

ALLIANCE ALERTS

Anti-Globalization . . . 2
AfD Sues FEC, Ash-croft Campaign 3
Granny D, Political Bribery 4, 5
Nick Biddle: Enron is Teaching Tool 9
Chapter Reports . . . 11
Zinn Fundraiser . . . 12
Conference Registration 15

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Alliance Welcomes Exec Coordinator Nick Biddle



Nick Biddle

Nick Biddle, lately of Dillon, Colorado, an historian and an experienced populist activist who attended the Alliance founding convention in Texas in 1996, has been hired as the organization's executive coordinator.

A strong field of about 30 applicants applied for the opening created when Nick Penniman resigned the post in August (he is now associate editor of the American Prospect magazine). Several finalists were considered by the Council, but ultimately Biddle was chosen. He assumed his responsibilities in the national headquarters office in Waltham, MA, in mid-April after participating in a conference in New York City on ending corporate domination.

Biddle's experience includes numerous

Alliance National Convention Set June 7-10 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The American Emergency: Democracy or Fascism?

The American Emergency: Democracy or Fascism?" is the dramatic theme of the Alliance's forthcoming fifth national convention at Gettysburg College June 7-10 in Gettysburg, PA.

The Alliance Council, meeting in North Hills, CA, adopted this theme acutely aware that their use of the word "fascism" in the theme signified their reluctant judgment that a gathering of dangers to democracy in the United States in the past few years can lead to the loss of freedom in the country.

As convention planner **Peter Mott** of Rochester, N.Y., a member of the Alliance

Council, points out, the convention theme harks back to a warning by President Franklin Roosevelt: "The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic State itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism—ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or any controlling private power."

The convention will open Friday afternoon and close Monday at midday. Tours of the Gettysburg battlefield are to be arranged for delegates both before and after the convention.

The keynote speakers will be **Marjorie Kelly, Gregory Palast, Doris (Granny D) Haddock** and possibly **Michael Moore**.

CONVENTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

No Nuclear Use

Knowingly breaking new ground for the Alliance, the National Council, meeting in North Hills, CA, in March, condemned the Bush Administration's Nuclear Posture Review on March first, the first day it was publicized. The council called for the impeachment of Bush because of it.

In addition, the Council authorized officers to take steps to associate the AfD with organizations acting nonviolently against

the militarization of the response to terrorism and voted to have read a re-worded version of an initiative from the San Fernando Valley AfD chapter to the June national convention as it opens: to wit, "In response to the immediate crisis of the United States waging an endless global war,

we call on the AfD convention to explore possible actions to prevent our country from becoming an irreversible warfare state." Council debated heatedly whether

Bush's new policies... dramatically increase risk of retaliatory annihilation ...this escalation answers suicide with suicide.

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.

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Alliance for Democracy

Anti-Globalization/Economic Alternatives Campaign

The Alliance, in accord with its anti-globalization/economic alternatives campaign, is one of 25 organizations from around the world that have signed an open letter speaking out against UN Under-Secretary General Nitin Desai's recent endorsement of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and its self-advertised commitment to sustainable development. The letter, part of the ongoing work by the Alliance for a Corporate-Free UN to stop the corporate co-optation of the UN, highlights the dark record of ICC and affiliated groups' lobbying which has been detrimental to such development. Among the other signing organizations are Corporate Europe Observatory, Institute of Policy Studies, International South Group Network, and the Third World Network.

"The general thrust...is to be through 'partnerships' of governments, civil society and corporations," Ruth Caplan, co-chair of the AfD's Anti-globalization project, explained to the Council. "While some partnerships will be innocent enough, others will be pernicious, using private investment funds to promote privatization, especially of water and the development of energy."

Caplan and Dave Lewit, co-chairs of the AfD's Anti-globalization project, participated in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre held the end of January in Brazil. Lewit attended a number of sessions on participatory democracy as practiced in Porto Alegre; his written lecture on this at Ramapo College is available. He believes that AfD needs to re-examine representative democracy in the light of the Brazil experiments and that AfD might undertake a Redefining Democracy project.

Caplan gave presentations in Brazil on the proposed services agreement during an international labor meeting and a WTO seminar. She also participated in an international strategy meeting on GATS which formulated a campaign (in which AfD chapters can become involved) to demand that countries make public the

requests they receive from other countries to deregulate their services.

"We have been told by the US Trade Representative's Office that the U.S. requests are negotiating documents and will not be made public," Caplan says. "This is outrageous. The corporations know what is being requested since the requests are being made at their behest. The secrecy allows the U.S. and other developed countries to pressure developing countries to open up their services without any public accountability. It also means U.S. citizens will not know what local, state or federal rules are being targeted by other countries."

As part of a campaign to fight the rebirth of the old Multilateral Agreement on Investments, Caplan has worked with Robert Stumberg at Georgetown University's Harrison Institute to draft a model local resolution covering investment, services, and government procurement, which will be distributed to activists after a final legal review. A resolution supporting the Globalization Impact Bill pending in Massachusetts, which Lewit drafted, is being advanced to the Boston City Council.

The final documents will be put on *Alliance Announce* and possibly on the Alliance website. Chapters can also use the strong resolution on GATS which was adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in February.

In March the Alliance signed onto a newspaper ad opposing the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), an offshoot from NAFTA and FTAA.

AfD co-chair Nancy Price is participating in the fight in California against water privatization, including the proposal by an Alaskan company with international ties to export water from two Mendocino County rivers to southern California. The threat under NAFTA is that once California water is sold outside the U.S., e.g., to Mexico, California would not be able to limit the amount of its water that is exported. Δ



Alliance Sues FEC Over Ashcroft's PAC

The national Alliance for Democracy and two Missouri voters, one of whom is an AfD member, are the plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit alleging that U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's campaign committee for the US Senate in 2000 as well as a political action committee he created engaged in serious violations of federal campaign finance law in the 2000 election. The complaint seeks Federal Election Commission (FEC) enforcement against Ashcroft 2000 and the Spirit of America PAC for the alleged violations.

The suit was filed in Washington, D.C., on March 19 by the National Voting Rights Institute (NVRI), acting as counsel for the Alliance and the two voters. NVRI specializes in campaign finance litigation across the country.

The allegations concern facts about Ashcroft's 2000 Missouri Senate campaign that were first reported by the *Washington Post* on Feb. 1, 2001. Specifically, Spirit of America PAC, a leadership PAC created by Ashcroft, contributed to Ashcroft's campaign committee a fundraising list of 100,000 donors which has a minimum estimated value of \$100,000 and may be worth millions of dollars. FEC documents reveal that Ashcroft's Senate campaign made more than \$116,000 by renting out the Spirit of America PAC's fundraising list to others. The *Post* article reported that the PAC developed the list between 1997 and 1999, "at a cost of more than \$2 million." Neither the Ashcroft campaign committee nor Ashcroft's leadership PAC reported the contribution of the fundraising list. Federal campaign finance law prohibits political action committees from making campaign contributions, including in-kind contributions, to federal candidates that exceed the value of \$10,000 in a primary-and-general-election cycle and requires all contributions by PACs to be reported by both campaign committees and PACs.

The plaintiffs in the case, the Alliance, Alliance member **Ben Kjelshus** from Urich, Mo., and **Hedy Epstein** from St. Louis, Mo., along with Common Cause and

NVRI, filed an administrative complaint before the FEC on March 8, 2001, which sought FEC enforcement in the matter. The FEC has yet to take any action on that complaint; the lawsuit seeks a federal court order directing the FEC to enforce the law concerning the donated donors' list.

The *Washington Post* reported on March 20: "The lawsuit — filed in the U.S. District Court here by the Alliance for Democracy and voters Hedy Epstein and Ben Kjelshus — says that the commission received the plaintiffs' complaint on March 8, 2001, and did not assign it to a lawyer until July. More than a year later, the commission 'still has not taken final action,' it alleges."

"Further delay in this matter is unacceptable," said Lisa Danetz, a staff attorney with the Boston-based National Voting Rights Institute and lead counsel for the plaintiffs. "No one is above the law, not even the sitting United States Attorney General."

Should the FEC determine that Ashcroft's campaign and PAC violated federal campaign finance law, it could impose civil penalties, and it could choose to forward the matter to the U.S. Department of Justice for the initiation of a criminal investigation.

The decision that national AfD would be the lead plaintiff in this case was made by the national Council. △

Poverty and Democracy in Brazil

Report from Porto Alegre

By Dave Lewit, Facilitator,
Boston-Cambridge AfD Chapter

Half of Rio de Janeiro's six million people live in favelas—beehive slums of around 10,000 souls each, clinging to unstable mountainsides or flood-prone industrial margins, bypassed by normal health, education, sewerage, police, fire, and other services. But by the grace of God or by earlier immigration of Italian anarchists and German socialists, there are few favelas in Porto Alegre, 800 miles to the south.

Porto Alegre, the site of last January's World Social Forum II, has a Workers Party mayor and a participatory city budgeting system now 12 years old. More than 50,000 citizens—poor and middle class, women and men, leftist and centrist—attend fortnightly meetings to identify local needs, understand city complexities and methods, set standards, prioritize projects, draft local plans, elect delegates to deliberative

councils, monitor councils and city agencies, and reconsider rules and conditions in the next year.

The results have been solidly positive without being miraculous or without critics. Poorer districts catch up with street paving, health facilities, public housing, and so on—improving residents' lives while upgrading the value of properties there held by landlords from richer districts. Corruption has essentially disappeared. Children participate in their schools. More than 100 other cities, including São Paulo, Brazil's largest city, have picked up on participatory budgeting. Now Porto Alegre is doing the same with city planning—for land use and large investments.

In the US we have representative democracy—more or less. But as one observer at the WSF from Kerala, India, said, democracy is not a political system but a culture. Given actual or potential conditions in the United States, is large-scale participatory democracy possible here too? △



Granny D on Recent Soft Money Victory

The enactment of the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan campaign finance law abolishing soft money was a victory that Doris "Granny D" Haddock, had walked 3,200 miles cross-country and lobbied for day and night.

When the House passed the bill finally at 2:30 a.m. one night in February, many members of the House looked up from their celebration on the House floor to salute the little old lady in the gallery. Minority Leader Dick Gephardt led the members in saluting her from the floor. Minutes later she joined them in a hallway ringing with laughter and cheering and got her share of hugs and kisses. Congressman Marty Meehan's hug knocked her hat off, just as when John McCain and Russ Feingold hugged her after the Senate vote last year.

Earlier in the day, Gephardt invited Mrs. Haddock and several of her fellow demonstrators into his office for a press conference. He gave her some chocolate gold coins, which he described as the only soft money they approved of any more.

All that day, and the day before, she walked the halls of the House office buildings to talk to as many members of Congress and staff as possible, delivering handmade valentines urging them to "not break our hearts" in the matter of cleaning up our elections. Over the two days, she visited nearly 300 offices. The House-passed bill then finally cleared the Senate and was signed into law by George W. Bush.

In Ms. Haddock's statement on House passage she said: "In 1907 Theodore Roosevelt built a dam to hold back corporate money from flooding and drowning the position and interests of ordinary citizens in our representative democracy. Tonight, the American Congress rebuilt that tumbled down dam. We have paid a high price to rebuild it—in the form of higher limits on non-corporate, individual contributions. We shall have to live with that until we adopt the public funding of our elections." △

No NUKES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

to include language referring to "Mr. Bush's seizure of the Presidency in December." Its inclusion was settled on an 8-7 vote.

During the debate, Dorothy Boberg, an AfD member in Southern California who is also active in the United Nations Association of the U.S., advocated that the U.S. Senate be asked to pass "a resolution forbidding the President from using nuclear weapons anytime anywhere." Her proposal was considered by the Council and in effect referred to the national convention in June for further consideration.

The new Massachusetts South Bay chapter of AfD, south of Boston, agreed with the Council on the necessity of a

strong statement, but did not agree with the strategy of calling for impeachment and adopted a resolution of its own while urging other chapters to endorse and distribute either the Council's statement or theirs or to write a new one.

"We have it within our power to begin the world again" said Thomas Paine, "Therefore let us begin." Members of Mass Bay South...were stunned by the recent revelation of a new United States nuclear posture. Meeting in Norwell, local members joined the Alliance National Council to urge in the strongest possible terms that citizens oppose the dangerous policies

Americans Called On to Resist New First-Strike Nuclear Program

Emergency Statement by the Council of the AfD

The national Council of the Alliance for Democracy, meeting in North Hills, California, Saturday, March 9, called for the impeachment of George W. Bush.

The discovery of George W. Bush's top-secret program to initiate first nuclear strikes in situations of conflict leaves the American democracy no honorable choice but to repudiate these plans by ejecting Mr. Bush from the White House," the Council said. "Mr. Bush's ominous interest in using nuclear weapons against at least seven named nations is exposed in his orders to the Pentagon to prepare for such use.

The secret report specifies three situations in which nuclear weapons could be used:

- against targets that can withstand non-nuclear attacks;
- in retaliation for not only nuclear, but also for chemical and biological attacks;
- and the blank check: "in the event of surprising military developments."

Mr. Bush's new policies embody indifference to the possibility of the United States inflicting mass death abroad and put the American people at dramatically increased risk of retaliatory annihilation and terrorist attack. Now we understand why the Bush Administration has created an underground shadow government.

In responding to suicidal terrorists, Mr. Bush has unconstitutionally declared perpetual war on targets and nations of his choice. He seeks to militarize our democracy into a garrison state. But this escalation answers suicide with suicide—suicidal terrorism with suicidal terrorism.

As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, it is our obligation to lead the world to their abolition, not their use.

As free American citizens we must brace ourselves to reject the torrent of calming reassurances which the Bush Administration's spin doctors will now produce. The revelations this morning in the Los Angeles Times catch the Bush Administration red-handed in its determination to secure domination of the world for the oil and other transnational corporations, using every means which Mr. Bush's seizure of the Presidency in December 2000 put at his disposal.

Turning the United States into the world's nuclear bully-state will not be accepted by American citizens or the people of the world. We call on Congress to hold immediate public hearings on these revelations, speak out, and take necessary steps to rein in and curb Mr. Bush in the use of nuclear weapons.

These revelations in the Los Angeles Times eclipse even the Pentagon papers in historic importance, for on this the world may survive or perish...

We call on all citizens and organizations who believe in peace and democracy to nonviolently resist this grossly irresponsible plan and to support the impeachment of George W. Bush. △



revealed in the Nuclear Posture Review.

Many former generals and admirals, including Gen. Lee Butler, who formerly commanded our nuclear forces, have called for the [the abolition of nuclear weapons]. Close calls, within ten seconds to launch, prove accidental annihilation is all too possible.

While the terrorist attacks of 9/11 have created a new atmosphere of fear, the Administration has exacerbated those fears with a drumbeat of rhetoric and media sound bites: vague warnings of attack, endless war. They would seduce us into believing, in our fear and confusion, that nuclear weapons are manageable, their the fallout acceptable. We must shout, NO.

The leaked posture lowers the nuclear threshold...Other countries, nuclear or not, will feel challenged to respond in kind. The United States arrogance in claiming a right to use nuclear weapons in numerous and vague situations gives other countries the same privilege.

Our security depends on moral and compassionate wisdom, not insane weaponry.

The Bush administration demands total allegiance to its policies in the "War on Terrorism" as a measure of patriotism. Yet, if we lose our right to dissent when we feel policies are mistaken or, as in this case, perilously dangerous, the terrorists have won and democracy has truly lost. Therefore we urge all citizens concerned with our children's future to petition Congress for hearings with this end: No nuclear arms race. No first use. Move to total abolition.

Discussing the Mass. South Bay chapter's resolution, Jean Maryborn of that chapter and the Council said, "The quote from Tom Paine is to remind us, in what may feel like a hopeless situation, of the incredible achievement of our revolutionary forebears in creating out of an oppressive monarchy a democracy that gives hope to the world." △

For the chapter's full resolution, communicate with Jean Maryborn, 781-826-2482, maryborn@earthlink.net, or Brian Moriarty, 781-934-7100, brianmoriarty@earthlink.net.

AfD's "End Political Bribery Project" Takes the Stage

By Jim Ace, Project Coordinator,
Campaign for Clean Elections

Most of us would agree that in the United States the corporations and a wealthy few are coming to control all three branches of government. We feel left out, disenfranchised, by the system. Good people with creative, progressive ideas, especially women and poorer people including most people of color, don't have a fair chance in the competitions for public office. We know that the more money you have the more democracy you can buy—a politician, a federal regulator, even one's own law. We know that special interests control the legislative process, and that only the elite have assured access in Washington where politicians trade votes for campaign contributions. To most folks, this exchange of access and influence for money amounts to bribery, plain and simple. But how many of us realize that campaign donations may be an Achilles heel of corporate power?

The Alliance's "End Political Bribery Project," now in full swing, is looking for Alliance members and chapters that want to sound the alarm to end political bribery in their communities, states, and nation. We believe that enacting full public funding for all federal and state elections will end that bribery, break the corporate logjam, and undermine and ultimately win for the majority of Americans the power that corporations and wealthy individuals now hold over our democracy and political process. The project is a public-education and direct-action campaign featuring new strategies and tactics for activists to integrate into their local campaigns. The basic aim of the project is to utilize a certain provision of the U.S. Criminal Code, Title 18, Section 11, Subsection 201: "Bribery of Public Officials," and campaign finance data to put a stop to corporate bribery.

Corporate and private money in politics ("campaign finance") plays a direct role in determining public policy, on health care, who pays how much tax, workers' right to form unions, and a range of important environmental issues.

For example, in federal environmental laws for clean air and water, the Superfund, drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, radioactive waste disposal, and U.S. energy policies, state policies on highway construction, local struggles against polluters, developers, commercial logging and mining, and urban sprawl; the big money in politics determines who gets access to the decision-makers and far too often significantly influences their decisions.

In the past twelve years, the following industries wrote a lot of checks to politicians:

Mining	\$20 million,
Tobacco	\$42 million,
Defense	\$67 million,
Agribusiness	\$251 million,
Energy/Natural Resources	\$242 million.

Here are a few names you might recognize from the year 2000 election cycle alone:

International Paper	\$1.3 million,
Citigroup	\$4 million,
Ntnl. Assoc. of Homebuilders	\$2.3 million,
Lockheed Martin	\$2.8 million,
Ntnl. Rifle Assoc.	\$3 million,
ExxonMobil	\$1.4 million,
Philip Morris	\$3.6 million,
BP Amoco	\$1.3 million,
AT&T	\$5 million,
Microsoft	\$4.6 million.

(See www.opensecrets.org for more data.)

While it is common practice and completely legal to make a campaign contribution, it is illegal to "give anything of value with the intent to influence a public official in any official act." Subsection 201 of Title 18 reads:

"Whoever, directly or indirectly, corruptly gives, offers or promises anything of value to any public official with intent to influence any official act or, being a public official, directly or indirectly, corruptly demands, seeks, receives, accepts, or agrees to receive or accept anything of value personally or for any other person or entity, in return for being influenced in the performance of any official act, shall be fined not more than three times the monetary equivalent of the thing of value, or imprisoned for not more than fifteen years, or both, and may be disqualified from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

**END POLITICAL BRIBERY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)**

When corporations write big checks to gain access to politicians with the intent to influence public policy, and when politicians accept such donations in return for being influenced in the performance of any official act, it is a violation of federal bribery law.

When we are confronting a corporation or industry and do our homework, we usually learn from the records that it is making these so-called donations. We can ascertain that it is getting special access, and we know it is influencing environmental policy, public health policy, tax policy, worker safety policy, international trade policy, or whatever public policy it wants. Depending on the law and on the facts as they are established, the corporation may be paying for access and influence.

Likewise, many wealthy citizens make large contributions and, in return, expect and get access to public officials on issues of importance to the donors. We leave it to lawyers, courts, and juries to determine what is legal or illegal and make no accusations at law; but, as citizens, we act on the rational belief that corporations and wealthy donors often make contributions that are, in fact, bribes in order to insure their access and influence.

We can and should use "Ending Political Bribery" as part of our strategy in the campaigns to uphold the public interest against corporations and industries. When the facts raise relevant questions, we should solicit the enforcement of the federal bribery law as one of our tactics.

Full Public Funding of Elections

But we can also demand a positive solution: one that promises to turn things around. Despite the enactment of McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan, our public elections will continue to be financed with private and corporate money, leaving the corporations and

America's ruling class still running the show and those of us who don't have big money out in the cold. As a self-identified democracy, the United States should have an alternative: full public funding for all public elections. Candidates should run for office free of strings attached to them by big business and rich folks. Our elected, public officials would be free to represent the interests of the majority instead of the interests of the few. This is what democracy would look like.

At the End Political Bribery Project we use research on campaign finance data and analysis to inform ourselves and educate others about the money in politics and will use creative, nonviolent, direct actions to expose large campaign donations as bribery to indict our current system of campaign financing. The goal is to build the case for Clean-Elections public financing, already the law in Maine, Arizona, Vermont, and (though its funding has been sabotaged by the state legislature) Massachusetts.

The campaign needs volunteers who will use materials and direct-action tactics such as those suggested in the "Anti-bribery Action Kit" to pressure authorities to enforce the anti-bribery law, to filibuster politicians to give us full public financing of elections, to call attention to large contributions followed by special access, to seek the indictment and arrest of politicians and corporate or wealthy contributors when and if the facts and the law justify that, and to publicly demonstrate during the coming election on behalf of cleaning up the campaign-contribution process.

The Alliance has published and distributed 7,500 booklets entitled "Political Bribery in the USA," and 2,000 "Anti-Bribery Action Kits" are now available. "Political Bribery in the USA" is an education booklet that includes nine case studies on the subject. The Action Kit is full of "just add water" tactics ranging from petitions and resolutions to creative confrontation and direct actions, including guerrilla stickering and political theatre.

"...we should solicit the enforcement of the federal bribery law..."

What can your chapter do?

- Identify expertise and leaders within your own group on this issue.
- Distribute action kits and booklets to other organizations in your community.
- Design a weekly teach-in to self-educate your chapter on political bribery.
- Educate your community with letters to the editor, community forums, Defining Democracy event.
- Inject the end-political-bribery language into your community by writing letters to politicians asking for their positions on the issue.
- Take action: for instance, organize an Anti-Bribery Democracy Brigade.
- Help plan and participate in a national day of action against political bribery.
- Make a commitment to do one activity from the Anti-Bribery Action Kit in the next three months.

This new strategy is unique and relevant, especially in light of the Enron scandal. It uses language people understand, appeals to young people and students, and provides a new set of tactics and ideas for creative action. It broadens the campaign finance debate and focuses on the ethics of influence. It exposes the basic processes by which corporate domination of the economy and environment have led to corporate domination of democracy. It is an opportunity to reframe single-issue debates and to take the strategic offensive. It integrates a corporate critique with an analysis of class and race. It points to a comprehensive solution, full public funding of public elections. And corporations strongly dislike being exposed for undermining democracy.

The "End Political Bribery" project may be just right for you or your chapter. Participating chapters would be doing something, learning about the issues, building their profiles in their communities, and recruiting new members. Individuals would learn skills, become leaders. National coordination as well as some support, training, can be provided from the campaign director and national staff. Δ

ALLIANCE NATIONAL CONVENTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The convention planners, led by committee chair **Steve Cheifetz** of Clinton, MD, are devising a working convention with several outstanding speakers.

Kelly is the founder and editor of *Business Ethics*, a 15-year-old magazine on responsible business practices, and the author of a pioneering new book, *The Divine Right of Capital: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy*, published by Berrett-Koehler, in which she proposes that employees and communities join shareholders in owning corporations.

Palast, the prize-winning BBC journalist whose work is also published in English papers, has been touring the U.S. for his new book, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: An Investigative Reporter Exposes the Truth about Globalization, Corporate Cons, and High Finance*. (See article on page 10 for more on Kelly and Palast.)

The 92-year-old Ms. Haddock, whose heroic walk cross-country from California to the Capitol helped build public pressure for the abolition of soft money corruption this March and who in her next-stage crusading for public funding of elections continues to be a project of the Alliance, will deliver one more of her powerful addresses to the convention. (Page 4)

Michael Moore, the anti-big-corporation writer and humorist, says he will come to speak if he can, although because of his tour for his latest best-seller he won't be sure whether he can until closer to the convention time.

In workshops and plenary sessions, the choice of subjects is conditioned by the most frequently mentioned topics in a membership survey: campaign finance reform, reform and control of corporations, national health insurance, and issues of trade and corporations, the alternative economy, and chapter building. Some general questions to be addressed will include: "What is the future of the Alliance—both in the U.S. and in the global movement? What can we as an organization offer to other progressives and what can they add to our work? What can the Alliance do to strengthen your organizing, either as a chapter or an individual?" Workshops and conversation circles are planned to constitute the work of the

CONVENTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

How Much Will the Convention Cost?

Lou Hammann, who taught philosophy and religion at Gettysburg college for many years has, with the convention committee, arranged for accommodations at Gettysburg College. This will be our least expensive convention yet! Here are the details.

Early-bird registration, postmarked by May 15th, will be \$120 per person (\$100 for students), couples \$200; after May 15, singles will be \$150, students \$120, and couples \$260. Single-day registrations will be \$40.)

Three meals in the college dining room cost under \$20 a day; you can choose how many meals you want to take, in case you want to go out on the town. Hammann assures us that the food at the college is competitive in quality with that in the tourist town and costs much less. If you arrived on Friday for dinner and left Monday after lunch, the total cost for all meals at the college would be \$60.

Among the several options for room accommodations: a double occupancy room with air conditioning in a dormitory, with linens, costs \$25 a night per person—three nights would cost \$75. A single room under the same conditions would cost \$35 per person. If you really want to indulge yourself you can take accommodations in one of the on-campus apartments, which come with very comfortable, almost elegant common areas and cost \$37 for a single or for double occupancy \$30. Both options include air conditioning and linen.

For comparison, says Hamman, "...try to imagine what it would cost if you came to Gettysburg and stayed in a local motel or B&B for three days." Of course there is a place on campus for parties.

Those attending the convention make their own travel arrangements. There are four airports within a 70-mile

radius and arrangements can be made for you to be picked up at any one of these. Harrisburg, PA, is a relatively small airport about 30 miles north of Gettysburg, though three or four carriers fly in there. Baltimore/Washington International is about 60 miles south. Dulles International is about the same distance toward Washington, and Reagan National in D.C. is about 70 miles from Gettysburg. ("I don't recommend Reagan National, however," Lou says, "since the traffic around that airport is, difficult.")

AfD plans to rent buses to transport delegates to the convention from airports as the bunching of arrivals justifies,

which might run \$30 a person round trip. (The college also has available pick-up services if arrangements are made in advance, the costs for which vary

slightly, but run about \$50 for a one-way ride, a cost that can be shared with other delegates on the same trip.) Traveling time from the three airports to the south is less than two hours.

If you want to arrive earlier than Friday and leave later than Sunday we can help you make additional arrangements for accommodations in town; but be warned, June is tourist season. If enough people are interested, we will arrange tours of the battlefield with some exceptional guides at a reasonable per-person price. Gettysburg is a town of about 10 to 12 thousand people, on the eastern slope of the Appalachian mountains. Even greater than the history-tourist "industry," Adams County is famous for apple and peach orchards that dominate the slopes west of town. Otherwise, though still accessible to urban civilization, Gettysburg is a place far from the madding crowd. Δ

This will be our least expensive convention yet!

The Convention Registration Form is on the inside of the back cover



CONVENTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

convention. Delegates will be invited, on the registration form, to organize a break-fast roundtable on any topic.

Co-chair **Nancy Price** of Davis, CA, said: "Members are encouraged to bring outlines of what they do in their chapters, how they do programs on community TV or radio, the flyers they use for tabling, other lists of resources, movies, books; and to be prepared to share what their local issues are and see how local issues elsewhere have been dealt with. Such materials could be on display, with sign-up sheets to get copies.

"I hope that members also come prepared to contribute to discussion on a one-year, three-year, and five-year plan for the AfD's work, and how our work bears on the November elections," Price added.

Nick Biddle, the new executive coordinator of the Alliance, will of course be a featured speaker. **Ronnie Dugger**, a founder and first co-chair of AfD, will speak on the opening Friday night of the convention, along with Palast. Other invited—though unconfirmed—speakers for plenary discussions are **John Bonifaz**, director of the National Voters Rights Institute;

Alice Slater of New York City, a leader in campaigns to abolish nuclear weapons and executive director of the Global Recourse Action Center for the Environment; **Congresswoman Barbara Lee** of the Ninth District, California, the only member of Congress who voted against the "war on terrorism"; **Laura Murphy Lee**, legislator director of the American Civil Liberties Union; **William Greider**, the author and national correspondent of *The Nation*; and **Mike Morrill**, executive director, Pennsylvania Consumers Action Network.

The event will be held in "the biggest small town in America." Who has not heard of the Gettysburg battlefield? "Tours of exceptional quality will be arranged for interested persons attending the convention," says AfD co-chair **Lou Hammann** of nearby Orrtanna, PA. "It is possible to do this on both Friday afternoon and Monday morning or afternoon. A tour of the battlefield that will provide a comprehensive picture of the battle itself and the larger historical context in which it makes sense, if such mayhem and chaos can be said to

Nominations Due May 1, 2002

Warren Felt of Northridge, CA, convener of the nominations committee, announces that paid-up national AfD members who wish to nominate candidates for AfD officers or the five at-large seats on the national Council may send their nominations to the committee by May 1st. The committee will then announce the candidates they know about in advance of the convention.

After the deadline, candidates may be nominated at the convention itself through a petition presented to the nominating committee.

The elected officers of the Alliance are the male and female co-chairs and vice-co-chairs, the secretary, and the treasurer. At the convention delegates from each of the Alliance's regions choose (that is, nominate for the region's endorsement and subsequent election) their own male and female members to the national Council, and the entire convention votes on the nominees for officers for an additional five at-large members of the Council.

Members making nominations are asked to ascertain from their candidates that if elected, they will serve. In addition to informing the nominating committee on that point, nominators are asked to send the committee short biographical sketches of their candidates.

Nominations should be directed to Warren Felt at dawf@earthlink.net or at 16809 Marilla St., Northridge CA 91343; Phone: 818-893-9691. Prospective candidates may obtain descriptions of the duties of the positions from Felt. Other members of the nominating committee, chosen by the last AfD convention, are Jerry Polner of Brooklyn, Sue Wheaton of Takoma Park, MD, and Ronnie Dugger, of Somerville, MA. Δ

Resolutions Procedure

Alliance members, local Alliance chapters and campaign chairs are encouraged to submit resolutions for consideration at the convention. To avoid convention gridlock and ineffectuality in implementing resolutions passed, the following format for submissions is requested.

Please limit each resolution to both sides of a single sheet of paper or its email equivalent (500 words). On the first side (or if email in the first part), list the proponent: Individual, local, campaign; name, address, phone, e-mail address, of the proponent(s); the subject or title in ten words or less; a background or purpose statement, not more than 100 words; how and why the resolution relates to AfD goals, objectives, or

mission; and the resolution itself, a maximum of 200 words, limiting "whereas" clauses to no more than three, followed by *RESOLVED, that . . ." (one sentence).

On side two (or the second part if an e-mail submission), please answer these questions: "Is this resolution primarily a political statement, a proposed action, or a combination?"; "What resources are required for implementation (level of funding, mailings, staff or volunteer labor, coordination, outreach, etc.)?" and "How will needed resources be obtained? What would be required of or by chapters?"

If you plan to come, please fill out the registration form on page 15 and mail it in. More information follows by mail. See you at Gettysburg College! Δ

NICK BIDDLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

successful organizing efforts for progressive change, as well as academic accomplishments which bear on the work of the Alliance. He received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in history at Duke University, where he came under the tutorial influence of populist historian Lawrence Goodwyn, and where he co-lead student movements—on one occasion, to diversify the faculty, and on another to persuade the university to improve its contractual and working relations with the university's housekeeping and janitorial staff.

While at Duke, he received a Fulbright fellowship to conduct research for twelve months in Argentina on his dissertation on a populist phase of Argentine history. He went on to teach history at Appalachian State University, where he created and then coordinated a summer study-abroad program to Ecuador and Peru.

Asked, during his interview with the Alliance Council last October in Washington, D.C., whether the questioner's perception was correct that he is an eloquent speaker, he conceded that he has made a few effective speeches, and gave as one example a speech he made while chairman of the Faculty Senate at Appalachian State. The administration planned to outsource the janitorial staff of the university. During a school assembly that was being addressed by a speaker from South Africa, Biddle recalled, he himself rose and spoke five minutes against breaking the janitorial union by the outsourcing, and received a standing ovation. He was berated by the administration for embarrassing the university, but two weeks later the outsourcing was abandoned.

Biddle's organizing campaigns have included: creating, in Vermont, the Franklin County Family Center; stopping higher education spending cuts by the North Carolina legislature; and saving from gentrification the only African-American neighborhood in Boone, N.C. He and a friend from Boone were delegates in attendance at the Alliance's founding convention at the Mo Ranch near Kerrville, TX., in November 1966, where, he says, he was "inspired by the intellectual foundation (i.e., Kortzen, Hightower, Ivins, Dugger, Goodwyn, and others), and the organizational direction chosen," and, he informs

us, "I remain inspired."

In October, during his Council interview, Biddle was asked a question designed to plumb whether he prefers efforts to improve corporate behavior or to re-define the nature of corporations.

What was his approach, he was asked, to the subject of working to improve corporate responsibility? He replied at once that in his opinion the larger a corporation gets the more impossible it is for it to behave responsibly. △

Biddle:

Enron is Biggest Teaching Tool in Years

Nancy Price, co-chair of the AfD Council, asked Nick Biddle for his ideas about a theme for the June convention. Biddle responded to the Council in March, saying in part:

"My first thought is that the Enron scandal is the biggest teaching tool and potential lever in years for awaking the people of this country to the means by which corporations dominate our world and the consequences of that condition. Therefore, the Enron scandal should be a focal point of analysis and activism for the AfD. The Enron corporation transformed from a regional natural gas provider into an international energy broker in a decade. It did this by paying for the election of politicians who returned the favor by sanctioning the deregulation of both energy and financial markets which, in turn, enabled Enron to access billions of dollars in loans, fees and stock investments.

"This unmonitored behemoth self-consciously hid over a billion dollars of losses in offshore subsidiaries and hid its true financial status from shareholders and employees while its chief executive officers cashed out hundreds of millions of dollars in personal gain. Along the way, politicians from both major parties were handsomely 'supported' while lobbyists for deregulation worked constantly. The symbiosis of these political and economic interests gained sufficient momentum to sway the general culture into a resigned acceptance of the deregulation of resource management under the rubric of free trade. Social Security's privatization became an idea worthy of consideration. Inflated energy prices and unremitting oil and gas exploration regardless of environmental destruction

appeared unavoidable. The Enron scandal has not substantively changed any of this yet. We the people must make sure it does....

"There are several logical campaigns that follow from the Enron scandal. These are campaign finance reform, restructuring the corporations, and energy policy. Given that the Enron corporation was primarily concerned with energy distribution and that it was seriously involved in generating the California energy crisis of 2001 and in formulating President Bush's energy plan, I think the AfD should begin a campaign that addresses alternative energy, conservation and the potential for energy independence from oil, corporations, and international intrigue. The AfD's long-term dedication to campaign finance reform and restructuring the corporations well prepares it to utilize the Enron scandal as a catalyst to the advancement of these struggles....

"The conference content can be a coherent combination of workshops, discussion groups and teach-ins that explore the integrated matrix of corporate and political interests represented in the Enron scandal while also developing specific measures that AfD chapters and members can take to build membership, promote reforms and achieve victories. The mid-term elections coming up in November provide an opportunity in every community to make campaign finance reform, corporate corruption, and energy policy the centerpieces of political dialogue. The AfD convention should work on creating a template on these issues upon which chapters may build according to individual circumstances."

BIDDLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

BIDDLE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Biddle also repeated to the Council in writing his emphasis in October on strengthening AfD's horizontal communication among members and chapters by use of the Internet. "I recommend several workshops," he said, "during which web page consultants demonstrate how AfD chapters can utilize a chat room and information list through which all chapters may exchange ideas, inform each other of events and celebrate achievements. Because the Enron scandal illuminates the unity of political and economic corruption when democracy is sub-

sumed under corporatism, using it as a focal point of learning and a launching pad of action can have a unifying and energizing impact on conference participants and the AfD as a whole....

"Coordinated involvement by AfD chapters based on the foundation built during the convention can increase a sense of relevance, immediacy, and community within the organization," Biddle continued. "Our efforts should not be done in isolation. The Alliance always needs allies. One natural ally that is working toward similar ends is the 'Rolling Thunder Downhome Democracy Tour' being orga-

nized by Jim Hightower and The Lowdown crew. Its purpose is to 'work with progressive groups in a dozen cities across the country to organize local democracy festivals.' The Lowdown already lists the AfD as a backer for the RTD Democracy Tour. It seems appropriate to expand the relationship, which carries the potential to link with over 40 other backers seeking a corporate-free democracy....

"These are several of my ideas on the AfD, the June conference and beyond....I send them in the spirit of consensus and look forward to working with the program ultimately fashioned." △

Two Crusading Writers will Speak at AfD National Conference



Marjorie Kelly

Marjorie Kelly, who lives in Minneapolis, has turned from her long editorial career campaigning for corporate responsibility to seeking structural change in the nature of the corporation.

"As a business publisher and journalist," Kelly writes, "I have seen that a democratic evolution in business has been trying to happen for some time... [Fifteen] years ago, I co-founded the publication 'Business Ethics' to support this rise in corporate social responsibility, believing that voluntary change by progressive business people would transform capitalism. I no longer believe that."

Now Kelly has come to agree with author David Korten's position that systemic change is needed. In her new book, in which she likens CEOs and corporations to kings and aristocracies of old, she says that, "...over and over again I've seen the failure of voluntary change by individual companies. I have seen corporations announce family-friendly policies, only to turn around and lay off tens of thousands. I have seen companies pursue environmental stewardship, but only to the extent that it enhances the bottom line. I have seen companies create profit-sharing incentives, but at the same time hold down wages and cut benefits. I have seen corporations become generous citizens, but only as they demand far more in tax concessions."

Kelly argues for employee and community ownership rights in corporations and many other changes. She will present the convention with her criticisms of corporate practice and structure and her proposals for systemic change.

Texas populist Jim Hightower calls Greg Palast, the award-winning BBC investigative reporter, "the type of investigative reporter you don't see anymore—a cross between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes." Vincent Bugliosi, author of *None Dare Call It Treason*, says, "Palast is astonishing, he gets the real evidence no one else has the guts to dig up."

In December 2000 Palast wrote the Salon.com story, published online by Salon and in the Nation, exposing how in Florida in the 2000 election, Jeb Bush and Katherine Harris stripped thousands of their right to vote—54% of them African-Americans, overwhelmingly Democrats—through Florida's flawed "voter-cleansing" program. Since then Palast has reported for BBC Television and London's *Guardian*, digging deeply into political corruption, corporate fraud, and political manipulation. Palast broke the news for the BBC that George W. Bush quashed intelligence agencies' investigations into the bin Laden family prior to September eleventh.

Palast has worked with labor unions, consumer groups in the U.S., South America, and Europe on corporate matters, including racketeering by nuclear plant builders and charges of fraud against oil companies in the grounding of the Exxon Valdez. Five years ago he turned his investigative skills to journalism. His 1998 undercover exposé of corruption at the heart of Tony Blair's cabinet, "Lobbygate," made him the first journalist to be berated on the floor of Parliament by a prime minister. His column for Britain's Observer newspaper, "Inside Corporate America," and other writings, have won him the Financial Times David Thomas Prize (1997) and nomination as Business Journalist of the Year (1999). He divides his time between London and New York. △



Chapter Reports

The New Seacoast Chapter

A new chapter of the Alliance has formed on the Atlantic coast in southern Maine. Styled the New Hampshire/Maine Seacoast chapter, it has been meeting at two-week intervals since February 25 to share their knowledge of other politically challenging events in their area. Members arranged for four persons from Central and South America who are doing a roadshow concerning the Free Trade of the Americas proposal to present a program in Portsmouth, N.H., on March 29.

Spurred by the information on FTAA and other subjects from the mailings **Nancy Brown** has been receiving as a national member, the chapter discussed the idea that more of them should become national members. [see page 14 for information on becoming a National Member] They discussed getting new members, too; although some thought that might jeopardize their wish to be more like an affinity group of people—very close to each other.

Two members of the group are writing a draft of the chapter's mission statement; what work or projects the chapter wants to do is on the agenda, too. Considerable attention is being given to democratic procedure. One of the participants, **Bill Segum**, emailed the roughly 15 others recommending that they "come together in service," focus on options and solutions, seek consensus, and write summaries of the events among themselves. He suggested rotating position of facilitator in order "to build leadership skills and to prevent domination by one personality."

Sonoma County Power Play

The energy corporations apparently manipulated an energy crisis which cost the State of California \$37 billion. In responses to this corporate robbery, the Sonoma County chapter planned and carried out a one-day energy conference last fall. Collaborating on this event were co-sponsoring organizations and Sonoma

State University, which, using new technology, recently dedicated an energy-independent classroom building. Speakers at the outdoor conference covered subjects such as conservation, alternative technologies, the coming hydrogen economy, the failure of deregulation, and corporate culpability. There were demonstrations of photovoltaic power generation, fuel cell operations, and hybrid automobiles. There were also positive exhibits showing wind turbines and solar concentrators and negative exhibits on global warming and continued American dependence on Mideast oil.

After this satisfying and productive event, the Alliance organizers, members of cosponsoring organizations, and presenters have continued to meet as an Energy Working Group. This group has submitted recommendations for an energy policy as a part of our County General plan and continues to meet to encourage progress toward local energy independence, energy conservation and the coming hydrogen economy.

We believe that the energy issue is rapidly emerging as the one which could become the opening wedge toward curbing corporate abuse in the United States. Citizens of California will be paying back the cash drained from our state last year for many years to come. The collapse of Enron dramatizes the need for government to re-regulate the electric power companies, pension funds, corporate accounting practices, conflict of interest legislation and campaign finance laws. In this climate there is an opportunity for us in the Alliance to help move the country's energy policy away from nuclear and fossil fuel dependence. We encourage every chapter to become active on this issue both locally and nationally.

Calvin Simons, Co-coordinator, AfD of Sonoma County, Ca.

Mendocino's Programs

At the Mendocino County AfD chapter in northern California, during recent meetings since February, Jim Ace, AfD's "End Political Bribery" coordinator, discussed that campaign; **Joanna Macy**,

the renowned activist, Buddhist, and author, spoke on "Healing Our World: Engaging the Powers Within Us and our Living Earth"; **Medea Benjamin** of Global Exchange reported on her recent trips to Afghanistan; **David Barsamian** of Alternative Radio discussed public media & politics; and **Howard and Jane Bond-Moore**, longtime African-American civil rights attorneys, talked about racism & democracy. Many of these meetings occurred at Fort Bragg's Town Hall.

\$40,000—and Clean

The California Clean Money committee—in which most California chapters are active and whose chair is **Jo Seidita** of the San Fernando Valley (SJV) chapter—and the national Alliance Council, raised about \$40,000 at a recent fundraiser, enabling the continuation of efforts to get a clean money initiative on California's 2004 ballot. Seidita and **Will Forthman**, along with key members of the SFV chapter such as **Ted Williams** and **Stanley Sheinbaum**, have been instrumental in getting this project off the ground by opening a local office and bringing on board respected progressive activist groups in Southern California.

The SFV chapter motto is, "Be vocal, be vocal often, and be vocal to the media, our elected officials, and to everyone we know. They won't hear us if we don't speak!" The newsletter of the chapter, produced by **Tobi Dragert**, features, along with chapter news, selected items from the news bearing on corporate domination. For instance, the February newsletter contained a long section on Enron opening:

"Enron, with its myriad implications, has emphasized the need now, more than ever before, for representational integrity at federal and state capitols and at every level. We must give politicians access to necessary funding of campaigns which will make them beholden, not to money interests, but to the citizens they are supposed to speak for."

In March members of the chapter served as hosts for the national Council

during its quarterly in-person meeting, held in North Hills, Ca. Different members of the chapter provided meals and lodging for the 15 Council members who came to the three days of conferring, debating, and deciding. This was the first time a local chapter has undertaken such good services for the Council, whose members bear their own travel and lodging expenses for in-person meetings.

The SJV chapter's monthly meetings are held the last Saturday of the month, 10:30 a.m., at 9743 Noble Avenue, North Hills, Ca. Guests are welcome. AfD welcomes speakers from all groups. For presentations or agenda items, call Dragert at 213/680-1016. To join call Dolly Arond or Warren Felt at 818/893-9691. For information on the Clean Money campaign call Sam Roth at 818/346-9692.

Populism in Virginia

Late in March the 17-member Alliance chapter in Lynchburg, Va., formed eight months ago with the assistance of Alliance co-chair **Lou Hammann** and his wife Patricia, sponsored a two-day populist focus in their city of 60,000, featuring a visit by **Ronnie Dugger**. Events included a chapter meeting attended by about 30 persons at the Church of the Covenant's Lodge of the Fisherman; Dugger's talk to about 125 students at Lynchburg College, followed by 20 minutes of sharp and lively questioning, after which some students indicated a desire to form a student chapter; a half-hour interview with **John Withrow**, co-chair with **Don Morrison** of the Lynchburg chapter, and Dugger, on an African-American-emphasis cable TV program; and an evening talk at the First Christian Church by Dugger, followed by discussion, attended by about 50 local residents.

The Alliance and the local chapter were publicized in a friendly, prominent story in advance, and the Lynchburg daily, *The News and Advance*, reported extensively on the Alliance's message as it had come into focus during the event at Lynchburg College. The story's headline was, "Speaker: Democracy losing out to large corporations," and its pullquote: "Most of us still think it's a world of nation states, but it's not. It's a world of big corporations and the rest of us."

May in San Diego

The San Diego Alliance for Clean Elections, a grassroots, non-partisan organization, has been working for more than six years for a new municipal law that would provide a voluntary program of public campaign financing for qualified council and mayoral candidates who pledge not to accept private contributions or use their own money. As noted on our web page,* the group hopes to repeat the Clean Election successes in Maine and Arizona, but is focusing here on the local elections. With a press conference, we have launched a petition drive for signatures to get this proposition on the local ballot next November. The nation's most effervescent proponent of campaign finance reform, **Doris Haddock**, (or Granny D), spoke at a rally for the project in Balboa Park. It will be an uphill battle by volunteers to meet a May deadline for collecting signatures from the needed 10% of registered voters, a requirement which in practice amounts to gathering some 95,000 signatures.

*Call 858-385-0419 if you want additional information or desire to support this effort. Catherine Oleary, john-cathy@worldnet.att.net *www.cleanelectionsandiego.org*

The Organizing Kit

A packet on organizing against corporate rule, prepared by the Boston-Cambridge chapter, primarily by **Brit Ekhart**, was sent to all chapter contacts in February. Its preparation was occasioned by Bill Moyers's special PBS program, "Trading Democracy," against corporate machinations through the World Trade Organization. The contents include, among other items, articles on the WTO, **David Korten's** "A Common Sense Citizen Agenda," and information on the Organizers' Collaborative, a free downloadable database and links to democracyGroup's progressive portal.

Interested members may contact Ruth Weizenbaum at rweiz@world.std.com or, on the West Coast, Nancy Price at nprice@juno.com. Δ



Howard Zinn at Cambridge First Parish

Over 650 attend Howard Zinn Benefit

About 650 people came through rain to fill the First Parish Church in Cambridge and rose in unison to applaud Howard Zinn as he decried the war in Afghanistan. Zinn called on the United States to stop being the world's military superpower and to become instead the world's "humanitarian superpower." The event, sponsored by the North Bridge Alliance as a fundraiser, netted almost \$11,000, which was split between the chapter and the national Alliance. Garret Whitney, Council Vice Chair from Concord, MA, who emceed, and Kati Winchell of Lincoln, Mass., AfD's former national coordinator who is now a staffer in charge of fundraising, did the planning and coordinated more than 33 volunteers to bring off the successful event. Other organizations staffed tables at the church. Video and CD recordings of Zinn's speech are available (see page 14).

Kati Winchel reports that the Alliance's benefit with Howard Zinn was a tremendous success. We achieved our two main goals. The church was packed, not a seat left. People had to be turned away though it was raining. About half the revenue was from ticket sales. The other half was raised during Garret Whitney's fundraising pitch.

Expenses (for publicity, church rental, and handouts) came to \$1,800. We acquired forty one new members including 6 new sustaining members. Amy Goodman aired Zinn's talk on her Pacifica radio network program, frequently crediting the Alliance.

During his effective pitch, Whitney used books signed by Zinn and orders for videos of the day's event, as incentives to encourage people to contribute. Most effectively, he auctioned off 10 "historic golden brooms" left over from our Clean Elections rally last June when Granny D

IMF/World Bank's structural adjustment programs, effects of which he has observed in Africa and elsewhere; Stephanie Scadding on the Clean Elections campaign and Granny D; and John Bonifaz, director of the National Voting Rights Institute, on the Massachusetts Clean Elections court fight and on the NVRI/Alliance case against the FEC concerning John Ashcroft.

A crew of 33 volunteers worked on preparations and logistics from noon to 6 p.m. of the day of the event. North Bridge chapter members made up the largest



Howard Zinn and Garret Whitney at the Cambridge First Parish

marched around the Boston State House trailing supporters and delivering the brooms to legislators that had voted for Clean Elections. People at the Zinn event contributed from \$100 to \$500 for them.

Before Zinn's talk we had a line-up of speakers on different aspects of the Alliance, Ronnie Dugger on transforming the corporation; Dave Lewit on Porto Alegre; Dave Eggers on the FTAA and Quebec protests; Carl Whitman on the

portion of the event crew. Two student groups also helped out, four from Boston Mobilization for Survival and a contingent of six from Amherst/Concord/Lincoln.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this benefit a success, among them were: △

*Kati Winchell, Fundraising Coordinator
all@world.std.com*

Thanks to the Volunteers!

Many thanks to the following wonderful people for their hours of work and support that helped make this benefit a huge success.

Michael Bleiweiss	Stephanie Scadding
Barbara Clancy	Richard Sides
Walker Corby	Heidi Soloman
Joyce Dietmeier	Nanri Tenney
Dave Eggers and friends	Mary Van Vleck
Wes Frost	Lois Voltmer
Gene Grace	Charlie Weisman
Oskar Heiningger	Ruth Weizenbaum
Anna Hines	Mary & Bob White
Sheldon Hines	Garret Whitney
Stan Hoffman	Enid Winchell
Lorna Hoover	Kati Winchell
Jan Johnson and her daughter	Meggie, Kristin & Melissa Winchell
Ken Kreutziger	
Murv Moore	
Julia Leney	Plus friends from
Jane Lynn	Boston Mobilization
Claire Pearmain	for Survival:
Warren Perry	
Chuck and Elsie Petty	Alex Cheney
Jesse Poutasse	Cecilia Duran
Duncan Poutasse	Pamela Mendelson
Cynthia Ritsher	Ann Riley
Stan Robinson	Brendon Quirk

Special thanks go to Mary White, Stephanie Scadding and Betty Viernes for the many hours they spent tracking and processing over 650 ticket sales.

And, of course, our thanks to Howard Zinn for generously contributing his time and sharing his insight in coming to speak to us.

You will find information on how to order a CD or video tape of Howard Zinn's talk on the next page.

70 Sustainers Build Strength, Independence for The Alliance

We send a huge "thank you" to our 70 sustaining members who contribute to the Alliance each month or quarter. These regular gifts are helping to build a solid, more reliable financial base for the Alliance and make us a true people's organization.

To become a sustainer, just pick up the phone and call Stef Scadding at AfD's national office, 781-894-1179 (weekdays) or Council Member, Sue Wheaton, 301-270-9038 (evenings, weekends) to make your tax-deductible monthly or quarterly pledge, which can be paid by check or credit card. △

Operation Round-Up

It is time to update the national memberships of our chapter members and invite others who may have been meaning to join the **Alliance** to finally take the plunge. We call this pre-convention effort **Operation Round-Up**.

A chapter's voting strength at the convention on roll call votes depends on its paid-up national membership. Rounding up our national members will bring our members' voting status up to date in time for our national convention in June, increase our numbers, raise funds especially needed now, and increase the number of national members who receive Alliance publications.

One can be a member of an Alliance chapter, but not a national member. To join the national Alliance, suggested annual dues are \$35 a year. If your chapter has the time and volunteer power to do a mailing to encourage people to join the national Alliance, you can send your chapter's full

database or list of participants in your chapter to the Waltham office. Stephanie Scadding, the Alliance's operations coordinator, will return your list noting who are currently paid-up national members and who are not.

If your chapter can't do a membership mailing, you may send your chapter list (with both members and nonmembers) to the Waltham office and we'll undertake to do a mailing for you. We'll check to see who's current and then send the nonmembers a letter inviting non-members to renew or join the national Alliance. To work with the national office on elements of the content, contact Kati Winchell at the national office.

Send your lists to us by email to people-sall@aol.com, by fax to 781-894-0279, Attention: Steph, or by regular mail, also Attn. Steph, to Alliance for Democracy, 681 Main St., Waltham MA 02451. △

Now Available

Videotapes & CDs of

Howard Zinn's talk - "Where Are We Heading? U.S. Foreign Policy, Terrorism, Global Security" introduction by Ronnie Dugger, Alliance for Democracy

[need description of what his talk was about here']

Videotape—\$15 each (shipping & handling included) CD—\$12 each (shipping & handling included)

Both video and cd are excellent, professional quality recordings of Zinn's talk given in Cambridge MA on February 10, 2002 at a benefit for the Alliance for Democracy.

The video is cable access-ready, so that you can ask your local cable access station to broadcast it.

Alliance for Democracy Convention Registration, 2002

Registration Fees

Postmarked	by May 17	After May 17
Single	\$125	\$150
Student	\$100	\$125
Couple	\$200	\$260
Daily Rate	\$40	\$40

Room and Board \$50 deposit required now, balance due on site.

Dormitory Style Rooms

Fri: ___ Sat: ___ Sun: ___

___ Double Occupancy:
(\$25 per person/per night x ___ nights = \$ _____)

___ Single Occupancy:
(\$35 per person /per night x ___ nights = \$ _____)

___ Meals: 9 meals (Fri: Dinner; Sat & Sun: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Mon: Breakfast and Lunch)...\$60.00

Room rates for Friday and Saturday nights. There may be slight increases for late reservations.

Some suites may be available. Meals can be purchased individually. Contact the office for information.

Registration Fee: (see above) \$ _____

Room & Meal Deposit (\$50 minimum) \$ _____

Day Rate:

\$40/day x ___ # of days \$ _____

Indicate Day: Sat ___ Sun ___

Contribution to the Scholarship Fund* \$ _____

Membership (New/Renewal)* \$ _____

Contribution to Alliance for Democracy* \$ _____

**Tax-deductible*

Total Payment \$ _____

Round Table Breakfast

___ I would like to host a Breakfast Round Table on:
(select day) ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ Mon

On this topic: _____

Name and Payment Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation(If Applicable) _____

Method of Payment

___ Check (Payable to Alliance for Democracy. Please write "Registration" in memo section of check)

___ VISA ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please Complete this form and return it with payment to Alliance for Democracy, Convention Registration, 681 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451

Visit our website

**<http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org>
or call, (781) 894-1179, for more information.**

Health Care Update Bulletin

A project of the Health Care Action Group, St. Louis region

The AfD Health Care Action Group from the St. Louis region is developing a Healthcare Update Bulletin to be produced several times a month. Our objectives are to provide information on current health care and to provide a forum for discussion for practical healthcare reform.

Information for these updates will be taken from Dr. Don McCanne's "Quote of the Day" email (he's national PNHP, Physicians for a National Health Program, president, please see example below) as well as content from a wide range of other print & online sources.

An example of Dr. McCanne's reflections regarding the "The Uninsured & Affordable Health Care Coverage" hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives, "But the most disconcerting feature of the hearings is that testimony was limited to incrementalism. The consensus, if you believe it, is that any single program of universal health care must be left off of the agenda. All parties have entered an implied agreement that we will meet in the center through incrementalism. ...The only agreement that they have reached is that they will keep single payer advocates out of the process."

Sound interesting? Ideas, reflection and discussions of this nature will be the subject of the AfD Health Care Action Group publication that you will receive once or twice monthly. If you are interested in health care and its reform, you will like our bulletin. Mail to the AfD Health Care Action Group Bulletin editors, Rick LaMonica at ricklmafd@earthlink.net or Toni Vafi at tonvaA@swbell.net.

We promise to keep you interested!



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Email: peoplesall@aol.com
www.thealliancefordemocracy.org

Publications Help Needed

Editor for *Alliance Alerts*

The Alliance needs a volunteer with experience with writing, editing, and producing to take over the editorship of the bimonthly Alliance Alerts. Ronnie Dugger, AfD's volunteer editor of publications, will continue producing Deep Democracy and will break in, or train, a new volunteer editor, but is too overworked to continue the hands-on writing and editing of both publications. Please contact Dugger at rdugger123@aol.com or 617-491-0975 (home) or 781-894-1179 afternoons (work).

Web Manager

Wanted, a dedicated, socially-conscious, and energetic member or volunteer to maintain our new website. The site was recently overhauled by a professional webmaster, Sam Corl, who would train the new person (via telephone and e-mail) to maintain the site, provided the person is committed to maintaining it for at least two years. Knowledge of html is preferred and experience with websites is a plus. Please contact Jim Ace at 510-601-6364 (home) or 510-763-7078 ext 313 (work), or at jamesace@earthlink.net.

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