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*The opinions are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the IMC as a whole.*

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A Paper of the People

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## Hundreds Turn Out For The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity March On The Anniversary of The Carrington Shooting



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## Building Community Consciousness Around Domestic Violence

by Rachel L. Storm



Rachel Storm works as the Program Coordinator of the University of Illinois Women's Resources Center in the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, where she is charged with working with a variety of campus and community-based organizations in order to create programs and events that generate awareness around women's issues and gender-related concerns. Rachel served as the 2010 chair of the Student Affairs DVAM committee.

October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and the Women's Resources Center—in collaboration with a variety of campus and community organizations\*—has worked to both raise awareness of the realities of domestic abuse and to educate the community about healthy relationships. As part of the programming for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Champaign-Urbana, the Student Affairs DVAM committee is hosting an event for almost every day in the month of October and two month-long projects: These Hands Don't Hurt and the That Isn't Love! Banner Project, the former being part of a national campaign that asks participants to trace their hands and add them to a display in a pledge of non-violence and the latter being a community art project that gives participants the opportunity to create a public banner (more info below).

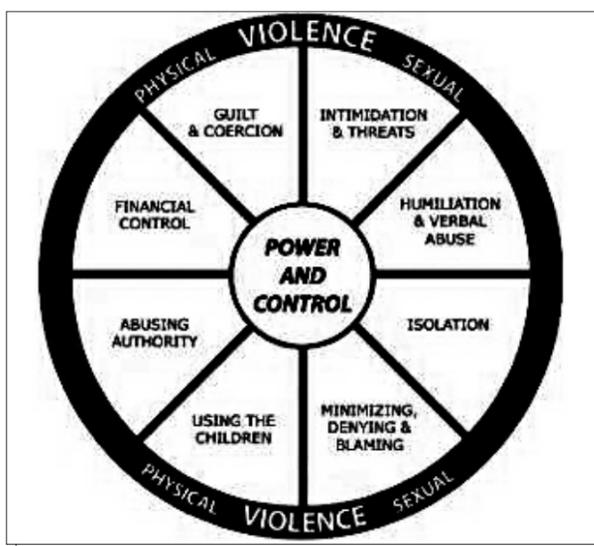
Apart from the aforementioned projects, the DVAM committee kicked-off the month with a Community Speak-Out featuring spoken word artist and DV survivor, Monica Daye on Monday, October 4th at the Alice J. Campbell Alumni Center. Prior to the open mic, Monica Daye met with students and members of our C-U community who had worked in domestic violence prevention here in town. At the gathering, she shared her own story of domestic abuse, rape, and healing. As she gave her testimony, participants began to share their insights, their work in DV prevention, and their knowledge gained after years of working for the empowerment of survivors.

Much of the message has been a constant reminder of how much work there is to do. As was indicated at a recent domestic violence panel discussion at the Women's Resources Center, the phrase "domestic violence" wasn't even coined until 1977—and that alone reminds us of how much the silence around domestic abuse and intimate partner violence has pervaded our history. Domestic violence happens behind closed doors. It knows no gender, no sexuality, no race, nor any other social identity. Domestic violence can happen in all relationships. The scars are often invisible to those uninvolved—so much so, that we hardly know how to recognize them.

Many ask, what are the warning signs of abuse? How can we work to alleviate domestic violence from our community? Or, how do I know if I'm in an abusive relationship? To that end, it's important to remember that domestic and intimate partner violence comes in many forms: emotional, financial (withholding money, etc.), physical, sexual, child abuse, property abuse, abuse of pets, etc. Often, it's easiest to identify an abusive relationship by illustrating what healthy relationships are defined by: from mutual respect and consent, to good communication and mutual empowerment. During the month of October, "Healthy Relationships Workshops," facilitated in part by the campus Counseling Center Trauma Treatment Team, will explore domestic violence and building healthy rela-

tionships—both with intimate partners and with our communities at large.

So how can we support domestic violence prevention? It is often suggested to start by strengthening your local resources. In times of economic crisis, social services are often the first to suffer. Most recently, economic hardship facilitated a merger between local transitional shelter The Center for Women in Transition (CWIT) and local domestic violence shelter A Woman's Place, reminding us of how important it is to support our local organizations and resources designed to assist survivors of domestic violence. Donating and volunteering at local shelters and resource centers is a large part of helping sustain these safe spaces in the threat of economic strife.



Another important aspect of DV prevention is to familiarize yourself with the warning signs of abuse. Some include:

- You're afraid to break up with your partner because he/she threatened to hurt you, himself/herself or someone you care about
- Your partner fosters the belief that you are bad or incompetent
- Your partner prevents you from seeing your family and friends, or from going back to school, or work
- Your partner always checks up or questions you about what you have been doing; looks through your belongings
- Your partner uses violent behaviors (throwing items, punching the wall, etc.) to scare you
- Your partner pressures you into having sex or performing unwanted sexual acts
- Your partner tells you that if you changed he/she wouldn't abuse you
- Stalking is an abusive behavior that is likely to turn into physical abuse
- Your partner uses loving messages to control you (i.e., "I can't live without you")
- Your partner abuses your possessions or your pets.

To learn more about domestic violence prevention and healthy relationships, follow the Women's Resources Center on Twitter (@IllinoisWRC) for daily updates during the month of October, featuring information about warning signs, local resources, and healthy relationships. To join the listserv and receive weekly eNewsletters for updates on events, programs, volunteer, and scholarship opportunities, please e-mail [womensprograms@illinois.edu](mailto:womensprograms@illinois.edu) and put "Add to WRC Listserv" in the subject line.

\*The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee is comprised of the Women's Resources Center, LGBT Resource Center, Counseling Center, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Student Conflict Resolution, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural Latina, Diversity and Social Justice Education, Orchard Downs Family and Graduate Housing, University

### Upcoming DVAM Events:

**DVAM Walk in the Homecoming Parade**, Friday, October 22, 5PM

Women's Resources Center, 703 S. Wright St., Champaign (Corner of Green and Wright 2nd Floor, FreeStar Bank—Parade begins at 6pm on Sixth Street) We will distribute signs and materials at 5:30pm and walk together to 6th St. The University of Illinois Homecoming Parade runs 6-7 p.m., starting at Sixth Street and Taft Drive in Champaign, traveling through Campustown and turning south on Mathews Avenue in Urbana to end at the Quad. To get involved, you can wear purple and walk in the parade for DVAM, create signs with WRC help to give to folks willing to walk in the parade, and march with us in the parade!

### DVAM ONGOING PROGRAMS:

**That Isn't Love! Domestic Violence Awareness Month Banner Project**—All Across Campus, October 1-29

What would you say to a survivor of domestic violence? If you are a survivor, what would you like to hear? During the month of October, the Women's Resource Center and the YWCA encourage participants to reach out by constructing and photographing handmade banners. We invite you to construct a banner featuring your own words of support and photograph yourself holding your banner around campus. Submitted images will be considered for an exhibition in November. Participants should submit high-quality jpeg images (300dpi) of themselves holding their banners around campus to [womenscenter@illinois.edu](mailto:womenscenter@illinois.edu) on or before October 29th, 2010.

**These Hands Don't Hurt**—Ongoing in October, with hands being displayed in the Wintergarden at the ARC October 25-29. Campus members trace their hands on construction paper, cut them out, and create a display using all of the hands. By adding your hand to the display, you take the pledge not to use them to hurt others. It is a simple, yet powerful way to show that violence won't be tolerated in our community.

For more info and/or to get involved, contact: [womenscenter@illinois.edu](mailto:womenscenter@illinois.edu)

**Clothesline Project Displays and Workshops All Across Campus and Community**—Ongoing in October, the Women's Resources Center is providing small Clothesline Project displays of decorated t-shirts symbolizing violence against women and children in and around campus. Our campus t-shirt collection, which dates back at least a decade, has been created by students, faculty, staff, and the greater C-U community over the years. For more info and/or to get involved, contact Women's Resources Center at [womenscenter@illinois.edu](mailto:womenscenter@illinois.edu).

For more information, please visit: [www.go.illinois.edu/DVAM](http://www.go.illinois.edu/DVAM)



## Cruelty to the Mentally III

By Mary Coleman

Do you know what goes on behind locked doors at the Champaign County Satellite Jail? You would probably be surprised to find out. For people with serious mental illnesses, the jail policies for dealing with these people amount to cruelty. While in custody, people are being segregated, isolated, denied medications, and humiliated. Instead of receiving the medical attention they need to control their disease, they are denied proper access to a psychiatrist and taken off their medications. When they become symptomatic, they are placed in isolation. The guards call this isolation suicide watch. They can be kept in isolation for more than two weeks at a time.

This form of treatment is both cruel and unnecessary punishment for the “crime” of being mentally ill. Persons with serious mental illness do not need to be locked away. This is a practice that was done away with decades ago in mental health facilities. Our jail is still working in the dark ages. No matter what reason a person is incarcerat-

ed, he or she still has certain human rights.

Many who are in the custody of the jail are there because they cannot pay the bond that has been set for them. Some are awaiting trial. Some are waiting for bed space in a mental health facility for treatment or evaluation. The majority of them have not even been convicted of a crime yet. They have no choice but to endure the treatment they receive at the jail.

My brother, Timothy Coleman, lives with a serious mental illness. He was incarcerated at the jail from January to September 2010. The majority of his time there he was awaiting bed space in a mental health facility. During his stay there, he was able to save up his medication, took an overdose, and was hospitalized for three days. Upon his return to the jail, he was placed on “suicide watch.” He was placed in a cement cell with no bed, no mattress, and no pillow. The only thing he was given was a blanket. He was taken off all of his medication and was given an antidepressant, which he stat-

ed did not work. He was left in this cell for seventeen days, devoid of all human contact. He was only released after begging and pleading his case with the jail staff.

He was at the lowest point in his life. He’d made a call for help with his suicide attempt, but it was received by the guards in the jail with a cruel form of punishment. He was treated like someone who had committed the worst possible crime and needed to be segregated from the rest of the population. Guards at the jail subjected him to unfair practices and denied him medical treatment for his symptoms.

According to Timothy, this sort of treatment of persons with mental illness is common among the staff of the Champaign County Satellite Jail. He states that when people are having symptoms there, they are placed in isolation for long periods of time like he was. He has witnessed people kept in isolation for up to thirty days. He sees that the guards do not want to deal with symptomatic people, and this

is why they are placed in isolation.

These practices are patently wrong. People need to know what is going on. We need to stand up and go to bat for persons with mental illness in our jails. In my brother’s case, he never should have been able to save up his medication in the first place. A non-negligent system would notice. The prisoners are subject to the rules and policies of the jail. They cannot speak up for themselves, so we must speak up for them.

You may be asking yourself: “Why should I care?” One in five people living in America have a mental illness. Chances are that you know or have known someone with one. They are part of our community. They have a medical disease that may pose certain challenges in their lives, but they are just like everyone else in their hopes and dreams and human dignity. Only we can speak up for them.

## Unity March Honors the Memory of Kiwane Carrington

By Brian Dolinar



Several hundred people came out to the Unity March on October 9, 2010, marking a year to the day since Kiwane Carrington was killed by a Champaign police officer. In the face of recent news reports about supposed racial attacks, this year’s event stressed the need for unity. The

large turn out was a sign that people desire a community free from police violence and media sensationalism.

The march began at 906 W. Vine St. in Champaign, the house where Kiwane Carrington was approached by Police Chief R.T. Finney and Officer Daniel Norbits as he and a friend were trying to find a respite from the rain. October 9, 2010, however, was a warm, sunny day—a perfect day for a march. On the steps of the house, Nick Elam sang the Boys-2-Men song, “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye,” before a solemn crowd.

Surprisingly, Mike Sola, former WILL-580 weatherman and victim of an attack who has recently been featured in the media, showed up at the Unity March. He addressed the crowd saying that what was needed was not division, but unity to address the root problems in our community.

The march kicked off by going up Prospect Avenue, turning down Bradley Avenue, and passing through the black community. Everyone still remembered what happened a year ago and as they heard the chanting “Honor Kiwane!” many of them joined into the march. Soon, a long line of marchers lined Bradley.

The march ended at the Randolph Street community garden, run by Mother Dawn Blackman. As the large crowd entered the park, music blasted out of the Hip Hop Express, an airstream trailer converted into a sound system by Dr. Will Patterson, professor in the Afro-American Studies Department.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., the time of Kiwane’s death, two fruit trees were planted in his memory. Albert Carrington, Kiwane’s father, was there to help lower the trees into the earth and cover them with soil.

The Unity March ended with a free lunch in the park. Organized by Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice, the march was co-sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance, NAACP, Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO), and received a donation from the Common Ground Food Co-op.



### eBlack Symposium

The eBlackChampaign-Urbana Campus-Community Symposium will feature conversation and information sharing on digital technology and campus-community interactions in order to build and sustain connections across our community that can be used for the benefit of all. Whether you want your voice to be heard or you want to hear about what is going on in our community, this symposium will be of benefit to you. Although we are especially interested in African-American communities in Champaign-Urbana, these conversations cut across boundaries, and we want to everyone’s perspectives and insights on these issues.

The Symposium takes place November 5-6, 2010, with November 5 on-campus at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 501 E. Daniel; and November 6 off-campus at the Douglas Annex, 804 N. 5th St, Champaign, IL. Both days are 9-5 p.m. Free

food and refreshments will be available both days. The symposium grows out of the

eBlackChampaign-Urbana (eBlackCU) project, an initiative of the Community Informatics Lab, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois.

Over the past year, the eBlackCU team has built a digital library and digital exhibits on local African-American history featuring everything from church programs to dissertations on local African-American life and culture. The digital library has been built both by the campus team and by local African-American interns from area high schools and Parkland College. We are interested in the potential of digital technology for community development and increased quality of life for all.

For more visit: [eblackcu.net/portal/](http://eblackcu.net/portal/)

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# Football Game Flyover on 9-11 Promotes War

By David Green



David Green davegreen84(at)yahoo.com lives in Champaign.

A recent internet-driven furor in response to my letter protesting an outburst of militarism at a University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) football game on September 11<sup>th</sup> has prompted the following reflections on freedom of speech, militarism and war, and the responsibilities of university administrators.

First, however, I will review the letter and the responses that it provoked. The letter was published in the *Daily Illini* (9/15) as follows:

"The vast majority of 9/11 observances in this country cannot be seen as politically neutral events. Implicit in their nature are the notions that lives lost at the World Trade Center are more valuable than lives lost in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and elsewhere; that the motives of the 9/11 attackers had nothing to do with genuine grievances in the Islamic world regarding American imperialism; and that the U.S. has been justified in the subsequent killing of hundreds of thousands in so-called retaliation."

"The observance at Saturday's football game was no different. A moment of silence was followed by a military airplane flyover; in between, I-Block students chanted 'U.S.A., U.S.A.' This was neither patriotism nor remembrance in any justifiable sense, but politicization, militarism, propaganda, and bellicosity. The university is a public institution that encompasses the political views of all, not just the most (falsely) 'patriotic.' Athletic planners should cease such exploitation for political purposes. They might at least consider how most Muslim students, American or otherwise, would respond to this nativist display; or better, Muslims and others that live their lives under the threat of our planes, drones, and soldiers."

"The overwhelmingly white, privileged, I-Block students should be ashamed of their obnoxious, fake-macho, chicken-hawk chant, while poverty-drafted members of their cohort fight and die in illegal and immoral wars for the control of oil. University administrators need to eliminate from all events such "patriotic" observances, which in

this country cannot be separated from implicit justifications for state-sponsored killing."

In the days subsequent to the letter's publication hundreds of critical comments, the majority of them abusive, were posted on the DI website and received at both my work-related and personal e-mail addresses. Abusive and borderline threatening e-mails, some calling for my dismissal, were also received by my work supervisor, as well as perhaps two dozen phone calls over a period of four or five days by the receptionists in my office. This resulted in a police recommendation to keep the outside door locked during business hours until further notice. These comments, e-mails, and phone calls came from across the country, although it cannot be stated with any certainty how these "outside" numbers compare to responses from students, campus, local, or in-state individuals.

Clearly, like the flyover itself, the responses to my letter left little room for civil, intelligent, or critical discourse in relation to the substantive issues that were raised.

For the record, while my letter became a phenomenon in itself, the intimidating nature of these responses was not seen as newsworthy by university administrators, DI editors, or the local media. One might conjecture that threatening phone calls to offices on campus—for example, administrative offices—might have been met with a different reaction from these individuals and media outlets.

Meanwhile, I was invited on WGN radio in Chicago for a 20-minute morning interview, which was relatively civil and afforded me the opportunity to clearly articulate my perspectives. A discussion with national right-wing talk show host Michael Medved was not nearly as civil, and an invitation from Bill O'Reilly was rejected due to my concern that there would be no chance for a fair hearing. Both of the above-mentioned interviews can be accessed online.

At this point, I will proceed with my substantive reflections on the events at the football game, and their implications for the University community:

I continue to assert my right to attend public events, including university sporting events and graduations, without being politically proselytized by those responsible for orchestrating such events. At the same time, I support the right of any individual or groups of individuals in the audience at any such event to engage in non-obscene and non-racist expressions, chants, or songs of any nature whatsoever, as they see fit, at appropriate points during the proceedings. That would include "U.S.A." or the name of

any other country on earth.

What I protested in my letter—secondarily to the university's support for militarism and war—was the decision by university administrators to view me as a captive audience for hopelessly entwined and repulsive patriotic/militaristic sentiments, expressed in a manner that is intimidating and obviously allows for no thoughtful response. Meanwhile, I retain the right to publicly express my horror at the behavior of Block-I students, whether it be in relation to chants of "U.S.A.," "chief," or any other outbursts of mindless, conformist and belligerent speech.

My fundamental concern, however, is the university's identification with militarism and war, and the propaganda and coercion that inevitably go with it. Sports events, and particularly football games, are tempting targets for those who would confuse the love of country with the practice of killing innocent people in other countries. Thus these displays move from flags and anthems, to color guards and flyovers, to implied assertions of American innocence and support for unjust wars.

This is clearly analogous to our entire aggressive history and current state of affairs, characterized on one hand by the varied motives, intentions, and ideals of our soldiers, which on the other hand are invariably exploited by economic elites and political leaders for their self-serving, nefarious, and destructive policies.

In short, I demand university administrators either clearly explain why they think that the ceremonies prior to the game on September 11<sup>th</sup> were not politicized and militarized; or apologize for their decisions and promise not to repeat them. I promote, for starters, a clearly announced policy of no more flyovers, ever.

In 1976, The late historian Howard Zinn wrote the following in a column in the *Boston Globe* in connection to the observance of Memorial Day: "In the end, it is living people, not corpses, creative energy, not destructive rage, which are our only real defense, not just against other governments trying to kill us, but against our own, also trying to kill us." University and athletic administrators need to stop aspiring to be part of such a government, and actively recognize the perversity of a public educational institution promoting the agenda of such a government, which makes it the opposite of a government that is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

## Civil Suit Alleges Chief Finney Killed Kiwane Carrington

By Joel Gillespie

*This story was a collaboration between UC-IMC and Smile Politely. It and a copy of the nine-page civil suit were released on their web sites simultaneously at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13. By 4 p.m. the City of Champaign had put out a press release calling the allegations "completely false" and by 6 p.m. the local press had picked up the story, largely repeating the city's denials. Yet contained in the civil suit is the first public statement from Jeshawn Manning-Carter, the only surviving non-police officer who was at the scene when Kiwane was shot. You can read it at [ucimc.org](http://ucimc.org) or [smilepolitely.com](http://smilepolitely.com).*

A civil suit filed on October 6, 2010 raises new questions about who shot Kiwane Carrington last year. The complaint filed

on behalf of Jeshawn Manning-Carter and his mother, Laura Manning, alleges that Champaign Police Chief R.T. Finney, and not Officer Daniel Norbits, "fired a shot downward into the chest of Kiwane Carrington, killing Carrington." The suit charges the City of Champaign and Finney with "intentional infliction of emotional distress" on Manning-Carter.

Alfred Ivy, attorney for the plaintiff, stated, "He [Manning-Carter] didn't want to talk about it for a long time; he wasn't comfortable talking about it."

The allegation that Finney pulled the trigger is a direct contradiction of officers' sworn statements and the findings of the Illinois State Police investigation into the incident. Visit the Kiwane Carrington Timeline website for all the public documents associated with the investigation.

"I'm just an employee [of the plaintiff]," Ivy explained. "I don't tell people what to say. I do ask lots of questions, and [Manning-Carter] was adamant that it didn't happen the way that the report said it did."

Manning-Carter was the only other person present with Carrington in the backyard of the home at 906 W. Vine St. in Champaign when Chief Finney and Officer Norbits responded to a call to investigate a reported attempted burglary. Manning-Carter was initially charged with Aggravated Resisting a Peace Officer; those charges were dismissed on April 13, 2010.

The civil suit filed by Carrington's family against the City of Champaign has been settled, James D. Montgomery, Jr., attorney for the Carrington family, has confirmed.

A detailed ballistics report was not part of the investigation, although the ISP firearms report assigns the fired cartridge to Norbits' gun. "All evidence in the case is currently in the possession of the FBI. C-U Citizens for Peace and Justice and the local Ministerial Alliance have filed complaints with the Department of Justice and are waiting for the results of their investigation," said Brian Dolinar of CUCPJ.

(Ed. note: if you read the pdf of the complaint, Count II and Count III both charge Chief Finney with intentional infliction of emotional distress. After speaking with Ivy, it's our understanding that Norbits is intended to be the defendant for Count III.)



# UIUC Denies Tuition Waivers to Fine Arts Grad Students

By Katie Walkiewicz

Last November the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) of UIUC went on strike over a single issue: tuition waivers. After two days of marching in the cold and drizzling rain, the union's bargaining team was able to secure the coverage of full tuition waivers for its members.

This fight had begun the semester before, in spring 2009, when the union was informed of potential changes to the university's tuition waiver policy. Administrators proposed the idea of raising the minimum teaching appointment required for tuition waiver allocation. While the practice had been to give any student with a 25% or higher appointment a waiver, the university wanted to raise the minimum to 33% (based on a 40 hour work week, this would be students working approximately 13 hours a week). Students in the College of Fine and Applied Arts (FAA) were especially at risk, given the number of graduate employees on 25% appointments within these departments. The GEO organized around the issue, hosted a town hall meeting for members to discuss the proposal, and eventually the university decided not to proceed.

Here we are again. Despite agreements won through the union's year-long organizing efforts the GEO has discovered that waivers are again under attack in a number of Fine and Applied Arts

departments. Landscape Architecture, Theatre, Dance, and Urban and Regional Planning changed their tuition policy for incoming graduate students. Instead of offering a full tuition waiver, students were offered a base-rate waiver and a scholarship, which combined covers almost as many expenses as a full waiver. Base-rate tuition

waivers only cover in-state tuition, approximately \$13,000 less than full-waivers. For graduate employees in these departments, many of whom make less than \$1,000 a month, this differential would be an enormous financial burden. Given the number of out-of-state graduate students in attendance at the university, this is of great concern. Many of these students choose to attend the university for two key reasons: full waiver coverage and the caliber of education offered. It is common practice at American universities to offer assistantships that include a salary and full tuition waiver in an attempt to recruit the best and brightest to graduate programs. This is a critical element of recruitment.

Moreover, Illinois is a state where it is uniquely difficult to obtain resident status for purposes of tuition. One cannot obtain residency if the person's sole reason for living in the state is educational. A person must reside in the state of Illinois but have no affil-



Education is a human right

iation with the university for a full year, which means taking no classes and performing no labor for the university, before residency can be obtained. However, this (a) is typically not an option for international students and (b) taking a leave of absence from studies has the potential to jeopardize a person's chances of re-employment.

While the graduate employees in FAA have been offered a scholarship to make up the difference for academic year 2010-2011, there are serious concerns about whether or not there are plans to continue this practice in the future. The shift from full to base-rate tuition waivers is a violation of the contract language that GEO members went on strike over less than a year ago. The

*Continued on next page*

## Ten Years at the U-C IMC

By Austin McCann, Development Adviser, UC-IMC

Like most "beginning" stories, the tale of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center starts out modestly—and, like all these stories, this initial modesty is ironic, given all that we know about the future success of the project. So the UC-IMC started off like a lot of projects, with a group of people sitting in a room, sharing dreams. It was the year 2000, the turn of the century, the liminal space between Clinton's and Bush's America. Although we weren't aware of the political earthquake about to strike, our world was clearly shifting.

In November of the previous year, huge demonstrations against the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle shocked the nation. The economy was healthy, war was largely invisible, and rapidly advancing communications technology promised an idyllic future of global connection: the country had become complacent. So it came as a surprise when thousands of protestors (the most conservative estimate puts the number at 40,000) took to the streets in Seattle to protest capitalist globalization. The system had ruptured, the illusion was broken: people were rising up and saying, "No, things are not all right at home or abroad!" It was the cry of a suffering democracy, and the burgeoning IndyMedia network was there to record it and share it with the world.

At the WTO protests, folks from the Champaign-Urbana area met participants in this "IndyMedia" movement, a cutting-

edge media democracy network. Despite nearly total domination by corporate media, this movement presented a radical challenge to the powers-that-be by discovering a sustainable source of autonomous power: citizen journalism. Forget "speaking truth to power," through IndyMedia, we created our own power, enabling us to speak truth to everyone!

Less than a year after the WTO protests, 12 individuals gathered in Danielle Chynoweth's living room to plan the creation of our very own media democracy organization, the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center. Soon afterward, a new publication called the *Public i* was printed and distributed around town.

Fast-forward to years later: UC-IMC is now an internationally recognized model for how a local community media center can be used by residents to transform and empower their community, changing policy and lives. And although the UC-IMC is still a crucial part of the IndyMedia network, our work has changed and grown. If the founders of the UC-IMC disappeared after that fateful meeting ten years ago, and just returned to Urbana, would they believe our 30,000 sq. ft. Community Media & Arts Center? Could they even dream of operating a community radio station, media training facility, performance venue, public access computer center, computer help desk, and art gallery and studios? Would they believe the incredible success of Books to Prisoners, who mailed

their 50,000th (and then some) book this year? What would they think about the Bike Project, which has recycled thousands of bicycles back into our community? What about ODDmusic, with their weird Udderbots? Or the IndyMedia Arts Lab, giving low-income kids the multimedia camp experience of a lifetime!

The truth is that we've outgrown our humble beginnings to become not just a local landmark, but a national model for community media projects. To say that the IMC made tangible the dreams of local residents wouldn't be an understatement: in ten years, we've created an incredible history, a rap sheet of unique successes making our necessity in this community unsailable. I was talking to activist and IMC member Martell Miller today, and he described the importance of being proactive: "If I see smoke coming out of our neighbor's house, I'm gonna go over there and see what's going on—I'm not gonna wait till I see flames coming out the top of the house to call the fire department!" This illustrates one of the best characteristics of the IMC: it gives us the tools to take action now, to create the world we want to live in now, rather than waiting for it to be handed to us.

In addition to all of our incredible working groups and affiliated projects, there a number of new and exciting projects underway, e.g. (1) UC-IMC is a key player in the wireless infrastructure to be established through the federal govern-

ment's \$22.5 billion grant to Champaign-Urbana (UC2B), and we'll serve a vital role in using this access as a tool for economic development, (2) We're going to redesign the website (finally!), and (3) We have a new membership system (& benefits). Keep your eyes peeled for details!

And, of course, there's the continuing need of financial support for the IMC's building and programs (I'm the Development Adviser—you didn't think I'd ask?). The newly established Sustaining Fund is particularly crucial. For \$250+/year, you'll be able to provide long-term financial stability for the UC-IMC. If that isn't financially viable, consider what kind of donation you might be able to make. We also accept "in-kind" donations, most obviously volunteer hours! If you haven't been involved with us in a while, look on our website (ucimc.org) and see what we're up to, then come on down and get your hands dirty! For more information on our successes, check out our website.

The UC-IMC's 10th Anniversary General Membership meeting (and RFU 5th Anniversary celebration) is going to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010, from 4:00-6:00pm. For more on the meeting and its surrounding celebration, please check out our website.

It's been a pleasure serving this community for the past ten years, and we hope to continue serving you with creativity and commitment for decades to come.

# CU Challenges FBI Over Raids on Peace Activists

By Mort Brussel



Mort Brussel is a professor of physics at UIUC, trying to understand and change the world for the better. He is a member of AWARE and Socialist Forum.

On Monday, September 27, several anti-war protestors and civil rights advocates from our community decided to appear at the FBI quarters in west Champaign to register their protest and dismay upon learning of the actions of the FBI in raiding peace activists' homes. Raids were conducted throughout the nation, particularly in Minneapolis-St. Paul and in Chicago during the early morning of Friday September 24.

The FBI raids were ostensibly intended to ferret out supporters of terrorism, especially those lending support to Hamas and Hisbollah in the Middle East and to the FARC—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia, these groups having been labeled terrorist organizations by the U.S. State Department. However, anti-war and progressive communities suspected that the underlying purpose of the FBI actions was to intimidate and harass anti-war/peace activists and hinder their activism. Several of those targeted in the raids and subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in Chicago had been active not only in supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli oppression or in opposing a repressive Columbian government, recognized for having committed human rights abuses, but perhaps not coincidentally, had also been active in demonstrating against Bush foreign policies during the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis in 2008.

Many have pointed out that the raids, in addition to their intimidation aspects—an attempt to criminalize dissent—were fishing expeditions. After violently entering the homes brandishing guns and crashing doors, extensive searches of the premises were made, justified with search warrants, and personal belongings of the occupants were seized, including photos, cameras, computers, correspondence, even clothes and other personal property. Yet, no formal charges were filed against the occupants. That would up to a grand jury to decide.

As for a local protest, there was little time to organize after hearing of the raids, but during the weekend of Sept.

25, a national protest was called for on September 27 and members of AWARE, the local Anti-War-Anti-Racism-Effort, decided at their Sunday meeting to join. Emails were therefore sent out on Monday, Sept. 27, requesting and informing all those incensed at the FBI actions to assemble at the local FBI offices at 4:30 that day.

Initially, few of those ready to participate knew just where the FBI offices were located, their address not being easily found in the local (AT&T) telephone directory, but a search of Google does list the address as 2117 W Park Court, Champaign. This location is on a dead end street on the far western side of Champaign, near the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The FBI offices are on the second floor of a nondescript brick building whose first floor seemed unoccupied. The only possible hint that the FBI offices were here was the presence of video cameras attached to the building. It was otherwise a tranquil location with ample parking.

Our assembly was gradual. The first person I saw was AWARE activist Karen Medina, sitting on grass making a protest sign not far from the FBI building. She indicated to me where the building was. As I wandered in that direction, a few others were seen ambling about, clearly seeking our target. Eventually, perhaps seven or eight protesters arrived. What to do? We had no bullhorn, and the quiet court where we assembled had little traffic for us to address. After several minutes, I took a photo of our little group before the building [shown] and then with our group increased by a few more stragglers, we decided to enter the building. We squeezed into a small elevator and ascended to the second floor. Confronting us was a constricted hallway and a blank door with a keyhole and a keypad panel. We knocked at the door, hoping to address whatever personnel were inside. After a delay of perhaps a minute, a man opened the door. No uniform, no badge that I could discern. He seemed annoyed: What were we doing there? Why had we come?

We announced that we were there because we were alarmed at what the FBI had done in raiding the homes of anti-war people in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago, and elsewhere, and we had come to protest these actions and ask for explanations. The agent seemed dumbfounded. He said he knew nothing about the raids; it was not his business at what might have occurred in Minnesota, Chicago, or elsewhere. His business was with Champaign. Moreover, it was close to five o'clock, and he was about to leave. He was not about to discuss anything with us. He then

abruptly walked back into his office, closing the door, and that was the end of it. We went back down the elevator, astounded at the response we received. Was it really true this guy knew nothing about what his FBI confreres elsewhere had been up to? By this time, a few more people had come by, so we were now a group of about a dozen, a few of us having signs. We then disassembled, not quite knowing what else we could effectively do. A press conference was announced subsequently,

but no C-U press people attended. There was very little news of the FBI raids in the mass media—brief reports in the NYT and the Chicago Tribune. The AP newswire carried the story as did the Minneapolis-Star Tribune. It struck many that the kind of repression of dissidence under the recent G. W. Bush administration was now being carried out the Obama administration, all in the name of the “war on terror”. The news as of October 6 was that those subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in Chicago would refuse to answer questions, citing their Fifth Amendment rights. Such a stance is understandable in view of the prosecutorial and easily biased nature of Grand Jury procedures.

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Demonstrating at the C-U FBI office

# UIUC Denies Tuition Waivers to Fine Arts Grad Students

Continued from previous page

administration's refusal to abide by the contract's language clearly indicates a willingness to erode graduate employees' rights, making it difficult to assume that they will continue to provide students with scholarship funds in the future. While waivers have only been changed in FAA for this academic year, this is no guarantee that these policies will not find their way into other colleges and departments in the future. As noted on the GEO website, “any reduction of tuition waivers greatly impacts access to higher education for all incoming and future graduate students in all departments at UIUC.”

In July, the GEO held a town hall meeting, inviting members, faculty, and administrators to participate in a conversation about the waiver changes. Throughout the fall, the union has continued to organize and educate members around the issue and will do so until full tuition waivers are reinstated in FAA. In addition the GEO has filed a griev-

ance with the university that is currently in arbitration.

Tuition waivers are an essential part of maintaining access to public higher education. For many of us at the U of I, our waivers are why we are here. Without the promise of full coverage we would not have accepted admission to the U of I to pursue our graduate education. Waivers are a benefit of employment and in the last round of contract negotiations the university committed to continuing their longstanding practice of granting waivers. They lied.



Chop from the top!

# A Secretive and Destructive Affair: The Academy, The Foundation, and The University

By Belden Fields



Belden Fields is a professor emeritus of political science and former member of the University of Illinois Senate.

On September 5 and 11, Jim Dey devoted two very favorable *News-Gazette* columns to the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation. On September 5, the *News-Gazette* also published an editorial contending that the Academy was a “blessing” for the university. I disagree. I think that the Executive Committee of the University Senate was right to demand that ties between it and the university be severed.

The Academy began in 2007 as part of a national effort by conservatives to counter what they felt was a liberal bias in American universities. At the national level prominent conservatives, like U of I alum Robert Novak, attempted to inject their ideologies into the curricula in a number of colleges and universities around the country. Stephen H. Balbach, chairman of the conservative National Association of Scholars, also sits on the board of directors of the Academy, illustrating the national reach of which this local effort is a part.

Though the Academy focuses on Capitalism and Limited Government in its title, it did not focus on instruction in the schools of business or at the more technically and

vocationally-oriented areas of engineering and agriculture. Its aim, made clear in its 2007 mission statement, was to inject its ideology into the fields of education, journalism, and liberal arts. What is most dangerous is that Academy founders presume to use the power of money to make academic decisions outside of the established university procedures. In their 2007 mission statement, they state their intentions to use their wealth to influence the development of pro-business/limited-government “curricula leading to the establishment of majors, minors, and other academic credentials.” In his *News-Gazette* Commentary of March 4, 2007, Tom O’Laughlin, a founder and former CEO of the Academy, was overt about the nature of this political crusade. He reported with glee about speeches at the November 2006 gathering of the conservative National Association of Scholars. He was especially appreciative of an attack against postmodernism that conservatives have seen as a culturally relativist and equalitarian threat to traditional Western values, including capitalist values. He approvingly quotes the speaker’s hopeful prediction that postmodernism (she called it “Postmodern Moonshine”) was almost certain to be driven from the introductory English curriculum at Harvard. Curricular changes within universities are periodically necessary and appropriate when they are based upon internal academic judgments and procedures. But they should not be driven by wealthy donors with a specific political agenda.

The most appalling thing about this arrangement is the complicity between the Academy, which has added the word Foundation to its name, and two other entities, the

university administration and the U of I Foundation. The manner in which the Academy has managed to turn itself into a foundation enmeshed with the U of I Foundation engenders clear conflicts of interest that the university needs to address. Craig S. Barzani, senior advisor for advancement at the U of I Foundation and former vice president for administration of the university, is a member of the board of directors of the Academy Foundation. William T. Sturtevant, the senior vice president for principal gifts at the U of I Foundation, is also on the Academy Foundation’s board. The bio of Mr. Sturtevant posted by the Institute for Charitable Giving, of which he is a founding director, states: “His guiding tenet is that dedication to the best interests of our donors is the only way to achieve the objectives of the charitable organizations we serve.” Shouldn’t the U of I Foundation officers place the best interests of the university above those of the Academy and its donors?

In 2007, concerned about the Academy’s statements of its intentions, I presented a motion on the Senate floor asking that Chancellor Herman, who had signed the agreement with the Academy, disengage the university. Many of the senators were also disquieted by the Academy’s stated intentions, but none had actually seen the agreement and they wanted to review it before voting on the motion. The chancellor promised to provide the Senators with a copy. At the following Senate meeting, he claimed that he could not provide a copy because the agreement was the property of the U of I Foundation and it would not permit it.

*Continued on next page*

## Just Say No to “Gay Marriage”

By Michael Gaiuranos



Those who accept evil without protesting against it are really cooperating with it.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many people in the United States, it seems, may not have been exposed to, and so don’t realize, the quality of hatred often directed toward people who are homosexual. Following an online news article about the failure to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy, some of the comments were: “No gay sex. No @&#% marriage. Anyone that supports such a thing needs to realize that there is more than just them at stake. Saddam Hussian will be getting out of jail soon. He hates @&#%!. He will launch a preemptive strike against America and kill us all over a few @&#%!. God hates @&#%!. If you support @&#% marriage then you are an atheist. That’s (sic) what God says, not me. Any support for the @&#%! means you burn in hell with Hitler, Ronald Reagen and George Burns.”

“Let them in [the military]! Send them to the Navy. Assign them as lookouts on the outboard sides of lowered flight deck elevators at sea in the North Atlantic. High sea state. All ahead Flank II! Hard to Starboard! Problem solved. It wouldn’t be the first time.”

“When will the GAY community get it that they are not welcome in the military or anywhere else for that matter? Yes they have rights as much as anyone else but come on... wanting special recognition and treatment because you’re GAY??? Get serious.”

“I served in the military and personally, I wouldn’t want to share a foxhole with someone who is gay...I’d probably windup shooting the SOB!”

“I am gay [and in the military] and I agree that this should not be repealed but kept in place. ... Thank God the Republicans were willing to stop this from going through. Come November we will be sending you more help to end this tyrannical Democrat reign.”

What’s most disheartening or baffling about such ignorance is not simply that it exists but that the general run of

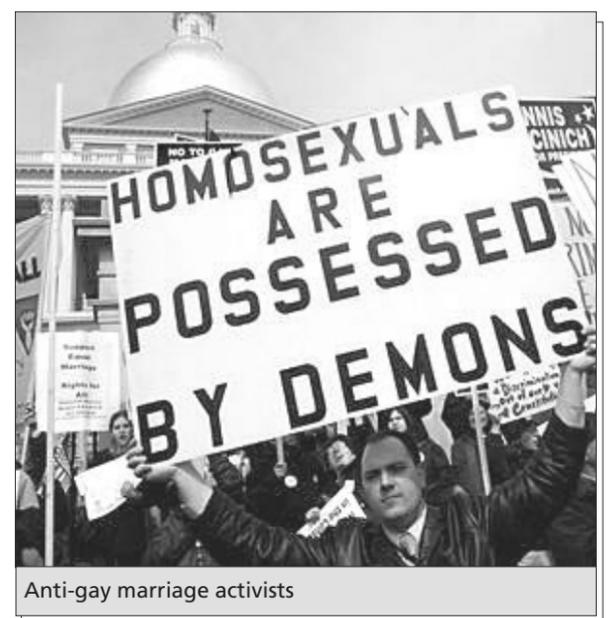
people, many of whom understand the legal necessity of recognizing the human rights of all people, nevertheless are choosing to enter into a de facto alliance with bigots, just as Martin Luther King Jr. described, “History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”

I do not intend by this to equate the historical experience of one social group with another but, then as now, there are assuredly people who want to deny rights to others. They can be found on the Internet and on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s list of hate groups, as well as among those who blithely say “gay marriage is wrong” is “just their opinion.” Never mind that the absurd phrase “gay marriage” is misinformed, as it suggests some special category of marriage is being asked for. People who are homosexual are simply asking for “marriage.”

In the face of this, we can (1) legally recognize the already existing human right to marriage, as guaranteed in Article 16 of the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We could (2) repeal the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment (i.e., abolish the principle of law that all are equal before it), or (3) we could abolish marriage as a category of Law entirely.

As a fourth option, I propose that those who advocate not recognizing the right to marry for any person of marriageable age shall not be permitted to marry or will have any preexisting union dissolved until their advocacy ceases. So also if they promote civil unions instead of marriage, they shall be permitted civil unions only. This rule should apply only to the universal human right of marriage, but other universal human rights similarly being institutionally overlooked might be protected in this way. If joining the military is deemed such a right, then people who advocate that anyone otherwise eligible to be in the service should be excluded from the service would be similarly not allowed to join or would be discharged and denied access to resources former military are normally allowed (e.g., pensions, VA services, etc).

Those who might object to this proposal as revenge have mistaken reciprocity for reprisal. Similarly, it is not a retroactive correction as it operates only on those currently



Anti-gay marriage activists

advocating the denial of recognized human rights.

Even in the context of today’s covert and overt racism, voicing the notion that people should not intermarry is all but universally recognized as ignorant backwardness, and there are justly and serious social consequences for freely “expressing such an opinion” (i.e., advocating such a denial of a basic human right). Because such social clarity is not recognized with respect to people who are homosexual, the direct and unambiguous consequences above for naively thinking denying people’s rights is “just expressing an opinion” should help that clarity. Human rights are not a matter of opinion.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). Thus there is a link between “just expressing an opinion” that is morally equivalent to racism and the ongoing reduction of civil liberties both in daily life and on the Internet that has accelerated since 9/11. Perhaps soon people who are not homosexual will realize that ensuring the legal recognition of the rights of people who are homosexual is in their own self-interest after all.



# Right-wing Upsurge in US: Less than Meets the Eye?

By Mark Weisbrot, first published in *The Guardian Unlimited*, September 22, 2010

Mark Weisbrot is a former Urbana resident and activist. Currently he is co-director of the Center for Economic Policy Research in Washington D.C.

Is America in the grip of a right-wing backlash that will hit the November elections like a hurricane? This narrative is gathering steam. It is fed not only by the minority partisan right-wing media but also its majority “liberal” counterpart, which loves a horse race and is fascinated with the Tea Party, even if it isn’t so eager for the Republicans to take Congress. Regardless of the outcome, 90-plus percent of the pundits and press will cheese up the same, tired, old cliché in their post-election analysis: The Democrats were punished (they will inevitably lose at least some seats in Congress) because they tried to go too far, too fast and too left for the inherently conservative American masses. And this junk will be consumed for years, adding another layer of fat to the lazy couch potato that is American journalism’s “conventional wisdom.”

How about another narrative that makes more sense? Let’s start with the economic issues, since the economy was the number one issue for likely voters in the latest *New York Times/CBS* poll. Our worst and longest recession since the Great Depression was caused by a real estate bubble that accumulated and burst before Obama was elected. The Democrats passed a stimulus package that was much too small to compensate for the resulting loss of private spending. As my colleague Dean Baker has pointed out, the collapse of this bubble would be expected to knock about \$1.2 trillion annually off of private demand. This is about eight times the size of government stimulus spending when we subtract the budget cuts and tax increases of state and local governments (special thanks to the Republicans for cutting \$100 billion from the stimulus bill that would have gone straight to municipal governments to prevent some of this).

Now how does this get presented in the media? First, we have a debate about whether the stimulus helped or hurt the economy, or whether it created or saved any jobs at all. This is somewhat ridiculous, from the standpoint of national income accounting. It is reminiscent of the “debates” that carried on in the media for many years (they continue in some quarters), long after the question was settled in the scientific community, as to whether global warming was taking place. The non-partisan Congression-

al Budget Office estimates that between 1.4 and 3.3 million more people were employed by mid-2010, as a result of the stimulus. There is a wide range of uncertainty about the size of the effect, but there’s hardly any doubt that the stimulus helped save jobs and output.

Then the horror movie scenes began about the dreaded budget deficit, which over the next decade is almost entirely attributable to two non-stimulus-related items: Iraq and Afghanistan war spending and the Bush tax cuts. In spite of this well-financed campaign against the scourge of red ink, only 3 percent of voters see the deficit as the most important issue facing the country, as compared with 32 percent who chose the economy and 28 percent for jobs. But somehow the deficit got to be so alarming to somebody that it became politically impossible for Congress to even talk about another stimulus for the economy. So very predictably, the recovery lost steam and the Democrats felt just “powerless” to do anything to boost the economy and employment before the election. This guaranteed big losses for their party in the election.

It didn’t help that the Obama Administration failed to create a distinction for voters between the \$700 billion bailout for the banks, which was widely hated for obvious reasons, and their stimulus package. Most Americans still don’t see a difference. This was a huge public relations failure.

But all this adds up to something different from a “right-wing backlash.” Indeed, the *New York Times/CBS* poll shows a 20 percent approval rating for Congressional Republicans (the same as for the Tea Party) as opposed to 30 percent for Democrats.

But 55 percent of voters—record for the past 20 years—say it is time to give a new person a chance to represent their district.

The conclusion is obvious: Voters are angry—not the anger of the rich who believe, as John D. Rockefeller famously said, that “God gave me my money.” It is a populist rage that will drive some independent or swing voters to vote against incumbents and the incumbent party. Even if it means voting for people who they don’t particularly like, trust, or agree with on the issues.

Republicans were able to keep this country moving to the right for nearly four decades—including through the Clinton years. For much of this time they used a fake populist appeal based on cultural issues, portraying a “liberal elite” who was contemptuous of the values of working-class white voters—who have generally been the biggest

group of swing voters. The strategy succeeded because Democrats refused to make the obvious economic populist appeal to the real interests of these voters—who were getting hammered by the loss of manufacturing jobs, weakening of labor and redistribution of income that was engineered by the leadership of both parties. In 2004, non-college-educated whites with household income between \$30,000-\$50,000 voted for Republicans for Congress by a 60-38 percent margin; in 2006 a switch to a 50-50 split (22 percentage points) contributed significantly to the Democrats’ victory in Congress.

The Republicans’ long-term strategy collapsed in 2008. The Democrats were lucky in that the peak of the financial crisis hit just before the elections that year. In October 2008 the number of Americans believing that the country was on the wrong track hit an all-time record of 89 percent. Most importantly, this situation focused the attention of swing voters on the economy, something that negates the potential appeal of “distraction” issues such as abortion, gay marriage, guns or even the thinly-veiled racism that had been part of the Republicans’ appeal since President Nixon’s post-civil-rights-movement “southern strategy.” Obama himself had eschewed economic populism in his campaign (making an exception in Midwestern primaries such as Wisconsin, where he needed more working-class support in order to win), in keeping with his carefully cultivated media image of post-partisan conciliator. But the economy did the job for him, and for the Democratic Party.

What does this mean for the elections of 2010? I would predict that Democrats—even in some not-so-Democratic districts—who appeal to the massive populist discontent among the voters will do better than those who follow the conventional wisdom and run to the right of Obama on such issues as health care reform or taxes. This applies especially to the swing voters but could also be significant in rallying the party’s base, which is somewhat disillusioned and needs to be energized. Since this is a non-presidential-year election, voter turnout could easily swing the election.

It is not so hard to make this appeal: millions of people are losing their homes and their jobs, while the Wall Street gang who sank the economy are once again raking in billions—and only because they have been rescued and subsidized with hundreds of billions of our taxpayer dollars. If enough Democrats campaign on these kinds of themes and offer a populist alternative, they will keep both houses of Congress.

## A Secretive and Destructive Affair

Continued from previous page

Under pressure, Herman appointed a faculty committee, nominated by the Senate, to read it and issue a report. That committee found that the agreement violated the principles and procedures and the academic integrity of the university. The Academy founders refused to make the changes that the committee insisted were necessary to make it consistent with those principles. The Academy survived by playing on its structure as a foundation with an affiliation with the U of I Foundation. To this day, the contractual agreement signed by Chancellor Herman remains hidden from the Senate and the public. Structural components of the relationship between the Academy, the Foundation, and the university were used to mask from public view an agreement that our “public” university had made. Mr. Dey’s

columns notwithstanding, this politically driven agenda did indeed pose a serious threat to the academic integrity of the university, as did the lack of transparency in the process. Normally, such secrecy would have troubled the *News-Gazette*. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon at the university. Memoranda of understandings between the university’s Police Training Institute and both Blackwater and Triple Canopy paramilitary companies contained “publicity clauses” stipulating that neither party could make the agreements public without the permission of the other.

In the pages of the September 19 *News-Gazette*, Matthew Brown, the newly hired president and CEO of the Academy Foundation, asks us to judge it on the basis of “its programs to date,” which include symposia

and conferences in which critics of the Academy’s perspectives have been invited to participate. It should be pointed out that on their 2007 website, such symposia and conferences were last on a long list of politically charged agenda items. That website, Tom O’Laughlin’s 2007 letter to the *News-Gazette*, and the refusal of the U of I Foundation and the university to make public the signed agreement should cause grave concern about the Academy’s future intentions. With the overlapping memberships between the boards of the Academy and the U of I Foundations, the Academy founders are so well enmeshed that they can bide their time and present an innocuous face for now. Let us hope that the University Senate supports its Executive Committee and protects the integrity of the university rather

than the political interests of the Academy’s wealthy donors.

The University Senate was right in urging the university and its foundation to cut their ties with the Academy, thus protecting the integrity of the university rather than the political interests of the Academy’s wealthy donors. Hopefully, the new president of the university will follow through on the Senate’s resolution.