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Volume IV, No. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

Fall 2004

POPULAR ED HIGHLIGHTS AFD CONVENTION

by Jim Tarbell

Over fifty, enthused AfD members came to the Alliance for Democracy Convention at Simmons College in Boston, July 21 and 22. Preceding both the Boston Social Forum and the Democratic National Convention, the two-day event featured an in-depth experience creating popular education; a troubling panel on electronic voting machines and the future they portend; music, and lots of talk about the future of the Alliance.

Anti-corporate balladeer Tom Neilson started off the first day with a collection

Convention continued on page 2



A reminder of the role of corporations in our democracy, this sign hung at the DNC. No such connection was made by the Republicans. Do they have other ways of thanking their providers?

photo:Jim Tarbell

DIVERSITY AT DNC AND MILITARISM AT RNC HIGHLIGHT CONVENTIONS

by Jim Tarbell

The insides of the Democratic and Republican conventions provided contrasting visions of our nation. The Democratic National Convention (DNC) in the Fleet Center in Boston provided four days of political diversity. The Republican National Convention (RNC) at Madison Square Garden provided four tightly themed days with a heavy military cast

At the DNC all manner of political persuasion wandered the floors. Dennis

DNC/RNC continued on page 8

RECLAIM DEMOCRACY ON ELECTION NIGHT

by Nancy Matela

The galvanizing event this year at the Alliance National Convention in Boston was a panel of speakers addressing the various aspects of the election process. From that evening came a group of Alliance for Democracy members who feel a particular sense of urgency and want to put into action suggestions that came from the panel and audience members.

The Save the Election Committee has met "virtually" several times. They have expanded on many of the topics and

created tools to be used at local and regional levels to insure a valid electoral process.

To help spread the message of the urgency and seriousness of the election pitfalls, Calvin Simons quickly edited the video tape of the panel discussion and made it available for purchase. "Contesting a Stolen Election" is available at electionvideo@sbcglobal.net for \$9.50 including shipping and handling. If you prefer, Caroline Botsford of NYC transcribed the session and it is available in paper form from Nancy Price

(ntprice@juno.com).

Sue Wheaton took on the huge task of compiling a *To-Do Manual*, which is a step-by-step list of how to do local-poll and election-process observing. It can be used as a guide by any local group on how to monitor the local process. It was pointed out during the panel discussion that this is best done months ahead of the election to be most effective. Sue also broadcast this list to the 60 national groups functioning as as poll watching organizations. To obtain a copy of the *To*

Reclaim Democracy continued on page 6



AfD Convention

Continued from page 1

of rousing tunes on contemporary times. Most of the day, however, was facilitated by Betsy Barnum and Larry Olds who ran a day-long workshop on the theory, techniques and practices of popular education.

Both AfD members from Minnesota, Betsy and Larry spend their lives promoting the virtues of popular education. Working off theories and practices developed by Paolo Freire in Brazil, popular education depends on the experiences of the people involved to create an appropriate educational program on



Larry Olds leads workshop



AfDers dance out their story

themes from literacy to economic sustainability.

Betsy Barnum started off with an example of popular education by giving a workshop on the history of corporate personhood. It tied together historical events around corporate personhood with the experiences of simultaneous political movements. The outcome is a flow chart that provides a net for the participants to connect the growth of corporate power with the on-going struggles to contain corporate power and expand personal liberty. Thus the 1886 Santa Clara decision is connected to the populist movement. Buckley versus Valeo, which equated money with speech, is connected with the growth of

global corporatization and the rise of the WTO and NAFTA.

Larry Olds then took over and explained the techniques for developing a popular education program. Over the next two days the participants created a popular education program concerning the future of the Alliance for Democracy. Strengths, concerns and solutions for areas that need improvement were the final focus in this process.

On the second afternoon separate groups dealt with distinct aspects of these topics. At the end of the day each group came together and presented their findings through theater and dance. A fine and educational time was had by all.



Betsy Barnum explains Popular Education

STOLEN ELECTIONS & REGIME CHANGE

by Jim Tarbell

Evenings at the AfD convention belonged to music and politics. The first night, singer/songwriter Tom Neilson set the stage for a panel on "Contesting the Stolen Elections."

The forum featured: Ronnie Dugger; Alice Copeland Brown, veteran software engineer for US agencies; Jonathan Simon, lawyer and political-survey and exit-poll analyst; Stuart Comstock-Gay, the Executive Director of the National Voting Rights Institute;



David Rovics



Charlie Derber

and Ben Scotch, civil rights Attorney, and advocate with Vermonters for Voting Integrity. Their message that the next presidential could easily be stolen raised a cry for an effective democratic response. Those interested in joining this effort should contact Nancy Matela at nmatela@pacifier.com. Video copies of the panel are available for \$6 plus shipping from Alliance for Democracy of Sonoma County, P. O. Box 4204, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

The next night David Rovics, the man that Amy Goodman calls a musical ver-



Election panel discusses voting problems

sion of Democracy Now!, started out the evening with a set of his inspiring tunes. Charlie Derber finished the night and the convention with a call from his book *Regime Change Begins at Home*.



Tom Neilson

ALLIANCE GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS AND HAS SOME FUN

by Jim Tarbell and Sue Wheaton

Vikki Savee started off the business portion of the convention on a positive note. As reflected in the financial figures printed below. From April '03 until the end of March '04 the AfD National financial picture improved by \$36,000 and for the first time in a long time the balance sheet showed a positive number. This is largely due to the savings gained by the all-volunteer staff running the national office

After reports on various Alliance projects, Jo Seidita presented the first Annual Chapter Accomplishment award to the Sonoma County, California Chapter. Calvin Simons accepted for the chapter after giving a detailed history of the accomplishments that chapter has achieved over the past eight years.

Then the Nominations Committee announced the nominees to fill national

AfD posts for the next two years. The nominated council roster included: Co Chairs Nancy Price, (Davis, CA) and Cliff Arnebeck, (Columbus, OH); Past Co Chair Ted Dooley, (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN) Vice Co Chairs Jean Maryborn, (Idaho); David Delk, (Portland, OR); Secretary Peter Mott, (Pittsford, NY); Treasurer Vikki Savee, (Sacramento, CA); At-Large Reps Lou Hammann, (Ortanna, PA), Mary White, (Concord, MA), Dorothy Boberg, (Northridge, CA), Joe Davis, (Providence, RI), Toni Rizzo, (Ft. Bragg, CA); Regional Reps Ruth Weizenbaum, (Pawtucket, RI) Bill Haff, (So. Easton, MA), Pat Hammann, (Ortanna, PA), Rick LaMonica, (Crestwood MO) and Dolly Arond, (Northridge, CA).

David Lewit, (Boston, MA) and Cynthia Ritscher, (Lincoln, MA) were nominated as Ombudsmen. Then the retiring nominating committee announced that they had received acceptance from Lou Hammann, Jim Tarbell, Mary White, and Ted Dooley to constitute the 2006 Nominating Committee. Jo Seidita then moved and Sue Wheaton seconded that the nominees be accepted by acclamation. and all nominees were unanimously approved.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed by the convention:

1) Peter Mott proposed a resolution to begin talks, share information, and plan a national progressive coalition. In addition, the already proposed Communications Cooperative should continue to create good Internet communication throughout the AfD itself, and once that is running well, plan to include other national progressive organizations.

2) Joe Davis, proposed



photo: Jim Tarbell

Lou Hammann and Ted Dooley get wrapped up in Clara's quilt

that the AfD declare its primary objective to be restoring the sovereignty of the people, by reframing the issues and by asserting the rights of citizens to make the decisions on how "We the People" want to live. Joining with other like-minded organizations, the AfD should build a movement toward these goals.

3) Rick LaMonica proposed that the Alliance for Democracy work collaboratively with other citizens' organizations such as United for a Fair Economy, Citizens for Tax Justice, Impact, and Public Citizen, to expand projects to restore federal taxes on corporate profits, sales, services, and other transactions. This campaign could be readily adopted by chapters for local tax-fairness education and actions. It could also be implemented in chapter programs and discussions of budget priorities, the exponentially growing deficits, and trade globalization.

Finally, Clara's quilt was given to Mary White and Nancy Price in recognition of their contributions to the AfD. Made by former Co Chair Clara Olson and donated by Clara to the AfD, the quilt has been given at the past two AfD conventions to a person who has provided extraordinary service to the AfD. Each of the recipients will keep the quilt for a year.

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY			
Ordinary Income/Expense			
	Apr 03 - Mar 04	Apr 02 - Mar 03	
Income			
5000 Membership	57,287.00	94,315.66	
5040 Individual non-member contribut	1,000.00	5,000.00	
5080 Chapter donations	1,023.09	1,404.59	
5090 Convention	0.00	32,957.90	
5100 Sales-general	132.00	2,526.79	
5105 Fundraiser	60.00	8,181.50	
5230 Miscellaneous Contributions	0.00	630.00	
5235 IRS Fund	1,000.00	0.00	
5240 Reimbursed Expenses	1,601.61	3,516.58	
5300 Corporate Globalization	19,476.60	713.14	
5390 Clean Elections	53.00	311.20	
5700 Transforming the Corporation	7.50	10.00	
5750 Corporation Pamphlet	32.00	24.50	
5760 Communications Coop	600.00	0.00	
5770 American Town Hall Trust Account	2,500.00	0.00	
5800 Founder Travel	0.00	(63.77)	
Total Income	84,772.80	148,918.09	
Expense			
6100 Salaries and Wages	29,831.48	90,063.52	
6500 Office, Equipment, Supplies	12,981.39	18,517.54	
6700 Communications	9,634.95	20,009.86	
6999 Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	(2000.00)	
7000 Programs, Events Travel	16,000.19	36,014.68	
7800 Fundraising Expenses	0.00	4,022.36	
7900 Council, Founder & Other expenses	1,263.33	2,033.67	
8000 Miscellaneous	1,631.67	3,464.13	
Total Expense	71,343.01	172,125.76	
Net Ordinary Income	13,429.79	(23,207.67)	
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
9000 Interest Income	5.17	1.58	
9100 Other Income	0.00	1.40	
Total Other Income	5.17	2.98	
Net Other Income	5.17	2.98	
Net Income	13,434.96	(23,204.74)	

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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Nancy Price and Cliff Arnebeck
Co-Chairs of the AfD National Council

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Alliance for Democracy

Dear Alliance Members,

This edition of *Alliance Alerts* is being sent to local chapter members as well as to those national members who have regularly received AA over the years. We welcome local members as new readers and encourage you to also join the national AfD. Your extra membership contribution helps to keep our trimmed down office of volunteers going, pays for *Alliance Alerts* and for some of the other very basic functions of the national office such as responding to inquiries, sending out materials on AfD and our programs and keeping financial records.

Please let Jim Tarbell, the *Alliance Alerts* editor, know how AA can serve your needs as a reader or those of your local chapter. If you would like to contribute an article, news item, book review, or other materials email or telephone him at rtp@mcn.org or 707-964-0463 or email or telephone me.

In Alliance, Nancy Price Co-Chair 530-758-0726 ntp@juno.com

MILITARISM AND DEMOCRACY DO NOT MIX

The militaristic tone of the Republican National Convention was horrifying. A political convention swaying to the tune of military anthems has no place in a democratic republic. The military is the vessel of violence in our country. When called upon by the will of the people, soldiers serve their role bravely, perform their function and then return to normal lives. They have no role in the political process. The Republican use of the military as a rallying point and the presence of military officers promoting a presidential candidate is a corruption of both the military and democracy.

War is a sad and tragic event in human history. It is not to be celebrated as a just undertaking but mourned as a sorrowful necessity. From the beginning to the end, the Republican convention celebrated the military and its virtuous mission. Unfortunately Marines like Smedley Butler have had to admit, after long and distinguished careers promoting US goals around the world, that they have been "racketeers for Wall Streets."

When the will of the people is usurped by a self-serving group who laud the military, celebrate it as the main tool of democracy and utilize it to achieve its own narrow interests it is tragic for America and devastating for the rest of the planet.

SUE WHEATON REFLECTS ON THE AfD

Editor's note: In the past year, five of the founding members of the Alliance for Democracy have completed their time on the National Council. The absence of Ronnie Dugger, Jo Seidita, Garret Whitney, Kati Winchell and Sue Wheaton from the council will mark a seismic shift in the functioning of that body. The following is a reflection from Sue Wheaton on her time on the council and the future.

by Sue Wheaton

As I retire from my eight years of service on the Alliance Council, during which I worked with Ronnie, Jo, Garret, Kati, and other founding members to build the AfD, I feel gratitude for the friends I have made and all I have learned, which I would not have learned without the Alliance. Despite the frustrations we all experienced in those formative years (due to having to learn and build from scratch and the incessant conflicts between some of the founding members), I am grateful that we have the Alliance—that, though we are not large, we have survived and are in place as a national organization.

In 1996 many of us envisioned that the AfD would be the nucleus for a progressive populist movement. Today, we see that we are (were) not that, but rather are one small piece in a mosaic of organizations and events that have grown into the movement we envi-

sioned back then. The Alliance provides an organizational platform for the members to express ourselves and organize for what we hope to achieve. That is extremely valuable. I hope we can keep it for the next 50 years! And I wish the current leaders and those who succeed them every success in doing that.

I think the two most important lessons I have learned are that it's worth the effort to build toward what you believe in, and that the best way to fight corporate rule is to expand democracy—in every and all ways. The breadth of an expanding, strengthening democracy is the only counter-force I can think of to ubiquitous multinational corporations.

I plan to dedicate myself to working to expand U.S. democracy, beginning with serving on the Alliance's 2004 Save the Election Committee and coordinating the legal committee of Maryland's pace-setting Campaign for Verifiable Voting. Organized by my friend Linda Schade, who I would not have met had there been no AfD, the Campaign aims to secure a fair and open vote in 2004, despite our state's being ridden with non-voter verifiable Diebold voting machines. Visit TrueVoteMd.org, and you'll see what I mean. Good luck to us all in our continuing writing, organizing and otherwise building for a democratic US—and world!

VISIONS OF THE NEW COUNCIL

Co-chair Cliff Arnebeck: Set up Local Progressive Alliances

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Co-Chairman of the Alliance. The office is honored by those who have served previously and I hope I can carry on in their tradition.

I would like to see the Alliance for Democracy function as a catalyst for bringing people together, perhaps at the metropolitan area level, for purposes of on-going collaboration in regard to the politics of our times. On that base we might build federations of alliances of citizens at the state, and national levels. We would then have a counterbalance to the present monopoly of an elite few over our politics, economics and media. This might be thought of as a "communications cooperative," discussed and

authorized at our preceding convention but implemented at the local rather than national level; or rather, starting its implementation at the local rather than the national level.

The essential tools for such a development: freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of assembly, are constitutionally guaranteed. Plenty of membership organizations: labor, public interest/reform, church, etc., currently exist. We should incorporate and build upon these, rather than trying to start from scratch. We need our own members, but I think we want an alliance that accepts as members those who are already members of other groups.

We need to tap and institutionalize the power of an informed deliberative consensus among politically significant groups of people.

In Alliance, Cliff Arnebeck

Council Member Joe Davis: Use American Dream Radio

I believe that if we are to be effective on a national basis, we need to have good communications among the Council, the chapters, the campaigns, and the membership at large. The internet provides opportunities that we are not presently taking advantage of. We need to look at the capabilities of e-mail, list-serves, and interaction through web-sites. It is important to note that while list-serves (such as Topica) provide access to messages posted by all who participate, interactive web-sites such as American Dream Radio (ADR) organize the postings and replies by topic, thereby supporting a discussion in a form that is manageable and accessible.

The Network Communications Committee took advantage of Jerry Krantman's generous offer to utilize ADR to generate and discuss resolutions prior to the convention. For whatever reasons, very few people made use of the system, but Jerry is willing to extend the offer if we would like to continue using it and are willing to pay a modest amount to support it.

I believe that this kind of system could greatly facilitate the development of policies and strategic plans referred to above.

I have posted a proposal for initiating such a forum on ADR, and ask that you look at it.

We have simplified the procedure for accessing ADR as follows:

Go to www.americandreamradio.org
Click on DISCUSS

Page down to ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY FORUMS—

Click on the forum you want.

Click on NOTIFY and then check Immediate notification by e-mail.

You may then use the ADR discussion forums. We have a lot to talk about. Please use our available tools.

In Alliance, Joe Davis

Co-Chair Nancy Price: End Corporate Rule

The core AfD mission—To End Corporate Rule and Revive Democracy—will take many more years than I have as your Co-Chair. However, I thank the Convention for giving me this opportunity to collaborate with the new council, former council colleagues, our local and national members and chapters to move forward toward this goal of subordinating corporations to democratic popular will.

To do so, we must launch anew a highly focused "End Corporate Rule" campaign—a campaign that is based on both education and action.

Education: to make clear that the American Revolution is unfinished; how corporations have won more legal rights than people have; and how we can and must reclaim our sovereign authority over the corporation.

And action: to seize the moment when in our communities there is an issue that can become the focus for "the people" to directly confront and legally challenge corporate rights that trample

people's rights.

This "End Corporate Rule" campaign will complement our Campaign Against Corporate Globalization currently focused on "keeping water out of corporate hands." It likewise complements the "Positive Economic Alternatives" project based on educating how people can participate in their communities to set budget priorities that meet community needs rather than corporate-influenced projects that negatively impact the tax base, public health, and infrastructure such as schools and transportation.

Furthermore, it will complement our on-going work to support Clean Money/Clean Election campaigns and voting reform.

I would like to launch this campaign at the beginning of 2005 and welcome your suggestions. Please use our list-serve ALL or our new discussion platform at American Dream Radio so that a variety of ideas for this campaign may be considered.

In Alliance, Nancy Price

Reclaim Democracy

Continued from page 1

Do *Manual*, contact Sue at sue.wheaton@juno.com or Nancy Matela at nmatela@pacifier.com

Michael Bleiweiss stepped up to the plate and wrote three model letters appropriate as letters-to-the-editor or for op-eds. The topics covered by the letters are electronic voting machines, non-electronic voting perils for paper technology states, and exit polling. These can be modified for local applications and submitted to local and regional newspapers. Copies can be obtained from Nancy Matela at nmatela@pacifier.com

Jonathan Simon, an attorney and member of the panel, has been a considerable resource with regard to exit polling. It is the general consensus of the committee that this is our weakest link. The media have already contracted with a few pollsters, most with conservative reputations. Independent pollsters have been struggling for credibility due to lack of a national, cohesive plan and lack of funds as well as some negative press on effectiveness. There has been a suggestion to link one or more of these pollsters with grassroots Internet organizations in case one or more swing states is reporting that a candidate is winning counter to the exit polling results. Then an immediate alarm can be sounded the night of the election. The idea is to quickly mount protests throughout the U.S. to open the door for challenging election results and keep it open until legal protests can be lodged.

Given that rallies and protests could be part of the election watch plan, John Noronha took on the task of investigating non-violent protest training. For those results, contact John at janoronha@aol.com

Now the real work begins of implementing the ideas on a local level. We will continue to work on the exit polling issue and contact the AfD membership through e-mail as soon as a cohesive plan is devised.

For comments or questions, please contact Peter Mott at interconnect-mott@juno.com or Nancy Matela at nmatela@pacifier.com



RONNIE DUGGER CALLS FOR ELECTION NIGHT ACTION IN CASE OF FRAUD

The following excerpts are from a speech by Ronnie Dugger at Faneuil Hall on July 27, 2004 on the possible consequences of the 35 million paperless votes and the 188 million computer-based votes.

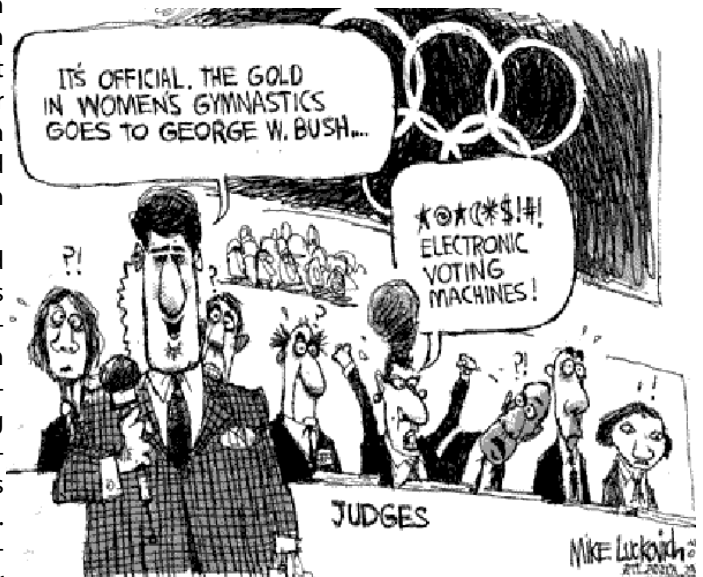
Four years ago James Baker, running the Bush campaign to steal the Presidency in Florida, proclaimed that the "precision machinery" of computers counts and recounts votes better and more accurately than people do. The Bush people achieved what they wanted and asked for, a Supreme Court order that literally stopped the recounting of the votes in Florida. Newt Gingrich followed that up at once, in December 2000, with a call for a totally computerized vote counting system by 2004.

On November 2nd about 35 million votes will be cast on touchscreens and then counted invisibly inside direct-recording electronic computerized voting systems with no paper ballots. This gives the programmers working for

the four major voting business corporations the ability to rig the outcomes specifically among those 35 million unverified votes in ways that nobody can see, audit, or recount. There can and will be no manual recounts of those 35 million votes because there will be no paper ballots to recount.

One company dominated by Republicans, Election Systems and Software, will count a majority of the 115 million votes that will be cast in its computers. One pro-Republican company, 61 million votes, another all-Republican company, Diebold, will count 12 million. The coming national election is set up to be stolen.

What if analysis shows that the Presidency has been stolen again? "The odds are that this election the window of opportunity will be 24 hours," Jonathan Simon, a specialist in exit polling, says. Suppose we are ready to judge the election returns with high-quality exit polls reported to us by midnight election night? Suppose, to cope with this democratic emergency, a Committee of the Democratic Emergency is prepared to call for the nonviolent occupation of Washington in the memory and honor of Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Mahatma Gandhi, Cesar Chavez, and Martin Luther King. It might bring back to life the spirit of Reverend King by finally enacting the peaceful occupation of Washington he was actively planning when he was murdered 36 years ago.



AfD PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE AROUND DNC



photo: Jim Tarbell

Ruth Weizenbaum prepares for event at Faneuil Hall

by Jim Tarbell

AfD members played critical roles in events surrounding the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Boston in late July. Dave Lewit and Ruth Weizenbaum were particularly active in setting up events at the Boston Social Forum and arranging a four hour "Speakout" during the DNC at Faneuil Hall on "National and Global Crises."

The Boston Social Forum (BSF) was a three-day event at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. It directly preceded the DNC and worked as an opportunity to educate delegates and other participants at the DNC about global corporatization and alternative visions for the future. The BSF was the first regional event in the United States of the World Social Forum (WSF). The WSF has been meeting for the past four years in Brazil and India under the banner, "Another

World is Possible." It functions as an alternative to the World Economic Forum which annually brings together economic and political elites to set policy for a corporatized global future.

The BSF featured 575 separate events and was attended by over 5,000 people. The Alliance was involved with workshops on water, trade, democracy, and non-violent strategies for changing the world.

The following Tuesday, on the second day of the Democratic National Convention, the AfD along with the American Friends Service Committee, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and United for Peace and Justice sponsored the speak-out at Faneuil Hall. Strategically placed in the historic center of our democratic roots, the event featured a long list of inspiring and motivational speakers. Ronnie Dugger started it off with his call for an election-night strategy to insure that the election is not stolen on November 2. He was followed by Ross Gelbspan who provided detailed insights into how the interests of the global com-



The AfD booth drew heavy interest at the Boston Social Forum

mercial empire have worked to obscure and deny the reality of the environmental devastation wrought by our present global economic system.

They were followed by more than a dozen speakers including Phyllis Bennis, Amy Goodman, Medea Benjamin, Leslie Cagan and Granny D. David Rovics interspersed the talking with his music of the times. Poetry, questions and useful insights filled out the event.



Dave Lewit chairs a panel on Local-based Alternative Economic Systems at BSF

VENEZUELAN DEBACLE DOES NOT NEGATE EXIT POLL STRATEGY

by Jonathon Simon

I have been disturbed that interest in pulling together a sophisticated exit polling operation as a check mechanism for the election has all but evaporated in the wake of the Venezuelan hatchet job. What happened in Venezuela says nothing about the validity of exit polling in general and everything about a right-wing Venezuelan

organization doing the bidding of the Bush administration. Karl Rove and company simply **HAD** to know that their ludicrous poll would have a powerful, destructive impact on the growing push to protect the US election with exit polling.

Dots need to be connected here. 1) Word starts building that exit polling will be a factor in monitoring the US election. 2) Krugman endorses it.

3) There's a buzz. 4) Presto changeo, the right-wing runs a poll in Venezuela that is more "off" than any exit poll in history and is so methodologically corrupt that it is an "exit poll" in name only. Chris Sabbatini, senior program director of the neoconservative National Endowment for Democracy gives the official spin that, "exit polls are notoriously unreliable," which is the whole false point they are trying to establish.

DNC/RNC

Continued from page 1

Kucinich, Spike Lee, and Michael Moore were all out on the floor. The Code Pink Brigade was tolerated in the press area off the floor, but when they mentioned Iraq during Theresa Heinz's speech they were removed. Amy Goodman freely wandered the halls of the DNC interviewing a wide range of conventioners, although like many of us, during John Kerry's speech she was locked out of the Fleet Center by the Fire Marshall because of overcrowding.

Huge photos of John Kerry recalled his days protesting the Vietnam war. Outside of the DNC groups like Take Back America were combining 527 groups with labor unions to reenergize the Democratic party base. Of course the convention was presided over by Terry McAuliffe, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the man that Al Gore called the best fundraiser in the universe.

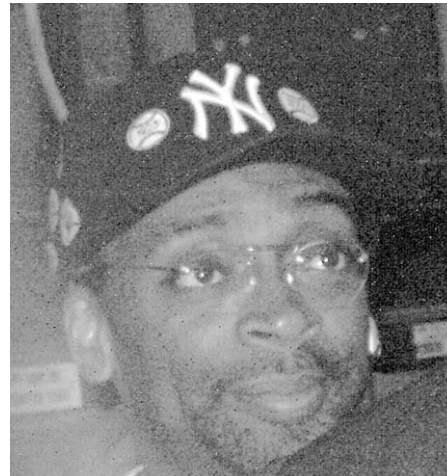
In Madison Square Garden, a month later, even though the Republicans oozed with wealth, no one talked about money. They said it was all about "courage, compassion, opportunity and George W. Bush." But in reality it was about militarism and God. Speeches extolling the military, interviews with delegates who had served in the military and choruses getting the entire convention to sing military theme songs set the tone on the first night.

George W. Bush, a man known to have essentially deserted the military, appeared in photos on the walls of the convention inspecting and praying with troops. Dick Cheney and George Bush Sr. presided from patriarchal seats far above the floor. When Code Pink showed up they could only make it to the floor with stealth. On "Compassion" night, when the Republicans seemed to not have any compassion of their own, Medea Benjamin of Code Pink did make it to the edge of the floor where she invoked a compassion by crying "stop the killing in Iraq," over and over as a dozen, 250-pound security guards pounded her to the floor and dragged her away. On the final night several people dressed like delegates were dragged off screaming "Bush lies, people die."

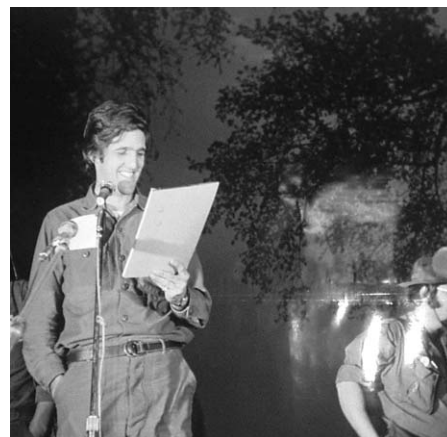
After it was all over the Republicans would not give up. On the streets outside Madison Square Garden they yelled, "Jeb '08."



Dennis Kucinich on the floor of the DNC.



Spike Lee, like most celebrities at the DNC, was surrounded by media.



This image of John Kerry protesting the Vietnam War welcomed delegates at the DNC.



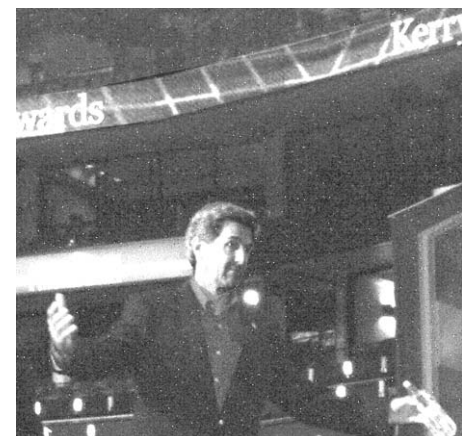
Code Pink just off the floor of the DNC.



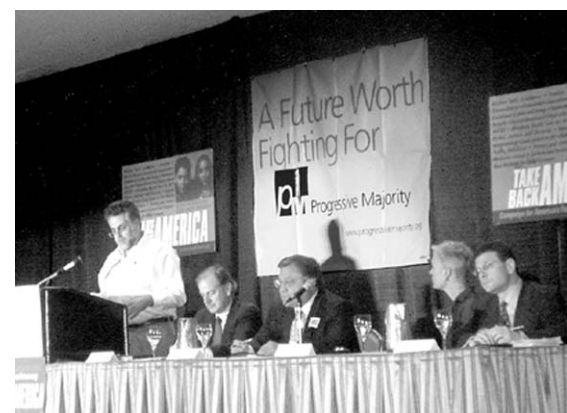
Michael Moore showed up at both the DNC, where he was celebrated and the RNC, where he was booed.



Amy Goodman interviewed delegates all over the DNC.



John Kerry jokes with the media before the opening of the last day of the DNC.



"527 groups" vow to Take Back America.



ney and his family applaud militarist proclamations first night of Republican National Convention.



Retired military officers line up behind Tommy Franks as he extols the Republicans and giant images of American soldiers dominate the convention.



n delegates rock to the thought of American q and simultaneously signal "Four more years for George W. Bush."



Multiple copies of this image of George W. Bush praying with American soldiers appeared throughout Madison Square Garden during the Republican National Convention.



Another image displayed throughout the convention hall shows George W. Bush inspecting troops.



Fighter jets were only one of many militaristic images shown while the Republican convention sang military anthems.



"Jeb '08" was the cry heard outside Madison Square Garden after the Republicans nominated Bush/Cheney and looked to the future.

DEFENDING WATER FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN:

By Nancy Price and Ruth Caplan

Alliance Launches New England Campaign

The Water Barons are invading New England and the Alliance's Defending Water for Life campaign is going on the offensive. The Alliance is working with chapters, members and water allies in New England and upstate New York to sound the alert and mobilize resistance. As part of the campaign, in July the Alliance published 25,000 copies of a tabloid "Keep Water Out of Corporate Hands," featuring stories about New England and a map of water fights throughout the hemisphere.

The campaign also got off to a strong start in July at the Boston Social Forum (BSF) where the Water Allies Network, which the Alliance helped launch last November, held a series of events with speakers from around the country. A puppet-led, living river, with aquatic flora and sea creatures on filmy fabric, attracted much attention as it flowed around campus and then joined convocation speaker Maude Barlow on the gymnasium stage. Nancy Price and Ruth Caplan led workshops on water and trade and on bottled water and Ruth spoke at the closing plenary focused on developing strategy for ongoing work.

Just prior to the BSF, the Alliance Convention provided an opportunity to brainstorm ways to use the popular education tools presented by Larry Olds and Betsy Barnum, including using the "tree of life," to contrast the natural flowing of water with the control of water for profit by corporations. Ways to help communities establish Water Watch Councils were also developed.

In Massachusetts the campaign mobilized quickly when the Berkshire town of Lee voted to consider a contract with the European transnational Veolia (spun off from Vivendi) and scheduled a vote on the contract for September 2, just four weeks away. Working with local citizens,

the Teamsters Union and allies in the Water Allies Network, the Alliance has been helping with local organizing to keep the system public, including a showing of the documentary *Thirst*. The first victory came when the town council postponed the vote for a week in order to hold a public hearing before the vote.

In Maine, where Nestle has aggressive plans for expanding its mining of spring water for its Poland Springs brand, three showings of *Thirst* are already scheduled. In August, Nancy Price joined Bonnie Preston in Blue Hill where Bonnie showed *Thirst* as a springboard for starting an Alliance chapter. In September, Dave Lewit and Ruth Caplan who are spearheading the New England campaign, will join Nancy in Rockland and Brunswick to lead discussions following the showing of *Thirst* and to meet with concerned citizens. As campaign liaison to the Women's International League For Peace And Freedom, Nancy also met with several WILPF groups in Maine and will continue this collaboration.

West Coast Campaign Takes on Bottled Water

The West Coast campaign is focusing on the threat of multinational corporations, particularly Nestle, which are mining water resources in order to profit from selling bottled water. These corporations are developing sites they presently own or lease and are prospecting for new sites in Oregon and Northern California where they already have a strong presence in some communities.

Near Mt. Shasta in Northern Califor-

nia, the Alliance is working with a community group fighting against Nestle in the town of McCloud. This fall the campaign will hold informational forums to build greater community awareness about this attack on water which should be held in the public trust for all to benefit. These forums will facilitate discussion of how to achieve sustainable economic development that meets local needs, instead of bottling plants that offer few jobs and harm the environment.

Nancy Price, West Coast campaign coordinator, is working with a variety of groups, including indigenous communities, in order to learn as much as possible about current exploitation by these corporations, identify potential future sites, and explore legal and legislative strategies.

For more information about the campaign or to find out about showing *Thirst* in your community, contact —on the East Coast: Ruth Caplan 202-244-0561, rcaplan@igc.org or Dave Lewit 617-266-8687, dlewit@igc.org—on the West Coast: Nancy Price, 530-758-0726 ntprice@juno.com or David Delk, DavidDelkAFD@aol.com.

To learn more about the Water Allies Network, visit www.waterallies.org



Ted River with the Water Allies at the Boston Social Forum

"GET ON THE BUS" FOR THE MILLION WORKER MARCH:

Oct. 17, 2004, Washington, D.C.!

The struggle of working people and the struggle against the war are the same struggle! Bring the troops home now! End the occupation of Iraq!

This fall in Washington, DC, the Million Worker March will present a timely and historic opportunity to unite the anti-war movement with an unprecedented and vitally necessary mass march of working people speaking for themselves. Some of the strongest voices and most active groups in the labor movement, together with the active support and participation of organizations representing every progressive movement and cause, will be "getting on the bus" to D.C. on Sunday, October 17, for the MILLION WORKER MARCH. A sea of workers from every industry, from every union and every place where workers want a union, from every part of the country, will be streaming into the capital to demand jobs, a living wage and workers' rights.

They will also express their anger over the senseless dying that is going on every day in Iraq and elsewhere, and their desire that it end now. Why? Because it is working families who bear the burden, it is their loved ones who are sent off to fight and die—and it is the workers' money that is stolen to pay for war and occupation.

What makes the Million Worker March unique is that the event's principal organizers want to make the anti-war movement's demand to "End the Occupation of Iraq, and Bring the Troops Home Now" central to the march's message and the goals.

The call for a Million Worker March came from one of the most well-known labor organizations in the country, famous for its long history of militancy, boldness and courage in defense of working people—Local 10 of the International Longshore Workers Union in San Francisco. Over the past few months this call has rolled across the country, picking up the support of scores of labor unions, labor activists and leaders.

Working people are coming to Washington, D.C. on October 17 because whether their concern is about jobs, or decent wages, or layoffs, or union busting, or the battle to protect our pensions and Social Security and to make health care a universal right instead of a privilege for the wealthy—we had better raise our own voices and act in our own interests instead of relying on the next president, whoever that will be.

And most important, the time for us to speak in our own voice is not after people vote in November, but before. The Million Worker March on October 17 is about the people telling the president, the candidates, the politicians and the corporate elite—who are the real power behind the election campaigns—and the politicians to "Shut up!" and listen to us for a change.

We urge all of you to work to make the October 17 Million Worker March in D.C. the next major event for the entire anti-war movement. If we rise to this challenge, we will put the next president and Congress on notice that we will accept no excuses for prolonging the occupation of Iraq and wasting lives and precious resources that should go toward satisfying people's needs like housing and

schools. Moreover, we will have helped to forge a critical alliance between the grass roots of the labor movement and the anti-war movement that would represent a whole new level of unity, potential and power.

Get on the bus:

* To bring the troops home now! For money & for jobs not war! For a living wage! Against layoffs, union busting, & for workers' rights! For the rights of immigrant workers! Because young people need jobs not jails! To end the occupation of Iraq! To defend civil rights! Because working people need to speak in their own voice!

For more information go to www.millionworker march.org.



TOM'S ELECTRONIC NEWS SERVICE

Tom Wodetzki, an Alliance activist in the Mendocino Coast (Calif) chapter, emails weekly a collection of ten or so articles selected because of their relevance to Alliance issues around corporations and democracy issues and/or current political developments.

Henry Clark of the Sacramento chapter says, "We continue to stay abreast of alternative media analysis as provided by Tom Wodetzki. . . and relayed to our chapter members by Vikki Savee. Tom and Vikki are the Paul Reverses of pro-

gressive news and interpretation in Northern California."

And Kati Winchell of the North Bridge (Mass) chapter wrote: "For years I've enjoyed Tom's forwarded articles—always the best of the best and six months ahead of mainstream media."

If you would like to receive this weekly free collection of progressive articles, email tw@mcn.org with the word "subscribe" in the subject line and/or contents space. You can unsubscribe at any time, no questions asked.



"OTHER VOICES" VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION

by Bill Haff

Alliance for Democracy Community Access Cable TV Project Overview is an organized effort to distribute Alliance-sponsored (and eventually, Alliance-produced) videotapes to local access TV stations around the country, taking advantage of guidelines that require stations to air non-commercial programs submitted by members of the community. We are distributing our current series to a network of Alliance members in Massachusetts, who participate by filling out the necessary paperwork and delivering the videos to their local cable station.

We invite other Alliance members across the country to participate. Our current library of tapes is listed below. We are working on new shows including some footage from the recent AfD National Convention and the Boston Social Forum.

These tapes are available at the following rates:

1 1-hr tape: \$26 (includes processing and shipping) 2-4 copies of 1 tape: \$15 each (includes processing and shipping) 5-10 copies of 1 tape: \$12 each (includes processing and shipping)

Tapes 2 and 3 (below) are 30 minutes and available for \$15 each (includes processing and shipping); \$12 each for orders of 5 or more.

The descriptions below are taken from the promotional packaging we have created for the tapes. These shows are also suitable for presentations or discussion groups.

Orders can be mailed to:

Bill Haff, 21 Welch Road South Easton, MA 02375 508-230-9273 bhaff@hori-zonhouse.com

Make checks payable to: The Alliance for Democracy

Tapes Presently Available

1) Charles Derber: An Introduction to the Alliance For Democracy (11/22/03)

Boston College sociology professor Charles Derber discusses the cultural and political roots of the Alliance for Democracy, a national organization in the forefront of the pro-democracy movement in America. Professor Derber describes movement predecessors, such as 19th century Populism, and provides fresh insights into the democratic values—transparency, accountability, stewardship of resources, and social responsibility—that have been pushed aside by privatization and deregulation, a process described in detail in Derber's new book *Regime Change Begins at Home*.

The democratic values Derber outlines are finding new expression in the blossoming people's movements in America. Derber urges activists to reach out to even more of the general public, and start a national dialog on the crises and opportunities now facing the country.

2) Jonathan Leavitt, director of the Massachusetts Anti-Corporate Clearinghouse discusses the corporate/democracy polarization of our society, its impact on our cultural and political institutions, and describes how his organization supports activism directed towards its resolution.

3) Richard Smyth, host of "Grass Seeds" interviews Rudy Perkins, director of Restoring American Democracy (RAD) and coordinator of the Cost of War Project for the Green/Rainbow Party. Perkins describes the origins, goals and methods of RAD, which has initiated outreach lectures on: the Iraq War and its relationship to US militarism and economic hegemony; trade agreements such as NAFTA and FTAA; and US foreign policy towards Columbia and other drug-producing countries, pointing out how all these issues impact democracy both here and abroad. Perkins also explains how the Cost of War Project quantifies the political and social costs of militarism in our daily lives.

4) Mike Prokosch, global economy coordinator for United for a Fair Economy and co-author of *The Global Activist's Manual* describes United for a Fair Economy's efforts to promote fair trade and raise awareness of the growing wealth gap created by aggressive "free trade" agreements. The cost of these agreements include lower-paid jobs, environmental degradation, and the weakening of participant countries' control over their internal social and economic policies. Prokosch points out that even the United States is now paying the price with lower standards of living and diminished sovereignty.

5) Daniel Ellsberg: Lessons from Vietnam for Iraq gives a sobering analysis by Daniel Ellsberg, the whistleblower who risked jail to publish "The Pentagon Papers." Ellsberg discusses parallels between the Vietnam conflict and the current US military mission in Iraq. He describes his first-hand familiarity with the official falsehoods used to justify the Vietnam War, and paints a damning portrait of US foreign policy in the past 50 years, that reached a low point with the misrepresentations used to justify Bush's intervention in Iraq.

Presented by the Alliance for Democracy and co-sponsored by the Veterans Education Project and Amherst College, 2003

6) Zia Mian: Confronting Empire, presented by the Peace and Economic Security Program of the American Friends Service Committee. The keynote speech for "Exploring the Dynamics and Human Cost of Empire," Professor Zia Mian describes the new American foreign policies in light of the Project For the New American Century doctrine, which openly prescribes world domination and the elimination of any global or regional challenge to America power. Zia Mian is professor for the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University, and co-editor of *Out of the Nuclear Shadow*.

PORTLAND REPORT

by David Delk (AFD@aol.com)

What busy times we have in Portland, OR. Currently, we are planning and, likely by the time of this newsletter's publication, will have had our sort-of-annual potluck. This year we have Charles Derber, author of *Regime Change Begins At Home*, as an attraction and we are hopeful of a large turnout. Our last "annual" potluck, 2 years ago, turned out 40 people for a local speaker, Martin Hart-Landsberg (economic professor at Lewis & Clark College), on "globalization." Check out Martin's book-length publication in *Monthly Review*, "China and Socialism, Market Reforms and Class Struggle."

Besides having fun, we also do a lot of work. Recently we put together a forum on water privatization: "Who Owns the Water, The People or For-Profit Corporations." Nancy Price came up from California and joined 2 local presenters, Lisa Meylan - a local water dis-

trict board member and AfD member - as well as Cascade Anderson Geller, an advocate for municipal control of drinking water. Recently she was a major actor opposing the costly covering of Portland's open water reservoirs. After a battle lasting over a two year period, the City of Portland decided that the reservoirs' water could be kept safe without burial and the expense which would have followed. This was truly a few active citizens standing up and speaking to power.

The forum netted our chapter a dozen new members as well as new members for the group opposing the reservoir covering. We will be looking at an initiative requiring an elected water board and/or an initiative requiring a people's vote before any part of the water system can be privatized or sold. This would be a proactive stance in view of going-ons in Stockton, CA.

Our most active campaign now is putting pressure on our local US Representatives regarding the upcoming vote on CAFTA. Rep. Earl Blumenauer

is a Democrat in one of the safest Democratic districts in the nation. Yet he will not state his position. So we wrote a flyer asking "Why is Earl confused?" and have passed about 2,000 copies of it out so far—the Kerry rally was a great spot (50,000 people came out for Kerry in Portland). All those Democrats were all in one place, all needing to know about Earl and his constant support for "Free Trade." The film, *The Corporation* has been playing and those people were very interested in the flyer and the issue. Lastly, we have been showing up at Earl's public appearances with the flyer and questions on his stand. He is getting a bit defensive. Visit our website at www.afd-pdx.org for more information on Earl and see the flyer.

Speaking of *The Corporation*, we also passed out Instant Run-Off Voting flyers at the same time. Ralph Nader is trying for ballot access by gathering the required number of signatures and his supporters have been at the theater. As people either signed or walked away or yelled at the signature gatherers, they got a flyer on IRV that would eliminate the rancor that Nader's effort's generate. We are hopeful of a Citywide effort to enact IRV.

We are also co-sponsoring an appearance by Thom Hartmann (author of *Unequal Protections, the Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights*) in late September as well as an appearance by Howard Lyman about the same time.

And lastly, Oregon is in bad need of campaign finance reform as we have no limitations whatsoever. And several of our group are working on 2 new initiatives which we hope will be on the Nov. 2006 ballot.

GRANNY D RUNNING FOR SENATE

Granny D (Doris Haddock) is on the road again. This time she is not walking around the Capitol. This time she plans to be on the Senate floor representing New Hampshire. Running as the Democratic candidate in this year's senatorial race, she promises to once again bring life into our moribund, money-bound, political system.

She has a lot to say about the world of her opponent who is an old politician, intimately tied with New Hampshire's entrenched political elite. "These people do not go around the world spreading peace, justice and democracy" she says, "They spread credit card debt, cell phones, sweatshop conditions, factory farms for hogs and not much better for people. They are in it for the money, and they want to economically enslave people, not free them."

This brave compatriot who has worked with the Alliance since she first walked across the country would tell it like it is on the floor of the Senate. For more information go to www.grannyd.com



Granny D at 2004 AfD Convention

photo: Jim Tarbell

UKIAH CA REPORT

By Richard Leamon (leamon@sonic.net)

Our AfD group in Ukiah will have a Clean Money Booth at the Ukiah Fair and also at Sol Fest. The better story will be that some of us from Northern California are going to take a bus to Arizona to help fight the bastards down there that are trying to defeat Clean Money in that state. □



TALK RADIO: AN UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCE FOR PROGRESSIVES

by Richard Sherman, Chuck Palson

Talk Radio is an effective grass roots tool that can be effectively used by the Left to challenge the reigning dogma and to inspire and organize our constituency. It is also very efficient because it reaches a very large audience.

Progressives have wrongly viewed Talk Radio as 'enemy territory,' where foul-mouthed hosts rant about liberal beliefs and assault any caller that fails to support the views of the far Right. Unfortunately that stereotype has resulted in progressives' abandonment of Talk Radio, allowing arch conservatives to monopolize this resource as part of organizing their constituency.

It can be unpleasant and disheartening to listen to talk radio shows. Some callers can be bluntly reactionary and the majority of hosts spout Republican talking points and can be intimidating. Progressive callers can be vigorously attacked for their "socialist" or "unpatriotic" beliefs.

Yet, we have found that these hosts are often relatively mild, even receptive to our messages. Additionally, they are not well-informed and can be thrown off

by a well-prepared caller and forced to concede points.

Contrary to the stereotypes, the political views of the audience are not just right wing, but range across the entire spectrum. And, we emphasize, this audience is very large.

Our overarching frame is on taking back America from the extreme rich and their corporations – who own and control so much of our democracy. Since they now own and control so much of our democracy, they are implicated in all issues. But we avoid the hot button cultural issues because conservative hosts have stock answers for these issues.

Our model is the successful organizing by the Right. For many years they have dispatched talking points issued by lead ideologues or the White House to contacts in the media and other "faithful." We need to be equally successful in staying 'on message.' Repetition has been key for them in getting across their message. We must do the same.

Anecdotal data suggests that we indeed comfort and inspire sympathetic audience members. Calls following ours are more assertive and progres-

sive. Sometimes we reveal the hosts to be uninformed bigots. Other times we have managed to "out" the populist, if not progressive beliefs of hosts who have mostly presented themselves as arch conservatives or light-weight liberals.

It is an excellent time to use talk shows because the failure of the occupation and the poor economy are eroding the confidence of the right wing. While they are bursting with confidence on the hot button issues, they are less confident and unified with the other issues that matter. They have no prepared defense against our calls as long as we are prepared with the relevant facts.

We are happy to collaborate with callers on framing the issues and developing research to support the calls. A coordinated nationwide effort to influence talk show agendas could significantly impact the political scene.

Richard Sherman and Chuck Palson are co-founders of FITE (Fairness in Taxes for Everyone). We can be contacted at info@fairnessintaxes.org or by mail at 88 Goulding, Sherborn, MA 01770.

BOOKS

Veering Right: How the Bush Administration Subverts the Law for Conservative Causes

by Charles Tiefer.

Hardcover, 432 pp., \$27.50. UC Press

A searing indictment of current administration policy. Charles Tiefer, a distinguished scholar of national legal affairs and former solicitor of the House of Representatives, argues that President George W. Bush methodically manipulates the law to promote right-wing causes. The beneficiaries of these machinations range from frontline pro-weapon and anti-women's rights groups to major industries that profit from lax environmental standards and military intervention in resource-rich regions. *Veering Right* demonstrates

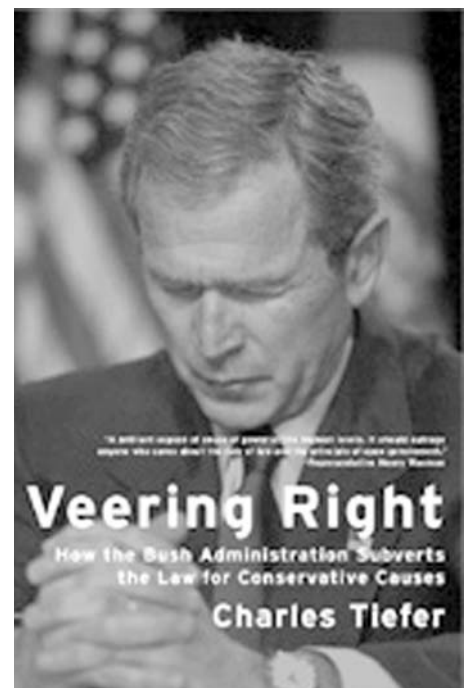
how the administrations's already-ample arsenal for accomplishing ideological goals was expanded with weapons such as Attorney General John Ashcroft's social crusades and the polarizing 2004 election campaign.

Tiefer lays out a compelling case for how the administration consistently erects barriers to media and congressional oversight that might expose covert motivations to public scrutiny. With an eye on the future, the White House is building a durable and potentially dominant machine for pursuing ideological goals by awarding lifetime judgeships and by exchanging favors for campaign funding.

This book presents eye-opening evidence that ultra-conservatives could achieve previously unimaginable successes during a second Bush term.

Nancy Price says "this book is important reading for facts and evidence for

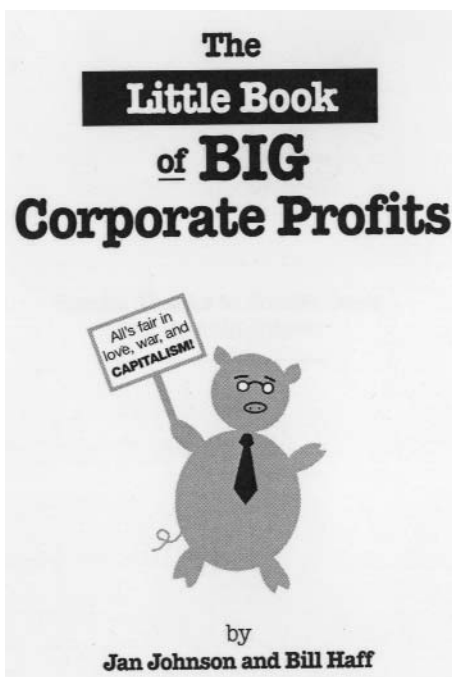
members to use in discussions, letters-to-the-editor, Op-Eds, etc."



A CORPORATE PRIMER

The *Little Book of BIG Corporate Profits* is a compact, humorous distillation of corporate issues as seen through the eyes of "Corpy Pig," a sincere crusader who wants to empower underprivileged executives everywhere. "Corpy" presents a series of "helpful tips" to the reader, explaining how corporations buy influence, direct policy, and conspire to make the world "safe for investors" (and unsafe for the rest of us!).

Jan and Bill are currently looking into funding options for large-scale printing of "The Little Book." In the meantime they welcome small-scale book orders, that will allow them to spread the word while paying costs of production. If you would like to order books via email, and perhaps see a few sample pages in PDF form, you can send a letter to Bill Haff at bhaff@hori-



zonhouse.com. Books are available at the following rates: 1-5 copies: \$3.50 each; 5-10 copies: \$3.00 each; 10 plus copies: \$2.50 each. Those without email can contact Bill at 21 Welch Road, South Easton, MA 02375.

IMPERIAL OVERSTRETCH HITS THE ROAD

Alliance Alerts editor Jim Tarbell and his wife Judy have struck out on a 22-state tour to engender a conversation on the empire that Americans love to deny. Using the promotion of his recently published book *Imperial Overstretch: George W. Bush and the Hubris of Empire* as a catalyst, Jim is speaking at Alliance groups, book stores and colleges across the country. The history and costs of the global commercial empire as well as the role of the Bush administration and what the future holds is all part of the story.



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_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 tight-budget membership.
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WE HAVE TO LOCK DOWN THE VOTE AGAINST CAFTA NOW.

Your members of Congress need to hear from you and they need to be worked on until they state publicly they will vote against CAFTA whenever it comes up. CALL them now! Make your voices heard. To learn your member's position on CAFTA, call their DC office (toll free 1-800-839-5276) and ask to speak to the Legislative Assistant who handles trade. If your members or member is opposed, thank them. Members not definitely opposed need to hear from you and all your friends NOW.

For more information go to: Citizens Trade Campaign <http://www.citizenstrade.org/cafta.php>. or Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch <http://www.trade-watch.org/cafta>.

CAFTA ALERT - TAKE ACTION NOW

by Nancy Price

The Citizens Trade Campaign wants to make sure that the fight to defeat CAFTA doesn't get lost in these last months of the election battle. Larry Weiss, Executive Director writes, "We have entered what could be the decisive battle to end the corporate free trade agenda as we have known it in the past 15 years." He reminds us that on May 28, the Bush administration formally signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and emphasizes that while it is unlikely the deal will come to Congress before the election, Bush is determined to bring it to Congress as soon thereafter as possible - either in a Lame-Duck session if he loses the election, or first thing next year if he wins.

If Kerry wins, he has pledged to renegotiate CAFTA's labor and environmental provisions and start a 120-day review period of existing trade agreements. We do not know what a renegotiated CAFTA would look like or what the review would produce. We don't want CAFTA, or any free trade agreements that establish a legal framework that trumps national, state and local sovereignty or that expands corporate property rights over human rights. Nor do we want any trade agreements that declare that future profits are property which must be protected by an "investor rights" provision that protects shareholders assets over the rights of nations, their people, and their communities.

As Weiss points out, CAFTA's significance is much greater than the economic region it covers. The Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA)—Bush's planned expansion of NAFTA to the entire western hemisphere—is stalled because key nations in South America and the Caribbean will not go along. CAFTA is the FTAA's Trojan horse, and the first of several deals intended to sneak the FTAA into place piece by piece.

If Bush can get CAFTA through Congress, the FTAA will still be alive.

If we can DEFEAT CAFTA, the entire corporate free trade agenda will be in deep crisis. Stopping CAFTA will completely change the terms of the trade debate in this country. CAFTA is very stoppable.