

The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

September 2021

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Blood *in the* Sand

by Jeffrey D. Sachs

This article was originally published by Project Syndicate on Aug. 17. See more at project-syndicate.org.

The magnitude of the United States' failure in Afghanistan is breathtaking. It is not a failure of Democrats or Republicans, but an abiding failure of American political culture, reflected in US policymakers' lack of interest in understanding different societies. And it is all too typical.

Almost every modern US military intervention in the developing world has come to rot. It's hard to think of an exception since the Korean War. In the 1960s and first half of the 1970s, the US fought in Indochina—Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—eventually withdrawing in defeat after a decade of grotesque carnage. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Democrat, and his successor, the Republican Richard Nixon, share the blame.

In roughly the same years, the US installed dictators throughout Latin America and parts of Africa, with disastrous consequences that lasted decades. Think of the Mobutu dictatorship in the Democratic Republic of Congo after the CIA-backed assassination of Patrice Lumumba in early 1961, or of General Augusto Pinochet's murderous military junta in Chile after the US-backed overthrow of Salvador Allende in 1973.

See AFGHANISTAN, p.16

20 years ago ...

Reflection on 9/11/2001

Amid the immediate reactions to the shock of the 9/11/01 attacks, there were many folks on the Left who could see what might be coming down the road ahead.

The prospect of a wounded nation lashing out with the unleashed war-making capability, and the government's tendency to look for scapegoats and suppress dissent loomed large. The Sept/Oct 2001 edition was just about ready for the

printer when the planes hit, but we made room for the following story.

The next edition of the Iguana, Nov/Dec 2001, was a 32-page special edition that garnered the 2002 "Best 9-11 Coverage" award from the Campus Alternative Journalism Project and Independent Press Association. Archives of these and other back issues are available at www.gainesvilleiguana.org.

...

Sept/Oct 2001 as we went to press ...

We had just about finished preparing this issue of the Iguana to go to the printer when we heard the news of the tragedy at the World Trade Center. We still don't know even roughly the number of lives lost.

See REFLECTION, p.19

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Resource for good with Repurpose Project

by Jon Wolfe
Repurpose Project Volunteer

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.

Beware. A visit to their site at 1920 NE 23rd Ave. in Gainesville can turn you into an earth-friendly Indiana Jones. From the second you pull on the door handles made out of used tools, you'll know you're in a special place where your exploration can easily turn into an adventure and time will slow down quickly.

With art supplies, electronics, furniture, house repair and antique items and even car parts, this non-profit's mission is to create a circular economy by blending a creative reuse center and architectural salvage along with "any other weird item not accepted by traditional thrift stores."

Their website says, "It is a very strange store and people love it ... and "buying used items is good for the earth."

Volunteer Coordinator and Junk Curator Heather Eakin is likely to agree. Once herself a volunteer who fell in love with the Repurpose Project, she was hired and now welcomes others to be a part of the mission and the message, "Volunteers

are a crucial part of the project, not only because they get to things we don't have time to do ourselves, but because they become ambassadors to the community for the Repurpose Project and spread the mission and vision we're trying to fulfill."

Eakin says the Repurpose Project can host what they call, "Spontaneous Volunteers," people with 15-30 minutes to come in and help sort or move items. Their website says it's a great place to meet people. Find out for yourself. They host a volunteer orientation the 3rd Saturday of every month. Or email: volunteers@repurposeproject.org or call them at (352) 363-8902. 🐢

Pine Ridge Community update: children's backpacks, food needed

by Sheila Payne
Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Alachua County Labor Coalition has been speaking with residents at Pine Ridge in Gainesville to see if their housing situation is stable. The rent has not increased yet, and the assumption by residents is that until major renovations are done to the units, rent will stay the same.

Only one resident has left, previously planned, to move into a house.

A construction contractor flew out from Texas again this week to estimate the costs of renovations to each apartment. Residents who need little work done will be allowed, if they desire, to remain in

units while renovations are going on. Or residents can stay with family or friends and belongings will be put into PODS.

Residents will need to fill out new applications, but the application fee will be rebated. Background checks will be limited to crimes such as arson or violent felonies.

ACLCL met with County Social Services this week. They are still in contact with residents. They are waiting to process applications until residents can specify if they need help with moving costs or assistance with rent at Pine Ridge.

ACLCL is meeting with Central Florida Community Action Agency, at their request, to see what assistance they can

provide to the Pine Ridge Community. We are trying to get the Gainesville Housing Authority to go out to Pine Ridge to help residents apply for housing vouchers. Many have never applied and are low wage or on fixed incomes, and the rents everywhere in Alachua County are rising faster than their pay. Most who work, worked through Covid, so they are ineligible for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; though many lost hours, they still do not qualify.

With schools starting up next week, Ms. Geneva and others are busily getting the Community Center ready for tutoring and other services. They could still use some backpacks and food for the children.

ACLCL has been pursuing the landlord who put a stop to the library resource bus, the food giveaway truck, and the UF Health van parking at the Community Center. But this week, with Covid rates increasing, the Pine Ridge Community Center is limiting capacity, so we will pause that pursuit.

We continue to be in contact with Key City Capital, County Social Services, and other agencies who are involved in Pine Ridge.

We also stay in touch with Unitarians and Greenhouse Church, who have had long contact with Pine Ridge. Without the support of this community rising up to say, "No more evictions!" none of this would have been possible.

For now, the Pine Ridge community is staying together. We will remain vigilant. 🐢



From the publisher ...

On leaving Afghanistan

There is such a deep and complex history to Afghanistan and its surrounding region of ancient civilizations that the more you know about it, the more tragic it becomes. How we got to this point, with harrowing airport images as the US clumsily tries to extract itself, goes back many decades, decades full of important events that are receiving scant mention in the coverage. In this issue we are running three articles that bring forth different aspects, because to understand Afghanistan in the last 40 years you find out a lot about how games are played by the rich and powerful to exploit the weak in order to gain influence, power, and, the real driving force, control of resources. (Three more choice suggestions in the editors' picks on page 13, too.)

My college time ('69-'73) was focused on the Viet Nam war. With the Iranian hostage crisis and the overthrow of the Shah in the late '70s, my attention drifted there. Islamic fundamentalism had seized power. Religious fundamentalists, wherever they are, cause me great concern. As a secular person I have always been wary of wars (not to mention social policies) whose underpinnings were justified in dogmatic religion. When I saw the US begin supporting the mujaheddin in Afghanistan under Reagan (and subsequently learned it began under Carter!), my bells were going off.

And now here we are. I just re-read the book *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil & Fundamentalism in Central Asia* by Ahmed Rashid, published in 2000. I recommend it highly; it is still very relevant. It deeply covers the twin dynamics of conflicts between the various warlords the US helped empower against the Soviets, and the international struggles for alliances to support oil and gas pipelines crossing Afghan territory. The '90s also saw the rise of the poppy economy after the agriculture economy was wrecked in that war. Also there are the shifting roles of neighboring nations, Pakistan of course, but also Russia, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, among others. Rashid has recently commented there's not much changed with the Taliban 20 years later, but we can only hope their toned-down rhetoric holds.

What we have now is a shattered, war-torn nation desperately in need of funding, about to be economically tortured by withheld financing and aid, while we, the ones who brought and sustained a decades' long stalemated war through multiple administrations, go home. And today, the CNN headline: "The Taliban are sitting on \$1 trillion worth of minerals the world desperately needs."

I cannot fathom the anguish being felt by so many. The soldiers who went and suffered through it, and still carry that pain inside. Those who were wounded; remember, their families suffer as well. And of course those for whom their loved one didn't come back. For what? And then there are the many endangered Afghans who worked as soldiers or translators or helpers for the US, and who are in the hearts and memories of those they worked with. And of course, the women who have made progress after the repression of the past decades now facing an uncertain future.

The August 21 front-page headline of *The Economist* reads, "Biden's Debacle." This longrunning debacle has many owners. I feel it goes back to the 1953 CIA overthrow of Mossadegh in Iran, which helped set off the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. First Carter, and then Reagan's full-blown military aid empowering the warlords, against whom the Taliban formed. Bill Clinton continuing the money and weapons flow while pursuing gas and oil pipelines. George W. Bush deserves huge blame for his war of choice in Iraq in 2003, putting his efforts there and thus accepting the stalemate in Afghanistan. Obama was fine with night raids and drone strikes, even after killing Bin Laden. Trump freed 5,000 Taliban prisoners while negotiating a "we will leave, don't shoot at us" plan with the Taliban, and then blocking the paperwork of Afghan allies who wanted out, compounding the mess we are seeing.

As we reach the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, I am reminded of a rhetorical question raised at the time: "Why do they hate us?" I think W. may have responded, "They hate us for our freedoms." Yeah; that freedom to overthrow governments, to impose draconian economic sanctions, to carry on wars by proxy, to put claims on other nations' resources, to put military bases all over the world, to be supportive of dictators who repress their own people. You know what? I hate that stuff too. How about you? 🐸



Joe Courter

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The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter.

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Gainesville Iguana

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THE FOUR TREATIES:

Essential steps toward a responsible US ocean policy

Radio commentary, World Ocean Radio, 8/9/2021

Listen at <https://worldoceanobservatory.org/wor/four-treaties>.

I'm Peter Neill, Director of the World Ocean Observatory.

International agreements are imperative if we are to pursue international solutions to international environmental policy, regulation, redress, and sustained natural resources as natural capital for the future.

The recent return by the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement is a significant case in point as a symbol and reality for international goals and cooperative actions to address greenhouse gas, increased temperatures, and other human impacts on climate, affecting us all worldwide in almost every aspect of our lives.

But there are four other, major environmental treaties that pertain even more directly that the US has failed to ratify, without which the Paris action is but a gesture, a best intention without necessary action to assure a successful outcome.

For this edition of World Ocean Radio, I am relying on a simple, but extremely important article by Tara Lohan, in The Revelator (therevelator.org), an insightful online aggregator of environmental news, and an initiative of the Center for Biological Diversity, that I heartily recommend for "wild, incisive, and fearless" coverage of the most important environmental issues.

The treaties are as follows:

First, the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, a framework for managing and protecting the ocean, ratified by 167 nations and the European Union, with the exception

of the US that has rejected its structure as an intrusion on national sovereignty, in contradiction of the integration of ocean challenges for the benefit of other nations, worldwide.

Second, the Convention on Biological Diversity, an international framework for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of natural components, protection against species extinction, and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from genetic resources.

The US is the only member of the United Nations that has not signed on to this critical tool for the protection of Nature from indiscriminate extraction, exploitation, and destruction.

Third, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, a framework for protecting global public health by controlling the disposal of harmful chemicals that migrate through the air and ocean as enduring poison circulating invisibly worldwide affecting habitat, species, and coastal communities.

Fourth, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, that limits the transport of waste between countries, to include vast volumes of unrecycled household, plastic waste, radioactive materials, toxic computer components, mining, fracking, and industrial by-products, and other materials that we are unwilling to address in our own backyard.

These represent an effort by the international community of nations to address these problems through controls and regulations, standards for storage and disposal, protections for all forms of life on Earth, and the necessary collaborations to deal with solutions for these man-made problems for the common good.

That the United States has failed to ratify these agreements is a travesty, a national disgrace, an abdication of our responsibility as a world leader, in favor of the most, narrow, predictably financial interests.

603-Four-Treaties-WOR.jpg Treaties are ratified by the Senate, and since the Reagan era, a small minority, often backed by corporate donations, influenced by lobbyists, has consistently opposed ratification and isolated us in an almost unique position outside the world community.

The ocean is integral to all these challenges. It encompasses and integrates the public interest in every way, as a global environment, as host to fecund biodiversity, as a system of distribution for food, weather, toxins and waste.

Each of these treaties pertains directly to the health and protection of our natural world, to species survival on land and sea, to beneficial economic exchange, to political and social interaction, to personal and social security, and to the prospect for international peace and benefit for all mankind. Each of these treaties should be addressed and ratified now.

We will discuss these issues, and more, in future editions of World Ocean Radio.

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Ichetucknee Alliance launches new “Beloved Blue River” website

Ichetucknee ALLIANCE.ORG *by Ichetucknee Alliance*

The Ichetucknee Alliance has launched a new website, “Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River,” that documents what the springs and river have meant to people over the years. The site may be viewed at: <https://belovedblueriver.org/>.

“The new site includes articles by experts on geology, hydrogeology, and springs ecosystems; stories and memories from people who have spent time at the Ichetucknee; and art, photography, poems, and music that have been inspired by the springs and the river,” explained Ichetucknee Alliance President John Jopling. “We hope that when you visit the site, you’ll come away not only having learned something new, but also entertained and inspired.”

“We wanted this site to encourage people to think about the different personal relationships we have with the Ichetucknee, and we wanted to feature a variety of opinions and information you wouldn’t normally find on a water advocacy site,” said Communications Coordinator Lu Merritt. “For example, there’s a great article by Charles Barrett, who works at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center-Suwannee Valley, about agricultural innovations in our area coupled with his own personal account of why he loves our springs and rivers.”

Other highlights of the site include:

- A virtual “story map” tour of the Ichetucknee Springshed and Ichetucknee Trace, the area of land that feeds water to the

springs and the historic route that the Ichetucknee River took from Lake City’s Alligator Lake to what is now the Ichetucknee headspring near Fort White.

- An interview with Trini Johannesen and Valerie Thomas, who run the Ichetucknee Parkership Program at Fort White Middle and High schools.
- Video and written interviews with Jim Stevenson, who was instrumental in developing the management plan for Ichetucknee Springs State Park.
- Suggestions and encouragement for how people and groups may become leaders for the Ichetucknee—by taking specific, immediate actions that help to prevent pollution and to restore lost flow, and by modeling those actions for others in the community.

“We will be accepting submittals for material to include on ‘Beloved Blue River’ throughout this year,” Merritt added. “In particular, we need stories, memories, artwork, and articles from groups that are still underrepresented on the site—for example, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinx and Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.” Merritt encouraged people who have questions or who would like to submit something to email her at ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com.

Funding for the creation of “Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River” was provided by Three Rivers FNPC, the Felburn Foundation, and the Ichetucknee Alliance. For more information, use the email above to reach Jopling or Merritt. 🐸

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Summit of the Americas on Sacred Mushrooms and Entheogens

The Historic Thomas Center in Gainesville will feature the first Summit of the Americas on Sacred Mushrooms and entheogens, including ayahuasca, cannabis and peyote. The Sacred Mushroom Summit will take place on Sept. 10, 11, 12.

The event will include speakers and presentations from around the Americas and will cover medical, psychological, anthropological, historical, and legal issues, medical retreats, and religious freedom. Topics include:

- the history of US drug prohibition as anti-drug legislation reflecting ethnic and racial prejudice perpetuating racial and economic disparities,
- sex and psychedelics in treating PTSD, substance addiction, anxiety, postoperative pain,
- the use of psychedelics, including psilocybin, MDMA and cannabis in sex therapy, relationship problems and sexual medicine,
- recent medical research on psilocybin regrowing brain cells, affecting dementia, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, and their use in hospices, addiction elimination and anxiety relief over cancer recurrence,
- the coming fight over legalizing ancient pre-Columbian sacraments versus academic government gatekeepers in access to ancient sacraments. (Technically psilocybin mushrooms are not illegal in Florida, but federal legislation versus state or city decriminalization in the United States is an issue.)
- CBD versus CBD-THC and the legalization of growing hemp,
- The rights of people to have the freedom to grow their own sacred mushrooms and cannabis for medical and personal spiritual beliefs at home.

This is the first summit of its type in America; organizers hope to make this an annual event. Learn more at www.solarwolf.org.

Justice for Heaven and Ava protest



Erica Thompson gave birth inside a jail cell at Alachua County Jail. Shortly after, baby Ava died.

Dignity Power, GoDDsville and Florida Prisoner Solidarity organized the Justice for Heaven and Ava protest to bring awareness of what happened. Protestors blocked Northeast 39th Avenue right by the entrance to the jail.

Many different chants were started throughout the protest, including "It is our duty to stand up and protect our people!" and "We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

Jiselle Lee wrote a great piece for the *Independent Florida Alligator*, where this photo is pulled from. See the full story at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1239>. Photo by Lauren Witte from the *Independent Florida Alligator*. 🐊



SEPTEMBER

- 3 Fodder Wing (*Americana*)
- 10 Fast Lane (*funk, R&B*)
- 17 Wax Wings (*original folk-rock*)
- 24 Couch Messiahs (*classic rock*)

OCTOBER

- 1 Little Jake Mitchell and the Soul Searchers (*soul, blues, R&B*)
- 8 LP3 featuring Dr. Neu (*jam band, funk*)
- 15 Morningbell (*originals, recreating their Basso Profundo album from 2011*)
- 22 The Impostors (*The Beatles tribute*)

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And the good news is ...

Chuck Schumer: Congress should legalize weed on the federal level

by Laura Olson

This article was originally published by the Florida Phoenix on July 14. See more at floridaphoenix.com

The top Democrat in the U.S. Senate says decriminalizing marijuana at the federal level is a change that's "long overdue," and that he's prioritizing that effort as a growing number of states legalize cannabis.

To that end, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in July unveiled a draft proposal for removing cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, freeing states that have been legalizing cannabis for medical and recreational use from repercussions over the clashing laws.

The discussion draft calls for re-sentencing and expungement of non-violent marijuana convictions. Revenues from a new federal tax on cannabis would be used in part to assist those most affected by existing federal marijuana laws by paying for job training and reentry programs.

"As more and more states legalize marijuana, it's time for our federal cannabis law to catch up," Schumer, of New York, said during a news conference Wednesday, describing the proposal as intended to "right the wrongs of the failed war on drugs."

Eighteen states and DC have legalized small amounts of cannabis for recreation-

al use among adults, and 36 states allow medical marijuana, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures.

Legalizing marijuana is popular in public opinion polls as well: in a recent Pew Research Center survey, 60 percent of adults said marijuana should be legal for medical or recreational use, and 31 percent said it should be legal for medical use only. Just 8 percent said it should not be legal at all.

During a recent news conference, Schumer said marijuana opponents had predicted "doom and gloom" in states legalizing the drug, but their forecasts of increased crime and other harms haven't come to fruition.

Sen. Cory Booker, (D-N.J.), a long-time proponent of legalizing marijuana, decried the inequity that members of Congress and presidents have admitted that they have used cannabis, "but we have children in this country, people all over this nation, who are veterans, Black and brown people, low-income people, now bearing the stain of having a criminal conviction."

The measure released by the senators is a draft, which Schumer said will be revised with feedback from the public.

In a Senate chamber that's evenly divided and requires 60 votes to advance legislation, supporters still have work to do.

Schumer acknowledged he lacks votes

to pass such a proposal, or support from all Democrats.

Among Republicans, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the ranking GOP lawmaker on the Senate Judiciary panel, released a statement blasting Schumer's measure as putting "the cart before the horse."

"It's important that we have robust research and fully understand the good and the bad of marijuana use, especially in young people and over the long term," Grassley said.

Sen. Ron Wyden, (D-Ore.), who chairs the Finance Committee and joined Schumer at the news conference, emphasized that it will be up to states to determine whether they want to legalize marijuana use.

"I don't understand how Republicans who say they're for states rights won't support what my colleagues are talking about, because what this bill does is we decriminalize at the federal level, but we don't require states to legalize," Wyden said.

Beyond Capitol Hill, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has been slow to embrace marijuana reform. He has previously supported decriminalization, but has not joined calls for legalization. Asked about Schumer's proposal, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said she had no new endorsements of legislation to announce. 🐾

Floridians want more protection, money for the environment

by Issac Morgan

This article was originally published by the Florida Phoenix on July 14. See more at floridaphoenix.com

With Florida's population rising over a decade, most residents surveyed believe the state should do more to protect the environment from population growth and development, according to a statewide survey conducted by the University of South Florida.

About 64 percent of the respondents felt that way, according to a sample of 600 Floridians questioned in the survey. The survey was done from July 15-25.

The survey found that 52 percent of respondents strongly supported more funding to safeguard endangered species, such as Florida panthers and manatees. In addition, 55 percent of residents surveyed strongly supported actions "restricting the use of agricultural fertilizers that can contribute to red-tide outbreaks."

About 55 percent of residents surveyed also said more action is needed to preserve the state's natural ecosystems.

About 49 percent strongly supported committing additional funding to preserve Florida's natural ecosystems. 🐾

Artificial mini-reefs are helping clean Florida's waters

by Catherine Garcia

This article was originally published by The Week on August 1. See more at theweek.com

The artificial mini-reefs Garrett Stuart is installing along the Florida coastline are cleaning millions of gallons of water every year and giving marine life a place to call home. Stuart is a scientist and educator who has earned the nickname Captain Planet, thanks to his efforts to save the environment. The mini-reefs are "universally tested and proven to filter an average of 30,000 gallons of water every single day," Stuart told Fox 13.

The mini-reefs help fight against blooms of the red tide organism *karenia brevis*. Stuart says the marine life that grows on the reefs "literally eat algae, they eat the red tide." He recently installed mini-reefs under the dock at the Pelican Alley restaurant in Nokomis, and crabs have already moved in. The restaurant owner said he will "do what I can to help with the environment. The water quality is important because people don't want to come down and have dinner on the water if the water is disgusting." 🐾

Blood, dope, and guns: Our Afghanistan addiction

by James Thompson

Afghanistan may be hard to find on a map, but each day its opium poppies provide the vast majority of heroin to Europe and the world. While the United States draws its supply largely from Mexico, our imperial endeavors implicate us deeply in the Afghan heroin trade.

Without the economic “stability” and payoffs to corrupt governments and warlords that opium poppy farming supplies, neither the Taliban, nor Raytheon, nor Boeing, nor the U.S. sponsored Karzai government would have been able to operate the giant money laundering business that Afghanistan has been for the last twenty years.

The soaring profit from the drug trades, arms production, and the salaries of a 300,000-strong “ghost army” are made on the backs of everyday Afghans, but also everyday U.S. citizens struggling with the \$2 trillion cost of the war. Every president since Bush II, and every one of their Vice Presidents, including Joe Biden, was aware of this through public media wire reports and U.S. and international agency investigations.

As the world’s foremost illicit supplier of drugs – with hectares in production of poppy equal to at least a third of all coca hectares in the Americas – Afghanistan was an ideal location for the imperial money laundering scheme which benefited all sides of the war racketeering business.

Both the Taliban and the “legitimate” colonial government used a system of cash payments funneled inequitably upward through redirected soldier salaries to warlords, and the profits from the drug trade, to maintain an uneasy stalemate which saw record opiate production and global addiction rates between 2001 and 2020.

Shareholders in private mercenary firms (which had the majority of the non-Afghan soldiers on the ground), aerospace companies (drone and bomb manufacturers like Lockheed and Raytheon), and the ubiquitous small arms and vehicle manufacturers (General Dynamics) joined Taliban and Afghani government funded warlords in creating the most inequitable upward redistribution of wealth in the history of both our nations.

U.S. working people and Afghan laborers – including the men, women, and children that are forced under gunpoint to meet warlord and village poppy quotas – pay the full price for this in taxes, and in blood.

Few people have analyzed the correlation between the beginning of the U.S. war against the Taliban in 2001, when they were so weak as to offer Osama bin Laden and most of their Afghani territory as prizes to the infidel empire, and their parallel near “eradication” of poppy production.

The Taliban mujahideen did what no other government in global history has done,

except for the eradication of quaalude production in the 1980s. It almost completely eliminated a source material for a globally addictive drug.

If this were not a testament to the power of the Taliban and the existential relationship between opium, empire, and fundamentalist Islamic anticolonialism, what came after surely was. Immediately after 9/11 a U.S. foreign office narcotics director, William Bach, reported to the House of Representatives that the Taliban removal of “haram” (forbidden items or acts under orthodox Islamic law) poppy was actually a ruse to increase opium prices, and that warlords had stockpiled non-degradable opium to hedge the market.

The continued influx of heroin to the global market, and the relative lack in price hikes, suggested this was true. The Taliban, it turns out, were master capitalists and market manipulators. Bush II and his war dog corporate cronies wanted in on the action, and they got it. He quickly turned down the generous Taliban deal, turned a blind eye to record poppy production and increased processing, and opened the floodgates for war profiteering on all sides.

Another fact little discussed is that the U.S. war did not end because of the largesse of corporate sponsored leaders like Joe Biden, or out of any concern for the “failure” of “nation building.”

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Rather, domestic movement pressure from the progressive left on Democratic platforming at the state and national level has exposed the costliness of global imperialism, while at home, civilization is in decline.

The United States is one of three nations (with Hungary and Brazil) of 163 with a decline in living standards over the last ten years, according to the Social Progress Index. A huge part of this decline is manifest in the very addiction to Afghan and Mexican heroin in the United States, and the failure of privatized medicine and corporate "democracy" to mitigate the conditions giving rise to drug use.

One thing is certain, the drugs will flow despite the Taliban's post U.S.-exit claims to make Afghanistan free of poppy farming. As we know from our experience with religious fundamentalism at home, money is never "haram."

So while the U.S. "war" with Afghanistan is technically over, the war of capital against the people in both our countries rages on.

As Orwell wrote in 1984 "Oceania was at war with Eastasia. Oceania had always been at war with Eastasia." One could also write that we were always addicted to Eastasia, and addicted to the idea of it as a terrible opposite to our "Western Civilization." It turns out Eastasia/Afghanistan is not the opposite, but the exemplar of our kleptocratic corporate global empire. And it remains the source of the dangerous medicine that global citizens use to treat the sadness which comes from living with imperialism.

To riff on a famous Marxist dictum, it might be said that opiates are the religion of a people struggling with empire.

The author dedicates this piece to fellow addicts in Afghanistan and the United States.

For the Iguana, most of this information is from the wire and easily obtained. If you want to fact check my report on U.S. standards decline, it is here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1237>

The report I mention to the House is from William Bach, Director, Office of Asia, Africa, Europe, NIS Programs, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Testimony Before the Committee on Government Reform U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, Washington, DC, October 3, 2001. ✖



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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

Daniel Hale is a true American hero ... and was punished for it

The Air Force vet leaked classified documents exposing America's heinous drone war. That's what heroes do.

by Lawrence Wilkerson

This article was originally published by Salon on August 11. See more at salon.com.

According to British Army Capt. John Montresor, among the Revolutionary War spy and early patriot Nathan Hale's final words before his hanging were: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Joseph Addison's play "Cato," a popular drama among America's revolutionary elite at the time, contained similar sentiments, so it's not hard to imagine the young Hale uttering the words. Certainly the dangerous mission he had undertaken spoke to his courageous credentials in that regard. Hanging was the inevitable endgame should he be apprehended—and Hale knew it.

Much has changed since those heady days of our nascent republic. Still, figures like Edward Snowden, Tom Drake, Chelsea Manning, John Kiriakou and a host of other whistleblowers loom large today above a world full of mostly sycophantic, cowardly and selfish adherents to the "rules."

Such truth tellers actually better represent the traditional nonconformist American ideal than any of their rule-of-the-road, stick-to-the-script fellow citizens. This is "patriotic dissent," according to combat veteran and author Danny Sjursen—and he's dead-on correct. After more than 20 years of hugely expensive, largely nonsensical, military contractor-enriching, people-murdering wars, one must ponder deeply

and long the very sanity of our nation. I imagine the latest Hale did, and is doing, just that—as he pays the price for exposing the indecency and arbitrariness of America's death-from-above drone campaign.

I'm referring to Daniel Hale, America's latest patriotic dissenter. A former member of the Air Force, Hale entered a plea of guilty in that bastion of faux liberty and equally faux justice, the Alexandria, Virginia courtroom of Judge Liam O'Grady. Hale pled guilty to avoid the possible 11-year sentence he could have faced had he fought the charges and subsequently been convicted. But Hale readily admitted he was guilty—guilty of trying to save human life rather than destroy it. Guilty of thinking that maybe, just maybe, if he exposed the nature of America's monstrous actions, citizens who still cared might be sufficiently aroused that they would take action to reclaim their republic and stop the obscenity done in their names. Oh ye naive young man!

In the courtroom, Hale exclaimed: "I am here because I stole something that was never mine to take—precious human life."

But in that he was mistaken. He was in the courtroom because his powerful desire to prevent further murder such as his so overwhelmed him that he felt he had to expose it. By doing so, he put himself in jeopardy, at the mercy of the court.

There the judge had the audacity to argue that Daniel should have registered his complaints through the normal chain of

command. O'Grady said that Hale was "not being prosecuted for speaking out about the drone program killing innocent people;" that in fact he "could have been a whistleblower ... and not [taken] any of these documents"—supposedly the specific "crime" for which he was tried, taking classified government documents.

Not a "Daniel come to judgment," this O'Grady fellow. The chain of command, the inspector general process, all the rules to shield and protect so-called whistleblowers are so much a sham, a complete and utter sham. None of them work; indeed, all of them funnel any conscientious individual inevitably to one of two destinations:

1. Absolutely no positive action and very possibly punishment for having tried, or;
2. If one's conscience still prevails after experiencing option one, going the route that Daniel Hale and almost every effective whistleblower winds up ultimately traveling—the "illegal" route of public dissemination of their knowledge.

Tom Mueller's must-read book, "*Crisis of Conscience: Whistleblowing in an Age of Fraud*," documents this inevitable process so dramatically and disturbingly that one struggles not to wet a few pages with his or her own tears—or rip a few out in pure rage. Perhaps a copy should be shipped Judge O'Grady's way...

Hale will serve his time with dignity, like others of his stature who came before, and are serving sentences with him. Then he will emerge again into the light and hopefully continue his quest for justice. Not for himself, but for his lamentable nation.

Real justice would mean an end to the murders, an end to the profits of warmongers and their disciples and supporters, and an end to the bestial and brutal imperial writ America has assumed.

Real justice would see Daniel Hale receiving recognition in the gallery during a State of the Union Address—rather than a Rush Limbaugh.

Real justice would turn America's empire upside down.

Real justice would place patriotic dissent at the very pinnacle of our society's most esteemed qualities.

Like his namesake Nathan, Daniel Hale would be seen as the hero he truly is. ☛



Gail Johnson steps down

Election to fill City Commission post expected soon

by Joe Courter

"After a lot of thought, prayer and conversations with trusted friends, family and mentors, I have decided to resign from my position as Commissioner for the City of Gainesville.

"The collective good has always been the reason why I do this job, and I believe the reason that I am here is to advocate for those most underserved by local government.

"However, for more than a year, it has become increasingly difficult to do the job I was twice elected to do. I can do any challenging job as long as I see the path, as long as I see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I no longer see the path that will allow me to continue serving the people of Gainesville in the way I know you deserve ..."

It is with the above words At Large City Commissioner Gail Johnson announced her decision to step away from the City Commission. Her full explanation is on her Aug. 23 Facebook post.

She is a strong, forward-looking woman, and her work making Gainesville better will not stop, and probably increase outside the constraints and frustrations of elected office.

There will be an election to fill her term in the next couple months, but this decision has already shown a light on the fact that there are problems to be addressed; if you care about Gainesville, read her statement. More next issue. 🐾

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In memoriam:

Bob Moses, Rest in Power

Bob Moses was a critical civil rights activist and advocate for math education. He is best known for his fearless work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Moses died on July 25. The bio below comes from the SNCC Digital Gateway, an amazing documentary website that tells the story of SNCC and its legacy. Check it out at snccdigital.org.

"The sits-in woke me up," said Harlem, New York-native Robert "Bob" Moses, discussing how his involvement with the southern struggle began.

When he first arrived in Mississippi in the summer of 1960, there was no student movement in the state. He had come from New York to the Deep South to find students to participate in a SNCC conference in Atlanta. SNCC's voter registration efforts began when Moses met Cleveland, Mississippi NAACP president Amzie Moore. Moore attended the October conference and placed the idea of voter registration on SNCC's table.

Moses learned of the denial of Black voting rights from his discussions with Moore. "I was taught about the denial of the right to vote behind the Iron Curtain in Europe; I never knew that there was denial of the right to vote behind a Cotton Curtain here in the United States," he said.

Moore told Moses that he wanted to use the energy of the student activists in SNCC to help with voter registration. The young math teacher promised to come back the following summer after his classes at the Horace Mann school were out.

When Moses returned in 1961, Moore told him he was not ready to begin organizing and referred him to a NAACP colleague. There, with other local community leaders, Moses began SNCC's first voter registration organizing effort.

What SNCC workers learned while working in that small Southwest Mississippi city and the surrounding rural counties forever shaped SNCC's organizing style. Moses nurtured the development of local grassroots leaders and recognized the untapped potential power and unheard voice of locals who spoke up at meetings and participated in voter registration efforts.

"Leadership is there in the people," he said. "You don't have to worry about where your leaders are, how are we going to get some leaders ... if you go out and work with your people, then the leadership will emerge."

Reflecting on the struggle, Moses said he discovered that the organizing made him part of a family. As the summer of 1961 wore on, it became clear that no matter where SNCC workers went, they would always have a bed, a hot meal, a ride, and, most importantly, protection from night riders.

What Moses learned from the early years in McComb would influence SNCC's later activism in other parts of Mississippi, Southwest Georgia, Alabama, and Moses's own Algebra Project, which stretched well into the twenty-first century. Moses designed the Algebra Project to use mathematics as an organizing tool to ensure quality public school education for every child in America.

Moses recognized that the key to successful organizing was being welcomed into the community. By connecting with a core group of people who were willing to work with outsiders, together they could make things happen. 🐸



What: *BKLYN: The Musical*; Book, Music and Lyrics by Mark Schoenfeld and Barri McPherson, Directed by Ted Lewis

Where: The Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, 619 South Main Street (in the historic Baird Center between Akira Wood and Heartwood Soundstage), Gainesville, FL 32601

When: Sept. 16 - Oct. 3, 2021; Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm.

Cost: \$20, with a \$5 discount for seniors, military, first responders, teachers, and students

Web link: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1238>

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Civic Media Center update

by Joe Courter

Well, the optimism about reopening in August that we reported in July has been dialed back, due to the rise of the Covid 19 Delta variant. However, we are still hosting in-person volunteer meetings outside in the Courtyard on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30pm. Details can be found at our LinkTree: <http://linktr.ee/civicmediacenter>. Masking and distancing are required. LinkTree can also hook you up with our biweekly email newsletter.

Meanwhile, inside the space, the CMC is carrying forward hosting organizing activity from Books for Prisoners and Dream Defenders, and the Free Grocery Store is still doing their food distribution activity, where they bring in the large amount of bulk donated food and break it down into individual orders, which are then delivered to hundreds of people weekly. Our radio station, WGOT, is still on the air, and the Thursday poetry jam is still going, but on Zoom. Find the link for it on the CMC Facebook page.

We may not be able to have public events, but we are still doing good things for the community. We had hopes of some public events in early October, but we are still in a wait-and-see position regarding them now. Among them was a memorial celebration for beloved CMC supporter Jack Price, who died earlier this year, honoring him with a plaque, and a Stetson Kennedy "Living a Life of Purpose" event presented by Sandra Parks. And then, of course, the CMC's founding anniversary comes Oct. 18.

We have been kept solvent through community support over the last year and a half. Our Paypal account, Venmo donations, Facebook birthday fundraisers, and those old reliable checks in the mail have kept JoJo, our hardworking coordinator, paid, our landlord paid, and the utilities paid. We also just had to cover an unexpected air conditioner repair.

We'll get through this, but meanwhile one-time donations or monthly donations will be gratefully welcomed and appreciated. Payment options are on the CMC Facebook page, or can be sent via mail to 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601. 🐸

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🦎 COVID-19 DASHBOARD

by Jason L. Salemi / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1216>

University of South Florida epidemiology professor Jason Salemi offers a frequently-updated overview of COVID-19 cases and vaccine data through interactive maps and charts, focused on Florida (which has the worst per-capita stats of all states), but with county and national numbers as well: a good overview as we wade through our third surge.

🦎 Dire report on global climate forecasts worsening problems in Florida: As atmosphere continues to overheat, "our systems that support survival are failing"

by Laura Cassels / Florida Phoenix / Aug 11 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1233>

Global climate scientists declared "code red for humanity" in a report forecasting an actual doomsday for the planet if nations around the world, particularly the largest ones, do not dramatically and quickly reduce pollution destroying the atmosphere.

🦎 Discipline of minority schoolchildren in Florida and elsewhere can be discriminatory and disturbing: Feds are looking to improve disciplinary practices and ensure kids are treated equally

Danielle J. Brown / Florida Phoenix / July 30 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1234>

Wheels are in motion about discriminatory discipline against minority public school students. During the 2019-20 school year, 55,279 Black students received in-school suspension compared to 46,994 white students. Now the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights is studying the problem.

🦎 How AI-powered tech landed man in jail with scant evidence

by Garance Burke, Martha Mendoza, Juliet Linderman, Michael Tarm / AP News / Aug. 19 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1215>

Evidence-bending police locked a Chicago man up for murder with no case, based on an unreliable secret, sketchy system of street-corner microphones, sensors, and computers called "ShotSpotter," used in over 100 US cities.

🦎 How Florida's massive Covid-19 spike got so bad: The Florida surge is a microcosm of a summer gone wrong

by Dylan Scott / Vox.com / Aug. 25 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1232>

Florida leads the country in the number of hospitalizations and deaths per capita. Last week, it averaged nearly 25,000 new cases every day; around 230 people are dying daily. Florida, like much of America, was betting the pandemic was behind it — and was wrong.

🦎 James Loewen ¡Presente!

Zinn Education Project / Aug. 20 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1246>

Sociologist, educator, and author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me* died on Aug. 19. His works "touched countless readers," and will continue to do so.

🦎 Reporters' Alert: Fresh ideas for Journalists

Ralph Nader / reportersalert.org

An irregularly updated list of significant stories that are not getting the attention they merit.

🦎 Real News: Rebekah Jones is "still standing"

by Rick's Podcasts / Podomatic / Aug. 18 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1231>

The architect of Florida's wide-praised COVID-19 dashboard is ready to challenge Congressman Matt Gaetz. In this interview, Jones talks with Inweekly publisher Rick Outzen about the dashboard, her firing and why she has chosen to enter politics.

🦎 Sheldon Whitehouse asks Jan. 6 commission to probe links between dark money groups and Capitol attack

by Brett Wilkins / Common Dreams / Aug. 13 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1217>

Dark money organizations and influential donors allegedly organized and funded the deadly attack in a failed bid to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.

🦎 The secret corporate memo behind today's guerilla war on campus progressives

Nancy MacLean, Lisa Graves / Common Dreams / Aug. 25 / <https://www.alternet.org/2021/08/secr>

As college students return to classes this fall, the latest culture war campaigns will join the pandemic in upsetting campus life. If recent experience is a guide, their proximate cause will be well-funded right-wing groups that thrive on provoking and publicizing conflicts. Such groups target professors who teach about structural racism in American history.

On Afghanistan:

🦎 John Pilger: Afghanistan, the great game of smashing countries

by John Pilger / Mint Press News / Aug. 24 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1218>

More than a generation ago, Afghanistan won its freedom. Then, the United States, Britain and their "allies" destroyed it.

🦎 The Ides of August

by Sarah Chayes / Sarah Chayes Blog / Aug. 16 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1229>

Chayes, a former NPR reporter and U.S. military adviser, an expert on corruption and its implications, and with experience living and working in Afghanistan explains "the key factors ... in today's climax of a two-decade long fiasco."

🦎 Why the debate on Afghanistan is so distorted

by Paul Waldman / Washington Post / Aug. 20 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1245>

The people who two decades ago told us how great these wars would be, then spent years telling us victory was right around the corner, are now explaining how somebody else is to blame. Yep, it's complicated. 🦎

History and the people who make it: Madelyn Lockhart



Transcript edited by Adolfo Romero. This is an excerpt from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program - 325UF collection series.

Madelyn Lockhart was a researcher who worked on creating a more inclusive and diverse community in Gainesville. At the University of Florida, Dr. Lockhart served as Dean of the Graduate School, Dean of International Studies and Programs, Associate Dean, and Assistant Dean. She helped establish the Altrusa International organization in Gainesville. She passed away in 2015. Dr. Madelyn Lockhart [L] was interviewed by Paul Ortiz [O] on December 5, 2008.

O: Well, today we are with Dr. Madelyn Lockhart ... You're interested in talking about your early career at the University of Florida, and what the university was like.

L: Okay, I came here in the fall of 1958. I came because my husband had a job offer here at the University of Florida. I was finishing my PhD at Ohio State University. I had one child who was three years old and a baby.

I wasn't terribly happy about coming to the UF or anywhere in the South because I'm a northerner and I'm a city girl. I had worked two years at the University of Kentucky and had experienced the prejudice they had against Blacks. I remember vividly the minute the bus crossed the Ohio River, from Ohio into Kentucky, you had to change your seat.

However, I was assured by people that Florida was different.

In the spring of 1960, [UF] asked me to create a research program as I had done in Kentucky and again in Ohio. So I agreed to come and work in the Bureau of Economic Research in the College of Business to do this research. They made it clear it would be a temporary appointment because I was a woman and a wife of a faculty member, which was against their rules, I guess.

O: And yet UF told you they would not put you on the tenure track because you're a woman?

L: And because I was the wife of a faculty member. As one of them said, this is like putting icing on a cake, you don't really need it. That was the VP for Academic Affairs who wrote that to the chairman of the economics department.

After four years of that, I went into the dean of the college and said "you either want me or you don't want me. You better make it clear. I want a permanent position and the ability to go for the associate professor level, with tenure, or the ability to earn tenure." He inquired up the line and the answer was no. So, I quit.

The two women for whom I have great respect: Ruth McKeown and Gladys Camerer. They suggested I apply for the job as director of the community action program in Alachua County. This was a program that was funded under President Johnson's poverty program.

I had the degree, I had the experience, I had research experience as well as administrative experience. So I fit the bill. The leadership in the Black community was not at all happy with this. Their impression was a white woman, no way, is she going to do anything. Reverend Wright was up in arms. I asked him if I might meet with him because I wanted to assure him that I was not prejudiced, and I was really interested in seeing some good done for the Black community, which I felt was very neglected in this town.

Now there were some that did some marches once in a while, but nobody was looking into the economic and social condition that the Blacks were in.

We had segregated schools; the Black schools had no playgrounds. Secondly, the poor people who had to ask for welfare had to get up the middle of a big auditorium and tell their story in front of all the people that were there in order to get the social services. The most embarrassing situation you could put anyone under. Third, There were no daycare programs for Black children except ... The one in Gainesville only took two Black children.

Rather than just worrying about whether the people could go to a theatre or not, or a restaurant, or something else, which I agreed was disgusting to me – to keep people from

doing those things, but they weren't as important in everybody's daily life.

O: Do you think that was because they did not see those economics issues to be priority?

L: They didn't want to get their hands dirty to be very honest. That's hard work. You have to fight the establishment and you have to go down into the Black community and work with Blacks. You can't do it by standing outside and saying we're going to do this for you. We need to have neighborhood canvases. We need people that will go into the neighborhoods and have meeting with the Black people that live in the neighborhoods and get their view on what kind of programs they'd like to see.

It's also work for a lot of people who don't want to associate with Blacks, and that was true with most of the faculty. I know because I had Blacks who came to visit me and was told in my neighborhood that that was not acceptable.

O: You had thought or you were told by people that Gainesville was different ... When did you first begin to suspect that that wasn't the case?

L: In the grocery stores there were two different fountains, Black and white. I had never seen this in my life. Even in Kentucky I hadn't seen it, at least not in Lexington.

I often said to my husband that I wished the University had been placed in Ocala or someplace other than Gainesville because I found, well you couldn't go outside of Gainesville to buy gas if you had a university sticker on your car. They wouldn't sell you gas in the communities around here, because we were communists in their view. And if you happened to have a Black [person] in your car, you might get shot.

When I was director of the poverty program, the Klan moved in. And the Klan did exist in Alachua County. The sheriff tried hard to keep them out, but they were in all the surrounding counties, and they would move across that border and come into Alachua County anytime they could get away with it. They would disrupt any meeting of Blacks that occurred. Taking on my view in the way of dealing with this problem – that is, working with the Black community, was not very popular, I can assure you. The Black ministers began to

see that this was really the way that we should go. So they began to accept me as the director because they finally decided I really did have their interests at heart.

And I did have cooperation of the county commission and particularly men like Sid Martin. A man from Hawthorne who had a very deep interest in some of the things I was doing for the Black community. I went one day and told him, "you know there are no playgrounds for the Black children in the Black schools." And he said, "I never noticed that." And I said, "well if you go to any one of the Black schools and look, you can see there is no playground equipment, no area that is set aside for a play ground." He said, "well we've got to fix that."

The very next morning, the county machines were clearing an area in back of one of the schools, and I went around to the businesses and got swings and slides and the kind of playground equipment that kids could use. We got a playground for that school. This made the Black community think, maybe this group can do something for us, and they started cooperating with me.

We found that children were being badly treated in the jail when they really had psychiatric problems. But they were thrown into the jails because nobody knew what to do with them. I started a program with the help of one of the Black ministers. I would pick up these children and take them to Shands for testing and treatment.

O: Shands was not segregated by this point?

L: Oh they were segregated, but they were willing to take these boys in for testing. They had their own sections for Blacks; most of it was done over in Alachua General [Hospital], not over at Shands [Hospital].

But the biggest problem that I saw was the problem of daycare for Black children because, as I went out into the communities, what I found horrified me. Not only were they keeping older children out of school in order to take care of the babies when the mother worked. But they were tying babies to the bedstead and leaving them with a bottle and some milk or water at a reachable distance and leaving them there all day while they worked. That just horrified me to think of babies sitting there screaming all day for their mothers.

We would set up a nursery in the church

for these children and a Vista volunteer would be in charge of running the nursery. But the mother who brought the child in would have to spend one day as part of the nursery group, and then she could have the rest of the week free. So her child would be taken care of ... As a result of that, we started twenty daycare centers in this county in one six month period.

O: You came back in 1970. Do you think, Dr. Lockhart, finally the university says, okay we'll give you a tenure track position, do you think that was part indicative of a larger change in climate at the university?

L: No, I think it changed

In 1973 ... I spent six years as assistant dean of the graduate school, and then was sent to Africa in order to develop an African economics program with the African Studies Center.

Bob Bryan objected to my being called an associate dean, so he gave me the position of associate dean but made me take the title of assistant dean.

When he left, I applied for the dean's position. The search committee did select me as their top candidate for the position but Bob Bryan, he just thought having a woman as graduate dean was too much.

O: But by then, this is the late [19]70s or early [19]80s right? There's still no women in those ...

L: The only woman we had in upper-level positions was the dean of nursing.

Because I was doing the job, and the faculty weren't unhappy, they wanted me ... He [Bob Bryan] said, "it was because President Marston wouldn't allow him." but I doubt that that was true.

I became a favorite of the Black graduate students because I did not turn them down. And if they didn't feel I was being

fair, I would say, look get the group together. I have a plaque on my wall, which I'm very proud of, that I got from the Black Graduate Student Association in appreciation of my support of them.

O: Did you see similar situations confronting female graduate students in the [19]80s?

L: The biggest problem with female graduate students was sexual harassment. We had serious situations; one Indian student was harassed so badly she committed suicide.

O: Also wondered about the situation with the female faculty in the [19]70s and [19]80s. What was their kind of academic situation? Were they still having to struggle?


L: Oh yes, very definitely., the Women's Faculty Association was formed in the early 1980s to try and be a supportive group to the women faculty. They really needed it.

O: It sounds like the older attitudes, the discrimination there, is still the existence.

L: Yeah, not hiring women for fields, not promoting them as fast. Generally, not putting them into positions where they could make a difference. Look at the upper administration, are there any women up there? I don't know of any offhand.

See <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral/results/?t=madelyn%20lockhart> for links to two interviews with Madelyn Lockhart.

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is committed to using critical historical inquiry and digital humanities production to encourage civic engagement and dialogue between the past, present and the future. To learn more about the program visit www.oral.history.ufl.edu. 🐾



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From AFGHANISTAN, p.1

In the 1980s, the US under Ronald Reagan ravaged Central America in proxy wars to forestall or topple leftist governments. The region still has not healed.

Since 1979, the Middle East and Western Asia have felt the brunt of US foreign policy's foolishness and cruelty. The Afghanistan war started 42 years ago, in 1979, when President Jimmy Carter's administration covertly supported Islamic jihadists to fight a Soviet-backed regime. Soon, the CIA-backed mujahedeen helped to provoke a Soviet invasion, trapping the Soviet Union in a debilitating conflict, while pushing Afghanistan into what became a forty-year-long downward spiral of violence and bloodshed.

Across the region, US foreign policy produced growing mayhem. In response to the 1979 toppling of the Shah of Iran (another US-installed dictator), the Reagan administration armed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in his war on Iran's fledgling Islamic Republic. Mass bloodshed and US-backed chemical warfare ensued. This bloody episode was followed by Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, and then two US-led Gulf Wars, in 1990 and 2003.

The latest round of the Afghan tragedy began in 2001. Barely a month after the terror attacks of September 11, President George W. Bush ordered a US-led invasion to overthrow the Islamic jihadists that the US had backed previously. His Democratic successor, President Barack Obama, not only continued the war and added more troops, but also ordered the CIA to work with Saudi Arabia to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, leading to a vicious Syrian civil war that continues to this day. As if that was not enough, Obama ordered NATO to oust Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, inciting a decade of instability in that country and its neighbors (including Mali, which has

been destabilized by inflows of fighters and weapons from Libya).

What these cases have in common is not just policy failure. Underlying all of them is the US foreign-policy establishment's belief that the solution to every political challenge is military intervention or CIA-backed destabilization.

That belief speaks to the US foreign-policy elite's utter disregard of other countries' desire to escape grinding poverty. Most US military and CIA interventions have occurred in countries that are struggling to overcome severe economic deprivation. Yet instead of alleviating suffering and winning public support, the US typically blows up the small amount of infrastructure the country possesses, while causing the educated professionals to flee for their lives.

Even a cursory look at America's spending in Afghanistan reveals the stupidity of its policy there. According to a recent report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the US invested roughly \$946 billion between 2001 and 2021. Yet almost \$1 trillion in outlays won the US few hearts and minds.

Here's why. Of that \$946 billion, fully \$816 billion, or 86 percent, went to military outlays for US troops. And the Afghan people saw little of the remaining \$130 billion, with \$83 billion going to the Afghan Security Forces. Another \$10 billion or so was spent on drug interdiction operations, while \$15 billion was for US agencies operating in Afghanistan. That left a meager \$21 billion in "economic support" funding. Yet even much of this spending left little if any development on the ground, because the programs actually "support counterterrorism; bolster national economies; and assist in the development of effective, accessible, and independent legal systems."

In short, less than 2 percent of the US

spending on Afghanistan, and probably far less than 2 percent, reached the Afghan people in the form of basic infrastructure or poverty-reducing services. The US could have invested in clean water and sanitation, school buildings, clinics, digital connectivity, agricultural equipment and extension, nutrition programs, and many other programs to lift the country from economic deprivation. Instead, it leaves behind a country with a life expectancy of 63 years, a maternal mortality rate of 638 per 100,000 births, and a child stunting rate of 38 percent.

The US should never have intervened militarily in Afghanistan—not in 1979, nor in 2001, and not for the 20 years since. But once there, the US could and should have fostered a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan by investing in maternal health, schools, safe water, nutrition, and the like. Such humane investments—especially financed together with other countries through institutions such as the Asian Development Bank—would have helped to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan, and in other impoverished regions, forestalling future wars.

Yet American leaders go out of their way to emphasize to the American public that we won't waste money on such trivialities. The sad truth is that the American political class and mass media hold the people of poorer nations in contempt, even as they intervene relentlessly and recklessly in those countries. Of course, much of America's elite holds America's own poor in similar contempt.

In the aftermath of the fall of Kabul, the US mass media is, predictably, blaming the US failure on Afghanistan's incorrigible corruption. The lack of American self-awareness is startling. It's no surprise that after trillions of dollars spent on wars in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and beyond, the US has nothing to show for its efforts but blood in the sand. ☛



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WGOT says 'thank you'

by Chris Lake, WGOT Board Member

As a small local non-profit we can't thank our supporters enough. WGOT has the best listeners in and outside Gainesville. More than ever we need your support as fundraising during the Covid era increasingly becomes more challenging. WGOT is used to having several live fundraisers each year, including an annual birthday celebration featuring several of the best local bands in Alachua County.

Unfortunately, those days seem long ago. Plus, the Delta Variant is cause for concern regarding our ability to fundraise heading into 2022 and beyond. So how can you help WGOT?

1. If you are on Facebook, please like the WGOT page. Pinned to the top of the page is our latest GoFundMe effort. The Facebook page is also where we promote all of our fundraising information.
2. Consider subscribing through Patreon as a sustaining supporter. It is hard to overstate how much we value our subscribers. Patreon provides steady revenue each month that provides the funds to stream on the internet and pay other basic expenses. You can subscribe for as little as \$1 a month.
3. We need more local businesses to sponsor programming on WGOT. Underwriting is a way to promote both your busi-

ness and WGOT. As mentioned above, we have loyal, community minded, and educated listeners who will support your local business whether large or small.

4. Turn off Spotify or algorithm driven services and tune into WGOT which is hosted by local residents with amazing and diverse tastes in music. Please remember that you can listen to WGOT and stream on-line through the WGOT.org webpage.

5. Consider volunteering your time. Everyone has particular expertise and volunteer opportunities aren't limited to hosting a show. WGOT has opportunities that can be accomplished remotely without leaving the comfort of your house.

Thanks for your continued support,
Your friends at WGOT 100.1FM 🐢

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From DEMANDS, p. 24

COVID must be allowed to teach remotely, at least until booster shots for the vaccine become available on Sept. 20.

Remote accommodations should be broad and sweeping, as much of the work to turn UF into a remote campus has already been done. Faculty and graduate assistants have worked tirelessly to convert course content into a format that can be taught in a safe way, either online or through social distancing in the classroom.

Additionally, research schedules have already been changed so shared lab spaces and offices can be used responsibly. Many labs continue to maintain these protocols so we can feel confident about going home to care for our young children, sick parents,

or immunocompromised loved ones. We do this to ensure our *own* safety, the safety of our students *and* our community.

People with chronic health conditions have largely been treated as disposable during this pandemic. Our health and safety are being held hostage by a governor who cares not about our communities, but about keeping his position in office. This is amplified by UF leadership who are far too comfortable with ignoring what is right in order to keep their own positions of power.

Graduate assistants are at the mercy of their departments and the faculty they work with. For some of us, this is a comfort because we know our departments will protect us in whatever ways they can.

Others do not have the same reassurances within their programs.

For some graduate assistants, the chance to seek safety in our own homes is not a feasible one. Graduate student housing has been a known place of quarantine for students on campus. This poses an especially huge danger to international graduate students and graduate student families.

We are doing our part to stand up against leadership who refuse to listen to the advice of public health experts, and we will continue to fight for the common-sense right to public health and safety requirements like wearing a mask and getting vaccinated. As Rachel Hartnett stated: graduate assistants and faculty "will not die to protect UF's funding." 🐾

From DENIAL, p. 24

by a Biden administration that took this pandemic seriously.

Most of those not getting the vaccine are Trump supporters. A much smaller percentage are people on the Left.

From what I've read and experienced, some of that second group are people whose general distrust of government and corporations, like Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, underlie their vaccine reluctance.

I agree with those within this group who say that it isn't enough to wear a mask

and social distance and get a vaccine, that it's also important that people have a healthy diet and exercise, take better care of themselves and their families.

I'm critical of Dr. Fauci and Dr. Gupta and other famous medical experts on TV who rarely if ever mention this. Indeed, if they did, this could be a silver lining of Covid if many more people made these changes.

And the unwillingness of the pharmaceutical companies to make available the information and the knowledge needed to manufacture the vaccine in other countries is shameful. They should

be publicly criticized for their inhuman corporate greed.

But these criticisms can't be used to discourage vaccination.

I've had lots of experience over my years as a progressive activist dealing with people and organizations who put ideology over facts, who refuse to accept the truth, find ways to stick to their opinions even when reality has shown them to be wrong. It's a very human problem, with deep historical roots. It's a big problem.

Saying that the vaccine is part of a corporate conspiracy – saying that there's no need to take the vaccine if you just eat well, take care of yourself and take vitamin supplements – inflating the tiny percentage of cases, much less than 1 percent, where vaccinated people have been hospitalized or died from the Delta variant – these and other lies and distortions of the truth should not just be dismissed; they should be confronted.

This is not the time for silence. It's time to stand up against those on the right and those on the left who are sometimes uninformed, sometimes confused, and sometimes – and these are the worst – actively trying to sabotage the efforts to beat the virus through mass vaccination.

Ted Glick is a volunteer organizer with Beyond Extreme Energy and author of Burglar for Peace: Lessons Learned in the Catholic Left's Resistance to the Vietnam War, published last year.

Past writings and other information can be found at <https://tedglick.com>, and he can be followed on Twitter at <https://jtglick.com> 🐾

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From REFLECTION, p. 1

Boston compatriot Jason Pramas sent us these preliminary reflections on Tuesday, a few hours after the attacks occurred, and we thought they were worth reprinting here:

This is a dark day.

September 11th, 2001 is certainly “a day that will live in infamy.” But it remains to be seen who will ultimately be regarded by the world’s peoples as infamous. Attackers unknown? Or the government of the United States of America. And the multinational corporations that drive that government’s foreign policy.

The former certainly must be brought to justice for their heinous crimes. But the latter two ultimately share the blame for creating a geopolitical situation that could produce people desperate enough to commit such grand acts of violence.

Let me just say from here in Boston that my heart goes out to all of you in New York City and Washington, DC who are suffering through the aftermath of the destruction by hijacked aircraft of the Twin Towers in NYC and a section of the Pentagon in DC.

As a labor organizer specializing in helping temp and other contingent workers fight for better pay, benefits and working conditions, I am in shock imagining the fates of all the innocent workers in New York who have been made to pay by some still unmasked entity for the anti-democratic foreign policy of successive U.S. governments and the rapacious business practices of the multinational corporations.

I am less shocked by the attack on the Pentagon given that it is a military target. But since early reports indicate that the section of the Pentagon that was hit contained mostly shops, civilian employees, tourists and less military personnel than other sections of the building, I am still pretty shocked.

And since four planeloads of innocent civilians and airline personnel were sent to their deaths to commit these atrocities, I am disgusted that any organization would use people as living weapons in the service of what is clearly a political act. However justified and necessary that act may appear to be to some.

As a member of Service Employees International Union I have just been informed that our union had many members working in the Twin Towers—many of whom have no doubt now shuffled off this mortal coil—and that information fills me with extra doses of sadness and anger.

As a person who has spent much time in New York City, during a decade long courtship with my now-wife, I am at a loss for words at the disfigurement and destruction visited upon a great city that represents the best and worst of what the U.S. has to offer the world. I cannot imagine looking at the skyline the next time I visit the city and seeing a gaping hole where the Twin Towers once stood. Buildings on whose apex I once stood, over a 100 stories in the air, and looked down upon the misery and majesty of human creation for 100 miles in every direction.

In any case, I just wanted to write a fast essay early on in this crisis to say that the motley crew that is the U.S. Left will be facing a difficult period over the coming days, weeks, and months because of today’s tragedy.

Progressives of all stripes—socialists, communists, anarchists, feminists, social democrats, Greens, left populists and even liberal Democrats—must begin serious reflection on today’s events with all speed, and quickly resolve plans of action that will prevent the political situation in this country from becoming untenable for all of us.

The various factions of the U.S. right-wing will probably attempt to use the panic generated by the attacks to increase military funding and to curtail some civil liberties.

A war with one or another of the so-called “rogue states” that are unfriendly to U.S. corporate and governmental interests may be in the offing.

Racists and nativists of various stripes will probably step up attacks on people of Arab descent in the U.S.—and immigrants to this country in general.

The Israel lobby will try to garner even more U.S. financial and military support for that country’s suppression of the democratic aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Most ominously, there remains a serious danger of one side of another detonating a nuclear device of some sort, or targeting a nuclear plant for destruction—with unimaginable consequences for the planet should such a situation occur.

Because of these and other problems that are likely to arise, I think it is vitally important that all people of good conscience in the U.S. keep our wits about us and work hard to stop these dangerous political possibilities from coming to pass.

We all need to challenge the forces of militarism, racism, nativism wherever we come into contact with them.

We need to call for calm.

We need to fight to make sure that the U.S. government does not act blindly and irrationally in its inevitable quest for vengeance.

We certainly need to call for U.S. nuclear forces to stand down from the high state of alert they have remained on for the all of the many years since the end of the Cold War.

We need to fight more than ever for an end to corporate—or to be blunt, capitalist—domination of this country and this planet.

And we need, absolutely, to drive home the point that terrorism against the United States will never end until the United States stops attacking the rest of the world—repeatedly using its military and political might in the service of its corporations’ economic interests.

I hope that, together, U.S. progressives can prevent this country from plunging swiftly into some new version of the Cold War and a new version of the McCarthy era.

Good luck to us all. 🐶

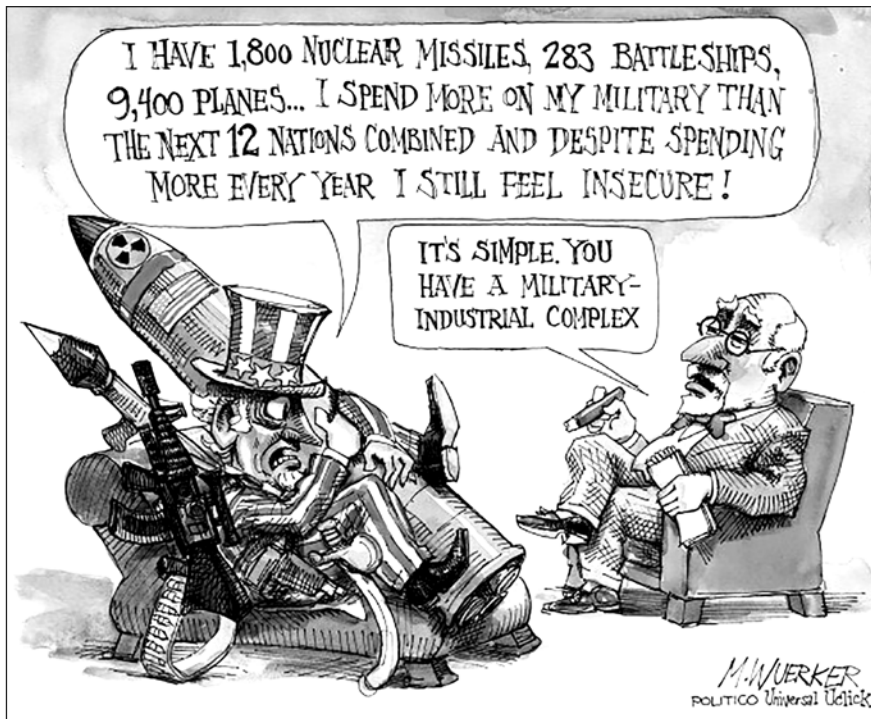


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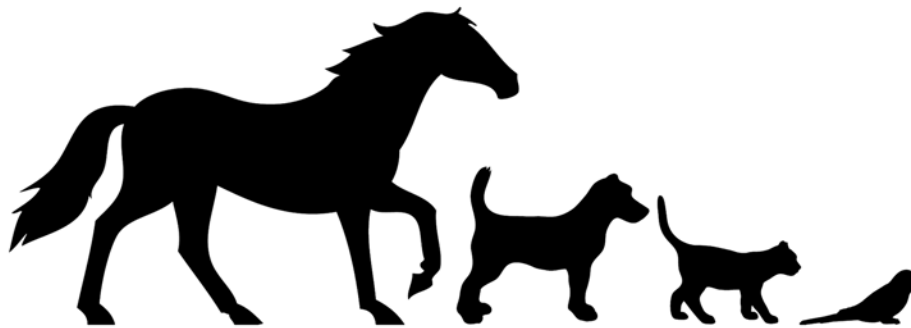
We were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan - we didn't know what we were doing.

- Douglas Lute, Three-star Army general, former White House Afghanistan war czar

Things to do

- Julie Naim, a master gardener, will present a talk on "Welcoming Winter: Cool Season Vegetable Gardening in Florida." Sunday Assembly, Sept. 19, 11am. The in-person meeting will be at the Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St) and masks are required if not fully vaccinated.
- Looking to leave the house and find things to do? The City of Gainesville hosts an award winning weekly events page of things going on. <https://www.facebook.com/visitgainesvilleflorida>
- This is one of the smartest daily reads out there. Great analysis and observations from a historian. No bs, no hype. Read it. <https://www.facebook.com/heathercoxrichardson>

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Spotlight on ... Community Weatherization Coalition



The Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC) is a grassroots community coalition made up of citizens, religious leaders, and NGOs concerned about Alachua County citizens spending a large percentage of their income on home energy bills.

"Our mission is to help our neighbors save energy and water and reduce their utility bills, by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together."

Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email gainesvilleiguana@cox.net with updates and additions

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers are in the 352 area code.

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 373-1078 / www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Alachua County Greens is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm, contact for location: 871-1995 / alachuagreens@gmail.com / <https://gainesvillegreens.webs.com>

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and a living wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm on Zoom. 375-2832 / info@laborcoalition.org / <http://laborcoalition.org/>

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 / <http://acornclinic.org>

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at firstcoastclu@gmail.com / <http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org>.

American Promise Association is a cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People - not big money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests - govern the United States of America. <https://americanpromise.net>

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 514-5606 / www.arcinst.org

Black Graduate Student Organization helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. bgsoatuf@gmail.com / facebook: UF BGSO

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfdsa@gmail.com / Facebook: North Central Florida DSA

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 / btancig@gmail.com / https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville/

Civic Media Center is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville / 373-0010 / coordinators@civicmediacenter.org / www.civicmediacenter.org

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com / www.chispasuf.org / Facebook: chispasUF

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Join our Facebook group at: [Codepinkgainesville/](https://www.facebook.com/Codepinkgainesville/) [CodePink4Peace.org](https://www.facebook.com/CodePink4Peace.org)

The Community Weatherization Coalition, an Alachua County coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work, and community-

building, welcomes volunteers. 450-4965 / info@communityweatherization.org

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 376-4770 / info@conserveflorida.org / www.conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 352-373-1730 / www.alachuadems.org

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. youngersn@outlook.com / www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville

Divest UF is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms and surveillance companies. www.divestuf.org, Facebook: @Divest UF

Goddsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. Facebook: Goddsville Dream Defenders

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject

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

Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 / final.friends.org@gmail.com / www.finalfriends.org

The Fine Print is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. <http://thefineprintmag.org>

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice provides space for meetings, retreats, workshops, camps, and educational activities that promote

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page
peace, human rights and social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment programs and environmental discovery and awareness.
352-603-3680 / florida4peace.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery is a clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs regarding midwifery.
338-0766 / info@midwiferyschool.org
www.midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands and provide quality environmental education.
475-1119 / floridadefenders@gmail.com /
https://fladefenders.org

Florida Prisoner Solidarity is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts are focused around the needs of all incarcerated individuals, their care networks and the people in community with them.
P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 /
850-895-1505 / flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com /
www.flprisonersolidarity.org/
facebook.com/FLAbolition

Gainesville Area AIDS Project is a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida that provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 377-8915 / info@gaaponline.org
https://gainesvillepride.org/gaap/
www.facebook.com/GAAPONLINE/

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 378-1690 / mark1343@juno.com / www.fadp.org.

Gainesville for All The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities. GNV4ALL@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/GNV4ALL

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 / Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com / www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization of Women focuses on six issues: reproductive rights; ending sex discrimination / constitutional equality; promoting diversity and ending racism; economic justice; stopping violence against women; lesbian rights including marriage equality. For NOW meeting info, contact Lisa@450-1912 / info@gainesvilleNOW.org / www.gainesvillenow.org.

Gainesville Peer Respite is a non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. A peer support warmline is available along with wellness activities and support groups over Zoom. Warm-Line: 559-4559 / business line: 278-0529 / www.gainesvillerespite.org

Gainesville Quakers work peacefully for social justice and share a way of life, rather than a

written set of beliefs. Values include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Request info on virtual worship on Zoom using the "contact us" link on website or call 372-1070 / www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com / https://gainesvillerollerrebels.com

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

Grow Radio, a non-profit podcast station provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of Gainesville community. 219-0145 / BRYSON66@gmail.com / http://growradio.org.

The Humanist Families of Gainesville aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children, based on members' interests. Facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville (leave a message).

Humanist Society of Gainesville are people who believe that the problems of the world can only be solved by responsible human actions based on rational analysis and decision-making free of dogma or the guidance of imaginary supreme beings. They meet to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist and agnostic social influences. gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com / www.gainesvillehumanists.org / www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on ensuring the restoration, preservation and protection of the ecosystems along the 5.5-mile length of the Ichetucknee River, including its associated springs. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday every other month via Zoom. 386-454-0415 / ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com / http://ichetuckneealliance.org/

Indivisible Gainesville seeks to build an inclusive community fostering diversity and encouraging citizen action, and to educate and inform the people of Florida's 3rd Congressional District in order to increase voter turnout and participation in the civic process. projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org / https://indivisiblegnv.org

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status. gainesvilleiww@gmail.com / https://iww.org

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who have fought since 1920 to improve our system of government and impact public policies such as fairness in districting, voting and elections, through citizen education and advocacy. info@lwv-alachua.org / http://www.lwvalachua.org

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join advocates who protect elders' rights in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes. Training and certification provided. 888-831-0404 / LTCOPInformer@elderaffairs.org / http://ombudsman.myflorida.com

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization working to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect. msfgainesville@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/MSFGainesville/

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 328-2511 / Facebook: MindFreedom Florida

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, and educating parents on responsible gun storage. For events in Alachua County, go to https://momsdemandaction.org/events/

Move to Amend, Gainesville is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. Contact Alachua County Green Party for information. www.facebook.com / MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL/

National Alliance on Mental Illness / Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders. 320-0457 (information) / 335-7770 (helpline) / www.namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to promote and preserve threatened programs for senior citizens and to keep seniors independent and productive. Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.com / http://www.ncpsm.org

National Lawyers Guild consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements. gainesvillennlg@gmail.com / www.nlg.org

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 / nwl@womensliberation.org / http://womensliberation.org

North Central Florida Association for Women In Science is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. ncfawis@gmail.com / https://sites.google.com/site/ncfawis

Occupy Gainesville is about engaging local

people in grassroots, participatory democracy, 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 world.
www.facebook.com/occupygainesville

Our Revolution North-Central Florida, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party.
contact@ourrevncfl.com
www.facebook.com/OurRevNCFL/

Our Santa Fe River is a non-profit composed of concerned citizens working to protect the waters and lands supporting the aquifer, springs and rivers within the watershed of the Santa Fe River.
386-243-0322 / <https://oursantaferiver.org>

PFLAG Gainesville is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm. Confidential helpline: 340-3770 / info@pflaggainesville.org / <http://pflaggainesville.org>

Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv / 377-0881
<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1150>

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery promotes natural burial practices that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. 352-317-7307 / info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org / prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org

Pride Awareness Month is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, to celebrate the history and identities of the LGBTQ+ community through events centering on marginalized sexualities and genders.
ufpridemonth@gmail.com / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1152> (Gator Connect)

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBTQ+ community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4.
3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv / 377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org

ty values every citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and believes that the best government comes through an open and respectful exchange of ideas. For info on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano @ 475-3012 / <https://www.putnamdems.org/index.php/>

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop /community center, diverts useful resources from the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Let's all help protect the planet and buy used. Check website or call for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv / 363-8902 / info@RepurposeProject.org / www.repurposeproject.org

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and provides services including mediation, communication skill building and

restorative justice. 234-6595 / info@centerforpeacebuilding.org • www.centerforpeacebuilding.org

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran @ 372-1095 / info@rwHP.org / www.rwHP.org

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops.
<http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties.
528-3751 / www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. 376-8600 / steve@gnvsistercities.org / <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county's unincorporated areas; it protects valuable wetlands. standbyourplan@gmail.com / <http://standbyourplan.org>

Student Animal Alliance UF-based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events.
<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1149>
facebook: student animal alliance/
instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org / <http://www.sfalliance.org/>
brett@sfalliance.org / <http://www.sfalliance.org/>
Facebook: Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. / sundayassembly32601@gmail.com
<http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter is the local chapter of Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter for email news, action alerts, meeting alerts at <https://www.climateRealityproject.org/apply/chapters>.
climateRealityprojectgnv@gmail.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/ClimateRealityProjectGainesvilleFlorida>
<https://climateRealityprojectgnv.wordpress.com/blog/>

UF College Democrats is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus.
407-580-4543 / president@ufdemocrats.org / www.ufcollegedemocrats.org / [Facebook.com/UFcollegedems](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

UF Pride Student Union is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities.
ufpridesu@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/ufpsu/

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. UFF's origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, and end racial discrimination at UF. 519-4130 / officemanager@uff-uf.org / www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Assn., Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them.
www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/
facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter/

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County.
332-4636 or simply 211 / uw211help@gmail.com
<http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/21>

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives.
375-2563 / <http://vfp Gainesville.org/>
www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/

Wayfaring Painter is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy through a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops.
www.facebook.com/wayfaringpainter

WELLS Healing and Research Collective explores and promotes the liberation and wellness of Brown, Trans, and Queer folk. WELLS stands for: wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality.
www.facebook.com/wellshrcollective/about

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC.
info@wgot.org / www.wgot.org

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has been promoting peace since 1915. Donate or join the at-large Jane Addams Branch. Local info: juned@stevellittler.com / <http://wilpfus.org>

Women's March Gainesville is an extension of the national group, and organizes the yearly Women's March to show our strength, power and courage. wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org / <https://m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/> / www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/ / [Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/) / [Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/](https://www.twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/)

World Socialist Party of the United States welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog – Devil take the hindmost world created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality at boston@wspus.org. / <http://wspus.org>. 🐉

UF GAU, UFF demand COVID-19 safety protocols

by Bryn Taylor, UF-Graduate Assistants
United Communications Chair

Almost 12,000 new students arrived on campus in late August with 32,329 active COVID-19 cases in Alachua County.

UF expected faculty, staff, and graduate assistants to teach in-person, full-capacity classes with no university policies to enforce any kind of health and safety protocol. GAU and UFF rallied outside Tigert Hall and listed the following demands:

1. Mask mandate on campus
2. Vaccination mandate on campus
3. First three weeks of classes online
4. Transparent reporting of campus COVID-19 cases

PhD candidate and GAU Co-President Rachel Hartnett spoke on her personal experience as a chronically ill worker at the university.

"I have several chronic health conditions, including Type 2 diabetes, which puts me at increased risk of serious illness due to COVID," she said.

"Diabetics are among the group of people for whom the FDA just approved vaccination boosters. Just yesterday, I learned that my ADA request to teach my fall course remotely had been denied by UF's Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity. I qualified for remote teaching last Spring, but now apparently do not because I am vaccinated. This is despite the fact that in spring, masks and social distancing were required, and the Delta variant has proven to be far more contagious than the original strain."

She cited the fact that while 95 percent of people hospitalized with COVID are unvaccinated, the other 5 percent consists primarily of people with chronic conditions that weaken the immune system's response to the vaccine.

Many faculty members and graduate assistants are terrified that, due to the lack of necessary safety protections, this disease will render them seriously ill, hospitalized, or dead.

UF has claimed that the decision to mandate masks and social distancing is out of their hands. While this may be true, the decision to protect their most vulnerable faculty, staff, and students is not. Those with chronic conditions that place them at increased risk of serious illness due to

See DEMANDS, p.18



GAU co-presidents Meredith Miska and Rachel Hartnett read the demands drafted by the University of Florida chapters of United Faculty of Florida (UFF) and Graduate Assistants United (GAU). Photo courtesy of UF GAU.

Covid denial on the Left

by Ted Glick, from Aug. 27 Facebook

The Delta variant of Covid-19, combined with regrettable anti-vaccine sentiment, has dramatically escalated the number of Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the US and around the world. The overwhelming majority in the US – over 99 percent in one scientific study – of those hospitalized and dying are those who have not been vaccinated. And unfortunately, there continue to be progressives who deny the importance of the vaccine to the goal of ultimately suppressing, if not defeating, the virus. They are Covid deniers.

It's difficult to be patient with the Covid deniers I know who have spent years of their lives advocating and working for a very different world, a much better one, than the corporate-dominated one we are living in today. On this issue, despite the 620,000 deaths in the US and over 4.2 million deaths in the world caused by it so far, with more to come, they act and speak as if those deaths and the massive suffering caused by the virus are essentially the result of a conspiracy.

It is particularly outrageous when people like Gary Null and Robert Kennedy actively encourage people to distrust the vaccine, the vaccine that is THE reason the number of deaths per day in the USA went from over 3,000 in December of 2020 to a few hundred as of this June once the vaccine was widely available and incompetent Trump was replaced

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