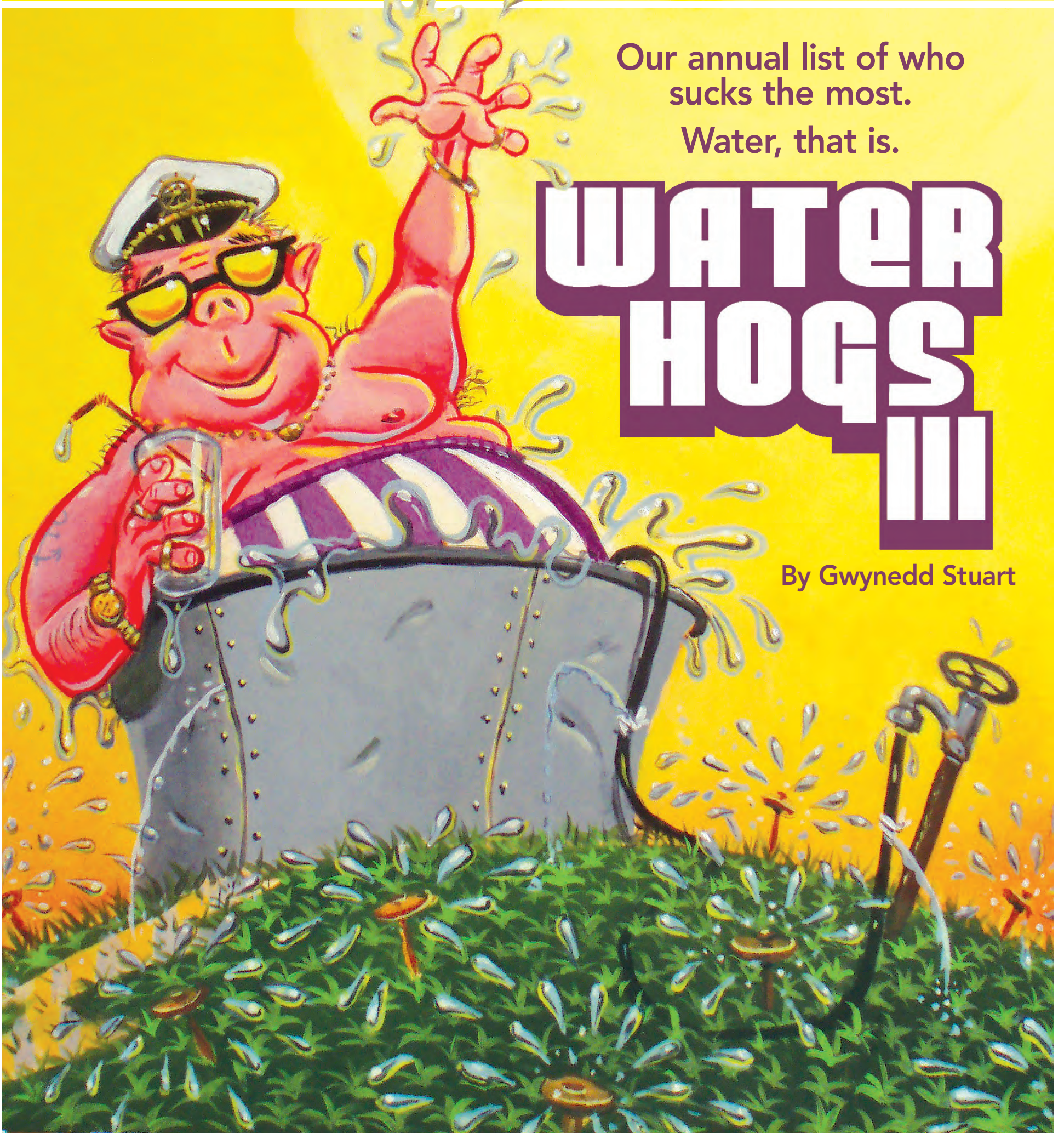


Our annual list of who
sucks the most.

Water, that is.

WATER HOGS III

By Gwynedd Stuart



**WHEN A HIGH-SPEED CHASE
KILLS A MOTHER OF TWO,
ARE COPS TO BLAME? p. 3**

**FORMER GITMO PSYCHOLOGIST WANTS
THE CAMP SHUT DOWN. BUT NOT
FOR THE REASONS YOU MIGHT THINK. p. 8**

>>> NEWS

ORAL EXPLOSIONS

— The evocative name of a stand-alone food court being developed on San Marco Boulevard in Jacksonville. Complicating the suggestive name is the fact that it's being built on a lot where a strip club used to stand. (Oh, and to learn more about the project *don't* visit oralexplodings.com, which is — surprise, surprise — a porn website.)



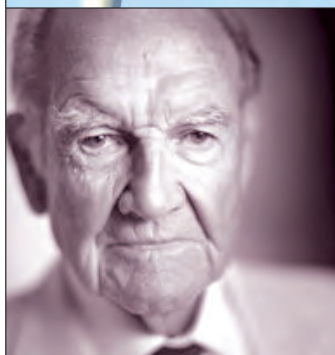
BUZZ

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PERKS IN PERPETUITY

Jeff Misner, former chief financial officer at Continental Airlines, was offered the perk of free parking for life at Jacksonville International Airport as a goodbye gift after his August 2008 retirement. JAA Director of External Affairs Michael Stewart says the deal is part of Misner's retirement package with Continental to have a space in the company's employee parking, not a gift from JAA.



A MATTER OF TASTE

"I visited a few years back, and I was impressed. So three moths ago, I ... decided to settle here." — Former 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern (pictured), explaining to the St. Augustine Record why he decided to move to St. Augustine Beach. The story described the South Dakota native's house as a four-bedroom home in a "quiet, upscale, non-gated" community.

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS



Brickbats to City Council President Ronnie Fussell

for adding another layer of secrecy to the council's notorious Green Room. Last year, City Council President Daniel Davis removed the door to the room, which had become a place for lobbyists to buttonhole lawmakers away from the prying eyes of citizens. Fussell put a door back in, saying it's needed to keep animated conversations from disrupting City Council meetings.



Bouquets to St. Augustine resident Dee Lovell

for encouraging city sponsorship of local inauguration celebrations. Lovell persuaded City Commissioners to foot the bill for free parking at Francis Field, and for shuttles to bring participants to the Plaza de la Constitucion to view Barack Obama's inauguration on big-screen TVs.



Brickbats to Nassau County Commissioners Barry Holloway and Mike Boyle

for making a broadside attack on state Open Meeting Laws. The men led the commission in a vote designed to chastise state officials for requiring compliance with state Sunshine Laws, saying the rules "penalize local government" and make it difficult "to get anything done."

MENTAL HEALTH

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Psychologist Justin D'Arienzo says Gitmo is hell — but not for the inmates, whom he says are "very well cared for."

Head Games

NAVY PSYCHOLOGIST BLAMES LEFT-WING MEDIA FOR GITMO'S BAD REP

It's with a degree of deliberateness that Jacksonville-based clinical psychologist Justin D'Arienzo describes his tenure as Director of Psychology Services at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility.

"It was pretty intense," he begins, as if reluctant to elaborate. But conflicting with his distaste for rehashing the details of a seven-month residency in 2005 is D'Arienzo's desire to dispel what he says are false characterizations of the camp. The latter impulse proves stronger.

"[Guantánamo is] much different than the media portrays," insists D'Arienzo. "Detainees are very well cared for, not tortured like you read about in the press. They have great services down there."

Suffice it to say, his isn't the prevailing view. Guantánamo Bay — like Abu Ghraib — has become synonymous with torture, injustice and the atrocities of war. This image has become so indelible and, some would say, so well-documented, that it motivated President Barack Obama to make the camp's closure a priority, ending what he calls a "sad chapter in American history." Just last week, during the monthly Art Walk in downtown Jacksonville, the American Civil Liberties Union hosted a demonstration decrying practices at Gitmo and urging Obama to close it immediately.

D'Arienzo agrees that conditions at the camp are difficult to bear — he repeats several times that he would "never want to go back" — but says they are more torturous for the military and civilian personnel than for the detainees. The fact that most portrayals of the camp contravene that claim, D'Arienzo says, is the result of "aca-

demics and kind of the left-wing media not having an understanding about what goes on in the military and a time of war."

In D'Arienzo's telling, Gitmo is a facility where prisoners — with the help of attorneys and human rights groups — wield far more clout than any prisoners on U.S. soil; where young, female guards are attacked by prisoners who douse them with cups of urine, feces and semen; where political interference and constant scrutiny render interrogation efforts ineffective.

D'Arienzo, whose wife is Iraqi, thought his knowledge of Middle Eastern culture would be helpful in preparing him to evaluate suspected terrorists from that region. But nothing, he says, could have prepared him for the level of fanaticism he

In D'Arienzo's telling, Gitmo is a facility where prisoners — with the help of attorneys and human rights groups — wield far more clout than any prisoners on U.S. Soil.

encountered while tending to detainees at Guantánamo Bay. "It's a very tribal logic," D'Arienzo says. "We [Americans] are world-centric people who accept other people's ideas and have a live-and-let-live mentality. But when you have that tribal mentality like they do, it's their way or death." While there, he received several threats on his life. "They were going to (Continues on page 10)

WALTER COCKER

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MENTAL HEALTH

(Continued from page 8)

find and kill you even though you were trying to help them," he says, "because you were an infidel."

Of course, one of the biggest controversies to come out of Gitmo is whether psychologists actually serve to "help" detainees. There have been widespread news reports of psychologists being complicit in the torture of inmates through inhumane interrogation practices. In some cases, the reports alleged mental-health professionals actually assisted in breaking down detainees by observing interviews and suggesting ways in which their psychological weaknesses might be exploited.

The American Red Cross reported several years ago that psychologists participated in Behavioral Science Consultation Teams, known as "biscuit" teams. In this capacity, they were responsible for counseling and advising interrogators on ways they might be more effective, a role human rights groups condemned. It was also the work of two civilian psychologists who helped introduce techniques like waterboarding into interrogation, a method that has reportedly been used both at Gitmo and at numerous CIA "black sites" around the globe.

The conservative American Psychological Association eventually deemed the biscuit teams unethical and in conflict with the professionals' oath to do no harm. In 2006, the APA decided to no longer allow psychologists to be part of such operations. (In September 2008, the APA broadened the ban to prohibit psychologists from working in settings where "persons are held outside of, or in violation of, either International Law [e.g., the Geneva Conventions or the U.S. Constitution].")

D'Arienzo, who was not a biscuit team member, says that he disagrees with the APA's decision and won't be renewing his membership as a result. "[Biscuit teams were] observing for safety, to see if there are psychological problems —

they're not looking for vulnerability," he says. "Early on, that might have been the case, but based on changing U.S. policy, psychologists were no longer in that active role. It was more passive and helping interrogators to establish rapport and relationships. It was not looking for vulnerabilities or abusing people." Besides "establishing rapport" with detainees, D'Arienzo says he was tasked with evaluating whether or not detainees — many of whom he says pretend to be psychotic or suicidal to avoid interrogation — are fit to undergo questioning.

While his tenure was admittedly short, D'Arienzo is vehement that reports of mental and physical abuse at Gitmo are erroneous. He holds that, because of the universal access to the camp that his position conferred, if torture was taking place, he'd have known about it. Of course, he's had a difficult time convincing people of that, even fellow mental health professionals.

"I've had many arguments with other psychologists who asked, 'How can we trust you? You were complicit. You were with the military, so you have something to hide,'" D'Arienzo says. "But I tell them I'm a physician as well, and I took an oath to do no harm. It's an integrity issue. I'm not going to lie and put myself on the line like that." Although he doesn't agree with the new administration that the facility should be closed, D'Arienzo admits that it's become somewhat superfluous in recent years. "At this point, it's really not an intelligence-gathering operation," he says, blaming, among other things, the constant presence of representatives from various human rights organizations. But since leaving the military and starting his own Jacksonville practice, D'Arienzo says he's less inclined to argue the fine points of the Gitmo debate. "I'm onto private practice in the civilian world now," he says, sounding relieved. "I've backed off over the last couple of years." □



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POO POO PLATTER

You know, sometimes it's just easier — and less disgusting — to just let shoplifters get away. A couple of local Walgreens employees nabbed and detained a man they discovered had been pocketing a variety of cosmetics. (The six bottles of clear nail polish we can understand — at least you can huff it, or so we've been told — but we can't wrap our minds around the six sticks of lip-liner or six tubes of Cover Girl mascara.) The image-conscious thief produced several of the items, but upon conducting a pat-down, the responding officer felt more objects in the man's pants-leg. In a move he probably still regrets, the officer reached down the suspect's pants to retrieve the rest of the stolen makeup and — as the report so delicately puts it — was "exposed

to fecal matter" in the process. Screw lip-liner, dude, steal some toilet paper.

U R DRUNK

A couple of JSO officers were checking out a burglar alarm that had been tripped at a University Boulevard business last Monday morning when, out of nowhere, a car pulled into the lot (keep in mind, it's 3 a.m.) and parked near their cruiser. A 31-year-old male emerged from the vehicle, hobbled over to the officers and revealed in his best drunken mumble, "I am DUI." As it turns out, the man was DUI, admitting that he'd had at least 12 beers that evening.

MORE DUI FUN

If you're going to jail anyway, why not get creative? Officers approached the driver of a pickup truck who had been weaving before pulling off the road into a secluded area off Norwood Drive. When the 42-year-old man, who reeked of booze and had an open Colt 45 in his center console, admitted to having "too much to drink," the officer asked him to perform standard field sobriety exercises. His response: "I'd like to do them, but I can't because the entire left side of my body is paralyzed." The officer noted in his report that there was nothing in the suspect's walk or mannerisms that would indicate an entire half of his body was not functioning.