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FREE *The Hat City Free Press is working to create a citizens' medium for the open expression of perception and truth.* **FREE**

Democracy Uprising!

SOCIAL ACTIVISTS MARCH FROM BOSTON TO NYC

BY DAVE BONAN

The year was 1968. Activists numbering well into the thousands converged on Chicago's Democratic National Convention (DNC). The Vietnam conflict was in full swing and the United States military showed no sign of withdrawal. The activists wanted their input to be heard and processed by their democratic representatives of government, but their ideas for a new world were stifled by the wooden batons of the waiting police force. Activist leaders were jailed to stem the flow of their followers.

Jump ahead to June and August 2000. Activists had come out in record numbers at the DNC in Los Angeles and at the RNC in Philadelphia. Their various movements had just received an enormous surge in energy the previous December in Seattle at the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests. People were speaking out against various policies and they felt that their voices were not being taken into account by their leaders.

Four hundred people were arrested on seemingly trumped-up charges. Some were held without food, water, access to bathrooms, or needed medications. Three people talking on cell phones were charged with conspiracy to commit a terrorist act and their bail was set at \$1 million.

Come July 30, 2004, about one hundred activists will take to the road on foot, leaving Boston, Massachusetts at the end of the DNC on their way to the RNC in New York City, which will take place August 29 to September 2. They will walk approximately 10-20 miles per day, sleep at pre-arranged venues, and be welcomed by the press and other groups at various events along the way. They will be joined by a biodiesel bus from Iowa that will serve them food, as well as the Kensington Welfare Rights Union and the Wheels of Justice Tour. They will arrive in Providence, Rhode Island on August 2, Connecticut on August 5, Willimantic on August 8, Hartford on August 11&12 and New Haven on August 17-18. They will stop in Bridgeport on August 19, Stamford on August 22 and will cross into New York on August 23 to White Plains. From there they will be escorted by bicyclists who will help tow gear, with the march ending at



the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Clubhouse in the Bronx on August 24. Many activist groups, bicyclists from the Bike Bloc, organized by Time's Up! (www.times-up.org), and environmental groups will be joining them to protest during the RNC. For more information about the walk, the route, holding a benefit or to donate money and/or supplies, go to www.dnc2rnc.org.

Additional information on the RNC

continued on page two

There is a darker reality behind the mass marketing campaign to popularize soy and soy products through disputable health claims and incomplete scientific presentations. A host of health problems are associated with the consumption of soy and yet they are not adequately covered by the media. These problems are: isoflavones disrupt endocrine function and cause hormonal problems with the reproductive system, phytates block mineral absorption, enzymes necessary for protein digestion are inhibited, substances that depress thyroid function are released, brain function is adversely affected causing dementia and both carcinogens and toxins are formed during the commercial production process of isolated soy protein. These concerns as well as the graduation of soy being considered unfit for consumption to a practically unavoidable food will be explored further in this six-part series.

The use and sale of soy and soy products has skyrocketed in recent years due to a massive advertising campaign with marketing emphasis on possible health benefits. For example, the soy-milk industry has grown from a mere \$2 million profit in 1980 to over \$300 million in 1999. Health claims include lowering cholesterol levels, potential for osteoporosis and cancer prevention and the ability for soy to make hot flashes dissipate. We are told that soy has been consumed for

"I hereby announce my resignation as governor of the state of Connecticut effective twelve noon, July First, 2004."

Avoiding possible impeachment, Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland (Republican) announced on Monday June 22, 2004 he would resign from office effective July 1. On Wednesday June 23, he submitted his official resignation letter to the Secretary of the State's office, making many citizens of Connecticut happy after months of investigation into allegations of corruption. The House Select Committee (on Impeachment) spent an estimated \$5 million and four months investigating whether to recommend impeachment.

Although Rowland's resignation ends these impeachment proceedings, he's still under federal investigation and faces possible indictment on federal corruption charges for allegedly steering millions of dollars in work to contractors in return for gifts.

Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell (R) will serve the remaining two-and-a-half years of Rowland's term and Senate President (Pro Tem) Kevin Sullivan (D) will serve as Lieutenant Governor.

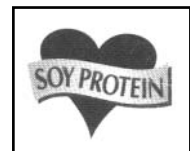
Rowland Resigns

BY ERNIE WELLS



The Detriments of Soy: What They Won't Tell You (Part 1 of 6)

BY SHAWN CARNEY



thousands of years with no adverse effects and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has allowed products containing soy protein to bear the claim: "Diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol that include 25 grams of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease". Products with 6.25 grams (1 tsp.) of soy protein per 100 gram serving may also claim that they are "low in saturated fat and cholesterol". What they don't tell you is that their presentation of soy is incomplete, misleading and may do you more harm than good.

First, it should be clarified that there is no historic record for human consumption of soybeans or soy products that can be compared with the products we encounter today. The wild soybean; Glycine soja, is found in parts of China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea and areas of the former USSR. This species of soybean was traditionally cultivated for its nitrogen-fixing abilities during crop rotation. It was considered unfit to eat due to its large quantities of natural toxins or "anti-

nutrients." Soy's anti-nutrients include enzyme inhibitors that block the digestion of protein, thereby resulting in chronic deficiencies of amino acid uptake and growth depression.

Human consumption did not begin until Chinese scientists discovered fermentation processes. Traditional fermentation processes deactivate growth-depressant compounds and leave enzyme inhibitors behind in the soaking liquid rather than the resulting soybean curd. Other anti-nutrients, such as haemagglutinin, goitrogens, and phytic acid remain but growth depressants are largely reduced. Fermentation gave rise to tofu, miso, tempeh, natto and soy sauce and these products are what the soy industry uses to justify its health claims for longevity of consumption.

However, the species that growers use today is Glycine max, genetically bred to provide more protein and better resilience to pests or disease than its ancestral cultivar, Glycine soja.

continued on page five

The Hat City Free Press Staff

HCFP VOLUNTEER STAFF:

merrilee warholak
ernie wells
sarah watts
dave bonan
colin cascia
dave villegas
shawn carney

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

annie schneider
stephen v. kobasa

new address:

241 main street
suite #3
danbury, ct 06810

email:

hcfp@madhattersimc.org

phone:

1.203.730.9397

online:

CT:
www.madhattersimc.org

Global:
www.indymedia.org

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Fahrenheit 9/11: Like It Or Leave It, You Should See It

BY SHAWN CARNEY

The latest Michael Moore documentary, *Fahrenheit 911*, has landed itself amid controversy, accusations, and attempts to have it withdrawn from the market - just the environment Moore seems to thrive in, at least economically speaking. *Fahrenheit 911* is the first documentary to ever achieve number one sales in theaters. Despite this success, Moore has reportedly declined some of the more confrontational interviews. This may be for good reason, since the film neglects to mention some developments and details very relevant to the events presented. The film simplifies an extremely complicated subject and leaves a viewer forming opinions without all the facts.

Nonetheless, *Fahrenheit 911* is both informative and powerful. It brings you from the controversial presidential election of 2000, through 9-11-01, to the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Much of the material presented is vaguely familiar and rekindles memories of some tidbit thrown at you among volumes of media releases, but now the details are woven into a larger fabric that we have seen unfold in recent times.

Moore reveals the disturbing reality of how the G.W. Bush administration took power and mishandled counter-terrorism efforts prior to 9-11-01. Scenes appear from Congress where many disenfranchised Representatives of Florida were not allowed to contest the discount of their constituents' votes because of one technicality - no senator would sign off with them. Once Bush takes office, he is portrayed as negligent of his duties because in the eight months preceding the terrorist attacks, he spent "42 percent" of working days on "vacation", as reported by the *Washington Post*. He also did not hold a single meeting with then National

Coordinator for Security and Counter-Terrorism Richard Clarke. This is all the more unforgivable in light of the report given to President Bush on August 6, 2001 explaining that bin Laden may plan to hijack planes.

Moore further exposes a little known fact from the morning of 9-11-01: President Bush, upon being informed our nation was under attack, continued to sit with elementary children for *seven minutes* and read *My Pet Goat*. To watch this footage alone is worth your \$9 ticket! It is an outrage and violates the most basic tenet of emergency response training, namely prompt and efficient action. He should have known to at least get off his ass and leave the photo opportunity! After all, wasn't he in the Texas Air National Guard?

Bush's suspension from the Texas Air National Guard is also covered in the film. Moore's proof of this lies in a document he obtained in 2000 that shows G.W. Bush and his associate, James R. Bath, both being suspended. When the White House recently released the same document they edited out Bath's name. "Why?" Moore asks. Perhaps it is because Bath was the Texas money manager for the bin Laden family, or because Bath heavily invested Saudi money into G.W. Bush's early oil companies like Arbusto, or because Bath's firm was so well liked by the Saudis that it represented their interests against legal suits from the families of 9-11-01 victims. Perhaps President Bush thought the American public knowing this would not look so good, Moore concludes.


Viewers learn of the longstanding business association between the Bush family and Saudi oil cartels like the bin Laden family. Not only have Saudis had their

investments placed into Bush companies like Harken Energy, but

also they are partners in the same multi-billion dollar company - the Carlyle Group. Bush Sr. still serves this group as an advisor and visits Saudi Arabia on business. Estimates for how much money the Bush family has made from three decades with the Saudis are around 1.4 billion dollars. No wonder the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Prince Bandar, is affectionately known as "Bandar Bush" among the Bush family.

Moore speculates, this is why 142 Saudis were flown out of the country on 9-13-01 while all air traffic in the U.S. was still cancelled. Two-dozen bin Ladens were among those that left the U.S. and not one was questioned about their relative Osama. Although Moore neglects to mention that the 9-11 commission did not find this suspect, this author finds that finding itself suspect! Furthermore, we are left wondering if all this influenced the Bush administration's opposition to Congressional and independent 9-11-01 investigation committees and why they were uncooperative with those committees' requests for information.

Moore's handling of the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq seems more selective and problematic. He neglects to mention the Saudis opposed our invasion of Afghanistan and curiously seems to advocate having sent *more* troops there.

Ultimately, *Fahrenheit 911* is worth seeing because it removes some naiveté about why President Bush would protect the Saudis and how both groups can make a profit via investments in oil and weapons, as they have with the Carlyle Group. I don't think anyone is implying President Bush knew 9-11-01 would happen, though he could have done more to prevent it from happening. Rather, the charge is that this administration is filled with post-9-11-01 opportunists. After all, the U.S. installed president of Afghanistan was a former advisor to Unocal, an energy company that sought and just got approval for construction of a trans-Afghan natural gas pipeline. This is not anti-corporate globalization theory. It is reality. 

Bike To Beat Bush!


BY DAVE BONAN

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) comes to Boston in late July and before the great throngs of people attend and protest the event, a message will be making its way to Boston, from New York City, supporting many organizations dedicated to peace.

Originally dubbed, "Bike For Peace," the event was supposed to be a 5-day ride from New York City to Boston but was recently scrapped in favor of an all inclusive, one-day local event in the city. It will take place on Sunday, July 25 and has been aptly renamed, "Bike to Beat Bush!" As of press time, the starting line is not finalized, but it will be a ride through many of the boroughs.

The event seeks to "end the cycle of violence by cycling for peace". The ride wants to encourage peace-minded people to raise money to support peace initiatives.

The event seeks to raise \$50,000 for the Swing State Summer Break and United for Peace and Justice while inspiring community and impacting voters to "pedal their politics."

For more information or to make a donation, call Nadette at 212-971-1989 or email her at bike4peace@aol.com or log on to www.eefers.com/bike.htm 



continued from page one

is available at: www.rncnotwelcome.org,
www.rncwatch.org,
www.counterconvention.org or
www.blackteasociety.org

MA/CT organizer:


Heather: 860-456-2700 or email hds@sover.net

Dave Bonan:

203-791-0284 or email dave@madhattersimc.org

New York City organizer:

Tim at notforme88@hotmail.com

Additional regional coverage will be provided by the Boston, MA, Danbury, CT, New Jersey and New York City Independent Media Centers at www.boston.indymedia.org, www.madhattersimc.org, www.newjersey.indymedia.org and www.nyc.indymedia.org. Check frequently for daily journal entries by the participants and the up-to-the-minute newswire on the NYC IMC site during the RNC. 

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l e t t e r s t o t h e e d i t o r s

Monday, May 24, 2004

An American-Muslim in support of the President's actions in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the World

Sure it may sound rare to folks involved in the media and most of what many misinformed Americans may think, but there is a vast and silent groups of Muslims that support the Presidents actions following September 11th 2001. Contrary to popular belief, there is a reason why Muslim and Arab Americans voted in record numbers in the November 2000 elections for President, then Governor Bush. His decisions abroad have helped our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and now in Iraq find a freedom they have grown accustomed to not have. Sure do to the wars it takes to achieve this goal, many people, including civilians were caught in the crossfire, but then again freedom is not free.

One example comes to mind, since my parents are originally from Bangladesh. This small Asian nation on the Indian subcontinent was involved in an Independence War in 1971 against Pakistan, with the help of India, the independence fighters gained freedom for the millions of their people. Without the help of India, similar to what the Iraqis have with America, there was no way to gain this valued independence. The people of Bangladesh will be forever grateful to India and that time Prime Minister Indiria Ghandi for their help. Sure, sadly an estimated 2 to 3 millions lives were lost between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. But if you ask most Bangladeshis, only after 32 years since the war, they would echo the greatness of this achievement, although it lost way too many lives, what came out of it was a freedom they had grown to never expect. Now Bangladesh is one of the most fastest growing economies in the world. The Bangladeshis are accomplishing much more in advancement of their own people and communities than they ever could have under a brutal Pakistani government thirty years ago, which oppressed and taxed without representing East Pakistan which now is called Bangladesh.

This same and even more bright future is seen now with Iraq and Afghanistan, thanks to the risks and politically incorrect moves this Bush administration has taken in the past 3 1/2 years. Expect me to vote to extend the time President George W. Bush will serve and protect our great nation and it's people and continue to liberate the minds of those that have been wrongfully accustomed to oppression throughout the world.

Thank you for listening to an alternative view.

Sincerely,
Shamiul Khan
Jamaica Estates, NY

Saturday, June 05, 2004

Outraged over the Outrage

I am outraged at the outrage being expressed concerning the prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq. Has everyone else forgotten what we are up against? Specifically, has everyone else forgotten about the 19 terrorists who boarded our planes, flew them into our buildings, killing some 3000 Americans? Or what about the four Americans who were murdered, burned, dragged through the street, and hung from a bridge? Or more recently, the brutal beheading of Nick Berg? These events are outrageous and should be treated as so. However, this misbehavior of a small number of troops is just that - misbehavior, albeit inappropriate misbehavior. The democrats howling for the resignation of Rumsfeld is just as outrageous. If that's the case, maybe we should start demanding the resignations of school superintendents when 10,15, or even 20 students per week receive detention. Just because the school board makes the rules and expects the staff to carry out the rules and the students to obey the rules, doesn't mean that it is going to happen like that. In fact they know it won't because a small number of people are not going to abide by the rules. We need to tell the Democrats in D.C. to get real, and get outraged about something that is truly outrageous.

Sincerely,
Curtis R. Spatz
Lincoln, AR

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

The Bush Administration Must Go

George W. Bush, and more particularly the apparatus behind him, represent the worst administration in the history of America bar none and are rapidly closing in on the record of Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia.

In many ways, they are already worse than both, having aided and abetted in even greater environmental catastrophe through the use of depleted uranium weapons, the development of space-based weapons and the gutting of essential environmental protection legislation.

While I cannot but see Mr. Bush as a brainwashed adolescent, there is, behind the scenes somewhere, partially embodied in Bush's cabinet and closest "advisers" a cold, calculating, demonic evil.

It is this evil which Americans must cast from our country and planet with all haste and finality.

America, where are you? Where is your courage and your spirit? Has the TV hypnotized you beyond recovery? Will the greatest nation of all time succumb to the demonic worm of totalitarian domination?

God help us.
Sincerely,
Leland Lehrman
Greenwich, CT

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Bush favors big oil, puts us at terror risk.....

Taxpayers Footing Oil Safety Bill

WASHINGTON, May 25, 2004

It's no secret that when it comes to the mounting cost of security for all high-risk terrorist targets, like nuclear power plants and railroads, there simply isn't enough Homeland Security money to go around.

But, as CBS News Correspondent Mika Brzezinski reports, precious taxpayer dollars are quietly going to pay for security at some of the richest corporations in the world. Major oil companies have received \$65 million to buy cameras, fencing, and communications equipment.

"That makes no sense to me at all," says Bill Millar, President of the American Public Transportation Association.

Millar asks why these profitable private companies are receiving scarce taxpayer dollars while publicly funded entities like the transit system, with Americans riding 32 million times a day, left under-funded and under-protected.

"Clearly, public transit is being short changed and security is not as strong as it could be," says Millar.

"We don't have unlimited resources," says Danielle Brian, the executive director of Project On Government Oversight. Brian cites the Bush administration's close ties with the oil industry and points out that these companies could well afford to pay for their own security.

"They're taking absolute advantage of the situation and the government is letting them get away with it," said Brian.

Case in point: Citgo made a \$439 million profit but took \$19.4 million in government grants. ConocoPhillips earned \$4.7 billion in profits but received nearly \$10.8 million. ChevronTexaco netted a whopping \$7.2 billion profit but several of its facilities still got over \$7.3 million in government handouts.

All of these companies refused our request for an interview. Instead we were sent to industry representative John Felmy. He says everyone, not just the oil companies, benefits from increased security.

When told that the money is going to oil companies when it could be going to targets that can't afford to protect themselves, Felmy said, "You'll have to speak to the Department of Homeland Security."

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge points out that the oil companies only get a fraction of Homeland Security funds. But he acknowledged a need for more shared responsibility.

"Do these companies need this money," Brzezinski asked Ridge.

"They need to step up, in my judgment, with their own money," said Ridge.

Brzezinski: "Do you think maybe some of these companies are cashing in on a great opportunity here?"

Ridge: "Well, as long as the funds are available for the private sector they will apply."

And some have applied yet again, because more government funds will be available by the end of the summer.

Sincerely,
Bush is a greedy ass
Dan Turnpille
Alpine, NJ

letters to the editors

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The Under-Reported Newswire Compiled By Dave Bonan

World

Guadalajara, Mexico - June 3 Police Violence in Guadalajara

Forty-four activists and bystanders were imprisoned in Guadalajara in the events surrounding the Third Summit of Governments and Heads of State of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (ALCUE III) at the counter summit. Eight non-Mexicans are being detained in Mexico City facing deportation. The number of activists that have disappeared tops 100. Most of those detained were charged with rioting and property destruction, and face prison sentences; with \$5,000 bail per person.

The summit concluded on May 29 with trade agreements without popular endorsement and severe violence against demonstrators at the end of the general march. A Global Day of Action for their release was on Friday, June 4 with Philadelphians protesting at the Mexican Consulate in town.

Havana, Cuba - May 14 Fidel Castro Leads One Million to Protest GW Bush's Policies

Cuban President Fidel Castro led one million Cubans in a massive march in Havana to protest new steps taken by the United States to squeeze Cuba's economy and topple its communist government. He also protested the U.S. forcing his government from one system to another while Cuban socialism had achieved literacy and educational levels of an industrialized nation and an infant mortality rate lower than the United States.

Castro said Bush had no moral authority to speak of democracy and human rights in Cuba when his election to the White House was a "fraud" and U.S. troops were killing civilians in Iraq.

National

Boston, Massachusetts - Early June Activist Arrested for Dressing up as Iraqi Prisoner at Military Recruitment Center

Joe Previtera, a twenty-one-year-old student at Boston College, was arrested on felony charges after dressing as a hooded Iraqi prisoner in front of a military recruitment center. Suffolk County District Attorney suggested that his bail be set at \$10,000, but a National Lawyers Guild

attorney and Previtera's mother, also an attorney, persuaded the judge to free him on personal recognizance.

Miami, Florida - May 20 Greenpeace Activists Found Not Guilty in Boarding of Sea Vessels

In a stunning setback to the Bush administration's attempt to shut down Greenpeace, a Federal Judge in Miami dismissed the government's case against the environmental group for boarding a ship carrying illegal mahogany shipments. The federal government imposed a law against the activists, not used since 1890 dealing with the boarding of ships in a time of war. If the government had won, it would have been the first criminal prosecution by U.S. authorities of an advocacy group that used civil disobedience.

Seattle, Washington - May 11 Seattle World Trade Organization (WTO) Arrestees Win Class Action Suit

A class action lawsuit, Hickey v. City of Seattle has been won on behalf of 155 activists arrested at First and Broad Streets on December 1, 1999 at the Seattle WTO protests. The Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (TLPJ) represented the activists and the City of Seattle paid \$250,000 in damages for wrongful arrest. A second class action suit for people arrested inside the allegedly unconstitutional "no-protest zone" is still underway and awaiting the result of an appeal.

Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts - April 29 Tisbury Becomes the 300th Municipality to Denounce the Patriot Act

Tisbury voters on Martha's Vineyard became the 300th government body to denounce parts of the Patriot Act and its policies that threaten civil liberties. More than 51 million people, or one in six U.S. residents, live in the 297 cities and counties and four states (Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and Vermont) that have passed similar resolutions. Fifteen of the communities are among the country's 25 most populous cities. The 15 largest U.S. cities with resolutions are:

New York City (1), Los Angeles (2), Chicago (3), Philadelphia (5), Dallas (8), Detroit (10), San Jose (11), San Francisco (13), Austin (16), Baltimore (17), Milwaukee (19), Washington, D.C. (21), El Paso (23), Seattle (24) and Denver (25).

National - Early April UN To NYPD: Stop Human Rights Violations

In a recently released public summaries of letters sent to the United States

Government in 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights expressed concern about human rights violations of peaceful anti-war demonstrators by the NYPD and Oakland PD. The annual report includes summaries of letters sent to numerous human right violators including the

Governments of China, Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran and Colombia.

The letters expressed noted that Oakland and New York City Police Departments, in dealing with peaceful demonstrators, used excessive force (involving pepper spray, teargas, wooden and shot filled bullets, concussion or "sting" grenades, police horses, batons), surveillance, prevention of a march, disruption of a rally, mass arrests, interrogation, detention in poor conditions, and denial of access to legal advice. The report largely criticizes NYPD behavior before and during the February 15, 2003 protest and the Oakland shootings on April 7, 2003.

Nationwide - Early April Republican National Committee Urges New Rules to Silence Groups Critical of Bush

The Republican National Committee is pressing the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to issue new rules that would shut down groups that communicate with the public in any way critical of President Bush or members of Congress. Coincidentally, the FEC had just issued — for public comment — a proposal similar to the RNC's version. Any kind of non-profit — conservative, progressive, labor, religious, secular, social service, charitable, educational, civic participation, issue-oriented, large, and small — could be affected by these rules.

Regional

New York City - May 12 Judge Imposes His Sentence on Activists

A Manhattan judge called political protest "an imposition" of protesters' opinions on "the people of New York City," and told the courtroom that people attend political demonstrations out of "lack of confidence," as he sentenced 12 non-violent activists to extraordinary penalties and fines.

The twelve were sentenced to a total of 90 days community service, and fines of more than \$2000, for a demonstration last April against the invasion of Iraq and the killing of U.S. activist Rachel Corrie by the Israeli military. Four more protesters were sentenced in late May.

New York City, New Haven, CT -

Late March/Early April Mock Coke Funeral at NYU; Coke CEO Confronted at Yale

NYU students staged a mock-funeral procession, complete with bagpipe player and coffin, down Washington Square South into the Kimmel Center for University Life. Once the students arrived, they staged a mass "die-in" for 20 minutes on the Center's grand steps in solidarity with workers killed at Coca-Cola's bottling plants in Colombia.

At Yale University in New Haven, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Coca-Cola Company Douglas Daft spoke about the ethical and moral responsibilities of businesses while twenty Yale students and New Haven residents protested what they called Coke's poor international labor practices, accusing members of Coke's board of being complacent about the murders of union members at the company's plants in Colombia. The group also unfurled two banners, one reading "Coke: Proud sponsor of Colombian Death squads."

Local

New Haven - Late May Resolution Abolishing Death Penalty Ratified by New Haven Board of Alderman

The CT Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP) sponsored a resolution calling for the abolition of the death penalty. The bill was introduced by Al Marder from the New Haven Peace Coalition and after being passed by the subcommittee on Human Affairs by 6-0, passed the Board of Alderman by 25-3.

Wallingford - Late May Local Squatted Community Center Shut Down

"The Warehouse" space, a "do-it-yourself" (diy) venue in Wallingford had its last two shows in late May as they were forced to shut down for lack of permits. They lasted for a few months, served free food to the homeless community, held art shows and benefit concerts.

Hartford - Mid April Medical Marijuana Bill Passes House, Dies As Session Wraps Up

A bill that would allow seriously ill people to grow and smoke marijuana passed the CT House of Representatives by 75-71. It had been submitted the last few years and last year was the closest vote margin, losing by a handful. The bill would let those with cancer, AIDS, glaucoma and other serious illnesses use the drug to relieve nausea and other symptoms, with a doctor's written permission.

Connecticut passed a law in the early 1980s to allow physicians to prescribe marijuana to help patients with pain and nausea, one of the oldest in the nation. But state doctors never have prescribed it, because its use is illegal under federal law.

Under the proposed law, patients and their primary caregivers would be allowed to keep as many as five plants and one usable ounce of marijuana. But lawmakers said that regulation would conflict with federal guidelines, because obtaining marijuana is still illegal.

Eight states - Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington - have laws protecting seriously ill patients who use medical marijuana with their doctor's recommendations.

CCAG Connecticut Citizen Action Group
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q u e e r

As court battles rage on in New Paltz, NY and San Francisco, CA, where officials utilized civil disobedience to fight for same-sex marriage, Connecticut activists and organizations are employing different tactics.

"We've never ruled out the probability of a court case," said Anne Steinback, president of Love Makes A Family, "but we've had success in Connecticut working in the legislature with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues."

Love Makes A Family (LMF) describes their organization as, "a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals working for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples in Connecticut."

On May 16, 2004 LMF organized and hosted a rally at the Capital in Hartford, with over 1,000 people in attendance. The rally celebrated the Massachusetts court decision that, as of May 17, allows same-sex couples to marry.

The rally included speakers ranging from seasoned political activists and organizers to religious leaders, gay parents and family members of homosexuals. The lineup also featured two musical performances by Mikata and Sister Funk, but Sister Funk was unable to play due to a suspicious canister that State Police discovered by the sound tent. State Police disposed of the canister, alleviating fears that it might have been a bomb, and subsequently questioned at least one individual on the matter, but currently have no suspects in custody.

"Civil marriage is a civil right," said Teresa Younger, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union (CCLU) who spoke at the rally. Younger said the importance of the event is that it "frames the issue of marriage equality as the next civil rights battle."

Jeff Kalbrutski, a Vietnam veteran who attended the rally said, "It doesn't look too good at this point because the governor said he's not going to sign the [gay marriage] bill even if the legislature passes it." His partner of 30 years, Paul, interjected, "Yeah, but we may not have a governor. He added, "If the legislature doesn't pass a bill and the courts don't do justice to the citizens of this country, the gay citizens, then we're going to have to use civil disobedience just like with the Black civil rights movement. What we need is a national leader."

Peter and Bill, who have been together for 26 years and are both part of LMF, see legislature, rather than civil disobedience as a crucial part of the marriage equality movement.

"We hope that it's going to legislatively give it real power," said Peter. "We don't want this to just be a civil disobedience action; we want this to be real marriage." Peter sees the fight for gay marriage going in a similar direction as the fight for legal recognition of interracial marriages. According to Peter, that struggle saw its first victo-

The Direction of the Marriage Equality Struggle in Connecticut

BY COLIN CASCIA

ry in 1948 when California legalized interracial marriages, but it wasn't until 1967 that the entire union desegregated marriage. "I see it going in the same direction," he said, "but not taking as long."

Steinback said that LMF would hold off for now on an actual marriage bill that will grant same-sex couples equal rights. "We have made the strategic decision not to introduce a marriage bill," she said. "We wanted to wait and let the Massachusetts decision play out, but next year with the momentum from that decision and from the people who are going to go to Massachusetts and get married we will be back at the Capital with a strong marriage bill for 2005."

Wendy Cahill, owner of the Molten Java coffeehouse in Bethel, is glad to see progress, but feels that opening the fight on two fronts couldn't hurt.

"I think we need to do exactly what they did in Massachusetts," she said. "We need to take it to the courts."

She also believes that LMF and other gay advocacy groups "need to get away from the religion issue and stop fighting fire with fire. We need to focus on the civil issue. I appreciate [the religious] support but I want separation of church and state."

Cahill plans to legally marry her partner Laura in Massachusetts in late June of this year, as well as hold a marriage ceremony in Connecticut.

There are still questions as to when and if Connecticut couples will be able to marry in Massachusetts. Connecticut's Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal, issued a statement on May 17 stating, "same-sex couples cannot legally marry in Connecticut," because "the legislature has provided no legal authority to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple." However, Blumenthal refused to answer whether or not Connecticut would recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. He asserted that, "An answer would require me to make a law, not interpret it."

"He has a point," said Cahill. "He doesn't make the law. Because this decision is unprecedented in this state, I think the courts should have to deal with it."

According to LMF, Blumenthal did state in a letter to Governor Romney of Massachusetts that, "marriages of

Connecticut same-sex couples in Massachusetts would not automatically be void under Connecticut law 'because our state has no statute declaring same-sex marriages void.' LMF eagerly awaits Governor Romney's final decision as to whether or not Connecticut citizens can be married in Massachusetts.

Connecticut gay couples seeking marriage are not the only ones playing the waiting game. In the neighboring state of New York, Gay rights advocates continue to fight their battle with the courts.

On February 19, Green Party activist Jeff Green urged fellow party members and New York residents to ask New Paltz Mayor Jason West to "start the ball rolling" on the distribution of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. After deliberation, Mayor West married 19 same-sex partners on February 27.

On March 3, West was charged with solemnizing a marriage without a license for each of the couples he married. He pleaded not guilty and contends that his actions were in accordance with the New York State Constitution. Mayor West refrained from any further same-sex marriages while discussions took place, but there are still lawsuits pending from ten Rockland, NY gay couples that were denied marriage licenses.

So far, the only state in America to recognize same-sex marriage is Massachusetts, but Steinback of LMF is confident in Connecticut's legislature, stating, "I think we will be one of the first states to have marriage of same-sex couples."

Note: After this article was written, Town Justice Jonathan Katz of New Paltz dropped charges against Mayor Jason West on the grounds the restrictions he broke were unconstitutional. Katz upholds that the State Constitution provides equal rights for all New York citizens. District Attorney Donald Williams will appeal the case to the county court and will set an important precedent with its outcome. If Mayor West loses, the validity and authority of the New York State Constitution, and possibly other state constitutions, are at risk.

For more information visit:
www.bongoboy.com/newpaltz/index.htm



continued from page one

Glycine max was first reported over sixty years ago and is quite different in its composition. Aside from having more protein, Glycine max has almost double the amount of oil, more phytoestrogens and more isoflavones, which are used as a defense mechanism in response to pests. Many studies have also shown that both have adverse effects on the endocrine and reproductive systems of mammals.

Furthermore, different cultivars of Glycine max have demonstrated varying elevated levels of isoflavones in their products. This means the isoflavone levels in Glycine soja cannot be commensurated with that of its present day relative; isoflavone levels may have been historically quite low or even non-existent. This exposure to increased levels of isoflavones has only happened in the marketplace over the last thirty years and many researchers are still not convinced they are even safe for human consumption.

Not only has our soybean and its composition changed from those historically used in Asia, the concentrations and amounts we consume have greatly increased. What the soy industry and FDA recommend is far beyond that of any other diet in the world. Asians are not drinking soymilk, eating soy cereal, using soy protein or eating tofu burgers. They never had a "soy-based" diet as promoters for the soy industry would lead you to believe.

According to the non-profit, Soy Online Service, researchers in Japan found the average amount of soy protein consumed by men was 8.00 grams/day (+/- 4.95 grams/day) and by women was 6.88 grams/day (+/- 4.06 grams/day). The FDA more than tripled this figure in the now common health claim: "diets ...that include 25 grams of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease." You may assume the FDA is being a bit overzealous with their statement, but there is no cause for alarm. And you'd

be wrong because the corresponding increase in genistein, a soy isoflavone (phytoestrogen) which has been linked to disruption of the endocrine system and irreversible damage to hormone synthesis, would put the consumer up to 50mg/day. This is more than five times the level consumed by Japanese males who experienced side effects, as documented by researchers in 1996. Furthermore, if soy is at all responsible for the series of health benefits promoters speak of, why would Americans be required to spend millions of dollars and eat more soy than their neighbors across the Pacific, only to reap the same benefits?

Since Asians eat so little soy there is no basis for the claims that better health results from a "soy-based diet" and certainly no basis for the recommended daily values which the promoters of soy and the FDA make.

Their proposed daily intake for the prevention of heart disease contains up to five times as many isoflavones as found in the typical Asian diet. And isoflavones, as expanded on in subsequent articles, have been linked with multiple adverse effects on health including stimulation of cancer cells and accelerated

brain aging.

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Global Voice: A generation of Change

BY ANNIE SCHNEIDER

When Newtown High School students, Annie Schneider and Emily Oliver first learned about child labor in Mrs. Brookes' Latin American class, they knew right away they wanted to do something to help. The project, which was on Haiti, opened their eyes to the world of social and economic poverty. At first they wanted to stop child labor entirely, which is still a dream, but soon realized it was nearly impossible. So, they decided they could start small by creating an awareness club at their school, Global Voice.

Global Voice is a human rights discussion and charity group. Each week they meet and discuss a certain human rights topic such as child labor, exploitation and homelessness. Since it is a student-run club, all the members actively discuss the topics together. The last 15 minutes are reserved for talking about upcoming or ongoing charitable events hosted by Global Voice. Recently, Global Voice held a benefit Concert in which local bands agreed to play for free, raising \$400. The money will eventually go towards purchasing school supplies for children in Tanzania. The group will have more fundraisers and send the proceeds to them as soon as possible. At each event, a bake sale is held for those hungry people who also want to donate. Global Voices' next fundraiser will be a tag sale at the end of the summer. The students are currently trying to find a cheap or free storage unit to house the items until the day of the tag sale.

Global Voices' goal is to create awareness in their community by starting small. This is already slowly being achieved. Global Voice will soon be a host of Global March's international newspaper for youth. The title of the paper is none other than Global Voice. There are about 25 regular members including a seventh grader whom is so interested in the club, he jumps on the bus to get to the high school. Global Voice meets every Monday from 2-3pm at Newtown High School. For further information please contact Annie Schneider at Amsofct@aol.com or Emily Oliver at EmilyBmilyBoop88@aol.com

Co-Presidents: Annie Schneider and Emily Oliver

Secretary: Tara Cerreta

Treasurer: Linda Chamiec-Case



Both CT Chambers Overwhelmingly Pass Second Global Warming Legislation in the Country to Set Goals for Overall Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Governor's signature expected

Hartford - Clean Water Action and Environment Northeast - lead advocates on the climate change legislation - heralded the passage of "SB 595: An Act Concerning Climate Change". The support of citizens across the state, Environment Co-Chairs Senator Donald Williams and Representative Patricia Widlitz, legislative leadership in both chambers, and 100 legislative co-sponsors pushed to get the bill through a variety of hurdles in the last tense week of the legislative session.

The legislation sets the framework for continuing the existing efforts Connecticut has taken to prevent global warming. The final language of legislation commits Connecticut to:

- Work to achieve its share of the greenhouse gas reductions needed to meet the goals established by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2001 (return to 1990 emissions levels by 2010, 10 percent below 1990 by 2020, and a long term reduction of 75-85 percent of human-made greenhouse gas emissions from 2001 levels).

- Create a plan for achieving the near and mid-term reduction goals (2010 and 2020) by Feb 15, 2005, and a plan to achieve the long-term reductions by Jan 1, 2008.

- By Jan 15, 2004, provide an informational hearing to the Environment, Energy and Technology, Commerce, and Transportation Committees regarding the Feb 15, 2005 draft. The Committees will then consider endorsing the plan - an endorsement is advisory only, not binding.

- Mandate the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from major stationary emitters.

- Mandate the regular reporting of total emissions from all sectors in the form of a state greenhouse gas inventory to be issued every three years.

- Develop a 'Climate Friendly' list of

products, services, and systems for state government and public universities that have the lowest global warming impact.

"Overwhelming science and overwhelming support has given Connecticut an intelligent outline for addressing global warming here in the state and in the region," remarked Brooke Suter, Connecticut Director of Clean Water Action and Coordinator of the Connecticut Climate Coalition upon passage of SB 595. "The greenhouse gas reduction goals endorsed and the planning process specified will result in the thoughtful, effective plans needed to protect Connecticut's health and economy from the threat of global warming," she concluded.

"This bill will lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within the State of

Connecticut and commit the state to continue working towards the regional greenhouse gas reduction targets established by the New England Governor's and Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2001. The goals and plan will likely lead to the development of new policies that increase energy efficiency in all sectors and illustrate that there are many cost effective mechanisms to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases," said Derek Murrow, Policy Analyst at Environment Northeast.

There are landscapes marked by memories of resistance. One of them is a fifty-five acre stretch of woods and fields, farmhouse and outbuildings, in Voluntown, Connecticut. From this place, throughout the 1960s, the Committee for Nonviolent Action organized a series of protests against nuclear weapons in general, and against those carried by submarines built at Groton, CT in particular. Through many permutations and alliances, this "Peace Farm" was a central locale for tax resistance and organizing against the Vietnam War, involving activists like Barbara Deming, A.J. Muste and Marjorie and Robert Swann. Its community life was modeled on the values of simplicity and consensus, reflected in work on issues of land use and land trusts. In later years, it was the home of Equity Trust, overseen by the late Chuck Mathei, which provided loans and technical assistance to projects in low-income communities and to community supported agriculture initiatives (CSA's).

The Voluntown Peace Trust, Inc. (VPT), a newly-founded nonprofit organization initiated by the Hartford Catholic Worker, has been working with other individuals and groups concerned with issues of social justice to preserve this historic property for the work of nonviolent transformation it was initially created to achieve.

The Trust intends to purchase the land and manage a nonprofit farm and retreat center on site. To develop programs for this center, an entity known as Northeastern Cooperative for Nonviolence (NCN) is now in the process of being created. It will be composed of a wide spectrum of groups and individuals from throughout New England - some faith-based, some secular - and committed to nonviolent resistance to the military, economic and structural violence of our society.

Members of the cooperative will help develop the site into a model of nonviolent community building, a sanctuary for resistance and resisters, an experiment in participatory agriculture, and a classroom of hope for children; urban and rural. Organizations within the NCN will have special access to the facilities on the property, including a meeting center and buildings for lodging.

Each cooperative member will be responsible for an annual pledge of \$1200 to help pay off the mortgage while the Trust obtains grants and uses the assets of the progressive community to staff and operate the facility. Some will pledge to the cooperative as representatives of various groups (e.g., War Resisters League, the Catholic Worker, the Buddhist Peace Fellowship). Others will pledge as individuals who may themselves raise contributions from their friends and fellow activists - or fulfill the pledge out of their own private incomes.

VPT is particularly interested in having grassroots, urban organizations as an active part of the Co-op. Grant assistance to meet the membership pledges for such groups will be made available.

For further information, write to the Voluntown Peace Trust, Inc. at 26 Clark Street, Hartford, CT 06120 or call Theresa Allen at 860-956-1738 or Stephen Kobasa at 203-777-3849.

Stephen Kobasa is a member of the Board of the Voluntown Peace Trust.



A New Center for Resistance in CT

BY STEPHEN VINCENT KOBASA

"...what's past is prologue, what to come,
In yours and my discharge."
- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (II, i)

Clean Water Action is a non-profit environmental health organization with three-quarters of a million members nationwide and 10,000 members in Connecticut. The Connecticut-based staff works with more than 150 local groups and citizen leaders around the state on issues affecting our health, environment and community quality of life. They currently coordinate the Connecticut Climate Coalition, a coalition of over 75 organizations whose memberships represent over 500,000 Connecticut citizens with the goal of putting policies in place to adequately mitigate global warming, reducing its negative economic, health and environmental impacts.

Environment Northeast is a non-profit environmental research and advocacy group that focuses on energy and environmental policy. They address environmental problems through policy analysis, collaborative problem solving efforts, and an advocacy program that promotes

environmental sustainability. They have staff in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

For more info: Brooke Suter
CT Director, Clean Water Action
Coordinator, Connecticut Climate Coalition
645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
Ph: (860) 232-6232 Fax: (860) 232-6334
www.cleanwateraction.org/ct
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Ronald Reagan's Legacy

BY MARK WEISBROT

Ronald Reagan was a man who fought for what he believed in, and he changed the world more than probably any American in the twentieth century. He changed not only the conservative movement, the Republican party, his country and the world — but also his opponents, known as liberals. As a result of his achievements, the typical liberal Member of Congress today sits to the right of Richard Nixon on a number of economic issues, including tax policy.

The Great Communicator, as he was called, was capable of charming millions of Americans with his soothing, grandfatherly demeanor. In 1984 there were polls indicating that most of those who voted to re-elect him disagreed with him on the issues. In short, the "Reagan revolution" would probably never have happened without his unrivalled leadership skills.

His death has unleashed a torrent of commentary on the significance of this revolution, and so it is important to set the record straight. His economic policies were mostly a failure. Partly this was because he had promised something arithmetically impossible: to increase military spending, cut taxes, and balance the budget. He kept the first two promises, delivering the largest peacetime military build-up in American history, and cutting taxes massively, mostly for upper-income households.

But budget deficits soared to record heights. The national debt, as a percentage of the economy, doubled before Mr. Reagan's successors were able to bring it under control. This "military Keynesianism" did pull the economy out of the 1982 recession, but the 1980s still chalked up the slowest growth of any decade in the post-World War II era. And income was redistributed to the wealthy as never before: during the 1980s, most of the country's income gains went to the top 1 or 2 percent of households.

Mr. Reagan also helped redistribute American income and wealth with a bold assault on American labor. In 1981 he summarily fired 12,000 air traffic controllers who went on strike for better working conditions. This ushered in a new and dark era of labor relations, with employers now free to "permanently replace" striking workers. The median real wage failed to grow during the decade of the 1980s.

The Reagan revolution caused even more economic damage internationally, for example by changing policy at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Thus began the era of "structural adjustment" — a set of economic policies that has become so discredited worldwide that the IMF and World Bank no longer use the term. The 1980s became "the lost decade" for Latin America, the region most affected by Washington's foreign economic policy. Income per person actually shrank for the decade, a rare historical event, and the region has yet to come close to its pre-1980s growth rates.

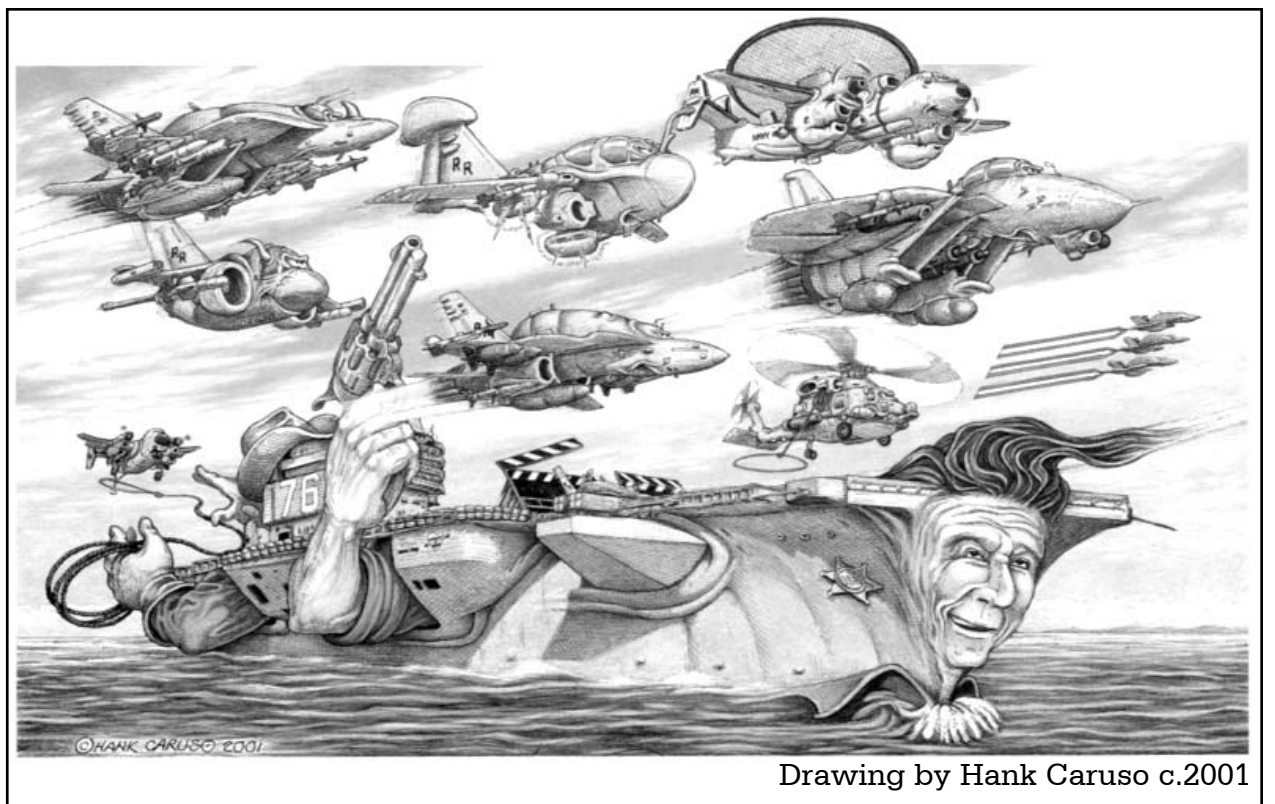
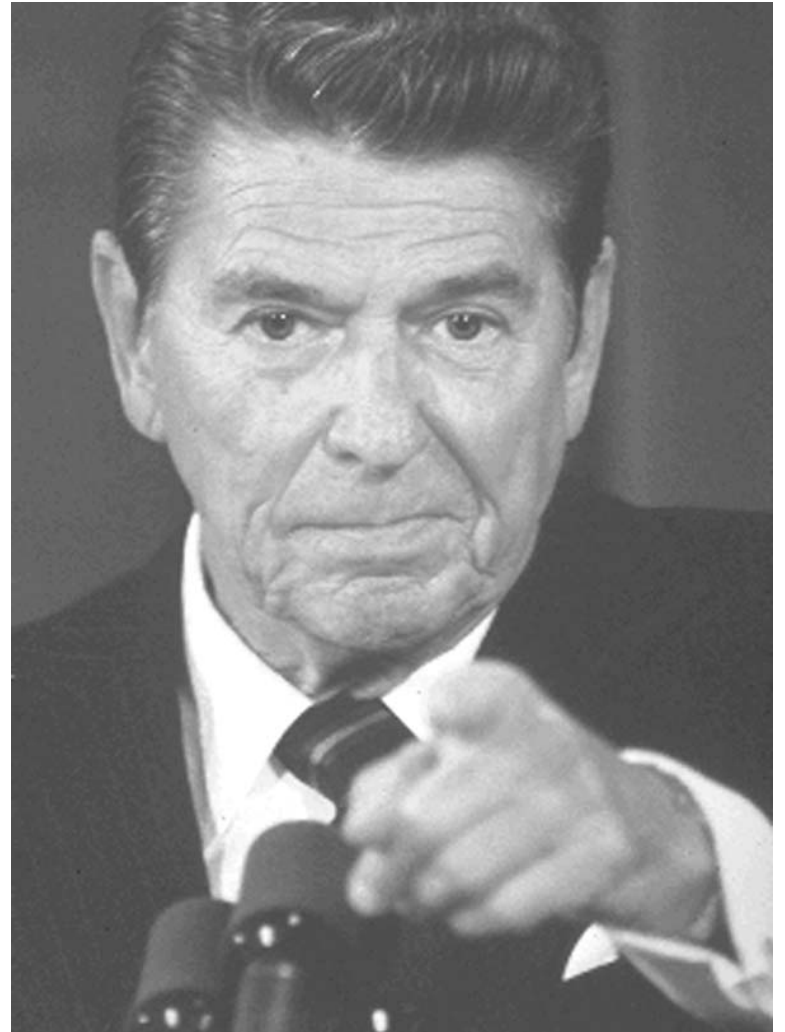
Mr. Reagan is often credited with having caused the collapse of the Soviet Union, but this is doubtful. He did use the Cold War as a pretext for other interventions, including funding and support for horrific violence against the civilian population of Central America. In 1999 the United Nations determined that the massacres of tens of thousands of Guatemalans, mostly indigenous people, constituted "genocide." These massacres — often involving grotesque torture — reached their peak under the rule of Mr. Reagan's ally, the Guatemalan General Rios Montt. Tens of thousands of Salvadorans were also murdered during Mr. Reagan's presidency by death squads affiliated with the U.S.-funded Salvadoran military.

But it was Mr. Reagan's efforts to overthrow the government — democratically elected in 1984 — of poor, underdeveloped Nicaragua that almost brought down his presidency. Congress cut off aid to Mr. Reagan's proxy army, the Contras, as a result of pressure from Americans — led by religious groups — who were disgusted by the Contras' tactics of murdering unarmed teachers and health care workers.

The Reagan administration continued to run the war from the basement of the White House, and paid for part of it with the proceeds of illegal arms sales to Iran. Hence the Iran-Contra scandal, in which Mr. Reagan escaped prosecution because his subordinates claimed that he had no knowledge of their crimes.

The Reagan revolution continues today: the "war on terror" has replaced the Cold War as pretext for intervention abroad, including the disastrous war in Iraq. Tax cuts for the rich and huge increases in military spending have revived the era of giant budget deficits. As the Great Communicator used to say, "There they go again."

Mark Weisbrot is co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, DC (www.cepr.net).
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Drawing by Hank Caruso c.2001



OVER THE COURSE OF HISTORY, MANY RELIGIONS HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO VIOLENT INTERPRETATIONS

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CAIR

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COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

How Public Is Public Radio?

FAIR STUDY FINDS NPR'S GUEST-LIST FAVORS ELITES, REPUBLICANS, AND MEN

National Public Radio, though founded as an alternative media outlet that would "speak with many voices," relies on largely the same range of sources that dominate mainstream commercial news, a new FAIR study has found. Characterized by conservative critics as "liberal" radio, NPR has more Republican than Democratic voices, and male sources outnumber female sources by nearly four to one.

Nine of the top 10 most-frequently used sources on NPR were white male government officials. (Secretary of State Colin Powell was the one exception.) The top seven sources were all Republicans.

FAIR's study looked at every on-air source quoted in June 2003 on NPR's four main news shows: "All Things Considered," "Morning Edition," "Weekend Edition Saturday" and "Weekend Edition Sunday." Think tank sources and regular commentators were analyzed over a four-month period. Results were compared to those from a 1993 FAIR study of NPR sources.

PUBLIC VS ELITE SOURCES: Elite sources—including government officials, professional experts and corporate representatives—accounted for 64 percent of all sources. Non-elite sources—including public interest voices, workers and members of the general public—made up 31 percent, up from 17 percent in 1993. But more than two-thirds of the non-elite sources were "people on the street," often anonymous sources who tended to be quoted in one-sentence sound-bites. Only 7 percent of all sources represented public interest groups, organized citizens groups who articulate a broad range of public viewpoints.

WOMEN SCARCE: Women made up only 21 percent of all sources—only 2 percentage points more than found in 1993. Women were underrep-

resented in most subcategories; for example, they made up only 17 percent of journalists interviewed by NPR.

REPUBLICANS AMPLIFIED: Comparing partisan sources—including government officials, party officials, campaign workers and consultants—Republicans outnumbered Democrats by more than three to two (61 percent to 38 percent). Even when Democrats controlled the White House and both houses of Congress in FAIR's 1993 study, Republicans outnumbered Democrats 57 to 42 percent.

THINK TANK SOURCES SKEW RIGHT: Representatives of think tanks to the right of center outnumbered those to the left of center by more than four to one, 62 appearances to 15. Centrist think tanks made 56 appearances.


COMMENTATOR DIVERSITY IMPROVED: In 1993, all but one of 27 regular commentators were white, and only 15 percent were women. This year, 20 percent were people of color and 24 percent were women. Still, 60 percent of regular commentators were white men, and only one out of 46 (2 percent) was Latino, despite the fact that Latinos make up 13 percent of the U.S. population.

"As the public's radio service, NPR should be held to a higher standard than commercial media outlets," said FAIR's Steve Rendall, the lead author of the study. "If the public can't expect to find itself, in all its diversity, on NPR, where should it look?"

The complete 8-page report can be accessed online at: www.fair.org/extra/0405/npr-study.html

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Saturday, July 17
Madelyn, Beyond Tomorrow M-80, Another Way Out

Friday, July 23
Gatsby's American Dream, As Tall

As Lions, Slow Coming Day, Tarantelle, Far From, Avery Underwater, A Brief Smile

Saturday, July 24
Never Heard of It, Amazing Transparentman, Welton, One Step Short, Purple Dream Shack

Friday, July 30
Life Before This, Farewell My Enemy, Ever We Fall, Small Towns Burn a Little Slower

Thursday, August 12
Steel Train, Burns Out Bright, Re Vera

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Susan Carson

Friday, July 30
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Saturday, July 31
Morningside

Friday, August 6
Odyssey

Saturday, August 7
Marc Huberman

Friday, August 13
Lara Sky

Saturday, August 14
TBA

Friday, August 20
Clay Eles and Kevin Gianni

Saturday, August 21
Too Old To Care

Friday, August 27
Subteraneans

Saturday, August 28
Too Old To Care