

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **August**
Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy **2008**

Kindness is freedom's truest indicator. If you cannot stop to help someone who clearly needs your help, you are not a free man or woman. Your chains may have the glamorous attachments of Blackberries and credit cards, but you are not free if your time is not your own to follow your heart.

—Doris Granny-D Haddock

CHAPTER NEWS

There will be no chapter meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 9 September, at 7pm, at Alliance headquarters in Waltham MA, 760 Main Street (Rte 20), behind the fieldstone church.** Enjoy our recess!

INFLATION HITS BCA

In the beginning, in 1996, the Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy decided that 50 cents a week—\$26/year—would enable us to thrive if everybody contributed. We guessed right. Some members gave \$52 or more to cover those who could afford only a few bucks, and to subsidize newbies. So our membership grew even though monthly

(Continued on Page 8 >>)

Confronting the Beast

Cynthia McKinney Answers on Black Radio

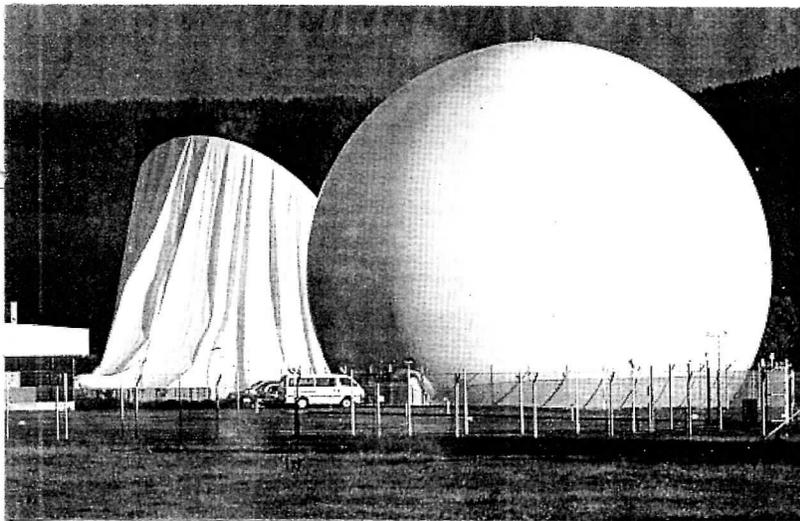
Interview by Davey D, Notes by "yah", odeo.com, 5 Aug 2008

THIS PAST WEEKEND AUGUST 1-3 THE NATIONAL HIP HOP Political Convention touched down in Las Vegas with the hopes of establishing a Hip Hop agenda that can be addressed by the presidential candidates. All the candidates were invited. We didn't hear from John McCain. Barack Obama promised to send a surrogate who never made his/her way there, and Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney came through and blew up the spot.

We sat down and had a serious one on one with the former congresswoman and got her to touch upon key issues rarely addressed by her Democratic and Republican counterparts. We started off by talking about the work she did in Congress around the issue of domestic spying and the legacy of Cointelpro [FBI Counter-Intelligence Program]. She went into great detail and talked about how the CIA and FBI had edicts that plainly stated that it was against the United States security interests to have a 'safe, non threatening Negro leader to replace Dr Martin Luther King should he be eliminated from public life.

People need to let that sink in.. This is a document stamped by the CIA. McKinney described it as regime change for Black America. She also talked about another edict put out by the FBI that said the government should work to make sure that Black youth never ever adhere to a Black nationalist philosophy a la Malcolm X a la the Black Panthers a la Public Enemy a la the Nation of Islam.

It was important to talk about Cointel- (Continued on Page 7 >)



On April 30, three Christian activists from Ploughshares Aotearoa entered the Waihopai US spy satellite base in New Zealand and used sickles to deflate one of the two 30-metre radomes covering satellite interception dishes. The three were granted bail and released and will eventually come to trial. —Space Alert! (newsletter of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space), Summer-Fall 2008

God's Work With A Sickle

Activists Deflate US/New Zealand Spy Dome

Statement of the Waihopai ANZAC Ploughshares
www.converge.org.nz/pma/plshares.htm, 30 April 2008

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation; and there shall be no more training for war. —Isaiah 2/4

THIS MORNING, 30 APRIL 2008, WE ENTERED the Waihopai Spy Base near Blenheim [New Zealand].

Our group, including a Dominican priest, temporarily closed the base by padlocking the gates and proceeded to deflate one of the large domes covering two satellite dishes.

At 6am we cut through three security fences surrounding the domes—these are armed with razor wire, infrared motion sensors and a high voltage electrified fence.

Once inside we used sickles to cut one of the two 30-metre white domes [rubberized fabric, inflated, to shield dishes from weather], built a shrine and knelt in prayer to remember the people killed by United States military activity.

We have financed our activities through personal savings, additional part-time employment and a small interest-free loan from one of our supporters.

We are responding to the Bush administration's admission that intelligence gathering is the most important tool in the so-called War on Terror. This war will have no end until citizens of the world refuse to let it continue. The ECHELON spy network including Waihopai, is an important part of the US government's global spy network and we have come in the name of the Prince of Peace to close it down.

The base is funded by New Zealand tax payers and located on New Zealand soil which makes New Zealand a target through our association with the UKUSA intelligence cooperation agreement.

Five years ago the Clark government opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq. Yet at the same time the Bush administration was using the National Security Agency's ECHELON system, of which Waihopai is an integral component, to spy on UN Security Council members so it could more easily (Continued on Page 2 >>)

swing them in favour of an invasion.

There have been over 100 Ploughshares actions over the last twenty years around the world. Ploughshares direct actions are linked through the common factors of: entry to locations connected to military activity, Christian prayers, and most involve some form of property destruction.

ECHELON

US Secret Global Surveillance Network

by Patrick S. Poole, 1999/2000, (executive summary)

<http://home.hiwaay.net/~pspoole/echelon.html>

IN THE GREATEST SURVEILLANCE EFFORT EVER ESTABLISHED, the US National Security Agency (NSA) has created a global spy system, codename ECHELON, which captures and analyzes virtually every phone call, fax, email and telex message sent anywhere in the world. ECHELON is controlled by the NSA and is operated in conjunction with the Government Communications Head Quarters (GCHQ) of England, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) of Canada, the Australian Defense Security Directorate (DSD), and the General Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) of New Zealand. These organizations are bound together under a secret 1948 agreement, UKUSA, whose terms and text remain under wraps even today.

The ECHELON system is fairly simple in design: position intercept stations all over the world to capture all satellite, micro-wave, cellular and fiber-optic communications traffic, and then process this information through the massive computer capabilities of the NSA, including advanced voice recognition and optical character recognition (OCR) programs, and look for code words or phrases (known as the ECHELON "Dictionary") that will prompt the computers to flag the message for recording and transcribing for future analysis. Intelligence analysts at each of the respective "listening stations" maintain separate keyword lists for them to analyze any conversation or document flagged by the system, which is then forwarded to the respective intelligence agency headquarters that requested the intercept.

But apart from directing their ears towards terrorists and rogue states, ECHELON is also being used for purposes well outside its original mission. The regular discovery of domestic surveillance targeted at American civilians for reasons of "unpopular" political affiliation or for no probable cause at all in violation of the First, Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution are consistently impeded by very elaborate and complex legal arguments and privilege claims by the intelligence agencies and the US government. The guardians and caretakers of our liberties, our duly elected political representatives, give scarce attention to these activities, let alone the abuses that occur under their watch. Among the activities that the ECHELON targets are:

Political spying

Since the close of World War II, the US intelligence agencies have developed a consistent record of trampling the rights and liberties of the American people. Even after the investigations into the domestic and political surveillance activities of the agencies that followed in the wake of the Watergate fiasco, the NSA continues to target the political activity of "unpopular" political groups and our duly elected representatives. One whistleblower charged in a 1988 Cleveland Plain Dealer interview that, while she was stationed at the Menwith Hill [UK] facility in the 1980s, she heard real-time intercepts of South Carolina Senator Strom

Thurmond. A former Maryland Congressman, Michael Barnes, claimed in a 1995 *Baltimore Sun* article that under the Reagan Administration his phone calls were regularly intercepted, which he discovered only after reporters had been passed transcripts of his conversations by the White House. One of the most shocking revelations came to light after several GCHQ officials became concerned about the targeting of peaceful political groups and told the London *Observer* in 1992 that the ECHELON dictionaries targeted Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and even Christian ministries.

Commercial espionage

Since the demise of Communism in Eastern Europe, the intelligence agencies have searched for a new justification for their surveillance capability in order to protect their prominence and their bloated budgets. Their solution was to redefine the notion of national security to include economic, commercial and corporate concerns. *An office was created within the Department of Commerce, the Office of Intelligence Liaison, to forward intercepted materials to major US corporations.** In many cases, the beneficiaries of this commercial espionage effort are the very companies that helped the NSA develop the systems that power the ECHELON network. This incestuous relationship is so strong that sometimes this intelligence information is used to push other American manufacturers out of deals in favor of these mammoth US defense and intelligence contractors, who frequently are the source of major cash contributions to both political parties.

While signals intelligence technology was helpful in containing and eventually defeating the Soviet Empire during the Cold War, what was once designed to target a select list of communist countries and terrorist states is now indiscriminately directed against virtually every citizen in the world. The European Parliament is now asking whether the ECHELON communications interceptions violate the sovereignty and privacy of citizens in other countries. In some cases, such as the NSA's Menwith Hill station in England, surveillance is conducted against citizens on their own soil and with the full knowledge and cooperation of their government.

This report suggests that Congress pick up its long-neglected role as watchdog of the Constitutional rights and liberties of the American people, instead of its current role as lap dog to the US intelligence agencies. Congressional hearings ought to be held, similar to the Church and Rockefeller Committee hearings held in the mid-1970s, to find out to what extent the ECHELON system targets the personal, political, religious, and commercial communications of American citizens. The late Senator Frank Church warned that the technology and capability embodied in the ECHELON system represented a direct threat to the liberties of the American people. Left unchecked, ECHELON could be used by either the political elite or the intelligence agencies themselves as a tool to subvert the civil protections of Constitution and to destroy representative government in the United States.

**Italics ours.*

Although this report was written 9 years ago, before G W Bush took office, its characterization of ECHELON is still correct, in view of updated information on the internet. Actually, ECHELON is rooted in secret WWII arrangements legalized in 1947 by a treaty signed by US and UK at the outset of the "cold war" against the USSR. The changes since 2001 are a heightened focus on "counter-terrorism" and enlarged staffing, many more now trained in languages such as Arabic, Farsi, and ...? The mission and inner workings of ECHELON/SIGINT [signals intelligence program] remain secret. —Ed.

Deadly Gaming

Georgia-US-Israel/McCain vs. Russia

Boston Phoenix editorial, 13 August 2008

(excerpt, with comments in italics by *Dispatch* and others)

ONE NIGHT LAST WEEK, ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE OLYMPICS, US-and-Israeli-armed Georgian rocket and artillery forces destroyed Tskhinvali, the capital city of South Ossetia, targeting residential districts, hospitals, and the university, killing about 1500 civilians. Russian-speaking South Ossetians wanted to break away from Georgia and affiliate with Russia. Georgia, on the other hand, achieved independence after the fall of the USSR, and during the past 6 years received US and Israeli weapons and military training. US sponsors knew very well that Georgia was incapable of occupying South Osetia, so the seemingly impulsive blasting may have had some political purpose. The destruction of Tskhinvali is reminiscent of Guernica's bombing during the Spanish civil war in 1937, except that the Fascists moved in to occupy the city their German and Italian allies had bombed. Here, Russia responded by moving swiftly into Georgia with massive force. —Ed.

According to University of Ottawa economist Michel Chossudovsky, "Georgia was 'encouraged' by NATO and the US... The question is—was this a deliberate provocation intended to trigger a Russian military response and suck the Russians into a broader military confrontation with Georgia (and allied forces) which could potentially escalate into an all-out war?" (Chossudovsky's site: www.globalresearch.ca)

VLADIMIR PUTIN, HAVING SQUELCHED CHECHNYAN REBELS in two multi-year rounds of bloody fighting, was emboldened to deal with the Georgians, whom Russians traditionally consider to be obstreperous upstarts. The Kremlin likes its neighbors tame.

Georgia, with 4.6 million people (a bit more than half the population of New York City); is—or was—perhaps the most pro-American of the former Soviet Republics: witness the 2000 troops that nation committed to President Bush's Iraq War [*but whom the US airlifted back to Georgia fruitlessly to fight to secure Ossetia—now unhelpful to the US in Shi'a Iraq*].

The ostensible trigger for this latest invasion was the desire of provinces in western Georgia to break away and affiliate with Russia. Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili, an admirable [*neoliberal*] democrat who nevertheless is considered a loose cannon by diplomatic standards, appears not to have handled the situation well. Two weeks ago, the long-simmering conflict erupted into mortar fire along the border, prompting air strikes from the Kremlin soon thereafter, as Russian troops and armored forces entered the fray in support of the splinter region. Early Wednesday, a cease-fire was agreed upon by both sides, but the peace remains tenuous at best.

However, when a big power like Russia (or China or the United States) desires to intervene militarily in a neighboring state, almost any reason can be manufactured.

Turmoil in the Georgian provinces is only a pretext for the Russian war. The underlying reason has more to do with the misguided American policy of seeking to integrate such former Soviet Republics as Georgia and the Ukraine, and such former subject Eastern European nations as Poland, into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—against Russia's protestations.

The goal of the neo-conservative foreign-policy cowboys who lease what passes for President Bush's brain is to try to hem-in Russia along its western borders. In theory, this sounds reasonable. But in practice, it is dangerous and needlessly provocative. Disregarding Russia's geopolitical interests in the region is—much like our foray into Iraq—an example of American imperial overreach.

Make no mistake: Russia's invasion is an international outrage. But the US and European powers now find themselves in a difficult position, unable to give full vent to their concerns: the US because it was complicit in angering Russia on the NATO issue; the European Union because it is a prisoner of Russian energy, which fuels its economy. In this case, the liberty, autonomy, and lives of Georgians are expendable when compared with the material well-being of the larger Western European nations. It is a less than noble reality.

While Western Europe's appetite for oil and natural gas is not as profligate as that of the United States, it is still considerable. As a result, the western industrialized democracies are, to an uncomfortable extent, often constrained by wishes of the world's two energy superpowers, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Could a more energy self-sufficient Europe and the US have prevented the Russian invasion of Georgia? Perhaps not. But it would have allowed for at least a more vigorous response. [*South Ossetia is crossroads for oil and gas pipelines. During their incursion, the Russians cut the US-corporate-owned Caspian-to-Aegean oil and gas pipelines as a message to the west that Russia will not be circumvented.* —Ed.]

Take Georgia's great and good friend President Bush. Once again, he is made to look the hollow man, promoting liberty and independence elsewhere, as is the American tradition, but refusing—or failing—to provide muscle when needed [*and humiliating US-installed Georgian President Saakashvili*].



Multiple rocket launchers used in destroying S. Ossetia capital

Republican presidential hopeful John McCain was operating within that same petulant tradition when he declared that "We are all Georgians." Noble words, for sure. But, in the current context, they are ultimately meaningless.

As we noted this past week, the Beijing Olympics mark the symbolic formalization of modern China's emergence as an international superpower.

There is nothing symbolic about Russia's war on Georgia. Taken together, these events are a sobering reminder that the world is a dangerous place, and that whether the US likes it or not, we will have to increasingly take into account the Russian and Chinese views of the world. The issue that is top on this agenda is Iran, and whether it will be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. Both China and Russia claim to be against Iranian nukes, but their policies in this regard are not convincing...

From the University of Montreal— "The Georgia-Russia spat represents a good opportunity for the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to show leadership and not to let things degenerate. Indeed, there is always the possibility that one politician after another will try not to lose face by escalating things. For example, the U.N. Secretary-General should obtain from the Security Council the mandate to visit immediately the two capitals directly involved, and he should attempt to broker an

immediate face-saving end to the hostilities. He should persuade the Russian leaders not to overreact to the Georgian President's provocations. As for the latter, he has demonstrated that he is not worthy of occupying his functions..."

Further, "John McCain's main foreign policy adviser [Randy Scheunemann] is a former lobbyist for the government of Georgia and a former neocon lobbyist for the U.S. military invasion of Iraq... [McCain] would seem to be unfit to be in charge of a heavily armed country."

—economist rodrigue.tremblay@yahoo.com

GRAND SPECULATION

Neocons Out! Russophobes In!

Brzezinski-Obama Coup Has Begun

by Webster G. Tarpley, Rense.com, 7 June 2008

YESTERDAY'S [6 JUNE 2008] EXTRAORDINARY SIMULTANEOUS OUSTER of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff,

followed by the naming of Trilateral Commissioner and Carter administration veteran James Rodney Schlesinger to purge USAF generals and colonels, dramatically documents the fact that power in Washington DC is no long in the hands of the Bush-Cheney-neocon clique, but has passed to the Brzezinski-Trilateral faction.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the firing of Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, citing the failure of the Air Force to maintain the security of strategic nuclear forces, as shown in the infamous rogue B-52 incident of late August 2007, when a B-52 intercontinental strategic bomber with six nuclear armed cruise missiles flew from North Dakota to Louisiana totally outside of the purview of the USAF command control and communications systems. Gates also mentioned that four high-tech electrical nose-cone fuses for Minuteman nuclear warheads were sent to Taiwan in place of helicopter batteries, along with other failures.

Gates is a leading member of the **Principals' Committee**, an interagency group which now runs the US government from day to day with scant reference to the discredited outgoing lame ducks Bush and Cheney, who stay on mainly as figureheads. The Principals' Committee has been in charge of the US government since no later than early May [2008], around the time of the Indiana and North Carolina primaries, when the controlled corporate media began trumpeting that Obama was the winner of the Democratic nomination. The Principals' Committee is made up of Pentagon boss Gates, Secretary of State Rice, NSC director Hadley, Joint Chiefs of Staff head Mullen, intelligence czar McConnell, along with a few others. These figures are now marching to the tune of Trilateral Commission bigwigs like Zbigniew Brzezinski, Joseph Nye [of Harvard's JFK School], and the Rockefeller family. These are the same forces who own and control the Wall Street "Manchurian candidate" Obama. It is notable that the high-profile purge of the USAF came less than 48 hours after Obama had unilaterally proclaimed himself the Democratic presidential nominee.

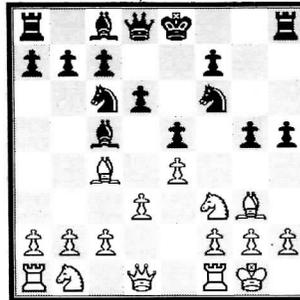
The rogue B-52 flew with six nuclear cruise missiles from Minot AFB North Dakota to Barksdale AFB Louisiana last August 30. Source reports published by Wayne Madsen suggest that the B-52 was stopped by patriotic low-level USAF personnel. As the issue of whether to allow the plane to fly on to the Middle East went up the chain of command and expanded to involve the intelligence agencies, it transpired that the majority of the

government and the establishment did not want the plane to attack targets in the Middle East.

The scandal of the rogue B-52 broke on September 5, and a stand-down and nuclear census of the entire USAF soon followed. According to all indications, the B-52 was under the extra-legal control of the Cheney faction, which evidently planned to fly it to the Middle East and quite possibly use one or more of the nuclear cruise missiles in an attack on Iran and/or Syria, probably in cooperation or coordination with the Israeli air attack on Syria which occurred on September 6.

The fact that the B-52 was blocked may have represented the last gasp of the Bush-Cheney-neocon faction, and the beginning of the hegemony of a different and far more dangerous group, namely the Brzezinski-Trilateral faction.

The Gates purge indicates that the new Trilateral masters of Washington DC do not trust the USAF generals who are so deeply compromised with the Bush-Cheney-neocon faction. The USAF was up to its neck in 9/11, and then in the rogue B-52 affair. The Trilaterals are accordingly driving out the old rogues, and replacing them with new rogue generals of their own, who are loyal to the insane Trilateral agenda. Brzezinski does not



A "Grand Chessboard"

—Z. Brzezinski

want nuclear weapons wasted on Iran, which he intends to turn into an expendable puppet or kamikaze pawn in his apocalyptic showdown with Russia and China. This is what Obama's appeasement of Iran actually aims at: *Iran as a US asset* to be played against Russia and China.* Brzezinski wants to be in control of those nukes, since he may soon need them for use against Russia and China.

Those who might celebrate the defeat of the Bush-Cheney-neocon group must rather face the fact that the US has just jumped out of the frying pan of conventional invasions and into the fire of looming thermonuclear confrontations among the great powers. This is the real nature of the change for which Obama is the public symbol.

Obama's foreign policy will be dictated in every respect by Trilateral co-founder Brzezinski. Obama is now supported and surrounded by Trilateral members David Rockefeller, Jay Rockefeller, Joseph Nye, Paul Adolph Volcker, Jimmy Carter, and many more. With James "Rodney the Robot" Schlesinger now helping to purge the Pentagon, including its associated intelligence agencies, the Trilateral grip on Washington DC is tightening. Obama's choice of a vice president will be dictated by long-time Trilateral stalwart Jim Johnson.

The rogue B-52 incident was forecast by me in an essay entitled "Cheney Determined to Strike in US with WMD This Summer," issued on July 21, 2007, and widely distributed on the internet and in print form. This was followed by the Kennebunkport Warning, which was posted online in the evening of August 26, 2007, less than 72 hours before the rogue B-52 nuclear missiles were loaded. By September 3, the Kennebunkport Warning was posted on 110,000 web sites worldwide. The precision and timeliness of this warning represent an unprecedented intelligence achievement.

But now, the danger of a US attack on Iran is very low. Brzezinski's hit list is much more ambitious, and includes Sudan, Pakistan, Burma, and China, all stepping stones to the final reckoning with Moscow. The main possibility of an attack

on Iran in the present situation comes from *disgruntled Israeli factions* like the one around Netanyahu who are aghast that they are *being demoted* from their previous role as the hub of US strategy to the status of *just another expendable pawn in Brzezinski's lunatic plan for confrontation with Beijing and Moscow*. The Israelis are horrified by Obama, just as everyone in the world should be. The winning faction of the US-UK establishment does not want the attack on Iran, and the Israelis would be foolhardy to try it on their own. The threats today from former IDF chief and Israeli Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz about an Israeli solo attack on Iran—because of the failure of economic sanctions to stop nuclear development—are indicative of deep discontent, but the guess here is that they are a bluff. We will soon find out: If the Israelis do not strike Iran in the next few weeks, they will have lost their chance as the Trilaterals continue to consolidate their power.

Webster Tarpley is an independent, Princeton/Turin/Skidmore-educated humanist scholar and author of five books including Obama—The Postmodern Coup: The Making of a Manchurian Candidate (2008). This article originally appeared at <http://www.rense.com/general82/ztz.htm>, unfortunately without references.

* Italics ours throughout article. —Ed.

McCain the Antichrist?

Fundamentalist Scholars Argue So

by Robert Dreyfuss, *the Nation*, 8 August 2008

BIBLICAL SCHOLARS IN COLORADO SPRINGS have uncovered startling evidence that Senator John McCain may be the Antichrist. Their conclusions, while highly controversial, may have a dramatic impact on the 2008 elections, since many Bible-believing Christians have already expressed doubts about McCain's fealty to Christianity.

The analysis was conducted by the respected True Bible Society, and it will be published next month in the *End Times Journal*.

The analysis was especially ironic, given that it came out just one day after McCain was accused of subtly hinting that Barack Obama could be the Antichrist. McCain ran a commercial depicting Obama as "The One," giving rise to charges that he was sending a subliminal messages to anti-Obama Christians.

"What started us looking at this issue is the fact that Senator McCain has declared his intention to maintain US forces in Iraq for a hundred years," said David Jenkins, a leading Biblical scholar. "That means that McCain wants to control Babylon for at least a century." According to many scholars of the Book of Revelation, the Antichrist will try to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon in order to use it as a springboard for an international effort at world domination. Ultimately, the Antichrist will marshal forces from Babylon to spark a showdown with Christian and Jewish-led forces in the battle of Armageddon.

"We believe that the End Times is near, based on the pattern of wars, earthquakes, and other strange phenomena we've been witnessing since the start of the New Millennium," said Jenkins. "Given that it may be imminent, the person who controls Babylon must be the Antichrist." Until 2003, many Christians believed that Saddam Hussein might be the Antichrist, since he started excavations to restore Babylon in the mid 1970s. But Hussein's death meant that the Antichrist is someone else. Since Obama wants to get out of Iraq, he can't be the Antichrist either, concluded Jenkins.

Jenkins said his teams suspicions were further heightened when genealogical research showed that McCain's great-grandfather was actually not John McCain, but John Mihai. Mihai is an ancient Romanian name, and according to Bible-believing Christians, the Antichrist is likely to be a Romanian. "What clinched it for us was that the name Mihai means 'who is like the Lord,'" said Jenkins. "As far as we're concerned, that was enough. It means that McCain might easily pretend to be the Redeemer."

McCain's geniality and folksiness are consistent with his being the Antichrist, Jenkins said. "Many people think that the Antichrist will be a evil-seeming leader, but in fact the Bible tells us that he will be charming."

So far the McCain campaign has refused to comment on Jenkins' study.

Robert Dreyfuss is the author of Devil's Game: How the United States Helped Unleash Fundamentalist Islam and is a frequent contributor to Rolling Stone, The American Prospect, and Mother Jones.



Ed. Note—Anyone for numerology? Six-sixty-six, according to Revelation 13:18, is the number resulting from numerically interpreting the name of the man who is the God-pretending beast (Antichrist). The satanic boy at the blackboard in this cartoon—who can make any situation come up with 666—was named "Damien" by the cartoonist. Note that 4 of the letters of his name spell 4 of the letters in—voilà! McCain! The missing c's can

be retrieved by deleting the strait (get it?) lines in D and e, and reversing the D (reversing D=Deus). And McCain surely reduces everything to a simple black/white answer—the same every time. Ha!

Tomatoes vs. Alzheimer's Disease

GeneCampaign.org, 9 August 2008

NOW THE TRANSGENIC TOMATOES COULD BE USED AS A VACCINE against Alzheimer's, scientists claim. The scientists' genetically modified tomato to create an edible vaccine that prevents the disease. It works by attacking the toxic beta-amyloid protein that destroys vital connections between brain cells, causing Alzheimer's. To create the vaccine, the scientists combined the gene behind the beta amyloid protein with the tomato's genetic code. They then fed mice the designer tomatoes once a week for three weeks. Blood samples taken from the mice revealed the tomatoes triggered their immune systems to release disease-fighting antibodies.

What? Our Senator Corrupt?

from Space Alert!, newsletter of Global Network, Sum-Fall 2008

SENATOR JOHN KERRY (D-MA), ONE OF CONGRESS' WEALTHIEST members, was among the more than a quarter of senators and House members who invested heavily in "defense" corporations between 2004 and 2006. Kerry reaped at least \$2.6 million. Members of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees, which oversee the Iraq war, had between \$32 million and \$44 million invested in companies with Pentagon contracts. ■

Chasing Migrants Upsets Enforcement Will Local Police Departments Drop Feds?

by Anthony Advincula, *New American Media*, 14 August 2008.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS CHARGED WITH ENFORCING FEDERAL immigration laws are going broke.

When local cops enforce federal immigration laws, the police department may not only incur significant costs, but may also fail to attend to more serious crimes and delay response times to most emergency calls, according to a report released by the Immigration Policy Center (IPC).

Take the case of Maricopa County, Ariz. Since Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio transformed his department into an immigration-enforcement agency, following a partnership made by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on January 19, 2007, his office has incurred a \$1.3 million deficit in just three months.

Maricopa's police officers began working 4,500 extra hours every two-week pay period during the first month of the partnership, as compared to 2,900 extra hours the previous month, the report said. In April 2007, police officers worked more than 9000 overtime hours and cost the county's taxpayers \$373,757.

Maricopa County is not an isolated case. More and more cities across the country that allow the police to carry out federal immigration laws get themselves in a similar economic quagmire. Many of them find that it is much more expensive than they thought.

Recently, the initiative against illegal immigration in Prince William County, Va., raised its costs to \$6.9 million for the budget year that starts July 1, because of overcrowding at the county jail.

Immigrant rights advocates also say that even cities like Valley Park, Mo. and Hazleton, Pa.—where local enforcement takes a more aggressive approach than simply relying on ICE to perform federal immigration operations—may fall into deep budget pits soon. "This kind of local enforcement just leaves counties broke, aside from many other negative consequences," said Michele Waslin, senior policy analyst for IPC. "It makes the community frightened and forces many businesses to close down."

While police officers arrest undocumented immigrants, Waslin says that they fail to catch the human smuggling rings. "I don't think that cops who become immigration agents are effective to help in stopping the flow of illegal immigration," she said.

The two-page IPC report, based mainly on the findings of a series of investigative stories published in Phoenix-based East Valley Tribune, also revealed that since Maricopa County cops started looking for undocumented immigrants, the county's arrest rate for serious crimes -- including robberies, aggravated assaults and sex crimes—decreased dramatically—and these crimes received little or no investigation. Arpaio's office in 2005 cleared 10.5 percent of its investigations with arrests. When immigration operations began, according to the report, that number dropped to 6 percent.

In July 2007, the county's police only made arrests on 2.5 percent of their investigations. Because more officers need to be added to the immigration team, the report said that Arpaio pulled deputies off patrol beats and used them to staff the human smuggling unit, resulting in more delays when responding to 911 and other emergency calls. Patrol districts, trails and lake divisions as well as the central investigations bureau all lost

deputies. Allegations of racial profiling have also stung the county, as Arpaio's team increasingly conducts large-scale operations without any evidence of criminal activity in Latino neighborhoods or sites where day laborers convene.

"Some of these will ultimately lead to costly lawsuits," Waslin added. "In any way, the idea of cops doing federal immigration enforcement is very problematic. It's not just going to work.

Anthony D. Advincula is a New York based editor at NAM.

Suicide—Answer to Mortgage Debt Despair, Not Outrage, in Today's America

by Barbara Ehrenreich, *barbaraehrenreich.com*, 19 July 2008.

A FEW DAYS BEFORE CONGRESS PASSED ITS HOUSING BILL, Carlene Balderrama of Taunton MA found her own solution to the housing crisis. Just a little over two hours in advance of the time her mortgage company, PHH Mortgage Corporation—may its name live in infamy—was to auction off her home, Balderrama killed herself with her husband's rifle.

This is not the kind of response to hard times that James Grant had in mind when he wrote his July 19 *Wall Street Journal* essay entitled "Why No Outrage?" "One might infer from the lack of popular anger", the famed Wall Street contrarian wrote, "that the credit crisis was God's fault rather than the doing of the bankers and the rating agencies and the government's snoozing watchdogs." For contrast, he cites the spirited response to the depression of the 1890s, when lawyer/agitator Mary Lease stirred crowds with the message that "We want the accursed foreclosure system wiped out We will stand by our homes and stay by our firesides by force if necessary."

Grant could have found even more bracing examples of resistance in the 1930s, when farmers and tenants used mob power—and sometimes firearms—to fight foreclosures and evictions. For more on that, I consulted Frances Fox Piven, co-author of the classic text *Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail*, who told me that in the early 30s, a number of cities were so shaken by the resistance that they declared moratoriums on further evictions. A 1931 riot by Chicago tenants who had fallen behind on their rent, for example, had left three dead and three police officers injured.

According to Piven, these actions were often spontaneous. A group of unemployed men would get word of a scheduled eviction and march through the streets, gathering crowds as they went. Arriving at the site of the eviction, they would move the furniture back into the apartment and stay around to protect the threatened tenants. In one instance in Detroit, it took 100 cops to evict a single family. Also in Detroit, Piven said, "two families protected their apartments by shooting their landlord and were acquitted by a sympathetic jury."

What a difference 80 years makes. When the police and the auctioneers arrived at Balderrama's house, the family gun had already been used—on the victim of foreclosure herself. I don't know how "worthy" a debtor she was—the family had been through bankruptcies before, though probably not as a result of Caribbean vacations and closets full of designer clothes. It was an Adjustable Rate Mortgage that did them in, and Balderrama, who managed the family's finances, had apparently been unwilling to tell her husband that their ever-rising monthly mortgage payments were eating up his earnings as a plumber.

Suicide is becoming an increasingly popular response to debt. James Scurlock's brilliant documentary, *Maxed Out*, features the

families of two college students who killed themselves after being overwhelmed by credit card debt. "All the people we talked to had considered suicide at least once," Scurlock told a gathering of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys in 2007. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, lawyers in the audience backed him up, "describing clients who showed up at their offices with cyanide, or threatened, 'If you don't help me, I've got a gun in my car.'"

India may be the trend-setter here, with an estimated 150,000 debt-ridden farmers succumbing to suicide since 1997. With guns in short supply in rural India, the desperate farmers have taken to drinking the pesticides meant for their crops.

Dry your eyes, already: Death is an effective remedy for debt, along with anything else that may be bothering you too. And try to think of it too from a lofty, corner-office, perspective: If you can't pay your debts or afford to play your role as a consumer, and if, in addition—like an ever-rising number of Americans—you're no longer needed at the workplace, then there's no further point to your existence. I'm not saying that the creditors, the bankers and the mortgage companies actually want you dead, but in a culture where one's credit rating is routinely held up as a three-digit measure of personal self-worth, the correct response to insoluble debt is in fact, "Just shoot me!"

The alternative is to value yourself more than any amount of money and turn the guns, metaphorically speaking, in the other direction. It wasn't God, or some abstract economic climate change, that caused the credit crisis. Actual humans—often masked as financial institutions—did that, (and you can find a convenient list of names in Nomi Prins's article in the current issue of *Mother Jones*.) Most of them, except for a tiny few facing trials, are still high rollers, fattening themselves on the blood and tears of ordinary debtors. I know it's so 1930s, but may I suggest a march on Wall Street?

Barbara Ehrenreich is the author of thirteen books, including Nickel and Dimed, wherein she tells of her experimental experience as a no-resume, middle-aged, low-paid worker.

Readers responded to Ehrenreich's article when it was posted at the Common Dreams website—for example:

★ ... Moving from company to company and city to city does not allow for the sort of bonds that used to exist from the ground up in the 20s and 30s. My sister killed herself on Friday in Austin largely because she had been downsized to the point, over a number of years, and had few relationships left. She knew she could pay her basic bills, but did not know how to build a life outside of work relationships, relationships that are at times predatory... Somehow we need to build relationships and oppose the structures of flexibility.

★ ...I am turned away from loans because my check is too small. I am turned away from educational grants and state programs because my check is too big... I would like to know just one time before I die what it is like to not be poor.

★ ...if you have failed and can no longer maintain your proper role in this conspiracy as a consumer, you should, as a matter of honor, kill yourself.

★ I've been embroiled in my own personal battle with the IRS for a number of years, and under threats of garnishment, I've considered (and told them) I'd just end it... But in the end, violence only brings more violence. My children would be damaged forever and the chances exponentially increase that they too might become suicidal... Perhaps our only chance is to find some sane, rational mixture of socialism (employee owned companies and cooperatives) and small scale capitalism. Family owned, small enterprises...

★ Suicide has become "the solution" throughout the world for farmers who have lost their livelihoods... Exploiting our fundamental hopes for a home, domestic variants of the WTO and World Bank are allowed to deceive the consumer to sign pernicious conditions that ultimately negate the dream itself... Japan has taken "the lead": life insurance policies no longer pay on a suicide...

★ This article trivializes a serious illness to something that is no more than a response to rough times!

★ In the 1930's there were mass foreclosures of farmers and evicting of farm families. My Dad told us kids stories of how he participated in a spontaneous movement that grew up in my area to physically resist foreclosures. There was one judge in Le Mars, Iowa--well known for his connections to the local bankers and a harsh "kick 'em out" attitude--the farmers broke up a foreclosure hearing at his court, grabbed the judge, put a rope around his neck and paraded him around town... Our grandparents had a lot more guts back then than we have today.

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pro because it provided a historical and political context to better understand the types of domestic spying and new laws like FISA which are on the books post 9-11. It was also important to have this history discussed so we could better understand the types of surveillance and political disruption taking place within Hip Hop. McKinney's work around domestic spying had her looking into the deaths of 2Pac and Biggie to see if it fit a pattern consistent with the type of disruptive tactics the FBI used against groups like the Black Panther, SNCC and Dr King.

What was really important for McKinney was to examine the role that culture has played in the liberation struggle and how historically artists, their music, writings and oral expressions and their crafts have been shut down, marginalized and outright attacked by the government. She raised the questions as to whether or not the attacks on Hip Hop was a continuum of this. She talked about how cultural expressions have always been connected to a people's self-determination.

During our interview I asked McKinney if what was the reaction from her Congressional colleagues to the work she was doing around Cointelpro and whether or not they were outraged once all these documents were shown, and if so how they could go along with bills like the Patriot Act and the recent FISA Bill signed by her opponent Barack Obama and of course the Violent Radicalization & Homegrown Terrorism Act which seeks to see how the Internet is being used to politicize people. McKinney bluntly stated that many of her former colleagues are part of the problem. They have been complicit in creating an environment that resembles a police state all under the guise of protecting us from terrorism.

We talked about the hearings and questions McKinney raised around 9-11 shortly after the Terror attacks. At the time she started asking all the hard questions, she was considered unpatriotic and out of touch. Seven years later we can see that McKinney was right on time and in many ways she has been vindicated.

We talked about McKinney's run for the White House and why she has been ignored by so many progressive media enclaves that share her values about everything from being opposed to the war, to curtailing the governments push to trounce on our civil liberties, to making sure our elections are protected and every vote is counted. McKinney was behind the incredible film 'American Blackout' which brought attention to election fraud.

One would think that places like the *Huffington Post* or *The Nation* magazine would be at the very least raising some of the issues McKinney has championed. McKinney said it would be

nice to be invited to do interviews with some of these progressive outlets and that she would love to sit down and have a serious conversation with Arianna Huffington. She noted that what is apparent is that in many ways these outlets and individuals aren't really all that progressive and they've allowed their values to be compromised.

We then talked about her take on Foreign Policy. McKinney broke down the resistance movements that have been unfolding throughout Latin America. She talked about her recent trip to Mexico City to stand in solidarity with union workers and others who are still protesting and in staunch opposition to their presidential election which they feel was stolen. One of the key sticking points in Mexico is the attempts to privatize water and oil [and electricity] and make them become the property of corporate entities controlled by the US.

She talked about how people within the US—in particular the Longshoreman's Union—have protested this action by shutting down our own seaports. [She discussed organizing from protest to resistance—general strike.] She also talked about AfriCom which is the US's rarely talked about policy to set up military bases throughout Africa to ensure that we have access to oil and other natural resources. The US feels that its bad standing in many parts of the world has made them vulnerable to boycotts from countries that have critical resources. These military bases are designed to prevent that from happening.

Lastly McKinney talked about her choice for running mate in the form of Rosa Clemente, and how important it was to have someone of her caliber and reach into under-represented communities.

Hear the full interview at

<http://odeo.com/episodes/23148691-An-Interview-w-Cynthia-McKinney>. It's 45 minutes well spent, with a hip-hop song before, middle, and end. To obtain public funding and be on the ballot in all 50 states in 2012, McKinney needs 5% of the 2008 popular vote.

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meeting attendance dropped back after several years from an initial 75(!) to an average of about 12—due to the inevitable narrowing of focus to systemic things unique to the Alliance, to a non-hierarchical open structure, and to people willing to persist and even actively work on projects.

Today, as for the past eight or so years, BCA has about 100 paid-up members in addition to 200 friends also receiving the *Dispatch* whether overdue or complimentary. Only some of the 300 are paying members of the national Alliance for Democracy, but everyone should support AfD—call coordinator **Barbara Clancy** at 781-894-1179. AfD and Barbara actively support BCA.

Our meetings have varied in content—one popular one was some months after 9/11 when we happily defied anti-Muslim sentiment with live Arabic music, Eastern food, and Sufi poems and participatory readings. Earlier—shortly after 9/11—we heard directly from Boston Muslims such as **Anwar Kazmi** and **Dr. A. Cader Asmal**. More frequently we had discussions with academics and civic leaders who had something new to say. And many of our meetings organized and stimulated projects to help stop corporate globalization, protect public water, fight electronic vote fraud, visit Venezuela, build regional autonomy, and so on.

All these years we stuck with \$26 as a basic annual contribution. We economized on printing by free copying at the office

where our first editor, **Erik Haines**, worked. After Erik left BCA we found a printer—**Marty Kedian**, the manager at Sir Speedy on Boylston opposite the Pru—willing to print the *Dispatch* on a promotion for 3 cents per side. We respected each other so well that we got that beneficial rate for years, though he was forced to raise the rate to 4 cents in 2006. Now we are facing 5 cents, as well as the regular increases in postage rates and inflated stationery costs. Member contributions also enable BCA to pay assembly-hall fees and to fund projects such as videotaping our conferences, helping sister groups, and so on.

So, friends—we're now asking \$33 as our basic annual contribution. The coupon below lists the helpful increments for those who can afford more. Let us here praise Detroit member, **Harold Stokes**, who gave BCA \$1000 for web development. With that and the *pro bono* help of **Sergio Reyes** we set up NewEnglandAlliance.org, which has gradually grown bigger and more useful. We still distribute the *Dispatch* only on paper, but will soon overcome technical barriers to crisp, electronic posting. Paper distribution will continue, because most folks still need printouts to read the many thoughtful and provocative—folks tell us—articles.

Please check out the coupon below, and help us to lead the effort for system change.

ACTION ALERTS

Fri 29 Aug-Thu 4 Sep, Cambridge MA. "Stealing America—Vote by Vote". New documentary endorsed by Election Defense Alliance, NY Times, &c. Trailer at stealingAmericaTheMovie.org. Kendall Square theater, behind MIT.

MAINE TRADE HEARINGS

On October 9th, from 6-9 pm at Husson College, the Citizen Trade Policy Commission of the Maine Legislature will be taking public testimony on the impact of trade agreements. The CTPC, a body of citizens and legislators, was created by the Maine legislature to look at the impact of trade agreements like NAFTA, CAFTA, and WTO on Maine. —PICA News

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 or copy this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St. #2h, Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE

___ \$33/Year - "Count me in!"

___ \$66/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)

___ \$111/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)

___ \$222/Year - "Community Steward"

___ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"

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