and leadership in activities involving peace & social justice, conflict resolution, and/or nonviolent social change. Deadline for application is April 15.

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must either be: 1) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the 2015-2016 academic year; 2) a college student currently enrolled and in good standing; or 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

Peace Scholarship applicants will be asked to provide a brief autobiographical essay and evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities in an organization (including volunteer or paid work) relating to peace and social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change. Applicants will also need to provide two letters of recommendation.

The application (PDF file) should be downloaded from the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website, printed out, completed and postal mailed to the address on the application. The deadline for the scholarship application is April 15. Submit applications to: Paul Ortiz, Veterans for Peace Scholarship, 2115 NW 7th Lane, Gainesville, Florida, 32603.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry Awards Ceremony in mid-May.

The full announcement and instructions for applying may be found on the Veterans For Peace website at <http://www.vfp-gainesville.org/>.

For questions, email [ortizprof@gmail.com](mailto:ortizprof@gmail.com) or call 352-373-3435.

**7th Annual Peace Poetry Contest call for submissions**

Veterans for Peace Gainesville announces its 7th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest, where all students, grades K-12, are encouraged to submit one original poem focusing on the idea of peace and social justice.

The deadline for submitting a poem to the contest is March 21.

A panel of English graduate students from the University of Florida, led by Dr. Sidney Wade, will judge the poems. Winners will be published in the 2016 Peace Poetry Book and asked to recite their poem at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Gainesville. Winners will also receive valuable gift certificates to a local bookstore.

If your student(s) want(s) to submit a poem to this year's Peace Poetry Contest, the deadline for submissions is March 21. Poems can be submitted via email to [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) or via mail to: VFP Peace Poetry Contest, 2115 NW 7th Lane, Gainesville, Florida, 32603.

Submissions must include (1) the poet's name, (2) grade level and school, and (3) two preferred methods of contact for the parent/guardian and/or teacher (e-mail, phone number and/or mailing address).

For more information, please email [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com), or call Sheila Payne at 352-373-3435 or 831-334-0117, or visit [vfgainesville.org](http://vfgainesville.org).

**Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist to discuss science communication and public health connection**

Science and environmental journalist Dan Fagin will give a public talk at the University of Florida the evening of February 15 on his Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Toms River" and the role of science journalism and communication to help the public understand the connections between public health and the environment.

Fagin is a long-time environmental writer and a science-journalism professor who directs the Science, Health and Environmental Reporting Program at New York University. His work appears in the New York Times, Scientific American, Nature and many other publications.

"Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation" was awarded the 2014 Pulitzer

Prize for General Nonfiction for its investigative reporting on industrial pollution that ravaged a small town. The Times declared it a "new classic of science reporting."

Fagin, who began his reporting career in Florida, also worked 15 years as environmental writer at Newsday, where his teams were twice Pulitzer finalists. Among many other awards, he has won the two best-known science journalism prizes in the United States: the Science Journalism Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Science in Society Award of the National Association of Science Writers. He is working on a new book about monarch butterflies in the Anthropocene.

Fagin is the first in a series of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists who will be visiting the university in commemoration of the prizes' centennial celebration.

His lecture, "Connecting the Dots in Toms River and Beyond," is sponsored by the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications and UF's George A. Smathers Libraries and funded by Hearst Visiting Professionals. Free and open to the public, it is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, in Smathers Library East Room 100.

Doors open at 6 p.m., the refreshments are free, and a book sale and signing will follow.

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## ELECTION DAY - MARCH 15

### Presidential Primary: Vote Bernie Sanders! City Elections: Poe and Hayes-Santos!

There are two dates to remember regarding the Spring elections. One day is Feb. 16, and the other is March 15. Wednesday, Feb. 16 is the last day to either register to vote or change your party affiliation so you can participate in the presidential primary election, which is on Tuesday, March 15.

Since the presidential primary is limited to the voters registered to that party, anyone who is registered as No Party, Green, Libertarian or whatever, does not get to vote in the Bernie vs. Hillary race.

There is nothing that limits switching your affiliation. And nothing to keep you from moving your registration to Gainesville from wherever you are now, to have an impact in the City races.

Feel the Bern and be heard. Wherever you are in Florida, even if for just this balloting, be a Democrat and vote for Bernie Sanders! There are over 39,000 registered voters without major party affiliation; these independent-minded people are a big block that can boost Sanders's challenge to the status quo.

If you are a Gainesville city resident, you get to vote for one or maybe two candidates on March 15. Everybody in the City gets to vote in the Mayor's race, and those in District 4 also get to vote for the replacement of Commissioner Randy Wells, who is term-limited.

These races are pretty clear cut from our perspective, and attending any candidate forum will make that clear. Current Mayor Ed Braddy is a real piece of work; flip, glib and gonad-deep in questionable behavior, most notably his sharing in the largess of his buddy Jeff McAdams, who is accused of stealing over \$50,000 from the Fraternal Order of Police, an organization he headed until the theft was exposed. This included many bar tabs and hotel visits, as well as a \$156 strip club visit they shared. Citizen Rob Brinkman has filed an ethics complaint against Braddy.

Opponent Lauren Poe is a decent, liberal/progressive committed to addressing pay equity, improved transportation systems, and

issues that help youth in both education and parks and recreation.

A third candidate on the ballot – the well-meaning citizen activist Don Shepherd – is spending no money and currently is in his own hot water in a car ownership situation where he is accused of vehicle theft, which may or may not be a simple misunderstanding.

The District 4 race has Adrian Hayes-Santos going against Jim Konish. Hayes-Santos is by far our preferred candidate. He grew up in Gainesville and has a long record of community service on various boards and volunteer work. He is well equipped to do the liaison work with the County Commission and School Board to get things done based on his positive personality and knowledge of and love for the City of Gainesville.

His opponent Jim Konish is a lawyer and landlord, and an ally to the small group of folks who seem devoted to bashing the city commission and the city-owned utility company. At a recent forum, he was evasive when questions dealt with diversity and discrimination, and his temperament leaves something to be desired in a Commissioner who has to deal with all sorts of people.

Ads from Poe and Hayes-Santos contain contact information so you can get a sign for your yard, a bumpersticker, or be more involved with money and/or sweat and work for them to multiply your vote.

Questions about voter registration can be addressed to the Supervisor of Elections office, which has moved to 515 N. Main St. Their website is [www.votealachua.com](http://www.votealachua.com).

People died for the right to vote. Exercise your right, it's the least you can do. 🐾

## Civic Media Center Events

Check [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org) for details, additional events

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Every Thu | Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm   |
| Every Thu | Weekly Poetry Jam, 8 pm   |
| <hr/>     |   |
| Mon 1/18  | Monday Movie: "Mountains That Take Wing: Angela Davis and Yuri Kochiyama," 7 pm                                       |
| Fri 1/22  | Trans Prisoner Day of Action ALL DAY, details TBA   |
| Sat 1/23  | Wild Iris Free Store! 2-6 pm  |
| Mon 1/25  | Monday Movie: "Art Saved My Life," 7 pm   |
| Wed 1/27  | Gainesville NOW: History of Abortion and Birth Control, 7 pm  |
| Fri 1/29  | Artwalk, 7 pm   |
| Mon 2/1   | "Human: The Movie, Part II," 7 pm   |
| Tue 2/2   | Gainesville Socialists, 7 pm  |
| Wed 2/3   | Live Music with David Rovics, 8 pm  |
| Sat 2/6   | CMC Benefit with Ricky Kendall, Justin Roth, and Hard Luck Society, Poole Building, 724 SE 2nd St. at Depot Ave. 8 pm |
| Mon 2/8   | Social Justice & Buddhism in the 21st Century Movie Night, 7 pm   |
| Sat 2/13  | Valentine's Eve Sweeties Start-A-Band Challenge & Benefit Show, 8 pm  |
| Mon 2/15  | Black History Month at CMC: "BlackLivesMatter: A New Generation of US Civil Rights Activists," 7 pm                   |
| Mon 2/22  | Black History Month at CMC: "Rosewood," 7 pm  |
| Sat 2/27  | Wild Iris Free Store! 2-6 pm  |
| Mon 2/29  | Black History Month at CMC: "Bessie," 7 pm  |
| Tue 3/1   | Blue Moon Circus Troop, 5 pm  |
| Mon 3/7   | Monday Movie: "Human: The Movie Part III," 7 pm   |
| Fri 3/11  | Punk Black!   |



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# Treason: Leaked wiretaps reveal Netanyahu bribed Republicans to sabotage Obama's Iran peace deal

by Colin Taylor

This article originally appeared on Dec. 31 on [www.OccupyDemocrats.com](http://www.OccupyDemocrats.com).

You may remember the ridiculous doomsday prophecies and outrageous fear-mongering that defined the Republican campaign against President Obama's nuclear peace deal with Iran.

The motivation behind their unwise and ultimately ineffective resistance to the President's diplomatic agenda has finally come to light. A new report from the Wall Street Journal reveals that NSA wiretaps found that the Israeli Prime Minister and other officials of the Israeli governments attempted to, and most likely succeeded, to bribe American legislators in exchange for their support against the deal.

A U.S. intelligence official familiar with the intercepts said Israel's pitch to un-

decided lawmakers often included such questions as: "How can we get your vote? What's it going to take? Mr. Netanyahu and some of his allies voiced confidence they could win enough votes."

The answers to Israeli proposals have yet to be fully revealed, but it is clear that favors were offered – bribes were proposed – and from the subsequent behavior of Republican lawmakers, we can only infer that our legislators accepted those bribes, from a foreign government in exchange for opposing the diplomatic efforts of the Obama Administration.

At the very least, the very discussion itself indicates that they conspired with a foreign government to undermine the foreign policy agenda of their elected Commander-in-Chief, which certainly amounts to treason.

Given the fact that Republican politi-

cians are notorious for the amount of money they accept from special interests within the United States, what makes anyone think they wouldn't accept them from a foreign government?

The fact that forty-seven Republican Senators sent a letter to the Iranian government without consulting the administration in a direct attempt to undermine the President's policies is only further evidence of their treachery, putting their ill-gotten rewards above the effectiveness of our foreign policy and consequently the good of our nation and the security of the voters they claim to represent.

It's painfully ironic that the Republican Party is a major supporter of the NSA's rampant spying on American citizens without warrants, but as soon as the tables are turned, they are suddenly die-hard supporters of privacy and free speech – which only further implicates them for treasonous activities, strongly implying that they have something to hide.

While the Israeli government shrugged off the revelations that they had been spied upon ("Everyone listens to everyone else all the time"), the Republicans in Congress and the right-wing echo machine are working overtime to paint President Obama as the bad guy and accusing him of committing some kind of enormous diplomatic sin, while having laughed off the complaints of our allies when our intelligence organizations targeted Germany and the United Kingdom.

Their incredible hypocrisy only confirms just how deeply the Republican Party is beholden to Israeli lobbying groups like AIPAC and to the government of Israel itself. This is just more evidence that they have been actively working to undermine American foreign policy to the detriment of our international prestige and overseas influence, even as they disparage our President for being "feckless" and "weak." Their efforts look even more foolish now that it is clear the peace deal is being fully implemented by Iran, who just turned over their stockpile of enriched uranium to the Russians this week in accordance with the deal.

These traitors have no business interfering with the Obama administration's diplomatic efforts, and certainly no business conspiring with the officials of foreign governments against our elected government. 🐞

## Expert Dov Waxman to discuss emerging conflict over Israel among American Jewry

Dov Waxman, a professor of political science, international affairs and Israel studies at Northeastern University, will discuss his new book "Trouble in The Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel" on Monday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m., in the Pugh Hall Ocora as part of the annual Shorstein Lecture Series. The event is open to the public and will be streamed live on the Bob Graham Center website at [www.bob-grahamcenter.ufl.edu](http://www.bob-grahamcenter.ufl.edu).

Waxman will present the central thesis of his book: a new era of divergence has emerged among American Jewry replacing the age of solidarity that once existed with regard to Israel.

Kenneth D. Wald, Shorstein Professor of American Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Florida, asserts that Waxman's book is a compelling account of the growing conflict over Israel within the American Jewish community. "When puzzled friends ask me why the American Jewish community is now so divided over Israel, this is the book I will recommend," he said.

Waxman will explore how the increasingly contentious place of Israel in the American Jewish dialogue is impacting Jewish communities, national Jewish organizations and the pro-Israel lobby. He will set

the conflict in the context of broader cultural, political and demographic changes happening in the American Jewish community. Offering a balanced account of how this tension has developed, Waxman will explain what this discord means for the future of American Jewish politics.

As the Stotsky Professor of Jewish Historical and Cultural Studies and co-director of the Middle East Center at Northeastern University, Waxman's research focuses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israeli foreign policy, U.S.-Israel relations and American Jewry's relationship with Israel. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and his B.A. from Oxford University.

Waxman is the author of "The Pursuit of Peace and the Crisis of Israeli Identity: Defending / Defining the Nation" (2006) and "Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict Within" (with Ilan Peleg, 2011). His new book will be published by Princeton University Press in March.

The program is sponsored by the Samuel R. "Bud" Shorstein Professorship in American Jewish Culture and Society, the UF Center for Jewish Studies and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. 🐞

### COMMISSION, from p. 4

Before any public comment, Jennifer Springfield asked if anyone wanted to make a motion. Eric Drummond made a motion to approve the Plum Creek Application, which was seconded by Evan Pitts.

Eric Drummond and Evan Pitts were attending their first meeting the night of the first Plum Creek hearing.

In her closing, Jennifer Springfield said that what this really came down to was a "dichotomy between those who were visionary and those who were fearful of change."

Voting in support of the Plum Creek application were Chair Jennifer Springfield (Springfield Law), Eric Drummond (Charles Perry Construction), Evan Pitts (Florida Credit Union), and Susan McQuillan (Watson Realty). Voting against were School Board representative Eileen Roy and Tim Rockwell (EDA Engineers).

The Alachua County Commission has sent a letter to the City of Gainesville complaining about the city interfering with a county process and asking for an explanation. 🐞

## Alachua County Headquarters Library celebrates 25 years

The Alachua County Library District (ACLD) invites the community to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Alachua County's Headquarters Library on Monday, February 1 at 10 a.m. The celebration will highlight 25 years of library service, unveil a time capsule sealed on grand opening day in 1991 and recognize the vision of our leaders and the support of our citizens.

"Since opening in 1991, Headquarters Library has been the nucleus of Alachua County Library District delivering vital community services supported by our citizens," said Library Director Shaney T. Livingston. "We invite the community to celebrate 25 years of library services, see new features and experience what makes Headquarters a thriving downtown landmark, library and center for operations for the Library District."

The festivities will be held in Meeting Room A at Headquarters Library, 401 E. University Ave. The 25th Anniversary Celebration program will include remarks from ACLD Governing Board Chair Leannetta McNealy, Ph.D., ACLD Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Susan H. Sonsini, Livingston.

Tours of Headquarters Library will be given to show its unique spaces and new features with stops behind the scenes to see how the Library District operates.

For additional information, please visit the Library District's eBranch at [www.aclib.us](http://www.aclib.us) or contact Nickie Kortus at (352) 334-3909, [nkortus@aclib.us](mailto:nkortus@aclib.us). 🐞


## Defend Paynes Prairie rally

A rally to raise awareness and to let legislators know we are watching and will not be silent in the face of threats to Paynes Prairie and other state parks starts at First Magnitude Brewing on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. Our legislators are in session now and there are several important bills being proposed. March with us and let your voice be heard. Come early at 2 p.m. if you would like to make a sign to carry during the march up Main Street.

- **3 p.m.:** music by Whitey Markle & the Swamprooters, speakers and presentation
- **4 p.m.:** begin march up Main St to University Av. (1 mile)
- **4:30 p.m.:** sign waving and rallying for our parks
- **5 p.m.:** walk back to First Magnitude.

Stay and enjoy yourself. You can purchase food from the local food trucks at the brewery, and beer from the brewery.

First Magnitude is at 1220 SE Veitch St. in Gainesville. It's best to park along S. Main Street. 🐞



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## ABORTION, from p. 1

in the suites are, as usual, more dangerous to women than men in the streets.

Whole Woman's Health vs. Cole challenges a Texas law requiring clinics to become mini-hospitals and employ only local doctors. If the court allows the Texas law to stand, state legislatures all over the country will be free to pass similar clinic-closing restrictions, further choking the supply of abortions. Already in Texas wait times at some clinics are 20 days or more, and a recent study found that between 100,000 and 240,000 Texas women have tried to give themselves abortions at some point in their lives.

The one in three U.S. women who will have an abortion, and the millions more who rely on it as a backup to contraceptives, should constitute an important power bloc. But abortion defenders, with

a few sterling exceptions, have been in appeasement mode. NARAL Pro-Choice America — following the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Roe v. Wade* — emphasizes privacy: "We should be able to make personal decisions without intrusion from politicians." And Planned Parenthood, financially strained and a target for attacks, defends itself by emphasizing its role in cancer screening and well-woman care.

"Abortion is health care," is the cry today, and it's weak. Compare this to the rallying cry of feminists who won us abortion rights in the first place: "Repeal all abortion laws."

### Reform vs. Repeal

The radical women's liberation activists who first won legal abortion wanted to get rid of abortion laws entirely — a flier proposing the "model law" showed a blank page. It was this demand, backed

by disruptive tactics, public truth-telling about criminal abortions, and class-action lawsuits aimed at invalidating existing statutes that got the ball rolling nationally.

Women's liberationists were not afraid to attack the liberals who had been holding hearings for years on creating small loopholes in existing abortion laws, which in most states only allowed abortion if continuing the pregnancy would kill the woman. Reform bills languished in legislatures around the country in the late 1960s, occasionally passing, but only to allow the few women who could prove they had been raped, or were suicidal, to appeal to all-male panels of doctors and psychiatrists.

Things changed in February 1969, when the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Problems of Public Health met to hear from a panel of experts, composed of fourteen men and one woman (naturally, a nun). The reforms under consideration included rape and incest exceptions, and whether you could have an abortion if you already had four children and thus, presumably, done your duty by producing a good number of additional workers, consumers, and soldiers.

Women's liberationists dressed carefully to infiltrate the audience and, at an opportune moment, stood up and started their own hearing: "All right, now let's hear from some real experts — the women!"

"We've waited and waited while you have held one hearing after another. Meanwhile, the baby I didn't want is two years old" yelled one woman. "Repeal the abortion law, instead of wasting more time talking about these stupid reforms," said another.

One of the disrupters, Kathie Sarachild of Redstockings, recalled: "Woman after woman got up and testified how the reforms being proposed would not have helped her through her terrible illegal abortion one bit."

"We were counseled that to oppose abortion reforms — to press for ... total repeal of abortion laws was asking too much," said Sarachild. "But we just knew that we didn't want to fight at all if it wasn't going for what we really want — that abortion reform was just more insult and humiliation for women."

A month later, Redstockings held their own hearing, with women telling of their illegal abortions and pregnancy scares. The speakout's power came not from talking about extreme cases, but the everyday experience of women. "I knew it was the wrong time ... there was no way

I would give up my education to have a child," said Irene Peslikis, who testified about her illegal abortion when she was a nineteen-year-old art student.

### Go For What We Really Want

The condescending exceptions considered by legislators would have helped few women; on the other hand, repealing abortion laws altogether could reach every woman. Far from turning women off, the demand for repeal and the accompanying speakouts set the movement on fire.

Six women lawyers filed a class action suit in October 1969 aimed at overturning the New York law that made abortion a crime. Following the lead of Redstockings, the lawsuit featured women's personal testimony, collected by black feminist and pioneering movement lawyer Flo Kennedy, Diane Schuler, and Nancy Stearns of the Law Center for Constitutional Rights. (Schuler and Kennedy's resulting book, "Abortion Rap," is essential reading.)

Following the example of a Southern civil rights case, the feminist legal team opened the depositions to the public and the press. The state's lawyers complained of "a circus" as women described their illegal abortions in open sessions.

With the discussion of abortion rapidly  
*See ABORTION, p. 16*

## Brief Supreme Court history on abortion

### Roe v. Wade (1973)

Government can't interfere with women getting abortions, except maybe after 'viability' late in the second trimester, and even then a woman's health has to be protected.

### Doe v. Bolton (1973)

Governments can't use procedural barriers to make abortion unreasonably difficult to obtain.

### Planned Parenthood v. Danforth (1976)

No, you don't have to get your husband's permission.

### Maher vs. Roe (1977) and Harris v. McRae (1980)

But the government can discourage abortion by denying funding.

### Thornburgh v. ACOG (1986) and Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (1989)

Sources: Pew Forum [<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/01/16/a-history-of-key-abortion-rulings-of-the-us-supreme-court/>]; National Partnership for Women and Families [<http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/repro/abortion/the-supreme-court-and-abortion-access.pdf>]. ☞

OK, governments can put up some barriers, but can't place "substantial obstacles" in a woman's way, at least not before 'viability.'

### Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey (1992)


OK, OK, governments can require parental consent, anti-abortion scripts and 24-hour waiting periods. But any restriction must safeguard women's health.

### Stenberg v. Carhart (2000)

Governments can't ban a specific type of abortion, called D&X, which doctors say is the safest in some cases.

### Gonzalez v. Carhart (2007)

Wait, actually, the federal government can ban D&X. And that thing about safeguarding women's health? Well, if turns out to be a problem you can take it to court.




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## ABORTION, from p. 15

losing its stigma, and lawsuits threatening to abolish the law, many legislators changed their tune. The New York Assembly had voted down weak-kneed reform bills in 1967, 1968, and 1969, and the majority leader, Earl Brydges, had refused any Senate votes on the issue. But in 1970, Brydges allowed the Senate to vote on Republican Constance Cook's repeal bill, expecting it to go down in flames, since it was the most radical measure under consideration. It passed thirty-one to twenty-six.

The assembly weakened the bill, adding a time limit of twenty-four weeks and saying only doctors could perform abortions. The compromises didn't help, and the bill was still at an impasse, seventy-four to seventy-four, until Auburn Democrat George Michaels changed his vote at the last minute.

"One of my sons just called me a whore for the vote I cast against this," he told the Assembly. "I fully appreciate that this is the termination of my political career." And it was: because of this vote, his district's Democratic Party committee backed someone else in the next election.

New York became the country's "abortion mill" on July 1, 1970 as women all

over the U.S. scraped together the money to travel and pay for a legal abortion. For the first time in one hundred years, women didn't have to prove they were crazy, sick, or raped to get a legal abortion.

Roe v. Wade was modeled on the New York law, but with more demeaning compromises that outlined the state's interest in the fetus's viability depending on the trimester of the pregnancy. While it was never the repeal that radicals had demanded, many feminists considered the victory worth settling for, and turned to other battles.

But a serious bipartisan backlash set in from the top. Two years after the New York law passed, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller vetoed an attempt by the legislature to make abortion illegal again. After Roe, Congress immediately passed the 1973 Helms amendment, introduced by North Carolina senator Jesse Helms, which banned foreign aid going to abortions.

Defying a veto threat from Gerald Ford, Congress soon passed the Hyde Amendment, and Democratic President Jimmy Carter signed it into law in 1977, taking abortions away from Medicaid patients. Women started to die from illegal abortions again.

## Four Lessons

There are important lessons from these earlier movements. First, the abortion demand was part of the women's liberation movement instead of standing as a single, isolated issue. Second, women demanded repeal, not reform, of laws that could be endlessly tinkered with. Third, the movement didn't kowtow to the liberals who perennially assumed little could be done. Fourth, women's experiences and desires — not triangulating policy organizations or experts — guided the movement.

Recent battles bring these lessons into sharp relief. For example, when we first set out to get morning-after pill contraception over the counter, National Women's Liberation was warned by established non-profits that we were demanding too much. Couldn't we just try to get it in hospital emergency rooms for rape victims?

But we knew the history of the abortion fight, and we stuck with our strategy of speaking and acting from our own experience. We used consciousness-raising meetings and public speak outs as our main form of organizing. We testified about our sex lives at the FDA's hearing, detailing why we needed the morning-after

pill and how the prescription requirement added time and expense.

Along with that, we got arrested blocking the FDA's doors, passed out the pills at demonstrations, flash-mobbed pharmacies.

Through a class action suit, we battled the Bush and Obama administrations and a rotating cast of FDA commissioners, finally winning MAP over the counter for all ages in 2013.

Compare that fight to last year's struggle over Amendment 1 in Tennessee, which passed with 53 percent of the vote.

Abortion opponents in the legislature were irritated that some of their abortion restrictions had been blocked by the state's supreme court, so they put a constitutional amendment on the ballot specifying that there is nothing in the state's constitution to stop the legislature from banning abortion, even in cases of rape, incest, or "when necessary to save the life of the mother."

Tennessee can't ban abortions, absent a new Supreme Court decision, but the amendment gives the legislature the green light to pass more restrictions that now cannot be stopped by the state's supreme court.

Campaigners against Amendment 1 decided that the way to win was to emphasize the lack of exceptions. So they produced ads saying: "Amendment 1 violates privacy and makes no exceptions for rape or tragic things that can happen during pregnancy like cancer"; "These difficult decisions are best left to a woman, her family and her own faith ..."; "Please vote no on Amendment 1, it goes too far"; "Vote No because 1 makes no exceptions." Or worse, they avoided mentioning that the vote was about abortion at all.

The ads implied that it would be okay to ban abortion as long as exceptions were maintained for women who had been raped or had cancer. Abortion is still legal, yet somehow we've been transported back to that 1969 hearing, debating under which special horrible circumstances women are allowed to control their reproductive destiny.

This kind of toothless strategy thrives when women are silent about our actual experiences. When women start speaking for themselves on abortion, these patronizing do-gooders are exposed as the essentially conservative fence-sitters they are, tut-tutting about "difficult decisions" and insisting that abortion must be rare.

Plenty of feminists are challenging

this apologetic strategy. In her 2014 book "Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights," Katha Pollitt takes on those abortion defenders who sound barely distinguishable from their opponents. Highlighting Hillary Clinton's 2005 comment that abortion is "a sad, even tragic choice for many, many women," she quips: "You'll notice she didn't add, and for many others, [it's] a blessing and a lifesaver."

Another bright spot is #ShoutYourAbortion, a hashtag started by Amelia Bonow and Lindy West in September. "Even women who support abortion rights have been silent, and told they were supposed to feel bad about having an abortion," said Bonow in a New York Times interview.

140 characters at a time, a speak out materialized on Twitter:

"Was 23, madly in love. He was 19. Together for 3 1/2 years. I had an abortion on Halloween. Best decision I've ever made. #ShoutYourAbortion." —Kerry Hassan

"'Abortion for convenience!' Well it spared me years of unhappiness and struggle so I guess that was convenient, sure. #ShoutYourAbortion." —Miranda Pinero

"I had 2 abortions so I could have 1 child. And I'm so glad I did. #ShoutYourAbortion" —Kathy Kattenburg

Despite a backlash that included death threats, Shout Your Abortion activists have been forming chapters to reinforce the online consciousness-raising with organizing.

The other reason we must put abortion in the context of the Women's Liberation Movement again is that abortion is not

anywhere near all we need. The flip side of abortion rights is that having children is too damn hard.

The utter lack of the kind of "social wage" available in European and many other countries, along with our evaporating individual wages, means that having a child is a leap into a stress-filled and exhausting future. We need a strong Women's Liberation Movement to make these connections and strategize to win relief in this area as well.

The demand for abortion has had the most success when it's been joined to larger goals of women's liberation and is free of preemptive compromise. If we want to back the Supreme Court down this time, we need to quickly absorb the lessons of those past victories.

*Jenny Brown is a member of National Women's Liberation and a former editor at Labor Notes. She is a coauthor of the Redstockings book Women's Liberation and National Health Care: Confronting the Myth of America.*

*Erin Mahoney is a member of National Women's Liberation [http://www.womensliberation.org/] and a union organizer in New York City. She was an individual plaintiff (along with Brown and seven others) in Tummino v. Hamburg, the class action lawsuit that put the morning-after pill over the counter in the United States. To support Jacobin and critical thought, visit https://www.jacobinmag.com/donate/.*

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# WGOT celebrates 8 years on air, requests assistance to expand

by Fred Sowder, WGOT Board Member

**Saturday, January 23rd**  
**WGOT 8 YEAR BIRTHDAY BASH**  
 with guests:  
**THUNDERCLAP // THE TRI HARDS**  
**Q the Sound // The Thin Skins**  
 9pm // \$5-10 Donation  
**THE ATLANTIC NIGHTSPOT**  
**15 N MAIN ST / DOWNTOWN GVL**  
**WWW.ATLANTICNIGHTSPOT.COM**

For eight years now, WGOT has broadcast on the Gainesville airwaves at 94.7FM, sharing the frequency with two area churches. Two years ago, the FCC gave us permission to move up the dial to 100.1FM to have our own 24/7 broadcast schedule. After renewing our original 18-month window to give us an additional, final 18 months of time, only about a year remains to make the big jump. That will take some fundraising.

To that end, we've begun a crowdfunding campaign through generosity.com. Our \$33,000 goal will help WGOT's expansion in many areas, including the new transmitter and equipment to make the move to 100.1; equipment such as mixers, amps, microphones, and turntables for a physical studio location (our staff have been recording shows mostly on their laptops this whole time!); the resumption of our worldwide internet stream (which was recently suspended for financial and legal reasons); and funds to cover rent/lease of a studio space for at least 12 months.

We urge you to please check out the crowdfunding campaign on generosity.com's website or follow us on Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/1njetqP>) for all the details. Different sponsorship levels will get you great thank you gifts such as stickers, shirts, CDs, and Sweetwater Organic Coffee. We also encourage local independent businesses to get in on the ground floor of sponsoring programming on WGOT by airing underwriting announcements. Check out the fundraiser page for three different sponsorship options or contact us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org) for further info.

In the meantime, please join us downtown at The Atlantic (15 N. Main St.) on Saturday, January 23 as we celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the air with music from Q the Sound, Thunderclap, Thin Skins, and The Tri Hards. Doors open at 9 p.m. with music at 10, with a suggested

sliding scale donation of \$5-10.

With your support, we can continue to provide and expand our eclectic lineup of local music and talk programming

as well as national programs such as *Democracy Now!*

We hope to see you on the other side. Go low! 🐸

## 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.

Grow Radio is changing its format, moving from live-streaming, freeform programming to a podcast-only format.

The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check [growradio.org](http://growradio.org) for updates.

Sun	5 pm	Joe and Craig Show	9 pm	The Otherness
Mon	5 pm	Street Nuts	Thu	12 pm Things Be Blowin'
	7 pm	Malum	2 pm	The Breakup Song
	8 pm	The Sum of Your Life	4 pm	Hope & Anchor
	10 pm	Female Trouble	6 pm	The Kitchen Sink
Tue	10 am	The Serene City	8 pm	florida rules
	4 pm	Copyright Issue	10 pm	Eagle Death
	6 am	Your Used To Be	Fri	3 pm Ecstasy To Frenzy
	8 pm	Lost Sharks	5 pm	Artichokeification
Wed	12 am	Pyramid Society 64	7 pm	Jazzville
	9 am	Sax and Violins	9 pm	Bag of Tricks
	1 pm	The 2nd Ave. Shuffle	Sat	3 pm Brazillian Commando
	3 pm	The Quiet City	7 pm	Planet of Sound
	5 pm	An Average Day	9 pm	Reality Bites
	7 pm	Homebrew Talk		

## Boat + trailer for sale

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- Capacity: 3 people | 412 lbs
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- Weight: 110 lbs

The sale of this boat, motor and trailer is a 100% benefit to the Civic Media Center. It was donated to the CMC by local supporter Bill Gilbert, who used it for a limited amount of time. It is in fully operating condition. Contact Joe if interested at 352-215-1929.

**All proceeds benefit the Civic Media Center!**



## WGOT-LP 94.7 FM

Soon to be at 100.1

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

Check out [wgot.org](http://wgot.org) for upcoming events and a detailed schedule.

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](mailto:info@wgot.org).



**Democracy NOW!**  
 airs Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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or visit  
[BodhiSangha.com](http://BodhiSangha.com)



# History and the people who make it: James Steele

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

This is the 32nd in a series of transcript excerpts from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection at the University of Florida.

James Steele was interviewed by Jessica Charlton [C] in 2011.

**S:** I was born May 20, 1950. My dad was stationed in the Navy in Key West, so when I was two years old, we moved to Miami. The Seminole Indians still lived in the Everglades, and you can see their chickee huts. They're canoeing around just a few miles from our house. Now, it's miles and miles of city built up.

I grew up in North Dade County, just below Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale area, from 1952 to 1974. I owned a home in Miramar when I was nineteen. I turned my yard into a garden and grew trees and herbs. Mother Earth News just came out with its second issue in 1970, focused on getting back to the land. I said, that's me.

I was a land surveyor at the time. I would travel all of the state surveying. It was the best job in the world, making maps. Traveling around Florida allowed me to see rural land and how pretty it was up here.

**C:** [What] influences in your childhood set you for something like that?

**S:** My mom, probably, always gardening, planting trees. We had banana trees and mangos in our yard. When I bought my first home, the first thing I did was start landscaping and planting a garden.

I wasn't in that home long, about two and a half years. I was a vegetarian, and the second issue Mother Earth News dealt with the homestead. That edition influenced the whole generation. The average age of today's farmers is sixty, sixty-one years old. That is my age. That magazine got a lot of people farming.

Back then, it was printed on newsprint, all recycled. They had a six-hundred forty acre farm in North Carolina where they put to practice new types of chicken coops and windmills. I worked there for a summer, about 1975, before I moved to Europe.

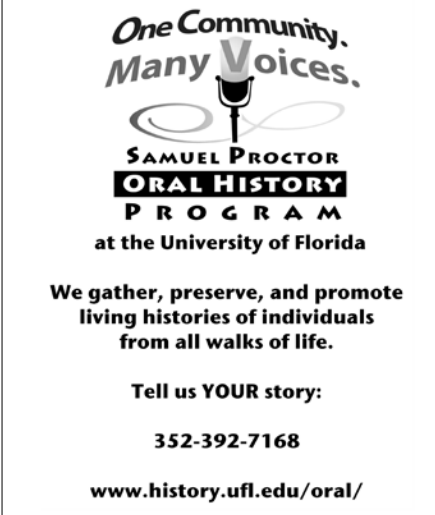
I was approached by the military, Army Mapping Division, and asked, how would you like to be a mapmaker in the Army?

I was against the Vietnam War totally. But they made me a good deal, and this

is 1976, now, Vietnam was over. It was probably the hardest decision I ever had in my life.

Right after basic training, they made me a sergeant right off the bat. They paid me to travel over Europe making maps. I got an apartment outside of Heidelberg, and I always volunteered in their beautiful community gardens.

When I got out after three years, I came home and did some hard thinking. I went to summer school at Miami-Dade Community College, took another semester of German, and moved over there. Got a job in a wildlife office and



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stayed four more years.

**C:** What brought you back?

**S:** The weather. [Laughter] I hate cold.

In Amsterdam, I happened to go into an herb shop. That changed my life, too, going into that shop. All these teas and dried herbs and this long-haired dude spent hours with me. So, I said, I am going to make my herb hobby my profession.

I had four years of free college from the Army. Got a degree in farm management. Santa Fe had a farm management program then. They don't have it now. And then transferred to UF for Ag Extension. I was taking twenty-one hours.

I worked at a gas station on the graveyard shift on weekends, so I could do my homework and studying at night. I had all those other times to develop my five acres outside of High Springs. I started teaching organic gardening through Santa Fe.

I got married in '85 and, in '88, when my daughter was born, I decided to

focus on medicinal herbs, and I made all her medicines.

When my son [was] born a year and a half later, I made all their skin salves, chapsticks and stuff. I decided to start my own business, and started the herb garden in 1989, in Melrose. I still own the herb garden.

I grew all my own food. I canned everything, dehydrated it or froze it. I had chickens. I taught a lot of classes, how to grow vegetables and herbs, how to make medicinal preparations.

I went to elementary schools and taught about herbs and how they're in their products, showed them the peppermint plant. Or ginger ale and where ginger comes from, what real ginger looks like. Marshmallows, they never realize a marshmallow is a plant. I did that for twenty years. I spoke to every garden club in Gainesville.

I got to know a lot of growers when they were just starting out. Then I started my website, Gainesville Farm Fresh. I got involved with Sustainable Alachua County. I met Gretchen, and Liz Nesbit, who [were] thinking about doing a co-op in early 2008. I was elected to their Board of Directors.

**C:** We're looking at the Gainesville Farm Fresh website right now.

**S:** It covers farmers markets, [and] organizations like the Co-Op, Blue Oven Kitchens.

**C:** Could you tell me more about the original intent of the co-op?

**S:** We wanted to build a secure food community here in Gainesville. There's so many local growers here, and we wanted to support them and give them a place to sell their products. We figured a co-op would be a place to do that, like a farmer's market seven days a week, and we'd try to get as much local products as possible.

**C:** Do they need to be organic farms?

**S:** No. I'm the produce buyer here -- I buy from farms that grow organically but they're not certified. I buy almost, I'll say 99 percent organic products. Sometimes people want tomatoes or they want this, and if I can't get them, I'll go to Rainbow Produce. As long as people know that this was grown conventionally, we'll stock it in an emergency. Most of the time, we

buy from distributors that sell nothing but certified organic.

We try to get everything grown here in-season, but when you get a gap between July and September when nothing's being grown here, I call Global Organics or Albert's Organics to get certified organic stuff. We start local, and our policy is we go out till we can find it.

I have about five things I look for. I'm gonna look for quality, for good environmental practices, how they treat their workers. Are they supporting the co-op? If you're supporting me, I'm gonna be supporting you.

Food like ours, certified organic, it's hard for lower income people to afford it. We try to find ways where we can make it affordable, and now we just got our EBTs.

When we start having food education classes out here, we want to educate people to know that the value of food isn't just in that price. We're saving energy by not shipping it far; we're promoting families in our own community.

When you go to Publix -- I'm not putting Publix down, it's just a good example -- all that money is going out of state. Large farms are subsidized, and local farms aren't, so the food is a little more expensive. But [here] you're getting a lot more value, just not in the cost, but in what you're saving in environment and in energy when you buy local like this.

We counted on our membership, the word-of-mouth would be supportive, but we have four hundred members that've never been in the store.

One thing we're trying to do here, is have a little higher than normal wages. Rather than start people at the minimum wage, there's a few dollars above that, and we want to maintain that.

**C:** Do you feel like there is a large population of people living here that are out of touch with their food?

**S:** Yeah.

**C:** Why do you think that is?

**S:** Some people aren't educated on where their food comes from. If they knew about feed lots, McDonald's burgers -- do they know what's happening behind the scenes to get that meat?

Organizations in Gainesville are bringing more of that to their attention. Civic Media Center puts out film series, Blue Oven Kitchens ... there's so many good organizations now, Slow Food

Gainesville, Stefanie Hamblen with Hogtown HomeGrown, making people more aware of the value of local food and community gardens.

**C:** Florida Organic Growers has a really awesome program with the gift gardens that they try to give to low-income families or schools.

**S:** FOG does that, put gardens at churches. I see more and more churches with those gift gardens. Most churches, they cook a lot and they have these kitchens. They're excellent organizations to tap into to grow gardens. More school gardens should be popping up: gardens outside of each classroom, vegetable gardens, a greenhouse, more kitchens available for people to can.

That's what Blue Oven Kitchen's goal is, to locate kitchens for people that they can can up their stuff and be certified to sell it and make money. Cottage Food Act is a little bit of help for a lot of people, to be able to sell their stuff without having a license as long as it's sold at a farmer's market or roadside stand directly to the consumer.

[Corporate grocery stores are] already changing. You look at Publix, or even Walmart, they have certified organic stuff. In Florida, if a Walmart's located near farming towns, they're required to buy x amount of product from the local farmers. More stores are getting organic sections and natural foods. Five years ago, no way.

We want to make sure this is running properly and get our kinks worked out with this store and, as we become more profitable, we want to start muddling somewhere else.

I'm just passionate, I like growing things and I like getting healthy things, food-wise, to people, so I love this job. Love growing my herbs.

See <http://ufdc.ufl.edu//AA00038518/00001> for the full transcript of this interview.

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 🌱.

## Call to Action: Solidarity with trans women arrested in Polk County

by Aubrey Krampert and Panagiotti Tsolkas

In solidarity with the first annual Trans Prisoner Day of Action on Jan. 22, activists in Gainesville are asking folk around the world to flood the government offices of Polk County and the City of Lakeland with messages demanding an end to the endangerment of trans and gender-nonconforming folk who are targeted by a criminal injustice system that has acted on transmisogyny, transphobia and racism more than safety or justice.

In a press release by the Polk County Sheriff's Department, the law enforcement organization bragged about a five-day sting operation, aided by the Lakeland Police Department, in December that resulted in 95 people arrested for sex work-related charges.

A report by the National Center for Transgender Equality states "Of the 50 charged with prostitution four were specifically identified as 'a transgender', 'a transvestite' or 'transsexual'. In addition to outing the trans status of these individuals, the news release misgendered the individuals and published their birth names on the Sheriff's website."

Of those arrested, more than 30 percent were Black or African-American in a county where around 16 percent of the residents are Black or African-American, according to the 2014 U.S. Census. All four of the trans people who were outed and arrested are people of color. (This assessment is based on the images and information provided by Sheriff records, not direct contact with the individuals.)

Direct your anger at the officials who oversee these law enforcement agencies:

- Lakeland City Manager Tony Delgado (863) 834-6006
- Lakeland City Mayor Howard Wiggs (863) 834-6005
- Polk County Manager Jim Freeman (863) 534-6444
- County Commissioner and Lakeland City Council emails: georgelindsey@polk-county.net, ed.smith@polk-county.net, melonybell@polk-county.net, todddantzer@polk-county.net, johnhall@polk-county.net, JimFreeman@polk-county.net, citycommission@lakelandgov.net, TonyDelgado@lakelandgov.net 🌱



# Plum Creek vs. Alachua County final public meetings - please attend

Stand By Our Plan has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, and its importance for our wetlands, strategic ecosystems, regional wildlife corridor, and the rural way of life that many of our citizens have chosen.

All of this is now threatened because a corporation from the west coast wants to turn the Comprehensive Plan on its head, in the interest only of its shareholders.

County staff have strongly recommended denial of Plum Creek's proposal, and we're now down to the wire: time for the County Commission to decide.

Two public hearings have been scheduled, both in the Eastside High School auditorium, in anticipation of larger audiences than the county administration building can hold.

On February 16, county staff will present their report, followed by Plum Creek's presentation, and then public comment will be taken. On Feb. 18, the County Commission will begin their deliberations and decide what action to take.

This could be your last chance to be heard, so save the dates and be there!

**Tuesday, February 16, 5 p.m.**  
**Thursday, February 18, 5 p.m.**  
**Eastside High School Auditorium**  
**1201 SE 43rd St., Gainesville**

Plum Creek has cynically used East Gainesville to further their own plans, offering false hope and promising jobs and growth to residents that they can't deliver. Their speculative real estate plans are further from East Gainesville than I-75.

In truth, Plum Creek offers only:

- Higher taxes to pay for the new infrastructure and services needed to support sprawling growth far from existing resources
- Massive wetland destruction, critical wildlife habitat loss, and depleted water tables
- Sprawl that drains investment and growth from downtown Gainesville

Our "Comp Plan" is a community compromise that balances environmental protection with the need for growth and economic development. Plum Creek threatens that balance.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The County Commission will decide, but your opinion can influence their decision. Speak up, or just fly our colors in support.

Speak to or visit with County Commissioners, some of whom are still unsure how to vote on this issue. Your input matters. Phone them at (352) 264-6900. Write letters to the editor to area newspapers. Contact us at: [standbyourplan@gmail.com](mailto:standbyourplan@gmail.com) or go to: [www.Standbyourplan.org](http://www.Standbyourplan.org) to learn more about the issue, and for more ways to help!

Above all, come to the February meetings! 🐢

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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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