

ALLIANCE ALERTS



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June-July 2002

New AfD Directions: Networking, No Nuclear Use, And Reparations

Gettysburg, Pa.

The Alliance for Democracy struck forth in new directions while hearing stirring messages from Granny D, Admiral Eugene J. Carroll, and two powerful writers on social policy during its fourth national convention at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, in June.

The Alliance set a course toward facilitating the forming of a national communications center for the U.S.

people's movement, expressed support for reparations for slavery, called for the impeachment of President Bush if he does not publicly pledge never to make first use of nuclear weapons, and broached the formation of a national action group on peace to go with AfD's present action groups on globalization, the corporation, public funding of elections, and national health insurance.

With the retirement of co-chair

Lou Hammann of Ortanna, Pa., and Secretary Stevie Miller of Indianapolis, the convention elected attorney and activist Ted Dooley of St. Paul, Minn., to succeed Hammann, and Sue Wheaton of Takoma Park, Md., was elected the new Secretary. Members of the national Alliance are called on to elect the new female vice-co-chair by returning the ballot printed in this issue (see pages 20-21 and 27) by September 16. A law school dean, another attorney, a psychologist who specializes in organizations, and a peace and justice activist were elected new members of the national Council in Gettysburg.

(Continued on page 9)

Admiral Carroll: U.S. Seeks Dominion

The central figure in the Center for Defense Information in Washington and a proudly self-proclaimed research supporter of Dr. Helen Caldicott, Rear Admiral Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., (USN Ret.) addressed the AfD convention in Gettysburg on "Confrontation or Cooperation."

Carroll graduated from the Navy and Army War Colleges and holds degrees in international relations from George Washington University. Named a Rear Admiral in 1972, he served as commander of the carrier striking force of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and on General Alexander Haig's staff in Europe, was the first Naval officer to be the director of all U.S. forces in Europe

and the Middle East, and was Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for

(Continued on page 8)

Fight on for the Dream That Animates Our Lives

The crisis facing corporate America is extremely deep, and unfortunately the only response to it from the Bush administration is to focus on war. Clearly we are approaching an urgent crossroads in history. Either democracy will prevail, which will require an immense rekindling of social interaction, face to face organizing and the re-assumption of individual rights proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and constituted in the Bill of Rights, or plutocracy, assumed in the name of national security and enforced in the manner of police states through history, will engulf us. The Alliance for Democracy is just that, an alliance for democracy, and with your help, together, we will fight on to defend the dream that animates our lives.

Nick Biddle, Executive Coordinator
The Alliance for Democracy

ALLIANCE ALERTS

ALLIANCE ALERTS is a publication of The **Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economies, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

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Coordinator's Column

9/11 and Us

By Nick Biddle

People are beginning to think about the first anniversary of 9/11. Activists are thinking about how to approach the commemoration. I'm one of them. A couple of weeks ago two colleagues and I thought we had improved on sliced bread when we dreamed up the concept of organizing town meetings across the country for 9/11/02. The next day, when I turned on my computer, Global Exchange and United for Peace with Justice had sent me emails announcing their plans for 9/11/2 (I'm going to call it). I quickly read their promotions and blipped off because I wanted to keep focused on the notions our group had conjured, since I was the one appointed to develop them.

My first thought ran to patriotism, which will resound deeply on 9/11/2. Patriotism is an excellent emotion, one that all members of the Alliance deeply share. We care about America and its values: democracy, equal opportunity and justice. And we want to safeguard our liberties for which so many have died. In fact, those are the core motivations people have for joining the Alliance for Democracy.

Too often, however, patriotism runs superficially through the popular culture. In that context, elected politicians want patriotism to amount to an unreflecting approbation of whatever the government is doing in our name. Popular culture patriots (as contrasted to populist patriots in the AfD) exude machismo. They can descend into xenophobia, or worse. Some have a proclivity for violence. We must transcend superficial patriotism and

avoid unnecessary confrontation with superficial patriots.

To that end, in order to summon the deeper meaning of patriotism and, simultaneously, to shield against those who might ask us to ask no questions, I tentatively titled the program of town meetings a "Day of Freedom and Democracy." After all, in his address to Congress on September 20, 2001, Bush said that the terrorists attacked the U.S. "because they hate our freedom and democracy." Surely a day in which citizens utilize their freedom and practice democracy would be a fitting commemoration to those who died on 9/11.

More to the point, much has happened and many decisions have been made in the wake of 9/11 that have neither undergone the scrutiny of Congress nor the rigor of public debate. Four of the most grave are:

- a) Mr. Bush declaring war against a global, anonymous enemy for a long period of time (perhaps a generation) without defining what constitutes victory.

- b) Mr. Bush displaying a strategic intention to use nuclear weapons on a first strike basis.

- c) The government starting production of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

- d) Mr. Bush withdrawing from the ABM treaty to build a nuclear missile shield and weapons in space.

Let me underscore that these decisions were taken unilaterally by the Bush administration without consulting Congress or the American people.

Adding insult to this democratic

(Continued on page 19)



AfD Sees Danger of Fascism in U.S.

The theme, "The American Emergency: Democracy or Fascism?" precipitated various forms of agreement, approaching a consensus at the Gettysburg convention that the United States is now in danger of becoming fascist. Those among us who disagree did not go to the Gettysburg convention or were silent there.

Retired Rear Admiral Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., addressing the delegates, considered the theme in a broad context. "Is it going to be a role of confrontation or cooperation that makes us a secure nation?" he asked. Since the collapse of the USSR, he said, we have suffered "the ghastly failure" of Presidents Clinton and Bush, namely, their choice that we would be "the only superpower." The U.S. is "the only nation in the world that keeps a quarter million Americans fully armed and ready to go into combat at the Commander's order, anywhere in the world. No other nation in the world is doing this. We're seen as attempting to effect a global hegemony....It is progressively clearer that they see us as a bully," a man with a weapon "that is ready to use it." And, Carroll continued, "the fascist theme has always been just this, to use force to establish your authority, whereas democracy has been to seek agreement by discussion." His own theme, confrontation or cooperation, "is very much akin to [the choice between] fascism and democracy," he observed.

Keynoter Marjorie Kelly cupped the fascism question in her mind as she emphasized that they were meeting in Gettysburg where Lincoln had spoken the question

"whether any such nation so conceived and so dedicated could long endure." Executive Coordinator Nick Biddle told the convention, "Fascism, it is really around the corner." In a speech that electrified the delegates, Doris Haddock (Granny D) advised, "let's have a nice dinner somewhere before (Mr. Bush) drops the big one or rounds us all up--both being distinct possibilities."

Michael Morrill, director of the Pennsylvania Consumer Action Network and a former member of the AfD Council who is now running for governor as a Green in Pennsylvania, expressed profound alarm for the

'...before Mr. Bush drops the big one or rounds us all up.'—Granny D

country. Having been arrested for demonstrating at the national Capitol for campaign finance reform with AfD's Democracy Brigades, he greeted the delegates as "fellow cellmates" and added: "Many of us may wind up doing serious time as guests of the federal government....Our civil rights are being trampled....Our democracy is on the verge of being destroyed....I am terribly afraid for our future. It's time for another revolution," and, he said, "the Alliance is the one organization in the United States that has the capability of making the changes that we need."

Among about 40 of the delegates who convened for a workshop on "Fascism and the American military," there was consensus that the United States is moving toward fascism. Joe Farah, a writer and educator from Indianapolis, after giving a

brief history of fascism, said that "the Bush model" for it is "neoliberalism, a new offshoot of fascism." In the current flag mania, he said, "we are creating a sort of our own fascist kitsch." Beverly Britton of Alexandria, Va., felt that action against this trend is necessary "this year." Ben Kjelshus, Kansas City, spoke for building a mass movement and mass demonstrations by 2004. Sue Wheaton, Takoma Park, Md., thought it important that the Democrats take back the House this year. Destroying family-run farms, arming proxy forces around the world, and having the biggest prison population per capita in the world all bear on the fascist tendency, said the singer Tom Neilsen. Tim Doyle, an Air Force communications technician until 1998, said that, as the only Green running for the Florida House of Representatives in District 30, "I am a little scared." He meant physically.

Doris Haddock, Granny D, of Dublin, N.H., agreed that what is going on now is reminiscent of "all the things we saw before World War II. The only difference is now we have the nuclear bomb. Mr. Bush has the right to make any bombs go off if he wants to. It's terrifying, it's terrible." John Judge, Washington, D.C., said: "They may not have the whole glove off the fist, but it's enough off the fist to scare us into silence." Nick Seidita, Northridge, Ca., advocated that groups of family and friends form committees of correspondence comparable to those which existed before the American Revolution.

—Ronnie Dugger

Granny D Tells How 'to take...

Excerpts from an address to the Alliance convention at Gettysburg on June 8, 2002, by Doris Haddock, "Granny D," which was followed by a standing ovation of perhaps three minutes' duration.

After I finished by 3,200 mile walk across the United States to speak out for the campaign finance reform movement, I was often asked to share how I prepared for this walk....What I learned--and I hope you will not take this too personally--what I learned is that it is never too late to get in shape. It is never too late to dust off the dreams you may have had for yourself and for your community and your country--and do something about them. It is never too late to have another great adventure, make a few thousands of new friends, and, well, if you like--it worked for me--to march on the Capitol and get arrested....

Getting special interest influence out of our politics is...an important precondition to becoming a responsible community. I have been working in that particular area for the last two years, and the work, being done by many thousands of dedicated people, is far from completed. But it is time for all of us, I think, to look past that....Let us assume that we will perfect these reforms, and let us look ahead to the question: once we again have representation at every level of government, what are we to do with it?...We do have a responsibility, after all, to those who sacrificed everything, who gave their lives to give us a free society. Those people who died did not die for a Corporate World, but for Lincoln's democracy: a government of the

people, by the people, and for the people. We ignore their sacrifice if we do not turn our country back to that government....

Who of us--who of you--can set aside your own political views and look to the needs of a free society and all its people with all of their views? Who among us is responsible enough to be able to serve the interests of far right and far left and all the shoppers in the middle? Well, it is a big question of cultural leadership, and some of you must rise to it....

I AM HERE to offer a word of advice. I'm not offering it because I think any of you will outlive me. Because, as things are going with the current White House, it looks like we're all going to go together, and any day now.

Indeed, any time the leader of a powerful country points to other people and says, "evil ones," you know he's deep in a hall of mirrors and we're in for a few million deaths, including many of us.

The only thing we can take any cheer in is knowing that the same financial companies that backed all these bad leaders won't be able to send us our credit card bills when we're gone. So let's have a nice dinner somewhere before he drops the big one or rounds us all up--both being distinct possibilities.

But don't spend too much, because you never know when you're going to be one of the survivors. And if you are, you can bet that the Master Card folks were in the shadow government bunker with Tom, Dick and George.

But we who may not be able to run as fast as you, leave you with a word of advice, as I promised. Some of you are going to be around to pick up the pieces.

You will have to wrestle democracy away from an imperial presidency, and from a corporate-military-industrial complex the likes of which dear old Ike only half imagined.

You will have to replace winner-take-all elections with proportional representation elections, so that all parties, including Greens and Reforms, can sit at the table of power in this country and in the world.

You will have to take down the prisons and build up the schools. You will have to dismantle a health care system that lets only the rich live and replace it with a system

'We only win by being ready.'

worthy of a civilized society.

And how will you find your victories? That is what I will tell you. This is my advice.

As reformers, we seldom win by making a frontal attack. No, we work and we work at a reform and never get too far with it. And while we are hitting our heads against the wall, we tinker with the idea and it gets better and better and more and more people understand what we are getting at. But we never win. The other side loses. Just when we are about to pack up our banners, along comes an Enron or a Watergate. In the states and in the nation,

...our place at the table of power'

we only win by being ready, by being on the spot with a good, workable alternative, when the unsustainable systems fail, as they always do.

So don't worry if your state isn't ready for this reform or that reform. Don't worry if you think the federal government isn't ready for public financing or proportional representation or instant runoff voting or single payer health care or, God forbid, simple human justice and a mature concern for the global environment.

More Enrons are coming than you will be able to count. I see them lining up like wobbling biplanes on approach. Go do your reform work. Represent the good issues, regardless of their chances of victory by today's measures. The measures will change tomorrow.

The rivers are drying up. The seas are rising. The poles are melting. Unsustainably corrupt politics on a global scale has reaped the whirlwind for all of us. We can only save this earth and this democracy by working hard and developing our skills of timing and our courage to act with great leadership and with great wisdom and expertise when opportunities present themselves.

Be an expert in these matters. Work hard as a reformer. And I

promise that you will have your day on the field, matched more evenly for the fight than you ever imagined possible....When your enemy is unsustainability itself, you cannot lose if you play it wisely.

W

HAT A WONDERFUL challenging time in which we live. A time when so much is at stake and when we all have so much important work to do in taking back our freedom, our elections from the Corporate World that has been created. To be able to re-establish responsible communities

all over America. To establish in every state a Clean Money election system. Four states are now on public funding, and 40 more of our 50 are in various stages of working for it. Think how wonderful it would be if all our state officers, and our Congress, could be elected because of their honesty, vision, and character, instead of being elected because he or she was able to raise the most illegal money.

A government of by and for the people, means you and me. It is said there is nothing more joyous than belonging to a group of interesting people, working against great odds for a cause that is important to all. I say to you, if you aren't involved, get involved and join the fun! Understand what it means to be an American. It means to take responsibility for mature self-governance. In a world where the divide between the very wealthy and the literally starving is growing rapidly, where one child in five goes to bed hungry, and two out of five if they are Afro-American, we must assume responsibility. We must take our place at the table of power.

'Fight Back' for Civil Liberties

On June 30 members of the Washington, D.C., Alliance chapter carried the AfD banner in a demonstration, organized by the ANSWER coalition, of almost 1,000 people against the whittling away of civil rights. The event began with a rally in front of the FBI and Department of Justice; the group then marched to the mall, passing close by huge crowds of people who were visiting the annual folk life festival. The marchers were chanting "Our civil rights are under attack; act now, fight back" and "Our freedom of speech is under attack; fight back, fight back." Sue Wheaton, AfD's new Secretary, reports: "For the first time in my memory, I saw not one person express hostility to the protest. Almost to a person, they stood and watched: quietly, reflectively, receptively."

Some Lines of Action

Excerpted and updated from an address by Ronnie Dugger to the Alliance convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on June 7.

Our country is in the Valley of the Shadow.

Our people are afraid, and fear is being used to kill democracy.

Possibly, the assassination of John Kennedy 39 years ago was a coup. Definitely, the selection of the President by the Supreme Court in December 2000 was a coup. From the day in January 2001 when William Rehnquist swore in George W. Bush as if he was the President, the federal government has been illegitimate. Everything Mr. Bush has done is illegal and the reach of his Presidency taints our very government as illegal.

The mass murder of almost 3,000 persons on 9/11 is now being used by the illegal government to:

--Create a war psychosis among a people whose country is not at war

--Declare in the President's voice an endless war against elusive enemies

--Spy on citizens' political organizations and churches with no showing or claim that any crime has been committed

--Kill programs for the people while freeing the rich of taxes and literally repealing the estate tax

--Spend \$400 billion of our money a year on the military, more than the 15 next most militarized countries in the world

--Go for Star Wars and control of the world with weapons from space

--Proclaim in our names a new military doctrine that our country will initiate the use of nuclear weapons to fight wars

--Proclaim in our names a doctrine of "strike first" military attack in or against any of 60 or more nations

--Repudiate the Kyoto treaty against global warming, kill the ABM treaty, continue as only one of the only two nations on earth that have not ratified the 1989 treaty on the rights of children

--Repudiate the International Criminal Court ratified by 76 nations and with-

draw from all UN peacekeeping operations unless Americans are granted immunity from being charged with crimes against humanity

--Continue an oil-based energy policy that militarizes our foreign policy rather than stabilizing our national security with a shift to renewable energy and conservation

--And initiate "TIPS," a massive Justice Department system setting citizens to spy on citizens just like such systems in Eastern Europe under communism.

Inexplicably, at the very time the system of gigantic-corporation domination is breaking in front of all of us, these usurpers of democracy are promulgating a raw, basisless new doctrine of aggressive attack anywhere we choose with any of our weapons including nuclear ones, with nary word or admission that we are thereby generating new hate and worse terrorists against us and opening ourselves to ruthless mass retaliation.

We are not at war. We cannot constitutionally go to war against any nation without a declaration of war by Congress, yet as if in our names too, the illegal Bush Administration is openly preparing to wage aggressive war against the 22 million people of the nation of Iraq, with "a coalition of the willing" or unilaterally if necessary, by bombing and invasion "from three directions" with 250,000 American troops to start, and probably by breaking the 58-year firebreak against the use of nuclear weapons.

All this has happened about 20 years after the oligarchy, the plutocracy, of giant corporations and billionaires closed down democracy in the United States. We no longer have an effective democracy.

For if we have democracy, why don't we have national health insurance that the huge majority of us want? Why can't we get honest elections free of corrupting interests' money, which the huge majority of us want? Why, though the people own the airwaves, do the major corporations control, and sell as

their properties, the radio and TV stations and networks? Why are we about to wage an undeclared war against Iraq? If we have a democracy, why don't we have an elected President?

Raising the prospect of fascism now in America, we know we take a grave step. Big corporations and big government militarized, governing together, equal structural fascism. How real is American liberty and democracy? Will it continue or vanish? That is what is at test.

But fascism requires two things: a militarized government ruling in tandem with the major corporations, and the absence of civil liberties. We are living with the first one, but we still have our liberties. And there is resistance. Committed together to nonviolence, we still have fighting room. We are not yet a closed system of silence and fear under the power of government and the megacorporations welded together. We have lost our democracy, but we still have our liberties for as long as we still have our courage.

That is why we are here together. To globalize justice, not corporations. To attack poverty, not any of 80 nations. As Howard Zinn says, not to be the world's military superpower, but to become and to be the world's humanitarian superpower.

When the Alliance began seven years ago, taking on giant corporations per se was practically unheard of. We in the Alliance have been one of the few major causes of the paradigm shift to now, when the real subject has changed from two-party politics to subordinating the giant corporation to democracy and achieving economic democracy.

We should try to help forge now a clear way through, to economic democracy and national modesty here, and economic justice and respite from war and terror among us all everywhere. We can rejoice that so many have joined our call, now seven years young, to defeat massed corporate greed with democracy. All power and credit to all of our allies, and our share, no more, to



us. And in this new situation we are to find our specific work to further advance our movement's work as a whole.

At previous conventions we narrowed our active campaigns to four, on corporate globalization, transforming the corporation under economic and political democracy, national health insurance, and campaign finance reform. The first three are now all movement-wide action causes, and while the campaign finance law just passed was two steps forward and three back, in substantial part because of the initiatives of Public Campaign and the Alliance for Democracy, public funding of federal elections is now a widely-supported cause.

I suggest that there are two realms, one positive, and one synoptic, on which we can more saliently also focus.

The one is economic democracy--in our chapters and in our networking, fostering and bringing further into being democratic, human-sized economic enterprises.

Why not a solar panel in every yard, a solar array for your neighborhood? Why not new chapters as study circles leading to actions? Why not organize the uninsured by registering the patients at emergency rooms--why not a chapter composed entirely of the medically uninsured? Chapters could organize a services exchange, a services bank. What about a local conspiracy to buy from locally-owned businesses? In Missouri and elsewhere AfD chapters have been instrumental in the formation of three food circles joining family farmers with local co-ops. In Seattle Rev. Robert Jeffrey has invented an imitable model for community investment endowments for inner-city neighborhoods.

Our most urgent new work, I believe, is outlined in AfD's prospectus for Equal Independent Allies, not an organization, but a communications center, Internet-based, for an optimally functional and effective local, regional, national, and global people's movement. Following the lead of Jack VanderVen of the Cincinnati chapter, I suggest we form a consortium of four or five consanguine organizations to collectively formulate, obtain funding for, and put

into practice, the movement's communications center and sub-centers as Equal Independent Allies, while our chapters, and whole other organizations, adopt other nations to visit, study the NGOs of, and work with, first bilaterally.

In the accelerating democratic showdown with big-corporate greed and power, the Internet is the break we needed. Our new executive coordinator, Nick Biddle, is focused like a laser beam on our use of it for our own work and for this larger cause and requirement for our collective success. Let's

‘WE ARE NOT AT WAR’

help him get this done now.

As the first organization to use civil disobedience for campaign finance reform, our Democracy Brigades, in the Capitol, had their effect, as we were joined in jail by the likes of Bill McKibben, John Passacantando, Randy Hayes, and Doris Haddock. What many of us have been into is nonviolent revolt, refusing, saying no, resisting, insisting, at some legal risk to ourselves, always nonviolently.

Under the present deteriorating national circumstances we should try to develop actions on the model of Gandhi's noncooperation. I believe that we also have to tighten up the entire movement so that our commitment to non-violence comes to mean in practice anti-violence, the unwillingness to plan or network with any group or person that plans to use violence.

Bush, the unelected President running the illegal government, openly plans to commit lawless aggressive war against the nation of Iraq starting next January or February. From the Nuclear Posture Review that has been leaked, we must fear and anticipate that he also intends to use tactical nuclear weapons against Iraq. That leaves us just six months to form together as a cohering, coherent national movement of organi-

zations and demand that no such war be waged without a finding by Congress that it is mandatory for U.S. self-defense and a formal declaration of war by Congress. This would be the first time in history that citizens in an orderly way in advance have opposed their government waging an aggressive war, but the realities here in our eyes and minds leave us no choice.

As for the intermediate run, sitting up talking until 2 a.m. one morning, Ted Dooley and I were asking each other: What can we do that's enough in this situation?--what, nonviolently, can we do, that will save the country and win for democracy? Our thinking lubricated with a little single-malt, there arose from us, as if an idea rising up from two heads: Let's have millions of people, *millions*, occupy Washington in the summer of 2004, and stop the government.

On the anniversaries of 9/11, this year and next, in league with several other organizations that have had the same idea, we should personally and in our chapters help arrange with co-sponsors town halls, or community or neighborhood meetings, to discuss 9/11 and what has followed, and to set up committees of correspondence among those who want to develop their community strengths as the basis of the strength of democracy. As more and more of us, conferring through the communications center we are bent now to establish, can educate and act together, we should come together by the spring of 2004 in a mass nonviolent revolt in New York City. That summer, we should accept the leadership of Martin Luther King once again, bring back Martin Luther King, and together with him bring into reality 36 years later his plan in the summer of 1968 for the Poor People's Encampment--in this emergency of fascism or democracy, we might call it the Plain People's Encampment--and peacefully occupy Washington, millions of us, for democracy, peace, and justice, for weeks, or months.

So the one thing we must do by 2004 is cohere, because if we don't cohere, we won't be able to turn out millions in Washington in 2004.

Learn, 'Organize, and Act,' Or 'Let Any Fascist' Rule the U. S.

(Continued from page 1)

Plans, Policy, and Operations, in which capacity he engaged in U.S. naval planning for nuclear and conventional war.

Dressed in a light grey suit and a tie, Admiral Carroll condemned both Presidents Clinton, who he said was "unwilling to take on the military forces in the United States," and George W. Bush, who Carroll charged is lying when Bush says we will consult with our allies, for "their ghastly failure" since the end of the Cold War. This failure, Carroll said, was their deciding that the U.S. would be "the only superpower" instead of pursuing a course of international cooperation. "We didn't seek common purpose with other nations, we sought dominion, and we continue with that today," he said.

Confrontation "never works in the long term," he contended, reviewing the rise and fall of the empires of the Assyrians, Alexander, the Romans, the Austro-Hungarians, the British. "The lessons of history are, you cannot remain king of the hill by using your force to maintain your dominion."

"In 2002 we will spend more than \$400 billion" on the military, he said. "I have no idea how much money that is. It's a sum that staggers the imagination. Believe me there's a lot of profit in this. There's a lot of profit in it for them to see that this is spent in this way." The Bush Administration has "jumped the cost" of spending on weapons more than eightfold, and these weapons "have nothing to do with the security of the U.S., nothing to do with terrorists." By spending \$67 billion on nuclear subs, he said sardonically, "If they get to sea in rowboats, we can defeat the terrorists." More than half of all discretionary funding appropriated by Congress will go to the military, and "this means cuts in education, housing, transportation, medical care, justice."

Further, we are "alienating our allies," he said. Spending more money on the military than the next highest-

spending 20 or so nations, he said, "we are in an arms race with ourselves because nobody else is in competition," and our allies see "that we are intending to exercise global dominion because of our power and wealth. I've heard President Bush say we're gonna consult. Well, that's a lie. We go and tell them what we're gonna do."

There is "tremendous pressure" in Washington now, he continued, "to take out Saddam Hussein, to go to Baghdad." In a war with Iraq, he said, "even if you win you lose. We would own Iraq. There's nobody there to run the country, maintain its orders. Who's going to do it? You are, with your tax money."

The missile defense program, Carroll charged, is "a scandal. It's unneeded. There's no threat. We'll spend hundreds of billions in the process. We are ending arms control that we have been building ever since the Nuclear Freeze....We want a national missile defense program to hide behind in case our control around the world brings down an attack upon us."

Beyond that, he said, these preparations are for "space warfare....It gives us a military fighting system in space....So for the first time in the history of mankind there will be warfare weapons in space."

In the stead of "this aggressive, confrontational, military-first policy," Admiral Carroll told the Alliance, "above all the United States has to recognize the world community" by supporting the UN ("we created it, it's a U.S. decision") and the new International Criminal Court (which the Bush Administration is fighting ferociously). The U.S. led the writing of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, governing more than 70% of the earth's surface, but won't ratify it, Carroll said; 130 nations ratified the treaty against anti-personnel weapons, "but not us"; we wrote the UN convention on the rights of the child, but "we won't join," the one nation in the world that will not [along with So-

PHOTO

Admiral Eugene J. Carroll, Jr.

malia--Ed.]; the U.S. "hasn't even ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty."

With the U.S. planning to produce nuclear weapons through 2020 and no nuclear institution or country living up to promises made under the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, Carroll said, Japan and Germany will get nuclear weapons--"that day is inevitable as long as we maintain ours." From his experience planning for nuclear war, he is most concerned that U.S. nuclear weapons are still maintained in a status of "launch on warning." That is, he said, "thousands of nuclear weapons" are "on alert, ready to fire in a matter of five minutes....We can throw several thousand nuclear weapons in the air irreversibly and then find out" that we have done so in error.

Concerning the President's sole ability to decide whether to use nuclear weapons, Carroll, responding to a question, declared: "Under present law there is no check on him. He doesn't have to notify anybody. He simply is wakened, concludes they will be used, launches them, and they are gone."

The military-industrial complex is powerful, but it can't elect anybody, Admiral Carroll argued. "You gotta vote," he said. "When they understand \$400 billion in one year for the military is unacceptable and 'you'll lose,' they'll listen. We must make the democratic process work. If we don't what's the fight about? We might as well let any fascist

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A Communications Coalition

(Continued from page 1)

Nick Biddle, attending his first convention as executive director, focused, in his speech, on the corporate seizures of water for profit (see pages 29-30). "We're here to change the world," he said. "We're romantics or we wouldn't be sitting here." He added: "We act in outrage, but what we get to do is procedural. How do we fight? Power uses law to protect itself. Procedure, procedure. Lobby, votes, send out cards to your representatives. Those things can get tiring. We can feel that we're not getting anywhere. Our moral outrage needs some return."

On the other hand, during a packed workshop Biddle conducted on Enron, in response to a delegate's expression of despair that the people will not arouse themselves unless things get a lot worse, he said: "We face this sort of wall of potential futility that could be persuasive. The Alliance for Democracy is unique in that we don't stop because of that. I'm enraged [about Enron]. If 30,000 people could learn

about that, I think 5,000 of them would be ready to do something. Imagine, if we went to Rotary Clubs and Chambers of Commerce and talked to business people where they are, and it would get us out in the streets--and we have to get out in the streets because nobody'll get out in the streets if nobody's out there."

Using three educational hand-outs, Biddle told "the Enron story" starting with deregulation back in 1973: in 1988, then-President George Bush's son George W. phoned a high government official in Argentina to recommend Enron get a big contract there; leaving the White House, Bush the elder signed a law deregulating electricity; under Clinton, federal agencies exempted Enron from the 1935 Public Utilities Holding Co. Act, deregulated wholesale energy markets, and exempted Enron from regulation of its overseas operations, enabling it to form 874 off-shore corporate subsidiaries and trade electricity around the U.S. to exploit market variables; the nine

largest banks in the country became entwined with the company as it started hiding losses, its executives cashed in, its employees holding its stock got trapped, "and then the cards all fall."

Asked from the floor what AfD should do, Biddle responded: pranks and protests; research; a Speakers' Bureau; and somehow getting through to the major media. "The Rotary Clubs are very receptive. They really are," Biddle said. "They're all lookin' for somebody to come talk to 'em."

Closing the convention, Biddle said: "The Alliance for Democracy is so fundamental. It's the first organization that really identifies the centrality of the corporation in all of this maze of haze. The country is catching up with us." He asked members to send thoughts and ideas to him. "I commit to you that I'll reflect your ideas," he said. "We're the center. We're here to get the information and send it back to you. So let's get it together and make the world the place we want it to be."

Admiral Carroll...

(Continued from preceding page)

run the country."

In Gettysburg where they were gathered, Carroll recalled, Lincoln spoke the words "of the people, by the people, for the people," but "it's amazing, we're getting so far away from this now because of the power of the people at the top of the heap. It depends on people like you, informed and concerned citizens. Gather the information, and organize, and act. My personal time to achieve change is running out. I do have grandchildren, and I want them to live in a safe and peaceful place. I'll go on trying to help as long as I can."

—R.D.

The Alliance's New Policies

Reparations for slavery is the subject of a national rally to be held in Washington, D.C., on August 17 sponsored by the National Coalition of Black Reparation Associations. A resolution by Ben Kjelshus of Kansas City and the Mo-Kan AfD, passed by the convention, said in a preliminary clause that "the Alliance has an affirmative disposition toward reparations for slavery" and told the Council to initiate steps to support, work with, and consider becoming associated with the National Coalition.

Following the lead of Jack Van-

derVen of the Cincinnati chapter, the convention resolved to facilitate forming "a large, powerful, and long-lasting progressive/populist coalition" through a planning conference this fall for a larger coalition-building convention. The convention forwarded to the Council, as additional thinking, a resolution from Ronnie Dugger advancing "Equal Independent Allies" as a model for a new national communications center, based on the communications network, "Independent Allies," that has been developed and

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Alert to Chapters and Members:

Call for Community Meetings 9/11/02

The Alliance for Democracy joins many organizations in planning for events to commemorate 9/11. September 11 is and will continue to be a momentous day for America. We broadcast here two calls to action for 9/11, ours and that of Global Exchange. They are complementary and are issued together in the spirit of collaborative alliance.

The AfD 9/11 Coalition for America: To commemorate the profound loss of life on 9/11 and to reflect on the course of events since that tragic day, the Alliance for Democracy calls on Americans to gather in community or neighborhood meetings on September 11, 2002. One explanation for the attacks of 9/11 is that the attackers hate our freedom and democracy. Let us demonstrate the strength of our freedom and the purpose of our democracy.

The Alliance urges Americans to discuss and debate on 9/11/02 the

four great areas of concern about which we as a society must make decisions. These are: 1) War and Peace; 2) Post-Enron Economics; 3) Civil Liberties, and: 4) the National Agenda. We encourage communities to organize meetings that reflect the full ranges of diversity found in every neighborhood. This is a moment to speak with political candidates, public officials, clergy, union representatives, teachers, business leaders, and families. The purpose of the meetings is to honor those who have died by discovering face to face, freely and democratically, how we may render America safe from the evil that has visited.

For more information email nickatafd@aol.com or call 781-894-1179.

The Global Exchange Call: "Don't let the Bush Administration use the first-year commemoration of the 9/11 tragedy to call for more war and violence. Please help us

honor the death of our loved ones by creating Sept. 11, 2002, events that move us towards a future of peaceful tomorrows."--Kelly Campbell, September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.

Our goal is to have hundreds of peace events happening throughout the country the weekend before September 11 and on September 11 itself. Let's make it a time to put forth A VISION of a safer, more just world. For the weekend gatherings, we suggest events such as a peace concert, town hall meeting, Walk-a-Thon, film showings, interactive art projects, community picnic, and more. For the day of September 11, we suggest a more somber, respectful tone that might involve interfaith services or silent vigils.

If you are interested in organizing an event in your community, please contact us at peace@globalexchange.org or call 800-497-1994.

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operated by the Maverick AfD chapter in San Antonio across the past four years. Nick Biddle named Vandervan chair of the organizing committee of ten or twelve members to plan the fall conference. Members who wish to serve on it should communicate with Vandervan by Aug. 15th (at 513-542-0958, or 1618 Argyle Place, Cincinnati OH 45223, or difalcm@email.uc.edu).

The convention also encouraged the Council to pursue, "carefully and tentatively, but with serious interest," as a step in world movement networking, a proposal for a joint U.S.-India conference of NGOs in New Delhi on human rights and so-

cial justice, which developed out of a recent trip by Dugger to India.

The delegates adopted a resolution by Nick Seidita of the San Fernando Valley chapter that AfD explore forming, subject to finding leadership and support for it, a fifth national action campaign for peace "to work on halting the spread of global war by the corporate-dominated warfare-prison state which our country, the United States, has become."

Those wishing to work on this should communicate with Seidita (at 9601 Corbin Ave., Northridge CA 91324, or at jseid1000@aol.com). In addition, at the motion of Council member Dolly Arond and her husband Warren Felt, of Northridge,

Ca., the convention supported the reaffirmation of the ABM treaty on grounds that it has not been constitutionally invalidated by Mr. Bush's withdrawal from it without his having obtained the consent of the Senate.

On impeaching Mr. Bush to prevent him from committing the threatened first use of nuclear weapons, the convention matched the Council resolution to that effect passed last March 9th (see the April-May *Alliance Alerts*) and added that the Senate should pass a resolution "forbidding the President from using nuclear weapons anytime anywhere," that is, in attack or in re-

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taliation. The convention passed the latter resolution, authored by Dorothy Boberg of the San Fernando Valley chapter, after it had been described as advocating "a profound change in our national (nuclear) posture."

The impeachment question aroused opposition and led to the severance of the nuclear-use resolution into two parts. The first part, which was essentially the Council's earlier resolution, calling on Congress to hold public hearings on the Nuclear Posture Review of last March "and take necessary steps to rein in and curb Mr. Bush in the use of nuclear weapons," passed unanimously.

The second part calls for the impeachment of Mr. Bush "unless he publicly pledges that the United States will never again make use of any nuclear weapons, strategic or tactical." Here the resolution asks what, other than impeachment "to absolutely prevent the President's use of nuclear weapons," "do our fellow democratic citizens propose to do to refuse to become personally responsible as citizens in this democracy for the use of nuclear weapons in our names and on behalf of our country? What is democracy supposed to do to stop its government from initiating the use of nuclear weapons in war?"

Adoption was spoken for by Dugger, who said that to do nothing to stop the threatened use of nuclear weapons is to assent to mass murder and unleash prospects of nuclear retaliation against us. Ruth Caplan, Washington, D.C., speaking as an AfD member who lobbies Congress against fast track and other anti-globalization-related issues, said, "It's important not to be just discounted. If we step out too far ahead, you get

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A Report:

AfD's Lawsuits vs. FEC and in Ohio

Cliff Arnebeck, a newly-elected member of the Alliance Council, has given us this report on a lawsuit, in which he is the attorney for the Alliance, concerning corporate money in Ohio elections.

Along with Common Cause/Ohio, in June the Alliance for Democracy filed a mandamus complaint before the 10th District Ohio Court of Appeals asking the court to order the Ohio Elections Commission to correct its failure to proceed to hear the complaint that the U.S. and Ohio Chambers of Commerce violated Ohio election laws. The issue is the use of corporate money in unlimited and undisclosed amounts in the 2000 election in Ohio.

The Ohio Chamber, through a front group it called "Citizens for a Strong Ohio," along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, ran an estimated \$7 million worth of attack ads against Justice Alice Resnick in the 2000 election for the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Alliance helped put a monkey wrench in their work by inducing the Ohio Elections Commission to find, the day before the election, probable cause of criminal violations by the chambers. This was reported in newspapers throughout Ohio on election day, often with a picture of Justice Resnick. The voters dramatically re-elected Justice Resnick.

Subsequently, under relentless pressure from the chambers and perhaps influenced by the fact that the Republican Governor Robert A. Taft, who appoints the commissioners, had raised corporate money for the chambers' ad campaign, the swing Republican commissioner changed his vote a second time on the issue, and the commission there-

upon squelched the investigation and complaint.

The chambers of commerce are arguing that they can do anything they want to with political attack ads as long as they do not use one of the so-called "magic words" contained in a footnote to the 1976 Supreme Court decision, *Buckley v. Valeo*. The League of Women Voters of Ohio has filed an amicus brief in the case calling the chambers' legal argument "frivolous."

The same issue is being addressed in litigation in Mississippi, where, unlike the situation in Ohio, the state's elected officials are defending state law against the attempt by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to undermine it. One of these cases is likely to make it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

--Cliff Arnebeck

In the last issue of Alliance Alerts we reported on the Ashcroft case filed by the Alliance for Democracy and two individuals to require the Federal Election Cmsn. (the FEC) to rule on whether the U.S. Attorney General, John Ashcroft, violated campaign-finance laws in his 2000 race for the U.S. Senate. Since then, the FEC, in its answer to the complaint, generally speaking, admitted certain details about timing, jurisdiction, and venue while denying other allegations. On July 12, after a half-hour discussion before the judge during which the FEC conveyed its interest in limiting the plaintiffs' discovery activities, the upshot was that the FEC would have to provide a sworn chronology of actions it has taken on the Ashcroft investigation by July 29, and the plaintiffs by Aug. 15 must propound 20 interrogatories to the FEC and present its request for detailed discovery from the FEC and third parties.—Ed.

More on the Gettysburg Convention...

(Continued from page 11)

discredited as an organization." She referred to "our credibility on the Hill."

Council member Jo Seidita stated: "Too many people in the United States are reluctant to stand up and be counted." For her, she said, it was an issue of protecting her grandchildren. "If we say no, it gives somebody else the courage to. I've been accused of not being willing to compromise all my life. Somebody has to stand up."

Other delegates spoke for and against the resolution, touching variously on its utility as a tool in reaching out to network with other organizations, "the danger of going off half-cocked," children's health, and the need to make people focus on this question. The second part of the resolution passed clearly by voice vote with several no's and abstentions. Caplan, who had achieved a correction in the resolution to avert an unintended reflection on other methods of opposing the use of nuclear weapons, said later that she voted aye.

Concerning the situation in Israel and Palestine, the convention unanimously agreed with Paul Brailsford, of Cambridge, Mass., "that funding our ally Israel's armed invasion of Palestinian West Bank territory be stopped, and that a UN International Force be allowed to monitor and separate the Israeli and Palestinian forces."

Peter Mott of the Rochester, New York chapter prevailed in the convention with a resolution summarizing provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN in 1948, and the Earth Charter, which is to be voted

on by the UN this year, and adopting both "as statements of (the Alliance's) long-range goals for society." The Alliance resolved, on a proposal from Tobi Dragert of the San Fernando Valley chapter, to work to restore public airwaves to the people, restrict media conglomerates and monopolies, and "make the fight against the corporate dominance of prevailing media one of its primary goals." Warning of the danger of the ceding of enforcement of environmental and social standards to the WTO at the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, the convention passed a resolution from Caplan that this should be headed off. The convention hailed Doris Haddock, Granny D, as "a great American hero on a par with Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Rosa Parks."

Now, Democratize Economics—Kelly

"Economic democracy is the second American revolution," writer and editor Marjorie Kelly told the convention. "We democratized government in 1776, but we have never democratized economics. It's an aristocracy."

The author of *The Divine Right of Capital* and editor of *Business Ethics* told the convention that with corporations representing two-thirds of U.S. gross domestic product, "we have just a handful of people controlling our economy, essentially controlling our government....The core problem is wealthism, the idea that our economy exists to make the rich richer."

We are told the issue is the free market v. government, Kelly said, but "No: it's about aristocracy v. democracy. It's economics for the few or economics for the many. This is the real struggle."

"A corporation is not really legiti-

mate" because it discriminates against employees, she said. "It says income for one group is good and income for another group is bad...this idea that some people are higher than others. They think it's how the world is structured." People who work at a corporation should have a say, but only the owners do. "The corporation is a feudal proposition, not a human community," she said. Instead of CEO's receiving huge salaries, "employees oughta be able to impeach the CEO," she said. Employees, creating much of the wealth, should have "a claim on it." Workers should challenge non-compete agreements because if the knowledge in their own heads is not their own property, "what is?"

In her book Kelly has established that people who buy corporate stock are not investors, but are like gamblers in a casino, because the money they pay for their stocks goes, not to the companies, but to the people whom they buy the stock from. Only \$1 of each \$100 invested actually goes to companies as investment, and when stock buybacks are factored in, the net investment turns negative, she has ascertained. Stockholders being gamblers, not investors, Kelly flatly challenges the practice of giving all corporate profit to stockholders forever. That "wealth discrimination," she says, is just a surviving form of aristocracy, since 10% of the people own 90% of the stock.

"They're speculators, not investors. It's wealth rights they have, not investor rights. It's privilege, not rights. It's rule by the financial elite, not the free market....We don't have a free market, these are structures of power."

A corporate balance sheet declares success on the basis of profit, but Kelly says success should be a compound of profit and good wages. Instead, lower wages, calculated as a deduction from profit, are defined as success. Kelly asked, "What if we had a Dow Jones Wage Index?"

"We need to have structural re-



form," she said. She proposed to expand the law on a corporation's duty to include the good of the community, the employees, and the environment.

From the floor, Harold Stokes of Redford, Mich., asked, "Who really owns property? We should be caretakers of whatever we're entrusted with. We must say how much one person can have. If we allow me to extract as much as I can, then I'm in control of the government, I can buy the politicians." At Ben & Jerry's, Kelly responded, the policy used to be that the CEO could make no more than seven times what others made.

She called on the Alliance to keep working at consciousness-raising. "We need some good pranks," she said. "I think it's about time for a good sit-in at *Business Week*." She had heard talk about an idea in the Alliance for another Boston Tea Party, or a series of them across the country. "I think the folks in this room might be going to pull it off," she said.

BBC Journalist Excoriates Press

Greg Palast of Los Angeles started out as an investigator of corporate fraud and racketeering and a union organizer. In recent years he has become an award-winning journalist on BBC Television's principal newscast, "Newsnight," and the *Guardian* newspapers in London. His scoops and revelations are commonplace front-page news in Britain and the rest of Europe, but do not get much--and often get no--play in the U.S. It is a point of pride with him that Katherine Harris of Florida calls him "twisted and maniacal" and someone in the White House has said, "We hate the son of a bitch."

Palast's appearance before the AfD convention was a remarkable event. He speaks in a linear way, telling stories without apparent organization, now and again laying in mind-exploders, somewhat in the way that the joke-popping crew of a B-52 might lay down, erratically, a series of 2,000-pound bombs. What amazed the delegates was how much of his reporting, which he reviewed, they had never heard of. For

instance:

According to agents in the FBI, the CIA, and the Defense Intelligence Agency, during the Clinton Administration orders came down to the FBI to "go slow" on investigating the bin Laden family and Al Qaeda. Under the Bush Administration, however, Palast reported, the orders went "from Go Slow to No Go." What agents were telling him, according to Palast, was "that they were ordered top-level that they had to kick off any investigation about Saudi Arabian terrorists, that's what came down, including in written form." The White House denies this. Palast said he did not mean or have evidence the Bush Administration knew about the 9/11 attack in advance or had a hand in it; he accounted for the go-slow as concern not to bollux up relations with those who "sit on our oil supply."

The first President Bush in effect allowed Barrick Gold, a giant gold mining company, to lay claim to the largest gold mine in America, an area on U.S. property in Nevada with \$10 billion worth of ore, for \$5 an acre totaling about \$10,000; before leaving the Presidency Bush granted a presidential pardon to the company's big funder, and upon leaving the Presidency Bush "went to work" for the same company, Palast said.

It was Palast, investigating the 2000 Florida election scandal for the BBC, who discovered that Secretary of State Katherine Harris and Gov. Jeb Bush had purchased for the state unchecked lists of about 55,700 alleged felons, 54% of them African-Americans, to induce county election officials to disqualify thousands of voters. (Like other states in the south, Florida does not let ex-felons vote.) Evidence Palast turned up convinced him that 90% of the voters on the list were not felons and that state officials had indicated to the company which they had hired to provide the information that it was not necessary for the company to make telephone checks to verify the identities and records of the people named. "Thousands" of black voters were thus barred from voting because their names were wrongly on the list in the state

which Katherine Harris declared Bush won by 537 votes. Palast wrote about this in *Harper's*, and NAACP litigation about it is pending.

Palast regaled the delegates, too, with many tales of his rejection and frustration by American editors, at CBS, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere. He said 92-year-old Granny D, who was listening to him on the second row, had challenged him, "Let's take a walk," and he had protested, "I'm too old!" "Here you got the Alliance for Democracy, and down there [in Washington and New York] you got the Alliance *against* Democracy," but that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Let's take the step." He received a standing ovation that lasted about three minutes.

'Independent Allies'

In one convention workshop, Arline and Jim Prigoff of Sacramento presented a report and slide show on the huge World Social Forum on the theme, "Another World Is Possible," at Porto Alegre, Brazil, last winter, which they attended representing the Alliance, and Dugger outlined concepts of "Equal Independent Allies" which have emerged from the San Antonio chapter's four-year experience establishing and conducting "Independent Allies" in Central Texas.

"In fact there is a global coalition that is emerging all over the world, building democracy and people's power" in resistance to corporate globalization, the World Trade Organization, and the international financial organizations aligned with it, Arline Prigoff said. The Forum, she said, "is a global network composed of groups, organizations, and coalitions that have moved beyond protest to the planning of a better world."

The first World Social Forum last year drew 10 to 15 thousand people, but this year's was attended by 50 to 80 thousand, she said. Trade unionists, ecologists from India, anti-globalization forces from the International Forum on Globalization and the Council of Canadians, and other activists of every description, color, and nationality took part; young people from throughout Brazil had an encampment there. In-

(Continued from page 13)

stantaneous translations of proceedings were available in Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French. James Prigoff presented slides of photographs of the Forum that the couple had taken in Porto Alegre.

"How do we cohere better in the United States so as to participate more effectively in the global people's movement?" Dugger asked. He summarized elements of the successful San Antonio model and postulated twelve emergent principles for a communications center, which he suggested could be called "Equal Independent Allies": (1) Single-focus organizations working separately or in separated coalitions cannot overcome the transnational corporate behemoth; (2) organizations don't compete, but celebrate each others' achievements; (3) a joiner is needed of progressive and populist organizations, unions, and religious organizations; (4) we strive for the multi-ethnic, multi-color, and multi-class from the start, but start where we are; (5) as long as we share deep common values and do not knuckle under to government, corporations, or (in the U.S.) the two major parties, we can work and act together; (6) we coalesce only with those committed to nonviolence and against violence; (7) we need to cohere in only two areas, education and action; (8) we will need a multi-level, multi-subject Internet coding system to permit individuals and groups to zero in on their fields of interest; (9) we form not an organization, but only a communications center; (10) we accept, work with, and build on the coalitions that already exist in the stream of the people's movement; (11) because of the vulnerability of democratic organizations to corporate funding takeovers or governmental undermining, no single organization is accepted as the leader, but rather, in effect, a group of organizations form a nonviolent leadership phalanx; and (12) adequate funding needs to be sought by planning organizations functioning as a consortium.

Dugger also suggested that AfD chapters or entire organizations might choose to adopt an individual nation, to study its politics and NGOs, and that bilateral national friendships at the civil level of

Invitation to an Economic Democracy Project

An invitation from Marjorie Kelly, author of *The Divine Right of Capital: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy* and a member of the AfD in Minneapolis, who keynoted the Alliance convention in Gettysburg:

We can never have genuine political democracy without economic democracy. If we're serious about renewing democracy--and we are--we must take democratic principles into the economic sphere, which in a system-wide sense has never been done. It makes of us a new founding generation. Helping gather together the right people and the right ideas to build a framework for genuine economic democracy is the focus for the rest of my professional life.

I'm working now with key colleagues (and looking for others to join us) in launching a new nonprofit called the Economic Democracy Project (EDP). We aim to be a central information source on proposals for democratizing economics, proposals for structural economic change. Nick Biddle's idea of focusing on property rights in water is an example of taking a structural approach; it means not fighting one water company at a time, but attacking the idea that private companies can claim to own public resources without paying for them. Ronnie Dugger's idea of revisioning together what the corporation should look like--that's another approach to structural change. There are many other examples, from employee ownership at the company level, to Robert Hinkley's Code for Corporate Citizenship at the state level, to the proposed Corporate Accountability Convention at the international level.

The Economic Democracy Project aims to educate people about these new structural approaches. We'll host

dialogue events, create briefing books on the web, send out op-eds to educate the public, publish a monthly e-mail newsletter, and so forth. The central idea is to shift our focus from going after one corporation at a time, one piece of wrongdoing at a time, and looking at how to create enduring structures for democratic input into economic and corporate decisions. This includes looking at work at the local, state, federal, and international level.

A major article announcing the launch of EDP will appear in the Summer issue of *Business Ethics*, the publication I created and edit. *Business Ethics*--despite its boring and conservative name--is really radical. It often covers issues of economic democracy. If you'd like to track my work, become a subscriber. Alliance colleagues get the Activist Rate of just \$19 (institutions pay \$49). Send your snail mail address to MarjorieHK@aol.com and we'll send you a free copy of the Summer issue, announcing EDP.

One other request: I'm looking for one or two board members, well-connected, willing to help with fundraising, interested in being hands-on in creating this new organization. They must have read my book and be excited about its approach--because it is the genesis of this new organization. Contact me.

--Marjorie Kelly,
PO Box 8439
Minneapolis MN 55408
tel. 612-879-0695, fax 612-879-0699
email MarjorieHK@aol.com

[Signed first-edition copies of Kelly's book (Berrett-Koehler 2001) are available at www.divinerightofcapital.com-Ed.]

NGOs, such as between India and the U.S., might be a way to build up the substance of international democracy.

Corporate Research

Convention participants enthusiastically attended two workshops on re-

searching corporations. Mafruz Khan, associate director of the Corporate Research Institute in Washington, D.C., held both. She designed them in sequence. Both were dedicated to investigating the financial, social, environ-

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mental, labor, and political records of corporations.

Key resources for this task begin with state and local public records of incorporation (<http://www.nass.org/busreg.html>). Researchers may use these to discover if a company is in good standing, to whom it is in debt, and the properties it owns. Securities and Exchange Commission documents (accessed through www.freeEdgar.com) yield a wealth of information that can illuminate a corporation's officers, financial statements, suppliers, legal proceedings, environmental problems, and union relations.

The world of corporate research is larger and more accessible than one might think. Investigating the lawsuits, property tax records, and criminal records of corporate directors and board members will also produce materials useful to the researcher. These records are public, though some may be available only for a fee. People with access to Lexis-Nexis may tap into databases for 137,000 public corporations with search indices that expedite investigations immensely.

Mafruz distributed five pages of source materials for interested corporate researchers. Copies of these may be obtained by contacting Nick Biddle at the national office. Mafruz emphasized that researchers must be imaginative, intuitive, and thorough. Corporate research takes the mind of the detective and the passion of an Alliance member.

John Judge, director of the Committee on Political Assassinations which meets annually, usually in Dallas, conducted a lunch-hour roundtable that was packed. Identifying himself with "the serious end" of the research community on the assassinations of JFK, MLK, and RFK, Judge mesmerized his group with rapid-fire recitations bearing on his conviction that John Kennedy was killed by the government.

He downrated the CIA as a think tank which has to go to the Defense Intelligence Agency for funding its operations. In fact, he said, the DIA has ten times as many spies as the CIA, and the Office of Naval Intelligence is the oldest and largest intelligence agency in the U.S. government. In the context of several evidentiary representations, Judge said: "The

core of these assassinations was not the CIA. It was the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That's who killed Kennedy, not the CIA."

Discussing the present situation, he said, "We are now faced with a choice of historical importance between a new war or a new world. The only force that can stop the war is the American people.... They're going into world war and world genocide."

'Canadian Medicare'

The Canadian model for national health insurance was described by Dr. Claudia Fagan, a physician in Chicago who was the medical director of a corporatized hospital until she quit when she could no longer accept her orders. A former president of Physicians for a National Health Program, Dr. Fagan spoke to a workshop on the history and nature of the Canadian system. "They call it Canadian Medicare," she said. The legal basis of it, a 1966 law, uses only eight pages to establish government-guaranteed medical insurance for everyone. Medical cosmetics and routine dentistry are not covered, but the insurance covers long-term and in-home care, "all that is required for medical necessity: mental health, preventing disease, diagnosis preventing an injury or disability," and, more and more, medications. The private U.S. medical system is so much more expensive than the Canadian, she said, because "we have 1,200 private health insurance companies, and a large part of the cost is their administrative overhead."

Jack Miller of the Indiana AfD conducted a breakfast roundtable on the privatization, or corporatization, of public services. Quoting an authority that "the essence of private property is the right to exclude others from what belongs to you," Miller pointed out that the essence of public property is not to be excluded. "Public resources are also better than most folks ever could acquire by themselves," he said. "In fact the only way these resources can be acquired and maintained is by acting together cooperatively." Government, for all its problems, he continued, is the only institution with a balance of powers, democratically elected officials, a charge to protect the

interests of every member regardless of wealth, and the ability to temper the extremes of private enterprise.

To illustrate the importance of the standard of public service in public-service sectors, Miller observed that on 9/11 at the World Trade Center, 80 Otis Elevator sub-contract workers were seen "heels and elbows out the door" while firefighters and policeman were entering the buildings to try to rescue the people inside. With privatization, Miller said, privateers see checks and balances as impediments to efficiency when in fact they are safeguards. Privatization advocates fail to grasp that goals of public service have always been larger than merely providing cheap services. Miller discussed at length the realities of privatization in Indianapolis, concerning which he has written an extensive expose. His conclusions: The privatization of public services is an assault on public services, public sector unions and democracy; is "profitable" because it reduces services, cuts wages, skimps on materials, hires unqualified workers, raises user fees, and eliminates the cost of oversight; entails deals that are routinely made in secret without public scrutiny or input; encourages corruption through trading campaign contributions for contracts, hiring former politicians as employees, lobbyists or consultants, and outright bribery; and exchanges the rights of citizenship for the privileges of "customership" that are available only to those have the money to be customers.

A Sum for Every Adult

"How do you stop a juggernaut?" asked Steve Shafarman as he began his workshop in Gettysburg on "A New Progressive Populist Economic Plan." He suggested that we might find some answers in previous mass movements. A member of the Washington, D.C., chapter of AfD who was involved with all of the Democracy Brigade protests, Shafarman is executive director of the Citizen Policies Institute and the author of two books, the most recent of them *We the People: Healing Our Democracy and Saving Our World*.

During each of the three main peri-

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Ted Dooley, Sue Wheaton Take Officers' Roles

With co-chair Lou Hammann, Oranna, Pa., and secretary Stephanie Miller, Indianapolis, both stepping down, new officers elected at Gettysburg are Ted Dooley of St. Paul, co-chair, and Sue Wheaton of Takoma Park, Md., secretary.

A vacancy for female co-chair developed when Nancy Price moved up to co-chair upon the withdrawal last year of Clara Oleson of Iowa. Ruth Weizenbaum, Concord, Ma., and Jo Seidita, Northridge, Ca., both members of the Council, contested in Gettysburg for the position of female co-chair.

With voting by members present, without any weighted voting by chapters, Weizenbaum received 39 votes to Seidita's 15. Neither having received less than 20% of the votes, under election rules the contest is referred for decision to the paid-up national members of AfD by mail ballot (see pages 20-21 and the ballot printed on page 27).

New members of the Alliance national council are Gene Nichol, dean of the law school at the University of North Carolina, Cliff Arnebeck, an attorney in Ohio, Laura Wimbish-

Vanderbeck, a practicing psychologist specializing in organizations, and Mary White, a teacher and activist and the treasurer of the North Bridge chapter. Dave Lewit of Boston was elected to the position of ombudsman to serve alongside AfD's other one, Bonnie Preston of Baltimore.

Ted Dooley, 57, is a Vietnam draft refuser and a graduate of William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. He lives with his wife, Kristi Holmquist in St. Paul. He is founding member and a leader in the Minneapolis-St. Paul AfD chapter, and on the national Council he has been the North-Central regional representative and a member of the executive committee. He engages in the general practice of law in Minneapolis and is also certified to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota Tribal Court, and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Tribal Court. He served as co-ordinating attorney for "Up and Out of Poverty Now!" protesters, including Cheri Honkala, as a legal observer for the National Lawyers Guild at the A16 demonstrations in

Washington, D.C., last year, and in legal defense of other protesters. He is a member of the International Association of Democratic Jurists; the Madison (Wisconsin)-Camaguey (Cuba) Sister City Association; the National Lawyers Guild, serving on its international committee and its Cuba subcommittee; the Police Accountability Project; and the Great River Earth Institute, serving on its board of directors.

Sue Wheaton, the new Secretary, has served on the council since the Alliance's founding in 1996, first as Mid-Atlantic regional representative, then as co-chair. In these roles she has helped build the AfD's organizational infrastructure; she has planned many of the Council's in-person meetings in the Washington, D.C., area. She has worked for many years on a federal advocacy program for residents of long-term care facilities. A native Texan, she was active in the early civil rights movement and served as coordinator of a court-appointed committee to oversee school desegregation in Dallas. She holds a BA in English and an MA in history, and after spending a post-graduate year with the American Friends Service Committee as a volunteer in Haiti, she taught in high schools in Louisiana and Texas. She and her husband Phil met demonstrating against the Vietnam War. They and their two children lived for a year in Nicaragua and have been active in the Central American human rights network and numerous other progressive endeavors.

Gene Nichol, during an earlier period when for eight years he was dean of the law school at the University of Colorado, ran for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House from Colorado, winning Democratic conventions both times but losing out to heavily-funded opponents. He has spoken eloquently at two Alliance national conventions; the second time he presented his proposals for the next ten articles for the Bill of Rights. He is a constitutional lawyer with a long list of law-journal articles to his credit. He also writes op-ed columns on current events for various newspapers. Currently a stir-

The Gettysburg Convention...

(Continued from page 15)

ods of mass movements, the 1890s, 1930s, and 1960s, Shafarman said, millions of people demanded some type of guaranteed income or basic economic security. He presented, under the rubric, "Citizen Policies," his own new version of earlier proposals. His idea is to give every adult enough money so that those with no other income could at least afford food and shelter--to give the same amount to everyone as "a baseline of economic justice, equality, and security"--with everyone reciprocating by performing some community service, perhaps eight hours a month. That program, he suggested, could appeal to people who normally don't vote or otherwise participate in the political process, and getting them involved is essential for real change.

Rob Richie, director of the Center on Voting and Democracy, spoke to the convention for two reforms, instant runoff voting when electing one person to office, and proportional representation when electing several people to a legislature. Timothy Edgar, a legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C., spoke brilliantly on civil liberties in the U.S. now. Please see the Alliance website, www.thealliancefordemocracy.org, concerning these two speeches.

There were about 90 delegates at the convention in Gettysburg, many of them veterans of the earlier conventions.

Members who wish to serve on Alliance committees may inquire about that to Secretary Sue Wheaton at sue.wheaton@juno.com.

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2 Lawyers, 2 Others Join the AfD Council

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ring speech that he gave to a law conference on equal justice is posted as a feature on the website of the American Bar Association.

Dr. Laura Wimbish-Vanderbeck is a licensed psychologist in Illinois and North Carolina and also a licensed health services provider in the latter state. She and her husband Tom also have a small organic farm in North Carolina. She is on the board of NC WARN, a nonprofit that fights nuclear and toxic wastes from utilities and industries in North Carolina. After getting her bachelors in psychology and an M.Ed. in counseling psychology, she earned a Masters and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Ohio State University. She taught clinical psychiatry at Northwestern University Medical School six years and before that taught at Ohio State. After practicing outpatient psychotherapy and then a full-time private practice in Chicago, in 1995 she joined a consulting group that specializes in customized programs to organizations--socially responsible companies, universities, medical centers, family-owned businesses, and NGOs. Her practice now is almost exclusively organizational development with socially-conscious companies and NGOs or non-profits.

Cliff Arnebeck, a practicing attorney in Columbus, Ohio, became acquainted with the Alliance for Democracy when he and his wife Sibley went to Washington to walk with Granny D to the Capitol building. Along the way he expressed interest in a banner being carried by two AfD members; after listening to Ronnie Dugger and other leaders in the public interest community congratulate Granny D on the completion of her walk across the country, Cliff and Sibley went into the Capital Rotunda to witness and provide moral support for the Democracy Brigade action that some of their new-found friends had planned there. When the U.S. and Ohio chambers of com-

merce launched advertising attacks upon a sitting Ohio Supreme Court Justice, using undisclosed corporate donations, Arnebeck represented the Alliance in litigation opposing that as illegal (reported on elsewhere in this issue). Arnebeck is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Harvard Law School. He practiced for ten years in a corporate/utility environment and for five years as a partner in a major corporate law firm. For the past 12 years his primary interests have been in public-interest law and electoral reform.

Mary White, treasurer of the North Bridge Alliance and another new member of the Council, was born and grew up in a

small town in Georgia, one of nine children. Her life-long interest in human rights and equality had its beginnings in the human-rights focus of the Glenmary priests and nuns in the parish of her church who had a strong human rights focus. While working in New York on the staff of a lay Catholic women's organization called the Grail, where nurses and teachers were trained to work with the poor overseas, she earned a degree in French language and literature from Hunter College. During a year in the Sorbonne she developed, she says, an awareness of "the narrowness of nationalism" and "a strong feeling of being a citizen of the world." After obtaining a graduate degree in French from the University of Chicago, she taught, married, had two children, became involved with the Nuclear Freeze and other peace movements, and came to the Alliance.

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The Workshop on Fundraising

In a workshop at Gettysburg on fundraising for the Alliance, convened by Garret Whitney and I, we discussed the relative merits of a range of fundraising sources available to nonprofit grassroots organizations and how to go about approaching them. The prospective sources included direct mail to new prospects, the sustainers' program, the membership and member-renewal program, major donors, fundraising events (public, living-room, yard sales, etc.), the sale of materials, and foundation grants.

Currently the Alliance is pursuing all of the above approaches. A chart evaluating AfD's recent fundraising efforts was shared with workshop participants (and is available to members from the national office on request).

We also discussed attitudes that get in

the way of asking for money and brainstormed a number of creative ideas we might put to future use. Workshop participants were encouraged to check out the useful resource, *Grassroots Fundraising Journal* (www.grassrootsfundraising.org or chardon@chardonpress.org or 888-458-8588).

Participants acknowledged the advantage of lump-sum foundation grants can provide, but it was observed that overdependence on grants can lead to issue-hopping. Used for special projects or specific campaigns, grants can offer a valuable boost to an organization's general operating income. For the most reliable foundation, however, the general operating income should come primarily from the members.

Committed, faithful major donors can provide an organization with much needed financial stability, and more flexibility, than grants can. An expanding circle of major donors enhances an organization's income base while also helping to distribute the financial burden among individual donors.

-Kati Winchell,
Director of Fundraising

How to Sign on to AfD- Announce

Please!

Alliance Members: Subscribe to Alliance Announce for news, action alerts and official announcements!

To subscribe, send an empty message to: subscribe-the-alliance-announce@igc.topica.com

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Her primary interest now, she says, is "creative thinking to find handles for prying loose the iron grip of wealth in our country and the world."

Dave Lewit of Boston, the newly-elected male ombudsperson, is co-founder and co-chair of the Boston-Cambridge Alliance, editor of its *BCA Dispatch* (monthly), and co-chair of the national Campaign on Corporate Globalization and Positive Alternatives. Professionally he is a social psychologist with experience in teaching, research on small groups and personality, and consulting with public, non-profit, and private organizations.

The Council is now composed of re-elected co-chair Nancy Price and newly-elected co-chair Dooley; re-elected vice-co-chair Garret Whitney, Concord, Mass. (who announced for co-chair, but then decided to run for re-election), and either Jo Seidita or Ruth Weizenbaum (paid-up national members may vote for one--see pages 20-21); immediate past co-chair Lou Hammann, Ortanna, PA.; the newly-elected Secretary, Wheaton; the re-elected Treasurer, Vikki Savee, Sacramento, CA; five at-large representatives, Arnebeck, Nichol, White, Ronnie Dugger, Somerville, MA., and Peter Mott, Rochester, N.Y.; and the following regional representatives (elected from their own regions, not by the convention): mid-Atlantic, Steve Cheifetz, Clin-

ton, MD., and Patricia Hammann, Ortanna, PA.; southeast, Wimbish-Vanderbeck; south central, Johnny Burritt, Hotchkiss, CO, and southwest, Dolly Arond, Northridge, CA.

The convention elected as the nominating committee for the next national convention Ruth Caplan, Washington, D. C., Rick LaMonica, St. Louis, MO., Kay Loveland, Washington, D.C., and Arline

Prigoff, Sacramento, CA.

Proposed amendments to AfD by-laws from Council member Arond with co-chair Dooley would modify the method for electing the Council's executive committee, change the composition of the nominations committee, and limit membership on the Council to ten years. The convention referred these proposals to the new Council.

Globalization, Militarization Linked

Excerpts from a speech by Ruth Caplan, "The Military Crisis and the Consolidation of U.S.-Dominated Corporate Globalization," at the Gettysburg convention of the Alliance.

The present military crisis is directly linked to keeping the U.S.-led corporate globalization machine humming. This requires the military to support U.S. efforts to gain control over new sources of oil in the Caspian Basin as a cushion against Middle East instability and to protect the U.S. imperialist drive for market domination.

U.S. strategic interest in Afghanistan and the surrounding countries of the former Soviet Union pre-dates September 11th. It is tied to the major oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea region and the need to protect strategic pipelines carrying the oil and gas west through Georgia to the Black Sea and east through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. Under President Clinton, military exercises in

the region began in 1997. Before that, President Carter laid out a doctrine that justified using "any means necessary" to protect U.S. national security interests in the region. The news media only occasionally make the connection between the Carter doctrine and sustained U.S. presence in South Central Asia.

In a 1999 *New York Times* magazine article, Thomas Friedman laid out the connection between the military and corporate globalization in the clearest terms, writing: "The global system cannot hold together without an activist and generous American foreign and defense policy. Without America on duty, there will be no America Online." Meanwhile the World Trade Organization advances the same agenda by keeping trade and investment in weapons outside the global trade rules which, thereby, allows massive corporate subsidies to go unchallenged.

The result of such a system is growing inequality and the suppression of popular movements. Military interventions occur to protect corporate markets. In turn, flames of popular discontent burn and, at their extreme, ignite terrorist acts.

It is time to transform corporations, to hold them accountable for the death their war machines bring, and to reconfigure the path to peace through justice.

Public Opinion 7 Years Later

The latest New York Times/CBS poll showed that 61% think members of the Bush Administration are more interested in protecting the interests of large corporations than the interests of ordinary Americans.--*The New York Times* 7/18/02

JOIN, OR RENEW, THE ALLIANCE

Join, or renew your membership in, the Alliance for Democracy, the populist membership organization that has been fighting corporate domination since we were founded

at the Mo Ranch in Texas in 1996. Annual dues are \$35, or \$15 for students or low-income. Specify if you don't want your name used in promotional mailings. We need you!

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9/11 and Us

(Continued from page 2)

injury, U.S. taxpayers and stock shareholders have been left holding the bag for what is mounting into tens of billions of dollars of corporate fraud while many of the perpetrators carry on as if nothing happened. My favorite on this score is Army Secretary Thomas White, who entered the Bush administration in January 2001 after presiding over the Enron division that robbed Californians of billions of dollars in criminally inflated utility prices. Not one congressman has called for his resignation. The executive elite at Enron, Global Crossing, Tyco and WorldCom have been caught hiding billions in losses, lying to investors while cashing out for hundreds of millions in personal profit. They walk free, though tens of thousands of middle and working class people have lost their pension funds, retirement savings and jobs. The American people are stuck in the headlights that were pointed at them on 9/11. Where is serious financial reform? When will Congress utilize its Constitutional powers? When will we address global warming, corporate taxation, single payer health care, alternative energy, public funding of federal elections, etc., etc.?

Fired up and enthused to promote a program of town meetings, I attended a strategy session for 9/11/2 in Boston with roughly 60 activists from various progressive organizations. It was a disciplined meeting that started with introductory remarks, broke into small group discussion, and reconvened to synthesize ideas into the substance of a plan. The timekeeper was prominent and polite. The organizers were pros.

The chair opened with an admo-

nition. We must respect the patriotic fervor of 9/11, he said, and make 9/11/2 a day for somber reflection and quiet presence. It could not be a day for reaching out, as he put it, because that might cause "contention." He did not elaborate. Nobody contested the remark. Apparently the group agreed, but a shadow shot through me. Clearly he was saying that there should be no discussion of the war or its consequences on 9/11/2. I thought to leave right then, but stayed the evening to witness and reflect on the very different perspective this diverse array of people articulated.

I wondered if my previous thinking, and that of my two colleagues, was completely off the mark. Were we being insensitive? Were we being impolitic? Were we being foolish? The implication of the discussions in that room suggested so.

I expressed my opinion that 9/11/2 presents an opportunity to examine the course America has taken in the previous twelve months. Surely many people want to unload their anxieties about the war, the economy and the future. Surely many are angry about Enron *et al.*, afraid of nuclear madness and worried about their civil liberties. 9/11/2 will be a focused moment, I urged, people will want to talk and their emotions will make the conversations purposeful.

My remarks were met with silence. The tenor and tone of the meeting followed the parameters sketched at its start. The group agreed to organize a candle light vigil, a human chain, and on a day before 9/11/2, a panel discussion with guests from Afghanistan and maybe Iraq. They emphasized being respectful at all events and expressed fears that

even in their passivity some may not reach home with their teeth intact.

As I walked to the subway my mind raced. Has superficial patriotism transcended its superficiality through sheer volume, much as occurred during WWI, when those who suggested that J.P. Morgan had more to do with the war than the sinking of the Lusitania sometimes found themselves at the end of a mob rope, and more often behind bars? It is a possibility. Clearly the corporate media has met its mark -- has presented so unified an image of war fevered America avenging its sons and daughters that the peace community is intimidated.

Again I thought about my position. Had the evening swayed me to

The peace community is intimidated

retreat from a program of town meetings on 9/11/2? I thought not, but I looked for reinforcement. I found it in a pamphlet published by WILPF that quotes the historian Henry Steele Commager from an article published in LOOK magazine on July 14, 1970:

...we foster freedom in order to avoid error and discover truth; so far, we have found no other way to achieve this objective. So, too, with dissent. We do not indulge dissent for sentimental reasons; we encourage it because we have learned that we cannot live without it. A nation that silences dissent, whether by force, intimidation, the withholding of information or a foggy intellectual climate, invites disaster.

I've heard this moment we're living called a scourge. Maureen Dowd suggested eloquently in the *New York Times* that all our worst paranoid

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Candidate for Vice Co Chair Jo Seidita

I'm asking for your vote for female vice co-chair for the AfD Council. In addition to providing back-up support for our two capable co-chairs, I can help build our organization to fulfill its enormous potential. We need to increase our membership several times over and go forward with the best of our action plans and campaigns. We need to become strong enough to win. These are my priorities:

CHAPTER SUPPORT. As Vice Co-Chair I will advocate for prototype short and longer-term actions that chapters can carry out to advance each of our national action campaigns. The programs should include "do-it-yourself" talking points and/or suggested sources for speakers. I believe this support is crucial for chapter and membership building.

FUND RAISING. I will help develop sound fund raising plans for both the national office and chapters. Unless we can raise more money, the best we can expect of ourselves is to run in place.

PUBLICITY. Someone once said to me, "If Thou Does Not Toot Thine Own Horn, the Same Shall Not Be Tooted." I propose to work with Nick and a PR committee on tips and guidelines for local, state and national PR outreach. Every time Ronnie is on our local public radio station, my phone rings with inquiries about the AfD. We should appoint a task force to consider a format and investigate getting Ronnie either on Pacifica or individual programs in local communities.

I've been active with the AfD since before the founding convention and

Jo Seidita lives in Northridge, Ca., and is a founding member of the San Fernando Valley Alliance.

have served as a regional representative and most recently as an at-large representative. Prior to my Alliance work, I was co founder and state co-chair of the winning California Nuclear Freeze Initiative. Two years ago I helped found and am president of the California Clean Elections Campaign, which is working toward a 2004 initiative for public funding of campaigns.

From my experience at ground level in presidential campaigns, major anti-Vietnam rallies, and issue conferences, I know how to build organizations and movements, how to motivate people and work with them as partners. Vice Co-Chair will be the perfect position for me to direct my vision and abilities to the Alliance, at the officer level. I have the energy, the drive and the experience to do the job needed, and I know how to use my time to best advantage. I want to contribute my AfD and organizing experience as we go forward. I ask for your vote. If I am elected, I will do well by you.

JO SEIDITA

Statements of Support for Jo

"Jo called me less than 15 minutes after the Nation arrived at her house with the 1995 article which started the Alliance. Her question: 'What can we do?' She has answered that question herself, many times over, with practical advice and assistance. Pulling from her vast experience and contacts as a major grassroots organizer, she set up meetings with key community leaders and funders and kept me from making serious if not fatal mistakes from my inexperience in the early days of the Alliance.

"Jo's organizing skills in the McCarthy and McGovern presidential and Nuclear Freeze campaigns have been reported in books, national magazines and newspapers from the *LA Times* to the *Village Voice*. We need Jo in a leadership position in the AFD."

— Ronnie Dugger

"Jo has been the leading organizer for the AfD in Southern California. She is a wise, hardworking and successful agent of social change."

— Will Forthman,
member San Fernando Valley chapter,
and Treasurer California Clean Money Campaign

"From day-one, Jo's brain power and people power helped shape the Alliance. Her leadership was critical in making it through the tough early years. We need her on our national leadership team as we continue to build the citizens' alliance we were called to be."

-- Sue Wheaton,
Washington DC Alliance,
AfD secretary and
past AfD Co-Chair

"I've worked with Jo Seidita at conventions and in the Clean Money campaign, where she has been an indispensable spearhead, and believe she will be a very positive asset as Vice Co-Chair."

-- Tom Wodetzki,
Mendocino Coast Alliance Co-Chair

*Candidate for Vice Co Chair***Ruth Weizenbaum**

Acknowledging our Alliance goals to be preserving and expanding genuine democracy, both for our own organization and in our country, absent the gargantuan domination of corporations, here are some of my thoughts on the strengths and future of the Alliance for Democracy. With these points in mind, I respectfully request that you vote for me as female vice co-chair of the Alliance for Democracy so that I can work with the Council, our membership, staff and allied organizations to achieve our goals.

I would like us to continue the work that so many of our members and chapters are doing. And I would like to expand our ability to be informed about that work, to affirm and advance it. In addition to our impressive major campaigns, our greatest asset is our members themselves. They are out there in their own back yards taking on a range of corporate abuses. I know too that with each of these forays against corporate domination there is often emphasized a need for broad, systemic change. Let's do more of that. Let's keep working for cost-effective ways for our national office to assist in that work.

We keep hearing from friends like Howard Zinn, David Korten, Nancy Murray, Vandana Shiva, and Walden Bello that the changes we seek will not come from respectful appeals to the current system. They stress that only "the people" can make it happen. That is our big challenge. How can we help build cohesion of the already active and then move beyond that to the next tier of likely participants?

Some concrete ways we can help advance our work are by promoting linkages among members and chapters, and building regional networks so that members nationwide can share and solve problems together. Let's strive for complete member contact information--phones and e-mails in each region, which we openly share. Let's try for area letters-to-the-editors--a must-read

Ruth Weizenbaum lives in Concord, MA and is a founding member of the North Bridge Chapter.

section after headlines. Let's work to get some of the excellent, easily available videos scheduled into our community cable stations. I hope we can expand our ability to simplify our messages to an easily understandable and easily usable format. Let's explore the possibility of documenting for ourselves the incidence (I think it is quite high) of our working in alliance with other organizations. As we work to do more of that we are joining with ten and hundreds of thousands world-wide.

Clearly an essential requisite for our work is a stable, adequate financial base. One very important way to avoid some of our recent pitfalls is to rely primarily on our members and chapters to cover our basic operating expenses. Recently we have had striking success in that direction. I strongly support more effort in that direction.

Our other, major asset is a remarkably capable, multi-talented and deeply dedicated Council, new Executive Coordinator, and staff. I am honored to be working with them.

Regarding my background, I am a retired teacher, guidance counselor, and school psychologist, having taught at the elementary and community college levels. I attended Antioch College, graduated from Wayne State University, and

received at M.A. from Tufts University, Department of Child Study. I am blessed with four daughters and five grandchildren.

I attended the founding convention, was one of the founding members of the North Bridge chapter of Alliance for Democracy, and have been serving as the Northeast Regional Representative in my role on the Council. I initiated and was key organizer of the "Rescuing Democracy" conference in Boston this past November. For the past seven years I have been on the board of the Coalition for a Strong United Nations, serving three years as co-chair and currently as treasurer. I have also been active with Boston Mobilization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (a member of their Raging Grannies vocal group), and numerous other area social justice organizations. For 17 years I have met with the Cambridge Writers for Action, a letter-writing group of ten that meets weekly.

In my own town of Concord I have worked with Citizen's Research and Environmental Watch (CREW) and Grassroots Actions for Peace (GRAP) to address a major radioactive waste site of a military contractor in Concord where the Depleted Uranium Penetrator has been manufactured, and to promote a world-wide ban on the use of that hazardous radioactive material.

My experiences abroad have included living two years in Germany and traveling to all European countries, India, Japan, China, and Turkey, making it possible for me to attend gatherings such as the annual meeting of the Europeans for Nuclear Disarmament (END) in 1980, the first Women's Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Berlin in 1990, the United Nations Habitat for Humanity conference in Istanbul in 1996, and others.

Thank you for your consideration. Your vote will give me the welcome opportunity to serve as female vice co-chair of the Alliance for Democracy.

RUTH WEIZENBAUM

(Continued from page 19)

nightmares from the 1960s are coming true. "We wake up in our 50s," she was quoting a friend, "and our enemies from the 60s have crept back into power." It is no time for

weak knees. It is time for populist patriotism, strong voices, big hearts and creativity. It is time for the Alliance for Democracy. If you are interested in our town meeting proposal, please contact us.

Rolling Thunder Tour and AfD Nov. 2

The Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour arrived in Chicago on June 15. I was one of the lucky ones to experience that fine, sunny day's events. Jim Hightower and company (and he's got plenty) mixed and matched politics, organizing, music, and dance with aplomb. Pulling off a "revival with reason" isn't easy, but I was mighty impressed. Thousands of folks showed in Union Park, dozens performed, hundreds manned tents and tables, and everyone enjoyed the day. What did I learn?

Patch Adams is unyielding: "If you're not enjoying your life," he asserted, "you're wrong." But he walks his talk. "Anything is possible," he assured us, "you just have to work your ass off...I do." And clearly he does.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D. Illinois) is ready to stand up. "When we asked for \$1 billion for education," he implored, "the Republicans said there was no money. But when President Bush wants to wage war on 60 nations for an unlimited amount of time, there's money," he sighed, "tens of billions of dollars of it."

Rep. Jan Schakowski (D. Illinois) is fired up. "I've got to hand it to the Republicans," she opened, "their program is elegant in its simplicity--tax cuts for the rich." Schakowski hit a rhythm, "Republicans have one answer for every situation. When there is a surplus--tax cuts for the rich, when the economy is in recession--tax cuts for the rich, when we're attacked by terrorists--tax cuts for the rich. They're shameless and they play for keeps."

She raises a crucial point, progres-

sives are neither shameless nor relentless. We are kind, generous and yielding. We try not to wish anyone harm, and we are almost always open to another point of view. These very humanistic qualities render progressives vulnerable to the hard knocks of national politics.

Will Rolling Thunder change that? I doubt it, but what it is doing is gathering progressives together in new ways and building bridges between communities for a day. The challenge thereafter--keeping the bridges intact and functioning--is still in front of them and us.

As national planning partners of the Rolling Thunder Tour, we in the Alliance are encouraged to contribute as we can to Jim Hightower and his gang. The next three Chautauquas are July 27 in Tucson AZ, August 24 in Seattle WA, and November 2 in Atlanta GA. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Darci at darci@rollingthundertour.org.

One idea for Alliance interaction with Rolling Thunder has emerged. I

have been talking with the host organizers for the Atlanta Chautauqua scheduled for November 2. Scott and Rita Byers and I think a bit of street theatre is appropriate. In pondering street drama, I like to weave history into the place of it. From that perspective, General William T. Sherman's scorched earth march onto Atlanta at the end of the Civil War becomes a metaphor. If we start there and modify the notion for Rolling Thunder, we can imagine a puffy General George W. Showman and his Corporate Army marching wantonly through the land of Democracy burning everything in sight: the Constitution, Unions, the Environment, the ABM Treaty, Iraq, and those who would question his actions (e.g. Rep. Barbara Lee). Arriving at the end of the march, Mad George and his Corporate thugs would confront Rep. Cynthia McKinney and her gallant defenders, We the People. Out-gunned but not outnumbered, McKinney and the People would defend the last of Democracy valiantly, and with humor, humanism and love reduce the bullies to the wimps they truly are. Or something like that.

Do you think it has promise? If so, we need to create a playwrighting committee and we need committed actors. Please contact us here in Waltham if you're interested in helping. This is a fun one.

—Nick Biddle

Why the Democrats Get Nowhere, by a Big-Time Caterer

"First of all you've got to understand that the Democrats aren't organized.

"Let me start with the Republicans. They understand the essence of a fundraiser. They don't care about the food, they'll eat ham salad sandwiches. But they do know their liquor, and you've got to have plenty of that. They schmooze along, drink themselves silly and they raise a lot of money.

"Now take the Democrats. They

pay maybe a hundred dollars, which is nothing compared to the Republicans. For them, we have to have substantial food, beef tenderloin, pate, a heavy cocktail buffet. And they lineup, like at the trough, and try to eat their way through a hundred dollars. But they're sloppy, pigs, they waste about as much as they eat. I tell you, the Democrats are disorganized, and they don't raise much money."

CHAPTER REPORTS

Mendocino Chapter Forms Video Library

The Mendocino chapter of the Alliance has organized a video lending library to assist other chapters in the Northern California area in finding out what the mass media don't want us to know. It is set up for members from other locals to drop by and borrow for free. Our overworked video committee members do not undertake to mail videos to people outside our area, but the project may serve as a model for other chapters. The library includes exciting films on a variety of political topics, including, for examples, "The New Nuclear Threat" by Helen Caldicott, "Viva Judi Bari" by K. Rudin, "The Truth & Lies of 9-11" by Michael C. Ruppert, "Corporations, Agriculture & Pesticides," by Marc Lappe and Wendy Blankenheim speaking to the AfD on Jan. 5, 2001, and a series of Democracy University tapes presenting speeches by Michael Moore, Kevin Danaher, Noam Chomsky, Michael Parenti, Ralph Nader, Medea Benjamin, and a number of others.

Every Friday at 1 p.m. on KZYX radio in our area, we produce and conduct the program, "Corporations & Democracy." Members of the public are invited to join us for special guests and call-in community discussion as we explore the impacts of corporate domination on democracy and the people's rights. Recent guests have been Howard Zinn, Helen Caldicott, and Greg Palast.

We want our democracy now! For uncensored, alternative news on today's national and international stories, we sponsor and promote listening to "Democracy Now!" with Amy Goodman on local community TV channel 3. It's broadcast Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm, sponsored by the Alliance for Democracy. It costs the chapter \$500 a whole year's worth of

programs, five days a week.

Our members and their guests assemble monthly on "First Friday" for town hall meetings at Fort Bragg Town

Hall (free admission, donation requested).

—Tom Wodetzski
tw@mcn.org

Chapter Reports at Gettysburg

[The following 16 chapter reports, summarized by Kati Winchell from the information provided by those persons whose names follow the reports, were given during workshops at the Gettysburg convention in June.]

Greater Sacramento

The chapter works in coalition with other local groups on many issues, including Clean Elections (national, state, and local); globalization/fair trade; water; the local living wage campaign; an anti-war campaign—with a strong emphasis on lobbying efforts. (It's hard to mount big events.) Chapter member Henry Clark has produced a pamphlet on the California Energy Crisis.

A core group of six to ten members meets twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays. They make chapter decisions by formal motion, second and passage or by consensus. They fund their chapter through local dues and donations. Most chapter members are also national members.

—Jim Prigoff, Vicki Savee

Indiana

The Indiana chapter, centered in Indianapolis, works on corporate control issues such as tax subsidies, privatization, environmental degradation, and globalization.

They have worked with Public Campaign on their Base Building Project and are in the process of forming a new Clean Elections coalition. They also support the local Living Wage Campaign and work closely with the Hoosier Environmental Council. Chapter member Jack Miller has written a booklet on privatization, and the chapter has had many op-eds and free-lance pieces published on the topic.

They've formed a group which will study the ten-week course on the corporation on the website of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and will try to get other groups to take it as well. Plans are in the works to compile a "corporatism for beginners" booklet from this material to present at a workshop in November.

On "corporate" Earth Day, they sponsored a free event, "Do you know what's in your food?" and co-sponsored other events such as a Media Event and a showing of Bill Moyers' special on NAFTA's Chapter 11, with a panel.

Their general membership meets the third Saturday of each month, and they have extra study group meetings and task force meetings when working on a project.

They have about 135 names on their listserve. Decisions are usually made by motion and a vote, almost always unanimously. They have raised funds through \$10 dues, passing the hat, and in-kind donations, although last winter they adopted a rule to waive the annual local dues and ask everyone to join national. They have acquired standing as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

—Jack and Stevie Miller

Greater Cincinnati

Founded in 1997 initially as the joint Dayton-Cincinnati chapter, this group eventually evolved into the Greater Cincinnati chapter. Their biggest efforts thus far took place in March 2000 when they organized a workshop on "Corporate Power and Abuse" and in November 2000 when they joined forces with the Coalition for a Humane Economy to cre-

(Continued on bottom, next page)

A "Chapters in Action" Workshop

Representatives from ten chapters gave reports at the workshop on "Chapters in Action," as reported elsewhere this issue. Discussion was lively and very informative--we were all impressed by the variety and depth of chapter activities around the country.

In general, many chapters have been working on one or more of the Alliance's national action campaigns: Clean Elections, Corporate Globalization, Transforming the Corporation, and Health Care. Chapters have focused on a range of other issues as well: local water grabs, living wage, clean-up of polluted military sites, slow growth and preservation of open space, the California energy crisis, local tax subsidies and privatization, human rights, and 911-related issues, to name a few.

Most chapters reported having a core group of eight to 15 members, with more members available for special projects. Many meet once a month, with additional meetings scheduled on an ad hoc basis. Some meet bi-weekly, a few do not meet for months at a time. Depending on the chapter and the circumstances, decision-making takes place in a variety of ways, including formal motion, discussion, and voting, consensus-seeking, simple-majority, and informal discussion.

Funds are raised through various

means: annual dues, passing the hat, donations at events, special appeals, fund-raising events, barn sales, etc. Some chapters don't raise funds at all. Of those that do a few send all the funds to national, while most retain funds at the chapter level. Still others raise funds for both.

Chapters tend to take one of two basic forms: chapters that work together consistently on Alliance actions and issues (the "traditional" model), and chapters that work in tandem with other local and regional organizations on a spectrum of social, political, economic, and environmental issues (the Independent Allies model). For chapters that are not currently active, chapter contacts serve as distributors of information.

Participants took a look at what chapters need and want from the national office, national campaign organizers, Council members and regional representatives on the Council, Alliance internet providers (web, ANN, ALL), national publications, and other chapters. In general, chapters reported wanting more practical hands-on action plans and recommendations; training in organizing and leadership; materials and resources of all sorts; better communication between chapters, and between chapters and national.

Specific questions considered in-

cluded: How do we organize effective actions? How can we bring more leadership to our work? How can we link up with constituents, such as local small business owners, labor unions, public libraries and public schools, etc.? How can we inject more humor into our work? How can we bring in new members to existing chapters?

In response to the last question, participants explored reasons for why a person would want to join the Alliance. Responses included: few other organizations have the same corporate systemic analysis; we connect the dots between the many single-issue concerns and point to why those concerns exist and what it will take to win; we provide a service for other organizations.

The workshop conveners (the undersigned) presented simple ways to start new chapters wherever a cluster of members or interested people might exist. These methods are described in a Chapter Starter Kit, which is available upon request from the national office (781-259-1179 or peoplesall@aol.com). The Alliance is entering a period of growth. Anyone interested in starting a new chapter is invited to call the office or their regional reps.

--Garret Whitney and Kati Winchell

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ate public opposition to the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), which was meeting in Cincinnati then. They have also worked on campaign finance reform, passing ballot-initiative Issue 6, which is now about to be revoked.

--Jack VanderVen

Northbridge MA

This chapter's work on Clean Elections for Massachusetts has included signature collecting, organizing a State House rally, holding a community meetings, conducting a letter-to-the-editor writing campaign, and supporting Clean Elections candidates.

Work on corporate globalization has included organizing public forums on the

WTO, the IMF/World Bank, the FTAA, and global warming, which generally draw about 100 attendees. They have sent letters to local public schools and libraries alerting them to the potential threat that the GATS and the FTAA pose to their existence. Letters are available for other chapters' use upon request.

The chapter organized an all-day conference last fall, "Rescuing Democracy: A People's Call to Action" which featured 15 notable speakers (with an attendance of 120), and a successful fundraiser with Howard Zinn last February (with an attendance of 650). Other activities have included creating AfD Fourth of July parade floats in Lincoln

and large-scale barn sales.

Currently, North Bridge is asking Alliance chapters and members to sign on and contribute to a booklet project which is aimed at sending the Alliance's GATS/FTAA booklet to all 535 members of Congress, urging them to oppose these proposed agreements. They have a core group of about 15 members, with more than that turning out for special events, and more than 300 in their mailing list. Decisions are made by simple majority vote. Their annual chapter dues are \$25, but collection is irregular.

--Garret Whitney and Kati Winchell

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More Chapter Reports from Gettysburg...

Lake Superior Basin, MI

This chapter is spread out all over Michigan and Wisconsin. They work with numerous single-issue groups. Lake Superior Alliance alone has about 40 environmental groups. Because of the single-issue emphasis, it's hard to get people in the area to identify with the Alliance.

--Vern Simula

Mo-Kan, MO

A core group of eight to ten people meet every three months. They are activists in a number of different areas, and they bring the AfD perspective to other groups. 9/11 brought together representatives from many different groups, such as Reclaiming Democracy, Justice Not Revenge, an artists' group called Culture Under Fire, and a free speech group.

--Ben Kjelshus

AfD Minnesota

Meeting in Minneapolis-St. Paul, the chapter has a core group of about ten to twelve members, with numerous good satellite members. They meet monthly and they're connected to everything. They recently co-sponsored a three-day ReVisioning conference, attended by up to 500, with numerous speakers, among them, Ronnie Dugger (freshly back from India), Marjorie Kelly (author of *The Divine Right of Capital*), Michael Albert (editor of *Z Magazine*), and David Korten. To celebrate their second year in existence as a chapter, they sent out invitations to everyone on their database with a twist--if people wanted to come, they had to become members.

--Ted Dooley

Capitol City, New York

Meeting in Albany, this group has about ten to twelve core members, with more on hand for the big events. They meet once a month. This chapter likes to specialize in hands-on, tangible things that people can do. They do a lot of coalition work, particularly with Citizen Action of NY, of which AfD is the Clean Elections coordinating element. Their Clean Elections efforts have included tabling at festivals and showing

up as Clean Elections Crew with mops and brooms in front of candidates' fundraisers.

They've also organized bus loads of people to go to D.C. for Inaugural protests in January 2001, and recently for the April 20th Stop the War Rally. They also organize congressional visits, do letter-writing campaigns and lobbying, and produce a regular radio show.

--Joe Seeman

Rochester, NY

The Rochester chapter works in coalition with numerous groups, on a variety of non-Alliance issues, except for Clean Elections, a cause which has a broad base of support among these groups. Early on, they did not advertise AfD very much, which resulted in low membership. After a series of shared projects with coalition colleagues this changed. They participated in Human Rights Day vigils with progressive organizations (last count 87), began sponsoring monthly Progressive Potluck meetings for area progressive groups, helped set up a Progressive Calendar for area events, and are involved in a local initiative called Issues Mapping. Following these collaborative efforts, they sent a membership invitation mailing to their progressive colleagues, which resulted in a jump from seven to 50 paid Alliance members.

--Peter Mott

Maverick, Texas

This chapter formally launched the Alliance's Independent Allies model of organizing. They meet once a month as an Alliance chapter, prior to the second of two Independent Allies (IA) meetings each month. These meetings, until recently, took place at a local restaurant. Decisions are made through consensus-seeking, with a simple majority as a fallback. All Maverick chapter members are also national members; most IA members are not. The IA meets informally as an ongoing forum.

AfD chapter members promote public-funded elections, recently by sending the Alliance's End Political Bribery booklets to about 20 local newspaper

editors. They've organized a vigorous signature collecting campaign to stop the City Council's giveaway of a regional water aquifer. They've worked on persuading the federal government to clean up the pollution military bases have imposed on local neighborhoods. They've invited speakers and held discussions on Fast Track/NAFTA and the US involvement in the Middle East, among numerous other topics.

Last November they organized a successful regional event at which they raised \$1,100 for national.

--Armando Quintanilla and Keith Lyons

[The next seven reports were sent in writing in advance of the convention.]

Davis, CA

The Davis chapter works on educating the public on trade agreements, now focusing on the GATS and water, and on fighting Fast Track. Work on these corporate globalization issues has included sponsoring many teach-ins, working with selected offices at the State Capitol on trade and water grabs, organizing an event around Moyers' Chapter 11 "Trading Away Democracy," writing regular op-ed pieces in the local paper, and tabling at the local Farmers' Market. Chapter member and Council Co-chair Nancy Price has spoken at rallies, written letters to the editor, appeared on local community TV, and produced TV programs on these issues.

The chapter also works on local politics, slow growth and preservation of open space, in coalition with other local groups, and has influenced the enactment of two local ballot initiatives to these ends. They've helped found the student-based Davis Working Group on Globalization, and have had a role in the founding of the California Institute for Community Democracy (Alliance Treasurer Vikki Savee serves on its board). They're a member of the new Davis Art and Revolution Collective, which produces puppets, skits, and so forth.

Future plans include starting a study group in January 2003 on Corporations

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and Democracy using the WILPF study materials, and organizing an all-day teach-in on the subject in the spring.

They meet informally, around specific issues in coalition with other groups. Decision-making is informal also. Funds are raised from yard sales and donations at the door and payment for materials.

--Nancy Price

San Fernando Valley, CA

The chapter is working to get a Clean Elections initiative on the state ballot. A study group is focusing on the corporation. They produce a monthly newsletter. Monthly meetings are preceded by reminder calls a week in advance through a phone tree. Decisions are made by motions, seconds, discussion, and voting. Chapter funds are raised through dues. Chapter members are encouraged to also become national members.

--Tobi Dragert

Washington, D.C.

The D.C. chapter works on health care, corporate globalization, voters' rights, and Clean Elections. Some members are students of "deep politics." In the past several years, D.C. members have helped organize and publicize major events in DC. Members study a lot on email, swapping information. This year the focus has been on understanding the "war on terrorism." Following Election 2000, the chapter produced a voters' check-off booklet called "Are Your County and State Democracy-Ready?"

While they haven't met in person for some months, they communicate regularly through a vibrant e-mail network. Decisions are made by a few members through informal discussions. They don't have dues. Funds are raised by passing the hat or sending out a letter. They have a policy of directing all contributions to national. Their mailing list consists of about 300 names, with a smaller chapter activist list of about 20.

--Sue Wheaton

Boston-Cambridge

The Boston-Cambridge chapter initiated the introduction of the pioneer Globalization Impact Bill in the Massachusetts state legislature, held a seminar on Strategic Nonviolence, held meetings on Muslim issues after 9-11. The chap-

ter has produced lectures, reports and panels on positive alternatives to corporate globalization. They produce a monthly newsletter called *BCA Dispatch*.

They have a core group of about ten to twelve members who meet monthly, and a mailing list of 70 members. Decisions are made by a steering committee by a steering committee. Apart from an occasional endorsement, they have no votes.

They spend little time on "business." Funds are raised from dues, often in response to the [ital title] *BCA Dispatch*. Members choose a level of annual dues from \$1 to \$500. This helps cover the costs of producing and distributing the newsletters, meeting-space rental, and the occasional contribution to a consanguine cause, etc. They're planning to stage a fundraiser for developing a website.

--Dave Lewit

AfD Baltimore

The Baltimore chapter works on campaign finance reform and corporate globalization issues. They meet once a month, and make decisions by consensus (but never seem to agree on what to do!). They raise funds through dues and the sale of contributed items.

—Bonnie Preston

Brooklyn

The initial group of folks in this chapter, about a four years ago, met a few times, weren't very focused, and quickly faded away. About two years ago, Jerry got a group of four together. They worked on living wage issues, joined the Ad Hoc Coalition for Real Jobs, and produced a policy paper on how to do economic development for people, not corporations. Even this effort was hard to sustain. They've been inactive for more than a year. In New York, as in any large city, there is a lot of competition for activists' time. There are dozens of organizations, some with much larger budgets. Lots of people are saying "End Corporate Rule" now. What's needed here is an on-site community organizer to begin putting AfD's unique niche out there.

--Jerry Polner

Portland, Oregon

The chapter works on opposing Fast Track and FTAA--they took the leadership in lobbying the state legislature ask-

ing Congress to hold hearings on the impacts of present trade agreements before adopting any new ones. This proposal passed both houses with only one negative vote. Since then, they have been lobbying the state's Congressional delegation with visits, postcards, telephone calls, and letters to the editor.

Chapter members have spoken at neighborhood associations, public hearings, community colleges, churches. They're expanding their speakers' bureau to accommodate and solicit more appearances.

They also are working actively to support a ballot initiative to ban corporate contributions to state candidates and limit the amount of individual contributions.

In addition, the Portland chapter has:

- o Organized a coalition to sponsor Jim Hightower's appearance in cooperation with student government at our local university to support a public finance ballot measure; attendance by 600, great exposure.
- o Presented a public forum on effective communication with the media and your government officials
- o Organized two public forums on globalization; well-attended, expanding our working group.
- o Spearheaded a coalition to organize a full-day conference on Another World is Possible, attendance about 400.
- o Co-sponsored a public forum on the connections between Enron, campaign contributions, and our local utility (owned by Enron).
- o Organized and sponsored four ten-week study groups on Corporate Personhood using the materials from WILPF.
- o Core members have completed an eight-week study course on Globalization developed by the Northwest Earth Institute

They meet twice a month. Decisions are made by vote of members, but decisions are usually reached with consensus. Funds are raised through dues, collections during public forums, and fund-raising letters sent to their mailing list.

---Dolores Hurtado

Boston City Council Supports AfD Initiative

On Wednesday, June 19, the Boston city council, after a vigorous half-hour debate on the impact of international trade and investment agreements on their fair city, passed overwhelmingly a resolution which declared the council's "full support for the passage of the Globalization Impact Bill (H.2119) by the Massachusetts state legislature and governor." The Boston-Cambridge AfD chapter has been working long and hard, with allied organizations, to get the Massachusetts bill H.2119 passed. The successful effort to have the city council support the bill provides important momentum for it in the state legislature.

Before the vote, B-CA chair Dave Lewit delivered a fact sheet to all council members which began: "*Global trade agreements, negotiated without any local input*, are taking away local democratic authority. It is time for Boston, the home of the Boston Tea Party, to protect its right to govern in the interests of its people and to assert its authority over foreign corporations."

The council's resolution takes note that "Mondev International, a Canadian developer, has filed a \$50 million suit against the U.S. government, claiming that they were treated unfairly by Boston officials and that Massachusetts state

courts violated NAFTA when their Downtown Crossing retail project failed and the rights to Haywood Place were taken from them." Lewit's paper emphasized to council members that if the NAFTA tribunal (made up of trade lawyers) awards the Mondev corporation damages, "there will be no appeal to any court in the U.S." and any damages paid by the U.S. to Mondev would probably be recouped from Boston taxpayers.

The Globalization Impact Bill is sponsored by State Rep. Byron Rushing, who earlier sponsored the Massachusetts bill against the commonwealth's doing business with the Burmese dictatorship, which the U.S. Supreme Court eventually invalidated. The globalization bill would establish a state commission to study the impact of the World Trade Organization and related agreements on Massachusetts laws and regulations. The commission would then recommend what positions the state should take on such agreements under negotiation.

These successful strategies can be useful in other communities working on local resolutions. Copies of the Boston and Massachusetts resolutions can be found at [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/globalization under GATS](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/globalization%20under%20GATS).

AfD Mailing Plan Working

Early returns indicate that the AfD has a new--for us--way for increasing our membership: direct mail. Experts consider a direct mail return of 1% to be successful and do not expect initial mailings to cover their costs. A recent Alliance test mailing to a third of the 6,000 subscribers to a movement magazine has returned over 75 new members, a very healthy return rate of over 3.5%. The first-time income from the new members' contributions covered all mailing expenses. A second group of 2,000 letters has already been mailed out, and a third is scheduled to follow.

Some time back Alliance representatives learned from the large-membership Council of Canadians that for quite a while their organization had experienced difficulty growing beyond their original core membership until, by using direct mail, they expanded their membership to more than 100,000. This test mailing confirms for us their experience, so plans are being made for regular direct mail to closely-allied groups and lists. We're optimistic that this program will provide a significant and continuing lift to our work and our organization.

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Official AfD Ballot

Dear AfD Member:

This is the official ballot for the election of Female Co-Vice Chair, the only office not decided at the 2002 Convention.

After marking your selection below, please fold this form in thirds so that your selection does not show. You may staple or tape your ballot.

Please mail the folded ballot in the return envelope provided in this issue. Be certain that your name and the name of the other member if you are in a two-member household are clearly legible on the outside of the return envelope so that we can verify membership before removing the secret ballot(s).

Only an original newsprint ballot will be accepted, unless you live at an address where two people are AfD members, but you receive only one copy of Alliance Alerts. You may submit one photocopied ballot for the additional member, but one of you must use the official ballot, and both members' names must be legible on the return envelope.

Female Co-Vice Chair

Check one:

☐ **Jo Seidita** (15 votes at convention)

☐ **Ruth Weizenbaum** (39 votes at convention)

Ballots must be postmarked by midnight, Monday, September 16, 2002.

Johannesburg in August

Selling the Earth to the Corporations

Ten years ago when the Earth Summit convened in Rio there was great hope that this would be a turning point in protecting the earth. Despite Rio's declaration, known as Agenda 21, setting out many worthy goals, the die was cast when President Bush, Sr., announced without a blush that Americans could not be expected to change their lifestyles, which were, he said, their patriotic right.

Now ten years later the United Nations is preparing the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in late August. Kenny Bruno of CorpWatch, which has been tracking the corporatization of the UN, reports from Bali at the final preparatory meeting, or "PrepCom," for the Johannesburg summit, that things are even worse with Bush, Jr.: "June 13, Bali--'What are we going to do about the United States?' It's a blunt question for a UN diplomat, but it's on the minds, the lips, and in some cases the T-shirts of many of the thousands of delegates who recently gathered here...."

Time and again the U.S. objected to language supported by the developing countries and even by the European Union. Corporate types were swarming everywhere pressing their agenda.

At the previous PrepCom in New York City, that agenda became clear. Rather than trying to hold corporations accountable and setting goals for environmental protection and devising the means to enforce them, the UN summit delegates talked about voluntary partnerships between any combination of governments, international organizations, and "major groups," which explicitly include corporations. After a presentation from the Chair of the PrepCom on these partnerships, a delegate from the EU stood up and declared that they were most interested in forming partnerships around energy and water. That was a clear reference to the desire of European transnational corporations, such as the water giants Vivendi and Suez, to form partnerships with governments in developing countries to corporatize their water and energy infrastructures.

That is the real agenda of these partnerships.

Within the public interest community strategies for organizing around Johannesburg are now being developed. Many organizations are prepared to send people and to protest the official process. South

African social movements are mobilizing. Other social movements are planning to join with them. Protests within the United States to oppose the destructive role our government is playing are very important. Watch Alliance Announce for what can be done when plans take shape.

--Ruth Caplan, Co-Director, Campaign Against Corporate Globalization and for Alternatives

The National Action Campaigns

The four national action campaigns approved by previous Alliance conventions are in various stages of activity.

The national action group on public funding for public elections, which has metamorphosed into an campaign against political bribery, was not reported on at the convention. Jim Ace is no longer with the AfD. Ms. Had-dock is monitoring closely, with members of that AfD group, the controversy about the Federal Election Cmsn.'s rules which eviscerate certain provisions, those concerning soft money in the 50 states, of the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan law. The congressional project for public funding of federal elections appears to be in abeyance, for how long, no one knows. In Massachusetts, the government is haltingly funding, partially, the Clean Money law enacted 2-1 by the voters in 1998, but the legislature appears to be intent on setting up a second ballot initiative on the proposal worded in such a way as to activate anti-tax hostility. In Arizona, Sen. John McCain of that state has endorsed the Clean Money law there, from which fact some deduce that he may no longer oppose, as he long has done, public funding for federal elections.

Ruth Caplan and Dave Lewit, co-chairs of the national action group against corporate globalization and for constructive alternatives to it, reported on facets of that ongoing congeries of subjects that are dealt with in other reports in this issue.

The 60-member national action

group to transform the corporation hopes to have its initial national organizing meeting in the fall, according to its chair, Dugger, who announced that he is looking for a successor who can devote more time than he can to that role. Anyone wishing to join this group or propose a meeting place and time for the fall meeting may communicate with him (781-894-1179, or rdugger123@aol.com).

The national action group for universal health care was given leave, by convention consensus that such groups can name themselves, to change the name of its cause to single-payer national health insurance. Calvin Simons, its long-time chair, announced his resignation to devote himself more fully to his Sonoma County, Cal., chapter. The convention gave him a standing ovation of thanks. Rick LaMonica of St. Louis, the other co-chair, continues in place and is looking for a new co-chair.

The Mailing Plan...

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Obviously our results will be dependent on the appropriateness of the lists for the AfD, the more receptive they can be expected to be to our message. If you know of or have lists or groups of people who might fit the bill please get in touch with Kati Winchell at the Waltham office.

We'll keep you informed of this program's progress in future issues of Alliance Alerts.

--Garret Whitney



Water and the GATS

In May 2000 *Fortune* magazine called water the "oil of the 21st Century." That is very bad news.

We're sure water has no hidden industrial potential in 2002 that matches the potential oil held in 1902. Water will not expand the GNP through new applications. Water is water, it gives life to the organic world. And it is already scarce. The United Nations calculates that currently more than one billion people lack access to a safe water supply and more than 2.4 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation. Two out of three people on earth will be living with water shortages by 2025.

Well, then, how else might water be the "oil of the 21st Century." Certainly, oil was central to the wars of the 20th century. Oil became the lifeblood to armies in the First World War and by the end of the century it was the object of conflict itself (e.g., the Gulf War). Still today oil is the prime spoil of war. One can imagine how water, given existing and projected shortages, may quickly become the source of war, the object and goal of war, since man will surely fight for water if that is the only way to get it.

In these circumstances, water conservation is not just ecologically virtuous, it is a matter of national security. That is why it is our duty to question deeply the application of market principles to water management. *Fortune* was talking about water as an object of profit. Finding, cleaning, and distributing water generates about \$400 billion in revenue around the globe each year. The US accounts for \$80 billion of that, but that could grow enormously since currently about four-fifths of the 76,000 water systems in the country are non-profit public enterprises responsible to local taxpayer authority. If the roughly 60,000 or so public water works were corporatized and sold to the highest bidders, just think of the money to be made. It is reasonable to expect that this would yield a fivefold revenue increase to \$400 billion. Do you see the wheels turning in the brains

of those *Fortune* readers?

People around the country are getting the opportunity daily to ponder water issues, and not to their delight. Within weeks of arriving in Waltham, I learned of a situation that got my attention 70 miles north in New Hampshire. Twelve months earlier a company calling itself the USA Springs Corporation bought 100 acres of land straddling two towns called Nottingham and Barrington. USA Springs promptly drilled two wells illegally (that is, without permits) to ascertain what they had already calculated, that the land they purchased sits on top of a broken granite aquifer, the single aquifer, as it turns out, that feeds the public water supply for both towns. Upon confirming their scientifically prepared hunch, USA Springs promptly applied to the Nottingham Zoning Board for a permit to build a water bottling plant. The Zoning Board approved the application. When residents learned the details of the USA Springs plans, they erupted in anger. If the local officials fight and win the rights to their own water, they may face a lawsuit from USA Springs Corporation.

People have a right to water, which is why waterworks are placed in the public trust. In managing that trust, reasonable people use water conservatively to safeguard it for present and future generations. In contrast, corporations exist to make profit, and if water is their product, they will sell as much of it as they can to that end. The question at hand is which entity has greater rights, the public trust of Nottingham and Barrington or the private gain of USA Springs Corporation?

This question is not abstract. All Americans are confronting the potential loss of their public water systems. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is currently engaged in a "request" process within which member countries are negotiating to open more of their services, even essential public services like drinking water, to international competition by corporations. Leaked documents provided to the *Washington Times* by the

Alliance for Democracy reveal that the European Union is requesting the U.S. and 27 other countries to privatize their water systems and open them to competition by foreign corporations (the leaked documents and more may be consulted on the AfD website by clicking on the "Corporate Globalization" homepage link). The documents were leaked because these WTO negotiations are secret, which means that the people for whom these deals will apply are not being consulted. Our public water systems may be subjected to rules favoring ownership by foreign corporations without our federal government ever telling us such negotiations were even going on. Are you ready to let that happen quietly, or should we put up a fight?

On the next page you will find the text of four cards. One is written to the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick (formerly an Enron consultant). A second is written for your Congressperson, the third for your local newspaper, and the fourth is for the AfD national office. We want you to use these for public education, outreach, and action. We have two suggestions for how you may do that:

1) Paste, or have each of the texts printed onto, postcard size cards. Use the first card (to Zoellick) to inform your friends and neighbors about GATS, water and the threat to public services posed by the secret GATS negotiations. Ask your friends and neighbors to complete and mail all four cards.

2) Buy quantities of all four cards from the national office (5 cents per card, shipped) and follow the same steps thereafter.

—Nick Biddle

Below addresses are for first two cards.
USTR Robert Zoellick
600 17th St. NW
Washington DC 20508

US Rep. _____
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
(Cards are horizontal for reproduction)

To Ambassador Robert Zoellick, United States Trade Representative
DON'T TRADE AWAY OUR DEMOCRACY – MAKE GATS REQUESTS PUBLIC

It is not OK in a democracy for you to secretly negotiate terms for the provision of public and private services. If the European Commission's GATS requests had not been leaked recently, we wouldn't know they want our postal service and municipal water systems opened up for competition by foreign corporations. Deregulating and privatizing public services are major policy issues that require open public debate. We the people and our elected officials must have a voice. All the GATS requests must be made public.

Here are the public services that I am most concerned about:

☐ Health Care ☐ Drinking water ☐ Social Security
☐ Postal Service ☐ Libraries ☐ Education ☐ Transportation

 _____ Signed _____ Date

Here is what I have done today to STOP THE GATS ATTACK

☐ I sent a post card to Ambassador Zoellick demanding that the GATS requests be made public.

☐ I sent a post card (☐ letter) to U.S Representative _____ calling for his/her leadership in demanding that the USTR make the GATS requests public.

☐ I sent a ☐ post card (☐ letter) to the editor of my local newspaper.

 _____ Name of paper

☐ Please let me know what other actions I can take.

 _____ Name

 _____ Address

 _____ Phone _____ E-mail

To the Honorable Rep/Sen _____

I have just written to Ambassador Robert Zoellick, United States Trade Representative, about the secret negotiations taking place on the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Here is what I said:

"It is not OK in a democracy for you to secretly negotiate terms for the provision of public and private services. If the European Commission's GATS requests had not been leaked recently, we wouldn't know they want our postal service and municipal water systems opened up for competition by foreign corporations. Deregulating and privatizing public services are major policy issues that require open public debate. We the people and our elected officials must have a voice. All the GATS requests must be made public."

Congress must also demand that these requests be made public. I look to your leadership on this.

Sincerely, _____ Signed _____ Date

Letter to the Editor: Until recently, I never heard of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Now I have learned that this global agreement under the World Trade Organization threatens our public services. Worse yet, this is being done in secret. I have just written to Ambassador Robert Zoellick, United States Trade Representative, and to Congress calling for these secret negotiations to be made public. I told Ambassador Zoellick:

"It is not OK in a democracy for you to secretly negotiate terms for the provision of public and private services. If the European Commission's GATS requests had not been leaked recently, we wouldn't know they want our postal service and municipal water systems opened up for competition by foreign corporations. Deregulating and privatizing public services are major policy issues that require open public debate. We the people and our elected officials must have a voice. All the GATS requests must be made public."

Congress should stop Fast Track legislation and demand that the US Trade Representative stop trading away our democracy in secret.

 _____ Name _____ Date



A Letter to Our Members

An Appeal from the Executive Coordinator

Dear Members of the Alliance for Democracy,

The litany of the Bush madness is unnerving. Tragically and pitifully the administration pursues a single strategy for maintaining its grip on the American psyche, which is to spread war and rumors of war. Though the FBI and CIA have judged the war to date a failure in terms of quelling terrorism or its threat, that only goads the White House into greater bellicosity. Iraq, the Philippines, and up to 78 other countries are targets of and unwilling hosts to CIA and covert forces working inside their borders. On June 13, Bush unilaterally and, perhaps, unconstitutionally ended the ABM treaty. The next day the Army broke ground in Alaska for new missile silos, and a Russian military expert declared his country's need to upgrade its Topol-M nuclear warhead. The nuclear arms race is back.

On Monday, June 10, families of those who died on 9/11 held a press conference at the National Press Club to demand a Blue Ribbon investigation into the events of that tragic day. In an unprecedented, clumsy display of cynical politics, Bush preempted their call by declaring the capture of an American terrorist with a "dirty bomb." He neglected to say that Jose Padilla had been in custody for a month, and that the government held no evidence whatsoever of his having possession of such a bomb. War and rumors of war...

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan recently played chicken with nuclear

bombs: Israel and Palestine burn.

The economy teeters from bad faith, systemic deceit and unspeakable greed. Tyco, Arthur Anderson, Global Crossing, Dynegy, Halliburton, Enron and so on... The *Wall Street Journal* admits that "bookkeeping and regulation of American financial markets have become laughable." Yet systemic reform is nowhere in sight.

The tight relationship between Big Business and the government, revealed intimately in the wake of Enron's collapse, strangles American democracy as never before. Kevin Phillips, prognosticator of the Republican majority in the 1970s, writes in his most recent book that "democracy must be renewed, with politics brought back to life, or wealth is likely to cement a new and less democratic regime--plutocracy by some other name."

The corporate domination of society, wedded since 9/11 to patriotism's appeal and the fear of defying it, have closed down public debate on the wealth gap, the environment, nuclear weapons and the social infrastructure (i.e. education, transportation, Social Security, health care and the corporate media). Yet, in nearly every casual conversation people talk clearly and often defiantly about corporations. They know democracy is being undermined and with it their civil rights and liberties. Still, people aren't doing enough about it, either because they don't know what to do or because they're confused and comfortable simultaneously.

Not so with members of the Alliance for Democracy.

Alliance members challenge the status quo with grassroots, non-

violent activism. The AfD is not only an antidote to this troubled and jaded time, it is one of the few on the political horizon. Since its founding in 1996, the Alliance for Democracy has proven to be:

1) **Prescient.** The AfD was the first grassroots organization to identify the nature and legal status of corporations as the linchpin to social reform.

2) **Fundamental.** The AfD works from the premise that all its actions must lead to transforming the corporate juggernaut, subordinating it to democracy and totally expelling it from our politics.

3) **Effective.** AfD sponsorship and collaboration with Granny D were crucial to passage of the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan law.

4) **Cutting Edge.** The AfD is at the forefront among organizations educating and organizing the public on the WTO, FTAA, and GATS schemes and their threat to the Public Interest and Trust, and with our "Democracy Brigades" we are the first organization to bring civil disobedience to bear on behalf of public funding of elections.

5) **Positive.** Alliance chapters work on renewable energy, protecting family farms, slowing urban sprawl, creating an alternative economic model, and other projects and subjects as they autonomously determine.

At the national convention in Gettysburg in June, under the theme, "The American Emergency: Democracy or Fascism?" to which Granny D, Greg Palast and Marjorie Kelly spoke eloquently:

(Continued on next page)



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Suite 2-16
Waltham, MA 02451
Phone: 781-894-1179
Fax: 781-894-0279
Email: peoplesall@aol.com

Keys to Action

To:

Join or support a new Alliance national action group for peace, see page 10.

Plan a fall meeting of the national action campaign on the corporation, p. 28.

Join a group of 12 on launching a national progressive network, p. 10.

Vote to elect our co-vice chair, see pp 20-21 and 27.

Help write a play for a Rolling Thunder Chatauqua event next Nov. 2, see p. 22.

Form a new chapter of the Alliance, see p. 24.

Call to Members

(Continued from overside)

- We heard founder Ronnie Dugger call for a non-violent revolt against what is happening to our country to culminate with millions of Americans converging in Washington in summer 2004, and I sought to identify the monopolizing of water for profit as a central crisis forced upon us now by the ongoing corporatization of the world;
- We condemned in strongest terms the administration's self-declared movement toward initiating the use of nuclear weapons to wage wars and called for no nuclear use by the U.S. whether in first strike or retaliation;
- We decided to take an active lead this summer with a planning conference to promptly bring into being a communications center whereby progressive and populist organizations and allies can unite in action in this emergency.

Tom Paine said, "We have it in our power to begin the world again." Today, we have it as our duty to do so, else "plutocracy under some other name" (i.e., fascism) will sweep American democracy into the dustbin of history.

We face an urgent crossroads and we need your continuing support.

Please read and enjoy this packed edition of the Alliance Alert. Afterward, contact us with your ideas for convergence, your tales of democracy, renewal of your AfD membership, your wish to become an AfD sustainer, or a generous contribution to the ongoing cause of the Alliance for Democracy.

Thank you,
Nick Biddle
Executive Coordinator
The Alliance for Democracy

JOIN, OR RENEW, THE ALLIANCE

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, Zip, State _____ Email _____

Enclosed: ___\$35 ___\$15 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$200

Additional contribution _____ Monthly pledge? _____

___ Check here if you do NOT want AfD to use your name in promotional mailings

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL TO AfD, 681 Main St., Waltham MA 02451