

# ALLIANCE ALERTS

Appreciation . . . 5  
Ohio Update . . . 6  
Clean Elections 7  
Grass Roots . . . 8  
Tx Observer . . 11  
Chapter News 12  
Harold Stokes 13  
Book Review . . 15  
AfD 2004 . . . . 16

Volume IV, No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

Winter 2005



Citizens in Ohio protest the corruption of American Democracy beneath the gaze of William McKinley who instituted the corporate takeover of American campaign finance in 1896.

## ALLIANCE TAKES LEAD IN OHIO

by Ronnie Dugger

Columbus, Ohio

The Alliance for Democracy played a leading role in raising funds for an election contest in Ohio, *Moss v. Bush*, which contended that "due to error, fraud, or mistake," the votes were miscounted in Ohio and that in fact John Kerry won the state on November 2 and therefore the presidency. Defendants charged with personally participating in a "pattern of vote fraud and discrimination" included President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, and Karl Rove, Bush's political chieftain. The suit asked the courts to set aside Bush's electors from Ohio and replace them with a set of electors for Kerry, which would

make him President despite having lost the reported national popular vote.

Clifford Arnebeck, the Co-chair of the Alliance, was the lead lawyer in the election contest which he filed in the Ohio Supreme Court on December 13 on behalf of 44 voters in the state. Arnebeck accuses Bush's campaign, as the Associated Press quoted him, of "high-tech vote stealing." If the court allowed the suit a hearing was to be required in 15 to 30 days. The drop-dead date for an effective election challenge was Jan. 6, when the US Senate confirmed the Electoral College vote.

Arnebeck, at length, and Ronnie Dugger of the Alliance, more briefly, were interviewed on Air America Radio

*Ohio Investigation continued on page 2*

## POPULAR GOVERNANCE

From the *BCA Dispatch* of the Boston-Cambridge AfD

by Dave Lewit

Fifteen activist leaders from four of the six New England states gathered at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA on November 13, to share perspectives on strengthening local self-reliance in the region, and on integrating regionally. This was the first of what may be quar-

*Popular Governance continued on page 10*

## AfD PERSPECTIVES USED LOCALLY

From *Democracy Alert* of the Mendocino Coast AfD

by Jim Tarbell

A fresh wind blew into the Fort Bragg, California City government in November when AfD member Doug Hammerstrom won a seat on the five-member Fort Bragg City Council. He then upped AfD involvement in Fort Bragg decision making by appointing Meg Courtney to the Fort Bragg Planning Commission. They are both in positions to weigh in on the impending opening of the Fort Bragg coastline and development of the 430 acre former Georgia Pacific mill site which offers a unique opportunity for Fort Bragg. *Democracy Alert* asked them to discuss how their

*AfD Perspectives continued on page 14*

## Ohio Investigation

*continued from page 1*

on November 13 concerning the situation. Program hosts Laura Flanders and Randi Rhodes of Air America pitched for contributions, which led to \$108,000 in donations to the Alliance for the election challenge in Ohio. Although AfD is not the plaintiff in the Arnebeck suit, this initial fund helped facilitate its filing.

At the same time, the Green and Libertarian Parties filed for a recount in Ohio and raised about \$250,000 to pay for it. The recount commenced in the state's 88 counties. Senator John Kerry, having conceded at 11 a.m. November 3, did not initially come in on the Ohio fight, but subsequently joined the call for properly counting the votes there and designated Rev. Jesse Jackson his Ohio liaison.

After initial confusion among attorneys over who had standing to demand the recount, the two "third parties" emerged as proper litigants for that purpose under Ohio law. Arnebeck congratulated the two small parties for achieving the recount, but in an additional statement emphasized that the *Moss v. Bush* lawsuit on behalf of the 44 Ohio voters "can expose the fraud that resulted in extra and destroyed ballots and (voting) machine manipulation." At many junctures Arnebeck emphasized that the litigation he is conducting is not advocating a candidate but is seeking to obtain honesty and accuracy in the vote count.

When Rep. John Conyers, D-III and ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, convened an ad-hoc hearing in Columbus conducted by

him and three other House Democrats on December 13 on the election challenge in Ohio, the front-row panel who faced him in the packed city council chambers consisted of David Cobb, the Green Party's 2004 presidential candidate, Arnebeck, Jackson, and Arnebeck's co-counsel Bob Fittrakis. Testimony brought forward by Cobb and Arnebeck at this hearing pointed to potentially grave tamperings with electronic vote counting in Ohio in 2004 and in South Florida in 2000.

The Ohio Honest Election Campaign, including counsel for Common Cause, Ohio, the AfD, and the Citizens Alliance for Secure Elections/Ohio, conducted a series of hearings in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland on election violations in Ohio.

Arnebeck and Fittrakis, plunking down \$20,000 in filing fees, presented the petition for the election contest in the office of the clerk of the Ohio Supreme Court, the anteroom of which was filled with reporters and some of the plaintiffs for the occasion. Jackson came in as Kerry's representative and, during an impromptu press conference, said the day's action by the lawyers was worthy and in the tradition of Thurgood Marshall.

The suit contended that exit polls, used abroad to detect fraud, and conducted November 2 for the National Election Pool of major TV and newspaper media, diverged "dramatically" from the reported election outcomes. The suit charged that the Pool actually changed the exit polls to make them conform to the reported official outcomes, but that the uncorrected exit polls show "fraud or other irregularity" in Ohio and other states.

Before the exit-poll figures were tampered with, they showed Kerry winning with 52.1% in Ohio; the certified result shows Kerry with 48.7%. The probability of that swing, the suit contended, is one in 1,000, meaning that there are 999 chances out of 1,000 either that the Ohio exit-poll result was not based on a random sample "or that the election itself was not

honest." Further, the suit said, the probability of the Ohio outcome and the exit-poll to certified result shifts in the Kerry-Bush margins of 6.7% in Ohio, 4.9% in Florida, and 6.5% in Pennsylvania are estimated, in a study that is Exhibit A in the lawsuit, at one in 662,000 by Professor Steven F. Freeman of the University of Pennsylvania.

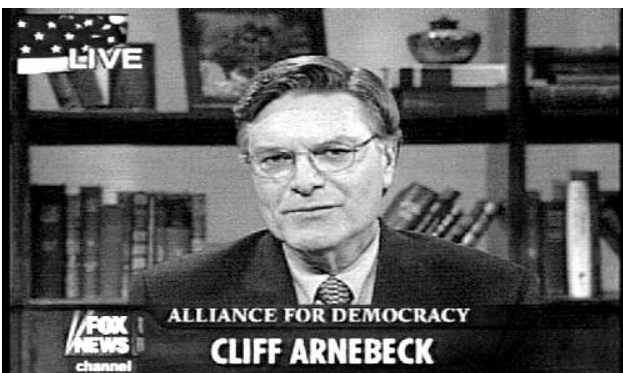
According to that same study, in one of the eleven "battleground" states there was no such shift, but in the other ten such states all the shifts were in favor of Bush and ranged from 1.6% in Michigan to 9.5% in New Hampshire. In the national exit poll, based on a sample of 13,047 voters, Kerry won with 50.8%; in the certified results, he lost with 48.1%, a shift of 2.7%. The chance that this would occur is one in 45,000, according to Freeman.

"The reasonable conclusion is that there was election fraud," according to *Moss v. Bush*. "This means that candidate Bush probably did not win a 'mandate' of 3.5 million votes, but actually lost the national vote by a significant margin. The chance of John Kerry receiving a greater percentage of the popular vote than Bush in an honest election was 98.7%."

*Moss v. Bush* alleges that methods used to steal votes, "included gaining physical or electronic access to the tabulating machines and systems" and/or "inserting unauthorized and so-far undetected operating instructions into the software," with some or all of such instructions "pre-set to delete themselves."

The suit represents, too, that unconstitutional discrimination against Democratic voters, especially African-Americans, decreased the votes for Kerry and that "traditional methods of vote fraud" were also used. Specific numbers of votes improperly lost to Kerry are recited for 36 counties, totaling 130,656, more than Bush's certified victory margin of 118,775.

Various election and vote counting violations are recited for a series of counties, including: the discriminatory denial of enough voting machines to minority precincts; Kerry votes implied to have been shunted onto minor-party candidates; jammed or inoperable machines; one precinct recording a neg-



ative 25 million votes; about two dozen voting machines that were counting votes for a candidate as votes for the candidate's opponent; voter turnout in one county a "highly suspect" 98.55%; in two counties "numerous instances" of "vote-hopping" in which a vote cast for Kerry "hopped" to Bush before the voters' eyes; and in Warren County an alleged terrorist threat used as the reason for locking everyone out of the votecounting. Ken Blackwell, the Republican Secretary of State, was charged in the suit with illegally prohibiting inspection of the poll books in all counties until the official outcome was certified December 6.

The petition can be read at <http://joe-ogren.com/MossvBush1.pdf> or refer to the AfD website at [thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://thealliancefordemocracy.org) for more information.

On Dec. 18 Arnebeck posted a statement on the Internet that litigating the Moss v. Bush case will cost at least \$200,000 for fees, depositions, and attorneys' fees and expenses. To those interested, he wrote: "please make a contribution to 'Ohio Election Litigation Fund' and mail it to Cliff Arnebeck, Esq., 1351 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212, along with your email address. Any money donated to the fund will be held

in trust and used only for the purposes of this law suit." Further contributions to support the litigation may be made to the Alliance OHEC campaign.

The mounting uproar, first on the Internet, then somewhat in the mainstream press, caused by the recount and election-contest challenges in Ohio found its first climax in the announcement that Bush's victory in Ohio held firm through the recount, even as Cobb launched a series of serious charges questioning the reality and the propriety of that alleged recount.

Then there ensued an Internet-based drive to persuade one statutorily-required U.S. senator to join Conyers and his House allies in objecting to the acceptance of the Ohio electors' report voting for Bush. That one senator appeared, the senator from California, Barbara Boxer, who had been swept back into her third term last year with a 20% margin of almost 7 million votes.

Consequently, on January 6, nationally-reported debates occurred in both the House and Senate on the Ohio controversies, culminating in about two dozen House members aligned with Conyers, a majority of them from the Congressional Black Caucus, and in the

Senate, Boxer alone, voting not to accept the Ohio electors' votes for Bush.

Shortly thereafter, the plaintiffs in the Ohio election contest asked the Ohio Supreme Court to permit them to withdraw the suit as having been rendered moot by Congress accepting the Ohio electors for Bush, and the court granted that motion. Arnebeck, acting for the Alliance for Democracy, then petitioned to be permitted to join yet another pending election-contest suit in Ohio, and to bring forward the original suit's allegations in the new context. Then, the Republican Ohio Attorney General, acting for Blackwell, filed a complaint against Arnebeck and his co-attorneys in the election contest, alleging that it had been partisan and frivolous, a development which provoked equally pungent countering responses from Arnebeck. On January 20, the day Bush was sworn in, Conyers wrote the Ohio attorney general an open letter calling his move for sanctions and fines against Arnebeck and his co-counsel far-fetched and overtly partisan.

This report cannot be closed neatly because the story goes on. AA will provide updates in coming issues.

## AfD ELECTION REFORM COMMITTEE PLOTS STRATEGY

by Nancy Matela

The AfD Committee on Election Reform (formerly Save the Election Committee) continues to maintain a high profile after the January 6 electoral vote ratification. We have joined similar groups across the country to sift through the many angles possible that will effectively reduce or eliminate the types of irregularities documented in Ohio and other states so as to make the election process reliable, fair and honest at all stages.

The Voter Bill of Rights, a set of ten requirements for a democratic election, is a good place to start. Put together after the 2000 election by the Independent Progressive Politics Network ([www.ippn.org](http://www.ippn.org)), it is now being circulated for comments and updates as necessary. A copy of these are available at [\[fordemocracy.org/electionreform\]\(http://fordemocracy.org/electionreform\).](http://www.thealliance-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

As a member of these election reform efforts, the AfD committee is pushing two aspects believed to be critical to true reform: (1) ensuring that public entities rather than corporations own voting machine software, which will assure that that electronic voting machines have a fail-safe system of integrity from precinct vote to national results; and (2) to re-legitimize exit polls which for decades proved to have been highly reliable. In both aspects, partisanship must be removed.

Two other requirements are receiving considerable attention. The first is to require an individual verifiable paper ballot record, which will create a paper trail for all elections. We do believe, however, that, by itself, a paper ballot cannot protect the vote, because they only come into play with a recount. It would

not be efficient to use them to verify the validity of every election because recounts are time consuming, expensive and divisive.

In addition, there are already several bills in committee for a constitutional amendment, which would guarantee the right to vote for all citizens over 18 regardless of race. Certainly this is an important action. It should not be the only action however! By itself, this guarantee will do nothing to promote honest elections.

Congressional offices of Representatives John Conyers and Jesse Jackson Jr. are drafting omnibus legislation for election reform. First versions should be available in a few weeks for review, and they have said they welcome input from coalitions across the country. They will be posted on the AfD website when they become available.

**ALLIANCE ALERTS**

14951 Caspar Road, Box 14  
Caspar, CA 95420  
707-964-0463  
rtp@mcn.org

**Jim Tarbell**

Editor and Layout, Alliance Alerts

**ALLIANCE ALERTS** is a publication of **The Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

**The Alliance for Democracy**

P.O. Box 540115  
Waltham, MA 02454-0115  
Tel: 781-894-1179  
Fax 781-894-0279  
Email: peoplesall@aol.com  
www.thealliancefordemocracy.org

**Nancy Price and Cliff Arnebeck**

Co-Chairs of the AfD National Council

Copyright ©2005  
Alliance for Democracy

**AFD ON THE MOVE**

**F**all 2004 proved a big time for the Alliance both locally and nationally. Cliff Arnebeck and Ronnie Dugger put the AfD at the center of questioning the validity of the vote in Ohio and ensuring that our democracy is honest. People from around the world responded to this call to guarantee fair elections in this country. Meanwhile the Defending Water for Life Campaign built citizen participation and alliances throughout New England and in California to fight the looming corporate giants ready to take over the world's water supply. With the federal government and its military arm allied with concentrated wealth and conservative Christianity, Ronnie Dugger warned "The United States can slip into fascism in the next four years." Meanwhile *The Boston Globe* called the AfD, a group of "activists who are trying to change history." Let's see if we can!

**COUNCIL TUSSLES WITH PROCEDURES**

by Nancy Price

**W**hile contributions poured in to the Alliance website in response to the Ohio election crisis, getting the funds to where they could be used in the pressing legal challenge caused some tumult on the National Council. With the internet payment portals holding on to funds for up to a month, the Council sought ways to make the funds available quickly. In the end, the procedure to deposit all restricted funds in a separately managed account set up by Ted Dooley for accountability was followed, but not before Ted resigned in frustration. He will be missed and we wish

him a speedy recovery. ( pg. 5)

The Council will also miss Bill Haff who says he recently resigned "not because of any conflict with AfD philosophy or its protocol. I have just bumped up against the limitations imposed by my life." Even so, Bill is helping to plan the "Rally 'round the Congress" (pg 13) aimed at expelling corporate influence from Congress!

The San Fernando Valley, CA chapter will host the in-person Council meeting on February 17-20. We will discuss how AfD can contribute to the emerging "populist" progressive movement with a focus on election reform, fair trade, protection of the commons, and challenges to corporate rule.

**BOSTON GLOBE HIGHLIGHTS AFD**

**O**n January 6, 2005 Boston Globe staff writer David Desjardins wrote an article for the Globe entitled, *Alternative Democrats Join Forces: Alliance Decries Corporate Role. Published on the day that the Senate approved the electoral college votes, the article highlighted the history of the Alliance and the involvement of several AfD members. The following are excerpts from the article:*

**WALTHAM**—It's an unlikely nerve center for a national network of activists who are trying to change history. The large, drafty room upstairs from a day-care center on Main Street in Waltham seems worlds away from the corridors of power it is trying to reform.

The group has been vigorously fighting George W. Bush's certification as the nation's newly reelected president, based on alleged vote fraud and dis-

crimination in Ohio last November.

The organization—which has some 2,000 dues-paying members nationally but claims many more active in chapters around the country—was founded to challenge the power of large corporations, but in the wake of the recent presidential election has been at the forefront of charges that the vote in Ohio was tainted by fraud.

"The nation is not going to survive unless there is a major reformation of the political process," said Ronnie Dugger, founder of the Alliance and a journalist who has written on the dangers of fraud in computerized vote counting.

The Alliance has played a leading role in financing and filing a lawsuit on behalf of 44 Ohio voters, contesting the election in the Ohio Supreme Court. The lead lawyer in the suit is Clifford Arnebeck, an Ohio attorney and the

Alliance's cochairman.

The Alliance's office in Waltham is run by volunteers from chapters in the Boston area, coordinated by Mary White of Concord. In recent weeks, White said, the office has been busy processing donations to the organization's Ohio Honest Elections Campaign. The money began flooding in after Arnebeck and Dugger were interviewed in November about the alleged voter irregularities.

Some members say their work in the Alliance has transformed their lives. "For me, it is a matter of taking personal responsibility," David Whitty, an Ashland resident said. "If the country isn't what I want it to be, I can begin to do something about it. I can view the war in Iraq as a spectator event and just watch it, or I can realize that the government is not an abstract entity; it's me, it's you, it's the people around you."

## CONCERNED CITIZENS THANK THE ALLIANCE

by Barbara Clancy & Mary White

**W**e usually don't get many letters in the national office, so in the days after Cliff Arnebeck's appearance on the Randi Rhodes show, we were gratified to get not only donations but many notes and letters from people sharing their thoughts and concerns, and thanking the Ohio activists for their hard work. Donations came from 49 states (excluding only Wyoming), Canada, Great Britain, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Italy and Japan. Many passionate people called and emailed from around the country to thank the Alliance for standing up for citizens' right to vote. Here are excerpts from some of the letters we've received:

"I could think of no better way to honor the memories of our soldiers past and present than to send money to your organization so you can continue your wonderful work. I wish it could be more." –Los Angeles, CA

"May success be your reward. Thank you so much for what you are doing. Say goodbye to all the crooks for me." –Portland, Oregon

"If we are to elect officials to office in this nation, the system for doing so must be honest and completely transparent. Having been humiliated abroad, we surely do not need to be further humiliated by a conflicted and confounding election at home. Thank you for

your patriotic concern." –Hendersonville, NC

"Good luck to you. Things are going to be real hard when peoples' votes don't count any more." –Hayward, CA

"I was a long-time voting poll worker and I know it's coming to Brooklyn. So let's stop them before they get here. Power to the people who vote." –Brooklyn, NY

"I believe we are seeing Democracy in action on a massive scale in this country for the first time in decades. I know that everyone at Alliance for Democracy will defend our country to the best of their abilities. You have the support of millions of Americans. I am very proud and grateful for all you are doing in OH and elsewhere. Keep up the good work!"—San Jose, CA

"I have lost faith and trust in the process with these awful blackbox e-machines without a paper trail taking over our basic freedoms...the conflict of interest with big corporate Diebold and others, their leaders, and the Republican party is outrageous. I hope you can rally the troops and count every vote. This is a non-partisan issue...We need to restore faith in our voting process." –Surfside, FL

"Do your best as I'm sure you will...My dad must be rolling over in his grave. He died in 1973 and never knew that Richard Nixon ended up being impeached and resigning, but he always knew in his heart that this was a crooked presidency. This, to me, is so much worse because I naively thought those days were so far behind us..." –Durham, NC

### AfD INTERNET VENUES

**C**heck out the discussion forums at [Americandreamradio.org](http://Americandreamradio.org). There are general discussion areas such as: Election Reform, Reversing Corporate Personhood; Globalization and Trade; Imperialism, Iraq, and the War on Terror and there are specific discussion forums just for the Alliance for Democracy including a National Alliance for Democracy Forum and one entitled End Corporate Rule.

Members should also join the

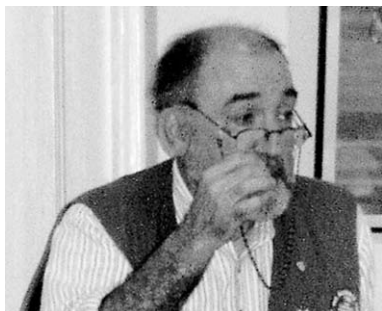
Alliance listserves ALL and ANN. ALL is a general discussion listserve. To join ALL write:[the-alliance-subscribe@igc.topica.com](mailto:the-alliance-subscribe@igc.topica.com) into the address box of an email and send the email with no further instructions.

ANN functions as a bulletin board to announce events, action alerts, accomplishments and issues specific to the AfD. To join write: [the-alliance-announce-subscribe@igc.topica.com](mailto:the-alliance-announce-subscribe@igc.topica.com) into the address box of an email and send with no further instructions.

Do it today and get connected now!

## TED DOOLEY HAS A TOUGH TIME

**T**ed Dooley writes that "it has been an Autumn I'd not like to repeat...Back from France in late September I was with three camping buddies when I was hit with a severe case of acute pancreatitis. I was taken by car to Ely then to Duluth by ambulance. From Duluth down to the Twin Cities' Methodist Hospital for a total of 3 1/2 weeks hospitalization. Until 26 December I was fed intravenously. I was not allowed clear liq-



uids until the 1st of December and my first solid food on the 17th, nearly 3 months after the Attack of the Errant Pancreas.

"Meanwhile my wife, Kristi broke her elbow requiring a plate with seven screws, and her mother died at 95 years of age."

Amidst these problems, the former AfD Co-chair had to make a tough decision on December 2 when

he resigned from the AfD National Council quoting an old Johnny Mercer tune that

croons "When an irresistible force such as you, meets an old immovable object like me... I'm the immovable object and, in honor, I must move."

He was caught amidst the Ohio Honest Elections Campaign (OHEC) which he calls "a vital undertaking" and AfD procedures. He understood that given the emergency the OHEC was functioning within they found it difficult to "comply with the mechanism AfD has in place.

However, under the circumstances, he decided that he could "no longer, in good conscience, continue on the Alliance council."

## AfD ON WINNING TRACK AGAINST CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

By Ronnie Dugger

Columbus, Ohio

The courts so far are backing the Alliance for Democracy and Common Cause, Ohio, in the demand that the presumably mostly-corporate donors who put up \$4 million to try to beat a liberal Ohio Supreme Court justice candidate in 2000 must be identified, and the case appears to be approaching a climax even as the Arnebeck-led challenge to the national election outcome is proceeding.

On October 1, the Franklin County Court of Appeals, in a 3-0 ruling, approved fines of \$25,000 a day against the Ohio Chamber of Commerce until the chamber and its "issue advocacy" group, Citizens for a Strong Ohio, cough up the names of the donors. At the hearing preceding that decision, a representative of the Ohio Elections Commission said that corporations have no First

Amendment right to make anonymous contributions.

Clifford O. Arnebeck Jr., attorney for the Alliance, wrote the Ohio Elections Commission five days after the 3-0 ruling, "The Alliance...requests that you take all necessary steps to enforce" the \$25,000-a-day fine starting Oct. 1st, because "Any further delay in this matter is intolerable....The corporations whose identities are being concealed have in all likelihood executed false affidavits as part of their Ohio Franchise tax filings in 2001 affirming that no corporate treasury money had ever been used for partisan political purposes. Perjury is a predicate act within both federal and state RICO statutes. We are faced with plain and simple obstruction of justice and stonewalling, reminiscent of Watergate.

"In Texas," Arnebeck continued to the commission, "where in 2002 the Chamber followed the Ohio Chamber

model to influence Texas House elections, the offending corporations have now been indicted. In Ohio we still do not have their names, four years after the fact and less than 30 days" before another Ohio Supreme Court election "in which the Chamber persists in illegally using corporate money to influence the election," in sums approximating \$12 million over the last three election cycles.

Subsequently Arnebeck, acting through the commission for AfD, subpoenaed a former executive with the Enron Corporation regarding any documents bearing on fund-raising for the anti-Resnick campaign.

Immediately after the November election, as this case continued to creep along in the slow-moving courts, Republicans announced that in the Ohio legislature they will seek to repeal the state ban on corporate money influencing elections.

## A MOVEMENT TO RESTORE THE POLITICAL PRIMACY OF CITIZENS AND THEIR LEGISLATURE IN MAINE

by Matt Clarke

A group of Maine legislators, citizens, and constituency representatives, including the AfD chapter in Blue Hill, Maine, is currently joining forces to address and remedy the harmful effects of large corporations upon our democracy, economy, and environment. The group is forming to help draft and support legislation that would subordinate corporate power to the public interest in the following three ways:

1) Reasserting the democratic letter and spirit of Maine's constitution by clearly discriminating between human "persons" and so-called corporate "entities," and affirming that only the former are entitled to participate in politics and enjoy other constitutionally guaranteed rights. The group maintains that corpora-

tions are solely economic bodies created by our laws and representatives and are thus inherently subordinate to the sovereign people of each state. However, when large corporations are erroneously accorded the rights of "persons," their enormous financial, legal, and media resources give them literally superhuman powers to influence our laws and policies. Given corporations' exclusive focus upon maximized profit and growth, these powers and protections allow them to distort, if not dominate, our most vital political and legislative processes.

The group is convinced that sound political decision-making must consider many more values than large corporations can entertain, including moral, familial, community, environmental, and spiritual concerns. Consequently, according corporations the same rights as

human citizens imperils our democracy, as well as the social and economic health of our local communities.

2) For these same reasons, corporations must also be prohibited from exploiting their superior resources to thwart or overwhelm the people's will in our electoral or ballot initiative campaigns.

3) Since large corporations now wield so much power in all aspects of our world, the directors of each must be held responsible for their firm's impact on its employees, the environment, the communities in which it operates, and the public interest as a whole. Currently, directors are only liable if they breach their fiduciary duty to maximize shareholder assets. Their responsibilities must therefore be enlarged in the corporate code to embrace the corporation's broader effects.

## CLEAN CANDIDATES ELECTED

by Jim Hightower

Friday, November 26, 2004

If you're looking for a little good news from the November 2 election, check out the "Clean Money" campaigns in Arizona, Maine, and North Carolina.

Instead of surrendering their state governments to the Big Money Interests that control Washington and most state capitols, people in these three states have authorized full public financing for candidates who agree to run "clean" which means that these candidates accept none of the corrupting contributions that special interests (primarily corporations) routinely dole out to Democrats, Republicans, and anyone

else willing to be bought. By providing a pool of public funds for public elections, we can get public officials that are no longer financially beholden to corporate, union, or other private funders who always have a private agenda attached to their checks.

In Maine, this clean-election option has been available for three election cycles, and the results are astonishing: 77 percent of Maine's state house members, and 83 percent of its state senators, have now been elected without taking a dime in corporate money! It changes the whole political dynamic, for legislators are free to cast their votes without first checking with their big campaign contributors.

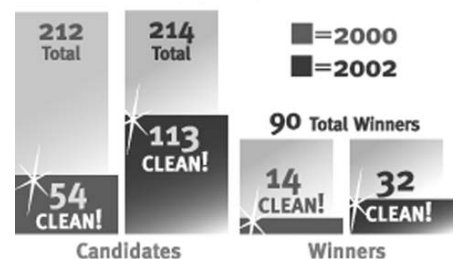
Likewise in Arizona, 23 percent of state senators and 58 percent of house members are now free of any dependence on private campaign donors as are ten of Arizona's statewide elected officials, including the governor, attorney

general, and all four of this year's winning candidates for the state corporation commission. Also, North Carolina provided the clean-election option this year to candidates for its top judicial seats and the clean candidates won both races for the Supreme Court and two of the three seats on the Court of Appeals.

Full public financing is real reform. To bring it to your state, county, city, school district, or whatever call Public Campaign: 202-293-0222.

### Arizona Clean Election Candidates

Arizona's new public funding system is growing in popularity with candidates



## A REALLY GOOD YEAR: CALIFORNIA CLEAN MONEY UPDATE

by Jo Seidita

January started out with a bang for the California Clean Money Campaign (CCMC). *The Los Angeles Times* lead editorial on Monday, January 3, 2005, titled "Shut the Political Tollbooth" was an unequivocal call for public funding of elections, stating "California needs the political version of electroshock therapy. Forget half-measures. The cure is voluntary public financing of election campaigns, and it's not a utopian fantasy. Arizona has done it, and it works." The editorial proceeds to give a clear description of how clean money works and the benefits of the system. The following day, a Loyola Law School professor had a column titled *Money and Influence Flow Through a Ballot Measure Loophole* discussing the corrupting influence of big money.

Then, as CCMC was still celebrating a standing-room-only fund raiser with John Dean talking about his book, *Worst than Watergate, the Secret Presidency of George Bush*, word was received that the Irvine Foundation had granted CCMC \$75,000 to do outreach, educating and organizing in the Latino Community for

Clean Money.

The staff is growing and CCMC is moving from the current closet size office, about 475 square feet, to a 1125 square foot office in an ideal location.

Assembly member Loni Hancock is expected to reintroduce a Clean Money Bill soon. CCMC's coalition partners continue to meet every two or

three months to discuss language for the Assembly bill and tactics for organizing for the bill. There are seven Clean Money Working Groups spread from Sacramento to the San Fernando Valley with plans to add more in Orange County, San Diego and Central California.

## PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION CHALLENGES PERSONHOOD RULE

by William Huston

A case now in the federal courts poses a challenge to the legal principle that corporations are legal persons.

The issue in *Huston v. Time Warner Entertainment*, now before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, is Time Warner's failure to provide sufficient public access television channel capacity, and equipment required by New York law.

Plaintiff William Huston claims that Time Warner's policies deny him his First Amendment rights of speech, and denies him the opportunity to the First Amendment speech of others in his

community of Binghamton, NY.

Time Warner's attorneys argued that the case should be dismissed, because one can only raise a First Amendment claim against the government, and Time Warner is not a state actor.

But corporations are created by state action, they are given rights by state action, they are regulated by state action. If they are not state actors, what are they then?

For more information contact: William Huston, 342 Park Ave., Binghamton NY 13903 ph:607-724-1755 email: bhuston@vegdot.org.



# AfD OPENS FRONT AGAINST BOTTLED WATER INDUSTRY

by Nancy Price

Nestlé, Coca-Cola and Pepsi are prospecting for pristine spring-water sites across Canada and the northern states. They are competing to sign 50 to 100 year contracts with private landowners, small private water companies and town and county authorities. They are buying up small local bottled water companies, paper mills, etc., to get the water rights and bullying officials to increase permitted allocations.

Annual sales worldwide are more than \$35 billion. In the US, bottled water is passing coffee and milk as the drink of choice - coming in second behind soft drinks, themselves mostly water with added sugar, flavor and fizz.

Every year more than 1.5 million tons of plastic is used to manufacture bottles for the global market. This releases highly toxic compounds that harm the environment and have long-term impacts on public health, especially on the neurological development of the young child and mental health of the elderly. Nine out of 10 plastic bottles end up as garbage or litter - that's 30 million discarded bottles a day, adding to the landfill crisis, as well as continuing the cycle of pollution.

AfD's "Defense of Water for Life" campaign, funded by a Park Foundation grant, has taken on bottled water issues in Maine and New Hampshire. Now, AfD has opened a new front in scenic, McCloud CA, just south of majestic, 14,000-foot high Mt. Shasta where the McCloud River is legendary among fly-fishermen and sports enthusiasts.

Nestlé wants to build a one-million square foot bottling plant covering 20 acres and to take 520 million gallons a year from three springs in McCloud. In October 2003, the McCloud Community Services District, that provides for this unincorporated, former-sawmill-company town, negotiated a contract behind closed doors. Only the final terms were presented at the public meeting when the contract was signed and no environmental impact study was completed

prior to signing.

During the secret negotiations, three women formed the McCloud Water Commons encouraged by the fact that activists in Wisconsin and Michigan had challenged Nestlé. AfD helped secure outside funding and assisted in planning a forum they organized on November 13, 2004.

Over 200 residents of this small rural community attended the five-hour forum. Special guests included Terri Swier, President of the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation that has sued Nestlé in Mecosta County, MI, and Chris Grobbel, environmental consultant for the Citizens' lawsuit.

Economist Joshua Skov criticized the Nestlé project in terms of expected jobs and economic benefits to the community. He emphasized that bottling plants are almost fully automated, administrators and plant managers are brought in from the outside, and trucking jobs are low-paying with few benefits. The project itself, he emphasized, necessitated increased electric generation capacity, housing, local road and highway interchange improvements and on-going maintenance, all "externalized" costs paid by local taxpayers.

This forum catalyzed opposition in the community and area that already has two other bottling plants. The McCloud Water Commons, which became the McCloud Watershed Council with increased membership, is considering future actions including legal challenges.

The rage for boutique bottled water, hyped through advertising that claims tap water is unsafe, should not be confused with the opposite side of the water privatization coin. This is the dire need of people in communities worldwide

who have no choice but to buy bottled water. They live in communities where local services don't exist, water sources have dried up or are contaminated from industrial pollution, poor sanitation, or naturally occurring poisons such as arsenic. The only recourse for them is to buy water in jugs or from trucks at prices they can hardly afford—A situation the people of McCloud want to avoid.



Omya's dashed hopes—where the giant



In Bangor Maine with Bjorn Claeson (PICA), Martha



Peggy and Gilbert Biron in front of their house in Lee, MA

photo: Ruth





—Vermont activist Annette Smith shows Dave Lewit  
mining company had hoped to open a mine.

photo: Ruth Caplan



na Spiess, Ruth Caplan , Nancy Price and Brent Hall.

photo: Ruth Caplan

From the BCA Dispatch.

by Dave Lewit, Boston-Cambridge AfD

**A**mid shouting and cheering, Lee, Massachusetts town representatives voted 41-10 on September 23 to reject a city water contract with the French corporation Veolia, presenting a resounding defeat for privatization. It was David vs. Goliath with, love, brains and social support against a billionaire, corporate giant partly-owned by Paris-based Vivendi.

The Lee town meeting culminated an 8-day series of New England site visits by

Caplan

## DEMOCRACY THRIVES IN NEW ENGLAND

AfDers Ruth Caplan and Dave Lewit, with help from AfD co-chair Nancy Price and Maine activist Martha Spiess. They zig-zagged 1500 miles through Maine, central Vermont, western Massachusetts, and southeast New Hampshire developing relations with water activists, opening possibilities of collaboration to keep water in public hands, and aiming to foster water-watch councils in corporate-vulnerable areas. In addition to farmers, townfolk, and organization workers, they conferred with a film-maker, an investigative reporter, a politician, and a sociologist.

The AfD water team participated in public meetings in Rockland and Brunswick, Maine, arranged by Martha Spiess, and a similar meeting in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, arranged by a local group including Catherine McCabe and Anita Constantini. In each case the movie "Thirst" was shown, followed with talks by Ruth, Nancy, Dave, and/or Ward Morehouse of the Program on Constitution, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD) and by general discussion.

Much of the team's time was spent conferring with organizations such as Military Toxics Project and Maine Fair Trade (Lewiston, ME), Maine Rivers (Augusta, ME), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Brunswick), and Peace thru Interamerican Community Action (PICA, Bangor, ME); informal activist groups such as Hugo Liepmann's with neighbors like Joan Sax (Randolph, VT); and individual activists such as Luise Vaughn (Bigelow, ME) and Annette Smith (Danby, VT). These long-term rural activists have studied groundwater aquifers and relevant government laws and regulations. They are experts without degrees, and know local politics and politicians, and also are learning about international trade agreements and their environmental and social impacts. They showed the AfD team springs in the hills, pumping facilities on a private farm and on new-built roads in pristine forest and on public land.

### Challenging Corporate Exploitation of Public Water

Transnational "food" conglomerates

like Nestlé are pumping water from aquifers faster than nature can recharge those underground channels. This lowers water levels of local wells, totally drying up some, and drawing in toxins from nearby underground sources.

Some of these facilities can pump more than half a million gallons of water a day, to be trucked to plants, bottled in polycarbonate clear plastic and sold for a thousand times more money than tap water, with no assurance of superior quality. In fact such plastic bottles can leach endocrine disruptors into their contents, which can interfere with sexual functioning. On September 22 at a town planning board in Nottingham, NH, SOG (Save Our Groundwater) members were horrified at the prospect of their well water sources being drained or polluted by the likes of USA Springs, Inc., whose plans they continue to thwart. They are also distressed at hazardous heavy truck traffic and factory-like conditions in their rustic environs.

### Not A Simple situation

A scheme long-proposed by a former Maine legislator would tax large-scale pumping of groundwater. This tax money would accrue to a loan fund to spur small business development in Maine, with surpluses distributed to all Maine citizens as "dividends," as they have been doing with oil pumping in Alaska. But will this reduce exploitation of Maine's water resources? Not if Maine folks like those dividend "checks" and want more!

And then what if Nestlé trucked or piped water across the Canadian border, only a few miles away, to bottle it? International trade agreements like GATT and NAFTA would kick in to stymie any subsequent efforts by Maine to control its water supply. Like other trade agreements, GATT/WTO and NAFTA were negotiated behind closed doors by US government officials advised by corporate lobbyists, with little citizen information or input, and widespread ignorance by members of Congress. It will take strategic action by well-organized citizen groups to change such rules.

## NEW ENGLAND WATER UPDATE

by Ruth Caplan

### Holyoke, MA

The Department of Public Works has run the water and sewer system in Holyoke since 1871, providing good local union jobs. Now this small working class city in western MA is under EPA orders to upgrade one of its sewage treatment plants to stop sewage discharges into the Connecticut River. The mayor put out for bids to private companies to upgrade the problem sewage plant and run the system. (Once again, it paid off for European transnationals to lobby the US Conference of Mayors!)

Aquarion Services of Bridgeport CT, a subsidiary of the Kelda Group, a UK-based transnational, was the sole bidder. Aquarion is the largest private utility in New England operating in 52 communities in CT, NY, MA and NH, as the result of acquiring American Water Works subsidiaries, their "springboard for expansion in the U.S."

Instead of bringing in new capital, Aquarion would have city residents pony up the cash with an 82% hike in their sewer rates to fund the project. So why can't the city raise the money and do the upgrade? asks Holyoke Citizens for Open Government (HCOG), formed by union members, city councilors, teachers, and other community members to demand an open, democratic process for making this decision. Why give up local control and accountability to a transnational? HCOG demanded full, open debate of this contract and for the city to look at alternatives to privatization.

In an affront to open democratic process, the mayor called a special meeting of the city council in January to approve the 700-page contract before the City Council or concerned citizens could review the financial analysis of the proposed contract. They finally allowed the public to speak at 10 minutes to midnight when there were less than 10 members of the public left. Afd's long-time ally Ward Morehouse stood up and said "At this hour? No, we want a real public hearing."

### Randolph, VT

Vermont Pure and Micropak bottle water for sale in Randolph, threatening underground water resources and making roads unsafe for school buses due to truck traffic. Local activists, including Alliance member Hugo Liepman, have moved ahead in planning a community meeting in February after Ruth Caplan and Dave Lewit met with them back in September. They will hold an educational forum on the nature of local water resources with the Vermont State Geologist speaking. They have also invited the Town Manager and Town Superintendent of Water and Wastewater to speak, assuring what could be a very useful dialogue based on learning pertinent information about local water resources rather than approaching the issue through confrontation with local and state officials.

### Nottingham/Barrington, NH

With the election of Democratic Governor John Lynch, things may be looking up for SOG in its fight to stop USA Springs. Lynch has pledged to strengthen NH groundwater protection laws and supports a moratorium on new, large commercial groundwater withdrawal permits until a legislative study commission, looking at how to best manage New Hampshire's water resources, finishes its work. But a state DES permit hearing held three days after



Afd ally and POCLAD member Ward Morehouse

Christmas and an hour's drive from the site did not bode well. Citizens were angry at the timing and location of the hearing. "I make a citizen's declaration that the hearings tonight are null and void," said SOG member Denise Hart. SOG and the towns of Nottingham and Barrington have appealed the state water withdrawal permit to the state Supreme Court.



Nestlé's Poland Springs water truck

photo: Ruth Caplan

## Popular Governance

*Continued from page 1*

terly or every-four-months strategic roundtables, in a different New England town each time.

The conference was organized by BCA's Dave Lewit in collaboration with Afd's Ruth Caplan and UMass sociology professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi, as part of the Alliance's effort to safeguard public water and to develop social infrastructure to sustain this and all other public rights. In addition to Ruth's commentary on water, Gianpaolo outlined participatory budgeting in his native Brazil, Stephanie Luce discussed living wage issues, and Dave set the stage with New England's history of local self-reliance. During the balance of the day each participant discussed these and other issues of concern in his or her locality, and five task groups were formed:

- \* Information, Education & Media
- \* Democratizing Town Government
- \* Participatory Budgeting
- \* Local Prodemocracy Initiatives
- \* Planning (for the above)

A videotape of the discussion will be available from Maine water activist Martha Spiess at [mspiess@suscom-maine.net](mailto:mspiess@suscom-maine.net). We expect to schedule the next roundtable in Springfield MA in mid-February or early March.

photo: Dave Lewit

## A SALUTE TO THE *TEXAS OBSERVER*

From *The Progressive Magazine*

by Matthew Rothschild

In October *The Texas Observer* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Rooted in the soil of Texas populism, for five decades it has stood as a bulwark against racism, the death penalty, war, and corporate greed.

Molly Ivins and Jim Hightower, both former editors who still contribute regularly, spoke with their usual spice.

"The notion that good journalism is boring is one thing *The Observer* has been fighting for 50 years," Ivins said. And she mocked a former editor of hers at the *Houston Chronicle* who used to say, "We're not here to rock the boat."

At *The Texas Observer*, boat rocking has always been their favorite sport.

Hightower went right to it.

"Kerry couldn't connect to the working class if he was giving away Budweiser and Slim Jims," he said.

But Hightower saved his sharpest barbs for Bush, saying he "wears a \$1,000 hat on a ten cent head," and, "He's sipping his own bath water while thinking it's champagne."

Amy Goodman of Democracy Now praised *The Observer*, as did Ann Richards.

And Founding Editor Ronnie Dugger loomed over the proceedings like a latter-day Jeremiah.

"The over concentration of the media

is the central malfunction of our democracy," he said on a panel during the day. He denounced *Fox News* as a "civic felon," calling it "a disgrace to American TV and an outrage to the American people." He called for a "national boycott of Fox News," adding that "the occupying of Fox stations would not be out of order."

At the evening gala event, Dugger was even more outspoken, raising his demands from occupying Fox News to occupying Washington, D.C. "Our country is changing from a democracy into something else before our very eyes," he warned. "The United States can slip into fascism in the next four years. What are the odds? I'd say 50-50.... If we really are on the brink of fascism, we have to prepare our souls.... And we must bring our government to a stop."

He called for people "by the millions to refuse to pay a portion of our income taxes. Are they going to arrest us by the millions?"

He called for a broad-based refusal of military service.

And he called for a general strike.

"Are we a democracy?" he asked. "Or are we a Presidential, corporate, military dictatorship?"

He ended with a plea to end the Iraq War, noting that 1,200 U.S. soldiers have died, 9,000 have been wounded, and 100,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed.

"Does anyone care?" he asked.

"Does our country care?"

"We at *The Texas Observer* care!"

Closing out the evening was none other than Willie Nelson, who fittingly opened his intimate set with a spare rendition of his double-edged song "Living in the Promised Land."

So hats off to *The Texas Observer*, one of the jewels of American journalism.



Molly Ivins and Ronnie Dugger celebrate the *Texas Observer*

photo: copyright Alan Pogue 2004

## SIERRA CLUB TAKES ON CORPORATE POWER

Here are some excerpts from the Sierra Club's new Corporate Accountability Campaign (CAC) at <http://www.sierraclub.org/cac/>.

What we do: Systems of corporate governance and the corporate abuse of power interfere with the ability of communities and nations to protect the environment. CAC takes action through shareholder resolutions, opposing corporate water privatization, and education regarding the fundamentals of corporate power.

The Corporate Accountability Com-

mittee facilitates the Club's response to the corporate abuse of power and its advocacy of enforceable measures to ensure corporate accountability in relation to the environment, communities and public health. The specific areas of CAC's current educational and advocacy work are described below.

### Water Privatization

Water is a public resource to be protected for people and nature, not a commodity to be extracted and traded for corporate profit. Access to clean, sufficient and affordable drinking water is a human

right and an essential public service.

### Shareholder Action

Shareholder resolutions are one tool the Sierra Club uses to protect communities, workers and the environment by promoting change in corporate behavior and practices.

### Confronting Corporate Power

Environmental protection requires addressing the privileged position and power of corporations which assert their presumed rights as persons and their right to operate through corporate charters without community accountability.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### San Fernando Valley

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of the AfD has been hit by much misfortune in recent months. A couple of our members have passed away, and several of our members have been seriously ill and were hospitalized. That, along with the election of Mr. Bush, has not helped to uplift our spirits. Nevertheless, being that we are a bunch of activists, our members have come up with creative ideas to keep us busy. We are in the process of organizing actions for a boycott against those advertisers who have commercials on the right wing programs on radio and TV. We hope that other chapters and groups pick up on the idea and that we can develop a movement to do this. In addition, we plan on holding the Democratic representatives to the fire. We will be exploring issues about which we can meet with these congress people and urge them to hold hearings to address these matters. Congressman Conyers is a good example in how he held a hearing on the election in Ohio. There are many comparable issues and the Democratic representatives need to recognize that they are supposed to be the opposition party. Please feel free to send on any ideas to us, and some of these can be coordinated on a national level.

Our chapter will be having elections at the end of January, and we hope to have a new slate of officers. This is also the time of the year when we send out letters to our members asking them to renew their memberships, both locally and nationally. Our chapter requires its members to join the national in order to join the local.

We are looking forward to hosting the National Council in-person meeting in February. We have done this once before, and urge other chapters to consider hosting as it is very helpful to participate by giving input and see how the council operates.

Dolly Arond, [djarond@earthlink.net](mailto:djarond@earthlink.net)

### Blue Hill Maine

The Alliance for Democracy once again has an active chapter in Maine. The Downeast chapter has been established in Blue Hill, after sparking interest through a showing of *Thirst* with an appearance by Nancy Price. There is interest in nearby communities as well. Like many Alliance chapters, we are starting by reading and discussing *Challenging Corporate Power—Asserting the People's Rights*, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's study packet on the history of the rights of corporations and the fight against them. Also like many Alliance chapters, we are a small group. But then we are a small state and a small town!

There are many corporate issues for us to work on. We are already active with the Maine Fair Trade Campaign and have lobbied Maine senators to vote NO on CAFTA. (Reps. Michaud and Allen are already with us on this one.) We are also working with the coalition of groups

seeking to pass legislation to end corporate involvement in Maine politics and add social responsibilities to the fiduciary responsibilities of Directors (the Hinkley Code) to Maine corporate law (see page 6). GE Free Maine is very active here, and we are expecting to work with them in the future. Maine is planning a Social Forum for this spring, and we will sponsor at least one program there thanks to Ruth Caplan. We also did tabling at the first Maine Fair Trade Fest last October, and have some upcoming opportunities for more tabling to spread the word about our presence and organizing efforts.

Thanks to the excellent work of the first AfD chapter up here in Belfast, and the water issue work being done by Ruth Caplan, Dave Lewit and Martha Spiess in the south and west, the Alliance already is recognized among activists in the state. We have many allies in our battles against corporate rule in this state.

Bonnie Preston,

[bonniepreston@earthlink.net](mailto:bonniepreston@earthlink.net)

## NEW CHAPTER TOOLS

Last summer at the AfD National Convention in Boston the Alliance for Democracy recommitted itself to strengthening its campaign to reform corporations. The Transform the Corporation Campaign committee is in the process of creating an Action Tool Kit for local chapters to take action against corporate power. Contact Nancy Price at [nancytprice@juno.com](mailto:nancytprice@juno.com) for more information or watch for notification when information is available on the AfD website [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org).

AfD allies at Reclaim Democracy.org, which is focused on restoring citizen authority over corporations, have created two new resources that may be useful for AfD activists. First, they have begun compiling a comprehensive online directory of local and regionally-focused groups working to revoke corporate power. AfD Chapters are invited

to send their website's url or e-mail contact and a one-sentence description to add your chapter to the list.

If your chapter does not have a website, but would like a simple collection of web pages for posting articles, meeting notes, maps, etc., Reclaim Democracy.org can start a page for your group with an easy url. The pages use wiki—an easy-to-learn tool that requires no knowledge of any computer language. Anyone can easily post content and update the pages. Just visit their "Local Groups" link to learn more (content must be thoroughly non-partisan).

They also have launched a new "Forum" online to host issue discussions and a special "local organizers" section specifically for activists to ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn from other local organizers. They hope that, in addition to serving your work, these tools will help facilitate better awareness among grassroots groups and help build a more cohesive Democracy Movement. Participating in the forums requires a one-minute registration on first use.

## HONORING LONG-TIME ACTIVIST HAROLD STOKES

Harold Stokes has been a strong, long-time supporter and advocate of the Alliance for Democracy and its mission to end corporate dominance. In March of 2004 the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan honored him with the newly created Herbert L. Munzel Award for Environmental Activism. The Munzel Award is designed to honor inspirational, courageous, and effective community-based advocacy by a Michigan resident for clean air, safe water, and healthy communities over many years.

Harold Stokes has worked on countless campaigns for social and environ-



mental justice since the mid-1930s. He has been an ever-present fixture at campaign rallies and public meetings on all of Michigan's most important environmental issues of the past 40 years, including controversies associated with nuclear power, incineration, air pollution, water quality, landfills, and the impact of globalization on local environmental protection. He has served in leadership roles with Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Michigan Environmental Council, Detroit Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Ecology Center.

In her presentation of the award, Ecology Center Environmental Health Director Tracey Easthope noted that "Harold has an amazingly generous spirit, encouraging every fledgling effort, any person with a spark, any righteous cause, no matter the particulars. He always sees the hidden light in us, in our circumstance, and then demands more, reaches in and prods the effort, urges it on. Harold was also a student of our collective work as environmentalists and people engaged in social change. His understanding of our place in the world, and our most effective strategies to address the root causes of our predicament evolved over time—as does any

good student. He became increasingly convinced that the corporate structure, and the laws that have evolved to support it, are fundamentally at odds with the lives we all want to live, and the world we want to live in. Harold understood the threats of globalism before there was a global grassroots movement to challenge it."

## RALLY 'ROUND THE CONGRESS!

Join 4,999,999 other like-minded citizens on June 2, 2005 to surround Congress in a mass out-pouring of defiance aimed at expelling corporate influence from Congress!

We are determined to reestablish a government by the PEOPLE and for the PEOPLE by peacefully surrounding Congress for as long as it takes and by demonstrating our support for the following agenda on June 2, 2005.

We are demanding: an end to corporate sponsorship of government representatives, making it illegal for government officials to accept any donations from "for profit" businesses; that the FCC reserve 20% of our airwaves and broadband resources for public services, including Public Television, and campaign coverage of local, state, and national elections, all of which shall have two months of continual coverage at no cost to the candidates; that all government policy making be open and accessible to the people; that it shall be a misdemeanor to knowingly misrepresent a running mate in any election; that all blackbox voting be ended and that every vote be accounted for with a paper trail.

We look forward to seeing you in DC. It's time to take our government back. Bring a sleeping bag and plan to stay at least 4 days. The event could take longer, so be prepared. In any case, when it's over, you will be waking up in a whole new country, so come with a smile!

For more information contact John Mulkins at [Jpmulkins@aol.com](mailto:Jpmulkins@aol.com) or Bill Haff at [bhaff@horizonhouse.com](mailto:bhaff@horizonhouse.com)

## AfD ACTION ALERT EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The Alliance now has a monthly Action Alert Email Newsletter. Editions were sent out on 11/27/04 and 1/4/05. Nancy Price is heading up this effort to bring urgent-action information to members across the country. The first edition dealt with how AfD members could be involved in the emergency actions of the Ohio Honest Election Campaign and other citizen actions around the country to guarantee honest elections. The January release dealt with congressional investigations and challenging the Senate's process of accepting the electoral votes.

It is important that members get these notifications in order to act in a timely manner on these vital issues.

**Make sure the national office has your current email address. If you are not sure they do, send it to [peoplesall@aol.com](mailto:peoplesall@aol.com). Also remember to update them if your email address changes.**

They also note that in order to insure that your server does not block the newsletter as spam put [janboyd@jps.net](mailto:janboyd@jps.net), [tw@mcn.org](mailto:tw@mcn.org), and [peoplesall@aol.com](mailto:peoplesall@aol.com) in your address book. Also if your email provider puts email from one of those three addresses on a spam list, you need to remove the email from the list by checking "this is not spam." For further information, questions or contributions to the email newsletter contact Nancy Price at [nancytprice@juno.com](mailto:nancytprice@juno.com).

## AfD Perspectives

Continued from page 1

involvement with the Alliance will impact their roles in the city government.

Doug: Promoting locally owned small business is something that the Alliance has set the groundwork for. When I go out and talk to people, they are aware of that. They know the value of locally owned businesses that keep money circulating in the local economy. I am appointing a woman to the Promotions Committee who is interested in promoting local businesses for locals. It is another way in which my position on the council is allowing me to bring Alliance and Alliance-related issues into local government.

My approach is informed by the Alliance analysis that looks at the centralized capital model of the world. I realize that corporate management has a duty to attract what Thomas Friedman calls "the investor herd," by maximizing returns. The people moving the money around don't care how that return comes about. Then you have this amoral, bottom-line-driven force out there that means if one corporation is cooking the books or ignoring the environment or taking advantage of local workers, then every corporation does, because otherwise the money will go somewhere else. It is the opposite of local economy.

I want to put out there for discussion that we make some rules that say, locals



Fort Bragg CA councilman Doug Hammerstrom and Planning Commissioner Meg Courtney

should be able to do things that big chains can't. Of course the corporations are using the Fourteenth Amendment to claim corporate personhood in order to say that they can not be excluded. But I am saying there is no judicial opinion that says that corporations have the same rights as people. Since there is no opinion, there is no law, so we can do what we want. That is a reach, but it is one of the reaches I would like to float in the next four years. Let's make these decisions from a knowledge base rather than have arguments over political analysis, which may or may not be fact based. If we can make it work here, maybe we'll encourage other people to see how they can make it work in their community.

Meg: The mill site is such an opportunity for this town. My dream is to have a sustainably and local powered town and

create jobs by doing that. One of the issues I keep raving about is creating a public utility powered by alternative energy. I would like to keep the integrity of Fort Bragg and the quality of the working area as well as extending the downtown. We need an industry to replace the industry that was there, something that would bring economic stability to the area, that would look good and be sustainable. We could have a research center for alternative energy. There are people working on this.

Doug: The economic consultants that the city hired talked about creating some sort of niche economy here because this area is so focused on alternatives and there are so many people interested in the environment. We need to consider this. In fact the Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group just got a grant to plan this type of development.

Meg: We have the wherewithall to do it and we can make decisions from the ground up. I am excited to be able to do something. It all begins here like a bubble up theory and not a trickle down theory. This is where decisions get made. I think the way we are hooked into petroleum is outrageous and the fact that there is nothing else in place is insane. I don't know how much we can affect that, but I think that there should be some experimentation or some way to involve ourselves in that and demonstrate it here in this town and separate ourselves from the corporate powers that be.

## AfD NEEDS YOUR MEDIA LIST

by Joanna Herlihy

At present the Alliance office has no database for distributing items such as press releases. To help build such a database, please send me (via e-mail, phone, or post) names, addresses, and preferred method of contact (email/phone) for people you think would be interested in receiving such items as press releases from AfD. These could be workers in the media (including mainstream) and other influential people, including elected

officials. Please send this information to [joanna\\_herlihy@yahoo.com](mailto:joanna_herlihy@yahoo.com) since the office is overwhelmed with e-mail at present. This database would not be used only for press releases. AfD might influence the media via letters to editors, ombudsmen, meetings with editors, op-eds, etc. If we know who might be interested in the issues we are working on, our outreach can be more efficient. If you noted coverage of the Alliance's Ohio campaign in your local media, please forward articles to the Alliance office at [peoplesall@aol.com](mailto:peoplesall@aol.com).

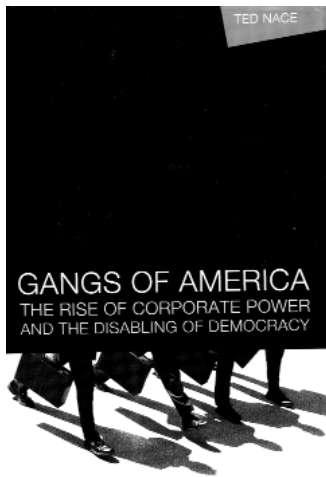
# BOOK REVIEW

Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy  
by Ted Nace

Hardcover, 300pp, \$24.05, Berrett-Koehler

by A. Venesky [www.indypendent.org](http://www.indypendent.org)

Ted Nace's *Gangs of America* is a comprehensive account of exactly how American corporations gained extraordinary power over our lives. It was under the specter of the most powerful corporation to have existed, the British East India Company, Nace argues in his easy, clear voice, that the American colonies revolted. Drawing attention to the "founding fathers'" wariness of corporations—Franklin actually met with anti-corporate economists in Europe, including Adam Smith—and to the non-existence of corporations in colonial society, "The American Revolution," Nace contends, "was directly and explicitly an anti-corporate revolt. Or more accurate-



ly, it was a rebellion against a corporation and a government that was thoroughly intertwined."

The bulk of the book demonstrates how the Framers' original, stringent controls - i.e., locally-issued

charters, limitations on size - were gradually eroded by legislatures and the Supreme Court. In less than 50 years, Nace notes, the Court departed from the principle of corporate subordination to the state, before the Civil War prompted a fundamental change in the legal structure defining the corporation.

The story of how the 14th Amendment was transformed into a constitutional corporate protection racket is par-

ticularly eye-opening. Yet the strength of Nace's book isn't his attempt to reconcile inconsistencies, but his rich, cross-disciplinary synthesis and systematic organization of the historical material already available. Crucially, he illustrates how the influence of Social Darwinist thought in the Gilded Age informed the decidedly anti-labor bent of the courts, further expanding corporations' power.

However, in what is the book's only real weakness, Nace doesn't raise the idea that property rights are too strongly endowed in the Constitution, suggesting that if we can only restore its original restrictions on corporate power, we can domesticate the beast.

An essential body of info-armament nonetheless (including an appendix of key Supreme Court cases), *Gangs of America* communicates the empowering notion that corporate hegemony wasn't encrypted into the American system of government, revealing instead a virus, stealthily programmed by crooks who hacked into the system.



ALLIANCE FOR  
DEMOCRACY

# JOIN NOW! BEGIN THE CHANGE

Fill out this form to ensure that the views of the Alliance are heard at this critical time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

- \$50 membership.
- \$35 regular membership.
- \$25 tight-budget membership.
- Monthly sustaining member @ \_\_\_\_\_/mo.
- I want to be a member but can't afford a donation now.
- \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution.

Method of Payment (circle one): Mastercard Visa Check Money Order

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to The Alliance for Democracy, P.O. Box 540115, Waltham, MA 02454-0115

# AfD TOUR 2004

by Jim Tarbell

Alliance chapters in Portsmouth New Hampshire and Portland, Oregon served as the bookends of a tour my wife and I took across the country in the Fall of 2004. We participated in over two dozen events organized by local AfD chapters or independent Alliance activists. We found thriving, committed chapters and enthusiastic, individual activists all along the road.

From former CIA analysts to Catholic priests to the activists on the front lines in Crawford Texas, the diversity and determination of the Alliance members we met was inspiring. They were welcoming, engaged and working for a brighter future.

In Portsmouth, NH, Indianapolis, IN, Cincinnati OH, Los Angeles, CA and Portland, OR, chapters held events in churches, homes, and universities. Between 20 and 100 people participated in each event. Local chapters were involved in the privatization of water, the reasons for war and the promotion of public power.

Meanwhile there are a plethora of independent Alliance activists who have allied with a series of organizations to promote the Alliance theme that corporate power is ruining American democracy, dominating our culture and poisoning our planet. In Gettysburg, PA Lou Hammon set up an event for the local townspeople at the local bookstore. In John Ashcroft's home town of Springfield MO, AfD activist Sue Skidmore allied with the Peace Network of the Ozarks to put on a well attended event in a lovely public meeting room at the local library. She also connected us with an amorphous group in nearby Joplin MO where an enthusiastic crowd was hungry for a discussion of America's corporate-driven empire. Towns like this are ripe for the creation of a local Alliance chapter.

Down in Texas, Waco resident Boyce Vardiman has allied with activists that established the Crawford Peace House in Crawford Texas where we aired an edition of our radio program *Corporations and Democracy* and set up a booth at the local homecoming weekend festivities. In New Mexico Ted Cloak brought us to the very active Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice where over 30 groups have come together "to create a world where our collective needs are met sustainably and non-violently."

The Alliance is active and strong all across the country. The corporate analysis rings truer every day and our ongoing activism is important for the future of the planet.

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BELLMAWR, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 240



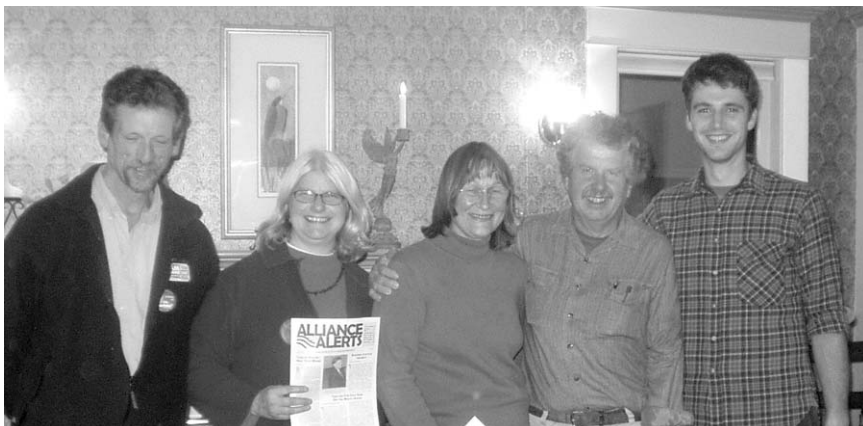
P. O. Box 540115  
Waltham, MA 02454-0115

Tel: 781-894-1179

Fax: 781-894-0279

Email: [peoplesall@aol.com](mailto:peoplesall@aol.com)

[www.thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org)



Portland, OR Co-chairs David Delk and Joan Horton, with Lisa Brenner, Jim Tarbell and Shanti Lewallen