



The Gainesville Iguana

April 2012
Vol. 26, Issue 4

They censor, We expose

On March 12, the Gainesville Sun published an editorial note stating it decided not to publish that week's installment of the Doonesbury comic strip in its print editions due to "insensitive language."

That week's series focused on recently passed Virginia and Texas laws requiring women to receive an ultrasound probe prior to a first-trimester abortion. Opponents of the procedure have compared it to state-sanctioned rape.

The Sun wasn't the only newspaper that chose not to run the series. About 70 papers throughout the country pulled Doonesbury, and an additional 20 or so moved the series off of the comics page to the editorial page or ran only some of the strips, says the editor of the Daily Cartoonist.

The majority of the approximately 2,000 newspapers that carry Doonesbury did run the strips; the Sun offered to email copies of the strips to readers upon request.

Because you couldn't get it there, we're printing it here. See more Doonesbury comics at www.doonesbury.com.



Protesters march from the University of Florida campus to the Gainesville FBI office on March 26, demanding justice for Trayvon Martin. Photo by Michela Martinazzi.

Bigger than Trayvon Martin

By Jessica Newman
with a reprint from Mother Jones

The killing of Trayvon Martin in February in Sanford, Fla. inflamed national outrage, leading to hundreds of protests around the country.

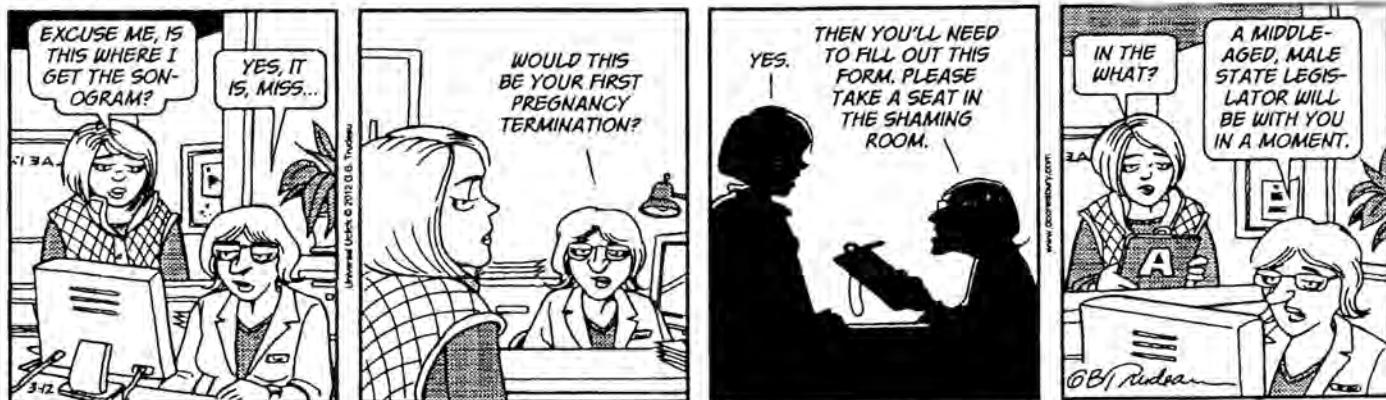
Martin's death sheds light on a distressing reality for Americans: racism is not dead.

Martin's case is not an anomaly, as we've seen with the recent hate crime related deaths of Shaima Alawadi (the California Muslim woman beaten to death in her apartment and left with a note saying "go back to your country, you terrorist"), Kenneth Chamberlain (the White Plains, NY 68-year-old, African American veteran tasered, shot and killed by police in his apartment while unarmed and in his boxers) and others.

INSIDE ...

CMC celebrates SpringBoard4
Our picks for upcoming elections5
Upcoming documentaries7
Directory10-11
Calendar12-13
Mr. Econ14
Civic Media Center Events15
Radio Programming20

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Workers' Memorial Day, May Day

By Robbie Czopek

The Federation of Organized Trade and Labour Unions in 1884 proclaimed that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." On May 1, 1886, in the United States, 300,000 workers walked off their jobs from 13,000 businesses to demand the 8-hour workday. Most of the world's workers celebrate May 1 as May Day or International Workers' Day in remembrance of this. However, the United States government chose an arbitrary date in September to celebrate Labor Day in order to distance workers from the holiday's significance. (www.iww.org/en/projects/mayday/origins.shtml)

The Gainesville Area General Membership Branch of Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is working with other labor, progressive, and radical groups to bring Gainesville a fantastic May Day Celebration. The groups include the North Central Florida AFL-CIO, Gainesville International Socialist Organization, Gainesville Food Not Bombs, Alachua County Labor Party and Occupy Gainesville. At this time, we are in the process of reaching out to other local groups. If your group has not been contacted, you can reach the Gainesville May Day Planning Committee at gville.mayday.2012@gmail.com or stop by our weekly planning meetings, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sun Center behind Maude's Cafe. For more information, go to gainesvillemayday.tumblr.com.

As a precursor to May Day, the Gainesville IWW will be sponsoring

See WORKERS p. 5

From the publisher ...

This spot will be a regular column going forward, and as with last month, I will first address subscription support. We need it; this paper is produced with volunteer labor; all the money that comes in goes to its printing and distribution.

If you're one of our readers who picks up free, it is the subscribers and advertisers who make that possible (please patronize and thank!!). Please consider a donation and help offset that burden, even if you do not want it mailed to you. Think of this as an eventless fund-raiser ... you make your donation, but then you don't have to go anywhere!

To our loyal subscribers: if you got this in the mail and are due to renew, you should find a stamped and addressed envelope to reply. If you can't afford the \$15 request, less is okay. If you can do more, great.

Here is the reality of our little operation. The printing of 4,500 copies is about \$750.00. The mailing to you all is approx \$350.

That is about \$1,100 per issue, and we do it 8 or 9 times a year. Our core staff of Jessica, Beth, Pierce and myself donate many hours. We all believe a tangible paper you can hold in your hands, put in your bathroom, hang on your fridge, whatever you do at home, or one you can pick up while ordering a meal, or read on the bus, or in a waiting room, has value that a purely electronic publication does not have. Let's keep this going.

There are now with the Internet endless sources of information. Each month we try and present a range of interesting and useful articles. Mother Jones, Common Dreams and DemocracyNow are sampled this month, and issues of corporate power and systemic oppression come to light from different angles. There are also events and activities to plug into. And of course, the censored Doonesbury. We'll be out again in mid-May for a May/June edition. Talk to

- Joe Courter 



Coming next month

- A return of the popular Oral History Series from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida (www.history.uf.edu/oral/) Readers may submit topics of interest to the Iguana. For more information on the program, which houses over 5,000 interviews, visit www.history.ufl.edu/oral/ or call 352-392-7168 to tell your story.
- An in-depth feature on the new owners of the Gainesville Sun, the Halifax Media Holdings, and the history of the arch-conservative Arkansas billionaire behind the group, by Emilio Bruna and Jack Price. 

Labor Notes
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(written or financial) are welcome. To
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Kimberly Hunter (left) and Katie Walter (right) receive the John A. Penrod "Brigadas" Award for Peace and Justice from Joe Courter at the Civic Media Center's SpringBoard event on March 30. Photos by Jessica Newman.

CMC celebrates SpringBoard, Penrod Awards presented

By Joe Courter

Every spring, the Civic Media Center holds its "SpringBoard" fundraiser. From its early beginnings, it was a house party at Board member Paula Stahmer's until it outgrew the house and neighborhood, and a new home was found at the beautiful Matheson Museum.

This year's SpringBoard was on March 30, and it was a rousing success, with abundant food, very popular raffle items and a solid silent auction. The CMC gave awards to six productive CMC volunteers and a surprise award to soon-to-be-stepping-down co-coordinator James Schmidt.

The featured speaker was Rob Lorei, the news director at Tampa's fine community radio station WMNF. He addressed the issue of the new forces at hand in our media and the need for citizens to be active in helping document and spread information through the Internet and social media. He also spoke of how, even though many of us are frustrated with the middle of the road migration of NPR and PBS, they still need support, even while being pressured to do better.

As of last year, the Jack Penrod Committee

joined the event with its own award presentation as part of the SpringBoard, honoring a local, young activist with the John A. Penrod "Brigadas" Award for Peace and Justice. The Penrod Committee grew out of the inspiration of Gainesville Veterans for Peace, the Alachua County Labor Party and United Faculty of Florida to honor the life of John "Jack" A. Penrod. Jack worked with the Congress of Industrial Organizations and helped organize the first faculty union at UF, United Faculty of Florida. He was a member of Veterans for Peace and a vocal opponent of the Iraq War; he helped found the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, worked closely with the National Organization for Women and Gainesville Women's Liberation, and also dedicated time to the Alachua County Labor Party.

This year's two awardees both had CMC ties, Kimberly Hunter and Katie Walters, and each received a \$1,000 check along with a plaque honoring their work for social justice. Katie, 26, first became involved in social justice work as a student through the UF Campus National Organization for Women and Gainesville Women's Liberation. She formerly worked as a coordinator at the CMC and currently is a committed organizer with the International

Socialist Organization. Kimberly, 25, is a dedicated organizer for national health care with the Alachua County Labor Party and a former volunteer with the CMC. As the co-founder of the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Hunter educates and connects local congregations with national immigrants' rights movements, like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

The Civic Media Center would like to thank the Matheson Museum for co-sponsoring and hosting the SpringBoard event March 30, and the Jack Penrod Committee organizations for helping turn out a great crowd. The people and businesses listed below all contributed food or raffle and auction items, for which the CMC is very grateful. And thanks to all who came out and supported this annual event.

- East End Eatery/Elegant Events/Sandra Carlisi
- Rosie's Organic Farms
- Mother's Pub
- Gyro Plus
- Wine & Cheese Gallery
- Sweet Water Coffee
- Civilization
- Cafe C
- Ward's Supermarket
- Food Not Bombs

See SPRINGBOARD p. 5

Important Upcoming Elections

Iguana supports Byerly, Hutch, Chestnut, Wheeler

By Joe Courter

As we look forward to the elections season this year, it is obvious that big money is flexing its muscle. In the presidential race, Romney (or "R.money") has simply buried his opponents with his huge war chest and all the negative campaigning that large money permits - the ads, the robo-calls, the opinion research and push polls.

Well, get ready Alachua County. The Republican Party is gonna be trying to buy seats on the County Commission. Even though the qualifying period isn't until early June, they have their high-funded candidates picked out, and they are piling up the money.

In District One, incumbent Mike Byerly's seat, Brandon C. Kutner already has \$11,000. In District Three, which pro-science environmentalist Robert Hutchinson will be running for, the R's have Jean Calderwood with \$13,000. And then in District Five, local developer's son Dean Cheshire already has \$25,000!

And this is before the April 10 reporting period information comes in; all this money came in before February. The Supervisor of Elections site, elections.alachua.fl.us, is very handy to use to follow the money flow.

That is not to say the Dems won't raise some serious money, but from where and what increments is significant to study.

There will be primary elections to thin the field down on Aug. 14. The main election is, of course, Nov. 6.

It is not too early to volunteer and get the word out about the good candidates. We'd suggest in Alachua County support for Byerly, Hutch and Chuck Chestnut.

One other candidate needs a mention. Maryhelen Wheeler will (as of now) face Clovis Watson in a Democratic Party primary on Aug. 14 for the District 20 Florida House of Representatives seat. She is a newcomer to electoral politics, but a woman of great experience in education issues, trying to get things done in Tallahassee as an advocate for our schools.

Watson has a record of questionable conduct from his time in the City of Alachua, and at one point renounced the Democrats and very publicly joined the Republican Party. Now, supposedly, he is back to being a Democrat. Please support Wheeler.

Again, the supervisor of election site has contact info for the candidates. If you've got time, do what you can. ☕



Filling Empty Bowls

The Bread of the Mighty Food Bank is sponsoring a-fundraising event to raise awareness of hunger issues in north central Florida and the role the food bank plays in abating hunger in the community. Proceeds will raise funds to cover day-to-day operations of the food bank, which provides services to people in Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette and Levy counties.

The event, Empty Bowls, will take place on Thursday, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church at 4000 NW 53rd Avenue in Gainesville.

Art classes from local schools made the unique bowls by hand to be used for the luncheon, and works by local artists and celebrities will be sold through silent auction. School choirs will provide entertainment.

Individual tickets are \$20 and cover lunch and one handcrafted bowl. Non-profit reserved tables for eight are available for \$250. Reserved corporate tables are available for \$500. For more information on the event, visit Bread of the Mighty's website at www.breadofthemighty.org. ☕

SPRINGBOARD from p. 4

- Abby Goldsmith
- Danny Zabowski
- Sweet Dreams
- John Moran
- Arnold Mesches
- Wild Iris
- Alternative's Global Market
- Citizen's Co-Op
- The Midnight
- Cafe Colette
- Cognito Farms
- The Floridian
- The Bunnery
- Pizzalley's
- Frank Morejohn
- Tasty Buddha
- Dragonfly Sushi & Sake Co.
- Flash Backs Cafe
- Harvest Thyme
- Tim's Thai
- Bella Donna's
- Hippodrome
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Stetson Kennedy Foundation
- Earth Pets
- Woody Blue
- Sylvia Arnold
- Acrosstown Repertory Theater
- Emily Sparr
- Illegal Jam Company
- Dick Beardsley
- Karen Eberly
- Possum Hollow Farms
- Amanda Adams
- Emiliano's Cafe
- Hector's Frameshop
- The Tempeh Shop
- Gaby Gross
- Kimberly Hunter
- Sequential Artists Workshop
- The Illegal Jam Company
- Jack Price ☕

WORKERS from p. 2

A Workers' Memorial Day event at the CMC at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. Workers' Memorial Day takes place each year on April 28 and is an international day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled or injured through work. The event will include a reading of names of workers killed on the job in Florida in the last year, followed by the film "An Injury to One," which chronicles the death of Frank Little, an IWW organizer killed in Montana for his organizing of the miners and his opposition to World War I. A short agit prop skit will pump folks up for May Day.

This year's May Day is Tuesday, May 1. The festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with a rally at the corner of W. University Ave. and 13th St. At 5 p.m., we will march, led by the Radical Cheerleaders, to the Bo Diddley Community Plaza. Festivities at the Plaza will last from 6 to 9 p.m. Speakers from local progressive and radical groups will be interspersed with musical performances of Gainesville musicians. Gainesville Food Not Bombs will share free vegetarian food, and folks may also buy food from local vendors. The family-friendly event will include information about upcoming campaigns and activities and include a kids' corner. ☕

Seven Preposterous, Persistent Conservative Myths

By Paul Buchheit

This article was originally published by Common Dreams on April 2 at www.commondreams.org.

With the mainstream media in the hands of the mostly conservative wealthy, it's difficult for average Americans to learn the truth about critical issues. The following five conservative claims are examples of mythical beliefs that fall apart in the presence of inconvenient facts:

1. Entitlements are the Problem

Beyond the fact that we're "entitled" to Social Security and Medicare because we pay for them, these two government-run programs have been largely self-sustaining while supporting the needs of millions of Americans.

Medicare is much less costly than private health care. Social Security, which functions with a surplus, would not be in danger of a long-term shortfall if the richest 10 percent (those making over the \$106,800 cutoff) paid their full share.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently reported that 91 percent of entitlements go to the elderly or disabled, or to members of working households needing supplemental assistance. Only 9 percent of entitlement dollars go to non-working but employable individuals, and most of that is for medical care, unemployment, and survivor benefits.

2. Charter Schools are the Answer

Free-market adherents have a lot of people believing that the public school system needs to be "saved" by charter schools. That belief is not supported by the facts. A Stanford University study "reveals in unmistakable terms that, in

the aggregate, charter students are not faring as well as their traditional public school counterparts."

A Department of Education study found that "On average, charter middle schools that hold lotteries are neither more nor less successful than traditional public schools in improving student achievement, behavior, and school progress."

Charter schools also take money away from the public system. For example, the Los Angeles Unified School District loses nearly \$7,000 in state money for each student who transfers to a charter. In Florida, the entire \$55 million budgeted in 2011 for school maintenance went to charters. Governors in several states plan to direct money to schools that serve upper-middle-income families.

Furthermore, charter school teachers have fewer years of experience and a higher turnover rate, and according to one study were less likely to be certified.

Perhaps most damning are studies by the University of Colorado and UCLA, which found that some charter schools segregate students by race and income. Said researcher Gary Miron of Western Michigan University, "Parents are selecting schools where their child will experience less diversity."

3. Corporate Taxes Are Too High

This one is easy. The facts can be found in U.S. Office of Management (OMB) figures, which show a gradual drop over the years in Corporate Income Tax as a Share of GDP, from 4 percent in the 1960s to 2 percent in the 1990s to 1.3 percent in 2010. That's one-third of what it used to be.

Also coming from the OMB is the per-

cent of Total Tax Revenue derived from corporate taxes. The corporate share has dropped from about 20 percent in the 1960s to under 9 percent in 2010.

Finally, in a U.S. Treasury report of global competitiveness, it is revealed that U.S. corporations paid only 13.4 percent of their profits in taxes between 2000 and 2005, compared to the OECD average of 16.1 percent. A similar PayUpNow.org analysis of 100 of the largest U.S. companies found that less than 10 percent of pre-tax profits in 2010 were paid in non-deferred U.S. federal income taxes.

Corporate tax avoidance is rampant at the state level, too. A new study by Citizens for Tax Justice, which evaluated 265 large companies, determined that an average of 3 percent was paid in state taxes, less than half the average state tax rate of 6.2 percent.

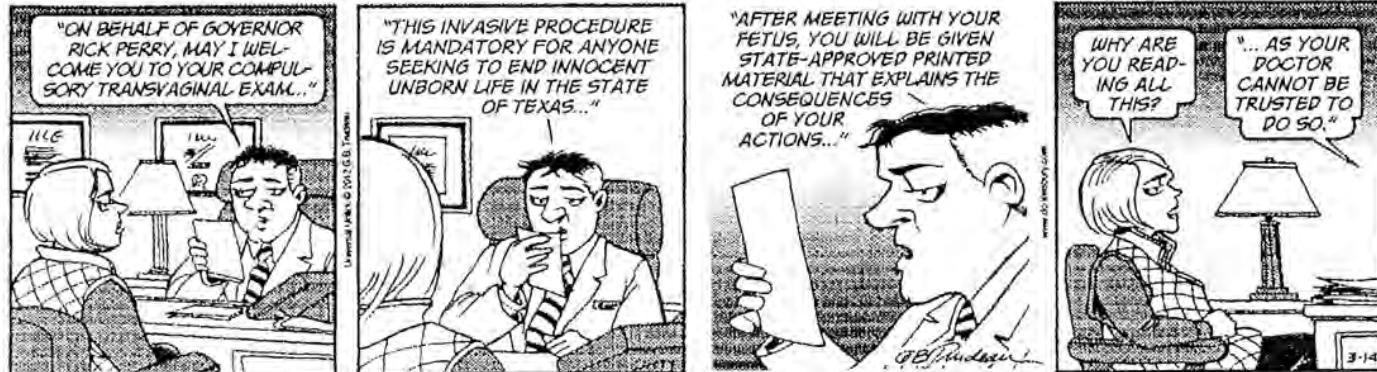
4. Jim Crow is Dead

Even though white Americans are the nation's most frequent drug users and dealers, the people in jail for these offenses are overwhelmingly black. In some states, African Americans make up 80-90 percent of all drug offenders sent to prison.

As a nation, we lead the world in rates of imprisonment, and drug offenses have accounted for two-thirds of the increase in federal inmates.

Once drug users are in prison, they're stigmatized for life. As stated by Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow," "Rather than rely on race, we use our criminal justice system to label people of color 'criminals' and then engage in all the practices we supposedly left behind ... Once you're labeled a felon, the old forms of discrimination – employ-

DOONESBURY/ Gary Trudeau



ment discrimination, housing discrimination, denial of the right to vote, and exclusion from jury service - are suddenly legal. As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow."

5. Poverty Is Declining Everywhere

There's something disturbing about World Bank researchers using mathematical functions to determine who's living in poverty. But free-market fanatic The Economist liked the results, proclaiming that "poverty is declining everywhere."

That's easy to say when the World Bank gets to set its own poverty threshold, at \$1.25 per day. The organization admits there was little change in the number of people living below \$2 per day between 1981 and 2008. And almost half the world lives on less than \$3 a day.

Another fact is that the rapid growth of China accounts for most of the global poverty changes. China is where hundreds of millions of starry-eyed young people went from zero income on the farms to a few dollars a day under oppressive factory working conditions. The GDP may show a decline in poverty, but a "quality of life" index wouldn't make that mistake.

6 and 7. Evolution and Global Warming Don't Exist.

These are just too preposterous for words.

Progressive activists continue to work toward the day when poverty is down everywhere, and minorities receive equal treatment, and education is properly funded, and tax subsidies rather than entitlements are minimized. But that day is being delayed by make-believe messages from the American conservative. ↗

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Upcoming documentaries

"All's Well and Fair"

Film about alternative Gainesville mothers

By Film Crew

The Good Hard Working People production "All's Well and Fair" will have its world premiere on Wednesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at The Top Secret Space at 22 N. Main St. in Gainesville. The film's director, Luci Westphal, and the film's participants, Rachel Iannelli, Margaret Briggs and their children, are scheduled to attend.

The 90-minute documentary juxtaposes the lives and ideals of three single punk rock mothers on welfare during the 1990s with their realities and opinions 10 years later, giving a unique perspective on alternative culture, growth and identity.

In 1996, single welfare mothers Rachel Guinan (now Iannelli), Margaret Briggs and Tina Bushnell formed a band only to play one song at a local "F*** The Government" song contest. And they won.

Inspired by the spirit of the song, filmmaker Luci Westphal documented the women's lives and their views on the different subjects mentioned in their lyrics.

10 years later, filming continued with the women discussing the same topics again – now homeowners in their 30s with teenage children and other major life changes.

Juxtaposing the 1996 and "Today" perspectives on each theme explores how much their opinions and lifestyles have changed over 10 years and how that influenced their children. The film inspires the audience not only to contemplate the subjects and the women's lives, but their own "growing up." ↗

"The Invisible War"

Rape epidemic in the U.S. military

Information provided by invisiblewarmovie.com

From Oscar- and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Kirby Dick comes "The Invisible War," a groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of America's most shameful and best kept secrets: the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military. Gainesville Veterans for Peace has teamed up with the Hippodrome State Theatre to show "The Invisible War" on Tuesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. Gainesville Area NOW (National Organization for Women), National Women's Liberation (Gainesville Chapter) and the Hippodrome Cinema are co-sponsors of the event.

The film paints a startling picture of the extent of the problem. Today, a female soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. The number of assaults in the last decade is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands.

Focusing on the powerful stories of multiple rape victims, "The Invisible War" is a moving indictment of the systemic cover-up of military sex crimes, chronicling the women's struggles to rebuild their lives and fight for justice. It also features hard-hitting interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of Congress that reveal the perfect storm of conditions that exist for rape in the military, its long-hidden history, and what can be done to bring about much-

See INVISIBLE WAR p. 17

Whistleblower Wendell Potter on single-payer health care

Last month, the Supreme Court heard three days of oral arguments in a historic session on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, the landmark healthcare reform bill signed by President Obama. Conservative judges sharply questioned whether the U.S. government has the power to penalize Americans who have no medical coverage, an issue at the heart of so-called "Obamacare." The individual mandate requires most people to buy health insurance by 2014 or pay a tax penalty.

What follows is an excerpt from a Democracy Now! interview on March 28, the final day of oral arguments. See the full video, transcript and other Democracy Now! episodes at www.democracynow.org.

AMY GOODMAN: To talk more about the debate and what's happening in the Supreme Court, we're joined by Wendell Potter, former spokesperson for CIGNA and Humana Insurance, now turned whistleblower... He's the author of "Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company Insider Speaks Out on How Corporate PR is Killing Health Care and Deceiving Americans."

Wendell Potter, welcome back to Democracy Now! ...

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Can you explain why the individual mandate is as controversial as it is?

WENDELL POTTER: Because this whole issue became very political. As you know, the idea of an individual mandate actually is a conservative idea. It can be traced back to a proposal that came out of the Heritage Foundation in the 1990s

in response to the Clinton healthcare reform plan. So you would think that the Republicans would embrace this. In fact, I think the President felt that he could get bipartisan support in Congress if he did go along with it. He was lobbied very heavily by the insurance industry, as was Congress. But there are a lot of people who don't like Barack Obama. And the people I saw outside of the court yesterday were people who I think would not vote for Barack Obama under any circumstances. They see this as a political issue, as a way to try to turn people away from the President, not just the reform act ...

SHAIKH: Well, one of the criticisms that's been leveled against it has to do with its cost. You've talked elsewhere about how—well, first of all, the U.S. has one of the most expensive healthcare systems in the world, and certainly more than most advanced, or if not all advanced, economies. Can you say a little about how you suggest healthcare costs in the U.S. can be cut and how the Affordable Care Act either fails or succeeds in fulfilling some of the things that you've pointed to, some of the measures that could be taken?

POTTER: The Affordable Care Act would bring down the deficit. It would curtail government spending. One of the things that is necessary to control healthcare spending is to bring more people into coverage, and the Affordable Care Act would do that by expanding Medicaid and to provide subsidies to many millions of others who are not eligible for a public plan ...

But it's not—the Affordable Care Act, in my view, is a start; it is not what we ultimately need. It doesn't bring everyone

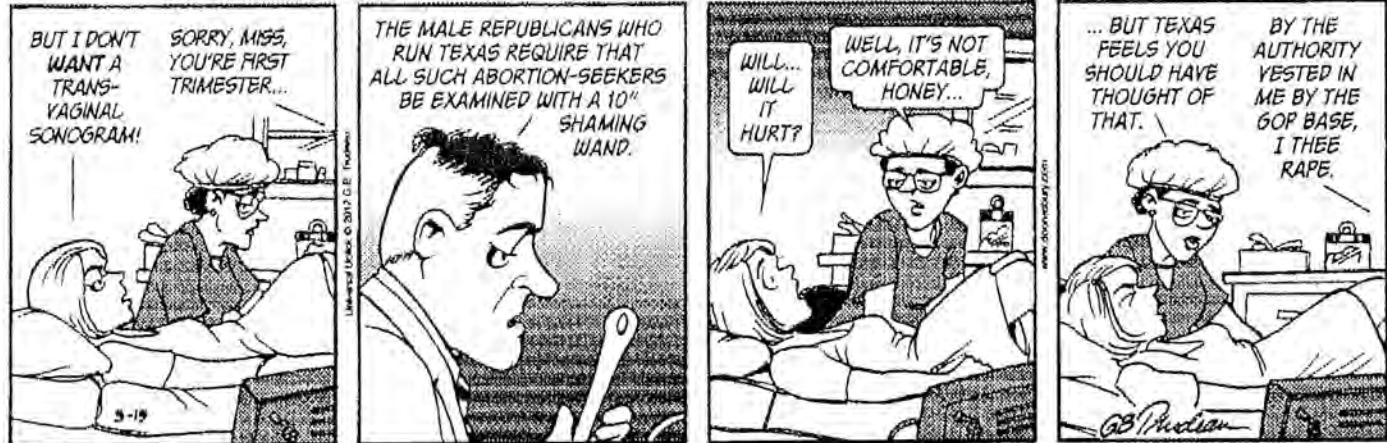
into coverage, even with the individual mandate. There are people who could be exempted from that requirement, many millions of people who could be. In fact, it's only estimated that about 30 million of the 50 million uninsured would be brought into coverage, if the Affordable Care Act does go forward. We eventually have to get the for-profit insurance companies out of providing coverage, and we need to move toward a system or systems like in the other developed countries, that don't permit for-profit companies to run their healthcare systems. And there are states that are looking at single payer. Vermont, in particular, has already passed a bill that would establish a single-payer system in Vermont. And I think there will be a growing recognition that that is probably the ultimate way to control cost and to bring everybody into coverage ...

SHAIKH: So how significant is it, in fact, that this debate is taking place in an election year?

POTTER: Very, very significant that it's taking place in this election year. I think that it will—regardless of what the decision is, it will—it will inspire those who don't like the President, who don't like the healthcare law, to be more involved in the campaign. I think, frankly, though, if it's declared unconstitutional, those who support the President, those who are—have long advocated for healthcare reform, will be outraged and especially inspired to get out and to try to elect progressives and Democrats to Congress and re-elect the President ...

GOODMAN: On Tuesday, I asked Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, who is co-

DOONESURY/ Gary Trudeau



founder of Physicians for a National Health Program, what she would think if the Supreme Court were to reject the individual mandate as unconstitutional.

DR. STEFFIE WOOLHANDLER: The individual mandate is a very, very bad idea. The good parts of the bill are things like a Medicaid expansion, which does not require an individual mandate, some regulations on the insurance industry, which does not require a mandate. All of those could have been done without the mandate. The problem with the mandate is its telling people that they have to turn over their money to the private health insurance industry. There's also \$447 billion in taxpayer money that is going to be turned over to the private health insurance industry, the very industry that's responsible for \$380 billion in wasted healthcare dollars on bureaucracy and paperwork ...

GOODMAN: Wendell Potter, you were

a spokesperson for the major insurance companies, both CIGNA as well as Humana. You have turned against them. You talk about how they've corrupted the political process, not to mention prevented Americans from getting healthcare. What do you say to Dr. Steffie Woolhandler?

POTTER: Well, I agree with much of what she said, but we live in a political world, and it would not have been possible for Congress to have passed this law, a reform law, without the individual mandate. The regulations, any regulations on the insurance industry, the requirements that they now have to or soon will have to sell coverage to everyone regardless of their health status and their health history, and some of the other very consumer-friendly aspects of the Affordable Care Act just would not have happened without the individual mandate. The reality is that the insurance industry is incredibly powerful in Washington. And they—President Obama, when he was a candidate, did not embrace the individual mandate. In

fact, he said that he didn't think it was appropriate for us to require people to buy coverage if they can't afford it. He also was a strong advocate of the public option. But the insurance industry's lobbyists were so influential that he came around to supporting the individual mandate. And as we know—

GOODMAN: And now, as Dr. Woolhandler says, they're forcing every American to give even more money to the ever powerful insurance industry.

POTTER: It will be—it will have that effect. They will get a new revenue stream, and they will get profits that will—that they wouldn't have had before, as a consequence of it. And that—to that extent, there's no doubt it's true. But nothing could have passed Congress without that individual mandate. What we ultimately have to do in this country is figure out how can we reduce the power of these special interests. And we've got—that's the ultimate work that we've got to do. ☀

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Alachua County Labor Party meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Annual memberships are \$20/year. Please contact us to join or for the most updated info:

FloridaLaborParty.org ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org, 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave, Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Committee for a Civilian Police Review Board Group that demands the creation of a citizens' police review board to fight against the pattern of corruption, arrogance, bias and violence displayed by some members of the Gainesville Police Department. gvillepolicereview@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Books for Prisoners is a D.I.Y. prisoner support group. We are an all-volunteer, not-for-profit collective that maintains a small library, housed in the back of Wayward Council, to match books with requests from incarcerated persons in Florida. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillebooksforprisoners@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/#/groups/219545091407216/

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

Gainesville Food Not Bombs is the local chapter of a loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals, made from local surplus, with all who are hungry. Meals are at 3 p.m. every Saturday at Bo Diddley Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11am.

Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. www.facebook.com/#/groups/143660782367621/

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets biweekly to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy and action. gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com or www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville Women's Liberation The first women's liberation group in the South, formed in 1968, the organization is now part of National Women's Liberation. WomensLiberation.org

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

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

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

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

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

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 7 p.m.. GainesvilleIWW@riseup.net. www.gainesvilleiww.org

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice Organizing faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 p.m. at La Casita 1504 W. University Ave. (across from Library) GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-215-4255 or 352-377-6577

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

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

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Special training and certification is provided. Interested individuals should call toll-free (888) 831-0404 or visit the program's Web site at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

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

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

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

National Organization for Women Gainesville Area www.gainesvillenow.org.. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912. NOW information, contact Laura Bresko 352-332-2528.

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

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

at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org.

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

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides innovative ways to resolve conflict in Gainesville and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. www.cemterforpeacebuilding.org. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

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

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

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

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

Students for a Democratic Society Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in our schools and communities. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall 32 on the UF campus.

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

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

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

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

Wayward Council is a not-for-profit, volunteer- and collectively run record store, all-ages show space, infoshop, and community center. Volunteer meetings are every Sunday at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. 807 W. University Ave. 352-335-0800. wayward-council@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/#/groups/55568725618/

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



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

Gainesville's Progressive Community Radio Station

WGOT is on the air:

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon, Wed, Fri: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 5 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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

WGOT-LP is now streaming using Shoutcast. We are currently only streaming during our on-air schedule but are considering coming up with an off-air schedule to extend our reach. You can find the WGOT stream under the Shoutcast directory. To listen from your iOS, Android, or Blackberry mobile device, you can use any radio streaming apps such

as Tune In. We are now listed in iTunes Radio under the Eclectic category. Direct feed at www.wgot.org/listen/. 94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car. Questions? Comments? E-mail us at info@wgot.org.

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Hi Mr. Econ,

Why are our gas prices at a gas station tied to the speculative stock market? When did that happen and why?

Judy Etzler

Dear Judy,

This is a great question, especially in light of current circumstances here in the U.S. Gasoline consumption is down; at the same time, gasoline production in the U.S. is reaching record levels. Classical economics tells us gas prices should be falling. However, with gas prices at the pump reaching \$4 per gallon and presidential candidates spouting all sorts of nonsense, who knows what to believe?

Mr. Econ decided to call on a long-time friend and expert in this field to help him answer this question. Dr. Cyrus Bina of the University of Minnesota-Morris is a recognized expert on the economics and geo-politics of oil, and is the author of "The Economics of the Oil Crisis, and most recently, "Oil: A Time Machine – Journey Beyond Fanciful Economics and Frightful Politics." Dr. Bina has helped us all understand this very intricate subject. However, Mr. Econ takes full responsibility for his answers.

First, we must consider that the price of crude oil that goes into motor fuels represents only about 40 to 50 percent of the cost of gasoline at the pump. In addition to motor fuels, there are many more and larger demands for products

made from crude oil, like everything made of plastic or fiberglass and agricultural chemicals from pesticides to fertilizers. Manufacturers of these products and large oil users, like airlines, purchase massive quantities of refined oil by long-term contract in order to insure the supply they need to satisfy their customers and hopefully, by purchasing early, a lower price.

Recently, the role of speculators has been put forward as a major cause in rising gas prices. Everyone from President Obama to Congress to even the investment firm Goldman Sachs has declared that speculators have driven up the price of gasoline at the pump anywhere from about \$0.45 per gallon (Federal Reserve study) to \$0.70 per gallon (Goldman Sachs).

Until recently, those companies that use some form of oil to produce their products held the vast majority of long-term oil contracts. With recent political and economic events, that has changed to where "speculators" now hold at least 50 percent of the long-term oil contracts. The reason for this shift is pretty complex but has a lot to do with what is going on around the world.

Usually Saudi Arabia serves as sort of a balancing force for the price of oil. If prices began to rise, the Saudis would increase production. As prices rose about a year ago, though, Saudi Arabia did not increase production. Instead, they held production steady or may have even slashed production. No one really knows for sure, as the Saudis don't make their exact production figures public. In effect, the Saudis have become speculators themselves, believing that by withholding oil from the market, they will be able to sell it for more at a future date.

Iranian oil has been pulled out of some sectors of the oil market due to the controversy surrounding that country's recent nuclear exploits. The threat of war or some sort of military action over Iranian nuclear policy has everyone a little edgy. Hence, people are worried about what might happen to this critical source of oil and oil coming from this region

of the world in general.

Another factor is world demand. For example, China went from a net exporter of oil to a net importer of oil in the 1990s. This didn't have a large effect, as their imports weren't that large. Today, China imports 3.7 million barrels of oil per day, making it the third largest oil user in the world. Hence, it now has the ability to affect oil market prices.

Then there is the cost of refining the crude oil. Refineries need maintenance, so every so often some of the oil refineries get shut down. Also, because of seasonal demands and season blends of gasoline mandated in order to satisfy public policy like the Clean Air Act, refineries are shut down to affect the switchover in refining processes. This limits the amount of gasoline available.

Because of all of these factors, price gouging cannot be ruled out. Gasoline is a commodity people need and for which most people are very willing to pay just about any price. Hence, any classical economic notion of perfect competition in the market place is just a theory or a dream, and by no means reflects reality.

Finally, there are elements in fuel prices like taxes and minimum mark-up laws.

Combining all of these factors, the price of gasoline at the pump is "de-coupled" from the price of crude oil we often hear quoted on the nightly news. In the current case, we see that the price of gas is being affected by, among other things, real or imagined nuclear weapons. Even a Wall Street speculator, Goldman Sachs, is admitting to about \$0.70 per gallon of price gouging. If that's what they are willing to admit to, Mr. Econ has to ask what the number really is.

See more details about gas prices, including a detailed pie chart showing where the \$4 per gallon goes, at gainesvilleiguana.org

Ask Mr. Econ asks readers to submit their tough questions about the economy and financial systems to gainesvilleiguana@cox.net.

DOONESBURY / Gary Trudeau



Civic Media Center Events - April 2012

- Every Thursday** Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 p.m.; Poetry Jam, 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/11:** Queer Reading Group, "Straight to Jesus: Sexual and Christian Conversions in the Ex-Gay Movement," 7 p.m.
- Friday, 4/13:** GHS Roots and Shoots Open Mic Fundraiser, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/14:** Acoustic Music Show w/ W'all, Kathleen Taylor, others TBA, 9 p.m.
- Sunday, 4/15:** Zine Workday, 3 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, 4/16:** "Save The Last Mountain" a documentary on the Appalachian coal industry w/ guest Kathy Selvage, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, 4/17:** "The Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War" film screening, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/18:** Anarchademics radical theory reading and discussion group. Group will meet at Display this month, 7 p.m.
"Precious Knowledge," a documentary on a Tucson Mexican American Studies program struggle, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 4/19:** Icarus Project meeting, 7 p.m.
Green Party meeting, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/21:** CMC Tabling at Vinyl Fest 2-5 p.m., CMC Benefit Show 8:30 p.m. to midnight, both at The Boca Fiesta Backyard, next to the Hipp. Music features Ian Dunlap w/Mick Marino (Dunlap toured with Gram Parsons), HR Gertner, Company Man.
- Sunday, 4/22:** Essential Afrikan History Workshop, 3 p.m.
WGOT meeting, 6 p.m.
- Monday, 4/23:** "Earth Days" a documentary on growing understanding of the environmental crisis during the 1960s and '70s, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, 4/24:** Food Not Bombs Dinner and a Movie, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/25:** International Relations: Cyber Security, a Great Discussions video & talk, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 4/26:** Book talk on "A Wizard of Earthsea" by Ursula Le Guin w/ facilitator Librarian Travis Fristoe. This event is part of the Big Read, an endeavor between the NEA & libraries to promote literacy, 7-9 p.m.
- Friday, 4/27:** Art Walk, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/28:** Worker's Memorial Day event, memorial for Florida workers injured or killed on the job and a viewing of "An Injury to One" documentary on the death of Frank Little, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, 5/2:** "The Iron Wall," a documentary about the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 5/3:** Icarus Project meeting, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 5/5:** Book Sale
- Monday, 5/7:** AC Labor Party presents "The Healthcare Movie" How the US and Canadian healthcare systems evolved. 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, 5/8:** "Bahrain: Shouting in the Dark," a documentary about the 2011 Bahraini uprising, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 5/9:** Queer Reading Group, 7 p.m.
- Monday, 5/14:** ISO presents "Black Power Mixtapes," a documentary examining the evolution of the Black Power Movement from 1967 to 1975, 7 p.m.

433 S. Main Street

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

Check our website for details or events scheduled after this went to press

www.civicmediacenter.org

(352) 373-0010



Walking across the U.S. for the American DREAM

Courtesy of the Campaign for an American DREAM

The Campaign for an American DREAM (CAD) kicked off on March 10 on its walk from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. in an effort to create dialogue around the passage of the DREAM Act and immigration reform with the values of equality, unity and diversity.

The walkers are made up of six undocumented students and their allies.

Alex Aldana is a queer undocumented immigrant rights activist who works as a community organizer/health advocate for Latino LGBTQ youth, HIV/AIDS prevention, education and treatment with social justice, advocacy and empowerment to immigrant communities impacted by health disparities in Southern California.

Lucas Da Silva is an undocumented student from Orlando who was brought to the U.S. at the age of 12 months from Rio de Janeiro on a tourist visa. He and his family originally moved to New York City, but moved to Orlando after the 9/11 attacks. Da Silva is enrolled at Valencia College in Orlando with a major in Political Science/Philosophy.

Jose Gonzalez is an undocumented student from San Diego who has lived in the state for 24 years after being born in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco in Mexico. A youth minister and lecturer at his local church, Gonzalez recently founded the American Dream Coalition at Mesa College. The group promotes social inclusiveness and seeks to bring the undocumented human experience into light.

Nicolas Gonzalez, from Chicago, has been an active participant in the immigration movement in 2006 and arrived back in San Francisco on March 10 from Montgomery, Ala., where he appeared in court after being arrested for protesting anti-immigration legislation recently enacted in that state. He



Six undocumented students and allies are walking from San Francisco to Washington D.C. to create dialog around the passage of the DREAM Act and immigration reform. A benefit concert supporting Campaign for an American Dream and Harvest of Hope Foundation will take place in Gainesville on April 14.

arrived in the country when he was five years old. Gonzalez came out as "Undocumented and Unafraid" on "Coming Out of the Shadows Day" on March 10, 2010.

Raymi Gutierrez was born in Salt Lake City as the middle child of nine. Gutierrez is the only ally out of the six walkers and the first U.S.-born citizen in her family. Her parents left their original home in Bolivia more than 20 years ago in pursuit of happiness for their children. Gutierrez is the E.N.D. (Education Not Deportation) Coordinator for the Salt Lake Dream Team.

Jonatan Martinez, an undocumented student, comes from Warner Robins, Ga. Martinez was brought to the U.S. at age 4 from Mexico City on a visitor's visa and graduated from Macon State College with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and

Information Technology. He hopes to serve in the military one day and is currently in deportation proceedings.

The walkers have completed the first month of the eight-month trek, moving from California into Nevada. CAD walkers have been sharing with, and learning from, the communities they have come across. They received a standing ovation on the Assembly Floor at the California State Capitol during their second week.

The grassroots Campaign will help amplify the voices in communities throughout the country so that our elected officials can hear from the people affected by stringent and racist policies. The campaign will focus on its core values of "Unity, Equality, and Diversity" and what they mean for all people and families in the U.S. ☪

EFH

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INVISIBLE WAR from p. 7

needed change.

At the core of the film are interviews with the rape survivors themselves—people like Kori Cioca, who was beaten and raped by her supervisor in the U.S. Coast Guard; Ariana Klay, a Marine who served in Iraq before being gang raped by a senior officer and his friend, then threatened with death; and Trina McDonald who was drugged and raped repeatedly by the military police on her remote Naval station in Adak, Alaska. And it isn't just women; according to one study, 1 percent of men in the military—a staggering 20,000 soldiers—were sexually assaulted in 2009.

And while rape victims in the civilian world can normally turn to an impartial police force and justice system for help, rape victims in the military must turn to their command—a move that is all too often met with foot-dragging at best, and reprisals at worst. Many rape victims find themselves forced to choose between speaking up and keeping their careers. Little wonder that only 8 percent of military sexual assault cases are prosecuted.

Tickets for the “The Invisible War” are \$7.50 and can be purchased in advance at the Hippodrome State Theatre (25 SE 2nd Place, Gainesville). After the showing, a surprise guest from the film will answer questions and talk further about the inspirations for and impact of the documentary.

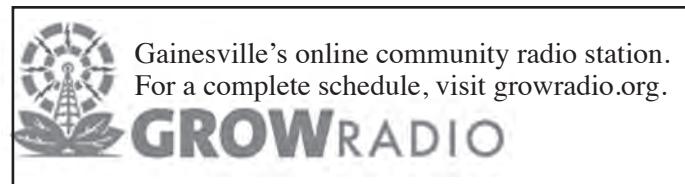
For more information on the film, visit invisiblewarmovie.com.



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Gainesville's online community radio station.
 For a complete schedule, visit growradio.org.

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The Big Read comes to Alachua County with free events

Library sponsored program will celebrate Ursula K. Le Guin's 'A Wizard of Earthsea'

The Alachua County Library is hosting over 25 free events in April as part of The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

The local program will celebrate Ursula K. Le Guin's "A Wizard of Earthsea," the foremother to works like the Harry Potter series.

For more information on The Big Read, visit aclib.us/bigread or neabigread.org. Below is an abridged list of the events.

April 11, 4:30 p.m. - The World of Ursula

CMC
Benefit at Boca Fiesta!
(right next to the Hipp)
Saturday April 21
Come for dinner, stay for the show
great acoustic music with:
Ian Dunlap w/Mick Marino
(Dunlap toured with Gram Parsons)
HR Gertner, Company Man
music at 8:30 p.m.

K. LeGuin: A roundtable discussion on the legacy of Le Guin's books featuring Meredith Ann Pierce, Stephanie Smith, Tace Hebrick, Michelle Harris and Arwen Curry at the Ustler Center for Women's Studies and Gender on UF's campus, co-sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and the UF Dept. of English.

April 12 at 6 p.m. and April 13 at 4 p.m. - Filmmaker Arwen Curry will speak about and share clips of her documentary "Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin," in the works. Thursday's event is on April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Library Headquarters (401 E. University Ave. in Gainesville); Friday's event on April 13 is at 4 p.m. at the Tower Branch Library (3020 SW 75th St. in Gainesville).

April 13, 1 p.m. - Arwen Curry will talk about her documentary "Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin" on Conner Calling, WUFT Classic 89.1 FM. Call or email questions to 352-392-8989 or fmcallin@wuft.org.

April 16, 6 p.m. - Google Books: Why Ursula LeGuin and Other Authors are Concerned. Google's wholesale digitization of books for its Google Books has created a controversy. Authors who feel their copy-

right interests are violated have filed a lawsuit. The discussion led by law librarian and copyright specialist Jennifer Wondracek will look at both sides and the progress of the court case. The discussion is at the UF Law School in the Chesterfield Smith Classroom, Holland Hall, Room 180.

April 23, 6 p.m. - Le Guin & Rome: Classics professor Jennifer Rea will discuss Le Guin's novel "Lavinia," which was inspired by Vergil's "Aeneid" and tells the story of Rome's foundation. The discussion will take place at the Library Headquarters (401 E. University Ave. in Gainesville).

April 26, 7 p.m. - Civic Media Center Book Talk: Join a group discussion about Le Guin books and her politics at the CMC (433 S. Main St. in Gainesville).

April 27, 5:30 p.m. - Entering and Leaving Fantasy's Wild Lands at Wild Iris Books: Chat with fellow readers who love traveling into fantastical worlds created by Le Guin. Refreshments can be purchased at Café Collette, and local musicians will entertain. Wild Iris Books is located at 802 W. University Ave. in Gainesville. 

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Vets for Peace sponsors third ‘Schools Peace Poetry Contest’

By Jessica Newman

Mohandas Gandhi said, “If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

With an increasingly corporate-controlled government that seems to have little regard for the views and desires of the American people, it’s easy to feel helpless and voiceless. Dreams of a peaceful world quickly become mere illusions.

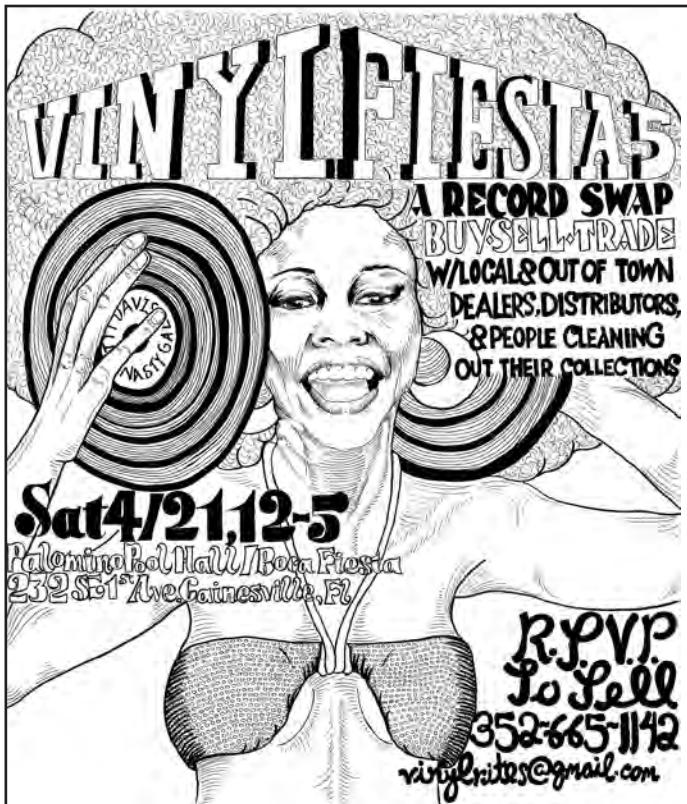
But there is hope for a more peaceful society, without war and destruction. And that hope lies in the children of today who will lead the U.S. and world of tomorrow.

It is in this vein that Gainesville Veterans for Peace organized the Third Annual Alachua and Marion Counties Schools Peace Poetry Contest.

After the success of last year’s contest, teachers and parents from Marion County asked that Vets for Peace extend the contest south. As a result, approximately 200 poems were submitted this year by students in the first through twelfth grades, half of which were from Marion County.

By fostering ideas of coexistence and cooperation in young people now, we not only hope to initiate a discussion about peace and how to achieve it within our own community, but also to inspire students to work toward a more peaceful world in every aspect of their adult lives.

A panel of English graduate students from the University of Florida, led by Dr. Sidney Wade, judged the poems based on creativity, use of language and age.



The winners will be published in the 2012 Peace Poetry Booklet and will also recite their piece at the Peace Poetry Reading at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on NW 34th Street.

Winners will also receive prizes according to their age and place (first, second or third place in their age group).

The Peace Poetry Reading is free and open to the public. Music and entertainment will be incorporated, and light refreshments will be provided after the reading. ☀

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WGOT-LP 94.7 programming schedule

WGPT-LP, a project of the Civic Media Center, is low-power community radio in Gainesville with a mission which includes taking back the public airwaves, challenging listeners, becoming a public forum and being the loud, clear, honest, grassroots radio voice of Gainesville.

Sunday

- 1:00 p.m. Alternative Radio
- 2:00 p.m. The Front Porch
- 3:00 p.m. The Hippie Sessions

Monday

- 1:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. EcoShock
- 3:00 p.m. CMC/Counterpoise
- 8:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 9:00 p.m. Stripped
- 10:00 p.m. War News Radio
- 10:30 p.m. Informativo Pacifica
- 11:00 p.m. Hear Her Radio

Tuesday

- midnight Black Kill Death
- 2:00 a.m. Pan Chromatic Radio
- 3:00 a.m. CMC/Counterpoise
- 4:00 a.m. Democracy Now!
- 1:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. Back of the Bus
- 3:00 p.m. The Front Porch

Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. In Your Ear
- 3:00 p.m. Hippie Sessions
- 8:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 9:00 p.m. Writer's Voice
- 10:00 p.m. Arts Express Radio
- 11:00 p.m. Gettin' Pixelated

Thursday

- midnight Fear Me as a Dictator
- 1:00 a.m. The Sonic Circus
- 2:00 a.m. Black Kill Death
- 4:00 a.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. Building Bridges
- 2:30 p.m. Sierra Club Radio
- 3:00 p.m. Good Company
- 3:30 p.m. This Way Out
- 8:00 p.m. Democracy Now!

Friday

- 1:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. Your Own Health & Fitness
- 3:00 p.m. Born Again Blind Music
- 8:00 p.m. Back of the Bus
- 9:00 p.m. Replay Radio
- 10:00 p.m. Hear Her Radio
- 11:00 p.m. Fear Me as a Dictator

Saturday

- midnight Music Mosaic
- 1:00 a.m. Grak & Tom present: Radio
- 2:00 a.m. Getting Pixelated
- 3:00 a.m. Pan Chromatic Radio
- 4:00 a.m. Democracy Now!
- 1:00 p.m. Democracy Now!
- 2:00 p.m. Good Company
- 2:30 p.m. This Way Out
- 3:00 p.m. War News Radio
- 3:30 p.m. Informativo Pacifica
- 4:00 p.m. Alternative Radio
- 5:00 p.m. So Pro Radio
- 6:00 p.m. Replay Radio
- 7:00 p.m. Fear Me as a Dictator
- 8:00 p.m. WGOT Playlist Project

GROWRADIO.org programming schedule

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

Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. Ben and Lea
- 1:00 p.m. Left of the Dial
- 3:00 p.m. The Chicken Loop
- 5:00 p.m. Admittedly Yours
- 2:00 p.m. Talk of the Nation
- 9:00 p.m. The Sum of Your Life

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. Florida Rules
- 11:00 a.m. Dr. Bill's Super Awesome Musical happy Time
- 3:00 p.m. Ecstasy to Frenzy
- 7:00 p.m. Maium
- 8:00 p.m. New Day Rising
- 10:00 p.m. The Residents Radio Hour

Tuesday

- 8:00 p.m. The Coffee Alternative
- 2:00 p.m. Street Nuts
- 5:00 p.m. The Barefoot Sessions
- 7:00 p.m. The Styrofoam Cup
- 8:00 p.m. The Doomed Forever Show

Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. The Narain Train
- 3:00 p.m. Uniformity Tape
- 5:00 p.m. A Brazilian Commando
- 7:00 p.m. Bigga Mixx Show
- 9:00 p.m. The Otherness
- 11:00 p.m. Radiodeo

Thursday

- 2:00 p.m. The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
- 4:00 p.m. Hope & Anchor
- 6:00 p.m. No Filler
- 8:00 p.m. Enjoy the Silence
- 10:00 p.m. Lost Sharks

Friday

- 11:00 a.m. Y2K GunSale
- 1:00 p.m. Dimensional Meltdown
- 3:00 p.m. Swamp Boogie & Blues
- 5:00 p.m. Sunset Megamix
- 7:00 p.m. Acme Radio
- 9:00 p.m. The Bag of Tricks

Saturday

- 11:00 a.m. Jazzville
- 1:00 p.m. Lab Rat Tales
- 3:00 p.m. The New Deal
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Too Long

WUFT-FM 89.1 programming schedule

WUFT-FM offers news and public media for North Central Florida from the University of Florida with a mix of local and national programs.

Monday – Friday

- 6:00 a.m. Morning Edition
- 10:00 a.m. The Diane Rehm Show
- Noon Fresh Air
- 1:00 p.m. World Have Your Say (M-Th)
- Conner Calling (F)
- 2:00 p.m. Talk of the Nation
- 4:00 p.m. The Front Page Edition
- of All Things Considered
- 5:00 p.m. All Things Considered
- 6:30 p.m. Marketplace
- 7:00 p.m. PBS NewsHour
- 8:00 p.m. On Point (M-Th)
- Viertes Social (F)
- 10:00 p.m. Afropop Worldwide
- 11:00 p.m. BBC World News
- (until morning)

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Programming is subject to change. Please check radio stations' websites for updated schedules.

TRAYVON from p. 1

way to go in the fight against racism, but hopefully Martin's case will act as the kick-start for the long-term struggle for justice.

Below is a compilation of information provided by Mother Jones, which has dedicated an entire page of their website to the Trayvon Martin case. Led by Adam Weinstein, a team of journalists at motherjones.com has compiled, and continues to update regularly, a rich resource of primary documents and recordings (police reports, 911 call audio, official affidavits, etc.) as well as news coverage and analyses from media outlets of all shapes and sizes. The information can be found at motherjones.com by searching for "The Trayvon Martin Killing, Explained."

What Happened to Trayvon?

On the evening of Feb. 26, Trayvon Martin—an unarmed 17-year-old African American student—was confronted, shot, and killed near his home by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman has not been charged with a crime. Since Martin's death and the revelation of more details, the case has drawn national outcry and sparked hot debate over racial tensions, vigilantism, police practices and gun laws.

Martin, a Miami native, was visiting his father in Sanford and watching the NBA All-Star game at a house in a gated Sanford community, the Retreat at Twin Lakes. That evening, Martin walked out to the nearby 7-Eleven to get some Skittles and Arizona Iced Tea. On his return trip, he drew the attention of Zimmerman, who was patrolling the neighborhood in a sport-utility vehicle and called 911 to report "a real suspicious guy."

"This guy looks like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something," Zimmerman told the dispatcher. "It's raining, and he's just walking around looking about." The man tried to explain where he was. "Now he's coming towards me. He's got his hand in his waistband. And he's a black male ... Something's wrong with him. Yup, he's coming to check me out. He's got something in his hands. I don't know what his deal is ... These assholes, they always get away."

After discussing his location with the dispatcher, Zimmerman exclaimed, "Shit, he's running," and the following sounds suggest he left his vehicle to run after Martin.

"Are you following him?" the dispatcher asked. Zimmerman replied: "Yep."

"Okay, we don't need you to do that," the dispatcher warned.

Several minutes later, according to other callers to 911 in the neighborhood, Zimmerman and Martin got into a wrestling match on the ground. One of the pair could be heard screaming for help. Then a single shot rang out, and Martin lay dead.

What happened to the shooter?

So far, not much. Zimmerman told police he'd acted in self-defense. ABC News report[ed] (on March 18) that he had wanted to be a police officer, and Sanford police didn't test him for drugs or alcohol after the shooting (such tests are standard practice in homicide investigations). He was licensed to carry his gun, and police initially told Martin's father that they hadn't pressed charges because Zimmerman was a criminal justice student with a "squeaky clean" record.

That wasn't entirely true, however; in 2005, Zimmerman was arrested for "resisting arrest with violence and battery on a law enforcement officer"; those charges were dropped. Media investigations and Martin family attorneys suggest that Zimmerman was a vigilante with "a false sense of authority" in search of young black men in his neighborhood. Police records show Zimmerman had called 911 a total of 46 times between Jan. 1, 2011, and the day he shot Martin. (Florida guidelines for licensed gun owners state: "A license to carry a concealed weapon does not make you a free-lance policeman.")

The Miami Herald report[ed] (on March 21) that the Department of Justice's civil rights division will investigate the Martin case. The paper quotes a DOJ statement (apparently not online yet) noting that the bar for such federal probes is high:

"With all federal civil rights crimes, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a person acted intentionally and with the specific intent to do something which the law forbids – the highest level of intent in criminal law. Negligence, recklessness, mistakes and accidents are not prosecutable under the federal criminal civil rights laws."

Florida, too, is moving forward with a state-level investigation. Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (the state's FBI equivalent) requesting the move, according to the Tampa Bay Times (on March 19). The letter states:

"The circumstances surrounding the death of Trayvon Martin have caused significant concerns within the Sanford community and the state ... I understand an investigation was initiated by the Sanford Police Department and referred to the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. I believe it is appropri-

See TRAYVON p. 22



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TRAYVON from p. 22

ate that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement provide any assistance necessary to fully investigate this matter. "Accordingly, please ensure that FDLE offers and provides the appropriate resources to the State Attorney's Office as they continue their investigation."

The state attorney for Sanford, Fla., has announced he will convene a grand jury on April 10 to investigate Trayvon Martin's shooting, according to WESH-TV in Orlando (on March 20). "I share in the desire of the family and the community to accurately collect and evaluate all the facts surrounding the tragic death of Trayvon Martin," prosecutor Norm Wolfinger said in a statement.

Meanwhile, unnamed officials in the Sanford PD also released details of George Zimmerman's account of that night to the Orlando Sentinel (on March 26). Zimmerman says he was walking back to his SUV when Trayvon Martin engaged him in a verbal altercation, the Sentinel reports:

Trayvon asked Zimmerman if he had a problem. Zimmerman said no and reached for his cell phone, he told police.

Trayvon then said, "Well, you do now" or something similar and punched Zimmerman in the nose.

Zimmerman fell to the ground and Trayvon got on top of him and began slamming his head into the sidewalk, he told police.

That, the authorities say, was when "Zimmerman shot Trayvon once in the chest from very close range."

It was still unclear from the authorities' account how, with Martin straddling him and slamming his head into the pavement, Zimmerman managed to get his hands on his weapon, release the safety or cock it, and aim and fire it at Martin's chest.

ABC News reported (on March 27) that the lead homicide investigator of Trayvon Martin's killing in Sanford recommended that George Zimmerman be arrested and charged with manslaughter. That police investigator, Chris Serino, filed an affidavit on the night of the killing "that stated he was unconvinced by Zimmerman's version of events," according to ABC. But Serino was overruled by the state attorney's office, which said there wasn't enough evidence to secure a conviction in court.

But on April 2, two voice-analysis experts enlisted by the Orlando Sentinel have concluded that the screaming voice on a 911 recording of the Trayvon killing is not George Zimmerman. Zimmerman and his family have insisted that the screaming—which precedes the fatal gunshot—came from Zimmerman himself, who was in fear for his life. But that's not possible, say experts Tom Owen and Ed Primeau. Both used different techniques to analyze the



Approximately 200 students and community members protest on March 26 in Turlington Plaza on the University of Florida campus, demanding justice for Trayvon Martin. Photo by Michela Martinazzi.

recording and concluded the screaming couldn't have been the shooter:

"I took all of the screams and put those together, and cut out everything else," Owen says.

"The software compared that audio to Zimmerman's voice. It returned a 48 percent match. Owen said to reach a positive match with audio of this quality, he'd expect higher than 90 percent.

"As a result of that, you can say with reasonable scientific certainty that it's not Zimmerman," Owen says, stressing that he cannot confirm the voice as Trayvon's, because he didn't have a sample of the teen's voice to compare...

"Not all experts rely on biometrics. Ed Primeau, a Michigan-based audio engineer and forensics expert, is not a believer in the technology's use in courtroom settings.

"He relies instead on audio enhancement and human analysis based on forensic experience. After listening closely to the 911 tape on which the screams are heard, Primeau also has a strong opinion.

"I believe that's Trayvon Martin in the background, without a doubt," Primeau says, stressing that the tone of the voice is a giveaway. "That's a young man screaming."

Florida's "Stand Your Ground" Law

Zimmerman may have benefited from some of the broadest firearms and self-defense regulations in the nation. In 1987, then-Gov. Bob Martinez (R) signed Florida's concealed-carry provision into law, which "liberalized the restrictions that previously hindered the citizens of Florida from obtaining concealed weapons permits," according to one legal analyst. This trendsetting "shall-issue" statute triggered a wave of gun-carry laws in other states. (Critics said at the time that Florida would become "Dodge City.") Permit holders are also exempted from the man-

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The Gainesville protesters, in solidarity with numerous other actions around the state on the same day, march from UF to the office of the FBI, demanding George Zimmerman's arrest. Photo by Michela Martinazzi.

datory state waiting period on handgun purchases.

Even though felons and other violent offenders are barred from getting a weapons permit, a 2007 investigation by the South Florida Sun-Sentinel found that licenses had been mistakenly issued to 1,400 felons and hundreds more applicants with warrants, domestic abuse injunctions, or gun violations. (More than 410,000 Floridians have been issued concealed weapons permits.)

Florida also makes it easy to plead self-defense in a killing. Under then-Gov. Jeb Bush, the state in 2005 passed a broad "stand your ground" law, which allows Florida residents to use deadly force against a threat without attempting to back down from the situation. (More stringent self-defense laws state that gun owners have "a duty to retreat" before resorting to killing.)

Again, the Sunshine State was the trendsetter: 17 states have since passed "stand your ground" laws, which critics call a "license to kill" or a "shoot first" law. The law has been unpopular with law enforcement officers in Florida, since it makes it much more difficult to charge shooters with a crime and has regularly confounded juries in murder cases; many Orlando-area cops reportedly have given up investigating "self-defense" cases as a result, referring them to the overloaded state Attorney's Office for action. A 2010 study by the Tampa Bay Times found that "justifiable homicides" had tripled in the state since the law went into effect.

Many readers have asked whether, given the 911 recordings, a case against Zimmerman would be easier than most homicides in which "self-defense" is cited by a defendant. In Florida, the answer probably is no: The courts' interpretation of the stand-your-ground law has been extremely broad—so broad that, to win an acquittal, a defendant doesn't even have to prove self-defense, only argue for it, while to win a conviction the prosecution has to prove that self-defense was impossible.

Numerous cases have set the precedent in Florida, with the courts arguing that the law "does not require defendant to prove self-defense to any standard measuring assurance of truth, exigency, near certainty, or even mere probability; defendant's only burden is to offer facts from which his resort to force could have been reasonable." When a defendant claims self-defense, "the State has the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense." In other words the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt never shifts from the prosecution, so it's surprisingly easy to evade prosecution by claiming self-defense.

This has led to some stunning verdicts in the state. In Tallahassee in 2008, two rival gangs engaged in a neighborhood shoot-

See TRAYVON p. 24

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Gainesville Chapter 14

TRAYVON from p. 1

out, and a 15-year-old African American male was killed in the crossfire. The three defendants all either were acquitted or had their cases dismissed, because the defense successfully argued they were defending themselves under the “stand your ground” law. The state attorney in Tallahassee, Willie Meggs, was beside himself. “Basically this law has put us in the posture that our citizens can go out into the streets and have a gun fight and the dead person is buried and the survivor of the gun fight is immune from prosecution,” he said at the time.

One of those defendants ended up receiving a conviction for attempted voluntary manslaughter for an unrelated case, in which he shot indiscriminately at two people in a car.

Meanwhile, two state legislators who sponsored Florida’s “stand your ground” deadly-force law in 2005 called for George Zimmerman to be arrested for shooting Martin. “They got the goods on him. They need to prosecute whoever shot the kid,” one of the lawmakers, Republican former Sen. Durell Peaden told the Miami Herald (on March 20). “He has no protection under my law.” His co-sponsor, current Rep. Dennis Baxley (R), told the paper: “There’s nothing in this statute that authorizes you to pursue and confront people, particularly if law enforcement has told you to stay put. I don’t see why this statute is being challenged in this case. That is to prevent you from being attacked by other people.”

Even so, the Democratic state senator from the Miami district where Martin lived, Oscar Braynon, called for legislative hearings on the effectiveness of the “stand your ground” law. “The Legislature needs to take a look at Stand Your Ground,” he told the Herald (on March 20). “This is a perfect case of where it goes awry. This could only be the beginning of more problems down the road. It has unintended consequences. When the Legislature passed this in 2005, I don’t think they planned for people who would go out and become vigilantes or be like some weird Bat-

man who would go out and kill little kids like Trayvon.”

Media Matters reported (March 21) that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)—a lobby group funded by an array of corporations, including Koch Industries, Wal-Mart, Pfizer, and others—may have played a leading role in writing and passing the 2005 Florida self-defense law that’s reportedly hindering prosecution against George Zimmerman.

As Mother Jones has reported before, the ALEC often writes conservative legislation that finds its way onto the lawbooks—it’s shaped energy laws, as well as labor fights in Wisconsin and Michigan. (It’s also recently been caught red-handed passing its legislation onto lawmakers in Florida.) But Media Matters says ALEC has also teamed up with the National Rifle Association to pass “stand your ground” legislation to protect shooters:

“Florida’s statute on the use of force in self-defense is virtually identical to Section 1 of ALEC’s Castle Doctrine Act model legislation as posted on the Center for Media and Democracy (CMD). According to CMD, the model bill was adopted by ALEC’s Civil Justice Task in August 2005—just a few short months after it passed the Florida legislature—and approved by its board of directors the following month.

“Since the 2005 passage of Florida’s law, similar statutes have been passed in 16 other states. This was no accident. In a 2008 interview with NRA News, ALEC resident fellow Michael Hough explained how his organization works with the NRA to push similar legislation through its network of conservative state legislators:

“HOUGH: ‘We are a very pro-Second Amendment organization. In fact, last session, I’ll get off-topic here real quick, but some of the things that we were pushing in states was the Castle Doctrine. We worked with the NRA on that, that’s one of our model bills that we have states introduce.’”

Media Matters notes that the NRA has been a primary funder of ALEC, adding, “NRA got what it paid for.”

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