

ALLIANCE ALERTS

FTAA in Miami .3
Co-Chairs5
BRC7
Questionnaire 8
Nike vs Kasky.. 10
Chapter Rep...12
Water Pamphlet .14
Indictment16

Volume III, No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

Fall 2003

CANCUN VICTORY- NEXT STOP MIAMI

By Ruth Caplan

By now you know the Cancun story. Corporate globalization promoted by the World Trade Organization suffered a severe setback on Sunday afternoon, September 14, when the deadlocked negotiations at the WTO's Fifth Ministerial were unexpectedly halted by the Mexican chair.

At the end, almost 70 developing countries, buttressed by Brazil, China and India in a Group of 22, hung together. Demanding concessions from the U.S., EU and Japan on agricultural subsidies which were not forthcoming, they hung tough on opposing initiation of negotiations on the "new issues" of investment, competition, and government procurement. This time they refused to be browbeaten into submission as they were at the 2001 ministerial in Doha when the new issues were first proposed.

In a characteristic display of hubris, the United States even refused to cut its enormous cotton subsidies as requested by poor north African nations. Subsidized U.S. cotton has flooded the global market with cheap cotton, making it impossible for African cotton farmers to survive. This became a flashpoint in Cancun. Clearly President Bush cares more about protecting wealthy farmers and winning the next election than he does about fair trade.

This refusal reinforced the growing sense among developing countries that

Cancun Victory continued on page 2



AfD Council member Cliff Arnebeck who has pushed to find the U. S. Chamber of Commerce members financing the takeover of the Ohio Supreme Court.

photo: J Tarbell

KEEPING JUSTICE HONEST

By Ronnie Dugger

"Is the Ohio justice system 'still for sale?'" asked a front-page story in *Lawyers Weekly* in Ohio. "Not likely," the story answered its own question, noting that secret donations to judicial elections have now been stymied by lawsuits, including the one in which the Alliance is a plaintiff demanding revelation of the "secret donor lists" to such elections in Ohio three years ago.

When the Ohio Elections Commission held in September, 4 to 2, that the donors in 2000 must be identified, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that a Democratic member of the panel, William Booth, said corporations donat-

Keeping Justice Honest continued on page 10

TAKE THE FOR SALE SIGN OFF THE WHITE HOUSE

By Stefanie Miller, Indiana AfD

"It's not a democracy, it's a plutocracy," said Jack Miller, of the Alliance for Democracy. "It's government of, by and for the wealthy. Big campaign contributions are a backdoor way of hiring public officials. We pay their salaries, but their loyalty is to their backers."

The day before President Bush arrived in Indianapolis for a \$2000 per plate fundraising dinner, the Alliance joined Common Cause, Citizens Action Coalition, Veterans for Peace, ACORN and the Hoosier Environmental Council at a

joint news conference to oppose this fundraising frenzy, and to call for full public financing of elections. The conference was held on the Statehouse lawn in front of Public Citizen's inflatable White House. The message: It's time to take the For Sale sign off the White House.

Since the mid-1990s, insufficient funding and the "soft," unregulated money blitz by both major parties have jeopardized the integrity of the presidential public financing system. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold) helped by removing

White House for Sale continued on page 3

Cancun Victory

Continued from page 1

"free trade" has not helped build their economies or raise their standard of living. This made them highly skeptical that new global rules on investment would serve their interests so they just said NO.

AfD and the international movement which successfully defeated the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in 1998 can now breathe a sigh of relief that investment negotiations will not move forward.

It is also more likely that the developing countries will not rush to make additional commitments to open up their service sectors to foreign competition in the GATS negotiations, especially since no new interim deadlines or goals came out of Cancun.

The Business Roundtable, representing major U.S.-based corporations, had anticipated trouble at the WTO and last spring called on the U.S. to focus its attention on pushing the business agenda in negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and in bilateral trade negotiations. Now, this is where we too must turn our attention.

Will Cancun Bring Down the FTAA in Miami?

It may not bode well for the Bush administration or their corporate friends in the Business Roundtable that Brazil and the U.S. will co-chair the FTAA ministerial in Miami November 20-21. In a September 24 article "Brazil Calls For Simpler Agenda On Free Trade," the *Financial Times* reports:

"Brazil argues that issues such as rules on services, investment (and intellectual property) - which most interest the US - should be removed from FTAA." They quote Celso Amorim, Brazil's foreign minister, who told the *FT*: "If we were to deal with all that within FTAA, it would become unviable within the [established] time frame." The United States Trade Representative's (USTR) office responds to the *FT* that "it has no intention of abandoning the FTAA process or of radically scaling back the talks."



US Trade Representative Bob Zoellick (center) at the FTAA meeting in Quito, Ecuador in November 2002

Now, after Cancun, the U.S. will have to deal with the fact that half of the 22 developing countries in the WTO block were from Latin America. And even though agriculture is not slated to be on the table in Miami, the other Latin American members of the group are likely to support Brazil's "simpler agenda" position.

Also good news for the Alliance's GATS campaign, the *FT* reports: "Mr Amorim suggested that Brazil would be willing to discuss regulations on services, but only in line with World Trade Organization rules." We can take this to mean no "top down" rules where all services would be included unless a country lists a specific exception which could be rolled back later. A top-down structure would allow U.S. corporations to pry open Latin American markets for essential services like health care, education and drinking water using very favorable trade rules and to lock in privatization of these services.

For more about the FTAA, read the Hemispheric Social Alliance's excellent report "The FTAA Unveiled" posted on the Alliance for Responsible Trade's website <http://www.art-us.org>

In the State of Rigged Elections, Free Trade and Free Speech Don't Mix

In anticipation of protesters arriving for the FTAA meetings, Miami Police Chief John Timony requested that the city pass an ordinance that would, according to the Citizens Trade

Campaign, "empower police to randomly search any 'assembly' of three people, animals or cars; forbid possession of basic items such as glass bottles and batteries; and outlaw basic protest tools such as signs on sticks, puppets and parade floats." The ordinance would expire on November 27.

The Miami ordinance is modeled on the restrictive ordinance passed in Sacramento last June to try to squelch the mobilization against the U.S.-initiated agricultural mini-ministerial. AfD Council members Vikki Savee and Nancy Price helped organize the mobilization's legal team and have been sharing their experiences with the Citizens Trade Campaign and Miami organizers. Reports and photo documentation of police actions in Sacramento can be viewed at <http://www.fighttheman.us/>

Miami City Council members were favorably inclined until local and national groups protested vehemently against this assault on their right to assembly and free speech. On September 25, the Council voted to postpone consideration for 30 days, leaving almost no time for a legal challenge if the ordinance was passed.

Carrie Biggs-Adams of the Communication Workers of America summed it up well: "It is perhaps appropriate that such a draconian ordinance be used to set the stage for the FTAA Ministerial. FTAA rules are undemocratic and would stifle local government's say on local issues. This ordinance will stifle people's objections to FTAA policies in the street."



Latin American protesters at Quito FTAA meetings with signs that say "We are not merchandise" and "FTAA never."

photo: J Tarbell

photo: J Tarbell

White House for Sale

Continued from page 1

the soft money for the general election but hurt by doubling the "hard," individual contribution limits to \$2,000 per election. This doubles the influence for wealthy donors, but provides no increase to the public funds.

Now the presidential system is in serious financial trouble. Any presidential candidate who wants to stay in the public financing system for the primaries has a spending ceiling of \$45 million. President Bush, again opting out of this system, is expected to raise \$200 million in private money just for the primaries; however, these private fundraising trips cost plenty in public money, including travel costs and increased local security.

This disgraceful abuse of the system is reminiscent of the first time the robber barons united to elect William McKinley in 1896. Sen. Mark Hanna, then chairman of the Republican National Committee, raised around \$7 million -- \$150 million in today's dollars.

Hanna's quip is fitting today: "There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money and I can't remember the second."

Who writes these \$2,000 checks? One-tenth of 1 percent of the population makes up this "donor class" of corporate executives, lobbyists and wealthy elite. Many are older, white males, much wealthier than the general population. What do they get in return?

Consider that in 1999-2000, the donor class gave \$1.8 billion in federal campaign contributions. They got \$1.35 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years. What we get are huge government debts and deep cuts in social programs.

This is not a Democrat-or-Republican issue. This is a democracy issue. A representative democracy should not be about raising obscene amounts of private money with strings attached. This fundraising corrupts the White House and corrodes faith in government.



photo: S Miller

The system is not working. We need a clean money/clean elections system of limited spending and full public financing, like ones in Arizona and Maine. Clean money and clean elections would strengthen our democracy and restore the public's faith in government. We must take the For Sale sign off the White House—off our government—once and for all. As one Indiana Governor said a hundred years ago, "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing." When the politicians are eating our bread, then they will be singing our song.

MOBILIZING FOR MIAMI

November 18-21

Let the world know that the Bush corporate agenda is not our agenda! Protest for free speech, not free trade. The Alliance had an excellent turn out for Seattle in 1999 when the WTO was first stopped in its tracks. Now let's make our presence felt in Miami.

The best source of logistical and organizing information is at the Citizens' Trade Campaign website www.citizenstrade.org/stopftaa.php

Find out who else is going from your community and join together to arrange cheap transportation. Check the CTC website for tips.

For affordable housing, check www.citizenstrade.org/miamihousing.php. For those who don't have access to the web, the website says:

"When looking for housing, note that the Peoples' Gala on the 19th, and the

main march and rally on the 20th will be at Bayfront Park on Biscayne Blvd. The best option for hostels is in South Beach, Miami. Not super close to downtown Miami, but there are buses regularly. Find hostels and hotels through a Google search or try the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We have reserved a block of hotel rooms in Miami for the week of the FTAA Ministerial. These rooms will cost approximately \$90 per night for a double. To reserve one or more rooms in this block, contact Susan at sruether@citizenstrade.org or 202-778-3321 as soon as possible.

"Several organizations are working to identify homestays. Check back for more information about housing options."

The best available calendar of events is also on the CTC website at www.citizenstrade.org/miamicalendar.php Events already scheduled include teach-ins Nov. 18 on Sustainability and Democracy, Nov. 19 on Health and Social Development, and Nov. 21 on Faces of the Global Economy. A coalition march and rally is scheduled for Nov. 20 and the Peoples'

Gala for Global Justice on Nov. 19.

If you can't make it to Miami, you can help organize a solidarity event in your community. Reach out to the labor unions, churches, fair trade organizations in your community and plan a local rally which will make people sit up and take notice, or even better, jump up and join the movement!

Between now and Miami, we must get the word out that we oppose the Bush administration's corporate trade agenda. Key points we should make in opposing the FTAA include:

- * Protect workers in the U.S. and throughout the Americas--no NAFTA for the Americas
- * No more trade agreements that give corporations the power to sue governments to protect corporate profits (investor to state)
- * Protect essential services like municipal water and sewer systems, education and health care from being subjected to trade rules favoring privatization
- * Free speech and democracy, not free trade and repression.

ALLIANCE ALERTS

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ALLIANCE ALERTS is a publication of **The Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, 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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ALLYING FOR DEMOCRACY

The insensitivity of the warmongers and the assault on our rights continue. We must reach out and connect with our fellow citizens. This issue of AA is full of examples of Alliance members reaching out to other peoples and other groups to stop the corporate onslaught on our lives.

Reports from the Black Radical Congress, the Take Back Democracy Conference and the Alliance booth at Sol

Fest only tell some of the efforts that Alliance members are carrying out in the name of social justice and reclaiming our democracy. In Ohio, Sacramento and DC, the Alliance is challenging the powers of the corporate right in the courts.

We must all look around our communities and see who we can ally with. Drop our

Every gun that is made, every warship launched every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

Dwight Eisenhower



cultural pretensions. The young need to solicit the old. The wealthy have to listen to the downtrodden. The color of our skin, look of our body, the culture of our clan can no longer make a difference. If we do not ally now, the opportunity may be gone, our democracy lost. It is up to us. We are the only ones who can do it.

COUNCIL NEWS

Vikki Savee, Council Treasurer, reported on October 3 that there is \$17,355 in the bank, \$4685 of which is unrestricted. At the end of August we were \$2368 in the red; at the end of Sept. we were \$746 in the black. The debt to non-members is \$7318, most of which is overdue rent.

The council is planning to have an in-person meeting in January in either Sacramento, Boston or Washington, DC. They will discuss the future of the Alliance. Fill out the questionnaire on page 8 of this issue of AA to get your thoughts known for that critical discussion.

Lou Hammann is researching the possibility of having an Alliance convention

in Gettysburg, PA next summer.

Jack VanderVen resigned from the council expressing regret, commenting on the state of the world and contributing to the fund for an ad in *The Nation*. The Council thanked Jack for his committed service as Regional Rep for the North Central Region.

The council is putting an ad in *The Nation* to solicit new members for AfD. Peter Mott initiated this effort, volunteering to match funds for the ad.

Congratulations to Sue Wheaton for being awarded the Elma L. Holder Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in nursing home reform.

HELP US

We—the Alliance—need lots and lots of people to push for progress on all our national and local campaigns, lawsuits, citizens' indictments, educational efforts. And we need YOU to help in developing guidelines of the Dos and Don'ts for: recruiting new members; retaining old members; outreach to start nearby chapters; forming coalitions with "equal and independent allies;" giving us reasons one should join AfD; giving us reasons not to join; problems you want fixed.

Please send your suggestions to Peter Mott at interconnect-mott@juno.com or 585-381-5606.

GREETINGS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS,

Well now! Analysis of the California vote shows it's a split state..70% in the south voted for the recall, while 80% in the north voted against it. But a fantasy of splitting into two states would do nothing to relieve the reality of national policies and politics.

Most critically, the loss of federal dollars to state governments, a kind of Republican (and Lieberman Democrat) structural adjustment program, like the IMF and World Bank policies towards developing countries, will challenge Arnold to meet his campaign promises of "no new taxes," while he tries to find funding for education and other needed programs.

In taking on Grey Davis, Arnold cashed in on the voters anger over special interests and politics as usual. Yet, a powerful combination of corporate home builders, commercial developers,



photo: J Tarbell

Nancy Price, AfD National Council Co-Chair

and real estate interests poured money into his campaign. And he has appointed two veteran developers to his transition team. This does not bode well for preserving agricultural land, controlling growth, and careful planning to meet the state's water needs.

Among major "third party" candidates, Arianna Huffington, Independent, and Peter Camejo, Green Party, continually raised important issues, but infatuation with Arnold, the star, and shallow press coverage meant little of substance was discussed or reported.

But Arianna's voice came through as she took on the establishment and spoke out in support of campaign finance reform and backed the Clean Money/Clean Election initiative that AfD Vice Co-Chair Jo Seidita and many other individuals and organizations are hoping to qualify for the California 2006 ballot.

So if we are beginning to see a national groundswell of backlash and organizing against the excesses and lies of the Bush regime, let's work to project a particular democratic vision and set of demands to meet the needs of all and protect the environment in our states, too.

But, over the next months, we are in the fight of our lives. Some say it is easier to organize in reaction against a strong opponent -- We shall see if that is true.

In coming Alliance Alerts we would like to feature stories of what you all are doing...as individual members and in chapters. Let's hear about your activities

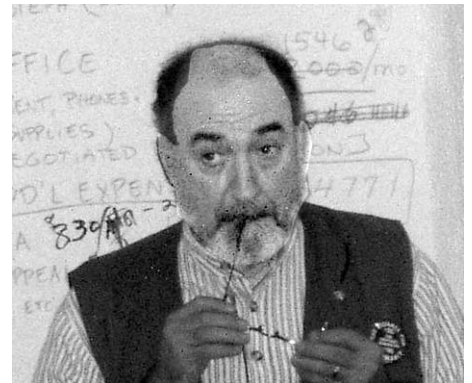


photo: J Tarbell

Ted Dooley, AfD National Council Co-Chair

and learn from each other what we can do to focus on specific strategies and tactics. What's working for you might work for the rest of us.

For daily inspiration, we recommend you tune in to the activities of Ben Sher, David Schwenk, and friends, on their Democracy Caravan. Visit their website (www.democracycaravan.org) and click on "Join the Caravan" and then "Travel Itinerary." If they are coming to your town or nearby, call and lend a hand (phone: 916-798-1072; Benjmshe@yahoo.com).

In Phoenix before the Presidential debates they were able to get their "Ten Questions" into the hands of Dean, Kucinich and Kerry, and were featured on local evening TV and interviewed on national CNN. The caravan's phones have been ringing off the hook with people complaining about lost jobs, lies of the government, and expressing a general feeling of angst and uncertainty. The people want to be heard.

Let us hear from you.
In Alliance, Ted Dooley and Nancy Price

AfD ON THE WEB, FREEDOM FLYERS, ANN & ALL

Keep up the information flow by distributing freedom flyers in your community. You can download the most recent freedom flyer off of the Alliance for Democracy web page. Copy a handful and hand them out. It is a great way to get information out.

The most recent Freedom flyer is by Walter Williams, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, and author of the forthcoming book, *Reaganism and the Death of*

Representative Democracy. The title of the flyer is "Bush's High Crimes Against the Nation."

You can also get Alliance information on two list serves ANN and ALL. ALL exists for members to converse electronically about issues, actions events etc. In recent weeks ALL has enjoyed an exhilarating rebirth of activity and discussion. To join ALL write: the-alliance-subscribe@igc.topica.com into the address box of an email and send the

email with no further instructions.

ANN functions as a bulletin board to announce events, action alerts, accomplishments and issues specific to the AfD. Council members, staff, campaign chairs and chapter contacts may post messages on ANN, but all members can receive them. To join write: the-alliance-announce-subscribe@igc.topica.com into the address box of an email and send with no further instructions.

Do it today and get connected

BLACK RADICAL CONGRESS: A SISTER GROUP?

by Dave Lewit Boston 617-266-8687
dlewit@igc.org

Corporatism and imperialism are at the root of our troubles. So we believe, and so believes the Black Radical Congress, whose organizational life parallels that of the Alliance for Democracy. BRC was founded in 1998 by black labor leader and TransAfrica Forum president Bill Fletcher and professors Manning Marable, Leith Mullings, Barbara Ransby, and Abdul Alkalimat. Chapters or affiliates thrive in the San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, the Washington DC area, the New York area, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Raleigh and St. Louis. The issue of racism yokes with corporatism and imperialism to drive BRC's campaigns, which focus on "fight back" alternatives to the war on terrorism and "education not incarceration." Feminism and class struggle inform all their work.

This year's BRC biennial conference, "War, Racism, and Repression: Confronting the US Empire," was held at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, June 20-22, with about 150 participants. Day one featured speakers from many African, Latin American, and Caribbean countries. Chronic tension in Zimbabwe got special attention, but



Linda Burnham who spoke on the Durban Conference and Humberto Brown who spoke on Venezuela at the BRC Conference

much news was discussed, for example:

- * Afro-Colombians, many of whom dared to found farms and coops under a new law, are being genocidally slaughtered by paramilitaries (Speaker: Marino Cordoba).
- * Brazilian replacement workers crossed into Venezuela to bolster the popular Chavez government during the US-encouraged elite-union strike (Speaker: Humberto Brown).
- * The 75 dissidents recently imprisoned and 3 executed in Cuba had actually been paid as saboteurs by the chief of the US Interest Section (Speaker: Lucius Walker).

Concerning the US, arguments for reparations for slavery were offered. Workshops noted many local actions which may be effective in combatting imperialism and repression. It was

observed that Black community sentiment is overwhelmingly anti-war. One item in BRC's complex Political Report, adopted by the Congress, challenged military service as "a way out" for Black people.

Like the Alliance for Democracy, the Black Radical Congress is considering reforming national-local relations. Rather than electing officers this time, they elected a national leadership team with collective duties. Chapters are often called "organizing committees." A \$150,000 grant has been obtained to set up an office with expanded web (<http://www.BlackRadicalCongress.org>) and list-serve activity.

Opportunities for collaboration between AfD and BRC include bringing the Brazilian democracy innovation—participatory city budgeting—to the USA. The Boston-Cambridge Alliance has already established relations with Burlington, VT for this purpose, and BRC members in New York City have expressed interest. It should be noted that New York has official block associations which could prioritize public funds at the borough level, as do Burlington's neighborhood associations through its city council. These US organizations recommend and pressure, whereas Brazil's citizen budget organizations mandate and distribute, with citizen oversight. The New York opportunity may challenge AfD to revive and expand its dormant NYC chapter, or simply to collaborate with BRC's existing local organizations.



BRC members Assata Zeroi, John Jones and Jessica Watson hold a discussion over a 2004 election poster

photo: D Lewitt

photo: D Lewitt

TAKE BACK AMERICA CONFERENCE

Join us for the
JUNE 4, 5 & 6 • WASHINGTON, DC

PROGRESSIVES TAKE BACK AMERICA

By Cliff Arnebeck

Two thousand progressive leaders from around the country gathered in DC last summer to take stock of their prospects to "Take Back America." Co-Convener Robert Borasage also described it as an "idea primary" in which many of the Democratic primary candidates would speak. Absent were the two candidates most directly responsible for passage of the Congressional resolution for war against Iraq, Senators Joseph Lieberman and Congressman Dick Gephardt. (Gephardt sent a videotaped address.) Also absent was Ralph Nader, who had declined to throw his support as a Green Party presidential candidate in 2000 to Al Gore. Neither fostering war in violation of the UN Charter nor giving up on the Democratic Party as the opposition to the Republican Party, the Conference theme was unified in support of progressive politics.

Wes Boyd, one of the founders of Moveon.org, discussed the Internet as a "sticky medium." Those who sign on to an Internet site tend to stay, he said, in contrast to those who see a TV ad. The Internet enables two-way communication and, therefore, a greater sense of involvement and opportunity for grassroots politics.

A test of whether the Internet could achieve critical mass sufficient to affect this Presidential election occurred on June 24-25 when Moveon.org held its Internet primary with Senator John Kerry, Governor Howard Dean and US Rep Dennis Kucinich as the run off candidates. If one of them got more than 50% of the votes, he would have received the organization's endorsement and PAC funding. The results: Dean received 43.87% of the vote with 139,360 votes and Dennis Kucinich was

second with 23.93% and 76000 votes. In 48 hours, 317,467 people voted.

Howard Dean's campaign has made the greatest use of the Internet thus far. Through Meetup.org Dean has coalesced his supporters nationwide via the Internet in local meetings involving some 32,000 nationwide during the week of the Take Back America Conference. This army of Internet activists places volunteer supporters at every public appearance of Dean, including in the lobby of the Omni Shoreham Hotel on June 5. This Internet based suc-

cess gives Dean an Internet leg up on his competitor Dennis Kucinich with Moveon.org. Senator Kerry's chances are hurt by his vote for the Iraq war resolution, in-as-much-as Moveon.org was at the core of the international movement opposing the war on Iraq.

The Bush campaign, in sharp contrast, is pushing the old technology of big bucks for TV ads, perhaps doubling its 2000 fundraising to reach \$200 million for this campaign. Should the winner of the Internet idea primary go on to gain the winning votes via the new sticky medium, it may prove the undoing of TV ads as the political technique of choice in 21st century America.

SOL FEST:

SWEATY, TIRED, SUNBURNED AND HAPPY

By Richard Leamon, Ukiah, CA AfD

Sol Fest is about renewable energy systems but it also gets into politics and entertainment. John Schaefer and his people went all out this year. It was bigger and better than ever. Jim Hightower didn't have enough books for everyone that wanted one including me.

We (AfD folks) loaded up all our booth materials and drove down early to set up our canopy in preparation for the weekend. We hung a Clean Money-Clean Elections banner on the back of our booth so it faced busy Highway 101.

Saturday morning we put all our handouts (same type of handouts people always give to me—buttons, t-shirts, decks of cards) on the table and waited for the crowd. We did not have to wait long.

People came to our booth steadily almost all day long. Speeches by Jim Hightower and Granny D put people in the mood to learn more about election reform. Our national embarrassment (the recall election) also helped. Our AfD people were excellent. They talked to everyone willing to stop by for information. It was wonderful to see

Myles Everett of Sonoma AfD was there with a Kucinich booth.

You know if you put out a can for money on a table people will put money into it? We have found that to be true. Sunday evening we broke down our booth and put everything into a couple of cars. I have things that are not mine and someone has things that belong to me. We will work it out. We did our best to educate the public and had a good time too.



Granny D speaking at Sol Fest in Hopland, California, August 24, 2003

photo: Sol Fest



WHITHER GOES THE ALLIANCE?

By Jim Tarbell

Since last spring, when Nick Biddle announced there was a financial crisis at the national office, there has been talk across the country about what the Alliance is and where it should go from here. In January, 2004 the National Council is meeting in Sacramento, CA, Washington, DC or Boston, MA to have a multi-day discussion on the future of the Alliance. If you can not join them in person, you can send in the questionnaire to give them your ideas.

Members have taken on a variety of approaches. In his resignation letter to the National Council, Jack VanderVen stated that AfD's "major weakness, aside from its financial problem(s), is its lack of strong, stable, focused leadership concentrated in one or two individuals operating, but not autocratically, with reliable, predictable continuity out of a national office."

On the other hand, after hearing about the financial state of the Alliance and the decided remedy, Stevie Miller from Indianapolis sent a letter saying: *Members who are not on the Council are very often left in the dark about what goes on in that area called "national Alliance...So, now it was decided to keep the office in Waltham with one full-time employee for six months, while hitting up the members for more money and writing grants...It appears that the mission of the Alliance is to keep the Alliance going. That's not enough to attract or keep members.*

The reality is that a good idea and good people aren't always enough. Maybe major changes are needed. Maybe it's time to have a virtual national office and/or regional offices staffed with volunteers, or to move it to DC or to the West Coast.

Everyone agrees that the 40 chapters are extremely important. In our chapter, we survive on a shoestring budget, and regularly talk about how we can be most effective without burning out a bearing. For now anyway, our chapter can continue with or without a national.

I had an exhilarating experience of

discussing these questions with over a dozen Alliance members in the Boston area. At the end someone commented that it was the best Alliance discussion he had ever had. The reality may be that it is not a discussion that happens much and if it is, people do not feel they are heard.

At the Boston gathering I found the exciting plethora of issues that Alliance members are dealing with all over the country, along with some incisive thoughts on the future of the Alliance and what role it can perform in reducing corporate power and promoting a truly democratic future.

People pointed out that to begin with, we should think about the definitions of what we are dealing with. What is our vision of a true democracy? What

is the difference between capitalism and democracy? What is the confusion between free markets and competitive markets? Which corporations are we concerned with? How do we define them?

There are many questions to be answered as the Alliance finds its way into the future. Join the discussion by answering the questions below, which are the same questions the National Council members are pondering for their January meeting. Use the space provided or write your answers on a separate sheet. When you are done send them to the national office at 760 Main Street, Waltham MA 02451. Volunteers there will collate your answers for the Council members to consider at their January meeting.

QUESTIONS ON THE ALLIANCE'S FUTURE

Ted Dooley came up with these questions for the Council members and says: The first three are theoretical. The final four are not. If you have other questions to be posed, please post them. There are no right or wrong opinions or views.

1) What is the nature of AfD's mission and has it changed - and if so how and in what respect?

2) How does AfD's mission fit with the rest of the movement?

3) What is our particular role in the movement and has it shifted?

4) How are we doing at it?

5) What is our structure (administrative, organizational, etc.)?

6) Are we structured and organized to address our role, to accomplish it?

7) If not, how can we change to do so, or, if yes, improve to do so better?

Send to: Questionnaire, Alliance for Democracy, 760 Main St., Waltham, MA 02451

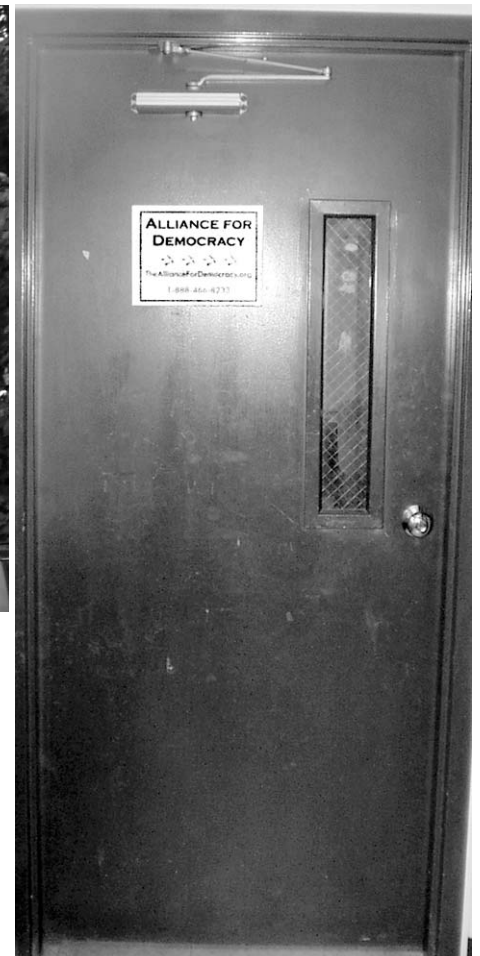
AfD NATIONAL OFFICE: 760 MAIN STREET, WALTHAM MA 02451

By Jim Tarbell

Like most Alliance members, I live far from the national office. I visited on a wet August day and met Stephanie in the parking lot as she dashed to the post office.

I entered the door by the archway and climbed the stairs to the second floor. On the right I found a bright red door with an Alliance for Democracy sign taped in the middle. Inside I entered the 20x40 national Alliance office. Three

desks line the west wall. There is a copier, storage area and space for a conference table on the the east side. Volunteers staff the office four days a week. Ronnie Dugger can often be found here late in the afternoon.



Above: photo of second story AfD office. To get there, park on the street, walk behind the stone church and into the door by the archway. Climb the stairs and enter the door to the right.

Left is a photo of operations coordinator Stephanie Scadding. She is in the office 9:30-5:30 Monday through Friday with a little time for lunch and runs to the post office. Below is a photo of the west side of the office. Volunteer Lynn Gargil stuffs envelopes for an AfD mailing.

photos: J Tarbell





NIKE VS KASKY:

One Suit Settled, More to Go

By Doug Hammerstrom

Kasky v. Nike, a legal case that drew the attention of activists challenging corporate power, has been settled. The settlement has elicited both favorable and unfavorable comment. What are the spectators to think?

Kasky was upset that Nike had lied about their sweatshops. He talked a lawyer friend into filing a complaint against them. Sweatshop advocates brought attention to the case to publicize their on-going campaigns against Nike and other clothing manufacturers who sell products produced at inhumane factories. Activists challenging corporate power became involved in the case when Nike asserted a novel theory of first amendment that would have expanded corporate Constitutional rights.

Kasky settled the case for a \$1.5 million payment to the Washington D.C.-based Fair Labor Association (FLA) for program operations and worker development programs focused on education and economic opportunity. While critics are correct to point out the corporate connections of this organization, this

payment along with Nike's legal fees (and probably Kasky's as well) represent an amount that Nike will not want to pay out often.

The Kasky case resulted in a good California Supreme Court decision saying that commercial speech is not entitled to the same protection under the First Amendment as political speech. The fact that the U.S. Supreme Court did not use the case to expand First Amendment protection for commercial speech is actually a positive outcome. Since the U.S. Supreme Court was unlikely to create new law striking down corporate personhood, merely holding the status quo is a victory.

Both sweatshop activists and corporate power challengers made good use of the public attention to the Kasky v. Nike case to gain publicity for their positions. But prolonged lawsuits are particularly hard on the immediate parties and their attorneys, both financially and emotionally. It is unrealistic to think that the case would continue to provide the attention that it had over the last year.

Whatever the evaluation of the effect of the settlement, it is time to move on.

The corporations are moving on to other cases as vehicles for their agenda to expand corporate constitutional rights and so must we.

Pacific Lumber is being sued for fraud by the Humboldt County (CA) district attorney. Pacific Lumber is claiming that it does not need to provide government mandated information because of its First Amendment rights. The Federal District Court judge that ruled on the Do Not Call list invalidated it on the theory that commercial speech cannot be treated differently under the First Amendment than political speech.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) along with the Program on Corporations, the Law and Democracy (POCLAD) have developed a model legal brief challenging corporate constitutional rights. CELDF filed the brief as a friend of the court in the Do Not Call list case and intends to file it in other cases as well. There seems to be no end to the opportunities to challenge corporate assertions of constitutional rights. We should start paying attention to these new cases and use them to raise the visibility of our message.

Some websites to get further information are: www.celdf.org; www.poclad.org; www.duhc.org; www.reclaimdemocracy.org; www.wilpf.org.

Keeping Justice Honest

Continued from page 1

ing \$225,000 should face the same disclosure requirements as an individual giving \$25. And William L. Mallory Sr., another Democrat on the commission, said he is concerned with "a growing assault on the judiciary in this country."

The state press is covering the story blow-by-blow, and the *Dayton Daily News* editorialized that if "corporate warriors" wish "to avoid being soiled by ugly political campaigns, they'll have to stop throwing their money in the sewer." Ohio Governor Bob Taft has issued a politically prudent statement that he has always favored disclosing campaign contributions. The Alliance attorney, Cliff Arnebeck, has continued demanding that a bank fork over a list of the secret donors, and the Chamber and its allied group have continued to parry that legally.

The case comes into another focus during a November hearing of the Ohio

Elections Commission. It will not surprise anyone if this case goes all the way to the Supreme Court in Washington.

The *Lawyers Weekly* story, which gives the history and background of the case and the lawsuit, was written by Denise G. Callahan. Here is part of it:

"Columbus attorney Clifford O. Arnebeck Jr., who represents the Alliance for Democracy, told the Elections Commission he needs to depose people who are on a secret list of campaign financiers who backed the attack ads. He said he believes they might have information that will be helpful in determining whether the ads truly were planned as issue-advocacy messages or whether they were planned attacks designed to bump (Ohio Supreme Court Justice Alice) Resnick.

"Arnebeck suspects Republicans — including Governor Bob Taft — pressured these people into making what were essentially campaign contribu-

tions. Arnebeck added it is painfully evident these were not issue-advocacy messages and, therefore, the names on the list cannot be kept secret....

"The Chamber has refused to produce the document — and the commission has no muscle of its own to compel cooperation.... The commission ordered the Chamber to release the documents and is still working with the attorney general's office to craft a motion for the Court of Common Pleas to force the revelation....

"Squire Sanders & Dempsey attorney William Todd, who represents the Chamber and Citizens for a Strong Ohio, said the ads constituted protected political speech under the Constitution and the Chamber shouldn't have to reveal its contribution sources...in violation of Plaintiffs' rights to freedom of speech, due-process and freedom of association as guaranteed by the First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution."

SECRET ORDINANCE PROMPTS PROTEST

By Vikki Savee, AfD Council Treasurer
and SCSA Legal Team Member

On Tuesday, June 24, 2003, in Sacramento CA, Doug Hammerstrom, an Alliance member from Mendocino, CA and one of the attorneys defending protesters arrested at the Sacramento Ministerial, was to represent a woman arrested for charges under an Emergency Parade Ordinance that no one seemed to know anything about. None of the members of the local legal community, including the Public Defender's office, knew of this ordinance. At the City Clerk's office, Doug had to wait while the first public copy was printed.

The Sacramento City Council passed this ordinance on June 17 and, although the local protest organizers, the Sacramento Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (SCSA), had met with police and city officials, they were not advised of this new ordinance, nor was the coordinator of a permitted march from the State capitol through downtown Sacramento. We have since learned that city, county and state law enforcement entities, including what the city manager in his report referred to as the "other law enforcement bodies," were well versed in these new laws. Starting Sunday, June 22, peaceful demonstrators were being targeted and arrested for, among other things, wearing bandannas. The bandanna edict apparently an interpretation of the prohibition against "any gas mask or similar device designed to filter all air breathed and that would protect the respiratory tract and face against irritating, noxious or poisonous gases." Okay for law enforcement to have defensive gear and carry and threaten the use of "chemical agents," but unlawful for protesters to defend themselves.

The ordinance also described in careful detail the regulations regarding signage material and size, as well as signage supports. As Alliance Co-Chair and legal team member Nancy Price said in her statement to the City Council, "The failure of the City Council and Police to inform

SCSA's Police Liaison and Legal Teams of these ordinances effectively prevented timely notification to the public so they could act legally and protect their First Amendment rights. Such failure smacks of entrapment. The very essence of non-violent civil disobedience rests on an informed choice to risk arrest."

There were about 1,000 federal, state and local police working the conference week – one officer for every two protesters. Of 73 arrested, only 6 people were charged. Two of those charges were dropped against two state workers, who as a joke joined the march with Anti-Anti-GMO signs held aloft by 2x4's.

At the September 16 City Council meeting, the City Manager presented the City's side of the story, which included a table full of confiscated "illegal" materials, each presented and described gloatingly by a member of the police operations team to an audience that filled the council chamber – the members of law enforcement nodding to each other, the members of the SCSA and the public in attendance snickering at some of the "dangerous" items presented.

The SCSA legal team was allowed 15 minutes to make their presentation, which included a video of the police's militaristic presence and brutal actions, including the arrest of a woman who, in

reaching for her water bottle on the ground, was tasered in the stomach, grabbed by the hair and thrown to the ground. I looked over at the police during the video presentation—grim stoicism on the faces of the heavy brass, embarrassment on the faces of the lesser members. Legal suits on behalf of some of those injured are being filed against the City and the Police, and no injuries to cops were reported.

The SCSA has demanded that the ordinance be rescinded, and the City Council and the City Manager have agreed that it should be "revisited." The City's rationale for both the sudden revision to a parade ordinance that has been on the books since the 70's as well as the militarized police presence relied heavily on their fear of a repeat of the "Battle of Seattle" and on 9/11. But as a member of the SCSA legal team pointed out at the council meeting, there is a significant difference between a terrorist and a demonstrator. Demonstrators march, chant and carry signs – they do not bomb people nor fly airplanes into skyscrapers.

There was some discussion of a dialogue between the city and its citizens on the matter – the SCSA will be actively pushing for such a meeting. In the meantime, we understand that Miami has asked for a copy of the ordinance in anticipation of the upcoming FTAA conference.



Protesters in Sacramento, CA were miffed and upset by the police aggression used to control demonstrators and the seemingly arbitrary arrests for wearing bandannas.

photo: J Tarbell

CHAPTER REPORTS

Sacramento Chapter

Our chapter works in coalition with other progressive organizations in the area. For example, we just received a thank-you letter from a City Council member for our "continued support for a Sacramento Living Wage law." Happy to report that on September 30, the City Council chamber vibrated with the raucous cheers of supporters as the Council voted 6-2 in favor of a Sacramento Living Wage Ordinance. This means that workers in businesses receiving taxpayer dollars from the City will be paid a living wage.

In the same mail, there was a thank-you letter from California Common Cause. Just a few weeks ago the City Council voted 6-3 for a matching grant system of public financing. With public financing, we look forward to recruiting progressive candidates for council.

Other chapter members are actively participating in the Stop PATRIOT Act Coalition. A draft resolution has been submitted to the City Council and will be reviewed later this month.

Chapter members have been spotted doing voter registration at a local mall; participating in weekly peace vigils; and marching at The International Day of Action against the WTO. You should have seen the looks on shopper's faces as we marched through the downtown mall chanting, "Think before you buy!"

Chapter members helped plan and execute the demonstrations at the June Agricultural Ministerial. One member's home served as a round-the-clock legal support center for six days. Alliance members are still participating in the wind up of the legal aspects of the ministerial.

Currently, the Alliance is spearheading a presentation by Kevin Danaher, of Global Exchange, entitled, "Report from Cancun, Mexico: Global Resistance Confronts the WTO." As you may know, Global Exchange members were card carrying NGO's with "inside the fence" access. We will also have a presentation representing another point of view from a local activist who was "outside the fence."

Vikki Savee, mvsavee@winfirst.com

Mendocino Coast, CA

Our main goal is to educate locals about corporate domination, and we have found that producing monthly forums is the most effective way to meet this goal. Some of this year's topics/speakers are described below:

* Ted Nace, author of *Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy*, told the hidden history of corporations' climb to the top and citizens' efforts to put people back in power.

* ACLU attorney Judith Volkart discussed threats to our civil liberties posed by the USA PATRIOT Act, how citizens nationwide, are resisting attack on our rights.

* Peter Phillips, director of Project Censored, discussed how mass media is being impacted by the 'War on Terrorism' and corporate consolidation, and how to build a democratic media.

* World famous journalist Alexander Cockburn spoke about Bush's war on terror, Iraq, and the environment.

* Kevin Danaher, co-founder of Global Exchange, and Luke Anderson, author of *Genetic Engineering, Food and the Environment*, energized residents to participate in the mobilization against the Agricultural Ministerial in Sacramento.

* Julia Butterfly Hill, famous for a 2-year tree-sit to save an ancient redwood, gave a talk entitled *You Make the Difference* and encouraging networking and activism.

* David Cobb and Jan Edwards spoke on *Abolishing Corporate Personhood*, including how corporations got the rights of people and use them to dominate America, and nationwide efforts to end corporate personhood and establish real democracy.

* Michael Toms, producer and host of New Dimensions radio series and author of 17 books, spoke on *Activism from the Heart: Restoring America's Vision of Dialogue and Dissent*.

* Granny D (Doris Haddock), the irrepressible firebrand who walked across America at age 90 to publicize campaign finance reform, spoke on this and other issues.

Talks usually draw 50 people, though we have had 200. We pass the hat to cover costs.

We also videotape talks for broadcasting on community TV and to put in our AfD free video library of political tapes. Some programs are broadcast live simultaneously on TV and radio.

Tom Wodetzki, tw@mcn.org

NE Regional Report

Mary White has been spearheading AfD participation in the effort to gain support for a resolution being presented at the Concord Town Meeting in November against the PATRIOT Act. Our town librarian is also playing a significant role. On September 6 numerous AfD members participated in a parade with 30 or more signs.

BCA is sponsoring a Stop Vote-Rigging Working Committee which is considering organizing a conference of election specialists, lawyers, programmers, officials, and journalists. The conference will generate a prophylactic strategy, and follow up with internet sharing of local developments.

MEDIA PROJECT

"Other Voices" is currently being distributed to eight Massachusetts towns, using the following video tape titles:

1) Greg Palast: The Best Democracy Money Can Buy; 2) Noam Chomsky: Iraq and the Imperial Vision; 3) Howard Zinn: Bringing Democracy Alive; 4) Vincent Bugliosi and Greg Palast/Election 2000: The Stolen Presidency

The above titles are public-domain speaking engagements, featuring speakers with views that approximately correspond to those of the Alliance. Each recording is prefaced by a brief statement on corporations, democracy, and the Alliance, read by Nick Biddle.

Ruth Weizenbaum and I would like to expand beyond the current 8-town network, to at least the regional level.

Since 9/11 various AfD members have been informally rotating attendance at the monthly meetings of a vibrant, growing coalition United for Justice with Peace. Currently they encompass 55 Greater Boston area communities and 30 area organizations. They have a strong representation of dedicated, bright young people, are strongly committed to democratic functioning, have demonstrated fundraising capability, have recently opened an office and are currently doing a staff search.

Bill Haff, bhaff@horizonhouse.com

Sonoma County, CA

Alliance for Democracy of Sonoma County: In spite of the declared statement that the Alliance for Democracy is a movement in support of issues and does not take a political position, this was a year when we decided we must get involved in politics. The prospect of the Bush Administration perpetuating itself for another four years in 2004 was too frightening to do otherwise.

In April we invited Gary Jelenek, California campaign coordinator for Kucinich for President, to our meeting and prepared a comparison of the Kucinich platform to the Alliance issues. The enthusiasm of our group to endorse Kucinich, added to other local endorsements, led to two visits to Sonoma County by the candidate himself. On May 28 Kucinich spoke to an overflow crowd of 1,000 at the Veterans Memorial Building and on June 15 was a featured speaker at the annual Health and Harmony Festival in Santa Rosa.

The Alliance for Democracy initiative has led to the formation of the "Sonoma County Grassroots for Kucinich for President" for which much leadership has been supplied by the Sonoma County AfD Chapter. Then the opportunity arose to invite "Granny D" Haddock to visit our area when she was going to be nearby for another event. On Friday afternoon August 22 our chapter organized a "Granny D Old Fashioned Picnic" attended by 250 in which she reiterated her endorsement of Dennis Kucinich for President and on Saturday Morning August 23 "A Tribute to Granny D" honored her for her contributions to the issue of campaign finance reform. Jo Seidita, co-chair of the Alliance and President of the California Clean Money Campaign, was one of the presenters who praised her accomplishments.

Calvin Simons, CHSimons@aol.com

Ukiah Valley, CA

The Ukiah Valley AfD started meeting over four years ago with around five committed members. Our goals were to educate ourselves about

corporate rule and to do public outreach and education on the subject. To that end, we conducted a study group using the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights materials, and put on public forums with speakers or videos. Interest in resisting corporate rule continued to grow during the war build-up and the eventual attacks on the people of Iraq, swelling our meeting attendance to around 15 enthusiastic and creative regulars. Those of us who kept coming to the little group during the years of low attendance now recognize the importance of holding the space for people to come when they are ready to increase activity.

The areas of group focus reflect the particular interests of the individuals. Clean Money and other campaign and election reform have always been central, as one of the original members attends Clean Money Coalition meetings around the state and keeps us well in the loop. A committee is reviewing videos for our public outreach series that will start again in the fall. We will be hosting more speakers, often coordinating with the coast chapter of the Alliance. Our third WILPF material study group is forming, and an email discussion group is preparing to analyze Thom Hartmann's book, *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights*. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UnequalProtection> to join the group.

Recent workshops on the coast and in Ukiah, presented by WILPF and AfD activist Jan Edwards and national Green Party and end corporate control mover David Cobb, advanced the possibility of a coordinated county effort to create a crisis of jurisdiction to challenge corporate personhood.

Ukiah Valley AfD meets the first Monday of each month. We are motivated by the extreme crisis we face in this country and the core role corporations play in that crisis. We share frustration with media propaganda and unconscious fellow Americans, and support each other in individual and group activity to reclaim democracy in America.

Lynda McClure, lynda@pacific.net.

Mass Bay South

We continue to meet mostly monthly. Sept. 10 we were a small presence at an interfaith candlelight witness for peace on Boston Common. Vigiling continues in upscale Duxbury. Most reactions we get are positive, but a letter on the Patriot Act in the local paper drew a response from a true believer, who referred to us as aging hippies. Next week, a costume party! Dave Lewit will be our fall season kickoff speaker on globalization, (Cancun, water, etc.) Much of our lobbying is thru email network lobbying, e.g. thanks to Kennedy for new nuke defunding efforts. Fun to be able to say yae!

Jean Maryborn, maryborn@earthlink.net

St. Louis Chapter

The St. Louis chapter has been slowly building membership throughout eastern Missouri and is forming a group in Springfield (home of Ashcroft). We sponsored a local workshop on globalization and privatization and staffed an AfD info table at the Kansas City Rolling Thunder festival. We have been busy working as part of the local Jobs With Justice & Instead of War coalitions and helped with the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride rallies. We became one of the founding members of the Tax Justice for a Healthy MO campaign this summer and are helping sponsor United for a Fair Economy workshop on the Missouri tax system, deficit causes & budgets and a kickoff dinner in November. Our goal is to get a fairer & more adequate state income tax structure.

Rick LaMonica, ricklmafd@earthlink.net



BOOK REVIEW

The Elite Consensus: When Corporations Wield the Constitution

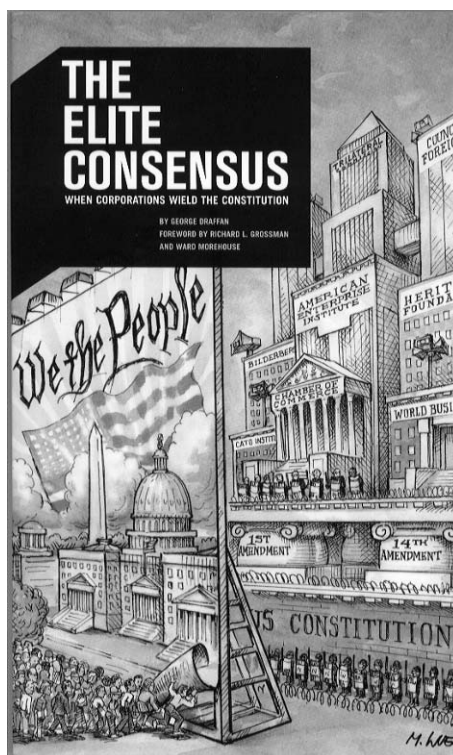
by George Draffan

180 pages, 6 x 9, \$14.95, Apex Press, New York 2003

Reviewed by Sharon E. Thompson

In the past century, the limited liability corporation has become the most powerful institution in the world, both politically and economically – and increasingly on the cultural level as well. Governments have been relegated to the subordinate role of promoting the interests of multinational corporations – a concept little understood by the general public, or for that matter, by many activists. This invaluable guide to the institutions of global power, *i.e.*, to the institutions of corporate power, serves as a reminder of this all-important fact.

Draffan divides his work into two parts and includes a wealth of information in eight appendices. Part 1 is a sur-



vey of how economic, legal, and political mechanisms work in a synergistic manner to create and maintain corporate power. What is the "corporate consen-

sus" that unites corporations and industry associations and the wealthy and powerful? Draffan explains that it rises above the competitive advantage of particular corporations, and is larger than any industry – it is a consensus to build and maintain power itself. To accomplish this, a few basic principles are followed: privatize profits, externalize costs, control information, centralize political authority, centralize economic authority, and remove all barriers to trade.

Part Two profiles 29 of the most powerful lobbying, research, and political organizations that promote corporate power. The profiles include basic information such as address and website, the organization's mission, details about membership, structure, budgets, recent and upcoming meetings, and miscellaneous anecdotes which help to reveal each organization's influence and its promotion of corporate power at the expense of government and civil society. A careful reading reveals an informal division of labor among groups which are largely in agreement on the major issues

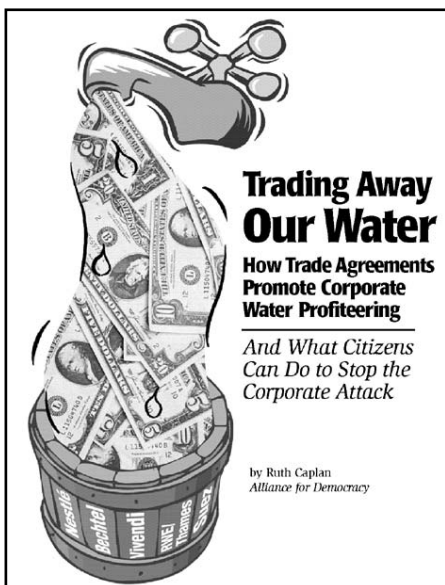
"DEFENDING WATER FOR LIFE

Trading Away Our Water: How Trade Agreements Promote Corporate Water Profiteering

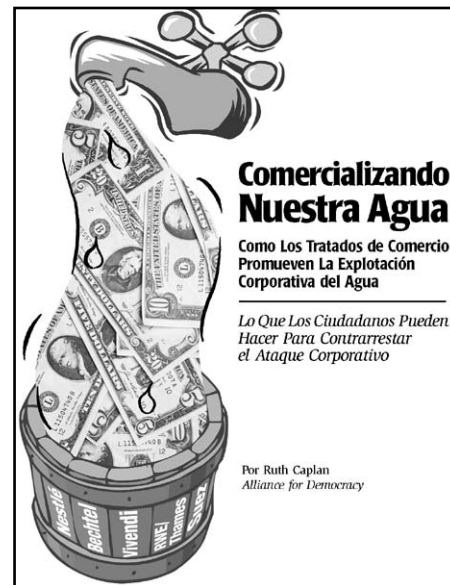
by Ruth Caplan, Alliance for Democracy

We all know that the trade and investment agreements are bad news when it comes to protecting the right to water, but the language of these agreements is arcane. This 21 page report explains in detail how NAFTA, GATT and GATS promote corporate water profiteering. It also suggests ways activists can make a difference in WTO negotiations on GATS and the new issues being discussed in Cancun and beyond, and in Miami when trade ministers debate the FTA for the Western Hemisphere this November.

The report is posted at <http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/water> and is also available in hard copy.



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A Spanish translation of the report is also available.

For multiple copies of either the Spanish or English translation to distribute to government officials, please contact Ruth Caplan directly at 202-244-0561

Citizens' Indictment

RE the Citizens Indictment

Dear AfD Members

As many of you know, an effort has been launched by Ronnie Dugger, Jo Seidita and Nick Biddle, calling for the criminal indictment of members of Bush's cabinet and inner circle. For more information go to <<http://www.indict-bushcheney.org>>

After long discussion the national council was not able to make a decision on endorsement and Jo Seidita withdrew her motion seeking council endorsement. Therefore the decision to endorse the indictment project is left up to the individual members of the Alliance. That is a personal choice.

A number of us have endorsed and supported the effort and we encourage you to visit the website and engage in the discussion.

Nancy Price and Ted Dooley, Co-Chairs

From the Website

How Can We Stop These Wars of Aggression?

When the government of a democratic country wages a war of aggression, what are the citizens supposed to do about it? Nothing but watch, pray if they pray, and obey?

Citizens' Indictment and Draft True Bill Against George W. Bush as alleged Principal Unindicted Perpetrator and Against Richard B. Cheney, Donald H. Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Colin L. Powell, John Bolton, George Tenet, Condoleezza Rice, Richard B. Myers, Tommy Franks, John David Ashcroft, Tommy G. Thompson, and Gale A. Norton as alleged perpetrators, Whose Crimes, High Crimes, and Misdemeanors Here Alleged Have Been Committed Both Where the Decisions Were Made and in Every State and District of the United States, Where Their Primary Effects Occur

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ASHCROFT AND THE ALLIANCE — AN UPDATE

By Ronnie Dugger

The Federal Election Commission has responded under court order to interrogatories addressed to it in the Alliance lawsuit concerning charges that now-Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft's campaign PAC for the Senate in 2000 illegally failed to report contributions. But Lisa Danetz, attorney for the National Voting Rights Institute representing the Alliance and the two individual plaintiffs, said the FEC's replies are inadequate (*Alliance for Democracy v. FEC*, D. D.C., No.1-02-527 (EGS)).

According to a report by Kenneth P. Doyle for the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington, in a hearing in federal court early this fall Danetz demanded that the FEC turn over documents and that commission officials submit to depositions regarding the handling of the Ashcroft campaign matter. The FEC has handled the complaint against Ashcroft in secret, and this is the nub of the continuing controversy. Doyle reported:

"The FEC's responses to questions and other information about its handling of the Ashcroft campaign matter are under court seal because of a statutory provision and commission rules requiring that enforcement matters be handled in secret. The Ashcroft campaign could agree to make the FEC's files public, but Ashcroft has not responded to requests to order the campaign to do so. It remains unknown, therefore, whether the FEC has found 'reason to believe' the law may have been violated and agreed to investigate the matter....An FEC spokesman said the agency customarily does not comment on any litigation. Justice Department officials have indicated that Ashcroft will not comment on the matter."

The central allegation is that in 2000, when Ashcroft was running for the U.S. Senate, his political action committee, Spirit of America PAC, improperly donated its mailing list, allegedly worth \$2 million, to Ashcroft's Senate campaign. The donation was not reported as a campaign contribution.



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www.thealliancefordemocracy.org

DEMOCRACY CARAVAN SURGES ACROSS AMERICA

Check it out at www.democracycaravan.org



photos: Democracy Caravan