

BCA Dispatch

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

Haumikole! (Hello my friend!)

Mitaku Oyasini! (We are all related!)

—Lakota web site

CHAPTER NEWS (Continued on page 8)

AS WE GO TO PRESS, our next joint meeting with North Bridge is one day off. The main agenda item is assessing and planning an event, possibly in the Massachusetts State House, to promote our languishing Globalization Impact Bill (GIB). This act would set up a commission to scrutinize trade agreements like NAFTA and SPP, and proposed agreements, and advise us and our legislators what features are not acceptable—how the agreement might hurt our state laws, economy, labor conditions, resources, environment, rights, and national sovereignty. We would then have a challenge of non-cooperation with federal policies and agents, and of cooperation with other states.

The so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) is transforming our tax money into a huge, corporate infrastructure for more consumption and petroleum use, with loss of land, rights, and local and alternative initiatives. It also carries “security” arrangements allowing the combined armies and national police of the US, Canada, and Mexico at their discretion to screen visitors and immigrants for possible internment.

Alliance activists will meet again early in February, and more often in working groups, e.g., to ensure March SPP/GIB events, including some kind of collaboration with Global Exchange, which will have speakers in New England March 9-17.

Call Barbara Clancy at the Alliance’s Waltham office for details of meetings and how you can participate: 781-894-1179, or the *Dispatch* editor. Ask Barbara also about other issues.

Tell us your e-mail address to keep you informed of all this.

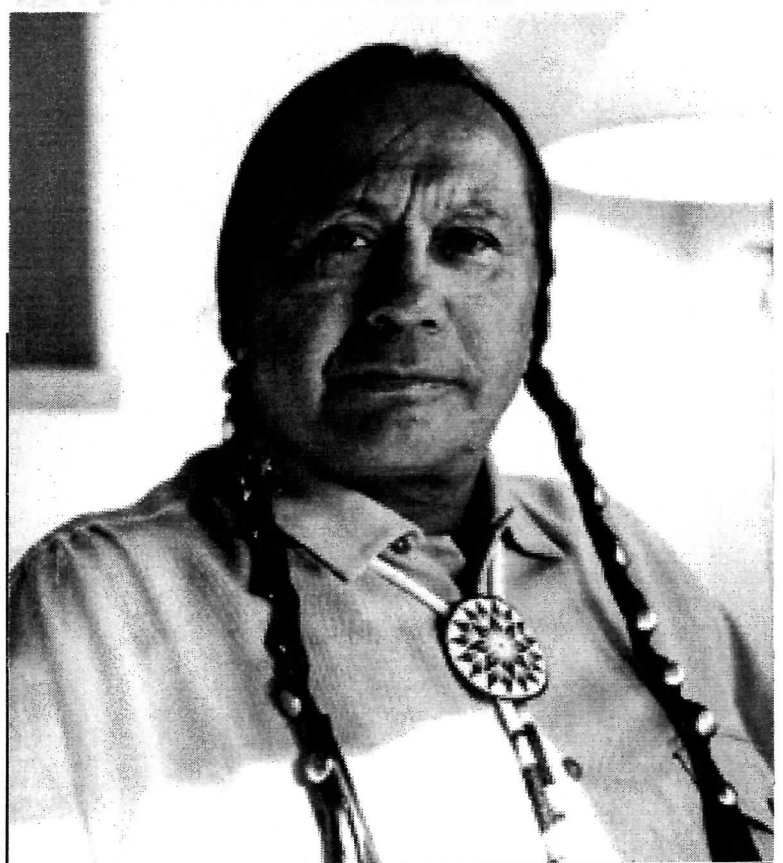
Court-Martial Bush and Cheney! Military Officers’ Oath Requires It

Duty, Honor, Country 2007: An Open Letter to the New Generation of Military Officers Serving and Protecting Our Nation
by *Robert M. Bowman, thePatriots.us, Sept 2007*

Dear Comrades in Arms,

YOU ARE FACING CHALLENGES IN 2007 that we of previous generations never dreamed of. I’m just an old fighter pilot (101 combat missions in Vietnam, F-4 Phantom, Phu Cat, 1969-1970) who’s now a disabled veteran with terminal cancer from Agent Orange. Our mailing list (over 22,000) includes veterans from all branches of the service, all political parties, and all parts of the political spectrum. We are Republicans and Democrats, Greens and Libertarians, Constitutionists and Reformers, and a good many Independents.

What unites us is our desire for a government that (1) follows the Constitution, (2) honors the truth, and (3) serves the people. We see our government going down the (Continued on page 2 >>)



Russell Means, Oglala Lakota patriot

Lakota Sioux Secede From U.S.

“Individual Freedom w Community Control”

by *Bill Harlan, Rapid City Journal (SD), 21 Dec 2007*

POLITICAL ACTIVIST RUSSELL MEANS, A FOUNDER of the American Indian Movement, says he and other members of Lakota tribes have renounced treaties and are withdrawing from the United States. “We are now a free country and independent of the United States of America,” Means said in a telephone interview. “This is all completely legal.”

Means said a Lakota delegation on Monday delivered a statement of “unilateral withdrawal” from the United States to the U.S. State Department in Washington. The State Department did not respond. “That’ll take some time,” Means said.

Meanwhile, the delegation has delivered copies of the letter to the embassies of Bolivia, Venezuela, Chile, and South Africa. “We’re asking for recognition,” Means said, adding that Ireland and East Timor are “very interested” in the declaration.

Other countries will get copies of the same declaration, which Means said also would be delivered to the United Nations and to state and county governments covered by treaties, including treaties signed in 1851 and 1868. “We’re willing to negotiate with any American political entity,” Means said.

The United States could face international pressure if it doesn’t agree to negotiate, Means said. “The United State of America is an outlaw nation, we now know. We’ve understood that as a people for 155 years.”

Means also said his group would file liens on property in parts of South Dakota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming that were illegally homesteaded.

The Web site for the declaration, *LakotaFreedom.com* briefly crashed Thursday as wire services picked up the story and the server was overwhelmed, Means said.

Delegation member Phyllis Young said (Continued on Page 3>>)

wrong path all too often ignoring military advice, and heading us toward great danger. And we look to you who still serve as the best hope for protecting our nation from disaster.

We see the current Iraq War as having been unnecessary, entered into under false pretenses, and horribly mismanaged by the civilian authorities. Thousands of our brave troops have been needlessly sacrificed in a futile attempt at occupation of a hostile land. Many more thousands have suffered wounds which will change their lives forever. Tens of thousands have severe psychological problems because of what they have seen and what they have done. Potentially hundreds of thousands could be poisoned by depleted uranium, with symptoms appearing years later, just as happened to us exposed to Agent Orange.

The military services are depleted and demoralized. The VA system is under-funded and overwhelmed. The National Guard and Reserves have been subjected to tour after tour, disrupting lives for even the lucky ones who return intact. Jobs have been lost, marriages have been destroyed, homes have been foreclosed, and children have been estranged. And for what? We have lost allies, made new enemies, and created thousands of new terrorists, further endangering the American people.

But you know all this. I'm sure you also see the enormous danger in a possible attack on Iran, possibly with nuclear weapons. Such an event, seriously contemplated by the Cheney faction of the Bush administration, would make enemies of Russia and China and turn us into the number one rogue nation on earth. The effect on our long-term national security would be devastating.

Some of us had hoped that the new Democratic Congress would end the occupation of Iraq and take firm steps to prevent an attack on Iran, perhaps by impeaching Bush and Cheney. These hopes have been dashed. The lily-livered Democrats have caved in, turning their backs on those few (like Congressman Jack Murtha) who understand the situation. Many of us have personally walked the halls of Congress, to no avail.

This is where you come in.

We know that many of you share our concern and our determination to protect our republic from an arrogant, out-of-control, imperial presidency and a compliant, namby-pamby Congress (both of which are unduly influenced by the oil companies and other big-money interests). We know that you (like us) wouldn't have pursued a military career unless you were idealistic and devoted to our nation and its people. (None of us do it for the pay and working conditions!) But we also recognize that you may not see how you can influence these events. We in the military have always had a historic subservience to civilian authority. Perhaps I can help with whatever wisdom I've gathered from age (I retired in 1978, so I am ancient indeed).

Our oath of office is to—protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Might I suggest that this includes a rogue president and vice-president? Certainly we are bound to carry out the legal orders of our superiors. But the Uniform Code of Military Justice which binds all of us enshrines the Nuremberg Principles which this country established after World War II (which you are too young to remember). One of those Nuremberg Principles says that we in the military have not only the right, but also the DUTY to refuse an illegal order. It was on this basis that we executed Nazi officers who were—only carrying out their orders.

The Constitution which we are sworn to uphold says that treaties entered into by the United States are the—highest law

of the land, equivalent to the Constitution itself. Accordingly, we in the military are sworn to uphold treaty law, including the United Nations charter and the Geneva Convention.

Based on the above, I contend that should some civilian order you to initiate a nuclear attack on Iran, for example, you are duty-bound to refuse that order. I might also suggest that you should consider whether the circumstances demand that you arrest whoever gave the order as a war criminal.

I know for a fact that in recent history—once under Nixon and once under Reagan—the military nuclear chain of command in the White House discussed these things and were prepared to refuse an order to nuke Russia. In effect they took the (non-existent) button out of the hands of the President. We were thus never quite as close to World War III as many feared, no matter how irrational any president might have become. They determined that the proper response to any such order was, "Why, sir?" Unless there was (in their words) a damn good answer, nothing was going to happen.

I suggest that if you in this generation have not had such a discussion, perhaps it is time you do.

In hindsight, it's too bad such a discussion did not take place prior to the preemptive "shock and awe" attack on Baghdad. Many of us at the time spoke out vehemently that such an attack would be an impeachable offense, a war crime against the people of Iraq, and treason against the United States of America. But our voices were drowned out and never reached the ears of the generals in 2003. I now regret that I never sent a letter such as this at that time, but depended on the corporate media to carry my message. I must not make that mistake again.

Also in hindsight, President Bush could be court-martialed for abuse of power as Commander-in-Chief. Vice President Cheney could probably be court-martialed for his performance as Acting Commander-in-Chief in the White House bunker the morning of September 11, 2001.



We in the U.S. military would never consider a military coup, removing an elected president and installing one of our own. But following our oath of office, obeying the Nuremberg Principles, and preventing a rogue president from committing a war crime is not a military coup. If it requires the detention of executive branch officials, we will not impose a military dictatorship. We will let the Constitutional succession take place. This is what we are sworn to. This is protecting the Constitution, our highest obligation. In 2007, this is what is meant by "Duty, Honor, Country."

Thank you all for your service to this nation. May God bless America, and sustain us in this difficult time. And thanks for listening to the musings of an old junior officer.

Respectfully,

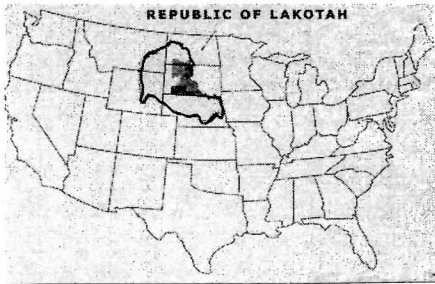
Robert M. Bowman, PhD, Lt. Col., USAF, ret.

Bowman flew 101 combat missions in Vietnam, directed a USAF space program, and in 2000 ran for presidential nomination, Reform Party.

in an online statement: "We are not trying to embarrass the United States. We are here to continue the struggle for our children and grandchildren." Young was an organizer of Women of All Red Nations. Other members of the delegation include Rapid City-area activist Duane Martin Sr. and Gary Rowland, a leader of the Chief Big Foot Riders.

Means said anyone could live in the Lakota Nation, tax free, as long as they renounced their U.S. citizenship. The nation would issue drivers licenses and passports, but each community would be independent. "It will be the epitome of individual liberty, with community control," Means said.

To make his case, Means cited several articles of the U.S. Constitution, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and a recent nonbinding U.N. resolution on the rights of indigenous people. He thinks there will be international pressure. "If the U.S. violates the law, the whole world will know it," Means said.



Means' group is based in Porcupine on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It is not an agency or branch of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Means ran unsuccessfully for president of the tribe in 2006.

Lakota tribes have long claimed that the U.S. government stole land guaranteed by treaties—especially in western South Dakota. "The Missouri River is ours, and so are the Black Hills," Means said.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1980 awarded the tribes \$122 million as compensation, but the court did not award land. The Lakota have refused the settlement. As interest accrues, the unclaimed award is approaching \$1 billion.

In the late 1980s, then-Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey introduced legislation to return federal land to the tribes, and California millionaire Phil Stevens also tried to win support for a proposal to return the Black Hills to the Lakota.

And from www.LakotaFreedom.com ...

Property ownership in the five state area of Lakota now takes center stage. Parts of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana have been illegally homesteaded for years despite knowledge of Lakota as predecessor sovereign [historic owner]. Lakota representatives say if the United States does not enter into immediate diplomatic negotiations, liens will be filed on real estate transactions in the five state region, clouding title over literally thousands of square miles of land and property.

Young added, "The actions of Lakota are not intended to embarrass the United States but to simply save the lives of our people".

Education, energy and justice now take top priority in emerging Lakota. "Cultural immersion education is crucial as a next step to protect our language, culture and sovereignty," said Means. "Energy independence using solar, wind, geothermal, and sugar beets enables Lakota to protect our freedom and provide electricity and heating to our people."

The Lakota reservations are among the most impoverished areas in North America, a shameful legacy of broken treaties and apartheid policies. Lakota has the highest death rate in the United States and Lakota men have the lowest life expectancy of any nation on earth, excluding AIDS, at approximately 44 years. Lakota infant mortality rate is five times the United States average and teen suicide rates 150% more than national average. 97% of Lakota people live below the poverty line and unemployment hovers near 85%.

"After 150 years of colonial enforcement, when you back people into a corner there is only one alternative," emphasized Duane Martin Sr. "The only alternative is to bring freedom into its existence by taking it back to the love of freedom, to our life-way."

'For America to Live, Europe Must Die'

A few selections from Russell Means' speech to American Indians and other international survivalist people, in South Dakota's Black Hills, 1980. (Italics ours —Ed.)

BEING IS A SPIRITUAL PROPOSITION. Gaining is a material act. Traditionally, American Indians have always attempted to be the best people they could. Part of that spiritual process was and is to *give away wealth*, to discard wealth in order not to gain. Material gain is an indicator of false status among traditional people, while it is "proof that the system works" to Europeans. Clearly, there are two completely opposing views at issue here, and Marxism is very far over to the other side from the American Indian view...

EUROPEANS FEEL NO SENSE OF LOSS in this [age of conquest and progress: 1500-present]. After all, their philosophers have despiritualized reality, so there is no satisfaction (for them) to be gained in simply observing the wonder of a mountain or a lake or a people in being. No, satisfaction is measured in terms of gaining material. So the *mountain becomes gravel*, and the lake becomes *coolant* for a factory, and the people are rounded up for processing through the *indoctrination mills* Europeans like to call schools...

EUROPEAN FAITH—including the new faith in science—equals a belief that man is God. *Europe has always sought a Messiah*, whether that be the man Jesus Christ or the man Karl Marx or the man Albert Einstein. American Indians know this to be truly absurd. Humans are the weakest of all creatures, so weak that other creatures are willing to give up their flesh that we may live. Humans are able to survive only through the exercise of rationality since they lack the abilities of other creatures to gain food...

MARXISM IS AS ALIEN to my culture as capitalism and Christianity are. In fact, I can say I don't think I'm trying to lead anyone toward anything. To some extent I tried to be a "leader," in the sense that white media like to use that term, when the American Indian Movement was a young organization. This was a result of a confusion that I no longer have. You cannot be everything to everyone. I do not propose to be used in such a fashion by my enemies. I am not a leader. I am an *Oglala Lakota patriot*. This is all I want and all I need to be. And I am very comfortable with who I am.

Ed. Note: In several places Means quotes Morris Berman's *Reenchantment of the World* (1981). Berman's latest work, *Dark Ages America, the Final Phase of Empire* (2007) is echoed in his move to Mexico.

Building a Fascist Continent SPP to Further Militarize Mexico

by Witness for Peace, 13 Dec 2007

WE HAVE OUR EYE ON AN IMPORTANT U.S. POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO. The Bush administration has asked Congress to fund \$1.4 billion over the next 2 to 3 years for Mexico's military and police efforts against drug cartels and narco-trafficking. The "Merida Initiative" went public as part of the president's \$46 billion supplemental war spending request submitted to Congress on October 22. The Bush Administration earmarked \$500 million for Mexico in FY2008 (and \$50 million for similar programs in Central America). Congress will likely vote on the funding proposal in early 2008.

If approved, the FY 2008 Mexico funding will include \$306 million for counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism and border security; \$56.1 million for public security and law enforcement; and about \$100 million for revamping the operations of the Mexican Attorney General's office. The funding would constitute a ten-fold increase in current U.S. anti-narcotics aid to Mexico. [That's on the surface.]

However, only \$15.1 million—a mere 3%—has been requested for drug demand reduction activities, which are an essential—if not the only proven—means for successfully curbing illegal drug production and consumption. There has been no announcement from the Bush Administration of any complementary plan for reduction of domestic demand in the U.S.

Below the Surface

The proposed \$1.4 billion Merida Initiative is no isolated proposal, nor is it the whole story on funding for Mexico's new drug war. Mexico plans to put up the majority of the funding: a whopping \$7 billion, making the Merida Initiative an \$8.4 billion program. Neither the Bush Administration nor the Mexican government has disclosed how the rest of the funds will be allocated.

It is clear, however, that the U.S. would be augmenting a militarized Mexican anti-narcotics campaign that has already resulted in a number of unaddressed human rights abuses. Moreover, funds could be used to violently repress social movements, as evidenced by the recent federal crackdowns on popular protests in San Salvador Atenco and Oaxaca.



But concerns do not stop there, as this plan appears to be part of a much broader U.S. security agenda. The Merida Initiative is a direct result of closed-door planning within the framework of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), an extra-legislative coalition of Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. heads-of-state and representatives from private industry and the military-industrial complex. Anti-narcotics programs are only one facet of an agenda that is primarily concerned with establishing an integrated North American security zone in which government bolsters the interests of

transnational companies, furthers the privatization and extraction of natural resources (especially energy resources), and controls political opposition in the name of counter-terrorism.

The SPP agenda is worrisome on the levels of human rights, violations of civil liberties, unregulated private interest, and transparency of government. But if all that Congress and the public consider is the narrowness of the Merida Initiative's counter-narcotics strategy, the main bulk of the security agenda iceberg will remain, as they say in Mexico, *bajo el agua* (under the water).

Ed. Comment: Enough! Basta! Trop! Is Congress just a patsy for the Bush family of industrialists—US, Mexican, and Canadian? How is this top-one-percent able to get Congress to fund an enterprise that will hog-tie the rest of us, without our participation or our representatives' in its making? How is it that the media don't seem to give a damn?

SPP ("Security and Prosperity Partnership"—can you believe?) is like a designer brand—whose owners laugh all the way to the bank, and snicker at new US detention camps.

We know, don't we, that this homegrown or NAFTA-fascism isn't just about police, infotainment, and torture. It's also about rape of the Earth, rising oceans, and nuclear winter—curtains for our grandkids.

News Note: Troop movements and augmentation in Chiapas, Mexico, portend a military attack sometime soon on the independence-minded Zapatista people there, according to Subcomandante Marcos.

Vatican to Train More Exorcists

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia), 30 Dec 2007

ROME—The Catholic Church has vowed to "fight the Devil head-on" by training hundreds of priests as exorcists.

Father Gabriele Amorth, 82, the Exorcist in Chief, announced the initiative amid church concerns about growing worldwide interest in Satanism and the occult. Under plans being considered, each bishop would have a group of priests in his diocese who were specially trained in exorcism and on hand to take action against "extreme Godlessness".

"Thanks be to God that we have a Pope who has decided to fight the Devil head-on," Father Amorth said. "Now bishops are to be obliged to have a number of established exorcists for their diocese. Too many bishops are not taking this seriously and are not delegating their priests in the fight against the Devil. You have to hunt high and low for a proper, trained exorcist.

"Thankfully Pope Benedict XVI believes in the existence and danger of evil, from the time he was in charge of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [formerly known as the Holy Office of the Inquisition, identifying and punishing heretics, e.g., Galileo, and recently Fr. Matthew Fox —Ed.]"

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith deals with promoting and safeguarding Catholic beliefs. It was headed by the Pope when he was Cardinal Ratzinger, from 1982 until his election as Pope in 2005.

The Vatican is concerned that young people are being exposed to Satanism through the media, rock music and the internet.

All priests can perform exorcisms, but in reality only a select few are ever called on to do so. The rite involves gestures and prayers to invoke the power of God and stop the "demon" influencing its victim. † † † † † † † †

Getting Real About Autonomy Enacting No-Nonsense City Charters

by Nancy Price, [Davis CA] *Enterprise*, 17 Dec 2007

JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, on Nov. 7, 2006, Davis [California] voters passed Measure L, an advisory measure for choice or instant runoff voting, by a margin of 55-45 percent.

Now, if the City Council wishes to implement Measure L, it must write a charter and put it to popular vote, because the governor recently vetoed legislation that would allow all non-home rule California cities and counties to use choice voting, regardless of whether the municipality is a general law or charter city.

Writing a city charter is a way to implement home rule. It provides a city with a level of greatly enhanced local authority and control over municipal affairs that is not available to general law cities that must operate under more restrictive state control and statutory law.

So, in writing a charter, the City Council's goal could be more than just implementing Measure L. Shouldn't we hold a communitywide discussion about what home rule might entail? For a start, let's remember that the Declaration of Independence declares that people are born with certain unalienable rights and that governments are instituted among people to secure those rights as elaborated in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

We might discuss how as a bitter irony after the Civil War, the Supreme Court in 1886 recognized corporations to be persons under the terms of the 14th Amendment. As a result, corporations have protections and powers under the First, Fourth and Fifth amendments that were intended by the founders to apply only to living people.

We might discuss whether we should rely on government to regulate how much pollution we breathe, how many jobs we lose to free trade, how large the big-box store should be, or how often our elected representatives sell their votes to big time, deep-pocket special interests protected by claims of free speech and First Amendment rights.

Our challenge is how to assert our community's right to define its future and to end both the grip that corporate money has over our elected officials and the corporate harms that result.

It seems, however, that these discussions will not take place in Davis. Instead, according to the article 'Broad Charter Recommended for Home Rule,' (Davis *Enterprise*, Nov. 15), the rationale for a very short, broad charter is laid out.

Jerry Adler, who served on earlier city governance task forces, and Councilman Stephen Souza, in particular, a member with Lamar Heystek of a City Council subcommittee, take the position that details are limiting. Adler, a supporter of choice voting, equates a short charter—which might not even include choice voting—with 'good governance.' As Souza is quoted, a short charter could be put right on the ballot with little problem. Nothing could be simpler, he said.

But, to the contrary, good governance would entail a more robust charter that would provide for choice voting and also grapple with the role of corporations in Davis. A simple charter now will mean real change may evade us, as later amendments would take time and money.

Yet, other communities are having these discussions. Some have passed ordinances that assert the rights of people and communities over the rights of corporations and abolish the illegitimate rights and legal privileges of corporations. This work is highlighted in "Communities Take Power", the cover story of

Yes! magazine (fall 2007), which may be read online at <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?id=1828>.

Local communities have passed ordinances addressing the storage, use and disposal of toxic materials; public health and environmental pollution; big-box and corporate development that prevents a community from realizing a vision of sustainable land use and local economic development; protection of ground water; factory farming; genetically modified organisms; application of wastewater treatment sludge to land; protection of ecosystems; and a limit on outside corporate money in local elections.

Other communities are writing more inclusive and detailed home rule charters that go beyond the single issue. As Thomas Linzey of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund states, home rule has not been fully tested as a tool to revolutionize local democratic decision-making, but it has the potential to open up a path to real community democracy.

This is the path that residents of Spokane, Wash., a city many times the population of Davis, are following. Starting at the neighborhood level and including many different interest groups, they are embarking on a process to amend the city charter to assert people's rights over corporate rights and create a truly sustainable community and thriving local economy.

What if, here in Davis, we took the opportunity to have this kind of communitywide discussion before the decision is made by a few on the City Council that a short, narrow charter is best for us?

This is what 'doing democracy' is all about—it's revolutionary, it's radical, and it's democratic. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

—Nancy Price is a longtime Davis resident and co-chair of the *Alliance for Democracy*.

For more information on the local community democracy movement, google *Democracy Unlimited Humboldt County*, *Reclaim Democracy*, the *Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund*, the *Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution*, and the *Alliance for Democracy*.

Two If By Sea

Luxury Ship Poop Is Yukky—and Dangerous

by Friends of the Earth, 21 Dec 2007

Last month *BCA Dispatch* drew much interest for its article about innovative toilets for the world's vast poverty areas. Today we call attention to a First World toilet problem.

A LONG-OVERDUE ASSESSMENT OF CRUISE SHIP POLLUTION in U.S. waters released yesterday by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency found that cruise ships routinely dump massive amounts of poorly treated sewage and highly contaminated raw graywater into harbors and coastal waters.

"This report shows that cruise ship dumping is out of control and is only getting worse with more ships and more passengers," said Teri Shore, Campaign Director for Marine Programs at Friends of the Earth. "Since the EPA won't act, here's all the evidence that Congress needs to step in to ban cruise ship dumping close to shore and in sanctuaries—and require the best treatment everywhere else."

The report responded to a lawsuit filed by the University of Washington Environmental Law Clinic on behalf of Friends of the Earth in May 2007 seeking a response to a seven-year-old petition calling on the EPA to analyze pollution from the rapidly

expanding cruise ship fleet and find ways to prevent environmental harm. The EPA provided detailed pollution data, but no solutions.

The EPA found that cruise ship discharges contain concentrations of bacteria, chlorine, nutrients, metals and other pollutants that often far exceed federal effluent and water quality standards and are harmful to human health and the marine environment. The report estimated that cruise ships produce an average of 21,000 gallons per day of sewage and 170,000 gallons per day of raw graywater that can contain as much bacteria as sewage. Large volumes of sewage sludge and oily water are also routinely dumped overboard.

A majority of sewage samples taken by the EPA from cruise ships equipped with Coast Guard-approved marine sanitation devices (Type II MSDs—Marine Sanitation Devices) violated national effluent limits for both ship and land-based sewage—and often exceeded national water quality criteria at point of discharge. EPA determined that treated sewage and raw graywater from cruise ships contain such high concentrations of bacteria such as fecal coliform, contaminants like chlorine, and nutrients including ammonia that the discharges can degrade water quality, threaten shellfish beds and contaminate beaches and swimming areas—even when diluted.



The report found that even the highly touted Advanced Wastewater Treatment systems required in Alaska are far from perfect. While they produced much cleaner wastewater, treated effluent often did not meet national water quality standards at point of discharge for metals, chlorine or nutrients such as ammonia—all of which can harm the marine environment. The EPA suggested that dilution might solve the problem but also incorporated an overview of equipment that could better remove contaminants.

The EPA said that in 2006, 23 of 28 vessels operated in Alaska using the better systems. About 115 cruise ships operate in U. S. waters and more than 12 million passengers are expected to take a cruise next season. Ships are getting bigger, growing by about 90 feet every five years, the EPA estimated...

Beyond bathroom waste, "To date the U.S. has prosecuted over 75 cases involving intentional discharges of oily bilge waste from vessels in general, with over \$150 million collected in criminal fines since 2000. Many of the major cruise ship companies calling on U.S. ports have been convicted of such violations, including, Royal Caribbean, Holland America, Carnival, and Norwegian Cruise Line Limited. As a result of the prosecutions, all the companies have been at one time placed in probation with a requirement to implement Environmental Compliance Plans." ■

Boston Youth Want Civic Action Jrs, Srs, Designers to Build Curriculum

by Yawu Miller, Bay State Banner, 25 Oct 2007

VICTOR MARTINEZ IS WELL AWARE that he's not your average Boston high school student. "I've learned how to help my community, how the government works, how to speak in public, how to use a power analysis to solve problems, how to turn out people to vote, how to organize events such as a candidate forum and how to work as a team," said the 17-year-old New Mission High School student, testifying before a panel of city councilors and school department officials.

His speech, delivered with clear elocution and a persuasive tone, held the attention of the officials, students and community activists who turned out in City Hall's Iannella Chamber for a hearing on a civics curriculum for Boston's schools. Martinez and other students addressed the topic before City Councilors Chuck Turner, Felix Arroyo, Michael Flaherty, Sam Yoon, Rob Consalvo, Michael Ross and John Tobin.

The students, most of whom work with the Hyde Square Task Force, brought their ideas for school improvement to the officials who have the power to implement changes to the school curriculum. They also brought compelling arguments. "Although my fellow co-workers and I have been taught and experienced all these things, I feel like every student in the Boston Public School system deserves the same," Martinez said. "I'm one of the lucky students out of the 57,000 students in the school system. Doesn't every child deserve to learn these skills?"

The teens are calling on the school department curriculum designer to work with students to design a civics curriculum that uses current events as classroom material. They are asking for a pilot program to be implemented in the '08 school year.

But the skills and lessons Martinez and his fellow students brought to City Hall were put to the test, as a school department representative responded to their proposal by reiterating what the school department is already doing to teach civics in the eighth grade. "We feel it is a way of getting young people active and connected to their community," said Sonya Brookings Sanitaleses, deputy superintendent for teaching and learning. Sanitaleses also mentioned that the school department is working to increase the availability of Advanced Placement government courses across the school system.

Her remarks, which came after six teens spoke about the inadequacy of the eighth-grade civics curriculum, drew a measured rebuke from Hyde Square Task Force Executive Director Claudio Martinez. "There were a lot of mixed messages about the Boston Public School system's willingness to address this issue seriously," he said, commenting on Sanitaleses' testimony.

Claudio Martinez stressed that students are calling for a curriculum that piques their interest in government, something the students say the eighth-grade curriculum has failed to do. "It's not about instruction," he said. "What we need to do first is to find ways to engage these young people. What they are telling us is that this is something they are passionate about."

Civics has not been a graduation requirement in Boston since 1970. The teens point to the lack of education as a leading cause of civic disengagement among youth. Back in 1972, 50 percent of people ages 18 to 29 voted in the presidential election. By 1996, less than one-third did.

The students at the hearing argued that by tying current

events to history, a civics curriculum could make both voting and school more interesting. "When I think of what a civics class could look like, I envision a teacher standing in front of a class, with all of the students engaged in a conversation where current events are being discussed and then related back to history," said Gabi Leyton-Nolan, a 15-year-old Boston Latin student.

Sanitaleses said adding a new course to the system's required curriculum would mean the schools would have to drop another required course. "We can consider it, but the question would have to be what else would have to come off the plate," she said.

Moriah Smith, a Boston Latin School student and student representative to the Boston School Committee, advised the school department to offer classes that keep students engaged. "There are many classes that many students wouldn't mind missing," she said. "But it really says something that students are asking for this class."

Jailed on Armistice Day Legion, Peace Vets Clash on Free Speech

by Paul Brailsford, Boston-Cambridge Alliance, 27 Nov 2007

EIGHTEEN VETERANS FOR PEACE WERE ARRESTED on Veterans Day for silently protesting their marginalization by the American Legion. Last year they were forced to march at the tail end of the Legion-organized parade—behind the street sweeping machines—through Boston. The Legion stressed that they did not want political views, like "End the War", to be displayed.

This year, because of American Legion efforts to ban peace vets from marching in future Veterans Day Parades, Boston Councilor Chuck Turner tried to arrange a meeting with them early in October at Boston City Hall, seeking a compromise. Since the American Legion would not budge an inch, we of the Veterans for Peace were left with no alternative but again to follow behind the street sweepers at the end of the November 11th Sunday Veterans Parade—if we wanted to carry our banners, and chant a mantra to Bring Home the Troops, and stop Bush's planned bombing of Iran. How could we address this suppression of free speech?

So at this year's parade Veterans for Peace members of Smedley Butler (Boston area), Samantha Smith (North Shore), and Cape Cod chapters, together with Raging Grannies and Code Pink, assembled at Charles and Beacon Streets and marched behind the street sweepers who were picking up the trash in rear of American Legion bands. Since I was unable to walk all the way, I marched with them from Tremont Street to Government Center.

Once we got to City Hall Plaza I joined the Boston Veterans Day 18 who stood silently with a gags in their mouths in front of the American Legion's speakers podium, facing the crowd with signs saying "American Legion Silences Messages of Peace from Veterans" since they refused our request to have Iraq veteran Liam Madden speak. Our silent presence caused the Boston Police to advise us we would be arrested and charged with "Disturbing a Public Assembly" if we did not disperse.

So for the first time in his 92-year life, this former London bobby Paul Brailsford was arrested and had his hands confined behind his back in plastic handcuffs, before he with the rest of 14 of the Veteran 18 protesters were placed in a windowless van and driven to South Boston Police Station for processing. On the

way there I managed to squeeze my hands tight enough to wriggle out of my handcuffs to the delight of the rest of us.

At the station we were held in a windowless cell behind a multi-barred door through which we watched Pat Scanlon being processed. After an hour he disappeared around a corner, and we were advised that since there were not enough individual cells in South Boston, half of us would go the Dorchester police station and the other half to the Roxbury station. So I slipped my handcuffs back on and was driven to Dorchester, where Sgt Linsky greeted us in a friendly sort of way that indicated to me he understood why we let ourselves be arrested.

Hours in a Jail Cell

After arrival I was the second person to be let out of a holding cell, and delighted when they cut off my plastic handcuffs before going to a window where a processing officer asked me to empty all my pockets and remove my shoe laces so could not do myself any harm. He put everything I had into a large transparent plastic bag. He then asked for my social security number, and asked if I had been arrested before, etc.

Next I was finger-printed by another officer who asked me to relax my hand so he could take each finger and thumb to scan one after the other into computerized machine that was not working very well because he had to do each finger several times for machine to accept them. Afterwards they walked me down a corridor to cell #18 and opened the glass-covered iron door and slammed it shut after I entered. Leaving me alone for the first time in a cell with a stainless steel combination wash-basin and toilet in a narrow 6 x 8-foot white cell with a low flat 6 x 3-foot wooden platform to sit or stretch out on with no pillow or blanket.

I turned and looked across the corridor where another prisoner looked silently through his iron bars at me. Frustrated, I soon began to pace back and forth to calm the claustrophobic sinking feelings in my stomach. Later I noticed a space between the bars at the bottom of the door and wondered why it was there. Eventually half a pint of milk and a ham sandwich was pushed through this food slot. So I sat down on the bench and ate it. Time passed slowly as I began to realize prisoners live in cells like this for weeks, MONTHS and even for a LIFETIME, FOR MURDER. About then a man many cells away from me began conversing loudly in a one-way conversation with another cell.

Gee—I wish that bail man would hurry up because I WANT OUT OF HERE. Then afterwards I turned and moved to the back of my cell to take a piss. I was pleasantly surprised to hear the cell door open, and be told to come out and sign for my belongings before being released to meet the bailer, who asked for \$40 bail fee and asked me sign a form ordering me to be at Boston City Court for arraignment at 9 a.m. November 14th, before I was allowed to open a wooden door that led to the lobby of police station. VFP Winston Warfield greeted me, and other Smedleys with cars offered to drive me to a T station where Shep Gurwitz and Lee VanderLaan picked me up—Lee eventually dropped me off at the house I own in Ipswich. Once there I went happily from one small furnished room to another—FREE at last to understand that there's nothing like a prison cell to help a person understand the Yin and Yang of the now.

The next day I called Sgt Linsky on the phone in Dorchester so I could thank him and his officers, as a former London bobby, for the professional way they did their job. He seemed surprised.

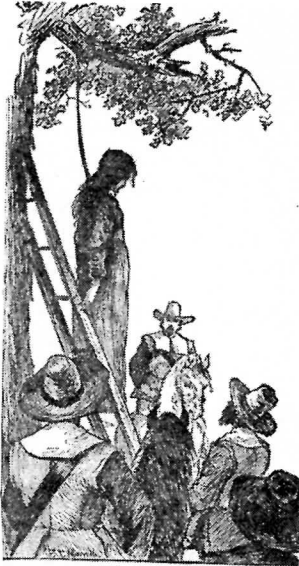
Paul Brailsford is an Alliance for Democracy stalwart, and a founding member of Samantha Smith Chapter 45, Veterans for Peace, in Ipswich, MA

Salem Witch Judge Atones Promotes Human Rights Agenda

by Iris Blasi, Princeton Alumna Weekly, 12 Dec 2007

from a review of *Salem Witch Judge: the life and repentance of Samuel Sewall*, by Eve LaPlante, HarperOne, 2007.

FOR EVE LAPLANTE, IT'S NOT WHAT [HER ANCESTOR Samuel] Sewall did during the Salem witch trials, but what he did after they concluded, that makes him remarkable. In 1692, Sewall was part of the court that convicted more than 100 people of witchcraft and sent 20 of them to the gallows. Then, in 1697, Sewall stood up in a packed New England meetinghouse and publicly repented.



EXECUTION OF MRS. ANN HIBBINS.

"He realized he was wrong, and he just couldn't live with that. He had to fix it," LaPlante says. Bad weather, a food shortage, and the deaths of several of his children convinced Sewall, as LaPlante writes, "of God's anger," and after years of prayer and Scripture study, he saw his participation in the witch trials as a violation of "the laws of humanity and the laws of God."

Not content with repentance, in the latter portion of his life Sewall actively atoned for his sins. He penned America's first abolitionist argument and became a proponent of the rights of Native Americans and the rights of women—all deeds most likely related to his desire to make amends. "I think that, if the

witch trials had not occurred, [his thoughts] wouldn't have crystallized into these important works," LaPlante says.

Using Sewall's diary and primary sources LaPlante, who lives in [Brookline] Massachusetts on land originally owned by Sewall, reconstructs an era as well as the workings of one man's mind. Though initially embarrassed by her infamous relative, LaPlante now sees how remarkable his strength of character really was, writing "How American it is to claim, 'I can judge right from wrong,' and then to admit 'I was wrong.'"

New Hampshire: Early Signs of Fraud

Joy reigned in the hearts of thousands of women upon the news that Hillary Clinton had won the New Hampshire Democratic primary. If PrisonPlanet and other blogs are correct, smirks also may reign on the lips of dozens of GOP (and Dem?) operatives.

When reporters leapt to the conclusion that recent polls were 'way off, our expression was one of consternation—we'd heard this before in 2000, 2002, 2004, and even 2006. Hacking and other vote manipulation has become normal, since big media refuse to air much evidence that vote fraud is endemic, and corruption is inevitable in this age of arcane technology and proprietary system design on top of an 18th century constitution. Most of New Hampshire's votes were cast on flawed electronic machines.

Within hours of poll closing, we have a report from Sutton NH that 31 people complained that their votes for Ron Paul were tallied as zero in the Republican primary. Soon after, a similar

anomaly was detected and offset in Greenville NH. 1.5 days after poll closing we haven't heard similar stories about the Democratic primary, but a 17-point last-minute surge for Clinton is suspicious. Contrary to news editors seeking easy explanations like Hillary's tears or the limits of survey research, election polls—almost always reliable—don't conveniently fail overnight. Stay tuned.

LATEST CHAPTER NEWS

Seven area activists met on 9 Jan at AfD HQ in Waltham to discuss action on the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and our own **Globalization Impact Bill**, now under consideration in the MA legislature's joint committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies. We are hot to go! First, the bill's provisions need upgrading—goals to include not just protection of MA laws and regulations, but of our economy, rights, and environment. Then the proposed Commission to scrutinize trade agreements may need augmentation and greater specificity. Strategically, AfD wants to help gather cosponsors beyond the 11 already listed (with Rep. Byron Rushing as sponsor)—legislator-led info sessions in all parts of MA may help, as well as lobbying all legislators. We will be helping Global Exchange field their 3 experts on SPP, in Boston, in March.

ACTION ALERTS

Wed 16 Jan, 6:30-8:30pm, Cambridge. **Report-back from Bethlehem** by group of 15 from Cambridge-Bethlehem People-to-People Project. Images, stories, facts concerning Palestinians under severe pressure. Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Av. Info: 617-349-4694 or bethlehemcambridge@gmail.com.

Thu 17 Jan, 7-8pm, Brookline. **Broken Promises, Broken Dreams:** stories of Jewish and Palestinian trauma and resilience. Book reading and signing by author Dr. Alice Rothchild. Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St. Info: 617-566-6660.

JOIN THE BCA

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

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children — Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out or copy this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., 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: _____

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COLOPHON

Dave Lewit, Editor 617-266-8687 dlewit@igc.org

271 Dartmouth St., #2h, Boston MA 02116

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Web builder: Sergio Reyes.