

“Trees around the edges” Urban reforestation on the north side

By Beth Connors-Manke

When Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, gave her acceptance speech in 2004, she ended by telling of her early years in Kenya:

“I reflect on my childhood experience when I would visit a stream next to our home to fetch water for my mother. I would drink water straight from the stream. Playing among the arrowroot leaves I tried in vain to pick up the strands of frogs’ eggs, believing they were beads. But every time I put my little fingers under them they would break. Later, I saw thousands of tadpoles: black, energetic and wriggling through the clear water against the background of the brown earth. This is the world I inherited from my parents.”

“Today, over 50 years later, the stream has dried up, women walk long distances for water, which is not always clean, and children will never know what they have lost. The challenge is to restore the home of the tadpoles and give back to our children a world of beauty and wonder.”

Recognizing the ecological destruction that was threatening rural African communities, in 1977 Maathai started the Green Belt Movement. The group’s solution to lack of firewood, clean drinking water, shelter, and a distressed local economy and agriculture? Trees.

Because the local women knew first—and best—the damage being done to the land and their communities, the Green Belt Movement focused on trees because they “provide fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their [the women’s] children’s education and household needs. The activity also creates employment and improves soils and watersheds,” Maathai said in her speech.

By 2004, the Green Belt Movement had planted over 30 million trees.

Urban forests

While urban Lexington may seem a far cry from rural Kenya, all those things that Maathai identified—firewood, clean drinking water, shelter, and a distressed local economy and agriculture—are at issue on the northside. They may manifest differently, but we share some of the same problems. In both cases, trees act as a weather vane telling us which way the wind is blowing.



A young volunteer at the Castlewood tree planting. Photo by Brian Connors Manke.

In August 2010, Kansas artist Matt Burke began assembling his 70-foot sculpture made of what appeared to be woven wooden slats. The sculpture sat in front of the Lexington Art League in Castlewood Park, near one of the large bur oaks that graced the front of the Loudoun House. On a windy day, the oak came down, crushing part of Burke’s sculpture.

Burke persevered, coming back in October 2010 to finish a revised version of the sculpture. Within a week, the sculpture was assaulted again. Gary Maynard, drunk and sleeping on the streets, said he burned a large part of the artwork in order to stay warm.

This story reveals three things: first, Burke’s sculpture was cursed. Second, Lexington has some aged trees that Mother Nature is sending off to retirement, whether by wind shear, ice storm, or insect infestations like the Emerald Ash Bore. As these trees die, the city loses an essential part of the ecosystem. Third, the northside is home to many Lexingtonians without homes and without jobs. As ridiculous as Maynard’s story sounds (especially if you had seen the part of the artwork that he burned), it does speak a truth: he had no shelter and he needed warmth.

The northside is at a deficit economically, ecologically, and agriculturally; we city dwellers could probably

learn something from Maathai’s Green Belt Movement.

3 million, not 30 million

Many praise Lexington for it’s beauty, whether it’s the visitor who travels into the county on the rolling hills flanked by horse farms or the native who has grown up with the beauty of the Bluegrass. That being said, that beauty is fairly devoid of trees.

According to Tim Queary, an Urban Forester in LFUCG’s Division of Environmental Policy, “Lexington-Fayette County has a very low existing tree canopy estimated at 7.2% because of all the surrounding horse farms and development. The USDA Forest Service ranks Fayette County as the second least forested county in Kentucky just below Bourbon County. American Forests.org recommends that cities maintain an overall tree canopy cover of at least 40% to help mitigate the negative effects of urbanization.”

“It is hard to say just how many trees Lexington-Fayette County needs to plant in order to reach the recommended goal but if my math is correct, we would need to plant an additional 3,000,000 large shade trees,” said Queary. Yes, 3 million.

Before you get overwhelmed and give up before you even finish this article, think about it this way: since Lexington has about 300,000 people, that’s about 10 trees per person, which, Queary says, “really isn’t much if you think about it.”

No, it’s not, especially if you remember that the Green Belt Movement has planted more than 30 million trees.

Hurdles

That’s not to say that there aren’t plenty of challenges. Lexington-Fayette County’s development pattern with the outlying farms, expanding residential and commercial developments (think: Hamburg), and dense urban core requires that we think creatively about where and how to plant trees. Much of the land in the county is privately owned and made unavailable to the community, limiting to some extent our ability to increase our canopy cover. Let me give two examples that stand as a contrast to Lexington’s land use and development proclivities:

In eastern Kentucky, many forested hills, although privately owned, are often traversed by community

Bigger Than They Appear at Carnegie Center

By Michael Dean Benton

One of Lexington’s independent presses, Accents Publishing, is premiering its newest anthology of poems this month – Bigger Than They Appear: Anthology of Very Short Poems. The world premiere will officially kick off with a public reading downtown at the Carnegie Center on December 8 at 6:00 P.M. Over forty of the featured poets will be at the reading.

The notion of a world premiere is not publicity hype, for this anthology is truly international in scope. There are authors from Singapore, Philippines, Germany and Canada, as well as closer here to home, including 60 poems from Kentucky. Over a thousand poets submitted a grand total of 7,000 poems to the project. The finished anthology is a representation of the work of 192 poets and 250 poems from those original submissions.

Katerina Stoykova-Klemer, the editor of the volume and the founder of Accents Publishing, states that this wide range is intentional as the press is very consciously local in its origin while remaining global in its reach. In this particular anthology, and in Accents Press as a whole, they incorporate the spirit of a local independent press with the broader perspective that engages the world’s cultures.

Accents Publishing is supported entirely by book sales and contests. To this day they have not applied for grants and they are not affiliated with any university or institution. Katerina states that this makes it harder on them financially, but they find the advantage of independence and speed of decision making well worth it. She believes that cutting edge poetry will continue to be published by small, independent presses that are not afraid to publish what they love. In this, the democratization of publishing is a wonderful thing.

I asked Katerina why the focus on shorter poems for this new anthology: “I have always loved writing very short poems. I’ve been teaching workshops on how to write them. That was the topic from my graduation lecture; and my mentor, Molly Peacock, said that it would be really cool if I put together an anthology of very short poems. That was in 2009. I remembered the idea, and eventually made it reality.”

The anthology demonstrates not only a diversity of authors, but also represents a wide range of subjects. Place, community, language, representation, environment, bodies, identity, questions, pleasure, anxiety, need, things and rituals, are but some of the inspirations. It is a book that one can live with a long time, dipping in and out, pulling out momentary pleasures to be enjoyed over time. It also encompasses a wide range of emotions; you can feel the distillation of the poets’ lives condensed into these compact, powerful poems.

Do not be fooled, though. These poems may be short, but they carry a richness and depth

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Lexington: top-10 occupied city Creatives demand Commerce Lex banner

By Northrup Center

Last week, news emerged from the JP Morgan Chase Bank Plaza that Occupy Lexington is now the longest continuously running occupation in North America. Formally started on the night of September 29, the Lexington occupation was the third to organize and take up space. When it came time to publicly and collectively stand up, be counted and say, No more. Not in our name!, the order went like this: New York. Chicago. Lexington. The rest of the continent.

Two weeks ago, the citizens of Zucotti Park were forcibly evicted in the middle of the night by New York City police officers (with no

journalists allowed access), ending their formal occupation of Wall Street. With Chicago having stopped its continuous occupation many weeks earlier, this left the Lexington encampment as the oldest in North America. Beginning in December, Lexingtonians and area activists will have been present at the corporate home of our Commonwealth’s state bank, JP Morgan Chase, for over two months.

When the news of Lexington’s distinction was announced by Austin Long last Monday at General Assembly, occupiers responded with a vigorous wiggling of fingers. Four occupiers snapped their fingers in

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North of Center is taking an extended holiday break, and will return in January.

DECEMBER 7, 2011

The Neighborhood

The fifty cents experiment

Misadventures in the city

By Beth Connors-Manke

Recently, a friend sat on a panel about homelessness and was dismayed by the audience’s questions. While he and the other panelists discussed the structural issues related to homelessness, it seemed the audience mainly wanted to know if they should give 50 cents when panhandled on the street. Having seen individuals fixate on the “50 cents question” before, I’d like to give my own blunt response to that query.

First, panhandling and homelessness are not synonymous. Many people ask for money on the street, and not all of them are without homes. A case in point: one night as I and friends were making our way out of a local watering hole, a man approached us asking for money. We said “no”; he then talked to us at length about the political threat Japan poses. We listened, one friend debated him for a moment (the argument about Japan didn’t hold water), and we eventually motioned to leave by saying, “See ya. Stay warm, man.” This was a very cold day last winter, and everyone had been telling each other to stay warm ad nauseam. But he felt affronted. Our anti-Japan interlocutor thought we were implying that he was homeless. “Hey,” he said, “I got a home, don’t you say that I ain’t got a home, man. I’m not homeless.”

Second, you might be having a moral dilemma about it, but it probably doesn’t matter whether you give the panhandler those 50 cents. You should just get over your guilt or discomfort and move on with your day.

But let’s say your angst about the 50 cents is really getting to you; let’s say you think it matters whether you pull the change out of your pocket. Ok then, try this: every morning put 50 cents into your pocket with the intention of giving it away to the first person who asks for it. When you get approached, if the situation is safe for you, give the money away without a thought and move on. Guilt absolved.

After you do this for a while, I bet (if you’re a thinking person) that you start to wonder: why are so many people asking me for money?

Since you were willing to try this experiment in generosity, I’ll assume your first answer won’t be “they’re lazy, and they should go get a job right after they take a bath”—which is what Newt Gingrich would say. You might start to pay more attention to the faces of the people who ask for money, their tone of voice when they speak to you, the clothes they’re wearing. In other words, you might start to notice them. You’ll probably begin to see that they’re down on their luck.

Continuing with your experiment, you keep shelling out the coins until one day you wonder: why are there so many people so down on their luck?

This isn’t a question you’ll be able to answer by looking more closely at Joe or Sandra when they ask for bus fare. Or by Clark when he asks for money for a burger. Or Reggie when he needs his next 40 to make it through the day. Now, you’ve got to look at the bigger picture, a picture certainly bigger than your 50 cents.

There are systemic causes for poverty and its worst manifestation,

homelessness. Those causes have to do with generational poverty, lack of access to good education, health care, and healthy food, and economic inequities (which are being exacerbated by austerity measures and Tea Party ideology)—all of which take a psychic toll and can push a person into addiction and mental health disorders. I’m not going to belabor this point because I think you really already know this and really aren’t that concerned. If you were, you wouldn’t have been trifling over 50 cents.

But let’s say your experiment in generosity did change you a bit. Maybe you’d rather see poverty addressed in a way that can change the system or at least change some families’ lives for the better. Here are some things you can do:

First, support the work of the Salvation Army, Lexington Rescue Mission, Lighthouse Ministries, the Catholic Action Center, and other organizations that directly serve those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Support with time, support with money.

Second, advocate for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) to help ensure that everyone has safe, decent, and affordable housing. You can do this by telling your councilmembers that you’d be willing to pay an estimated average of \$15 a year to support an AHTF. (You’ve already given away that much on the street in your 50-cent experiment.)

Finally, oppose city ordinances that criminalize homelessness and target groups that serve those experiencing homelessness, like the proposed nuisance ordinance being used to address tensions around the Catholic Action Center.

So it’s not always true that giving a panhandler 50 cents doesn’t matter—maybe the 50 cents you give to Sandra allows her to catch the bus for a job interview; maybe the day she asks for money, you really need to connect with another human being. Those things matter, but the bigger things—the advocacy, the service—make the bigger difference.

Winter fun is hard on the back!

Happy & Healthy
Backs Yoga
Sundays, 11am

Lexington Healing Arts Academy252.5656

Occupy art: deconstructing deconstructionists

By Clay Wainscott

“I have more important things to do than to go around copying nature.” This boilerplate refrain has been a part of standard boot camp indoctrination in art schools for the last fifty years, and after a while maybe it begins to make sense. Instruction then proceeds from the assumption that making art look like anything is retrograde and restricted, indicates a lack of talent and imagination, and is in the end seriously, hopelessly naïve and out of touch. I am here to suggest that this institutionalized pursuit of obscurity and pointlessness has been a sham and a racket all along. Let’s see it for what it is.

Tax laws are written so that a really big donation to an art museum puts gas in the yacht. So, if someone buys and donates a piece of art no one could love for a million or so, everybody wins. An exorbitant price is established for an empty trademark, and the museum director stays on another year. Prestige accrues to the institution, moving it up the ladder for blockbuster shows and those federal building grants, curatorial grants, expand the parking lot grants. The artist who recognizes this appetite and fills it becomes famous, probably rich, and finds unlimited inspiration in self-loathing, apparently. It’s all a jolly ride on public money, ultimately, and the only ones screwed turns out to be everybody else. Still, it wasn’t done for the money.

This machine was constructed to neuter the political potential of visual art, and to not be oversensitive about collateral damage. Art is universal and uncontrollable, and they, those who link order with control, had concerns. They knew visual art respects no boundaries or borders, needs no translation, and that it expresses directly what diverse communities care about and have in common. When Colin Powell made his disgraced UN presentation, a tapestry reproduction of Picasso’s Guernica, a permanent fixture of the hall, was covered. No matter the script of the headline on what side of the world, Picasso would have spoken to them all, but he was censored. Of

course if the artwork had been abstract covering it would have been unnecessary, and so much more convenient.

Today is the day to withdraw from the cult of contemporary art – call it an intervention. Just leave it and its well-financed media advocates, and look for art with more personal significance to the artist and to you. Artists in your community, doesn’t matter where, have been producing heart-felt art all along but they’ve been pushed aside, denied gallery access, and dismissed

by local charity art franchises seeking money from above. Simply disregard their grant-driven biases, their dark silent galleries. The brutalizing paranoia of cold-war mentality will eventually loosen its grip, and art will begin to regain a voice, whether political or deeply personal.

It won’t be easy at first, but the artists are already in place. Serious independent artists where you are have been working day jobs, buying supplies at sacrifice, stealing studio time to work.

They may not be that accomplished just yet, but it hasn’t been easy. If you or any of your friends buy something, chances are by the time you want something better the artist, all the artists, will have gotten better, too. Springtime promises energy and life after a long winter dormancy, and if Lexington begins to value the art made here about, everybody wins.

Clay Wainscott also blogs at www.owningart.blogspot.com

562 Elm Tree Lane

Gary, Adreana, Cheyenne, and Garisha



GARY, ADREANA, CHEYENNE, AND GARISHA / 562 ELM TREE LANE10.16.10 / 4:00 PM / 65°F

Gary, Adreana, Cheyenne, and Garisha were playing on the stoop of a house across from the convenience store at 562 Elm Tree Lane. It was a beautiful fall day and they quickly agreed to dash across the street and sit on the discarded piece of furniture.

Image and text by Kurt Gohde and Kremena Todorova, Discarded project.

Urban reforestation (cont.)

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members collecting food such as mushrooms and berries. Where coal companies haven’t devastated the land through mountaintop removal practices, many locals experience forests, food production, and landownership in a more organic—rather than antagonistic—relationship.

Cleveland, Ohio, which is a city with sprawling suburbs, began creating a chain of public parks around the city in the early 1900s. Those parks, often called “The Emerald Necklace,” have some open spaces but are generally densely forested, with trails for hikers and paths for runners and bicyclists. Cleveland has it’s own urban planning and ecological problems, but the parks are a good example of a way to provide canopy while serving the public’s need for recreational space.

While Lexington has tried hard to preserve the green around its urban core, that protected green is agricultural land, generally cleared of trees, not thick with them.

Another other challenge is that development practices often hurt the quality of the topsoil, making it hard for trees to thrive, say Jesse Hesley and Sara Hesley, co-owners of Town Branch Tree Experts, Inc. “Neighborhoods that are post-World War II,” Sara said, “are much more likely to have had the topsoil removed or really poor backfill added into the soil.” Add to improper tree planting to the mix, and you have an urban forest that is growing in less than optimal conditions.

A northside Green Belt Movement

In the last several years, pragmatic and inventive thinkers have begun to address our tree deficit.

In 2009, Sherry Maddock and Rona Roberts began an urban orchard in order to increase the availability of fresh food on the northside. They began by planting in an unused parcel of land on their street. Quickly, the urban orchard comprised three locations: The Living Arts and Science Center, the London Ferrell Community Garden, and an area near Fourth and Elm Tree. Maddock also worked with Seedleaf to establish fruit-bearing trees at the Florence Crittenton Home. Asian and European pears, sour cherries, peaches, persimmons, plums, and pawpaws have all taken root since then. All told, they planted 60 fruit trees and 45 berry bushes. The intent of the orchard is that fruit is available to any passerby.

During this process, Maddock and her compatriots were looking for ways to “get some trees in around the edges.”

Considering the hurdles related to Lexington’s development practices, and the county’s need for 3 million more large shade trees, getting some trees in around the edges maybe the best plan for Lexington’s own Green Belt Movement.

Other groups have been tucking more trees into the densely developed northside. In 2009, the North Limestone Neighborhood Association led by Marty Clifford had dogwoods planted along North Limestone to improve the look and feel of the street as it leaves downtown. Although dogwoods are small trees that don’t provide much shade, they do provide some of the other ecological benefits.

That’s really the issue: planting trees is much more than simply a beautification project. Trees shade and cool our homes, clean the air, stabilize soil and prevent erosion, and reduce stormwater run-off. In some very basic ways, they make our city more habitable.

Nancy Sleeth of Blessed Earth, a faith-based educational non-profit focused on environmental stewardship, tells a story that highlights how important trees are in making neighborhoods livable:

“We [Nancy and her husband Matthew] took a walk one day a few years ago through one of the more affluent areas of Lexington. We were blessed by abundant shade, squirrels running overhead, birds, and wildlife. That same day we took a walk in the north end. It was a really hot summer day, and it was at least ten degrees warmer [there]. The contrast was very stark: there were almost no trees, almost no wildlife; people couldn’t even find a place to have their kids play in the shade.”

That experience eventually brought Blessed Earth into a partnership with Castlewood Neighborhood Association, which had been planning a multi-phase tree-planting project. In November, with the help of Town Branch Tree Experts, neighbors, and volunteers, Castlewood planted 18 street trees and worked with the city to have about 12 more trees planted in Castlewood Park. Two of those park trees are bur oaks, donated by Dave Leonard Consulting Arborist, Inc., which will replace bur oaks that have come down in the last year (including the one that crushed Burke’s sculpture).

When I asked Sleeth about that ten-more-trees-per-person statistic, her



Sara Hesley of Town Branch Tree Experts instructs volunteers on proper tree planting. Photo by Brian Connors Manke.

response was optimistic and much like Maddock’s: people can plant in their own yards, of course—if they have their own yards. But many more trees can be planted on church grounds, in open lots, in easements, in parks.

There are plenty of places trees can be tucked in around the edges, especially in places that aren’t privately owned.

The East End

In her acceptance speech, Maathai laments the damage done to the stream near her home in just 50 years, but it’s clear that the denigration of her homeplace was the catalyst for activism. A similar energy has recently motivated a bricks-and-mortar revitalization of the East End, which has included the restoration of the Lyric, the redevelopment of the former Bluegrass-Aspendale area, and the construction of the William Wells Brown Elementary School and Community Center. Many hope that soon both the portion of the Legacy Trail stretching to the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden and the garden itself will be completed.

The Blue Grass Community Foundation (BGCF), a supporter of the East End revitalization, has begun planning for a tree project to re-green the area. Steve Austin, BGCF’s Vice President of Community Leadership & Engagement, has been working on the project. Austin is a landscape architect who has a long-term vision for “treeing” the area.

“I firmly believe that everyone should live in an urban forest,” Austin said. Living in an area full of trees is “just a better way to live, and

it shouldn’t just be because you can afford to live that way.”

The first step will be to plant 36-38 trees in the Shropshire Circle across from William Wells Brown School in the spring. Over the winter, BGCF will be fostering community investment and building the most innovative part of the project: a Youth Urban Tree Corp.

The Youth Urban Tree Corp will be a collaboration with the Fayette County School System in which students train in tree care and maintenance. The East End tree project would serve as the laboratory for these students while also helping relieve residents of some of the burden of street tree care. (Street trees are the responsibility of the property owner, but technically belong to the city because they reside on easements.)

Inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corp, which employed young men through conservation and natural resource projects during the Great Depression, Austin would also like to eventually find ways to pay kids from the East End to do beautification projects in the area, including tree maintenance.

So, for East End youth, more trees could bring more beauty, more science, and perhaps more employment. Add Maddock’s urban orchard, and then there’s also more fresh food. This is what Maathai, who passed away in September, was talking about: trees as the catalyst for a stronger, healthier community—trees for a better life.

If you are doing or have done a tree project on the northside and would like to share the details of your project, email noceditors@yahoo.com.

Accents Publishing (cont.)

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that informs all poetry worth reading. Like all good poetry, I find myself wanting to read these poems over and over, and to read them out loud. Just as importantly, I find myself transported on a wave of thought at the implications of the poets’ words – connecting to the realities of other people and other places, while reflecting on my own place and culture:

“Independence” by Nancy Fierstein

This land is mine,
this land mine’s mine—
I found it in the street

How lucky for me!
I continue to be.

I hobble, wobble,
stand
on my own new feet.

The impact of this poem hit me multiple times throughout the first reading. I stopped and started, revised and reconceived, reread and revised. Amazed at what I first felt and then somber when I revised my notion. In a few words it engages, for this reader, a multitude of images and feelings.

As with all good anthologies, this book will serve as a guide for good poets who can engage in a dialogue about the world. Accents Publishing

as a whole operates in this way. They provide quality chapbooks of single author poem collections. Recent collections include Bianca Spriggs’ *How Swallowtails Become Dragons* (2011) and Matthew Haughton’s *Bee-Coursing Box* (2011):

“After Loving a Pretty Man” by Bianca Spriggs

Give me a man who wears his scars
on the outside.

I can work with imperfect. I know
what to do
with contradiction. A man who
will stare
his faults down in the mirror
and not blanch, knows
when I hold him,
I am not so easily exchanged for
another.

Katerina has also published her own dual language – English/Bulgarian on facing pages – collection of poems entitled *The Air Around the Butterfly* (Fakel Express, 2009). Svetlozar Igov aptly describes it as “lapidary poetry.” Like the previously mentioned Accent Press books, the poetry stops me in my tracks. I am trained to consume large amounts of information at a glance; reading it, my brain pauses, allows me to grasp the beautiful stillness of life’s wonders unfolding on the page. Like in her poem “My Personality” they are

“Unfolding before you/like a Swiss Army knife.”

Reflecting on all of these poems, I asked Katerina why she believes poetry is important: “Poetry is representation of the emotional world of our times. It is more important than reading news or watching TV. Also, poetry changes you. The words connect with you and after hearing a really good poem, you feel larger, your world gets bigger in a way that cannot be accomplished by anything else.”

Speaking with the poet Don Boes earlier this week, he mentioned that Katerina often seems to be doing the work of three people. In addition to founding Accents Publishing in 2010 and acting as its Editor-in-Chief, she also runs a weekly radio show on WRFL. The role of the Accents radio show is to promote the arts – local, national and international alike. Katerina sees it as serving multiple purposes. “I want the show to have guests with amazing accomplishments and at the same time, I want every writer in the audience to feel he or she could be a part of the show. I want the show to be inclusive, that’s why we have the ‘writing prompt of the week’ segment – it is a treat for me to read creative work by the listeners, or even invite them to read it themselves. The show has strong local roots, but reaches far, and we have featured more than a few internationally known authors.”

Katerina also is a member of the Poezia writing group which has been meeting weekly for almost 5 years. The group is free and open to anyone. The poets meet every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Common Grounds, and every Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. – the prose writers.

Accents Publishing also has an annual writing contest. The next one will be for chapbook-length manuscripts of 20 to 30 poems. They published seven books out of their last chapbook contest in 2010. The contest will open in February and run until the end of June. In general, readers can check on the website for news/contests/books/etc. at www.accents-publishing.com.

Katerina is also a regular at the monthly Holler poetry readings at Al’s Bar. I would like to encourage you to show up for the next gathering on December 21(corner of Sixth and Limestone). This is a fantastic forum for listening to some of the region’s premiere poets as well as to observe the development of new voices.

If you have the opportunity this holiday season, support local presses like Accents by stopping by The Morris Book Shop on Tates Creek Road and picking up a few chapbooks as gifts. Even better, provide the most important gift to yourself and others: develop your own creativity and share it.

Live music: holiday 2011 edition!

There’s nothing particularly holiday-like about this installment of the *NoC* music calendar. I’m just calling it that to encourage you to spend more money.

And here’s what you should spend your money on, since we’re on the topic: bagels. Specifically, the bagels at Great Bagel, located in the University Plaza strip row of stores on Woodland Avenue, right on the corner next to the Subway. I went there for lunch today, and my goodness, that’s a good bagel. I had the club on onion, and I could’ve eaten four of them. And the brownies are superb.

I bring this because I’m an east coaster and I miss good bagel shops, and now I’ve got one just around the corner from me, and I don’t want it to disappear. It’ll be tough, because you Lutherans and Presbyterians evidently know nothing of bagels and won’t patronize the place, and it’s also in that cursed location where nobody lasts a year. So I’m doing my part: go get some bagels.



And obviously if the owners of Great Bagel want to compensate me for shilling, I’m very open to structuring an in-kind advertising package around hummus and sandwiches. Get in touch.
—Buck Edwards

Saturday, December 10

The Bloodroots Barter
Al’s Bar; 601 N. Limestone. 9 P.M.
The Bloodroots Barter end their, vegetable oil powered, tour by sticking it to the man with gravely, straightforward vocals, peppy banjo riffs and a distinctive brand of “quirky.” The band takes a John Wayne size shit on the sis-sified, over-commercialized “folk” stylings of Nashville. Rather than gloss and country ho-humming, The Bloodroots Barter brings a distinctive, welcoming sound tempered by a razor-sharp edge that that kicks you in your perdy mouth and washes it down with another PBR. Slightly ruff around the edges, but still congenial, this show promises to be a catalyst for the quintessential Al’s Bar experience. Bring your dancin’ shoes!
—Richie Larison

The Muggs
Green Lantern; 497 West Third. 9 P.M.
Currently touring in support of their new CD “Born Ugly” The Muggs are one of Detroit’s most revered rock bands. The band garnered awards in the prestigious Detroit Music Awards for “Outstanding Rock Group,”



The Muggs.

“Outstanding Rock/Pop Recording” in addition to being named “Best Indie Rock Band” by *Real Detroit Weekly*.
—BE

Silent Events Silent Disco
Cosmic Charlie’s; 388 Woodland. 10 P.M.
I hear about a lot of weird things that happen at shows from the sub-set of people I hang out with that I refer to as my “festival friends”—psychedelic vagina movies, back-up dancers out of a furry convention, entire audiences covered in feathers. Whatever, I watch art films for fun. It’s hard to totally blow my mind. But I have to say, when I heard about the Silent Disco phenomenon, the postmodernist in me was intrigued. Each individual attendant will get their own pair of wireless headphones, through which they are able to hear the DJ, who is typically blasting dubstep, or whatever it is these moccasin-wearing hedonists are shaking ass to these days. Without the headphones, you’re just standing around in Cosmic Charlie’s in silence (which might be the very definition of awkward).
Part of me—the pseudo-religious, hopeful for the future part, wants to see this as an awesome idea to make audiences feel more connected. Everyone is dancing to the same secret beat, thereby increasing the feeling of complicity and togetherness. The other part of me, the cynical asshole that came of age in the late 90s, is dubious—Lexingtonians aren’t known for their dancing. It’s not that we aren’t good at so much as we don’t do it. So it could turn out to be a lot of people standing around just listening to music on headphones, in which case I want to be at the bar laughing at them, knowing they can’t hear me. Either way, it seems worth



The Bloodroots Barter.

checking out. Wick-It the Instigator will be DJing the Lexington leg of the Silent Events Silent Disco 2011 Tour.
—Jessica Vowels

Monday, December 12

Idiot Glee
Cosmic Charlie’s; 388 Woodland. 10 P.M.
For those of you who know Idiot Glee, you’ve probably already got this marked out on your calenders. You guys seem to be devoted like that. For those of you who don’t know Idiot Glee, what in the hell is wrong with you? Do you even live in this town? Go to an Idiot Glee show already, you music-hating sociopaths.
It is well known by the people that care to hear my opinions on things that I do not care for Idiot Glee (sorry dude, don’t spit in my gumbo). But I will say, Idiot Glee is good at what Idiot Glee does, which I’ve heard described quite aptly as demented pop meets surf rock. People say it sounds “haunting.” Usually someone mentions the Beach Boys. Additionally, Idiot Glee shows are cheap, and even as someone who does not really care for Idiot Glee, I will say that it is certainly worth \$5 dollars to watch James Friley to play emotive pop songs on his mixing board. A few moments even usually manage to feel pretty transcendent. I can only imagine how awesome it is if you’re into that kind

of thing. Opening will be a band called Soft Pain; from what I can tell, they drink a lot of PBR and probably smoke a lot of weed and almost certainly write songs via a method called “jamming.” They also think posters are awesome.
—JV

Thursday, December 15

We Play Music
Natasha’s; 112 Esplanade. 8 P.M.
Full disclosure: the band whose show I’m about to recommend is composed of people I consider to be my friends. They have, on several occasions, played in my house. This should not make you think that I am biased, however; it is well known that, should the musicians making noise in my house suck, I will absolutely make my opinion known. I have never had to say that to these gentlemen.
As this is a review-oriented blurb, I’m obligated by convention to tell you that this band plays alt-folk, but really We Play Music do just that. If it’s music and they love it, they play it. I can’t promise you a single genre or some brand new sound that deserves it’s own witty portmanteau, just four guys who write a good hook and know how to play their instruments (imagine that).
This is the band’s first gig in support of their new EP, *To Dragons*.
—JV



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Film & Media

Appalachian Media Institute at Natasha’s

By Barbara Goldman

On Wednesday, December 14, a free film opportunity will be available for any and all who wish to educate themselves about the past, present, and future of Appalachia. From 6:30-9:30 PM, Natasha’s Bistro & Bar (112 Esplanade) will host a critical fundraising event in support of the Appalachian Media Institute.

The AMI is a branch of Appalshop, the non-profit multidisciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia that produces original films, video, theater, music and spoken-word recordings, radio, photography, and multimedia. Since 1988, AMI has given central Appalachian youth the skills, technology, and resources to explore media production. The youth, in turn, create films concerning themselves and the communities from which they come.

According to one of the program’s educators, Natalie Baxter, students must first apply to be in the summer program before getting interviewed and, hopefully, hired. Only twelve students are selected each summer for the six-week program.

One of the many characteristics that makes this program unique is that it’s also a summer job for students. Students are paid interns who receive a paycheck for their involvement. Just like a job in the real world, there is a level of expectation to be met. Students can be, and have been, fired.

Baxter, a Lexington native currently at work on her Masters in Fine Arts at UK who became involved with the program through her family in Whitesburg, explains that students learn on day one how to use a camera, and that they continue to work on their filming and interviewing skills for three weeks. Over the last three weeks, students work in small groups on their final projects, a 10-12 minute film. Topic choices are typically associated with the young filmmakers or the community from which they come. Since 1988, no topic has been selected twice.

Several of these will be shown at the Natasha’s event on December 14.

One of this summer’s participants was Cory Coots, a sixteen-year-old from Hazard, Kentucky. Coots says that, had he not been accepted into the program, he would have spent the summer working at Food City.

“But I got this instead,” states Coots enthusiastically. “I applied and

was accepted at first, but forgot to put my contact information on my application. But later they called me and interviewed me on the phone. They got my contact information from a friend who was in the program. Somebody didn’t show up, so I got it. “

Coots says that it wasn’t easy at first. He loved the program but was having transportation issues. However, the program offers a solution for any obstacle with which they can help. A friend of the program offers a house where the kids can live for the six

also helps open opportunities to youth that they may not have known they had. Most of the participants come from families who have never dreamed of going to college. This program hands and helps kids fill out college applications.

“I really want to go to a university and study genetic counseling,” says Coots. “AMI has really changed my perspective on life. I could still even see myself going into film and media production. There are lots of opportunities AMI has shown me that I wouldn’t

prosperity in the world for everyone to have a full load.

Hope is the companion of power and the mother of success. Many things motivate people: money, cars, drugs, power, and recognition, to name a few. Yet all these pale in significance compared to the motivating power of hope. Without hope people drift into despair and apathy. What motivates people? Hope. What motivates change? Hope.

“We want to get the word out there and show people what we’re all about



Mikie Burke behind the lens. Photo courtesy AMI.

weeks. Miss Pam, the house “mom,” cooks, supervises, and supports the youth involved.

“I was surprised the most by the friendliness of the people,” says Coots. “Everyone greeted me with a warm heart. It made it a lot easier to learn new skills.”

Coots, who got his start in film-making by producing YouTube videos of his grandmother, chose her as the subject of his film. But selecting a topic wasn’t so easy.

“I learned there’s a lot of stories out there untold. And people need to hear them,” says Coots. “We really worked with each other. We criticized each other’s films even though we’re friends. We just wanted each other to do the best we could.”

Baxter says that, not only does this program create unique films, it

have had working at Food City.”

Students’ films cover a varied array of topics including homosexuality in the mountains, youth who are raised by their grandparents when parents disappear due to drug problems, Appalachian music, solar solutions donated after gross electric bills, success stories, and unique pieces of history.

“People open up to them more because they are from that region,” says Baxter.

In the past the media has both aided and assaulted the stories of Appalachians, but this program literally puts the camera in their hands and tells stories through their eyes. Appalachian youth are given the opportunity to offer their fellow communities hope. There is enough poverty in the world for everyone to have a full load. But there is also enough

and also make some money for our interns,” says Baxter.

In a season where we could all use more hope, you are invited to Natasha’s Bistro & Bar to witness films that are fantastically unusual and beautiful for FREE. Pledges and support are what will allow this project to continue. Reservations are recommended, but if you are unable to attend please contact Appalshop for more information about how to make a donation (Natasha@appalshop.org).

Films may be viewed at the UK Appalachian Center or found at www.appalshop.org. To make reservations for the fundraiser, please call Natasha’s Bistro & Bar at (859)259-2764. For more information, or to access the Facebook invitation, you can go to www.facebook.com/appalachianmedia.

Local film happenings

Twelve O’Clock High Screening at the Kentucky Theatre

The Kentucky Theatre, in partnership with WWII veteran Frank Cassidy, will host a special Pearl Harbor Day screening of *Twelve O’Clock High*. This 1949 Academy Award-winning classic, starring Gregory Peck, tells the story of U.S. aircrews who conducted daylight bombing missions against Nazi Germany and Occupied France.

The event will begin at 11:30 A.M. with an introduction to the World War II veterans in attendance. The screening will begin at noon, and will be followed by an opportunity to meet the veterans and discuss their experiences. This event is free and open to the public. For those who need a reminder, Pearl Harbor Day is December 7.

Cult Film Screening at Al’s Bar

This month’s Cult Film Screening at Al’s Bar has a holiday bent. On Wednesday, December 7, the bar will show the 2010 film *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*. This Finnish comedy/horror hybrid imagines the repercussions when the archaeological excavation of a sacred grave unearths a very alive, and very menacing, Santa Claus. The screening will begin at 8:00 P.M. As always, this is a free event.

Community Cinema Screening at ArtsPlace



Parlay Social Club on Short Street at Cheapside. Photo by Danny Mayer.

Each month, KET screens an Independent Lens documentary as part of the Independent Television Service’s national Community Cinema series. December’s film is *Troop 1500*, a profile of a Texas Girl Scout troop which unites women in prison with the daughters they were forced to leave. The film explores the fractured mother/daughter relationships and the role of the troop in rebuilding bonds. The film will screen at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 15 at ArtsPlace on 161 N. Mill Street. There will be a 6:00 P.M. reception preceding the screening. Both the reception and the screening are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.ket.org/communitycinema.

Occupy Lexington Screening at Natasha’s

On Sunday, December 18, Occupy Lexington and Natasha’s Bistro and Bar will host a screening of *The People Speak*, a documentary film narrated by historian Howard Zinn and based upon his writing. The film utilizes dramatic and musical performances of the words of everyday Americans to tell the story of social change in our country. The event will run from 8:00 P.M. until 11:00 P.M. and is free and open to the public.

Holiday Films at the Kentucky Theatre

The Kentucky Theatre is screening classic Christmas films throughout

the month of December. The holiday program began with *White Christmas* on Friday, December 2 and will continue with *Miracle on 34th Street* from December 9 until December 11, *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* from December 16 until December 18, and *It’s a Wonderful Life* from December 23 until Christmas Eve. Show times vary, so please visit kentuckytheater.com for a complete schedule.

Art21 Screenings at Parlay Social

It’s not too early to start marking your 2012 calendars. Beginning on January 9, Parlay Social will host a series of Art21 screening events in partnership with LexArts, KET, and Institute 193. Art21, a Peabody awarded-winning documentary series which showcases contemporary art and artists, will be screened for three consecutive Mondays in January at what is being called “21 Nights Happy Hour.” Each episode has a theme that will be integrated into the evening, and Lexington artists will be featured alongside the national artists in the films. 21 Nights Happy Hours will run from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

If you have a film or media event that you would like to announce in North of Center, please send an e-mail with all pertinent information to lucyjonesky@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 7, 2011

More rain for league night

NoC Sports

In light rain and ultra-soggy conditions, Danny Mayer rode a perfect botch on the opening jack to an 11-6 victory in the night’s opening round of Lexington Guerilla Bocce League, held Monday nights at 10:00 PM. The Courthouse grounds were spongy, Mayer told reporters after the match while receiving liquids in the player’s quarters at Sidebar, and air temperature remained at a balmy 50 degrees. “I stuck my throws, and Michael was over-gearred for the night,” Mayer explained about his well-dressed competitor. “His extra layers were either a hindrance to his current performance—leading to a number of poorly rolled balls—or they were a learning experience for learning how to throw in cold-weather. Either way, I beat the shit out of him tonight.”

After the opening match loss, Benton, who was still recovering from an epic Turkey-night drunk, seemed groggy, weak and confused. Mayer

took the second match quickly, dropping 11 on the sot before he reached 3 points. Benton sensed the night had gotten away from him. “As a native San Diegan, the bulky winter style clothing will take some getting used to and, yes, I will admit I was still feeling my turkey day debauchery...although you would think I would be able to roll effectively as many times as I have had to bounce back from one of those.”

After match play, the rollers held forth with several Sidebar patrons on recent global developments. H5N1 now has human-to-human transfer capabilities. A student in Kansas called the governor a dickwad—a sentiment that goes viral after she refuses the demands of her sycophant headmaster that she apologize to the governor. American Airlines filed for bankruptcy; more unrest in Greece and Spain; fiscal strife in Italy, Germany and France; and Wall Street roared back after losing 5% last week—the worst Thanksgiving week going back to the 1930s.



Lower courthouse bocce fields. League play has been soggy of late. Photo by Northrup Centre.

Rupp will be an expensive opportunity

By Danny Mayer

Last week, city leaders unveiled a fresh round of updates regarding plans for the Rupp Arena Arts and Entertainment District, known politically as the Rupp Opportunity Zone. Leaders envision a public/private/public urban development project that will link the city, UK and the downtown private business community. The centerpiece of the Opportunity Zone is Rupp Arena, home of UK basketball, whose renovation costs the city hopes to leverage to spur further development of the 47 city-owned convention center acres that it sits upon.

News last week centered on cost and design updates. First, a report cited by the *Herald-Leader* and other city leaders offered preliminary costs for renovating and building anew both the city’s convention center and Rupp Arena. For Rupp, costs ranged between \$110 and \$130 million (renovation) and \$300 and \$325 million (new construction). Convention Center costs ran between \$70 million (renovation) and \$100-130 million (new construction). In total, then, initial costs for the two public works projects ranged between \$180 and \$555 million.

Second, the Opportunity Zone’s master planner, Gary Bates, delivered a series of public lectures that sketched possibilities for fitting the site into the city fabric. Bates envisions a reconstructed Rupp Arena and Convention Center that replaces the Main/Limestone intersection as the city’s new epicenter. His lectures emphasized the area’s potential as a central hub of urban connectivity. There’s a Cat Walk and public gathering spaces to draw UK students from the south, a primed client base for the area’s western neighbor the Distillery District to draw upon, and a water trail (Town Branch) to pass through it and the rest of downtown. Bates even imagines a multi-modal transportation hub for train, bus, parking and bike routes.

Echoes of Festival Market

I bumped into mountaintop removal activist (and northside resident) Dave Cooper at the end of the Bates sermon delivered at the Lexington Children’s Theatre on Short Street. When I asked Dave what he thought about the presentation, he paused for a moment.

“I don’t know. It all sounds too perfect; I feel like I heard this a couple decades back with Festival Market.”

Festival Market, located katty-korner from Rupp Arena, was Lexington’s 1980s stab at public/private development. It used the design standards of its day for urban

development, opened to great fanfare—and failed miserably. Dave’s comparison to Festival Market was not a favorable one. I know several people, good Jessamine County tobacco farmers, who still speak ill of Dudley Webb, the Lexington developer responsible for the development, because of the money they lost in what they described as “that downtown Ponzi scheme.”

“Festival Market? Well there’s a direct connection. Woodford Webb, Dudley’s nephew and co-developer of

(which had lost over 60% of its value in 11 years). As CBS described it, the bailout was developed “amid economic concerns about the district around the arena.”

Problem 2: Buildings without people

The Rupp District aesthetic is one of connectivity and vibrancy. But it is surrounded by large tracts of nothing. To its west, the Distillery District is one of the least dense and little popu-

viewing experience that fans have come to expect across the country.” Barnhart envisioned the project as part of a \$150 to \$180 million renovation to the SEC home of the UK football team. Denied funding because faculty claimed that other university needs (infrastructure, tuition, salaries) claimed precedence, the Athletic Association eventually covered the \$3.1 million itself by drawing from a source so obscure even the *Herald-Leader* had to scare-quote it as a “quasi-endowment” fund. Ultimately,

the scoreboards were installed in time for IMG College to maximize its licensing fees, and for Friends of Coal to maximize its sponsorship space, at the early season matchup against cross-town rival Louisville.

Last week in describing the cost of Rupp renovations, the *Herald-Leader* listed six university “priorities” for the arena. Of this number, three (no lost seating capacity, uninterrupted play, and retain atmosphere) are achievable simply by doing nothing at all. The other three renovation priorities—the top three reasons for doing anything at all to the arena and the district—include new or upgraded support spaces like a media room or kitchen; a few new premium seats; a “President’s” room; and “new technology including a center-hung scoreboard—perhaps eight-sided—that would display the score, player stats, show instant replays of the game and have close-up shots of coaches and players.”

Unlike the faculty council who denied the University scoreboard funds, Mayor Jim Gray and the cast of private business leaders who have shaped the dialogue on Rupp thus far seem more than willing to play ball. They seem to accept, and want you to accept, too, that at a minimum \$130 million should go toward creating a couple seats, a couple rooms, and a killer scoreboard.

Things build from that assumption. Once you accept that \$130 million or more is better spent on Rupp Arena than, say, rebuilding workable neighborhoods, bolstering the police force, or thoughtfully upgrading the parks that litter our county—once you accept that Rupp deserves that money to do those petty things—then asking you to also accept another \$70 million more for another convention center right next door makes a bit more sense. And, later, so will the money for the submerged parking garages. And the necessary Distillery District infrastructure.

And then there’s the interest and charges on the principal. In the case of Louisville’s YUM Center, \$339 million in bonds netted the city a total debt of \$573 million spread over 30 years.

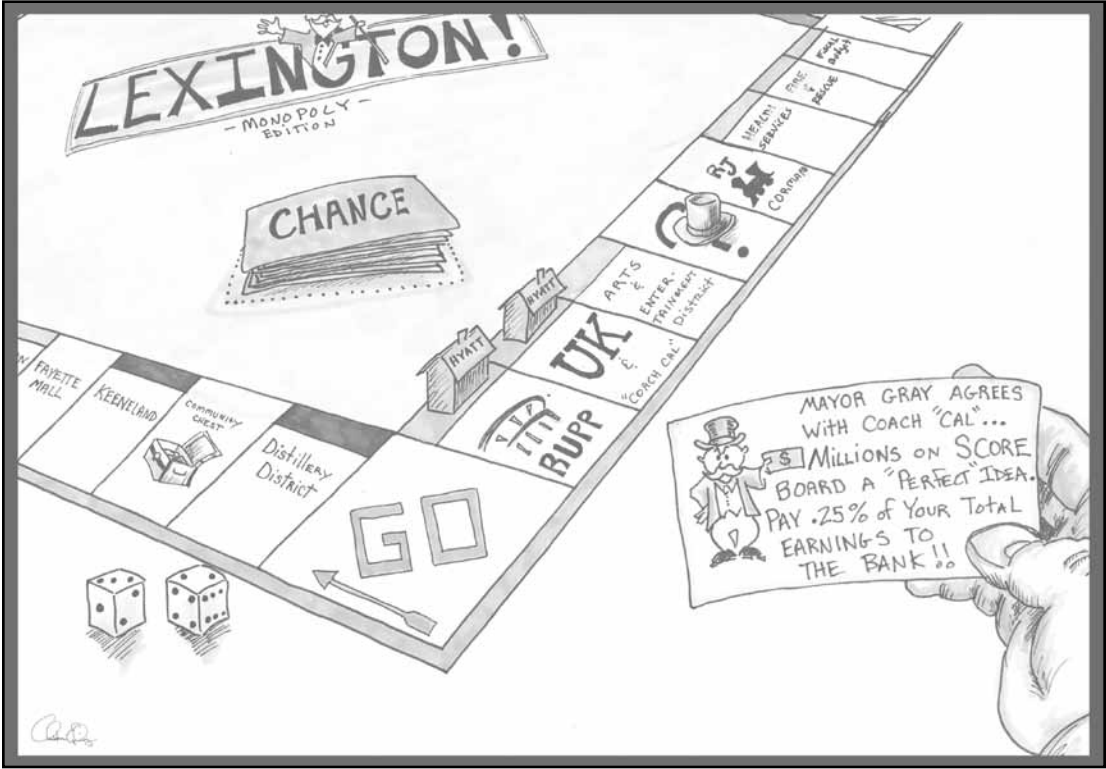


Illustration by Christopher Epling. Visit christopherepling.com for more.

the failed CentrePointe block, sits on the Arena, Arts and Entertainment Advisory Group,” I replied. “He’s on the “Technical Advisory” subcommittee, along with Mitch Barnhart and some other heavy hitters.”

What follows below isn’t exactly what Dave and I conversed about thereafter while anyone within earshot glanced our way nervously, but it is pretty close.

Problem 1: Misinformed public

Nearly all local media outlets covering the Rupp Re-do have taken the Citizen Task Force at their word. They have assumed that the task force has been diligent and faithful in collecting information on arena and convention center developments. Yet the two prime case studies cited in the Ruppdistrict.com website, Columbus, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana, nearly completely identify these areas as successful. Reading the task force data, one does not know that the Indy stadium authority has run an operating deficit of over \$40 million a year. Or that the city of Columbus has had to bail out the private investor, Nationwide Insurance, who built (with city help) its entertainment complex. Most recently, the Columbus city council has proposed to divert tax money from a new local casino into a fund to pay for their forced purchase of Nationwide Arena

lated census tracts in the county. The downtown census tract where Rupp resides, at 1500 residents, is equally sparse. Only the student tract to Rupp’s south—and toward UK—provides a dense population to feed the commercial block. Like Festival Market, the Rupp Entertainment District creates a commercial outlet where people do not exist. And to the degree that it does draw people in, the city seems to be directing public funds at stimulating a demographic of 18-25 year olds who travel in from out-of-town, hang out, and then leave for other work after their 4-7 year investment in the city comes to a close. Are they worth that investment?

Sometimes leadership means saying no

In April, University of Kentucky faculty and staff voted unanimously through their Faculty Council to deny a \$3.1 million low-interest loan to the University of Kentucky Athletic Association. The money was to come from the school’s general fund and would be used to cover half the \$6.25 million cost to replace the main scoreboard in Commonwealth Stadium.

To justify UK’s needed monetary support for the project, UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart claimed that the current scoreboard did not “provide the kind of sophisticated

OCCUPIED LEXINGTON HERALD

People's Budget Mondays at Occupy Lexington

Occupy Lexington is announcing the beginning of a several month long civic exercise that we're calling the People's Budget. Advocating for specific issues is important and we must continue to do so; however, we must also recognize that the real decision making happens in the budget when programs and initiatives are or are not funded.

In these hard times we are watching cuts in compensation and benefits for Lexington's public workers while handouts to the wealthy continue in the form of PDR funds and TIF dollars. We asked ourselves, "what would happen if the people of Lexington came together to shape the budget from the ground floor?"

Occupy Lexington wants to collaborate with a broad base of the community to develop a fair and equitable budget for Lexington and Fayette County, and we want those most directly affected by the budget to be the key participants in drafting it. To that end we want teachers and students to draft the Education component of the budget. We want Police, Fire, EMT's and Corrections to draft the Public Safety component, and so on.

We're also looking for ordinary citizens to come out and make their voices heard and to join the process.

What makes the People's Budget unique is that a group of citizens will be gathering proactively to present a comprehensive plan of action to our leaders, rather than reacting to a plan that is handed to us.

Lexington's budget is made up of all of our tax dollars and as such the people should set the agenda rather than simply react to the agenda that has for so long been set for us. We ask you to join us and play a part in shaping the future of your city! We are the people, and in the spring of 2012 the people of Lexington will deliver our agenda, in the form of the People's Budget. The process is starting now. You don't want to miss it!

Meetings for the People's Budget take place on Monday nights at the Occupation, Main+Esplanade. 8:00 PM. For further information, contact Ian at give-meonions@gmail.com –or just show up Monday.

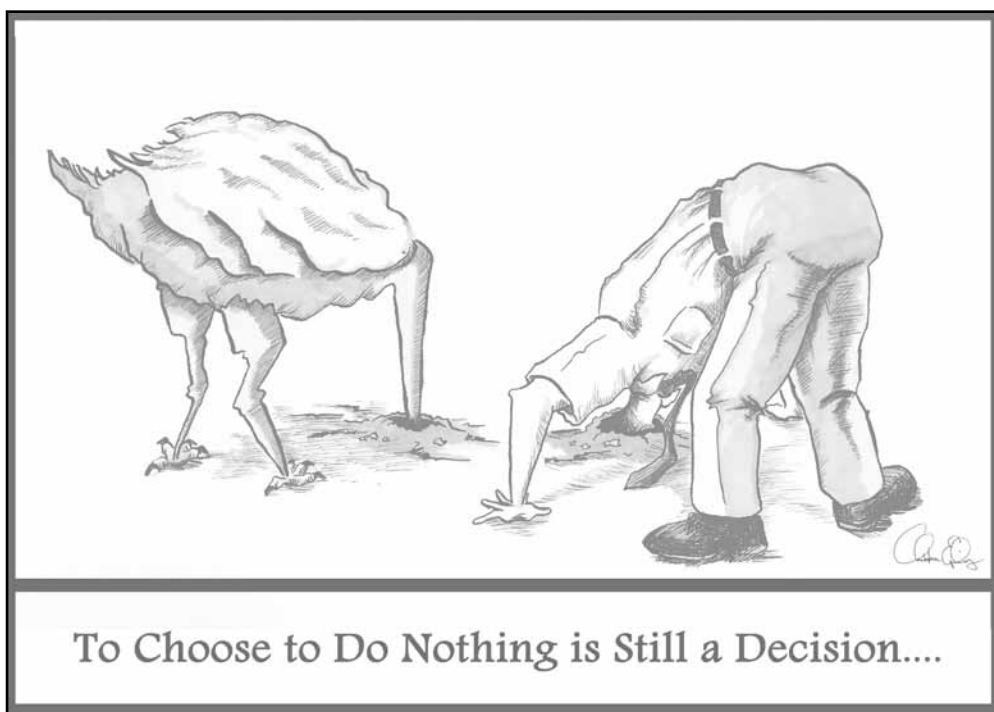


Illustration by Christopher Epling.

Occupying local government update

At the Libertarian Municipalism reading group, held 5:30 PM at Natasha's, Martin, Michael, Danny, and Jaclyn decided to focus on organizing 2-4 markets spaces throughout the city. The goal is to open things in March—new spaces for gathering and exchange. The group felt this would be a good way to practice and enact group readings on "libertarian municipalism," otherwise described as a set of directives for taking over city leadership through a network of neighborhood General Assemblies. This week's original readings, from Michael Albert's Moving Forward seemed too theoretical and several steps beyond where we're at in Lexington, so Marty's digging up another reading for next week that will have more nuts and bolts on connecting local action to the theory of municipalism. Contact Martin at Martin.Mudd@gmail.com for more information, or just show up to the Occupation on Mondays at 5:30 to join in the fun and market planning.

Not sure what's going on?

Wonder why we're here?

Turn off the news.

Tune into the

movement.

Occupy Lexington

24/7 @ corner of Main + Esplanade

General Assembly @ 6:30 PM daily

facebook.com/OccupyLexKY

http://www.occupylexky.org/

What's going on Occupy activities at JP's plaza, Main Street

Please contact occupylexky@gmail.com to add an activity to the calendar. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings at the Occupation site, 201 E. Main Street.

Every day

6:30 P.M.: *General Assembly*. Come take part in consensus decision-making as to how the Occupation in Lexington should proceed.

Working Groups

- Technology: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7:30 PM.
- Media: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 PM. Contact Austin Parker at Austin.I.Parker@gmail.com
- Process: Mondays after General Assembly.
- Education: Mondays, 5:30 PM. Contact: Michael Benton at mdbento@gmail.com

Christmas and the New Year at the Occupation

Details have yet to be finalized. Please contact our facebook page for further information.

Regular Events

Saturdays

Drums for Peace. Noon. Drummers, dancers, hoopers, jugglers, or other movers and shakers invited. Drums, rattles, shakers, and other noise makers available. Come enjoy the music and energy.

Sundays

Knit-in. 3:00 PM. Love to knit? Want to learn? As winter approaches, Occupiers will need warm scarves and hats. Materials and instruction provided. *General March.* 7:30 PM. Weekly march held directly after General Assembly.

Mondays

Occupy City Council. 5:30-7:30 PM. Start organizing a democratic, participatory politics in Lexington. For info, contact Martin Mudd at Martin.Mudd@gmail.com

People's Media. 5:30-7:30 PM. To help produce and foster citizen media.

People's Budget. 8:00 PM. See article above. *Guerilla bocce.* 10:00 PM. Occupying sports.

Occupy Gardens Sharecropping with the 99%

Occupied Lexington Herald News

A garden is an honest investment. Each year the tiniest of seeds sprout and grow diverse and bountiful products. Yields, while variable, nevertheless offer steady rates of return. For the most part, in the summer we can expect a Halladay Mortgage Lifter to produce large pink fleshy tomatoes, or Kentucky Half-Runner vines to tangle and produce more beans than we know what to do with. In the spring and fall, we can count on the arugula's spicy leaves to rise from, and the Cosmic Purple carrot to slowly root itself into, the soil.

As investments go, gardens offer an alternative to the Wall Street/capitalist model of unlimited growth (known in the real world as cancerous growth). Garden investments remind us that while all currency, all seeds, experience bursts of growth and steady rates of production, they all also have natural periods of decline. We can expect to be overwhelmed with excess in the summer, to plan on scarcity in the winter, and to start the entire cycle over nearly from scratch the next spring.

Victory Gardens

There is a recent national history of people collecting together to plow and cultivate common lands for the production of food. Sixty years ago while the United States revved up its manufacturing plants to mobilize for war in Europe, national leaders called upon American citizens to make their own individual investments in the war effort. Part of this involved consumption—the buying of war bonds, the rationing of gas or rubber or tin products across the country.

But a significant part of national investment into the war effort involved production. In countless cities and towns throughout the country, including Lexington, citizens joined together to create what were called Victory Gardens. Encouraged by their leaders, they transformed unused green space—tucked into parks, open fields or the undeveloped ends of dead end suburban streets—into community gardens used to grow vegetables for domestic consumption. Young neighborhood kids paired with experienced older farmers and gardeners. Others organized canning groups to process produce grown from the gardens; still others distributed the excess.

The investments paid off. Not only did numbers of American citizens "buy into" the war effort through their investments in the land, but so too did Americans get fed. At the height of the Victory Gardening movement in the mid-1940s, somewhere close to 40% of domestic consumption of vegetables came from citizen-produced Victory Gardens.

Winter homework

As Occupations, here and elsewhere, dig in for winter, it is time to begin preparations for the spring. We do not know what specifically the future will hold, but it seems clear that whatever lies ahead, food will be much needed.

For one, occupiers need to eat. Those who are out in the public organizing have less time to provide themselves necessities like food and shelter. Healthy, fresh food operates as a sort of currency, whereby entrenched occupiers can trade their time standing on the street for the ability to eat wholesome tomatoes or plums or lamb's quarter. Eating in this instance is not simply an agricultural act, tying us to the land and communities from where our food grows, but also an act of solidarity, a transfer of labor and love between two equals working within the same struggle. Growing food for distribution and consumption at Occupied sites is thus an important way to contribute without being present on the streets.

But food isn't just for Occupiers tramping downtown streets. Properly used, food also stimulates community interaction. Whether given away, as at a Food Not Bombs meal; bartered at swaps; or sold at markets, food attracts people and increases activity. Its value is in its universality. Everyone gathers around food; it unites us, makes us human. As Occupations continue to decentralize into our neighborhoods, as they morph into more regular public

continued on the next page

Participatory politics
What can be done

By Austin Parker

Our republic is in a time of crisis. We have seen a large transfer of wealth from the hands of the many into those of the few. This theft has been aided and abetted by a compliant Congress, President, and Judicial system.

In some ways, this should not be a surprise. It is embedded in our history. Though we often praise the Founders of our Nation, they crafted a system that benefited the educated, white, predominately wealthy land-owner. At the time this was surely a revolutionary notion since it placed the responsibility of the state at the feet of elected bureaucrats whose governing credentials were established by external accomplishment rather than by blood relation. We may look back on our national history with equal pity and disgust at the treatment of women and minorities in the political process—and note that politics has always been shaped to some degree by the 1%. Our history has been a struggle of resting that power away, with many of the benefits we today enjoy – women’s suffrage, 40-hour workweek, civil rights to name a few – having to be pried from the few hands of the powerful by the many hands of the powerless.

The tools American leaders wield today to keep society in line are not so sharp as the bite of an attack dog in Birmingham, AL during the Civil Rights Era, nor are they as deadly as the smoking barrel of a rifle raised at a student attending Kent State, but they are equally as harmful. With a pliant and corporate-controlled media tucked in their back pocket, our leaders have pitted Americans against each other with a fervor hardly seen since the Civil War. Abortion.



In solidarity at Occupy Lexington.

Occupy Gardens (cont.)

continued from the previous page

spaces of humanly scaled activities, the production and distribution of food will play an important role in establishing legitimacy and community acceptance.

Occupy Gardens and Free Markets

Occupations need not include human occupation. While the Occupy Wall Street movement has been centrally concerned with re-asserting the right of citizens to gather together in public spaces, any number of places in our communities have been locked away, placed off limits and out of productive use. Front yards grow grass; empty lots grow weeds; private properties and churches lock away their land for members of their flock; city parks water golf courses; rural parks are left to fallow. Occupy Gardens can support the larger assertion of people’s right to common lands by employing our veggies to do the occupying for us.

Occupy Lexington calls upon this city’s citizens, as well as citizens throughout the world, to begin to plan their Occupy Gardens. Start looking for unused spaces that could be turned into small or large garden sites. These might include imagining how to plant container gardens, digging up front yards, preparing unused green space for spring cultivation, petitioning city parks, or claiming unused city or suburban lots. Work together, band with friends or community members. Let our needs direct our occupational locations. And in the spring, we can use these seeded investments as raw products for developing our own Occupy markets, places where free markets can truly be allowed to flourish.

This takes winter planning. So start sowing the seeds for your Occupy Garden and join the fight to re-order our world.

Gay Marriage. Gun Control. Welfare. Church and State. Charter Schools. Vouchers. Busing.

You don’t have to look at society for too long to see how these issues divide the 99% and are used in the class war launched by the 1%. The weapons of this war are not being fought with bombs, guns, or pepper spray. Apathy has surely killed the spirit of democracy more swiftly than any nuclear, chemical, or biological weapon that could be pitted at the heart of our nation.

Zucotti

When a cry sprang out of a corner of Lower Manhattan, We Are The 99%, could anyone have foreseen the transformative power of that simple declaration? Our political and media elite scoffed at the very notion that We, The People, could govern ourselves. “What do they want?” came the cry, echoed across 24/7 cable news and channeled through the radio dial. People descending upon Zucotti Park didn’t wait for someone to step up and lead. They came together and forged their world.

No one person spurs on the Occupation. Our unity is an idea. E Pluribus Unum; Out of Many, One. Our voices echo throughout downtown streets and grate against the corporate world’s angular architecture surrounding us. Everywhere, our Occupational voices cry out, “Enough!”

As I write this, Lexington’s occupation has thrived for over two months of twenty-four hour a day presence. We’ve fed the hungry, clothed the cold, and filled ourselves with a richness of spirit that comes from actualization. We don’t have all the answers, but we are learning. The General Assembly, an open forum for the discussion and decision of issues from

Female occupiers discuss camping out

OLH interviewed a female occupier who has spent the night at Occupy Lexington.

Occupied Lexington Herald: How many nights have you spent at Occupy Lexington?

Female 99er: I’ve spent two nights at Occupy Lexington and both times I was the only woman there for the whole night.

OLH: Nights at Occupy Lexington tend to be male-dominated. What has your experience been spending the night as a female?

F99: Overall, I would say my experience was positive. My only bad experience would be a mentally ill homeless man who approached me and asked for my age, whether or not I had a boyfriend, and proceeded to make some inappropriate comments. This made me uncomfortable, so I stood up [and moved] a few feet away. After that,

where we’re sleeping, to how we’ll spend our money, to the actual specific goals of our occupation, is where we practice version of direct, participatory democracy. We don’t vote, we establish consensus—refining our proposals until everyone agrees on the ideas proposed. Through consensus and direct democracy, we are establishing an alternative to society as we know it.

Is this a sustainable way to run a country? Not directly, no. It’s not about that, though. We don’t have millions of dollars to hire lobbyists, but we have markers and posterboard. We can’t afford a think tank to write legislation, but a lot of smart people cycle through our camp. Our voices alone are tiny, but we stand against the storm and scream into the onrushing wave that we have had enough, and we demand the sort of change that doesn’t come on a campaign poster—we want action.

There’s a more sustainable representative democracy out there, one free of the corruption of millions of dollars in campaign contributions and bribes. There’s a more sustainable economic system, one built on lifting everyone up rather than allowing the richest to capture an ever-increasing amount of wealth. There’s a more sustainable justice system, where people are placed before profits and corporations are held to account for their business practices that defy human decency. There’s a more sustainable world that we can come together and create - slowly, slowly - but it starts with each of us casting off our apathy and rising up to speak with one voice, one cry, one purpose, one crystalline fact that shreds the artificial divisions of race, religion, manner of dress, style of speech, and every other roadblock that has been set upon us by society to divide and not unite. We are the huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. We are the spirit of this nation, and this world, and we suffer no tyrant or king dominion over our rights and freedom. We Are The 99%.

We are here. So where are you?

he left. When he returned a few hours later, I was warned that he was asking where all the women were.

OLH: Several Occupied sites have experienced sexual assaults taking place at night. What concerns should women have who choose to spend the night downtown at Occupy? What has the “night crew” done to address those concerns?

F99: The “night crew” was obviously looking out for me that night [when approached by the man], as they did the other night I was there. We have suggested at General Assembly that a woman staying overnight should be with two people she trusts and some woman have left their phone numbers and offered to come by any night if needed. In Zucotti Park, there is a women-only tent. I think this would be good for Occupy Lexington to implement once our movement has grown.

Letter to Occupiers

We, members of the Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers), are united in solidarity with the millions of our fellow citizens who are suffering economic hardship—some as a result of the current recession, others as a result of long-standing social and economic discrimination and inequalities. We sympathize with and support the “Occupy Wall Street” protesters of New York, Lexington, and many other cities in America and worldwide, inasmuch as they seek to be heard about the control of governments by economic mega- corporations. Unjust economic practices and undemocratic political processes of powerful elites are manifestations of a fear-, power-, and greed-based worldview that is too influential and does not regard the spiritual consequences for others.

Strongly opposed to that dark worldview of power, monopoly and exclusion are values and principles of community, equality, and compassion that are central in many religious traditions and were central to our nation’s founders. For Quakers, they flow from our conviction that within every individual is “That of God, the Inner Light”.

If these values and principles were more widely and more firmly held in American society, there would be fewer unjust inequalities of wealth and power, less unemployment, less poverty, and less corruption of our democratic government by concentrated wealth.

Tom Marco and Claire Carpenter, Co-Clerks
Lexington Friends (Quaker) Meeting



Mr. Cheeks Garden, 2007, built behind a strip mall center on Winchester Road. Photo by Danny Mayer.

Opinion

North of Center: read all about it

This declaration of the paper appeared in our first issue, May 20, 2009. We reprint it here unchanged, warts (and typos and syntactic errors) and all.

“Who am I? Why am I here?” retired Admiral James Stockdale asked in what ranks as one of the more awkward moments in televised political debates. The vice-presidential running mate of 1992 third-party candidate Ross Perot, Stockdale is something of a punchline for politicos who care about such things. His punchdrunk speaking style and faulty hearing aid served to make even vice-presidential candidates Dan Quale and Al Gore look positively presidential in ‘92—a fairly incredible feat for any man, admiral or not.

Stockdale’s opening query—who am I? Why am I here?—has played in my head like a chorus of (punchdrunk, mostly tone-deaf) muses for the past several weeks as I have tried to explain to others what positive role a new local publication might serve in Lexington. Who might we be? Why might we be here? Below is the beginning of an answer to those questions, hopefully delivered in a better rambling manner than Mr. Stockdale.

Who are we?

This one’s simple. At the moment, we are mainly a group of friends I’ve tricked and cajoled into writing. Some of us have written, and will continue to write, for other good local publications; some haven’t and won’t. For the most part, we are academics in some fashion or another, though please don’t hold that against us. We’re graduate students, adjuncts, community college teachers, liquor store clerks—the shat upon dregs of the academic world.

By trade and profession, then, we are not journalists. We are not publishers. We are not layout/design people. We are not ad-men and women. But we are learning as we do.

Why are we here?

This ones a bit more complex. Aside from the normal vanities and orgasmic release associated with seeing Your Name in a print byline read by untold hundreds, we feel that currently there’s a need for different journalistic forms, centers of gravity, and perspectives in our local papers. Month after month, this need only grows as our flagship local rag, the Lexington Herald Leader, proceeds apace with its race to the bottom, one staff cut at a time. (One week before press time, and

our modest start-up paper already had more newsprint than the Monday 11 May Leader.)

If there is to be a future in print journalism—and we here at *NoC* assert that there must be, or else we’re to imply that computer access, and not literacy, now defines the contours of our awareness of the world—it will reside predominantly in small, focused, community papers like *La Voz*, or *Ace*, or *Southsider*, or *Business Lexington*, or the *Chevy Chaser* that can operate more freely within the confines of limited budgets, limited writers, and limited ad space. As our free market



world slowly begins splintering back into smaller, workable, and (hopefully) more humane communities, more nimble local papers such as these represent the future of print journalism.

With this in mind, we offer up our own nimble and localized paper, *North of Center*. We hope the name reflects both a geography (our place) and a politics (our perspective) that we may cultivate in future issues. In this and future issues, we aim to cultivate, engage, and converse with a demographic situated generally in the north side of town, one that houses immigrant communities, anarchists, unabashed drunks, free food collectives, bikers, working class stiff, prostitutes and their johns, cults, bocce players, musicians, vagrants, gentrifiers and their victims, city hall fat cats, felons, printmakers, homeless, drunks, religious activists actually reading and practicing Jesus’ gospels, and other good and ill-natured freaks.

At *NoC* we will work to present these groups as central to the many communities that comprise our world.

We hope to do so in a way that assumes that these groups—you, actually—are not so much separate as you are different aspects—faces—of a vibrant community. We know, for example, that any member of a free food collective might at the same time be homeless, that bikers are printmakers are bocce players, that prostitutes are often struggling against homelessness, that musicians can be gentrifiers, that city hall fat cats are just as shameless in their drinking as the working

class stiff currently being gentrified and harrassed off my street. We know, too, that being a city hall fatcat means less surveillance about such things, and that this state of affairs, put bluntly, sucks and is wrong.

There is an energy, a collection of vibes, that has lately sprung in this part of the world, and we aim to capture its history (for nothing appears out of nowhere), its tensions and possibilities, its successes and failures. Of course, capturing this energy is the wrong sentiment for all this. It suggests holding against one’s will. A better way to convey that might be to say that we will do our damndest to report and interpret—to publicly discuss—what we find to be important.

Covering the diverse, interconnected communities that thread north of the center requires something of us and you. For one, different communities have different ways of conversing.

However close their interests may be, a member of Food Not Bombs, for example, reads and writes differently than a city council member. As budding journalists writing for this paper, we will cover and analyze a number of these communities, and we will do so by using a number of journalistic forms.

Expect development. Longer ideas. Essays. Analysis. Foul language. Cheap political humor. Play. For you loyal Herald readers, expect sports that don’t use winning as a pretext to generate money for small groups of people. Expect labor rather than business pages. Look for honest accounts of UK’s debilitating role in the city community. Think Eblen on acid, Allesse with a pair, Clay with a hard-on for community based sports disconnected from financial gain. Don’t expect twitter updates, bi-weekly pictures of white folk in black ties, or articles that give loving directions for throwing a successful tea party. Rightly or wrongly, we don’t see these as a need for our demographic, whatever it might be.

What this means to you, dear readers, is that we assume you have a discerning eye—one that can see that words like fuck and love can and should co-exist next to each other for the simple fact that different communities speak and converse differently. We recognize that we are taking a gamble of sorts with our approach in that we assume that bikers, anarchists, prostitutes, bar owners, gentrifiers, working stiff, and others still like to read things that exceed 140 words, and that in conjunction with other smaller local papers, a vibrant print culture can lead to a more informed and democratic citizenry (one that we expect will include disenfranchised felons).

We at *NoC* have pinned our hopes on you misfits and establishment types still having a latent desire to read. To reflect. To laugh out loud. To be outraged. And hopefully, to write back to and with us in future issues.

Ultimately, these are the standards by which we hope you judge our paper: have we, to echo Wendell Berry, pushed Lexington’s center—its mayors, its domineering land-grant college to the south, its business leaders, its feel-good white liberals on Desha as well as on North Martin Luther King Jr.—to be less ignorant of the periphery? Have we empowered the many people and voices who, by hook or by crook, by choice or by happenstance, are *North of Center*?

—Danny Mayer

Free speech struggles

By Jack Stevenson

“Congress shall make no law. . .abridging the freedom of speech. . .or the right of people to peaceably assemble. ”

The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States has been in existence for 220 years. Yet, the definition of freedom of speech is still being refined. We would probably agree that it fundamentally means advocacy of or opposition to political policy or process or the right to judge the conduct of government officials.

The United States Supreme Court released a ruling on January 21, 2010, that set off alarm bells throughout the country. The Supreme Court decided that corporations could spend money, directly, to influence the outcome of elections by financing political parties and political candidates. The Court ruled that to deny corporations the privilege of financial involvement in politics would be an abridgement of their right of “free speech.” That decision leaves most Americans speechless. It defines money as freedom of speech. It gives corporate executives who control vast sums of money a “boom box” capability while everyone else’s voice is nearly inaudible. Is money a legitimate form of political speech for a corporation that can send your job to China?

The United States Constitution was adopted in 1787. The first amendment

was adopted four years later. Seven years after the first amendment was adopted, the U.S. Congress passed the Sedition Act of 1798, which prohibited criticism of the president and congress. There have been many other attempts to restrict freedom of speech.

Democracy cannot exist unless the right to criticize government (freedom of speech) exists. Yet, the Supreme Court has never treated freedom of speech as an absolute right. Perhaps the most vexing issue has been freedom of speech during wartime.

President Woodrow Wilson was staunchly opposed to U.S. entry into the war in Europe (WW 1)—until he changed his mind. In 1917, at the outset of American involvement in the war, congress gave us the Espionage Act that allowed prison sentences of twenty years for violators. A dictionary would indicate a difference between sedition and espionage, but the 1917 Espionage Act was used to suppress free speech. Eugene V. Debs, a socialist and presidential candidate, was convicted for making a public speech opposing the war. He received a million votes while incarcerated in a Federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia. The 1917 Espionage Act also gave the U.S. Postmaster General the license to withhold mail that he deemed seditious, the equivalent of blocking electronic communication today.

Since WW 1, several court challenges have attempted to refine the definition of free speech. But new issues have arisen. Peaceful assembly is also undefined. The U.S. Constitution doesn’t specify where citizens may assemble or how long they may remain or whether their presence may invoke inconvenience for other people. Across the land, various governments are grappling with these issues as they confront the “Occupy” protests.

There is a third unresolved issue. What constitutes appropriate non-deadly police force? When, for any reason, valid or not, a government orders removal of civil protesters, any force applied by police should ordinarily be non-deadly. The list of non-deadly tools includes water cannons, rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, tasers (sometimes lethal), and batons. Unfortunately, these non-deadly tools are all violent.

Another tactic used to discourage civil protest is arrest for miscellaneous petty misdemeanors.

Free speech, a fundamental requirement for successful democracy, remains undefined in the United States, and its permanence is not guaranteed. Passing through an airport, you may hear this recording: “Any inappropriate remarks or jokes may result in your arrest.”

The struggle for freedom of speech is continuous.

North of Center is a periodical, a place, and a perspective. Read on to find out what that means.

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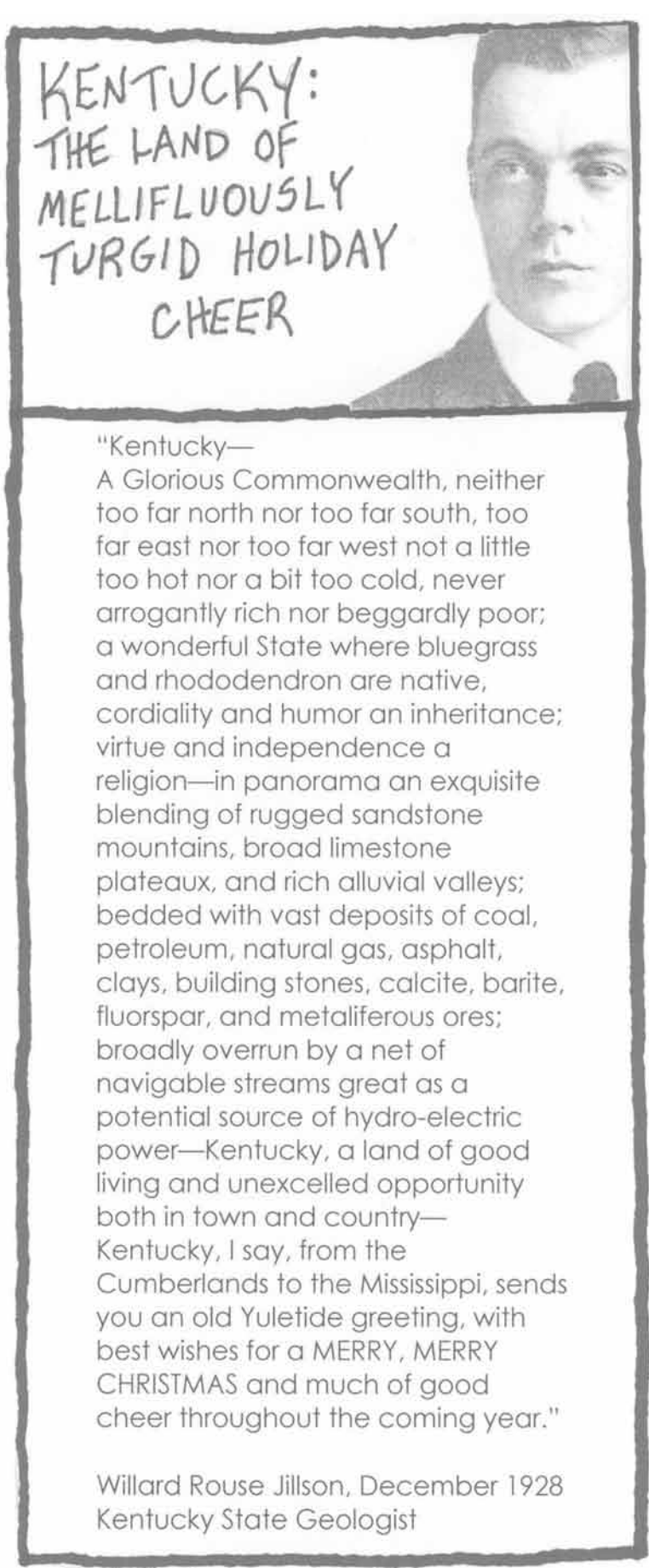
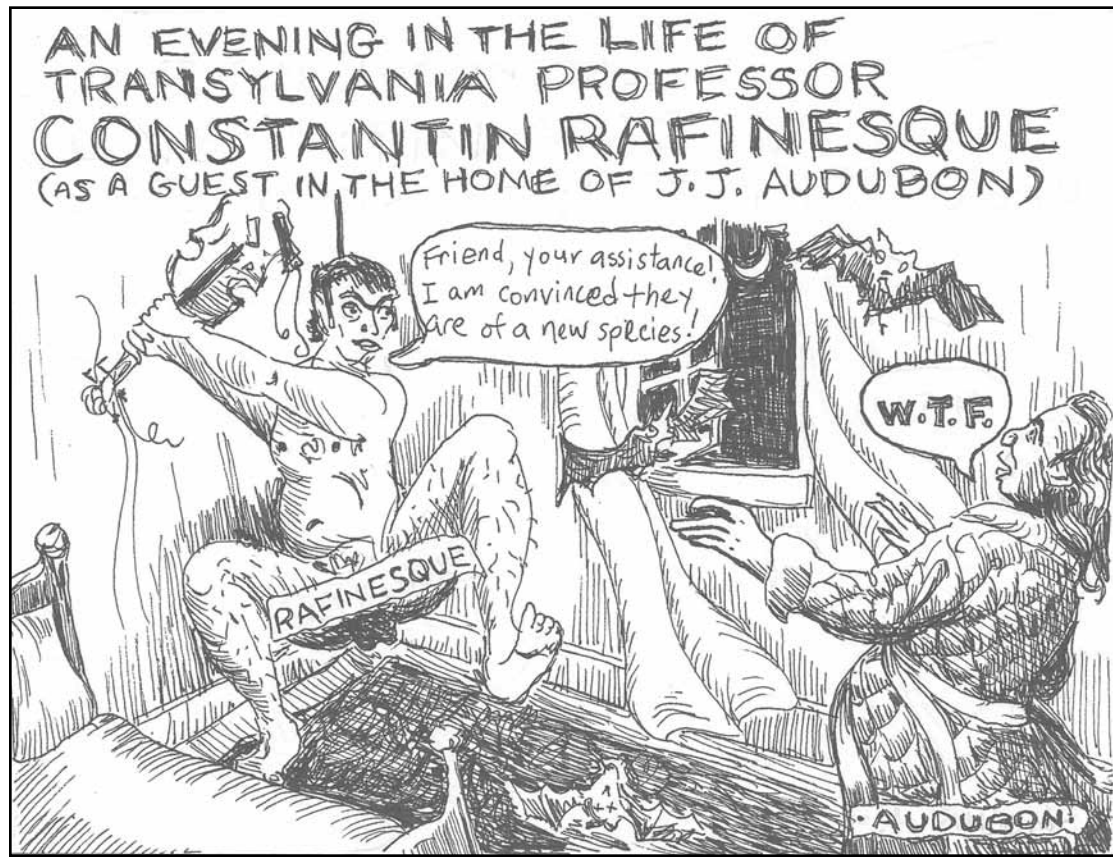
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Lexington Public

Stacey Earley



Occupied city (cont.)

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rapid succession, while one participant, overcome with emotion, let out two distinct barbaric yawps that threatened to sweep over the roof of the JP Bank building.

Creatives occupy

To Danny Mayer, assistant professor of Humanities at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, the distinction was a welcome bit of news.

“It says something about people in a small city like this. It says that as strangers from different rural, exurban, suburban and urban communities, we are quick to mobilize and join together. Our becoming the longest running occupation says that we have power, staying power. It also says something about our civil dialogue.

It says something that we have no reported incidents of unnecessary police force, that our police force has not acted out violently like those in New York, Oakland, Berkeley, Cal-Davis, and other cities. It says something that our mayor has allowed our political presence, that thus far he has not chosen the path of failed leaders like New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg or UC-Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi.”

Mayer, who will be teaching a community media class at BCTC in the spring semester, realized that this feel-good story of small-city Lexington residents trumping the big bad cities needed to be told.

“The over-riding stories of Occupy Wall Street, and the other Occupy movements that have spread throughout the world, are of student participation, citizen engagement, and creative problem solving. At Zucotti Park, tenured academics spent their sabbaticals staffing a several-thousand volume People’s Library. Elite students from elite universities throughout the

northeast staged teach-ins, cooked and cleaned at camp, and planned and implemented marches to shame financial thieves. In Zucotti, creative people began to test and implement feeding, composting, sheltering, governing and other systems from scratch, mostly under difficult conditions without electricity. Global music icons traded music sets with homegrown Zucotti talent. Politicians, movie stars, authors, poets, artists—they all went to Zucotti for the good action.

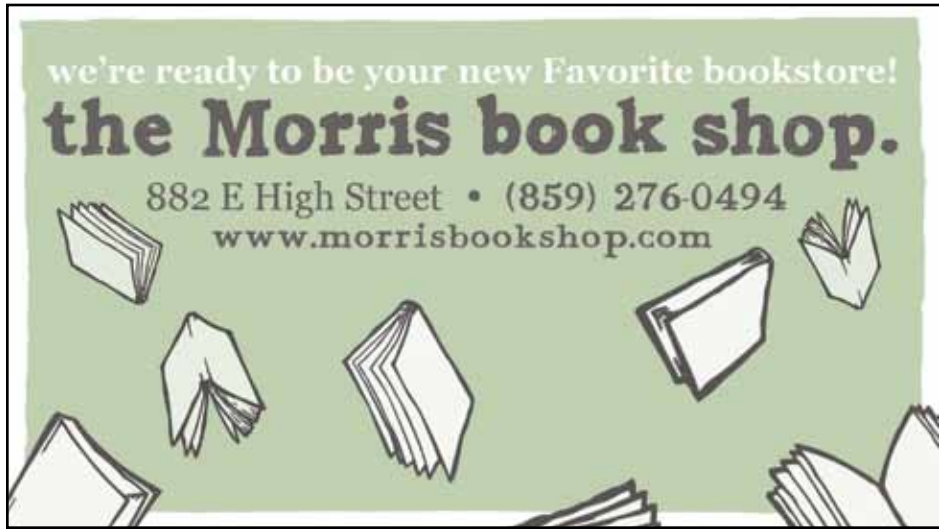
“Elite students and professors, artists, and engaged ‘creative’ problem solvers who are super-invested in their community? Isn’t that what this city has called the creative class? These Occupiers are exactly the people that our city leaders claim to want. Our city should be promoting the fact that we have such a community here already, that endurance wise we are number one. If I were Jim Gray, I’d be sending it out on the wire: Creative occupiers are welcome here!”

Mayer got together with some of his fellow highly educated, civically active urban dwellers and brainstormed for ways the city could beneficially promote the Occupation here.

“The banners were an obvious solution,” Mayer says, referring to the gigantic banners Commerce Lexington places in the windows of its downtown office building. Main Street is a central Lexington corridor for out-of-towners. Drivers see the banners swooshing through town and can immediately sense what makes this city special. There’s a banner for being #2 best city for education (Parenting Magazine); one for being #6 best city to start a small business (CNN Money); and one for being #9 best city for business and careers (Forbes).

“Our goal was simple. We decided to demand a banner for being #1. There’s certainly room on the building.”

Creatives debate and petition government



Mayer and his creative class friends decided to act on their principals. So they went straight ahead and set up a Facebook page calling on Mayor Jim Gray to hang a banner proclaiming Lexington a Top 10 City for Wall Street Occupations.

“It was difficult,” says Martin Mudd, a creative class high school teacher who holds a Masters degree in Physics. “We debated quite a bit. Should the banner read, Lexington: Top 10 Occupied City? Or what about, Lexington: Top 10 City for Occupations. The former seemed to imply that Lexington was a top city that just happened to have an occupation in it. The other suggested that Lexington was merely a good city to hold forth an occupation—a place where one could assemble without getting your head bashed in by cops or evicted by an over-zealous mayor.”

“We also tried Solidarity for longest-running Occupation,” said fellow Creative Patrick Bigger, a doctoral student in UK’s nationally ranked Department of Human Geography. “But the slogan came off as too wordy and, syntactically speaking, not in harmonious scale with the environment of banners that would surround it.”

The group ultimately decided on a banner that read “#1: Best Cities to hold a prolonged Wall Street Occupation.”

They have begun a Facebook petition. If you believe our city should

demonstrate their support for the coveted demographic of urban, educated, cultured, creative and/or civically active people, please sign on. We are asking that our city Mayor request Commerce Lexington to include the unique Lexington distinction of having the longest running North American Occupy encampment. We are likewise asking that he demonstrate his own support of the initiative by offering to pay the costs to purchase and hang the banner. We want our city leader to support what is undoubtedly a rare opportunity to promote this city. We want Jim to smile and say, “Come to Lexington, all you Creative Occupiers!”

Editor’s Note: The designation of “longest running occupation” does not included the ongoing 500 year general occupation of North America by European gringos, nor to our specific 225 year occupation of the Fayette Crescent, formerly a vast commonland punctuated by the Kentucky River that was shared by Indian tribes traveling in from the north, south, west and east; otherwise known as the fabled canelands.

