

# BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy** July 2004

*We understand that Laura Bush opposes same-sex marriage. After all, she says, she's been trying to get George to do something different for 27 years.*

## ALLIANCE NEWS (Continued on Page 7)

### Chapter Calendar

### \* **Convention! Boston Social Forum!** \*

Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy yields its July meeting time to the national **Convention of the Alliance for Democracy (July 20-22)**, and to the **Boston Social Forum (July 23-25)**, at Simmons College, Boston, and UMass/Boston respectively. Turn to **Page 6** for program samples and registration information. **Please register!** You'll be glad you did!

BCA's next meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 August, at the Cambridge Friends Meeting. At that time people will report back from the Convention and Forum, and we'll consider next steps. Info: 617.266.8687

**North Bridge AfD** will also review the CV and the Forum in Lincoln MA, on 3 August. Info: Call 781.259.1173. **Seacoast AfD** will meet post-CV on 9 August in Kittery ME. Call 207.439.9804 or 436.7861. Ask about Progressive Picnic on 4-Tree Island, near downtown Portsmouth NH, August 14, 3-7pm.

## Saint George and the Book of Revelation

by Michael Ortiz Hill, *Counterpunch*, 4 January 2003

**W**e are lived by forces we scarcely understand," wrote W.H. Auden. What forces live us now as America again torques toward war?

George W. Bush is certainly the plaything of such forces as the geopolitics of oil but it seems that he is susceptible to other even darker archetypal concerns. Let me be blunt. The man is delusional and the shape of his delusion is specifically apocalyptic in belief and intent. That Bush would attack so many vital systems on so many fronts from foreign policy to the environment may seem confusing from the point of view of *realpolitik* but becomes transparent in terms of the apocalyptic worldview to which he subscribes. All systems are supposed to go down so the Messiah can come and Bush, seemingly, has taken on the role of the one who brings this to pass.

The Reverend Billy Graham taught Bush to live in anticipation of the Second Coming but it was his friendship with Dr. Tony Evans that shaped Bush's political understanding of how to deport himself in an apocalyptic era. Dr. Evans, (Continued on Page 6 >)



## Delay the Election? Really! Granny D is Dem Candidate for US Senate

*In a surprise move, Doris "Granny D" Haddock, 94, stepped into the breach after the campaign manager of the reputed Democratic candidate, state senator Burt Cohen, absconded with his campaign funds. She faces New Hampshire's Republican ex-governor Judd Gregg who seeks his third senate term.*

*Granny D is an Alliance for Democracy stalwart. Here is her instant comment on word that Bush is seeking legal ways to delay our November elections, should there be a "terrorist emergency". Following is Granny's candidate acceptance speech, followed by sarcasm (for your information) about Granny from The American Spectator—a billionaire Scaife-supported right-wing monthly.*

Dear Friends: July 11, 2004

**D** What we have feared most seems now to be happening. The following clippings should give a chill down every American's spine: The man in the White House, who has made a career of deception and power grabs, is maneuvering to delay the presidential elections.

The groundwork for this treachery was laid last week when the Administration suggested that Al Qaeda would target the conventions or the election. Certainly, no one has better access to the bin Laden family than the Bush family, so they just might know something.

But to delay the election? Really! If there is a concern, urge Americans to vote by mail. All the states are equipped to handle that. Why does that not occur to the Administration? It is a dark question, indeed.

Is there a real threat of terrorism, or is it an attempt to delay the election until Bush's numbers improve, and to get Americans to rally 'round the Commander in Chief? Or is it both? We would never dare ask such questions of any other president in our long history.

What must we do? First, call your Senator and your Representative first thing Monday, and call them all. Demand an investigation of what the Bush Administration knows about any possible attack. The Administration does not have our trust and must disclose what they know to (Continued on page 5 >)

## Senate Candidate's Announcement

**M**y name is Doris Haddock and I am a candidate for the U.S. Senate from New Hampshire.

While I am excited by the coming adventure of the campaign, I will tell you that I would be happier if there were a large group of younger community leaders willing to take to battle against the goliath of an incumbent.

While I am happy to step forward in the absence of other Democrats, I certainly do not do so as a sacrificial lamb. I am running to win. I am a realist, of course--but I am not a defeatist.

For those who may be concerned about my age, let me say that I have outlived most of the things that can kill me, and am good for another election or two. Nevertheless, I make my pledge right now to stick to one term, and I have the biological ability to follow through with that pledge, while Mr. Gregg, who, two elections ago, made a pledge to not run for a third term, has neither the ripe age nor, it seems, the willpower to deliver on his promise.

For those who may doubt my capacity to serve, let me assure them that, while I may struggle for the right word from time to time, I can yet string my words together somewhat better than even our current President. And, while I need glasses for some reading, I can see clearly the difference between a necessary war and an unnecessary war, and the difference between a balanced budget and a deficit. Most importantly, I can read the Constitution and its Bill of Rights very easily and clearly, and, when elected, I will do what so many others in today's Washington have not had the decency to do, and that is to abide by their oath to defend it.

I am running for the U.S. Senate against a good man, Judd Gregg, who has allowed himself to become an enabler of George Bush and his neo-con scourge now afflicting our nation and the world. I, Doris Haddock, am running so that our voters might at the very least send Mr. Gregg a message: that we expect our senators to represent common sense and the interests of our country and of our working people and children, even when to do so requires the courage to go against his party, and I am running to do a favor for my many Republican friends who are most uncomfortable with how far their once-venerable party has strayed--once a bastion of sensible federal spending and small business defense.

I am the angry grandmother of the New Hampshire family, come off my porch to ask young Judd what in the world he is thinking when he supports Bush's military misadventures, supports the transfer of billions of our tax dollars to billionaires, and supports the shipping of our jobs overseas with tax breaks that actually encourage this tragic loss. New Hampshire has financial problems because the tax dollars we pay--and we pay plenty--are being wasted in Washington instead of returned to our people, our schools, and our real security needs. Mr. Greg, I am not running to give you a scare; I am running to win, because I think almost anyone could do a better job than you of representing our American values and our New Hampshire needs, and I am almost anyone.

Mr. Gregg is a good and likeable fellow. As if he were a charming but troubled son-in-law, we do like the fellow but shake our heads at what he has done to the precious treasure we have entrusted to him.

How might I, in the U.S. Senate, serve New Hampshire--my birthplace and always my home?

We the people need a peace-loving government that protects us and our values by promoting peace and justice in the world. Terrorism is the twisted child of poverty and injustice, and we cannot buy our way or arm our way around that fact. We cannot support cruel dictators and expect otherwise. We must become energy independent so that we are free to pursue justice and not self-interest in the world's affairs. I will work for that. I applaud Mr. Gregg when he stands up for energy independence and for the environment, but I pledge to do more, and to move America toward responsible stewardship of our resources for our children's children, and for their children's children, which is the only true conservatism.

We the people need well-funded education for our children and the best health care for each other. School funding--a crisis not only in New Hampshire but in nearly every state--can be much relieved if we can get back more of the federal tax dollars we pay. And if Mr. Gregg would not enable the neo-cons to transfer so many billions to the billionaires, we could do so. If Mr. Gregg would work for more justice instead of more bombs, again we could do so, and pay for all the health care we need. I will vote to bring the resources back to the people who need them, who in fact provide them by their hard work and sufficient federal tax payments.

The largest con of the 20th and 21st Centuries is the globalization of the workforce. If we need a new chair and our neighbor, the woodworker, needs work, what in hell are we doing at Wal-Mart buying a chair made three oceans away? We need to encourage the localization not globalization of the economy--and thereby strengthen it and humanize it. Our political leaders have failed us monstrously in this matter, as more and more of our jobs, and more and more members our middle class, have been sold down the ocean. Mr. Gregg, though he is a fine looking man and a good New Hampshireite, should be ashamed of his role in this ongoing destruction of America's economic base--a loss to every family.

Look at our beautiful state--its waters, its air, its great forests and mountains--and, oh, it's people! We do not need much to live well here. We need to be left alone in matters where our freedom overrules government meddling. We need to join together in matters where joint action can create great resources for our children and each other. We of this Granite State are blessed with common sense and a high sense of community. I should be most honored to represent these things of ours in Washington, and let them see what flint we are made of when they try to take away our peace, our justice and our common treasure.

But it is not enough to elect our representatives so that they might stop bad things from happening. They must have a vision for the future of their people. That should be what every campaign is about. It shall certainly be so with mine. #

## New Hampshire Water: The Fix Is In Enviro Board OKs Corporate Takings

by Denise Hart, *Save Our Groundwater*, 3 July 2004

**T**ime's short since the state granted USA Springs, Inc. a large groundwater withdrawal permit to extract more than 307,000 gal/day from our local aquifer.

On July 2 (yes, right before the holiday weekend, as some predicted) our state issued a large groundwater withdrawal permit to USA Springs, Inc. to pump more than 307,000 gal/day from our aquifer once certain conditions are met.

The Dept. of Environmental Services had quite a roll-out, complete with press release and a telephone conference press briefing. No email updates were sent to interested parties, as has been the DES past practice. We learned about it when one of our board members was contacted by a reporter for comment before it was even posted on the DES website.

This is after three years of staunch community resistance; a pump test that drew volatile organic compounds, a carcinogen, further into the aquifer; a denial last August based on 27 findings, each of which was deemed sufficient to deny the permit; and a denial of the company's appeal in December 2003.

A concerned resident wrote to me over the weekend asking, "What changed?" Well, we have a new pro-business governor, we've had three commissioners of the state's Dept. of Environmental Services, the last two hand-picked by the new governor Craig Benson (who is running for re-election this fall), the company hired a sitting state legislator of the governor's political party (Republican) to represent them, and who knows what else.

What has really changed, as I think about this on Independence Day weekend, is the state of democracy in our country. It is no longer about by the people and for the people, if it ever was. It is no longer about people having a voice in their government and control over their local communities. It is about everyone filling their pockets with dollars in that most ancient theme of human history: greed.

But there is another story I also think about today, and that is the story of water. Here since life began and essential to all life. When I think like water, I remember that water moves stone, slowly, steadily, without haste, gently flowing, singing along its way. And eventually, the stone crumbles under water.

We too shall prevail. Not just SOG, but all of us engaged in protecting water for all life. NH law provides for 30 days to appeal this decision and rest assured that the towns involved and SOG will be considering our options in the days ahead. The company has yet to gain the Town of Nottingham's Planning Board approval to build their bottling plant, but that too is under a siege of attorneys, demanding that people recuse themselves. The next planning board meeting is 7/14, so stay tuned.

Your support and encouragement during this time is most appreciated.

If anyone would like to send a letter to local newspapers, I would recommend *The Union Leader* and *Foster's Daily Democrat*, the two with the largest circulation in our state.

You can read the permit itself and the 80-page decision at:  
<<http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/usasprings.htm>> #

## US Armada to Assemble in China Sea NeoCons Risk Military and Economic Ruin

by Chalmers Johnson, *Japan Policy Research Institute*

Quietly and with minimal reportage in the American press, the U.S. Navy has just announced that in mid-July through August it will hold "Operation Summer Pulse 04" in waters off the China coast near Taiwan. It will be the first time in U.S. naval history that seven of our twelve carrier strike groups (CSGs) will deploy in one place at the same time.

It is hard to imagine what an armada this will be (or what it will cost). At a minimum, a single CSG includes the aircraft carrier itself (usually with nine to ten squadrons of about 70 aircraft), a guided-missile cruiser, two guided missile destroyers, an attack submarine, and a combination ammunition, oiler, and supply ship. Normally the United States uses only one or at the most two CSG's to show the flag in a troubled spot. In a combat situation it deploys three or four, as it did for both the first and second wars with Iraq. But seven in one place is unheard of. It's the peacetime equivalent of the Normandy landings.

Which only goes to show that our foreign policy is increasingly made by the Pentagon. Of all the money the United States spends on foreign affairs, 93% is controlled by the Department of Defense and only 7% by the State Department. The various regional commanders, CENTCOM for the Middle East, PACOM for the Pacific, SOUTHCOM for Latin America, and so forth, have ambassadors reporting to them. Even the current secretary of state for only the third time in our history is a military officer – former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell (his two predecessors were George C. Marshall and Al Haig).

Operation Summer Pulse 04 was almost surely dreamed up at the Pearl harbor headquarters of PACOM commander Adm. Thomas B. Fargo and then rubber stamped in the Pentagon. It is doubtful that Congress was even consulted. The seven aircraft carriers that are assembling to impress the Chinese are the Norfolk-based USS George Washington, USS Harry S. Truman, and the USS Enterprise, the San Diego-based USS John C. Stennis, the Japan-based USS Kittyhawk, the Florida-based USS John F. Kennedy, and the soon-to-be San Diego-based USS Ronald Reagan, now on its maiden voyage to the Pacific. According to Chinese reports, Taiwanese ships will join their American colleagues in this modern rerun of nineteenth-century gunboat diplomacy.

Needless to say, the Chinese are not amused. They say that they are currently capable of taking on one or two CSGs, but that combat with seven would overwhelm them. The result is that they have embarked on a crash project to meet and defeat seven U.S. carrier strike groups within a decade.

There's every chance they will succeed. China is easily the fastest growing big economy on earth, with a growth rate of 9.1% last year. On June 28, the BBC reported that China had overtaken the United States as the world's biggest recipient of foreign direct investment. China attracted \$53 billion worth of



new factories in 2003, whereas the U.S. took in only \$40 billion, India \$4 billion, and Russia a measly \$1 billion.

Instead of trying to intimidate China with our navy, we should be trying to adjust to China's commitment to peaceful commerce. If left alone by American militarists, China will almost surely, over time, become a democracy on the same pattern as that of South Korea and Taiwan (both of which had U.S.-sponsored military dictatorships until the late 1980s).

Our military fanatics and neo-conservative ideologues know this and appear to be trying to precipitate a confrontation with China. If they are successful, the results are all too predictable: we will halt China's march away from communism and militarize its leadership, bankrupt ourselves, split Japan over whether to renew aggression against China, and lose the war -- just as we lost our war against Vietnam and are in the process of losing the one in Iraq. We will also earn the lasting enmity of the oldest and most populous nation on earth.

*Chalmers Johnson's latest book is The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic (2004).*

## LETTERS

### Go! Granny, Go!

Granny D is an inspiration to us all. Registering women to vote in Florida, she entered a brothel ("they are working women after all") and left some with a new proud sense of self, as registered voters. I was pleased to support her. Thanks to Lou Hammann and the *Dispatch* for the alert. And now New Hampshire—you have a chance to elect this principled, iron-willed visionary to the US Senate. Go Granny Go!

p.s.: North Idaho is gorgeous, the Republicans' state salted with progressives. Southern Poverty Law Center quashed the neo-Nazis, but independence rings strong, e.g., folks off the grid. Tall tales of an overeager Fed who wanted to raid the ladies' gardens for poppies. "He'll be shot and composted" they swore. Mine are deep red and stunning.

—Jean Maryborn, Sandpoint, Idaho (formerly BCA and Mass. Bay South)

### Group Dynamics that Work for Young and Old

Hi Dave and everyone,

I am very sorry for not being in touch earlier. I can't speak for everyone, but knowing Ernesto, Stacey, and Suzy, I know we all lead very busy lives that can easily get overwhelmed. I know for myself, I have wanted to respond thoughtfully to your emails and haven't had the time or space to do it adequately. But I realize it has been a LONG time and so I am just going to go ahead...

I appreciate your follow-through and the offer of helping send us to that retreat/conference. It looks really great and some people may be interested (I'll be in Israel at that time).

One thing I want to be clear about is a dynamic that often happens around mainstream and marginalized groups where oppressive dynamics are brought up (a.k.a. adultism, only certain people speaking, etc.) and the mainstream group expects the marginalized group to be the educators. This reinforces an oppressive dynamic because it is the group with more power expecting the group with less power to give their time, creativity, and energy to them. As I recall, I don't think Ernesto encouraged

us to meet again—I can't speak for him, but I think he wanted to leave things on a more positive note.

At the meeting we were at [19 May; see June *Dispatch*, p.7], my main goal was to open that Pandora's box so that people would start questioning the way that they were with each other and expose some of the dynamics that were present. It is in grappling with the questions that so much of the learning is done. I also don't think all of the dynamics were about age—I think there is also race, class, and gender dynamics, but more so, I think there is a culture of, as Suzy so bravely put it "talking heads." It wasn't just that you weren't listening to US, you didn't seem to really listen to EACH OTHER. I saw people zoning out, not making eye contact, and there was not a strong sense of "community."

I think one of the ways that the young people in the room do it differently is that we really try to LISTEN and HEAR one another, assume that we all bring wisdom and experience to the table, regardless of age, race, class, whatever. Meetings aren't just about saying what's wrong with the world, but taking a chewable piece and figuring out what we can do to make it better in our local communities and consider what it takes to work across barriers.

I think what your group could benefit from is some kind of oppression and community-building training. I know groups, organizations, and facilitators who could be helpful if you are interested. I want to be clear that just because we (the young people) brought up the concerns does not make it our responsibility to be the educators. But I do think it is very important to learn how to work together and in solidarity and not just walk away. So, what I can offer is some great resources that have helped me along my journey.

Thank you for your commitment.

—Stefanie [Archer], 22 June 2004



the bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee immediately.

Second, call your voter registration office and order your ballot by mail. If it is too early to order your general election ballot, make a note of the proper date and put it on your calendar.

Third, listen to the call-in radio shows in your town. Even if they are right wing shows, call in and voice your concern. Use the mail-in ballot issue.

Fourth, write a letter to the editor of your paper, and send it in by email.

Fifth, sign up to MoveOn and other orgs that may be in a position to move people to action quickly. Keep an eye on ACLU websites and my own, <http://GrannyD.com> (look for the October Surprise link for more info as it is available.)

Sincerely, *Doris "Granny D" Haddock*

## Walk This Way Right-Wing Columnist Tries to Laugh Granny Off

by Shawn Macomber, *American Spectator*, 24 June 2004

**D**oris Haddock, a.k.a. Granny D., the craggy 94-year-old woman who back when she was 89 walked across the country for a year and then continuously around the Capitol building for seven days to show solidarity with the purveyors of "campaign finance reform," is now looking for a reserved seat in that building. That's right, Granny D. wants to be New Hampshire's next senator, which would make her Senator D., or Senator Granny or, well, something like that. Incumbent Judd Gregg must be marveling at his luck.

Granny D. hasn't decided whether she's going to embark on any new treks during the campaign, although she won't rule it out. She speaks in bumper sticker soundbites so simplistic even most Gen-Xers wouldn't slap them on the backs of their Hondas. Decked out in a straw hat, face decorated with uneven, inch-thick swaths of lipstick, her mug is constantly in a state of scowl. She looks like she's always walking into a room that smells terrible.

In short, alas, she is not a serious candidate. All she can do for the Democratic Party is turn the election into a sideshow circus, which seems to be the only way Democrats know how to get their "message" across these days.

GREGG KICKED OFF HIS reelection campaign facing not a frail old lady, but rather a politically limp liberal. Burt Cohen is a State Senate fixture in New Hampshire who only narrowly beat a Republican opponent in 2002, when the opponent didn't even bother to campaign. Covering that 2002 race for a local newspaper, I once accompanied Cohen as he was canvassing a neighborhood. At the first house we visited, he burst in to tears at the sight of the owner's dog.

Cohen apologized, saying his own dog had passed away a couple years back and that he was overcome with emotion. After handing the confused folks a pamphlet, we moved on. I remember thinking, This guy's won six terms in the State Senate?

There isn't a single person I know in New Hampshire politics who was anything other than baffled by Cohen's challenge to Gregg. Recent polls put the Republican senator's favorability

rating at 73 percent among Republicans, and 47 percent among Democrats. His campaign war chest quickly grew to four times the size of Cohen's and the election showed all the early signs of an old-fashioned stomping.

And then tragicomedy struck the weepy Democrat. Cohen's campaign manager went missing with a couple hundred thousand dollars of campaign funds, on the very day Cohen was set to file his intentions with the New Hampshire Secretary of State. The FEC promptly flooded the state with investigators, leaving the candidate with no choice but to withdraw and get a good lawyer.

"The best way to describe last week's collapse of Burt Cohen's bid for the U.S. Senate might be to call it a mercy killing," the Foster's Daily Democrat editorialized. But this created a problem for Cohen's party. Since the fallen candidate was the only "serious Democrat" in the state (and in New Hampshire we use that term lightly) willing to take on Gregg, they had one day to find a patsy. So they offered up Granny D., a kooky exhibitionist if there ever was one.

Granny D. spent most of the past year touring the country in a camper painted up like a 1960s Volkswagen bus, a pirate flag fluttering off the back antenna. "Go Granny Go" and "Vote Dammit!" were her rallying cries as she went from town to town, badgering people with jobs and feeding alligators. Before she got on her own rig, she rode with Dennis Kucinich.

Democrats, staying true to their creed of "Every One A Victim," are trying to sell Granny D. the only way they know how, as a poor "great-grandmother living on Social Security" ... and the royalties from two best-selling books (Granny D.: *Walking Across America in my Ninetieth Year* and *Granny D.: You're Never Too Old to Raise a Little Hell*). How many poor old people do you know with their own brand names?

FOR HER PART in this circus, Candidate D. is planning to run on a Michael Mooreish platform. "We are being owned by the corporations and special interests," she told the AP. "We pay enough taxes so that all of us should be taken care of and yet we the people are not being taken care of."

She also promises to highlight issues that have been losers for Democrats in the Granite State for years: increased spending on welfare, socialized health-care, and pouring more taxpayer dollars into the blackened vortex of the government-run education system. And she brags about Al Gore mentioning her name at the 2000 Democratic Convention.

This, she says, is raising "a little hell," but it looks more like a good cross promotion. She just happened to draw her campaign slogan from the title of her latest book? We're supposed to believe this old gal isn't down with capitalism?

Kathy Sullivan, head of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, is telling folks that Granny D. is going to attract Nader voters and help Kerry in the state and the candidate has insisted that she's not just some "sacrificial lamb" paper candidate. This seems more than a bit of a stretch and, really, misses the point. Behind Granny D.'s folksiness, her well-publicized walks, her jabbering-like-a-magpie sloganeering, and her trademark grimace, listen closely for a bell and a metallic scrape. That's the sound of a cash register doing decent business. #

the pastor of a large Dallas church and a founder of the Promise Keepers movement taught Bush about "how the world should be seen from a divine viewpoint," according to Dr. Martin Hawkins, Evans assistant pastor.

S.R. Shearer of Antipas Ministries writes, "Most of the leaders of the Promise Keepers embrace a doctrine of 'end time' (eschatology), known as 'dominionism'. Dominionism pictures the seizure of earthly (temporal) power by the 'people of God' as the only means through which the world can be rescued.... It is the eschatology that Bush has imbibed; an eschatology through which he has gradually (and easily) come to see himself as an agent of God who has been called by him to 'restore the earth to God's control', a 'chosen vessel', so to speak, to bring in the Restoration of All Things." Shearer calls this delusion "Messianic leadership", that is to say, usurping the role usually ascribed to the Messiah.

In *Bush at War* Bob Woodward writes, "Most presidents have high hopes. Some have grandiose visions of what they will achieve, and he was firmly in that camp."

"To answer these attacks and rid the world of evil," says Bush. And again, "We will export death and violence to the four corners of the earth in defense of this great nation." Grandiose visions. Woodward comments, "The president was casting his mission and that of the country in the grand vision of God's Master Plan."

In dominionism we can see the theological source of Bush's monomania. Not to be distracted by the fact that he lost the popular election by half a million votes, that the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon were so concerned about his plans to invade Iraq that they leaked their unanimous objection, that he has systematically alienated much of the world, that roughly seventy percent of Americans remain unconvinced of the imminent threat of Saddam Hussein and the same percentage object to war if there will be significant American casualties—none of this is in the least relevant. He believes his mandate toward action is from God.

As humans we live within stories. Some stories, like apocalypse, are thousands of years old. The scripted text that informs Bush's understanding of and enactment of the End of Days (*Revelation 19*) depicts Christ returning as the Heavenly Avenger. *Revelation* is the only New Testament book that justifies violence of any kind, and this it takes to the limit: Christ himself the agent of mass murder.

*"I saw heaven open and there before me was a white horse who is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war...He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is the word of God...Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the Nations. And I saw an angel standing in the sun who cried in a low voice to all the birds flying in midair—come gather together for the great supper of God, so you may eat the flesh of kings, generals and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."*

Such is "the glory of the coming of the Lord." Truth, carnage, and the ecstasy of vultures. In a ruined world the Messiah slays the antichrist and creates "a new heaven and a new earth." The dead are judged, the Christians saved and the rest damned to eternal torment. The New Jerusalem is established and the Lord

rules it "with an iron scepter."

It is not inconceivable that Bush is literally and determinedly drawn, consciously and unconsciously, toward the enactment of such a scenario, as he believes, for God's sake. Indeed the stark relentlessness of his policy in the Middle East suggests as much.

It dishonors the profundity of the Christian tradition if one doesn't note that *Revelation* has always been a rogue text. Because of its association with the Montanist heresy (which like contemporary fundamentalists took it to be literal rather than allegorical) it was with great reluctance that it was made scripture three centuries after the death of Christ. Traditionally attributed to St. John, most Biblical scholars now recognize its literary style and its theology has little in common with John's gospel or his epistles and was likely written after his death. Martin Luther found the vindictive God of *Revelation* incompatible with the gospels and relegated it to the appendix of his German translation of the New Testament instead of the body of scripture. All the Protestant reformers except Calvin regarded apocalyptic millennialism to be heresy.

But *Revelation* is also a rogue text because it is unmoored from its origins, which are far from Christian. It is a late variant on a story that was pervasive in the ancient world: the defeat of the wild and the uncivilized by a superior order upon which a New World would be established. Two thousand years before *Revelation* depicted Christ slaying the antichrist and laying out the New Jerusalem, Marduk slayed Tiamat and founded Babylon.

This pagan myth recycled as a suspiciously unchristian Biblical text found new credence in the 19th century when John Darby virtually revived the Montanist heresy of investing it with a passionate literalism. Given to visions (he saw the British as one of the ten tribes of Israel) Darby left the priesthood of the Church of Ireland and preached *Revelation* as both prophecy and imminent history. In this he inaugurated a lineage in which Bush's mentors, the Reverend Billy Graham and Dr. Tony Evans are recent heirs. *Revelation* is much beloved by Muslim fundamentalists, and like their Christian compatriots they also thrill to redemption through apocalypse. Jewish fundamentalists of course do not believe in *Revelation* but have nonetheless made common cause with the Christian Right. "It's a very tragic situation in which Christian fundamentalists, certain groups of them that focus on Armageddon and the Rapture and the role of a war between Muslims and Jews in bringing about the Second Coming, are involved in a *folie a deux* with extremist Jews," said Ian Lustick, the author of *For the Land and the Lord: Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel*. The Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition (and yes it is a single tradition) is being led by its fringe into the abyss and the rest of us with it.

The world has been readied for the fire but the critical element is the Bush Administration. Never in the history of Christendom has there been a moment when this rogue element has carried anything like the credibility and political power that it carries now.

A second edition of Hill's *Dreaming the End of the World*, with a new foreword by the author, is forthcoming. [michaelortizhill@earthlink.net](mailto:michaelortizhill@earthlink.net)



## The Alliance Convention is Here! Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday, July 20-22.

Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston. Info: 781-894-1179

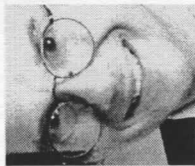
Theme: "POWER & DEMOCRACY" JUST SHOW UP!

**Tue** 4pm–8+pm: Registration (\$15-30), dinner (7pm), visiting, video, arts  
**Wed** 9am–9:30pm: Greetings (Granny D), music; Popular Educ (basic), Popular Educ (advanced), Local/Chapter/Network projects; dinner; evening forum on Curing a Stolen Election (see ad below—free to public), music.  
**Thu** 8:55am–9pm: Alternate AfD business and continued workshops from yesterday and beyond, action circles, recap; music, evening forum on Regime Change at Home (see ad below—free to public), music.



**TWO** evening events brought to you by the Alliance for Democracy **WEDNESDAY** "THE ELECTION CAN BE STOLEN in November: PREVENTION AND CURE" a distinguished panel\* and public discussion; music by **TOM NEILSON**

**THURSDAY** **CHARLES DERBER** discusses his latest book "REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME: FREEING AMERICA FROM CORPORATE RULE," and related topics; music by **DAVID ROVICS**



\* **Election Panel:** Alice Copeland Brown veteran software engineer for US agencies **Stuart Comstock-Gay** executive director of National Voting Rights Institute **Ronnie Dugger** journalist and biographer, definitive writer on electronic voting **Jonathan Simon** lawyer, former political survey and exit poll analyst **Ben Scotch** civil rights lawyer, Vermonters for Voting Integrity advocate **Moderator: Dave Lewit**

**FREE**

ALLIANCE FOR  
DEMOCRACY

## Boston Social Forum is Here! Friday–Saturday–Sunday, July 23-25

UMass, UMB/JFK stop on Red Line+shuttle, Boston. Info: 617-338-9966

Detailed information: [www.boston-socialforum.org](http://www.boston-socialforum.org)

Theme: "ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE" n=3000 IT'S A ZOO!  
**Fri** 1pm–midnight: } Big-Name convocation speakers daily, panels,  
**Sat** 8am–7:30+ } workshops, seminars, lectures, films, music, street  
**Sun** 8am–4:30 } theater, hanging out/networking/convergences.

Education, Visioning, Training, Organizing for Action.

537 scheduled events (see [boston-socialforum.org](http://boston-socialforum.org), click on "program") on Democracy, Environment, Water, Localization, Strategic Nonviolence, Media, Other Economies, Challenging Corporate Power, Movement Building, Labor & New England Economy, Faith, Women, Immigration, etc.—29 tracks altogether.

A FEW EDITOR'S PICKS—

### Participatory Budgeting: Brazil & New England.

How democratic is your town's/city's/county's budget? The Workers Party (PT) with now-president Lula has led Brazil's way to mass participatory democracy. Participatory city budgeting may model the way for North American cities as well. This panel will discuss how local public funds are appropriated and distributed in contemporary USA as well as the 14-year Brazilian experiment. Moderator: Dave Lewit Panelists:

Maria Aguiar (Grassroots International; Brazil)  
 Dorothy Kelly Gay (former mayor of Somerville MA)  
 Jane Knodell (Uof Vt economist, former chair—Burlington Vt city council)  
 Paulo de Marck (Landless Workers Movement [MST], Brazil)  
 Ned Perry (moderator, Concord MA town meeting)

### Historical Context of Democracy in the U.S.

Alex Keyssar, Harvard U., Charles Derber of Boston College, Nancy Murray, ACLU, and Representative Dennis Kucinich, moderated by Nancy Price, Co-chair of Alliance for Democracy, will analyze several myths about the nature of American democracy, including: the notion that we were a democratic nation beginning early in our history, the idea that all Americans have embraced democratic values and that our electoral institutions were designed to give expression to the popular will. Other components: —Vision of founders & their concerns about concentrations of corporate power —The up-hill struggle i.e. thru the populist's era and FDR —Bill of Rights as a tangible —The status and challenge today

### Global Classroom—Portraits of a Rain Forest: A visual expedition into the heart of the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica

MEG WINCHELL AND COLIN GARLAND provide insight into an environmental "Eco-Action" service program run entirely by volunteers. If you are ready to get out there in the world and make a difference this is a gathering you should not miss. Join master animal tracker, wildlife photographer, conservationist, environmental educator and world traveler Colin Garland as he tracks big cats, records endangered quetzals and hands suspended from the canopy in search of the world's smallest orchid. Join them as that take on the task of putting "ECO" back into eco-travel.

### Politics, Money And The Environment

SHELDON KRIMSKY, Tufts U. Dept Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning; KEVIN KNOBLOCK, Union of Concerned Scientists; and GAYLAN NELSON, Commonwealth Coalition will present and discuss —The Misuse of Science—The corporate capture of academic science and its impact on environmental health —Suppression and Distortion of Research Findings at Federal Agencies.—Undermining the Quality and Integrity of the Appointment Process —Junk science movement and-the Chemical Industry-Government-University complex.

## Other Forums.....

\***VETERANS FOR PEACE.** July 22-25 Emerson College, Boston. Daniel Ellsberg, Dennis Kucinich, Howard Zinn, Chuck Turner, etc, etc, Harbor Cruise Thu eve. Info: 617-782-2313 or Paul Brailsford 508-846-3576

\***FANEUIL HALL.** 10am-2pm Tuesday, 27 July (during Dem Convention) "Addressing National & Global Crises" w Ronnie Dugger, Ross Gelbspan, Amy Goodman, Walden Bello, etc.—What we can do! Info: 401-724-3141

## ACTION ALERTS

CHOICES! CHOICES! MANY EVENTS BELOW CONFLICT WITH AfD Convention, BSF, and each other!...Bon Appétit!

Opens July 16. Cambridge. Film: "The Corporation" The pathological pursuit of profit and power. A documentary about the corporation as predatory virtual psychopath. "Dense, complicated, thought-provoking" with bits from **Michael Moore, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Howard Zinn and Milton Friedman.** 145 minutes. Kendall Sq Theater (Behind MIT) 617-499-1996.

Tue-Wed-Thu, 20-22 July. Boston. **Alliance for Democracy, Convention.** See details Page 7.

Wed, July 21, 7:15-9:30. Boston. "The Election Can Be Stolen in November: Prevention and Cure". With distinguished panel. See display ad Page 7.

Thu. 22 July. 7-9pm. Boston. "The Color of War" Economic, environmental, and human cost of the war system; recruitment of youth of color; conscientious objection to military service. With **Meizu Lui** (United for a Fair Economy), **Horace Small** (Union of Minority Neighborhoods), **Chuck Turner** (Boston City Councilor), **Ibrahim Ramey** (National Disarmament Program, Fellowship of Reconciliation [sponsor]). At office: Union of Minority Neighborhoods, 21 Fellows St, Roxbury MA (3 blocks from Roxbury Crossing stop on Orange Line T. Info: 617-541-4111.

Thu, July 22, 7:30-9pm. Boston. "Regime Change Begins at Home: Freeing America from Corporate Rule" with author **Charlie Derber.** See display ad Page 7.

Thu-Sun, July 22-25. Boston. **Veterans for Peace Convention** (you don't need to be a veteran to attend). See bottom Page 7.

Fri-Sat-Sun, 23-25 July. Boston. **Boston Social Fourm.** See details Page 7.

Mon-Fri, 26-30 July. Boston. **Democratic National Convention.** Delegates are invited to forum at Faneuil Hall, Tuesday 10am-2pm. See bottom Page 7. Watch for notices of outdoor demonstrations.

Tue. 27 July, 10am-2pm. Boston. "Addressing National and Global Crises" See bottom Page 7.

Tue. 27 July, 12:30pm. Cambridge. **US Senator Robert C. Byrd.** "Losing America: Confronting A Reckless and Arrogant Presidency" Introduced and accompanied by Sen. Edward Kennedy and Gen. Wesley Clark.

Wed. Jul 28, 3-8pm. Boston. Rally to **Ban the Bioterrorism Lab!** Let's call for money for public health, not biowarfare research! No more imposing unwanted facilities on lower income communities and communities of color!! Music, performance and more!! Info: [Stopbioterrorlab@ace-ej.org](mailto:Stopbioterrorlab@ace-ej.org). Blackstone Park, Washington St. and W. Brookline St, South End.

## Everything For Sale

**A** mid-level executive was so frustrated at being passed over for promotion year after year, that, in frustration, he went to a brain-transplant center in the hope of raising his I.Q. 20 points.

After a battery of physical and psychological tests, the center's director told him that he was an acceptable candidate.

"That's great!" the executive said. "But I understand that this procedure can be really expensive."

"Yes, sir, it can," the director replied. "An ounce of accountant's brain for example, costs one thousand dollars; an ounce of an economist's brain costs two thousand; an ounce of a corporate president's is forty-five thousand. An ounce of a politicians brain is seventy-five thousand dollars."

"Seventy-five thousand dollars for an ounce of a politicians brain? Why on earth is that?"

"Do you have any idea," the director asked, "how many politicians we would have to kill?"

—Guerilla Traffic, Toronto



## JOIN THE BCA

### YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children -- Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out this form and send it to:

Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St. #2h, Boston, MA 02116.)  
**BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE**

\_\_\_ \$26/Year - "Count me in!"

\_\_\_ \$52/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)

\_\_\_ \$104/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)

\_\_\_ \$208/Year - "Community Steward"

\_\_\_ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision!"

\_\_\_ What's fair for YOU? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street, No./Box/Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

Town and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## COLOPHON

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