

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy

November

2003

...The fantasy of rescuing the pure German motherland, by slaying her enemies and erecting a Victory Arch over their dead bodies, had to become a reality or he would die in the attempt.

—on Hitler, by G.M. Gilbert, prison psychologist at the Nuremberg trial of the Nazi war criminals

ALLIANCE NEWS (Continued on page 7)

Chapter Calendar

*** Purity: Hitler's Obsession ***

The Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 19th**, from **6:30 to 9:15 p.m.** at **Cambridge Friends Meeting**, 5 Longfellow Park (9-minute walk from Harvard Square T station, west on Brattle St.)

— Agenda —

* Feature-length film: "**The Architecture of Doom**", by Swedish film-maker Mikael Cohen; color and b&w, 1991. "Featuring never-before-seen footage of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime, this film captures the inner workings of the Third Reich and illuminates the Nazi aesthetic in art, architecture, and popular culture." What emerges is a new paradigm which tends to explain "Master Race", art, cleanliness, and extermination of leftists, gays, and Jews/ Gypsies by the singular demand for Purity.

* **Discuss** the resemblance, if any, of **Bushism and Naziism**.

* Update on BCA's collaborative Voting Integrity project.

>> **NOTE 6:30 STARTING TIME, due to length of film.** <<

—Refreshments—

Notice: Due to Native First People's (Thanksgiving) holiday, the next **Steering Committee meeting** will be: Friday, 21 November, 5:30 p.m., 32 Fayette St, Cambridge. 617-864-3931. All members welcome. To confirm, call 617-266-8687

Lucy Prays for George Bush

AfD Democracy Caravan Stops at Waco TX

by David Schwenk and Benjamin Sher, Alliance for Democracy, en route to Washington DC www.DemocracyCaravan.org

Most people remember Waco, Texas as the home of cult leader David Koresh. Koresh's Branch Dividian members engaged in a standoff with federal agents that led to the "Ranch Apocalypse" ten years ago. Koresh wielded enormous power over his followers, somehow influencing them so much, in fact, that they tolerated his abuse of children, sexual relations with minors, and even his call for mass suicide. One can only wonder how people get so confused that they blindly follow leaders to certain death and destruction.

We decided to make a stop in Waco and see what people had to say — not about David Koresh, but about George W. Bush. Having spoken with a number of Republicans who feel very queasy about how Bush is leading his party to the radical right, we wanted to see what kind of appeal he held in this town. Knowing that a clear majority of Americans (Continued on page 7 >>)



"In Memory of Richard Wagner" (detail) by George Grosz, Berlin, 1921. Born two years before Hitler, Grosz studied art for two years in Dresden, while at 17 Hitler was twice rejected by the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts.

The Democratic Alternative Better Band-aids or Superior Grand Strategy?

by Patrick C. Doherty, CommonDreams.org 2 October 2003

With the primaries edging nearer and the Democratic debates uncovering mediocrity, veteran Democratic campaign gurus James Carville, Stan Greenburg, and Bob Shrum last week released a new DemocracyCorps memo to Democrats on what our "Core Message" ought to be, given President Bush's weakening in the polls. Here it is: "President Bush is overwhelmed by the problems facing the country—employment and the economy, Iraq, and the budget deficits. The problems grow out of control, yet he has no plan for expanding employment and no plan for post-war Iraq or the growing budget mess. Failing to win international support, he wants \$87 billion from US taxpayers for Iraq, but with exploding

deficits, that means cuts in spending for education and health care and a lack of funds for Social Security."

Now apply to this message Micah Sifry's simple three word test for Democratic candidates—Vision, Passion, Honesty—published recently on TomPaine.com. The result is clear: In this core message there is no vision, there is no passion, and it is less than honest. Howard Dean and Wesley Clark, the Democratic leading men, need to find the message that brings these three things together.

Campaign professionals will balk, saying Bush will beat himself and the Democrats just need to decide who will be their candidate—therefore diverting from the script risks a cascading series of tactical failures. But trying to ride the tiger of disapproval into the White House is a cynical strategy and Americans are more fed up with cynical politics than they are of Bush's troubles. Tactical messaging to pursue the "anything but Bush" strategy is a loser for the Democrats and an even bigger loser for America.

Bush-Lite Can't Win

The risk is clear. While the televised Democratic debates create a forum in which candidates and policies can be tested, they are fundamentally two removes away from reality. The first remove is because these debates are trying to win over the choir, not the general electorate. The second remove is that the debates are occurring on the policy plane when our problems exist on a higher plane, that of American grand strategy. The first disconnect wastes precious time with internecine fights and the second disconnect proves once again to most Americans that politics, whether Republican or Democrat, are incapable of grasping reality—incapable of doing anything but putting policy level band-aids on a case of grand strategic cardiac failure. Democrats will talk of big changes but their actual prescriptions will smack of Bush-lite. Ultimately Republicans and Democrats just want to fix the old system that cannot be fixed and Bush believes in that system more.

Faced with such a choice, many undecided Americans will choose to stay the course with Bush. Even if a Democrat wins, the empty rhetoric of the new Administration will not deal with our problems, and regardless of what happens in the 2004 congressional races, by 2006, our spiraling problems will hand Republicans a supermajority in Congress, on the way to a 2008 White House grab. That scenario will make the first term of W. look like Camelot in comparison.

It's the System, Stupid!

The answer is to change the game from Bush-lite to grand strategy and thus address the underlying problems in our system. This will pull the curtain away from Karl Rove, Grover Norquist, and Paul Wolfowitz. It is also what Americans want their politicians to admit: of course Bush can't control the problems of today, but neither could Democrats—the system we created 60 years ago no longer works for America or the world. Our analysis must be based on reality, not on the failures of George W. Bush:

* Our economic engine is failing 80% of Americans and excluding 5 billion people from meaningful human development.

* Our strategic posture is overwhelmed and corrupted by the need to secure fossil fuel producing regions and transport routes, creating instability and insecurity rather than reducing it.

* Our Federal budget is incapable of providing a safety net to the 80% of Americans whose proportion of income and hope has been steadily transferred to the wealthy minority since the early 1980s.

* Our message as Democrats must be that it is time for America to transform itself and that it is in transformation, global partnership, and the pursuit of justice—rather than the maintenance of the status quo and the pursuit of dominance—that

America will find prosperity and peace.

A New Economic Engine

That transformation requires that we create a new economic engine and a new strategic posture. The new economic engine will rebuild America towards a sustainable society, integrating our metropolitan regions into safe, healthy, and productive communities. The new American engine will end the corrupting experiment of income tax and economic subsidies started in World War II, and shift revenue generation to tap the resource and energy inefficiency in our economy thus increasing employment and creating a fair and open marketplace. The new economic engine will transform our energy system from fossil fuels and centralized generation to renewables, hydrogen, and distributed generation. Together, these changes will catalyze a boom longer and deeper than the post-war boom that built suburbia, while creating the conditions of reduced energy and materials intensity necessary for America to grow and for the five billion people in the developing world to enter the global economy.

Our strategic posture must complement that economic engine, changing unjust norms and institutions, building essential infrastructure, and providing the strategic and human security necessary for America and the world to transform peacefully. The global system must adopt new norms around responsible sovereignty and a sustainable global development consensus, while strengthening regional organizations and adapting global institutions. America must focus its development assistance on the five systems of infrastructure essential to successful development: *energy, water, ecosystem services, public health, and information*, working with regions to create the conditions in which markets and states can deliver these services in a just and efficient manner.

Increasingly freed from its energy security burden, America's role in strategic and human security will remain to prevent and guard against opportunistic aggression, disruption, or pervasive threats to communities and societies. Our power must be extended and legitimated by regional delegation and global consensus, a consensus that the world has been dreaming of since the end of the Cold War. Focusing on norms, infrastructure, and security will create the conditions in which America's economic transition will be secure and the conditions in which the developing world's economic transition will be secure—allowing us to merge our potential and prosperity in a just global economy.

Candidates—Think New, Think Big

With the underlying issues—grand strategy—so addressed, Democrats will finally pass Sifry's test: Vision, Passion, Honesty. Vision, because Democrats can see through the smoke and mirrors of a desperate and dysfunctional economic engine and identify the six essential changes that lead to a new era. Passion, because finally Democrats will have a comprehensive path to prosperity and peace and know it is the way. Honesty, because Democrats are willing to speak the hard truth about our system, to recognize that the system designed by our fathers and grandfathers is bankrupt and that it will take political courage to change the corruption this dysfunction has bred. With grand strategy as the message, the issues fall into line: *a booming economy, sustainable federal and state revenue, full employment, safe and healthy communities, clean and reliable energy, reduced strategic threats, and a clear development path to end global poverty and the violent frustration it breeds.*

That's the message that Dr. Dean and Gen. Clark need to be adopting and debating. Let the Congressional centrists cling to their DLC fantasy about fixing up the old system and let the fringe be fringe. Let the Republicans cling to their "bold" vision producing at best marginal growth, social Darwinism, and perpetual wars.

Democrats must stand for a new grand strategy with a booming economic engine and a stabilizing strategic posture that together meet the real challenges of America and the world. When Democrats pursue grand strategy rather than tactical messaging we can earn the White House, earn a majority in Congress, and then America can once again embrace the American Experiment and earn the respect and partnership of the international community.

Patrick Doherty spent a decade in the field of international conflict resolution, working in the Middle East, Africa, Southeastern Europe, and the Caucasus. He now resides in Washington, DC and may be reached at pdoherty7@earthlink.net

STEALTH WAR

Israel Subs Move to Nuke Iran Condoleezza's Leak Hints Run for Secretary

by Gordon Thomas, www.MiddleEast.org (MER), 28 Oct 2003

U.S. Harpoon missiles armed with nuclear warheads are now aimed by Israeli's fleet of Dolphin-class submarines against Iran's nuclear facilities. Following September's exclusive report in American Free Press about Israel's submarine nuclear attack capability, over 100 Harpoon cruise missiles have been secretly flown to the remote island of Diego Garcia, a joint UK-US base in the Indian Ocean.

The three Israeli submarines which arrived at the base early this month were each loaded with 24 Harpoon missiles. They then set sail for the Gulf of Oman—bringing Iran's nuclear facilities all within range of their submarines' multi-payloads.

The decision to launch them is entirely in the hands of Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon. Just as he gave Washington only a short warning he was going to attack an alleged terrorist camp deep inside Syria, Sharon has made it clear to Washington that the same rule of engagement will apply if it comes to launching the Harpoon missiles.

Sharon made his position clear in a telephone call to President Bush the day after the attack on Syria. According to one Israeli source, Bush said he "just wanted to be kept informed".

Credible intelligence sources say the reality is that Sharon believes he would have the support of Bush if he did launch an attack. But an indication of the deepening concern that some members of the Bush Administration now feel, is that national security adviser Condoleezza Rice last weekend allowed one of her senior aides to confirm our September report to the *Los Angeles Times* and London's *Guardian* newspaper.

Both drew heavily on the original American Free Press story. The senior Pentagon and State department sources for our first story, about Israel's Dolphin class submarines, have told us exclusively that, in the words of one high-level Pentagon source, "matters have now advanced considerably and for the first time Rice is sounding alarm bells in the Oval Office".

Rice's decision to leak is also the first clear indication of her concerns over Israel—as well as her own direct challenge to the authority of Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld.

She is now engaged in an internal power struggle with Rumsfeld—and has chosen to use what she sees as his failure in the Middle East to harness Sharon's behaviour as her launch pad to have the Secretary of State ousted.

"Rice has a long-term strategy to become Secretary of State. While Rumsfeld is no supporter of Powell, he knows that having Rice in charge of State would give her more power than she even has now. And there is also the ultimate ambition for Condi, to be

Bush's running mate, if not in this election, then in the one afterwards. Her own inner circle say that she would relish a face-off with Hillary Clinton in 2008. If Condi became vice-President, then she is but a step away from becoming the first Black woman in the White House. That is what is driving her," said a senior Washington analyst.

Meantime, Rice's concerns have deepened following Sharon's stark warning last Sunday that "states harbouring terrorists are legitimate targets". Aides in Tel Aviv have confirmed to American Free Press that "Iran and Syria are top of that list – with Iran in the top spot". The revelation comes at a time of rapidly escalating tensions in the region.

Israel's senior Foreign Ministry spokesman, Gideon Meir, insisted "any country that harbours a threat to Israel is a legitimate target for us out of self-defence". Today, American Free Press can reveal, again for the first time, that a team of US computer specialists flew to Diego Garcia to fit the latest version of the software known as "over the horizon". This would allow a Harpoon missile to hit any of Iran's nuclear establishments with pin-point accuracy.

Originally developed by Inslaw, the Washington based specialist computer software company, the "over the horizon" capability has been enhanced to handle the sophisticated electronics of the Harpoon missiles. In the meantime, Sharon has ordered Mossad to put together a specialist team to prepare.

A native of Wales, Gordon Thomas is a journalist and author of Gideon's Spies (about the Mossad—Israel's CIA) and other best-sellers. Mid-East Realities (MER) where this article originally appeared, is an anti-elite, anti-Likud website which states: "MER exclusively reported nearly three years ago now that the Israelis had received new conventionally-powered submarines, made and financed in Germany in fact, which they were planning to fit with nuclear-tipped missiles despite earlier assurances given the Germans they would not do so; and that Israel also has an extensive, super-secret biological and chemical weapons program." The Dolphin is a 319-foot, 63-man diesel submarine with a range of 18,700 miles.

US Warplanes Fly Over Scotland Will They Strike in the Middle East?

Info by Peacewatchers, [The Grind](http://TheGrind(UK)) (UK), 3 Nov 2003

Since Saturday, people in the Highlands of Scotland have been witnessing large movements of US warplanes overhead. Experienced observers say the large numbers are reminiscent of those that preceded the bombing of Iraq in 1998 and military strikes on Libya in the 1980's as well as the first Gulf War.

At the weekend warplanes were flying over at a rate of roughly one every 15 minutes. As well as watching them from the ground the plane spotters have also been able to overhear pilots talking by listening to their radio frequencies. At this rate some 288 warplanes would have passed over Scotland in three days.

It is thought that the planes have flown on a route from the US over the north pole to bases in Europe and the Mediterranean. The size and scale of the movement suggests that the US may be preparing to strike at a country in the Middle East in the next week to ten days.

Please pass this information on as widely as possible- the US may be planning to use the pretext of "foreign" terrorist attacks on US personnel in Iraq to attack Iran or Syria. Please alert any sympathetic elected representatives, media representatives and other sympathetic organisations. Publicising this military movement may prevent the air-strikes.

India-Iran-Russia Links Taking Care of Business without U.S.

by Jehangir Pocha, *In These Times*, 23 September 2003

India's deepening ties with Iran could redraw the political map of Central Asia, even as the Bush administration commences what some say is an attempt at regime change in Tehran.

On May 18, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned Iran that it would be "dealt with aggressively" if it continued its alleged support of Islamic extremists in Afghanistan and Iraq. A day later in New Delhi, Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes met with Iranian Ambassador Siavosh Yaghoobi and offered to cooperate with Iran in all strategic areas, including defense. Saying that unilateralism posed a great danger to the world, Fernandes affirmed India's commitment to a strategic and military partnership with Iran.

The move capped a series of quiet diplomatic maneuvers that have complicated security equations in Central and South Asia. Even as Washington has been building military ties with India, which it sees as a natural ally and potential counter to China, New Delhi has been forging a close relationship with Iran, which President Bush has declared a part of the "axis of evil."

Energy and Military Deals

On January 26, in the shadow of the then-looming Iraq war, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami was the guest of honor at India's grand Republic Day parade. During the visit the two nations signed a strategic cooperation agreement that set in place energy and military deals valued at more than \$25 billion.

Jane's Defense Weekly and *Defense News* reported that India and Iran signed a secret accord that gives India access to Iranian bases in the event of war with Pakistan. Both governments deny there is such a deal, but India is building a new port at Chahbahar, Iran, a project that is being closely watched by foreign powers. *[A north-south corridor (from Chahbahar to Afghanistan and Russia) would provide the Russians access to the Persian Gulf. Russia has virtually no presence in the Gulf, and in fact the disastrous 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has often been attributed by experts to the Russian drive to get to a warm-water port. With the North-South Corridor, all that can be achieved without any conflict. The Russian presence in the Persian Gulf and beyond into the Arabian Sea may change the world's strategic picture, not to talk of strategic balance, significantly. Russia will, then, have much better access to the Middle East, where currently the US writ dominates. —Ramtanu Maitra in Asia Times]*

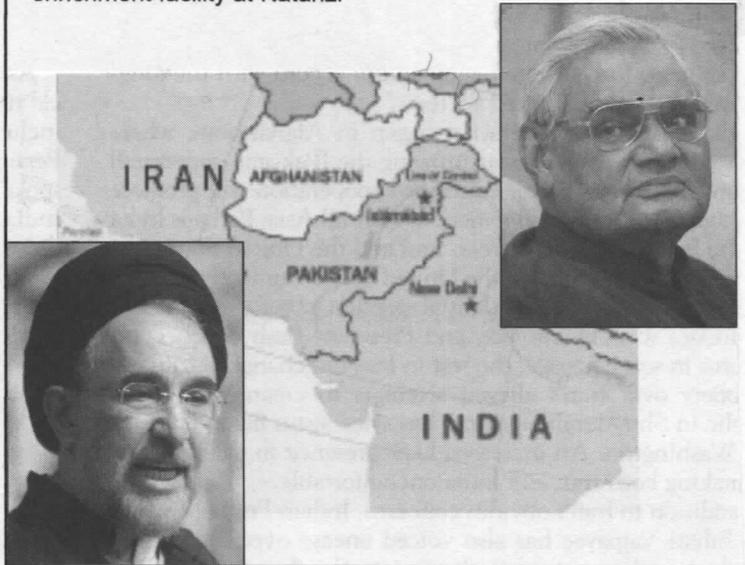
In March, India and Iran conducted their first-ever joint naval exercises. Such close military cooperation between India and Iran is "unprecedented," says Rahul Bedi, New Delhi-based correspondent for *Jane's Defense Weekly*. India and Iran were on opposite sides during the Cold War, and later their relations were compromised by Iran's fraternal ties with Islamic Pakistan.

Iran is "focused on breaking out of the pincer" that the United States' continuing trade embargo and its expanded military presence in the region have created, Bedi says. "Iran is keen to acquire new energy markets," he adds. Militarily, it "is seeking to build up its missile and military software capabilities. It has also acquired four Russian Kilo-class submarines, and, like India, it also has some aging MiGs that need upgrading. Given the common equipment, [the Iranians] are keen to have India support and train them."

Nuclear and BioWarfare Engagement

But the deepest concern to the U.S. and Pakistani

governments is the possibility of Indo-Iranian nuclear cooperation. India and Russia have a long history of nuclear cooperation, and Russia is the key player in Iran's controversial bid to expand its German-built light water reactor at Bushehr. According to the CIA, Iran is also operating a heavy water plant at Arak and a uranium enrichment facility at Natanz.



In 1983 India helped Iran restart its nuclear program, and in 1988 New Delhi almost sold Iran a 10-megawatt nuclear reactor for its Ma'alleh Kelayah facility near Qazvin on the Caspian Sea. When that deal fell through, the CIA reported that India helped Iran set up a manufacturing plant for phosphorus penta-sulfide, a nerve gas precursor, at the same site. In 1996, the CIA also reported that India had provided Iran with technology that could be used to make biological weapons. When three Indian companies approached German suppliers to buy the equipment needed for the manufacture of Sarin and Tabun nerve agents, German intelligence traced the end-user to Iran.

Anthony H. Cordesman, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and author of the report *Iran and Nuclear Weapons*, writes that Tehran is seeking increased nuclear cooperation with India and other suppliers because the United States has nixed its nuclear cooperation with South Africa, Ukraine, Argentina, and China. Iran's options were further squeezed when Russia supported the Bush administration's call for intrusive inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities.

But even if Indo-Iranian nuclear cooperation seems logical, Bedi argues, it is unlikely. "India is not a proliferating country," he says. "This fact is well established." Indian government officials enjoy pointing out that it was the United States that built Iran's first nuclear plant at Amirabad, and then turned a Nelson's eye when the Shah initiated a low-grade weapons research program in 1967.

Instead Bedi, like many analysts, sees an Indo-Iranian alliance as a stabilizing force in the region and in accord with the long-term interests of the United States. India and Iran's cooperation began in Afghanistan, where their support was key in overthrowing the [Pakistan-supported] Taliban," Bedi says. "Their continued cooperation will promote the stabilization and development of Central Asia. Perhaps India can also act as a bridge between Iran and the United States." For now it is a bridge that the United States is unlikely to cross. Though the administration's initial reaction to burgeoning Indo-Iranian ties was circumspect, and President Bush couched his concerns in soft language, the war in Iraq has changed attitudes.

Anxiety over Iran's alleged attempts to create an Islamic

republic in Shia-dominated Iraq has once again flared tensions with Washington. An increased U.S. presence in the region is also making both Iran and India uncomfortable.

Calming the American Threat

In addition to Iran's obvious concerns, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also voiced unease over the United States' aggressive posture in the region. Speaking at a rally in Kashmir, he pointed to American intervention in Iraq as a reason for India and Pakistan to get serious about settling their dispute over the troubled state.

Syed Geelani, chairman of the Jamaat-e Islami, a separatist political party in Kashmir, says that the driving force behind the recent thaw in Indo-Pak relations "is not the desire to give Kashmiris their rights but the desire to keep the United States from meddling here in the name of terrorism."

Publicly, both Iran and India have been trying to allay U.S. fears over their new relationship. "The text of our agreement clearly states that it is not directed against any other nation," Ambassador Yaghoobi says of the rationale behind India and Iran's strategic cooperation.

India's foreign ministry says it refuses to see international relations as a zero-sum game. "The United States has its relationship with Pakistan, which is separate from our own relationship with them," says Navtej Sarna, the ministry spokesperson. "Our relationship with Iran is peaceful and largely economic. We do not expect that it would affect our continuing good relations with the United States."

Diplomatic and official sources in India agree. They say the Indo-Iranian partnership stems from both nations' longtime allergy toward the Saudi-funded fundamentalism gripping their common neighbor, Pakistan. "India's new ties with Iran make it more, not less, valuable to Washington," says Stanley Weiss, chairman of Business Executives for National Security, which wants President George W. Bush to "join New Delhi and Tehran in an axis of friendship."

"Both countries played a vital role in creating and sustaining the U.S.- backed government in Kabul, [and] the United States will need Iran to help stabilize a post-Saddam Iraq," Weiss says. "New Delhi will also be an increasing asset to Washington thanks to its military partnership with Israel."

But India and Iran's growing involvement in Afghan politics, along with energy-hungry India's establishment of its first overseas military base at Farkhor in Tajikistan, indicate both nations are pursuing their own interests in oil- and gas-rich Central Asia.

Joint Forces of Civilization

There is also a deeper, more profound layer to the relationship between India and Iran. Both nations see themselves as great civilizational forces and are eager to restore their primacy in the world. As neighboring countries, India and Iran have deep historical ties dating to the Persian Empire of Cyrus the Great, which included parts of India. India's latter-day Muslim rulers were of Persian descent, and Urdu, a mix of Hindi and Persian, is widely spoken in India. Iran's Sufi Islam is substantially influenced by Indian thought, and many of India's religious and cultural traditions owe great debts to Iran.

When discussing Indo-Iranian ties officials from both countries often allude to these civilizational bonds. "We are from the same motherland and share deep cultural links," Yaghoobi says. "Though political differences separated us during the Cold War, President Khatami and Prime Minister Vajpayee have brought us back to our natural relationship."

Clearly, the public aspects of the Indo-Iranian accord envisage widespread economic and strategic cooperation. Iran will provide

India with 5 million tons of liquefied natural gas a year for the next 25 years, giving it much-needed, revenue. Significantly, Indian firms will upgrade Iranian oil refineries and be granted concessions in Iranian oil fields. The possibility of constructing a \$4 billion gas pipeline from Iran to India -- possibly via Pakistan, if politics permit -- is also being pursued. "In effect, all this means that India is now a member of OPEC," Yaghoobi says.

The January agreement also includes plans for India to construct a new road and rail network in Iran. Both countries will use this as a trade and transit route to get their goods into Russia and Europe.

Economic Vision for Central Asia

Since Pakistan's involvement will make both the pipeline and transit route much easier to build and operate, observers on all sides hope these projects will provide a strong incentive for India and Pakistan to resolve their disputes. "This is a pipeline for peace," Yaghoobi says. In the recent rapprochement with India, he explains, "Pakistan has given emphasis to commercial aspects of their bilateral relations. . . . Both need cheap energy, and so we hope this project will help them resolve their issues."

"In the long run we hope for an economic bloc of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and maybe Central Asia," Yaghoobi says. "Currently there is a gap between the Association of South East Asian Nations and the EU. As the only two democracies in the region, India and Iran can start a partnership to fill this gap."

How the United States will accommodate such Indo-Iranian visions of a strategic region rich in energy and linking Europe with Asia is a prime example of what of Kennedy School of Government Dean Joseph Nye calls "the paradox of American power." Even as America is equipped to pursue its interests unilaterally, it needs the cooperation of many nations with diverse, even conflicting, interests to ensure a stable world order. #

Brazil-Bolivia Economic Ties To Cut World Trade Dependency

Yahoo.com, 21 October 2003

RIO DE JANEIRO -(Dow Jones)- The Brazilian government is moving to help troubled neighbor Bolivia strengthen its industry through an imports substitution program and possibly more financial aid from Brazil's development bank BNDES.

A spokeswoman from Brazil's presidency said Tuesday the imports substitution program, which will be carried out in association with Argentina, will benefit Bolivia's textile industry as well as home appliances and shoe producers. The presidency said details on the plan weren't available yet.

Additionally, Brazil's BNDES will likely review a previously announced financing line of \$600 million for infrastructure projects in Bolivia. "It could be revised upwards, but there hasn't been a decision on that yet," the spokeswoman said.

Bolivia, for its part, is expected to agree to review all commercial contracts it has with Brazil, including a controversial natural gas purchase contract... Government officials have been trying to lower prices and volumes on natural gas contracts between Brazil's federally run Petroleo Brasileiro, or Petrobras, and Bolivian state gas supplier Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos...

Apart from lower prices, Brazil also wants changes to a "take or pay" clause in the bilateral contracts which determine that Petrobras must pay for a certain volume of natural gas even if it isn't used... Despite the unrest of recent weeks in Bolivia, natural gas supply to Brazil hasn't been affected... Petrobras currently imports about 13 million cubic meters of Bolivian gas a day.

Mousepox Research Ignites Bioterrorism Debate

by Rick Weiss, *Washington Post*, 1 Nov 2003

WASHINGTON -- Scientists in St. Louis have created a genetically altered strain of mousepox virus -- a close relative of the smallpox virus -- that is so potent it kills mice vaccinated against the mouse disease, rekindling concerns that some avenues of biotechnology research may be generating lethal knowledge useful to bioterrorists.

Health officials emphasized that the federally financed work posed no threat to people. Although the mousepox virus is highly contagious and lethal in mice, it does not cause illness in humans. But given the similarities between the mousepox and smallpox viruses, scientists said, the same technique might be useful for making a beefed-up strain of smallpox virus that could kill people despite their having been vaccinated.

The lead researcher, virologist Mark Buller of Saint Louis University, said he has heard from many people distressed about his work, details of which he presented at a scientific meeting in Geneva recently. "I've received all this hate mail," he said. But he added that others have done much the same thing in other labs. The big difference, Buller said, is that his effort was aimed not only at making bad viruses but also at finding a treatment that would work against them. And happily, he reported, he was successful.

Vest-Pocket Vials of Deadly Biotoxins FBI Wants Them "Destroyed", Not "Lost"

by Rasheed Khalid, *BUGBLOC*. Boston (617-442-3343 x25)

Check out the Globe story of 19 October showing how mistakes are still being made in handling potentially dangerous microbes. Last night's CBS's 60 minutes interviewed a Texas Tech University scientist, Tom Butler, who is under scrutiny for mishandling the plague agent while bringing it last year from Tanzania. He reportedly flew to the US with it, and called it common practice, saying that scientists even have a name for the practice - flying VIT, for Vials In Pocket - so what was the big deal. But he faces lots of charges and 400 years in jail.

He blames it on the FBI, whom he says he shouldn't have trusted. Bottom line is, the 30 vials are missing, as far as he knows, not destroyed as he says the FBI tried to convince him to admit. So once the BU biolab [in Boston's South End] begins to function, some guy coming from abroad who just parked his car in the lot walking to the lab may be carrying ebola/anthrax in his pocket. And the bum who would knock him out with a single punch in his nose may not get the \$20 which he'd be looking for, but will find something he might try to snort, infecting himself and other people., or worse, sell the bounty to some terrorist for the 20 bucks. Reminds me again of the lawyer who said that security at 7-11's is better than at biolabs. :-)

Campaign for the Movement, Not for Democrats

I think it's a safe assumption that many Alliance for Democracy members feel a bit outside the electoral discussions that are taking place in this country. There are registered Democrat and Republican voters within AfD ranks, as well as a good number of activists who are either registered Green, un-enrolled, or not registered at all. But it would probably be safe to say that enthusiasm for any of the candidates currently running within the two-party system is not particularly strong among AfD supporters.

One Democratic candidate, Dennis Kucinich is serving the usual purpose of providing a candidate that allows the Democratic Party to lay claim to a progressive wing. He is safe to the party leadership simply based on the reality that he will not win and by March will probably be out of the race.

Simultaneously, Al Sharpton gives the Democrats an opportunity to continue with the myth that they are responsive to the concerns of African-American voters. (It's interesting to note that white "progressives" have not embraced Sharpton as, given a choice, they continue to subtly reject leadership from non-white candidates)

But it's still a mystery to many of us who have walked away from the Democratic Party (or never bothered to consider themselves a part of it) as to why people who are forward-thinking on so many issues, including AfD supporters, continue to fall back to the comfort zone of the Democratic Party. After all, this is the party that signed off on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the party that signed off on NAFTA and continues to push other destructive and undemocratic trade agreements. This is the party that rejects moving toward a civilian economy, embracing human rights domestically and beyond our own borders, challenging corporate power, and embracing new electoral ideas such as Instant Run-Off Voting and Clean Elections. But like the battered wife, these progressives keep coming back for more.

However there are real alternatives and AfD activists could play a role in encouraging people to spend their time building their options rather than putting valuable organizing time into campaigns and parties that are dead in the water.

As a long-time Green Party organizer I clearly have my bias in encouraging people to look at the growth and potential of the Massachusetts Green-Rainbow Party. This is where you will find leadership from communities of color, low-income individuals, anarchists, and people who otherwise would have nothing to do with electoral politics. And I think for a lot of privileged white activists this is a challenge. (As is the non-personality-driven leadership of the organization)

If the Green-Rainbow is not your cup of tea so be it. There is plenty of movement organizing that needs to be done around the issue of electoral politics; how it's financed; how access is limited to the privileged; how it remains in the hands of the elite, and so on. AfD activists should continue to seek out opportunities to further this dialogue and not waste their time propping up the same old misguided notion that change can come from within the Democratic Party. History tells us a different story.

—Jonathan Leavitt, Lawrence

I wish we had a few volunteer hackers who between now and 2004 would bring an election to its knees to PROVE how easy it is to disable an election, or to totally swing it. Take a completely Republican precinct and make it 99% Democrat in results...then maybe people would listen...even the lying mainstream media.

—Alice Copeland Brown, Canton

Democracy Caravan (Continued from page 1)

feel that our country is on the wrong path to the future, we wanted to know if anybody here supported following this man to imminent destruction. Does George W. possess cult status? Waco, Texas was the place to find out.

Within minutes of pulling our rig into Heritage Square, Lucy Lun approached our vehicle and said hello. Garrulous and full of vigor, Lucy spent a good half hour with us talking about George Bush, God, and her work in a nursing home. She was very kind and gracious. Lucy listened politely to our call for more citizen participation in government. She told us of the shenanigans of the Democrats in Waco and how they tried to keep her from registering to vote, having delayed her application for a number of weeks for no apparent reason. She felt that the Democrats held destructive control over local politics.

When we asked Lucy what she thought of current events in our world, she told us that she prays for George Bush every day. "I pray that he will win re-election and keep things stable," she said. This was something we had yet to hear on the road. When asked if she really thought the world situation was stable, Lucy exclaimed, "Some things are out of his control." Was the Iraq War



out of his control? "Push came to shove in Afghanistan. We had to get those people out of there. Terrorists with bombs were flooding our borders."

Don't worry about facts. Facts don't stand for much anymore, if they ever did. No one has yet to prove that Saddam Hussein had any connection with 9-11, yet here



Ben Sher quizzes Howard Dean

Lucy used that notion as a reason for going to war and for the killing innocent people, an act that all God-fearing people should avoid supporting at all costs, lest they be held accountable at the gates of heaven.

Lucy was a true devotee of George W. Bush. We find it hard to believe that people view George W. Bush as a devout Christian when his actions make a mockery of his claimed faith. We always knew that George was a bad student in his day, but his misunderstanding of Jesus' teachings is beyond belief. Remember how he declared Jesus as the philosopher he most respected? Let's see how George's actions stand up to the teachings of Jesus.

-- Jesus said love your enemy. With Karl Rove's help, George and his campaign make mincemeat of any opponent. Just ask Al Gore, Joseph Wilson and the next democratic candidate for president.

-- Jesus modeled humility. George Bush has shown nothing but arrogance and bullying on the international and domestic stage.

-- Jesus lived very modestly, denying himself all but the most basic needs for life and sustenance. He abhorred money lenders and he despised the rich. George lives like a playboy with Daddy's credit card. He hobnobs with the rich and elite and invests little to help the poor. He invites money lenders and extortionists to the ranch for a ride on his horses and a game of charades.

We can go on and on, but we'd rather hear what you have to think. Send us your debunking of the Jesus/George/God myth. If we wish to drive these anti-democratic leaders from our government, then we must debunk the God myth that surrounds George Bush. That is where he draws his inspiration, and like any cult leader, he will surely lead his followers to imminent death and

destruction because of his lust for power and money.

We must help our fellow citizens and save them from the cult of George W. Bush! This is not a call to attack the Republican party. We are non-partisan and feel people should support whichever party they like. George Bush is not the Republican party. He is a radical leading our nation towards the apocalypse!

FTAA: Profiteers Promise Efficient Education

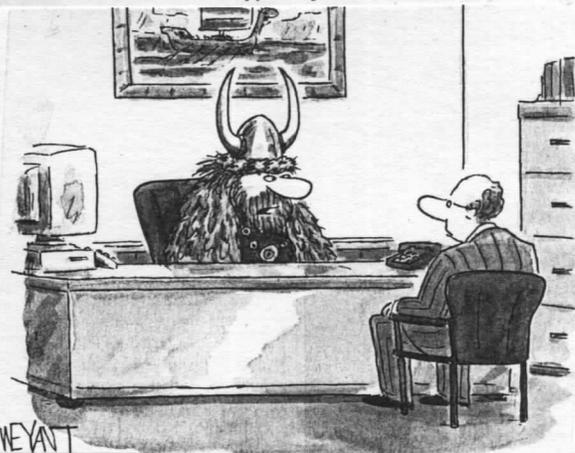
On November 8th Jed Schwartz of Somerville drove to Concord NH to attend a teach-in on the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), organized by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), especially Liana Foxvog, Arnie Alpert, and former Congressman Jim Jontz of Oregon. His notes covered many areas of corporatization of our economies and societies, including public schools:

The FTAA theoretically would cover 34 countries; and cover public services such as education, water, electricity for all of which the FTAA prescription is likely to involve privatization, i.e., corporatization... Unless the protective regulations can be proved necessary, they would trigger fines if they impact corporate profits. For example, we might see United Parcel Service suing the Canadian postal service. Health care (public hospitals) public education, prisons, all could become privatized. It is alleged ideologically that privatization lowers prices, but this view is rarely substantiated and is disputed in practice.

Under FTAA and GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) private corporate schools like Edison Corporation--- Chris Whittle's company---if located outside the US, might be able to sue US public schools for being "unfairly subsidized", that is, receiving public tax revenues which give them unfair advantages over competing private corporations. Jaime Contois observed that Edison Corp. stock has been losing value. Writer added that as far as private education making a profit is concerned, it works at Harvard and places like that, where the students are very smart and often wealthy to begin with. They tend to reward their alma mater after achieving success, but profits would be less likely in the more mundane, less elite environments found in most public school systems.

What might privatized school systems look like?: Mostly TV teaching to save lecture fees. Armed guards at backs of classes. All students wear uniforms. Random drug testing and cavity searches. Music and arts classes eliminated as unnecessarily costly. Advertisements in the schools. Walkouts and protests.

Privatized public schools are likely to streamline their processes, utilize triage, learning disabilities reset and redressed with drugs rather than through bonding with teachers and therapists. Bad elements weeded out, sent to prison. Promotion of community credits through working at McDonalds. Edison Corp. sold books and computers when its stock price fell. Under privatization school boards typically are removed. #

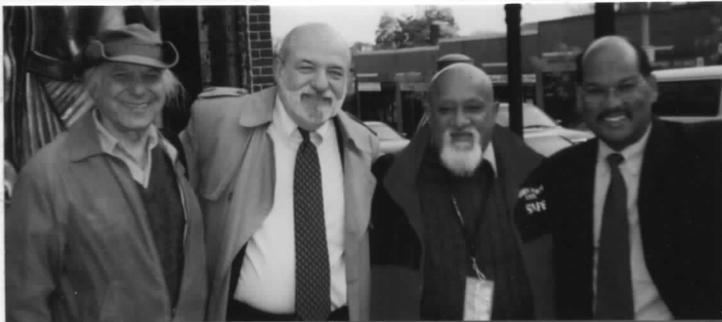


"No. Now all of our pillaging is done electronically from a centralized office."

ALLIANCE CHAPTER AND REGIONAL NEWS

We won! **Felix Arroyo** garnered 34,685 votes to be elected to Boston City Council, second only to council president Michael Flaherty with 36,387 votes in the contest for the four at-large (city-wide) seats. Also re-elected were progressive councillors **Maura Hennigan** and **Stephen Murphy**. In 5th place with 29,649 votes, failing to make the cut, was first-time challenger Patricia White, daughter of the popular former mayor Kevin White, who campaigned for her despite early Alzheimer's disease. Felix came in 5th in his first run in 2002, but succeeded when another at-large councillor resigned the office. Felix is a strong progressive mindful of local impacts of federal and international factors and proposes win-win solutions to local system political roadblocks.

Also re-elected from Boston's nine districts were progressives **Charles Yancey** (Franklin Field, Mattapan, N. Dorchester) beating challenger Ego Ezedi, and our ever-courageous **Chuck Turner**, unopposed in Roxbury. In Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, and Mission Hill progressive social worker **Carmen Torres** garnered 783 votes, losing to well-heeled moderate Michael Ross, though she campaigned with only \$500. Progressive "**Dan, Dan the Bagel Man**" **Kontoff** lost with 745 votes in Allston-Brighton, also on a shoestring. Nice try, both of you!



L to R: Dave Lewit, Felix Arroyo, Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey

Progressive Harvard economist **Stephen Marglin** and one of his students, **Gabriel Katsh**, were BCA's guests at our October 22 meeting. Marglin teaches the new elective course Social Analysis 72 (a.k.a. Ec10, www.fas.harvard.edu/~sa72) to 90 freshmen and sophomores, who must also take the required class-biased economics course taught by Martin Feldstein, an adviser to acting president G.W. Bush. That type of economics uncritically assumes perfectly competitive markets, dominating self-interest and material values, and a strong and benevolent nation-state. (Marglin recommends reading early Massachusetts leader John Winthrop's 1630 work "Against Self-Interest".) Many students have petitioned to allow Ec10 to satisfy the economics requirement, but despite core committee approval the economics department rejected that proposal 35-to-2. Marglin did not know the history of corporate "personhood" but likes David Korten's "When Capitalism Rules the World". He recommends J.K. Galbraith's forthcoming book "The Economics of Innocent Fraud", also approving Bush critic Paul Krugman and Robert Kuttner's nuanced "Everything for Sale".

BCA's **Voting Integrity committee**, now numbering more than a dozen, has been meeting frequently to head off election fraud in 2004 and beyond. In addition to AfD members, we have been meeting with members of IEEE (electrical/electronic engineers) and ACLU (civil liberties) to plan a MA-oriented conference in Boston late in January, and also to plan the making of a film promoting hand-counting of paper ballots, aimed primarily at election officials nationwide, but also for active citizens. For information or participation call **Dave Lewit** at 617-266-8687. During the past few weeks Dave also met with the MassBaySouth chapter to discuss big system dynamics, and attended the first Media Reform conference, in Madison WI, addressing the critical problem of corporate concentration and control of our information.

ACTION ALERTS!!

Fri. 21 Nov. 4-6:30 pm. Boston. "**Say NO to FTAA.**" This is the main march and rally in Boston. Students, labor, immigrants, religious, environmental, peace, and activist groups will be on the streets to warn our communities about the downsides of the FTAA and CAFTA as government officials meet in Miami to trade our future away. Bring signs. March begins at corner of Boylston & Tremont at 4pm. Rally at 5 in Copley Square. Music, theater, speakers, meet up with energized citizens.

Fri. 21 Nov. 5:30-7:30 pm. Cambridge. AfD's **Voting Integrity committee** meets. Finalize plans for January conference at MIT or Suffolk Law. Continue to plan film to promote hand-counting. Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, committee room. Info: 617-266-8687.

Fri.eve-Sun. 21-23 Nov. Washington DC. "**Claim Democracy: Securing, Enhancing, and Exercising the Vote**". Speakers and workshops, including TX state rep Garnet Coleman, Rob Richie (Center for Voting & Democracy, sponsor), Ralph Nader, Jesse Jackson, John Bonifaz, Miles Rapoport, Sam Smith. Cultural/political entertainment. Info 301-270-4616, www.democracyusa.org.

Sun., 23 Nov. 7:30 pm. Boston. "**Tell Us the Truth**" Tour Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, The Nightwatchman, Lester Chambers and Janeane Garofalo will appear in Boston as part of a nationwide tour to raise awareness on current media reform and trade issues. Loud, angry, funny. Berklee Performance Center, tickets \$35.50 and \$30, reserved seating. 617-747-2261 or www.ticketmaster.com

Tue. 25 Nov., 6:30-8:30 pm. Cambridge. **Free Trade at the Crossroads: Report from Cancun and Miami.** Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl Street in Central Square. Arnie Alpert will report on the Cancun conference of the WTO and the Nov 20-21 meetings of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) being held in Miami. Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee. Info: 617-497-5273

JOIN THE BCA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA
Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children -- Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE
 \$26/Year - "Count me in!"
 \$52/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)
 \$104/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)
 \$208/Year - "Community Steward"
 \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"
 What's fair for YOU? \$_____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street, No./Box/Apt: _____

Town and Zip: _____

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