

The Gainesville Iguana

March 2014
Vol. 28, Issue 3

Venezuelan protests from the view of Western Caracas

by Rebecca Hanson

This article was originally published by Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights on Feb. 25. Read more at venezuelablog.tumblr.com.

Images of burning tires, masked youth, and clashes between citizens and state security forces have accompanied almost all news coverage of Venezuela for the past few weeks. And these well-documented protests and the government response to them have, as blogger Francisco Toro wrote, changed the political game in Venezuela for the foreseeable future.

To fully appreciate these changes, however, we need to also appreciate the geographical limits of the opposition protests. Taking into account where protests are not occurring, and why, is important in understanding what they represent for residents who do not live in the zones where protests have erupted.

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Upwards of 80,000 people gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Feb. 8 to kick off the Moral Monday movement in anticipation of the 2014 state legislative session. Photo courtesy of US Human Rights Network (www.ushrnetwork.org).

March in North Carolina for the soul of America

It is estimated that around 80,000 people from at least 30 different states attended the Moral Monday march on Feb. 8 in Raleigh, NC. Ari Berman, who wrote about the protest in *The Nation*, called it “the largest civil rights rally in the South since tens of thousands of voting rights activists marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the Voting Rights Act.” And for the most part, with a few exceptions (MSNBC), the mainstream media absolutely ignored it. But the people united can never be defeated.

The Moral Monday actions in North Carolina, where more than 1,000 people have been arrested in acts of civil disobedience over the last year, has inspired similar movements in other states like Georgia

(where more than 30 people have been arrested this year), Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina (“Truthful Tuesdays”). Now the movement is coming to Florida on the eve of the 2014 legislative session.

The Iguana went to press too late to cover the Awake the State (www.awakethestate.com) events around the state of Florida, but we know there were actions planned in Gainesville, Ocala and Palatka. There was also a rally planned in Tallahassee at the Capitol on Monday, March 3. We hope that these marches and actions continue; resiliency and unity are key to getting their attention in Tallahassee and changing the conversation.

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VENEZUELA, from p. 1

These protests have not engulfed the entire country or even the entire capital, despite coverage and photographs that might suggest otherwise. Recent articles in *Ultimas Noticias* have declared the western side of the city, which normally grabs headlines for its high homicide rates, as tranquil and quiet in comparison to the east.

I live and conduct research in Catia, a massive grouping of working and lower-class barrios in the western section of the city that have long been considered a Chavista stronghold. Though I had heard about the violence that erupted on Youth Day, when clashes first came to a head in Caracas, I had to go into the city center to find evidence of protests: A grouping of National Guard and National Police officers blocking the Avenue Francisco de Miranda in Chacaito, looking bored and tired by 8 o'clock at night.

The next day I walked down to the National Security University's location here in Catia, where zooming motorizados (motorcycle taxis) on the main avenue were, as usual, the gravest danger that I encountered.

This does not mean that the Catienses (residents of Catia) I know are unaware or completely unaffected by what is going on in the east. When visiting various friends' homes, the television in the background is almost always set to pro-government channels like VTV or Telesur, with images of the protests occasionally soliciting commentary.

But this commentary tends to be relegated to references to the crazy opposition echando vaina (politely put, "causing a ruckus") in their own streets, destroying their own property as they vent frustrations over multiple electoral losses. While watching the news after Leopoldo López turned himself in, one friend compared him to a child throwing a temper tantrum when he did not get what he wanted when he wanted it.

Nor do I mean to suggest that tensions are not high and Chavistas are not disillusioned. The day before Youth Day, I stood with a friend in line for almost two hours to buy toilet paper, coffee, and arepa flour. We took advantage of the time in line to strike a deal with the woman in front of us due to the cap on a number of certain products that one family can buy. We bought two extra bottles of oil in exchange for her purchasing arepa flour for us.

By the time that we made it to the cashier a fight almost broke out behind us when a man accused another man of breaking in line. My friend's comment from earlier that day—that Venezuela was reaching a breaking point with tensions ready to erupt—echoed in my head as we walked out of the store.

Families are strained by food shortages; they are upset with the PSUV; and they are tired of inflation. This same friend who made the comment about López was an active member in multiple Chavista organizations up until this year, when he stopped participating completely. He now says the worsening economic situation in the country and corruption in the PSUV has produced a desire to "detoxify" himself of all things political.

But for people I know on this side of town, these protests have little to do with resolving their problems, and many believe that they will only make things worse. They also fit into a widely accepted perception by Chavistas that the opposition is willing to go to any extreme—hoarding food, destroying infrastructure, etc.—to regain the power they lost under Chávez.

With the 2002-attempted coup and the oil strike of 2003 in the background, Chavistas see the current guarimbas (which refers to urban violence organized by the opposition) as one more historical moment that "el pueblo puede aguantar" (the people can endure). Indeed, for Chavistas these guarimbas are about a power struggle, not political rights or economic hardship.

None of this is to say that protesters do not have legitimate grievances that the government has ignored. But, as has been mentioned previously, these grievances are not ones that tend to generate support or ire in popular sectors here.

And the way in which protesters have gone about expressing these grievances in the past few weeks have only worked to further entrench divisions between east and west. Thus, it is highly unlikely that current tactics will win over the disillusioned Chávez supporters that Henrique Capriles was able to sway last year.

While walking home yesterday, I noticed the banner above that had been draped across a walkover bridge on Sucre Avenue. It reads: "Si quieren llegar al gobierno ganen las elecciones! Mano dura a los guarimberas" (If you want to get to the government win elections! Get tough on organizers of violence!).

As Capriles himself pointed out in a recent speech, few people outside of the middle and upper class sectors in the east are going to be won over by the protests in the east. For many these tactics have solidified the belief that the opposition has no qualms about breaking the democratic rules of the game. Thus, they are likely to generate support and justifications for more, not less, censorship of the opposition voice.

Read more on what's going on in Venezuela here:

- "#La Salida? Venezuela at a Crossroads," *The Nation*, <http://www.thenation.com/article/178496/lasalida-venezuela-crossroads#>
- "Um ... Who Is Leopoldo Lopez? What Is Oslo Freedom Forum?" - <http://niqnaq.wordpress.com/2014/02/21/um-who-is-leopoldo-lopez-what-is-oslo-freedom-forum/> 

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From the publisher ...

On disproportionate effects

by Joe Courter



Joe Courter

I don't know what makes me more uncomfortable; watching the events of the world, or watching the way the media reports on the events of the world. The latter refers to the unseen, the unreported, the things that don't fit into the accepted narrative.

I am haunted by the horrors the Bush administration unleashed in Iraq, as the instability and violence continues. Is that what this "democracy" we brought them looks like?

What about all the refugees who fled Iraq and were welcomed into Syria starting a decade ago? What have they got of a life now that Syria is up in flames? The undermining and overthrowing of authoritarian governments seems to be what the United States is pursuing around the world, but is this something else other than well meant almost utopian belief that "freedom" and "democracy" will blossom once the tyrants are overthrown?

How much is the quest for control of global energy resources, or undercutting economic rival nations as THEY move in on resources?

I think the beginning of the "Arab Spring" was a genuine freedom struggle. Only in Tunisia are things moving in that direction now. Egyptian youth flushed with idealism ran into two huge forces; fundamentalist religion and a large entrenched military. When the former won at the polls, the latter stepped in and took power back.

Libya? Religion and weaponry as well as rivalries from before and after the revolution have not brought stability. Like Iraq, they largely feel life was better before...at least things were functioning.

The unseen and unreported role of the U.S. in stage managing the events of other nations bothers me a lot. Doing things that would never be tolerated were the shoe on the other foot, this country will help foment dissent, aid protesters when it's deemed in our interest, stage coups on leaders we don't like (all three in Venezuela under Chavez, but Eastern Europe as well) as well as run elections of candidates we do (Goni in Bolivia, Yeltsen in Russia for two).

Currently there are two messy struggles in the news; Ukraine and Venezuela that have U.S. hands all over them. In Ukraine that "Fuck the EU" tape leak kinda showed the machinations behind the curtain. Venezuela is a bit more hidden, but is well documented by Eva Golinger's* reporting on the 2002 coup attempt on Chavez. The "National Endowment for Democracy," as well as Republican and Democratic party based international operations were helping create dissent and develop and put forward "leaders," of which Leopold Lopez is but the next showroom model.

There was a great book written by Stephan Kinzer in 2006 called "Overthrow" which follows the history of overthrows of other governments by the U.S., and mostly for corporate economic interests. Starting with Hawaii in 1898, and on to Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Honduras, Viet Nam, Guatemala, Chile, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan and Iraq as of 2006.

Now, with "advances" in weaponry and proxy fighters, combined with media and internet propaganda power, has anything really changed?

I'd say one major thing. Civilian deaths and displacements on a scale never seen before.

* Interview with Eva Golinger: <http://dissenter.firedoglake.com/2014/03/02/podcast-the-us-supported-opposition-in-venezuela-how-they-threaten-countrys-democracy/>

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MARCH, from p. 1

The article below was originally published on Feb. 10 by Campaign for America's Future Blog. See the original with great links and photos at <http://ourfuture.org/20140210/a-march-in-north-carolina-for-the-soul-of-america>.

Moral March calls for '5-M' plan

by Isaiah J. Poole

The scene was Raleigh, N.C., but for many of the people who were there the message and its impact was intended to be national: There is a growing populist resistance to the conservative extremist agenda, and the tens of thousands of people from [32] states who converged on the North Carolina state capital on [Feb. 8] is just the beginning.

The people who came to North Carolina to join Moral March on Raleigh saw it as the next phase of the push-back against tea-party Republicans and their assault in North Carolina and elsewhere against economic justice and democratic rights. Campaign for America's Future co-director Roger Hickey was among them, and he has posted on OurFuture.org his account of a "profoundly transformative" movement that "could affect politicians of all stripes this year and for years and decades to come."

The Rev. William J. Barber II, the president of the North Carolina NAACP, organized the march, building upon a series of "Moral Monday" protests against the Republican state legislature and governor. But in his address at the march he stressed that "this is no mere hyperventilation or partisan pouting. This is a fight for the soul and future of our state." [Watch the full address courtesy of WRAL-TV at <http://www.wral.com/news/local/video/13372725/>.]

The thousands who listened to the speech believed that in fighting for the soul of North Carolina, they were also fighting for the soul of the nation.

"With the current dysfunction of government at the national level, these state movements will begin to get more attention as they become more of a visible new dynamic contrasting to the stalemate we see in Washington, D.C.," said OurFuture.org writer and Education Opportunity Network editor Jeff Bryant, who attended the march. "And the messaging around morality rather than values of economic efficiency and financialization that have been the heart of neoliberalism over the past two to three decades will strike many Americans as a better direction forward."

"We have been called together to fight against a dangerous

agenda of extremist laws by the ultraconservative right wing that is choosing the low road," Barber said in his address, "policies that are constitutionally inconsistent, morally indefensible and economically insane."

Those policies include passage of one of the nation's harshest voter suppression laws; the infamous "motorcycle vagina" law that clandestinely inserted severe restrictions on abortion rights into what was purportedly a motorcycle safety bill; cutting off unemployment benefits to 170,000 state residents; rejecting federal funding to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act; taking actions that raised the tax burdens on lower-income residents while lowering taxes on the state's wealthiest; and cutting spending on public education and diverting public funding to charter and private schools.

"It is mighty low for us to sing 'America, America, God shed his grace on you' in one breath, and with the other breath deny workers the grace of labor rights and collective bargaining, to cut the grace of safety nets for the needy, and to raise taxes on the poor and working poor, to deny immigrants the grace of fair immigration policies and to undermine the grace due to the rights of to women and the [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] community," Barber said. "It's mighty low to wave banners and put bumper stickers on our cars saying 'God bless America' but fail to realize our obligation to bless God by how we treat our brothers and sisters."

The Moral March set forth that it called a "5-M" plan for 2014:

- Motivate every citizen to fight against these extremist policies.
- Meet every challenge to suppress the right to vote.
- Mobilize all North Carolinians to the polls regardless of party affiliation.
- Make every effort to fight in the courts against voter suppression and for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act.
- Move every obstacle that could keep people from voting.

"I think one of the most important contributions Moral Mondays has had is to galvanize what have long been separate, left-leaning, single-issue groups pursuing separate agendas into a more cohesive movement," said Tom Sullivan, a North Carolina blogger and activist. "The Forward Together Movement's 'fusion politics' recognizes that for any group to succeed, they all have to succeed – and work together. Adversaries seeking to divide-and-conquer the left have instead galvanized it into a more cohesive, more powerful opposing movement."

Barber said that in the same way that the 1960 sit-ins at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro lit a fire under the civil rights movement nationwide, the spirit of North Carolina's Moral Mondays is spreading through the South and throughout the country as people realize "we have an option in this country. We can take the road to destruction, which is the road of extremism, or we can take the pathway to higher ground."

"I expect the movement to build," Sullivan said. "Fifty years ago, it was 'segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever!' until it wasn't, until the weight of the world's collective moral judgement broke it. Same with apartheid. Same with this tea-party nonsense." ☘

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Czopek, Tattersall win Penrod Award for Peace and Justice

For the fourth year running, the John A. Penrod “Brigadas” Award for Peace and Justice will be presented at the Civic Media Center’s SpringBoard fundraising event on March 21 (see details on p. 24). This year, the award will go to two recipients — Robbie Czopek and Jeremiah Tattersall.

In 2008, three progressive groups created the Brigadas Award to honor the legacy of John A. “Jack” Penrod, who dedicated his life to the fight of the people for dignity, freedom and a peaceful society. Gainesville Veterans for Peace, the Alachua County Labor Party and the United Faculty of Florida wanted to honor and encourage activists in the community for their consistent track record of movement work.

In his day, Jack Penrod, a veteran of the MacKenzie Papineau battalion in the Spanish Civil war, worked with the Congress of Industrial Organizations and helped organize the first faculty union at the University of Florida, 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. Jack devoted his life to peace and justice, and he didn’t stop until his death in 2008 at the age of 94.

You can support the Penrod Award and the hard-working activists in the community by mailing donations to Gainesville Veterans for Peace, P.O. Box 142562, Gainesville, FL 32614. For more information, call 352-375-2832.

Read more about 2014’s Penrod “Brigadas” Award Recipients, Robbie Czopek and Jeremiah Tattersall, below.

Robbie Czopek by Joe Courter

While some people’s activism gets coverage in the news, on television, and in the social media world, there are others whose quiet dedication and steady hand make a whole lot of other stuff possible. Robbie Czopek came to Gainesville four and a half years ago and very quickly became a regular Civic Media Center volunteer. Not new to activism, Robbie grew up in St. Augustine, where he co-founded the Food Not Bombs chapter. He was already aware of the Civic Media Center when he came

to Gainesville to attend graduate school at UF. He was never just a “show up and do your shift” volunteer; he showed real interest in helping out both with events and assisting the coordinators with some of the mundane office tasks like data entry and accounting. As that first year went by, Rob-

bie realized graduate school was not where he wanted to be. When the co-coordinator position opened up, Robbie expressed a lot of interest in the job. As he had been so motivated to learn and help with the inner workings of the CMC, he was a logical

See PENROD, p. 22

Landmark decision: OSGATA et al v. Monsanto

by Jenni Williams,
*Communication Director for
Florida Organic Growers*

January marked a landmark decision in the federal lawsuit, *Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association et al v. Monsanto*.

The large plaintiff group of 83 American and Canadian family farmers, independent seed companies and agricultural organizations whose combined memberships total over one million citizens, including non-GMO farmers and over 25 percent of North America’s certified organic farmers, were denied the right to argue their case in court and gain protection from potential abuse by the agrichemical and genetic engineering giant, Monsanto. Additionally, the high court decision dashes the hopes of family farmers who sought the opportunity to prove in court Monsanto’s genetically engineered seed patents are invalid.

Farmers had sought Court protection under the Declaratory Judgment Act that should they become the innocent victims of contamination by Monsanto’s patented gene-splice technology they could not perverse-ly be sued for patent infringement.

In a complicated ruling issued in June 2013 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C., American farmers were initially handed a partial victory when the three justices agreed with the farmers’ assertion that contamination by Monsanto was inevitable. The justices ordered Monsanto not to sue American farmers whose fields were contaminated with trace amounts of patented material, which the Court defined as one percent.

“I am disappointed and saddened that the U.S. Supreme Court denied the right to self-defense in this case,” said Marty Mesh, executive director of Florida Organic Growers, a co-plaintiff in the lawsuit. “We were hopeful that the Supreme Court would hear this important case, one where organic and conventional growers and farm organizations seek justice.”

“Farmers who want no part of this technology or the company only asked for assurance that Monsanto would never sue them for patent infringement,” said Mesh. “No damages, just assurance. Monsanto would rather spend many hundred thousand or millions of dollars on some of the most expensive attorneys to fight rather than just agree not to sue these innocent farmers. They also dismissed the motion to make sure farmers don’t have their day in court and to make sure the questioning of the legitimacy of the patents are not heard before a judge or jury. Again, the merits of the case were never heard, all of this was only to attempt to have the case heard.”

A small victory came with the defeat. The victory was achieved in the appellate court after repeated questioning by one of the judges. Monsanto finally defined “insignificant” saying they would not sue farmers for insignificant amounts, which they said in another case was a vague term which had no meaning. However, that will prove to be inadequate as contamination and genetic pollution continue as human and environmental risks grow, and those concerns are better researched.

This battle is by no means over. There are issues that deserve a public discussion and legal items that will be asked to have a day in court. There is still undue influence in regulatory, legal, academic, media and international food sovereignty discussions. There are health, environmental, moral, ethical, and legal concerns and those concerns are not putting up any white flag.

There are public school teachers that are not allowed to say anything negative about GMOs and researchers who are scared to publish or speak out against the tidal wave for fear of retribution from their institution or destroying their careers.

How’s that for industry influence in public education, discussion and democracy? ☘

Thoughts on the March 11 Gainesville city elections

by Joe Courter

March 11 will be the City of Gainesville elections. There are two single-member district races, and one at-large race. In District 2 and District 3, primarily northwest and southwest areas of the city respectively, the two incumbents are strong

candidates. Republican Todd Chase has two opponents in District 2, Cheri Brodeur and Sheryl Eddie. Each are, while minimally funded, good people that could offer a lot to the position. They each face an uphill climb against Chase, and Brodeur is a straight-talking woman of broad experience, and might be the better of the

two on the job. But I can't grasp her reason to stay a registered Republican (she switched from life long Democrat in 1996 after Bill Clinton lied under oath), so I have to say vote for the positive attitude Democrat in the race, Sheryl Eddie.

District 3 has Susan Bottcher, running for re-election against Craig Carter, a Republican owner of a golf cart company. We strongly endorse Susan Bottcher to be retained on the Commission. She is smart and clear thinking, and if you live in her district, or if you want to plug into her campaign, please do.

The At-Large race is a doozy and one that has created a real, though hopefully temporary, split within the liberal-progressive-environmental community. Both Annie Orlando and Helen Warren are known to many and are well liked Democrats. Both have been very active in Gainesville and Alachua County. Both are sincerely running to make and keep good things happening in Gainesville.

That said, while Helen has a fairly mainstream "keep going the way we are going but do it better" approach, Annie is more an insurgent who sees the way the Biomass plant decision and the Solar Feed-in Tariff program were handled as quite flawed, and is ready to put herself into the process directly as a Commissioner. Helen has endorsements from the North Central Florida Central Labor Council, the Human Rights Campaign of North Central Florida, the Stonewall Democrats, Equality Florida, and the Gainesville Citizens for Alternative Transportation. Annie is endorsed by Fraternal Order of Police, the Firefighters Union, the Realtors Association, the Home Builders Association, and the Sierra Club.

That we have two women of this caliber running for the City Commission is a testament to our City, and either one will do a solid job in keeping us moving in a progressive direction. Visit either of their websites, and you find an active and engaged citizen involved in their community. That said, the fact that Annie, seen as someone outside the mainstream Democratic power-base in Gainesville, has attracted a wide base of support across the political spectrum has a lot of folks uneasy about her campaign. While this is uncomfortable for some, it is also

See *ELECTIONS*, p. 17

Presented by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

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by Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

On March 12, the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program will host a public panel entitled "The Florida Civil Rights Struggle: Past & Present" at 6 p.m. in Pugh Hall. The panel will be a vibrant commemoration of memories and legacies related to civil rights organizing in the state of Florida, bringing recognition to activists, highlighting key locations of civil rights organizing throughout the state in towns such as Ocala, St. Augustine, Tallahassee, Miami, and Gainesville. Audience members will receive a CD anthology of African American oral histories of segregation and civil rights with an accompanying educator's guide.

The panel will feature key Florida movement activists including Dan Harmeling and John Due. Harmeling, a former UF student who was arrested for peacefully protesting segregation in St. Augustine, and civil rights attorney John Due, a participant in the CORE Freedom Rides that challenged segregated interstate transportation, will present on their local civil rights work.

To highlight the organizing traditions of African Americans in Florida, several students will read excerpts drawn from oral history interviews with black elders for the audience. A special announcement will be made at the event about the unveiling of the Alachua County African American Project, which is funded by the UF Office of the Provost.

Reverend Milford Griner will give the invocation. A reception will follow the event. Parking is free, next to Pugh Hall.

This public program is made possible by a grant from the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere Rothman Endowment and co-sponsored by the UF Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, the UF African American Studies Program, the UF Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, and the UF Institute for Hispanic-Latino Cultures.

For more information about this event, including directions and parking information, visit the Oral History Program's website, <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> or call the office at (352) 392-7168. ☞

Tuition equity for all

by Phil Kellerman,
Migrant/Immigrant Advocate, Founder,
Harvest of Hope Foundation

In February, approximately 30 University of Florida students of Gators for Tuition Equity lobbied legislators at the State Capitol for in-state tuition for foreign-born (undocumented) Florida high school graduates.

The students explained that foreign-born high school graduates meet Florida residency requirements and a large number have graduated with honors. Many of them have obtained DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) cards allowing them to work and pay taxes to the federal government and state.

They should not be charged out of state tuition rates of up to 300 percent more simply because they were born in another country.

Legislators were told that 16 other states now allow in-state tuition for their foreign-born student population.

The students were informed that an in-state tuition bill was passed by the House last year but got stuck in the State Senate. For the upcoming legislative session starting March 4, they were advised to focus communication on state senators, in particular the Senate Education Committee - starting with committee republicans. For a list of Senators visit: <http://www.flsenate.gov>.

Two key Senate legislators to be contacted are:

Senator Don Gaetz, Senate President
404 South Monroe Street,
The Capitol - 409
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
Tel: 850-487-5229

Senator John Legg, Chairman, Senate Education Committee
404 South Monroe Street
316 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee FL 32399
Tel: 850-487-5017

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Gainesville Women's Liberation speaks out on abortion



Katie Walters speaks about her own experience with abortion at the Abortion Speak-Out sponsored by the Gainesville Chapter of National Women's Liberation on UF's campus on Feb. 17. Photo by Diana Moreno.

by Katie Walters

When I got an email from Gainesville Women's Liberation advertising a planning meeting around the issues of abortion and birth control, I knew I had to attend. Why is the issue of abortion and birth control access so timely? After all, there has been no report of anti-choice legislation introduced so far in the Florida legislature.

Well, first of all, our state already scores a big fat F for abortion access

(prochoiceamerica.org). We have many laws that place (medically unnecessary) restrictions on both women and abortion providers. Secondly, Texas! The laws that passed in Texas certainly will be tried in other states. We need a united movement that demands no restrictions on abortion — and we need to be ready to fight and show our strength in a moments notice. I encourage readers to join NWL's listserv to stay on top of this issue in Florida. (To get involved, call Kendra at (352) 575-0495, or email nwl@womensliberation.org.)

I decided to publicly speak out about my abortion because I am tired of attempts to shame and silence women. Like our sisters in Redstockings of the Women's Liberation Movement proclaimed in 1969, "Women are the experts!"

Here is the testimony I gave at the speakout (as it was written):

When I found out I was pregnant, I immediately knew I wanted an abortion. I didn't want a baby at that point in my life. Not to mention the fact that I had no money and barely part-time work! I was very lucky; my best friend and roommate worked at an abortion clinic. I knew exactly who to contact.

When I came to Gainesville, I had a pregnancy scare and I searched for information on abortion services and had a difficult time figuring out what was real and what was a crisis pregnancy center (these are anti-abortion organizations who lure in women with free sonograms and then proceed to explain why abortion is "wrong").

I was lucky that part was easy, because the rest wasn't. The guy who I got pregnant with, simply put, did not have his shit together to handle the situation. I did not have the luxury of not having my shit together. I had to handle it, find the money (at the time \$400), find a ride, take time off work, and go through the actual procedure and aftercare. This is why it sickens me to hear about partner consent laws — men are able to walk away from your uterus, you are not.

See ABORTION, p. 20



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Civic Media Center events - March 2014

- Every Thu: Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Every Thu: Poetry Jam, 9 pm
- Thu, March 6: Very Queer Variety Show Benefit Calendar Casting Call, 6:30 pm in The Courtyard
- Sat, March 8: International Women's Day- Signmaking for drone protest, 1 noon, Poetry readings, 2 pm, Film screening of "Remembering the Goddess," 4 pm, Potluck, 6 pm
- Mon, March 10: "Cutie and the Boxer" 2014 Oscar nominated doc on two Japanese artists, a married couple, who move to NYC and make a splash in the city's art scene. (2013), 7 pm
- Thu, March 13: Citizens Co-op Quarterly Membership Meeting, 7 pm to 9 pm
- Fri, March 14: CMC Benefit Show at High Dive with Big Shoals, Snakehealers, You Vandal, and HR Gertner and the Abusers, doors at 9 pm, \$6 - \$10 sliding scale donation
- Mon, March 17: "Sankofa" Realism and a touch of mysticism come together in a powerful drama about slavery, loyalty, and resistance in this film by Haile Gerima (1993), 7 pm
- Wed, March 19: Raef, live 3D psychedelic experience, and Fifth and Eighth, local rock group, doors at 8 pm, \$3-5 suggested donation
- Fri, March 21: SpringBoard with Alternative Radio founder, David Barsamian speaking on "Media, U.S. Empire, and the Snowden Effect," at The Wooly, 20 N. Main St, 6 pm, \$15 for advance tickets, \$20- 30 sliding scale at door
- Sun, March 23: Girls Rock Camp Volunteer Recruitment Party and Film Screening, 4 pm to 7 pm
- Mon, March 24: "Freedom Riders" PBS doc on the 1961 Freedom Riders, young black and white activists who traveled South to challenge segregation laws. (2009) Dr. Zoharah SimMons, a 1964 Freedom Summer participant, will share thoughts in the discussion following the film, 7pm
- Tue, March 25: Wild Iris Feminist Open Mic, co-sponsored by UF's Pride Awareness Month, free pizza, 6 pm
- Sat, March 29: Women's Health Fair, vendors and panel talk, in Courtyard (weather permitting), 3 pm to 7 pm
- Mon, March 31 "La Operacion" a rarely seen documentary on the forced sterilization program done on poor women in Puerto Rico and also looks at US/ Puerto Rican relations from the 1930's. (1984) Co-sponsored by National Womens Liberation, 7 pm
- Fri, April 4: Multimedia Art Show with dance and spoken word, 7 pm
- Sun, April 6: Grant Peoples Live in Concert, 7-9 pm, \$10-\$15 sliding scale
- Mon, April 7: "Inequality for All" Former labor secretary Robert Reich's film about the widening income gap in the United States, told in clear and accessible language. (2013), 7 pm
- Tue, April 15: UF Alumni Novelists Reading "The Ghost Apple" by Aaron Thier and "Hyde" by Daniel Levine, 7pm to 9pm

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

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

Check website for details and additional events.



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

Art Lab is for artists who continually expand skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from a range of mediums (e.g. forged iron, spun wool, graphic design). Technique workshops, artist talks/critiques, professional practices meetings, critical thinking discussions. GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. Protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic & recreational resources for over 25 years. ACT is the 2013 national Land Trust Excellence award recipient. 352-373-1078. AlachuaConservationTrust.org

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

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

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

Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) Non-profit research organization working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened species of birds in the southeastern U.S., www.arcinst.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the 2nd floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, alachuadems.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets first Tuesday every month at St. Augustine Church & Catholic Student Center (1738 W. Univ. Ave.) 352-284-1749, www.fadp.org.

Gainesville Food Not Bombs Local chapter of 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 at 3 p.m. Sundays at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11 am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets biweekly at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy, action. gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com or www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville Loves Mountains partners with Appalachian allies to end mountaintop removal coal mining and build a prosperous economy and sustainable future for the region and its people. We also pursue policies that will strengthen our local economy through energy efficiency and clean energy. gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com, 352-610-1090, <http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.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

Gainesville Zen Center & Hostel A Zen Buddhist community offering rooms to rent on a daily basis. 404 SE 2nd St., 352-336-3613, wonderwhy@cox.net.

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

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

Grow Radio Non-profit provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of the community. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

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

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

Humanist Society of Gainesville Meets 7:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences - www.gainesvillehumanists.org or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

Humanists on Campus: UF organization provides a community for freethinking, secular humanists. Goals include promoting values of humanism, discussing issues humanists face internationally. We strive to participate in community service and bring a fun, dynamic group to the university! Preferred contact info: email ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com, alternative: j.bontems@ufl.edu, phone- 561-374-3537.

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m.. Gainesvilleiww@gmail.net. www.gainesvilleiww.org

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

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

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

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. 888-831-0404 or visit http://ombudsman.myflorida.com.

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

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

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

National Organization for Women Gainesville Area www.gainesvillenow.org. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

National Women's Liberation and its Gainesville chapter is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. The inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: www.womensliberation.org, P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, (347) 560-4695, nwl@womensliberation.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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History and the people who make it: Eddie Steele

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

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

Eddie Steele was interviewed by Amanda Noll [N] and Paul Ortiz [O] in 2010.

S: I'm actually from Isola, Mississippi. I was born and raised here.

My father, he was a farmer. My mother, she work at the fish processing plant, until her health fail her, from [19]74 up into 1996. She was able to send kids to college. I also started working there in 1987, I was a production worker and I was promoted to personnel counselor.

All those years I desired to be a union rep, but I just been a rep now for going on two months, and I'm getting the hang of it, kinda enjoy it. I deal with the employees anyway, over six hundred employees been to personnel counseling. So same six hundred employees that I reprimanded, terminated, and suspended, I represent them now, against the company.

When it started out, there wasn't a union at all. They got to pay the minimum wage, but, vacation, insurance, and even a 15-minute break, that's at the discretion of the company. My mother started working there, she had no benefits. When she left, she had insurance, she had a pension plan that she drew from every month after her health failed her, so the union improved things a whole lot.

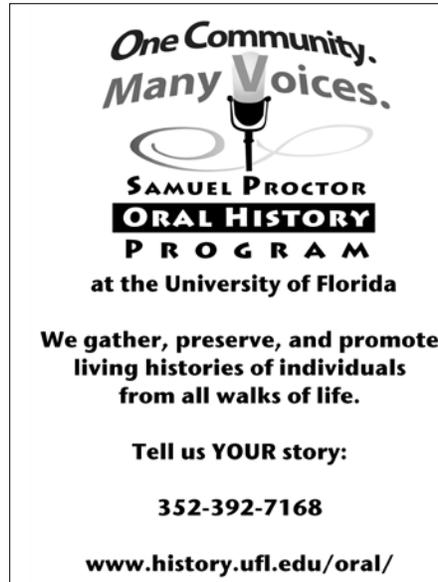
It's still a constant struggle, not just to get something new, but to keep what you got. What's going on now with the fish companies, and I guess corporate America, a lot of 'em using the economy as a way to hold back, but, they run the same amount of fish every day. [Laughter]

I think we got about eight thousand members. That's the local 1529. Here in the Delta, we basically represent the fish plants, but we also represent the Kroger stores, and nursing homes.

The South got a lot of history, continue to have a history, of - we wouldn't say slavery 'cause, that been abolished years ago, but we just say cheap labor with no benefits. Knowing that Mississippi is a right-

to-work state, you really have nobody to speak up for you. Just say, if they decided, hey, that Eddie Steele, he making fifteen dollar an hour, he been here twenty year, well, we can let of' Eddie go. We can have somebody and pay them eight dollar an hour, and still get work done. That's what exists in a right-to-work state.

They actually don't have to give you a



15-minute break, if they don't want to. try to work and exist [laughter] in an environment like that. You all be looking over your shoulders 'cause your job don't feel secure. So, the union help people to gain job security. They want to do away with the insurance, that's one of the things for employees, insurance, vacation time.

Some of 'em got up to five week vacation, and some of the benefits exceed that of the federal government, and other big corporations, because they negotiated that. They get their birthday off, it's a paid holiday; they get seven or eight holidays a year off. It's not a set time to get off because, you running fish. When the last fish is processed, then you go home—but, see, there was a time when they would come in at eight o'clock and it'd be ten, eleven o'clock before they get off. They took advantage of, hey, we can work y'all from can to can't.

The union and the members got together and decided, this is unfair. If you gonna work us after eight hours, you gonna pay us time and a half, on a five-day work week. They had to pay overtime after

forty, because the federal government require that.

It's probably about ninety-eight percent women working the catfish plant. Can you imagine a woman that got kids have to come in at 8 o'clock in the morning and stay 'til 9 or 10 o'clock at night, day after day after day? The fact is, management gone home. These women staying up, they missing they kids, making sure they kid get they homework, miss cooking and stuff. Now, since they pay time and a half, they done restructured all that.

It was [19]88, [19]89 when we had a strike here in Indianola. I was working at the plant in Isola. I had to be at work at 7 o'clock in the morning, but I drove up at 5 o'clock, and I'd picket before I went to work. I promise you, it was real admirable of the folks. They came together as a peoples, and they got a lot of different things done, and that strike paved the way for other places.

O: Mr. Steele, was there a connection between the earlier civil rights struggles and labor?

S: Sarah White, she was really instrumental, 'cause she worked out there and she knew a lot of folks. Your minister always gonna come out, and some of your local civil right folks, NAACP folks, they also gonna lend a hand.

O: Mr. Steele, what's the pay scale now in the plant, and how's the union affected that?

S: When minimum wages went up, pay increase went up. It's a big need to make adjustment on wages right now. I personally think that they would still be below standard, because the company's not gonna do no more than they have to. I don't understand where they feel like, they can't take care of they family on \$2,500 a week, how do they think the employees gonna take care of they family on \$250 a week? That's an unlikelyhood they gonna be fair at all. Each year go by, the gap between the rich and the poor widen, because of greed.

O: What's the political climate towards unions in Mississippi?

S: It's the political climate here that they wish they would go away. [Laughter] A lot of companies made a record

surplus, they just holding back on they money. Some of these fish plants doing extremely well, they don't think we know it; but they are.

There's a profit margin that they feel comfortable with. Once that get to be infringed upon, they get nervous, and the first thing they do, they cutting back with the employees. They never cut back with management. [Laughter]

Catfish plants, most of 'em try to follow the same pay scale and stuff. They got government contracts for school, they got all kinds of stuff to keep them in business, they just wanna put everything in their pockets, sure do. [Laughter] See, they think that we're ignorant to their design, but we're not.

We pretty much know what most companies run per day or per week. And when we go in to negotiate, sometimes you have to let 'em know that, hey, we know y'all doing this, and we just ain't gonna take it. Because if everything was done in good faith, you wouldn't need a union. [Laughter]

Before they got some larger plants, they had little small plants. In Isola, Country Select Consolidated Catfish, they started out working can to can't. Working all night, they limit insurance, they limit benefits, and when the union came, all that changed.

O: Were there conditions with, say, repetitive motion?

S: A lot of that we had to do with, and a lot of that OSHA had to do with. If you didn't have the union to make sure that they follow compliance, when a person began to have repetitive motion, they'd put them under heavy scrutiny, hoping that they mess up and I can fire them, so that I won't incur a worker's compensation bill. Your wrist hurting you, you gotta say that in an undertone. [Laughter]

I worked for the company, so I'm not ignorant of the design and the tactics.

Some of the typical grievances are, first and foremost, an invalid write-up; not being dignified as an employee because they talk to 'em any kinda way, and favoritism. In this contract we got, zero tolerance on stuff like that.

O: Could you describe what workers do say on the filet line?

S: First you got what you call a live receiving, where they unload the fish off the trucks. They come into the grading area, where the fish is distributed to the filet machine. Each filet machine is designed to run a certain size. The first machine is the deheader, it cuts the fish head off and then it rips the fish down the middle. Then it goes to what you call the 184 machine. It just splits it down the middle, take the skins off, and it come out as two filets.

The filet come out of the filet machine, it goes to what you call the filleters. They take the dorsal fin out the back of it, and the tail bone, it flips it off, and it's a filet. It goes down the filet belt to the chiller. The chiller is thirty-two degrees or less, it takes all the film and grease off it. Then it goes through other sizers, to the filet pack area, and the sizers distribute them according to size. They bag 'em up and send 'em to the cooler.

Then you got the manual side. See, whole fish gotta be done manually. The fish come down—the guy, he can do probably, shoot, about fifteen or so a minute, just cutting their heads off, and then they go down the chute to what you call a ripper.

The ripper pick it up and take a knife and just rip it, at the top. Then, it goes to what you call the long-gone, or the eviscerater.

It's some pipes that got suction to 'em. You take the fish, push it up against that pipe, and that pipe take all the viscera out of it. Then it goes on a belt, what you call a skinner. They take the fish and run both sides of the fish over the skinner, and get the skin off. Then it goes to the chiller, then, the sizer.

So, you got a whole fish area, and you got a filet area— 'cause different markets want different fish. Chicago likes whole fish, other markets like filets. Then they box it up and ship it out the back door.

O: How many people work at the plant?

S: The one in Isola, it's about six hundred employees. The one at Delta is about a couple hundred. Then they got a plant in Belzoni got about sixty folks, where they got a freeze tunnel down there, because they use CO2 to freeze it hard as a brick. Then they can unthaw in five minutes. In Isola, they also take the offal, the remains, and make fertilizer out of it. They also make pet food product out of it.

On those operations, the fertilizer operation and the pet food product, you have

very little overhead and you're making tons of money. Talking about Multi-bloom, this spray costs eight dollars a bottle in the store, and I bet you it don't even cost a dollar and a quarter between the bottle and ingredients. You can take two cases of it and pay your labor for the whole day. This organic fertilizer, You got twenty-five percent overhead off that, if that much. And then you say that you not making money.

Well, hey, we're human beings, too. We wanna be able to afford the same opportunity to send our kids to college and do things for our family you can do for your family. Twenty-five years later, we still doing the same thing? [Laughter]

That's a bitter pill to swallow, sure is. And then you stop and think, now, if it wasn't for organized labor, in particular, UFCW 1529, a lot of this stuff wouldn't have come about.

I went through the same thing, seeing both perspective of it, me being in management, it really gave me an opportunity to do more for the folks. I was loyal to the company, and I was loyal to the employees.

A lot of times, I took initiative to do things out the norm to help them. And I'm gonna do all I can to continue to serve the folks, and try to build a legacy, like Rose Turner and Sarah White did here; try to be one of, hey, these are folks I know I can depend on, that I know that first and foremost they gonna be here as many hours as it take to make things right.

Search for "Eddie Steele" at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/collection/> for the full transcript of this interview.

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

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Never Can Say Goodbye: Amiri Baraka (1934–2014)

by Paul Ortiz

“The spirit will not descend without song.”

—*Blues People:
Negro Music in White America (1963)*

Amiri Baraka (born Everett LeRoi Jones) was one of the greatest poets in American history. A two-time recipient of the American Book Award, he founded the Black Arts Movement, a multimedia explosion of poetry, prose, paintings and forms of expression rooted in the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, and the global anti-colonial struggle. His contemporaries in the Movement included literary giants such as Sonia Sanchez, Lorraine Hansberry and Ishmael Reed who used words as weapons to attack the rigid systems of oppression that degrade social relations in the United States.

Amiri Baraka’s words were variously incisive, wide of the mark, angry, joyous, fiery, loving, wicked, satirical, incendiary, full of hate, full of love, strident, whispery, soft as down, hard as iron. Like all great artists Baraka refused to integrate into what he understood to be a fundamentally corrupt society. After winning the prestigious PEN Open Book Award for his magnificent “Tales of the Out and Gone” (2008) he said “Art is a weapon in the struggle of ideas, the class struggle. The bourgeoisie uses the arts to valorize capitalism, whether books, films, drama, music. The most progressive artists can never get the exposure that the artist prostitutes get. Mao said even arts, literary criticism et cetera is part of the class struggle. So that we must utilize works that are artistically powerful and ideologically revolutionary.”

Jones did not start out as a radical. To paraphrase C.L.R. James, the poet as a young man was made by the revolution. After a stint in the Air Force, he established a reputation as a promising poet and playwright in the 1950s with plays such as “A Good Girl is Hard to Find” and his collection of poems, “Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note” published in 1961. He was associated with the poetic avant-gardes Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Gilbert Sorrentino and the Greenwich Village Beats.

The rise of the Civil Rights Movement had a major impact on Baraka’s development, but his trip to revolutionary Cuba in 1960

was a turning point in his creative life. He traveled as part of a delegation of Fair Play for Cuba Committee members. The Third World artistic struggle for freedom humbled him. While he initially defended the separation of art and politics, his counterparts from the Global South did not. In *Cuba Libre* (1966) Baraka vividly remembered that Mexican poet Jaime Shelley openly challenged him: “You want to cultivate your soul? In the ugliness you live in, you want to cultivate your soul? Well, we’ve got millions of starving people to feed, and that moves me enough to make poems out of.”

Subsequently, Baraka (as LeRoi Jones) wrote one of the most influential books ever published on African American history: “Blues People: Negro Music in White America” (1963). It was squarely Pan-African and the maturing writer placed the origins of blues and jazz music squarely in the maelstrom of Africa, the transatlantic slave trade, and the struggles of enslaved people to survive American capitalism. “Blues People” referred to Mexican civilization at the time of the Conquest as “...one of the longest-lived, most sophisticated and exalted traditions of human life on this planet.”

Beloved in his native Newark, Baraka became involved in politics, and he had a major role in helping to elect Kenneth A. Gibson, the city’s first African American mayor in 1970. (His son, Ras Baraka, is currently a candidate in the Newark mayor’s race.) In the mid-1960s, shaken by the wave of assassinations that took the lives of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bobby Kennedy, and others, he produced writings he later condemned as being frankly anti-Semitic. This self-criticism set him apart from countless white authors who never felt the need to retract or to apologize for anti-black or anti-Latino utterances then or now.

Words cannot express my own sadness in thinking about a world without Amiri Baraka. For those of us in the farm worker and Chicano movements, his barbs against the powerful have been a source of strength for decades. Baraka’s great comrade and intellectual sparring partner Ishmael Reed provided the most fitting epitaph of all: “I once said that he did for the English syntax what Monk did with the chord. He was an original.” Amiri Baraka, presente! 

Scott Camil: resistance, liberation

by Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

Vietnam War veteran and political activist, Scott Camil, will speak about the release of the new Samuel Proctor Oral History Program Gainesville 8 collection on Wednesday, March 12 from 12:50 to 1:40 p.m. at the Ustler Hall Atrium on the University of Florida campus. The event is co-sponsored by the UF Women’s Studies Department.

Last fall, the oral history program completed interviews with participants in the Gainesville 8 trial. As part of this collection, Camil and jury members donated personal documents to the oral history program that he will share at the event.

Danielle Ragofsky, an undergraduate volunteer at the oral history program, spent numerous hours sifting through the documents with Camil to prepare for permanent housing at Library West. The documents and oral history collection will be available for the community and students to use. Camil will also share his thoughts on patriotism, activism and government spying.

The Gainesville 8 was a group of seven Vietnam War veterans and one supporter acquitted nearly 41 years ago for conspiracy to violently disrupt the 1972 Miami Republican National Convention. The trial gained national attention when charges were filed against the activists organized through the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (V.V.A.W.): John Briggs, Scott Camil, Alton Foss, John Kniffin, Peter Mahoney, Stanley Michelson, William Patterson and Don Perdue.

The VVAW planned a non-violent demonstration to prevent conflicts similar to those seen in the 1968 Democratic National Convention. However, FBI investigator and informants inside the organization testified that the VVAW had other violent motives and plans.

A decorated veteran, Camil first gained prominence as an opponent of the Vietnam War as a witness in the Winter Soldier Investigation and a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. His story is a remarkable one. 

United Nations Association of Gainesville upcoming events

Empowering the rural Latino community to promote mental health

Public meeting: Thursday, March 27, 4:30–6 p.m., Gainesville Friends Meeting, 702 NW 38th Street. (Turn South of off 8th Avenue, last building on the right.)

Speaker: Dr. Jeanne Marie Stacciarini, Associate Professor, UF College of Nursing.

With a special interest in promoting mental health services of underserved minorities, she leads field research for University of Florida nursing students on community health related projects here and in Yucatan, Mexico. Educated in Brazil, Dr. Stacciarini was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Massachusetts. She has received several awards including the 2012-2013 College of Nursing Teacher of the Year.

For more information, call 352-466-3835.

United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

Public meeting: Thursday, April 10, 4 p.m., Room WA104, Santa Fe College, Northwest Campus

Dr. Bea Awoniyi will discuss the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities — why such a document is necessary, which countries have not ratified it, and why. Afterwards, two teachers and six high school students from a school for the deaf in Palestine will share their experiences. These international guests are part of Gainesville's sister cities program.

Dr. Awoniyi, originally from Nigeria, is Assistant VP for Student Affairs at Santa Fe College. With a PhD in Community College Leadership from Colorado State University, she formerly was Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the Student Disability Resource Center at FSU. She is president-elect of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD).

For more information, call 352-466-3835.

ELECTIONS, from p. 6

quite logical, and looked at objectively, as not necessarily a bad thing. That certain people or groups are supporting her does not make Annie one of them, or a person who is going to do their bidding. She is a tough, independent person. And frankly, so is Helen. I know them both pretty well, and have for years.

I like that Annie is willing to challenge GRU to do better, and to question the huge proposed development east of Gainesville called Plum Creek. I am uncomfortable with the fact that what's motivated her to run stems in part from Solar program, which she is in process of suing the City and GRU over. I love

that with Helen we would get a person of exceptional character and experience, and a strong representative from the LGBT community. Electoral campaigns can be pretty bad when it comes to gotcha points and hyperbole, and even character attacks.

Fear-mongering I have always hated, and supporters of both sides have been engaging in it, unfortunately, but there are major issues facing the City and Alachua County that people care deeply about.

I am way out of my comfort zone here, and what I say next will please some and displease others.

I think that; despite the environmental absolutists who have been so publicly single-issue bashing of the City Commission for years over the biomass plant issue to a grating degree, and of whom most are supporting Annie Orlando, Annie is not them; she is her own person, this is about more than biomass, and I am willing to look past that crew and say she may be the better candidate for this time and situation. This Commission has wasted a lot of time on expensive studies and a "we know best" attitude.

If Helen wins, I will be equally happy; but with apologies to her and my friends who are her supporters, for this race, I say vote Annie Orlando. 

Labor takes historic stride forward as Walmart joins Fair Food Program

by Barry Estabrook

This article was originally published by Civil Eats (civileats.com) on Jan. 17. See the full story with links and photos at <http://civileats.com/2014/01/17/labor-takes-historic-stride-forward-as-walmart-joins-fair-food-program/#sthash.nmslgUDq.dpuf>.

The struggle for labor justice in the fields of the United States—and perhaps far beyond—took an historic stride forward [Jan. 16]. At a folding table in a metal-clad produce packing shed beside a tomato field in southwestern Florida, two high-ranking executives from the giant retailer Walmart, which sells more groceries than any other company in the world, sat down beside two Mexican farmworkers and signed an agreement to join the Fair Food Program.

Originating as a solution to the atrocious working conditions in Florida's \$650 million tomato industry, which included several cases of abject slavery, the Fair Food Program was created by

the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW – ciw-online.org), a human rights group based in Immokalee, Florida, the state's largest migrant workers' community.

The program is unique in that it creates a legal framework linking laborers, tomato farm owners, and final purchasers of tomatoes. The purchasers, which include such giants as McDonalds, Whole Foods Market, and Sodexo, have agreed to pay an additional penny per pound for the tomatoes they buy. In turn, the producers pass that penny directly along to the workers. A penny-a-pound might sound like a pittance, but it represents a 50 percent raise, the difference between making \$50 and \$80 a day.

But the agreement goes far beyond providing a livable, albeit modest-income. Signatories abide to a Code of Conduct that enforces zero-tolerance for slavery or sexual assault. Workers attend education sessions to learn their rights and responsibilities under the

See *WALMART*, p 18

WALMART, from p. 17

Program. They are also informed about health and safety issues.

A grievance system ensures that worker complaints reach the proper authorities. And critically, an independent third party, the Fair Foods Standards Council, oversees implementation of the program and audits the extra penny-a-pound payments to make sure they are reaching the workers. In the three years since first being introduced, the program has funneled more than \$11 million of extra income to the workers, dealt with nearly 400 complaints, and interviewed more than 4,000 workers for on-farm audits.

Notably, there has not been a single reported case of slavery in Florida, an area once called "ground-zero for modern-day slavery" by a federal prosecutor. It's a huge accomplishment for an organization that began 20 years ago as a loose gathering of a couple of dozen tomato pickers in a church meeting room in a shabby Florida town.

Before this week, nearly all of the fast food chains had agreed to participate (Wendy's refuses to take part). So had all the major food service companies that supply colleges, museums, and businesses. For all the CIW's accomplishments, there remained a giant hole in the Fair Food Program's social safety net. With the exception of Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, not a single supermarket company had signed on to the program [including Florida's beloved Publix]. With the stroke of a pen, that all changed this week when Walmart joined.

The implications of the Walmart decision cannot be understated. Enormous pressure will be placed on competing grocery giants to follow Walmart's lead. The CIW's successes in bringing aboard competitors within food industry groups has always benefitted from a domino effect. It took four years of petitions, demonstrations, and hunger strikes for the group to convince Taco Bell to finally sign in 2005, and another two years to get McDonald's to agree. Then the other fast food chains all but fell over themselves in a rush to the table.

The food service industry went through a similar cascade after Bon Appétit Management voluntarily joined in 2009. Importantly, Walmart signed on its own volition, without any pressure from CIW actions. History makes it hard to see how companies such as Publix, a big southeastern grocery chain based in Florida, can continue to snub the CIW and its supporters.

Wisely, the CIW has concentrated on going slowly, making sure that the program was rolled out carefully in one small sector of the agriculture industry, a sector that has provided fertile ground for some of the most egregious human rights violations suffered by American workers. But the program provides a template that can be used across food production, which has been notoriously difficult to organize through unionization and other traditional activities. A worker doesn't have to "join" anything to benefit from the Fair Food Program. The instant a person steps into a tomato field, he or she is linked into a legally binding system that leads directly to the executive suites of the largest food companies in the world.

The notion that the Fair Food Program has the potential to be a moveable template for labor justice was not lost on Alexandra Guáqueta, chair of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, who attended the Walmart signing ceremony. Praising the Fair Food Program's "smart mix" of tools, she said, "We are eager to see whether the Fair Food Program is able to leverage further change within participation businesses and serve as a model elsewhere in the world." ☘

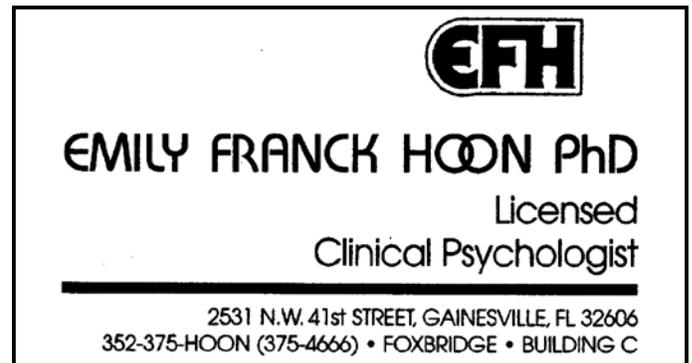


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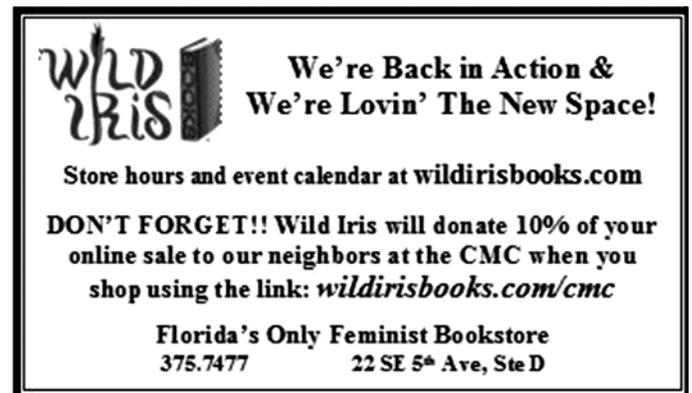
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Remembering Pete Seeger

There aren't enough pages in this publication to include all our memories of our hero, the legendary folk singer and activist, Pete Seeger, who died at age 94 in January. Seeger spent the better part of seven decades writing and recording songs, creating the modern American folk music movement. But we also remember him for his commitment to social justice through his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, the anti-war movement, and the environmental movement, to name a few.

Below is a short but telling remembrance of Seeger, which was picked up by the Daily Kos by newmexicobear and published on Jan. 31. Read the original text here: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/31/1273976/-One-more-Pete-Seeger-Story#>.

The power of song

In the 1970s, Pete Seeger was invited to sing in Barcelona, Spain. Francisco Franco's fascist government, the last of the dictatorships that started World War II, was still in power but declining. A pro-democracy movement was gaining strength and to prove it, they invited America's best-known freedom singer to Spain. More than a hundred thousand people were in the stadium, where rock bands had played all day. But the crowd had come for Seeger. As Pete prepared to go on, government officials handed him a list of songs he was not allowed to sing. Pete studied it mournfully, saying it looked an awful lot like his set list. But they insisted: he must not sing any of these songs.

Pete took the government's list of banned songs and strolled on stage. He held up the paper and said, "I've been told that I'm not allowed to sing these songs." He grinned at the crowd and said, "So I'll just play the chords; maybe you know the words. They didn't say anything about you singing them." He strummed his banjo to one song after another, and they all sang. A hundred thousand defiant freedom singers breaking the law with Pete Seeger, filling the stadium with words their government did not want them to hear, words they all knew and had sung together, in secret circles, for years. What could the government do? Arrest a hundred thousand singers? It had been beaten by a few banjo chords and the fame of a man whose songs were on the lips of the whole world.

Learn more about Pete Seeger at these websites:



- "We Shall Overcome": Remembering Folk Icon, Activist Pete Seeger in His Own Words & Songs -- http://www.democracynow.org/2014/1/28/we_shall_overcome_remembering_folk_icon
- Pete Seeger: The Power of Song, a full-length documentary -- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/pete-seeger/full-film-pete-seeger-the-power-of-song/2864/>
- Pete Seeger: How Can I Keep from Singing? -- www.peteseeger.org 

PEACE SCHOLARSHIP

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its inaugural peace scholarships for the spring of 2014. We are awarding two scholarships of \$500 for high school seniors with demonstrated commitment and leadership in activities involving: peace & social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Application Deadline is April 1st, 2014

For more information, contact :

Paul Ortiz at ortizprof@gmail.com, or visit www.vfpgainesville.org.

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ADVICE FROM VETERANS
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AND RECRUITING PRACTICES
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<http://www.afn.org/~vetpeace/>

Gainesville



Chapter 14

**Girls Rock Camp
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**Sunday March 23, 4-7pm:
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**Come find out how to volunteer
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www.girlsrockcampgainesville.com
[facebook.com/
rockandrollcampforgirlsgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/rockandrollcampforgirlsgainesville)**

ABORTION, from p. 8

It's pretty simple.

The abortion itself was much less of a big deal than I imagined. It wasn't fun, there was quite a bit of cramping, but I was awake and aware the whole time and felt fine. I remember being so angry at the protesters outside and as we left I yelled at them, which made me feel better. Being pregnant releases some hormones that were quite a bit to deal with, but all the emotions and yelling and crying were not because I regretted my abortion. In fact, the abortion was a breath of relief in the middle of a very stressful situation.

I went to work for the clinic that treated me for about 4 years, so I have been lucky again in getting to show women respect and care during their abortions. Every story is different, but the one thing they all have in common is that they really needed that option. I have often thought about the crosses the pro-lifers put out for all the "children murdered" by abortion. I think a truer representation of what abortion does for us would be little diplomas and "goal accomplished!" and "had a baby when it was right!" signs to represent each abortion. I know it changed my life.

The women and men who fought back in Texas inspire me. Join the fight for abortion rights — no restrictions, no apologies! ✨



**Save the Date:
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Organize with others in your union, industry, or campaign. Face-to-face meetings to share tactics and swap notes are the heart of the Labor Notes Conference. Join an existing industry, union, or caucus meeting—or contact us to set one up.

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www.artwalkgainesville.com

FARMWORKER AWARENESS WEEK 2014 MARCH 24-28

In honor of Farmworker Awareness Week, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures and CHISPAS-UF, have organized a series of events to bring awareness to the issues surrounding the farmworker community locally and nationally. It is our hope to educate and empower the community to advocate and stand in solidarity for human rights for farmworker communities.

The events are:

- 3/17 - **Siempre Adelante: A Look at Faith and the Immigrant Struggle in Alachua County (film showing)**, 10 am, 1 pm, 5 pm, La Casita - 1504 W. University Ave.
- 3/24 - **A Day in the Life of a Farmworker (poster display of farmworker conditions)**, 10-2 pm, Plaza of the Americas
- 3/24 - **Wage Theft in Alachua County, in Agriculture and Immigration Solutions**, 7:00 pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave.
- 3/25 - **“La Espiga” (documentary film screening)** 5 pm, La Casita; Q&A with filmmaker Samuel J. Vega to follow
- 3/26 - **CHISPAS - Meeting on farmworker issues, Front and Center**, 7 pm, La Casita
- 3/27 - **Wendy’s Protest** 12:30 pm, Reitz Food Court
- 3/28 - **Can You Feed America? (farmworker obstacle course)** 10-2 pm, Plaza of the Americas

For More information call 352-373-3435.

There is also a march culminating the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ “Now Is the Time” tour on March 15 leaving from the Southgate Publix in Lakeland (2515 S. Florida Ave.) and ending in downtown Lakeland. Carpools from Gainesville are leaving at 9:30 am. To catch a ride, contact Sheila Payne at 352-373-3435. To learn more about the “Now Is the Time” tour, visit www.ciw-online.org/nowisthetime/. 🐞

Editorial Board’s Reading List

- **On Academic labor; Transcript of 2/14/14 Chomsky speech**
<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/02/28/on-academic-labor/>
- **George Polk Award for Journalists**
<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2014/02/17>

2014 Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest Submission Deadline: March 14

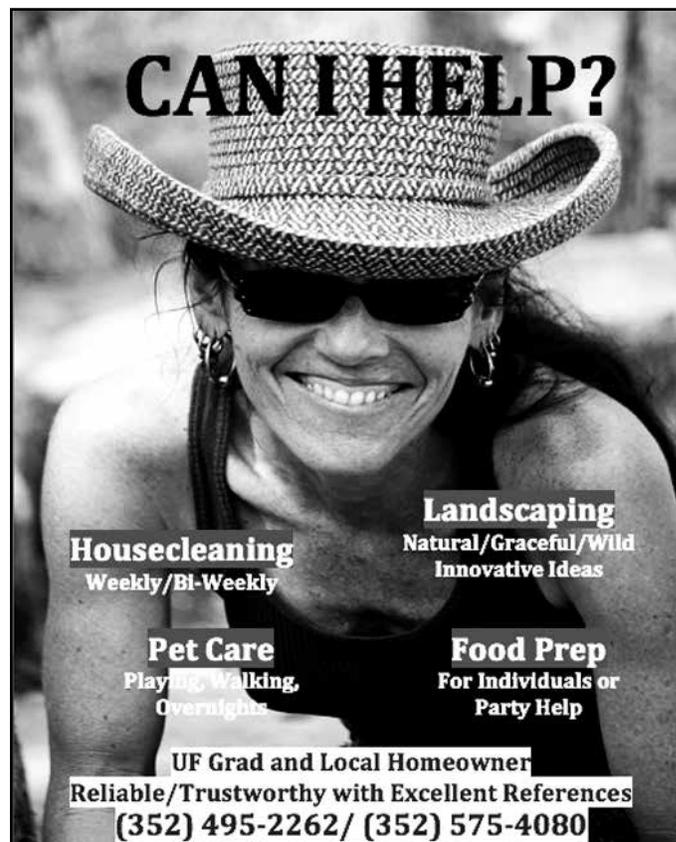
Gainesville Veterans for Peace invites all students in Alachua County, grades K–12, to submit one poem on the subject of peace. For more information or to submit a poem, email vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com.



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PENROD, from p. 5

choice. In addition to his organizing work with the Gainesville Industrial Workers of the World chapter, he assumed the paid staff position as co-coordinator. We had not long ago moved into our new location on South Main Street, and it was a dynamic period for our South Main neighborhood. Robbie worked first with James Schmidt and then with Emily Sparr. Last year, in what's a big asset for the CMC, the Radical Press Coffee Collective came into existence, and Emily made the decision to devote more time to that project. At that time, Robbie stepped up to the challenge and took the reins as the sole coordinator of the CMC.

And that's what he's been doing, and will keep doing until August, when he will step down and follow the siren song of

Portland, Oregon. The CMC faces a challenge in finding the right person(s) to take the job, as there will be big shoes to fill! We need to download all the knowledge in Robbie's brain that made him such an effective coordinator with all the aspects of the CMC: tech, accounting, event and volunteer coordination, publicity, and occasional crisis management. It's a multi-faceted job, with a lot of not-so-glamorous aspects and he has shown major dedication to the fulfillment of the CMC's mission.

The Civic Media Center opens minds, makes connections, and enriches countless people with knowledge, culture, and acceptance into a community of active and aware people. That doesn't happen by magic; it takes work. It's fitting that the person who kept it going be recognized by the Penrod Brigadas award.

Jeremiah Tattersall by Paul Ortiz

Jeremiah's persistent pursuit of truth and justice for all is reflected in his tireless community organizing and social action research in support of working class people who toil on university campuses, in Gainesville restaurants, and in the agricultural fields of Immokalee. He has been active in a myriad of radical movements including the Coalition for Justice Against Police Brutality, Students for a Democratic Society, and the Coalition to End the Meal Limits Now.

Jeremiah has distinguished himself as an activist by his ability to dig up the truth whether in the form of statistics, worker testimonies, or hard-to-find data that has been employed by groups like the Wage Theft Task Force to pass the historic Wage Recovery Ordinance in Alachua County that went into effect in January 2014.

From his base in Gainesville, he has become active in regional, statewide and national politics organizing on behalf of the North Central Florida Central Labor Council and the AFL-CIO. He organizes and educates UF graduate students and instructors in the United Faculty of Florida, the union that Dr. Jack Penrod helped start. A founding member of Fight Back Florida, he organized protests against devastating budget cuts that hurt working class families, and he rallied Gainesville residents against the government federal government shutdown in 2013.

Jeremiah's patient and grounded approach to radicalism elicits admiration from political friends and foes alike. He is a leader of a new generation of community organizers seeking to transform the South and he is a living embodiment of the principles that Jack Penrod fought for in the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Spanish Civil War, and the Labor Party.

Jeremiah began participating in radical activities including work with homeless people and anti-war activism in high school, but it was his entry into doing solidarity work with the Coalition of Immokalee workers in 2009 as a student at UF that deepened his understanding of how to become a community organizer. He gained critical experience working on a successful campaign with Students for a Democratic Society and other student organizations to push the ARAMARK Corporation in 2010 to join the CIW's Campaign for Fair Food.

Subsequently, he worked with the Coalition for Justice Against Police Brutality and as an editor with The Fine Print. 

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

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

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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. The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check growradio.org for updates.

Sun	1 pm	Knife Hits
	3 pm	Paper Beats Rock
	5 pm	Joe and Craig Show
	7 pm	Thru the Rhythm
	9 pm	The Sum of Your Life
Mon	11 am	Dr. Bill's Super Awe ..
	1 pm	The Kitchen Sink
	3 pm	Lost Sharks
	5 pm	Street Nuts
	7 pm	Malum
	8 pm	New Day Rising
	9 pm	Female Trouble
Tue	11 am	What's the Story
	3 pm	Very Amazing and Co.
	5 pm	The Barefoot Sessions
	9 pm	The Experiment
Wed	12 am	Pyramid Society 64
	9 am	Sax and Violins
	1 pm	The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
	3 pm	The Quiet City
	5 pm	A Brazilian Commando
	7 pm	Funhouse
	9 pm	The Otherness
Thu	11am	Things Be Blowin'
	2 pm	The Breakup Song..
	3 pm	Hope & Anchor
	5 pm	No Filler
	7 pm	florida rules
	9 pm	Eagle Death
Fri	11 am	The Breakup Song
	1 pm	4D Meltdown
	5 pm	Artichokeification
	7 pm	The Bag of Tricks
Sat	11 am	Jazzville
	1 pm	Cosmic Sataurdaze
	5 pm	Alewife Outbound
	7 pm	Planet of Sound
	9 pm	Reality Bites



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

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

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

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

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

Saturday: 1- 9 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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



Democracy NOW! airs
Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m. & Mon.-Thur. 8 p.m.

David Barsamian to speak at CMC SpringBoard, March 21

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center is really pleased to have David Barsamian as the guest speaker for the annual SpringBoard fundraiser on March 21 at The Wooly (20 N. Main St.).

Barsamian is the award-winning director of Alternative Radio (www.alternativeradio.org) and author of many books. His latest is "Power Systems: Global Democratic Uprisings & the New Challenges to U.S. Empire" with Noam Chomsky.

One of America's most tireless and wide-ranging journalists, he has altered the independent media landscape, both with his weekly radio program and with his many books with Chomsky, Richard Wolff, Eqbal Ahmad, Howard Zinn, Tariq Ali, Arundhati Roy, and Edward Said. His articles and interviews appear in The Progressive, The Sun, Z and other magazines and journals. A much in-demand public speaker, he lectures all over the world. He was the keynote speaker at the National Campus & Community Radio Conference in June 2013 in Winnipeg. For his work on Kashmir he was deported from India in September 2011 and has not been allowed back since.

For years, AR was broadcast locally on WUFT. Currently, it is on WGOT, 94.7FM. Mondays, 8-9 a.m., Saturdays, 4-5 p.m. and Sundays, 1-2 p.m. Check www.alternativeradio.org site for a station near you, and to see all the great speakers available for ordering.

Barsamian is a great fit for the CMC. He was a grassroots activist in Boulder, Colorado in 1989 when he started recording lectures and making them available to radio stations and by mail order. His work is an archive of leading thinkers, and a history the dynamic social issues of the last 25 years. When famed historian Howard Zinn died in 2013, Barsamian rebroadcast prior talks by Zinn, which served to underscore the legacy of that great man in how well his words and analysis held up over time. Barsamian has dialogued with the great thinkers of our time.

Now we have the chance to hear him and dialogue with him right here in Gainesville. The title of his talk will be "Media, U.S. Empire, and the Snowden Effect."

The celebration will also include the presentation of the Jack Penrod Brigadas Award, which is given in recognition of local organizing work by the Penrod Committee made up of members from United Faculty of Florida, Alachua County Labor Party and Veterans for Peace. Jack was a wounded veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War and a retired Professor of English at UF. This year's honorees are Jeremiah Tattersall, local community and labor activist, and Robbie Czopek, the current CMC coordinator.

Advance tickets are available at the CMC (433 S. Main St.) for \$15. Admission at the door on the night of the event will be \$20-\$30 on a sliding scale.

For more information, visit www.civiciamcenter.org. 

Civic Media Center Presents: **Our Annual SpringBoard Fundraiser**

Featuring dinner, guest speaker, presentation of the Penrod Award, raffle, & silent auction!

Guest Speaker - David Barsamian
founder and director of Alternative Radio
speaking on "Media, U.S. Empire and the
Snowden Effect"

WHEN: Fri. March 21st @ 6pm
WHERE: The Wooly, 20 N. Main St
COST: \$15 adv, \$20-30 at door

more info: 352-373-0010, civiciamcenter.org

The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



The Gainesville Iguana

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Comments, suggestions,
contributions (written or financial)
are welcome.

To list your event or group, contact
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