

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **November**
Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy 2007

Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love. It is precisely this collision of immoral power with powerless morality which constitutes the major crisis of our times.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHAPTER NEWS (Continued on page 7)

* * Pow-wow On Projects * *

Chances are pretty good that we will have **Felix Arroyo** as our special guest at the next Boston-area meeting, at the **Waltham AfD office** on **Tuesday, 4 December**, at 7:30. For four years an at-large Boston City Councilor, Felix just lost his seat to better funded, traditional councilors. Felix's approach has always been to include ALL segments and persons of Boston, and to promote systemic change for greater participation and less mayoral control. Felix wants to include you in forming a new non-profit to work for these goals.

Other issues which we may discuss include reportback on Democracy School and local prospects, reportback on AfD Convention in Tucson, promoting New Civics in high schools, Democracy Protection project, Globalization Impact Bill, film series, and/or other projects you're concerned with. The idea of this discussion is to cross-fertilize and energize civic and chapter projects consistent with AfD goals: anti-corporatist, pro-democracy, and systemic understanding.

Directions & other info: see back page, or call 781-894-1179.

EDITORIAL

Gandhi's Third Sin

Pleasure without Conscience

YOUNG MOHANDAS GANDHI was plagued by sexual temptation and inhibition—part Victorian ethic and part Hindu belief in conservation of vital energy. After marrying and begetting four children, he practiced celibacy and concentrated on cultivating human rights in an imperial world. He solved the pleasure-problem by ascetic living with nubile women who kept his skinny frame warm at night without intercourse—good for him if uncertain for them.

Gandhi seemed to have a normal capacity for conscience, and the ability to control temptation—for sex, food, and violence—and convert their energies to broader social good. Normal, because this capacity was neither feeble nor overwhelming. What was extraordinary was his ability to inform himself, experiment, and find sublimated outlets.

His pleasures in middle and later life probably came from his closeness to God and Godly ways, his insights such as *satyagraha* (truth-force) and *sarvodaya* (constructive group effort), and his engagement with people in persuasion and constructive agreement. He didn't expect the young people he was addressing with his Seven Social Sins[†] (Continued, page 2>>)



Acting president G W Bush with his father, former CIA chief and president G H W Bush—both scions of Wall Street, oil, and pro-Hitler coupsters. W attended Harvard Business School where he may have learned something about gaming the system through legal and other ruses—preparing him to hear acting vice president Cheney's advice.

The American Police State Exhausting Us with Sham Trials

by Chris Hedges, TruthDig.com, 29 Oct 2007

ADALLAS JURY, A WEEK AGO, CAUSED A MISTRIAL in the government case against this country's largest Islamic charity. The action raises a defiant fist on the sinking ship of American democracy.

If we lived in a state where due process and the rule of law could curb the despotism of the Bush administration, this mistrial might be counted a victory. But we do not. The jury may have rejected the federal government's claim that the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development funneled millions of dollars to Middle Eastern terrorists. It may have acquitted Mohammad el-Mezain, the former chairman of the foundation, of virtually all criminal charges related to funding terrorism (the jury deadlocked on one of the 32 charges against el-Mezain), and it may have deadlocked on the charges that had been lodged against four other former leaders of the charity, but don't be fooled. This mistrial will do nothing to impede the administration's ongoing contempt for the rule of law. It will do nothing to stop the curtailment of our civil liberties and rights. The grim march toward a police state continues.

Constitutional rights are minor inconveniences, noisome chatter, flies to be batted away on the steady road to despotism. And no one, not the courts, not the press, not the gutless Democratic opposition, not a compliant and passive citizenry hypnotized by tawdry television spectacles and celebrity gossip, seems capable of stopping the process. Those in power know this. We, too, might as well know it.

The Bush administration, which froze the foundation's finances three months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and indicted its officials three years later on charges that they provided funds for the militant group Hamas, has ensured that the foundation and all other Palestinian charities will never reopen in the United States. Any organized support for Palestinians from within the U.S. has been rendered impossible. The goal of the Israeli government and the Bush administration—despite the charade of peace negotiations to be (Continued on page 3 >>)

in *Young India* (22 Oct 1925) to strive immediately for these rewards, but among other things was probably trying to get young men to respect young women as whole human beings and not use them lasciviously or for patriarchal domination. At the same time they would learn to respect themselves as decent human beings rather than as animals in heat or as tricksters or local autocrats. Sexualized, this “pleasure without conscience” concept for Gandhi might have been the most socially direct and least political of his seven sins.

Sinful Pleasures beyond Sex

Orgasm may be the paramount example of sensuous pleasure, fleeting though it is, but one need only consider the medieval Catholic list of Seven Deadly Sins—avarice, gluttony, sloth, wrath, envy, pride, lust—to recognize more pervasive, sought-after pleasures: riches, banquet, immunity, conquest, plunder, and fame, as well as licentious ecstasy. Certainly the virtuous Gandhi would condemn or limit all these unconscionable pleasures.

Gandhi was a man of cultural and societal concerns. So what does all this have to do, if anything, with the social trends or power politics of his time or ours? One answer may come from psychology and consideration of *arrogance* and *consent*. That arrogance subsumes riches, conquest, plunder, fame, and immunity, if not banquet and ecstasy. And how can so many Americans—like Good Germans or Israelis—tacitly consent to the arrogant Bush-Cheney program?

The principals are both psychopaths—people without conscience. Bush, at least, appears to be a “primary” (congenital) psychopath—born neurologically insensitive to pain, and therefore not responsive to parental punishment or displeasure, thereafter proceeding fearlessly, recklessly, jokingly with self-aggrandizement often involving deception—the ultimate confidence-man.*

Cheney may be a “secondary” psychopath, having four of the classical attributes of psychopathy—lawlessness, deceitfulness, heedlessness of others’ safety, and lack of remorse, if not impulsivity, aggressiveness, and irresponsibility—but neurologically capable of alteration. He operates quietly like a chess master. He is characterized by loyalty, corporatization of the power field, sensitivity to threats on the system, personal gathering of intelligence at high levels without sharing, and acting by personnel management to eliminate opposition to the aggressive consolidation of elite power to which he achieved standing rather than having inherited standing.** That program involves his regularly programming Bush, and colluding with Neoconservatives in the government. To the extent that progress in this deliberate and deceptive program is punctuated with pleasures—or self-assurances—such as control, conquest, plunder, fame, and immunity, Cheney and Bush regularly experience “pleasure without conscience”.

Consent without Pleasure

But what of the millions of Americans who go along with this program? Surveys show that a large majority of voting-age Americans disapprove this program of unwarranted war, torture, environmental destruction, reduction of social services, and corporate privilege. In general they back the principles of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Smaller numbers seem to enjoy benefits such as tax reductions, jobs in government-outsourced or protected industry (e.g., insurance), and “kicking ass” (Iraqis, immigrants, alleged terrorists, dissidents). These folks take imperialism or corporate globalization as their stand-

ard—antithetical to UDHR. The majority disposition suggests that most Americans have conscience, or else perceive a negative balance of outcomes for themselves or the nation—and that they do not get pleasure from the program. Even many of the pro-Bush minority have a conscience, feeling shame or guilt if they do not stand up for what they perceive as their birthright, or for the army and other institutions they see as defining America. They are not pathologically sinful like Bush and Cheney. Still, critical numbers accede or consent, even to the stolen presidency.

If powerlessness condones immoral policy and behavior, the remedy may be not in strengthening conscience, but in teaching folks how to denounce and replace such trends with better alternatives, as has been the case in overthrowing many dictatorships in the last century. But without widespread sympathetic support, the task may be as tragic as the heroic work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his prophetic Christian teaching in Nazi Germany.

Gandhi may put too much stress on inner controls of hedonic behavior. Conscience can be swamped by the normalization of lust and other “deadly sins” through daily bombardment with provocative advertising, movies, and editorial featuring of lurid events. Less directly, regular induction of fear by warnings of terror may reduce critical thinking and excuse otherwise immoral or exculpatory behavior by oneself as well as by authorities. Also, there is social support for immoral behavior, as with the code of silence among police, and soldier support of buddies at any price to innocent bystanders.

Institutional Corruption

When one looks at the forces which organize people not around human rights but around imperialism, we confront fundamental-

ism and media monopoly.

The popular media, basically censoring organized dissent while providing conservative entertainment, tend to disempower the 85 percent of Americans who make TV their major or only source of news and political commentary. Most importantly, the mainstream media deprive the public of sympathetic examples of successful dissent and constructive alternatives, thus making “impossible” or



Mission Accomplished codpiece “hero”

pathetic or treasonous the apparently rare citizen initiative. One exception may be “A Force More Powerful”—a film about six social movements inspired by Gandhi—which aired on the Public Broadcasting System, watched by a much smaller audience than commercial television.

The fundamentalist churches, on the other hand, galvanize large parts of the public with magical superiority, reinforced by ingroup (and patronizing third-world) social service. Except for instrumentalities like tithing and proselytizing service, their models are hardly ever self-sacrificing as preached by the Gospels, but rather the prideful and wrathful fans of Armageddon—a post-Jesus inversion of the Gospels. Latter day emphasis on Jesus as king, like orthodox Jewish and Muslim monotheism, tends to make democracy almost a heresy.

How corporatism got hitched to fundamentalism defies the logic of ideals. Calvinists affirmed “elect” status by hard work, not the speculation, discrimination, bribery, and claim to Bill of Rights immunities characteristic of corporate capitalism. Capitalist America tends to leave under- or unemployed, indebted, and bankrupt ordinary folk to the mercies of families—if they have any—and local gospel followers. Corrupt fundamentalist preachers and elite ministers as well accept or promote self-serving capitalist solutions to social problems, formerly charity and now Katrina-style cooptation of government. The myth of corporate efficiency stands alongside salvation through faith.



Can this man experience pleasure—or pain?

All this is enough to make most people just hunker down and hope that the storm will pass. Many know, however, that global warming may outdistance privately-developed technology and government policy in the race against ecological catastrophe, and that violent factions may contend for control. World population seems to increase despite disasters, and migration in the wake of disasters. Meanwhile US arms sales and imperial wars mount, adding fuel to the fire. Millions march on Saturdays, but few risk their jobs.

Beyond Sin

Perhaps an Eighth Social Sin must be added: *Consent without Questioning*.*** As with a new 9-11 investigation, the questioning of authorities must be persistent and thorough. We cannot depend on voluntary press conferences.

Questioning must have community sponsorship. The happy endings of single-hero scenarios—The Lone Ranger, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, Erin Brockovich—are distractions. We must get real with the likes of Liberty Tree (LibertyTreeFDR.org), Democracy School (CELDF.org), and Democracy Protection (NewEnglandAlliance.org), all supported by the Alliance for Democracy (TheAllianceForDemocracy.org).

As part of Gandhi’s *truth-force*, the questions may be sympathetic but must be frank, not hedged or punitive. Anticipating resistance and repercussions, communities must prepare to care for the families of those wounded—rendered jobless or jailed or killed—on all sides of the struggle. That caring, outside normal channels, may become the model for new institutions to replace the engines of global and “homeland” insecurity.

—Dave Lewit

* David T Lykken, *Antisocial Personalities*, 1995. See D. Lewit, “Psychopath in the White House”, *BCA Dispatch*, Feb (and Mar letters) 2003.

** Nicholas Lemann. “The Quiet Man”, *New Yorker*, 7 May 2001.

*** Gandhi’s disciple Martin Luther King, Jr., said “Silence is betrayal.”, Riverside Church, NY, 4 April 1967.

‡ *Last February and March BCA Dispatch discussed Gandhi’s fifth and fourth social sins: “Commerce without Morality” and “Knowledge without Character”. As a reminder, here is the whole set of seven:*

- Politics without Principle
- Wealth without Work
- Pleasure without Conscience
- Knowledge without Character
- Commerce without Morality
- Science without Humanity
- Worship without Sacrifice

POLICE STATE (Continued from page 1)

held in Annapolis—is to grind defiant Palestinians into the dirt. Israel, which has plunged the Gaza Strip into one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, has now begun to ban fuel supplies and sever electrical service. The severe deprivation, the Israeli hope, will see the overthrow of the Hamas government in Gaza and the reinstatement of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has become the Marshal Pétain of the Palestinian people.

The Dallas trial—like all of the major terrorism trials conducted by this administration, from the Florida case against the Palestinian activist Dr. Sami al-Arian, which also ended in a mistrial, to the recent decision by a jury in Chicago to acquit two men of charges of financing Hamas—has been a judicial failure. William Neal, a juror in the Dallas trial, told the Associated Press that the case “was strung together with macaroni noodles. There was so little evidence.”

Such trials, however, have been politically expedient. The accusations, true or untrue, serve the aims of the administration. A jury in Tampa, Chicago or Dallas can dismiss the government’s assaults on individual rights, but the draconian restrictions put in place because of the mendacious charges remain firmly implanted within the system. It is the charges, not the facts, which matter.

Dr. al-Arian, who was supposed to have been released and deported in April, is still in a Virginia prison because he will not testify in a separate case before a grand jury. The professor, broken by the long ordeal of his trial and unable to raise another million dollars in legal fees for a retrial, pleaded guilty to a minor charge in the hopes that his persecution would end. It has not.

Or take the case of Canadian citizen Maher Arar, who in 2002 was spirited away by Homeland Security from JFK Airport to Syria, where he spent 10 months being tortured in a coffin-like cell. He was, upon his release, exonerated of terrorism. Arar testified before a House panel this month about how he was abducted by the U.S. and interrogated, stripped of his legal rights and tortured. But he couldn’t testify in person. He spoke to the House members on a video link from Canada. He is forbidden by Homeland Security to enter the United States because he allegedly poses a threat to national security.

Those accused of being involved in conspiracies and terrorism plots, as in all police states, become nonpersons. There is no rehabilitation. There is no justice.

“He was never given a hearing nor did the Canadian consulate, his lawyer, or his family know of his fate,” Amnesty International wrote of Arar: “Expulsion in such circumstances, without a fair hearing, and to a country known for regularly torturing their prisoners, violates the U.S. Government’s obligations under international law, specifically the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.”

You can almost hear Dick Cheney yawn.

The Bush administration shut down the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development six years ago and froze its assets. There was no hearing or trial. It became a crime for anyone to engage in transactions with the foundation. The administration never produced evidence to support the charges. It did not have any. In the “war on terror,” evidence is unnecessary. An executive order is enough. The foundation sued the government in a federal court in the District of Columbia. Behind closed doors, the government presented secret evidence that the charity had no opportunity to see or rebut. The charity’s case was dismissed.

The government has closed seven Muslim charities in the

United States and frozen their assets. Not one of them, or any person associated with them, has been found guilty of financing terrorism. They will remain shut. George W. Bush can tar any organization or individual, here or abroad, as being part of a terrorist conspiracy and by fiat render them powerless. He does not need to make formal charges. He does not need to wait for a trial verdict. Secret evidence, which these court cases have exposed as a sham, is enough. The juries in Tampa, Chicago and Dallas did their duty. They spoke for the rights of citizens. They spoke for the protection of due process and the rule of law. They threw small hurdles in front of the emergent police state. But the abuse rolls on. I fear terrorism. I know it is real. I am sure terrorists will strike again on American soil. But while terrorists can wound and disrupt our democracy, only we can kill it.

Chris Hedges, who graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was for nearly two decades a foreign correspondent for The New York Times, is the author of "American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America."

RAP

Song: "Cause Of Death"

By: Immortal Technique

*Yeah, broadcasting live from Harlem, New York
Let the truth be known..*

[Verse 1 of 3]:

You better watch what the fuck flies outta ya mouth
Or I'ma hijack a plane and fly it into your house
Burn your apartment with your family tied to the couch
And slit your throat, so when you scream, only blood comes out
I doubt that there could ever be...a more wicked MC
'Cuz AIDs infested child molesters aren't sicker than me
I see the world for what it is, beyond the white and the black
The way the government downplays historical facts
'Cuz the United States sponsored the rise of the 3rd Reich
Just like the CIA trained terrorists to the fight
Build bombs and sneak box cutters onto a flight
When I was a child, the Devil himself bought me a mic
But I refused the offer, 'cuz God sent me to strike
With skills unused like fallopian tubes on a dyke
My words'll expose George Bush and Bin Laden
As two separate parts of the same seven headed dragon
And you can't fathom the truth, so you don't hear me
You think illuminati's just a fuckin conspiracy theory?
That's why Conservative racists are all runnin' shit
And your phone is tapped by the Federal Government
So I'm jammin' frequencies in ya brain when you speak to me
Technique will rip a rapper to pieces indecently
Pack weapons illegally, because I'm never hesitant
Sniper scoping a commission controllin the president

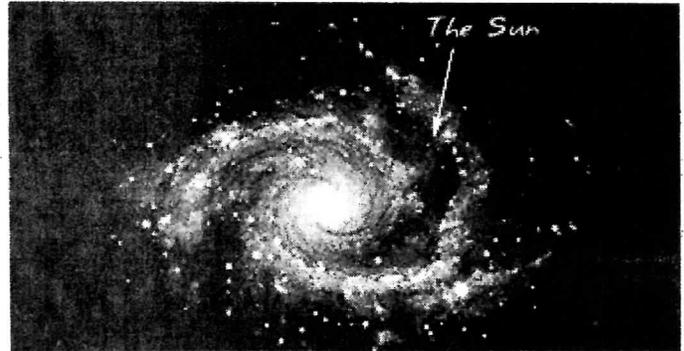
*Father, forgive them, for they don't know right from wrong
The truth will set you free, written down in this song
And the song has the Cause of Death written in code
The Word of God brought to life, that'll save ya soul..*

Save ya soul motherfucker...save ya soul..
Yeah, yeah, yeah

We'll Merge with Andromeda Far from the Center, Oceans Will Boil

by Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 14 May 2007

FOR DECADES, ASTRONOMERS HAVE KNOWN that the Milky Way galaxy is on a collision course with the neighboring Andromeda spiral galaxy. What was unknown until now: the fate of the Sun and our solar system in that melee. New calculations by theorists T.J. Cox and Avi Loeb (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics) show that the Sun and its planets will be exiled to the outer reaches of the merged galaxy. Moreover, the collision will take place within the Sun's lifetime, before it becomes a burned-out white dwarf star.



"You could say that we're being sent to a retirement home in the country," said Cox. "We're living in the suburbs of the Milky Way right now, but we're likely to move much farther out after the coming cosmic smash-up."

Computer simulations by Cox and Loeb show that big changes are coming in only 2 billion years, when the Milky Way and Andromeda experience their first close pass. A viewer on Earth would see the night sky evolve from a strip of stars (the Milky Way seen edge-on) to a muddled mess as Andromeda's powerful pull flings stars from their stately orbits.

At that time, the Sun will still be a hydrogen-burning main-sequence star, although it will have brightened and heated enough to boil the oceans from the Earth.

The two galaxies will swing around each other a couple of times, intermingling their stars as gravitational forces stir them together.

About 5 billion years from now, Andromeda and the Milky Way will have completely combined to form a single, football-shaped elliptical galaxy. The Sun will be an aging star nearing the red giant phase and the end of its lifetime. It and the solar system likely will reside 100,000 light-years from the center of the new galaxy—4 times further than the current 25,000 light-year distance.

Any descendants of humans observing the future sky will experience a very different view. The strip of Milky Way will be gone, replaced by a huge bulge of billions of stars. Future scientists may look back on today's research as the first prediction of things to come.

"This is the first paper in my publication record that has a chance of being cited five billion years from now," joked Loeb.

Harvard-Smithsonian hosts monthly roof-top observations, 3rd-Thursday nights, 60 Garden St., Cambridge. Free, no reservations. Info: 617-495-7461. The paper describing the above research is online at <http://arxiv.org/abs/0705.1170> and <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~tcox/localgroup/>

Army Tank On Your Street Corner? Who Sneaked This Into Defense Auth'n Bill?

by Dave Lewit, Alliance for Democracy, 10 Nov 2007

CONGRESSMEMBER DENNIS KUCINICH APPEARED on Amy Goodman's broadcast Democracy Now! on 9 November. Hours before he had been reading the 794-page Defense Authorization Bill for FY 2008, HR 1585, which he had voted against when it passed the House 397-27 on 17 May 2007 (six of the ten MA congressmembers also voted against it). When he got to Section 1615, page 672, something "jumped out" at him—under TITLE XVI, NATIONAL GUARD ENHANCEMENT.

It was a direct contradiction of the long-standing Posse Comitatus law (1878) that forbids using troops under federal control for state and local law enforcement—"the only US criminal statute that outlaws military operations directed against the American people." It fits right in with Bush's recent Presidential Directive HSPD-20, the dictatorial takeover of all branches of government at all levels in the event of his announcing a "catastrophic emergency" (See *BCA Dispatch-Reader.2*, Aug 2007). Here is the relevant text that Kucinich cited on the air (italic emphasis throughout this article is ours —Ed.):

DETERMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVIL SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

(a) DETERMINATION OF REQUIREMENTS—*The Secretary of Defense shall determine the military-unique capabilities needed to be provided by the Department of Defense to support civil authorities in an incident of national significance or a catastrophic incident.*

(b) PLAN FOR FUNDING CAPABILITIES—

(1) PLAN—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a plan, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for providing the funds and resources necessary to develop and maintain the following:

(A) The military-unique capabilities determined under subsection (a).

(B) *Any additional capabilities determined by the Secretary to be necessary to support the use of the active components and the reserve components of the armed forces for homeland defense missions, domestic emergency responses, and providing military support to civil authorities.*

(2) TERM OF PLAN—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall cover at least five years...

Without the eagle eye of Dennis Kucinich, what congressmembers would notice this blandly worded federal intrusion into the rights of states and our civil rights guaranteed in the US Constitution? How did it get into this huge bill? Presumably from the office of Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, under the supervision of Vice President Dick Cheney, and maybe OK'd by [acting] President George Bush. From there it would have gone to the House Armed Services Committee, Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo), where it was processed and voted by the whole House early in May. Did the import of Section 1615 escape the committee Democrats, or are they comfortable with it?

Did You Hear About Last Year's Sneak Amendment?

A forerunner of this law—an amendment to the John Warner Defense Authorization Act for FY 2007—was passed by the Congress and signed into law by Bush a year ago, along with the odious Military Commissions Act. According to writer Frank

Morales*, while the bill was under consideration, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) remarked: "The massive Defense Authorization Act grants the Pentagon \$532.8 billion to include implementation of the new law which furthermore *facilitates militarized police round-ups of protesters, so-called illegal aliens, potential terrorists, and other undesirables for detention in facilities already contracted and under construction, and transferring from the Pentagon to local police units the latest technology and weaponry designed to suppress dissent.*"

In another statement Leahy said that the Act contained a widely opposed provision to allow the President more control over the National Guard [adopting] changes to the Insurrection Act, which will make it easier for this or any future President to use the military to restore domestic order without the consent of the nation's governors.

A few weeks later, on 29 September 2006 Leahy entered into the Congressional Record that he had "grave reservations about certain provisions of the fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization Bill Conference Report," the language of which, he said, "subverts solid, longstanding posse comitatus statutes that limit the military's involvement in law enforcement, thereby making it easier for the President to declare martial law." This had been "slipped in," Leahy said, "as a rider with little study," while "other congressional committees with jurisdiction over these matters had no chance to comment, let alone hold hearings on, these proposals."

Leahy noted "the implications of changing the [Posse Comitatus] Act are enormous." "There is good reason," he said, "for the constructive friction in existing law when it comes to martial law declarations. Using the military for law enforcement goes against one of the founding tenets of our democracy. We fail our Constitution, neglecting the rights of the States, when we make it easier for the President to declare martial law and trample on local and state sovereignty."

Morales asserts that "with the president's polls at a historic low and Democrats taking back the Congress it is particularly worrisome that President Bush has seen fit, at this juncture to, in effect, declare himself dictator." He quotes the Adjutant General [chief lawyer] Major General Timothy Lowenberg of the Washington [State] National Guard, testifying under oath: "This move toward martial law, which is intended to facilitate more effective counterinsurgency measures on the home front, took place *without any hearing or consultation with the governors and without any articulation or justification of need.*" This, despite the fact that Section 1076 of the new law "changed more than one hundred years of well-established and carefully balanced state-federal and civil-military relationships." In other words, with one swipe of the pen, says the General, "one hundred years of law and policy were changed *without any publicly or privately acknowledged author or proponent of the change.*"

Senator Leahy has filed a bill, S513, to repeal the critical Section 1076 of the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act. Regarding the 2008 Defense Authorization Act, Section 1615 needs to be removed.

Will you send this article to your out-of state relatives and friends to get their congress members to pay attention and do the right thing?

* www.towardfreedom.com/home/content/view/911, stated and updated by Frank Morales in <http://crazyrichguy.wordpress.com/project-censored-top-25-censored-stories-of-2008>

Toilet Summit Flushing Must Go, Waste Converted

by Apama Srivastava Reddy, *InterPress*, 6 Nov 2007

TO MEET ONE OF THE U.N. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) and halve the number of people without basic sanitation by 2015, the world must make a radical shift away from septic tanks and sewers, say experts and activists.

Gathering in New Delhi for the just concluded four-day World Toilet Summit (WTS)-2007, 400 sanitation experts from 44 countries agreed that they needed to work harder on designing toilets that suited the developing world and looked beyond 'disposal oriented' western systems.

"We don't need just toilets but toilet systems," said scientist and former president of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the summit that was jointly organised by the Singapore-based World Toilet Organisation (WTO) and India's Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, with support from the Indian government. "Toilet technologies need to be oriented towards ruggedness and reliability and minimum water usage."

"Like the septic tank, the sewer system was first used in London in 1850 in response to thousands of cholera deaths. New York got sewers in 1860 and Calcutta in 1870. One hundred and thirty-seven years later, only 232 out of India's over 5,000 urban centres have partial flush-to-sewer connectivity. Clearly conventional systems are no answer to the world's sanitation woes," said Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh which has developed the twin-pit sanitation technology.

"You cannot achieve the MDGs with sewers and septic tanks," Pathak told IPS. "Sewers need expensive infrastructure, high maintenance and large quantities of water to be effective."

Septic tanks, though cheaper than sewers, need regular maintenance and their contents can seep into ground water leading to infections and pollution, said Jack Sim, who heads the WTO.

The West should stop exporting and imposing its sanitation solutions like sewers to the developing world as they are often found to be unsuitable and unsustainable, said Carol McCreary of the American Restrooms Association.

The need is to shift from the conventional 'disposal-oriented' sanitation paradigm to new 'reuse-oriented' models, said Arne R. Panesar of the ECOSAN programme that works in recycling-oriented wastewater management and sanitation systems in Germany.

While the WTS-2007 showcased many technologies that could help developing countries where toilets are needed the most, not all were suitable because of local cultures and practices.

For example African Sanitation's 'AfriSan' toilet is a water-less, dry composting system pioneered in the slums of South Africa. It uses small amounts of peat moss and lets solar energy turn waste into odourless manure that is collected in a tray and emptied once a week, said AfriSan's Lukas Oosthuizen.

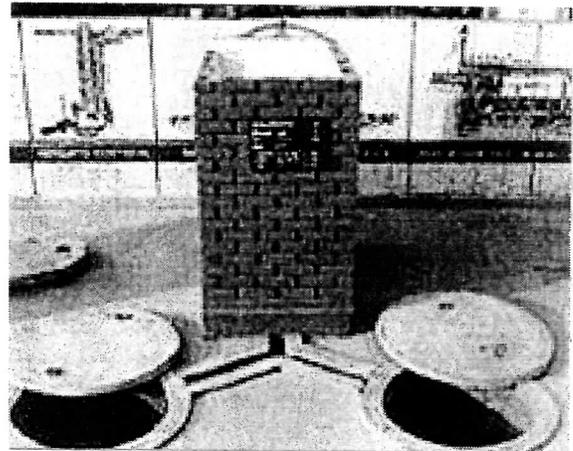
But Oosthuizen quickly discovered that the model was unsuitable for use in India. "People here are washers and not wipers, and so we need to redesign so that water can be used," he said.

Another solution from Africa was the 'Vacu-tug', a small portable machine that empties out dry toilet pits that is revolu-

tionising slum sanitation in Kenya. "It has already cut down the infamous flying toilets (whereby people use a plastic bag and then fling it out of the window) of Nairobi," said Prof. Edward K Kairu, who heads ANEW, a trans-African water and sanitation forum.

But one of the best technologies remains the two-pit system developed by Pathak and his Sulabh three decades ago which has transformed the lives of millions of users and scavengers in this country and abroad.

The U.N.-Habitat has recognised Sulabh's cost-effective and appropriate sanitation system as a 'Global Urban Best Practice'. The twin-pit system uses 1.5-2 litres of water per use in a flush toilet that is connected to two pits that allows recharging of the soil and composting, and a close-loop public toilet system attached to a bio-gas digester.



The twin-pit, pour-flush sanitary toilet has proved cheap and environment friendly. Photo: Sulabh International

In fact, this is the only sanitation technology that meets the seven conditions for a sanitary latrine laid down by the World Health Organisation. These stipulate that a sanitary latrine should not contaminate surface soil, ground water or surface water. Excreta should not be accessible to flies or animals. There should be no handling of fresh excreta, or when this is unavoidable, kept to a bare minimum. There should be no odor or unsightliness and the methods used should be simple and inexpensive in construction and operation. "This is an on-site sanitation technology that can be implemented anywhere," Pathak said.

Sulabh has built more than a million such toilets in India and has recently completed five pay-and-use public toilet complexes in the Afghan capital Kabul. "We were expecting some 300 users per day to make these toilets self-sustaining. But more than 5,000 people use these toilets everyday, yielding profits and employment right from start," said Pathak.

Portable plastic toilets jointly developed by an Indian and a British firm are being manufactured in India to provide sanitation during the upcoming Beijing Olympics. "The toilet can be fixed and unfixed in an hour and at least a hundred people can use the stink-free toilet before it needs to be vacuum cleaned," said Bob Macrae, international sales director for Britain's Poly John. "It can be used at mega religious festivals like the Kumbh Mela in India, natural disasters, sports events and even the urban

slums of India," added Prashant Trivedi, of Sintex, the Indian partner.

New responsive technologies are a good signal, said Sushmita Shekhar, member, U.N. Taskforce on Water and Sanitation. "However, these technologies have to reach the people. Until the beneficiary sees the good in proper sanitation, he will not ask for it. And till he himself demands, there will be little acceptance for the technology," she said.

In fact the need is also to take sanitation technology from being subsidy-driven, which it so far is, and make it market-driven, said Jon Lane of the Geneva-based Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

"Every person uses a toilet several times a day. And 2.6 billion people worldwide still need one. So we have to see it as a blue-chip industry," said Panesar of Ecosan.

Awareness is the key, said Sim. World Toilet Summits, organised annually in different parts of the world by his organisation, are a branding exercise aimed at taking the subject of sanitation and toilets out of its taboos. "Starting with the International Year of Sanitation 2008, we have to market appropriate, eco-sustainable and user-friendly sanitation to make it viable."

Globally 2.6 billion people, or one in three persons, lack access to proper sanitation, says the UNICEF/WHO mid-term review report on MDGs. More than half of them live in India and China. Africa and Latin America are the other regions that are lagging behind.

http://ipsnews.net/new_focus/toilet/index.asp

The Neglected Goal: A Toilet Revolution

PROJECT NEWS

In Ipswich, the chairperson of the select board has accepted the Democracy Protection kit with Bush's executive order from a delegation of two residents. Any more Ipswich citizens wish to join the delegation? Call Paul Brailsford at 978-356-7671 or 617-584-2223.

In Boston, with city elections behind, the Democracy Protection project will accelerate by our contacting city councilors in addition to Chuck Turner, as well as potential delegation members.. Meanwhile, we thought we could prepare for meeting a high police official by consulting with the head of an academic program which regularly collaborates with Boston police. Hence, this letter (which followed a briefer, more general request for talking):

October 18, 2007

Dean Jack R. Greene
College of Criminal Justice
Northeastern University, Boston

Dear Dean Greene:

Late this spring George W Bush issued several executive orders which were not reported in mainstream media. One of these, HSPD-20, is of particular concern. It arrogates to himself what amounts to dictatorial power in the event of a "catastrophic emergency", defined by himself--perhaps another attack like 9/11, or a subway or police station bombing, or anthrax mailing. If you haven't already seen this order, you can find it posted at www.newenglandalliance.org by scrolling down to the subtitle "Taking Over".

Acting through the secretary of Homeland Security, Bush would "coordinate" all branches of government, at all levels. In practical terms, I expect Homeland Security might engage state and local police forces everywhere, and begin a roundup of any

persons they deemed a threat to the Bush regime. Another development not widely reported is the building in the US of many detention camps, presumably for illegal immigrants but of considerably greater capacity. Needless to say, the Bush regime is unpopular both at home and abroad. Nevertheless, there would be formal authority for compliance by officials at state and local levels as well as in federal agencies.

If local officials--mayors, councilors, police, prosecutors--view Homeland Security's authority to promulgate emergency measures overriding Constitutional rights and procedures, citizens (and other local residents) have reason to be very concerned for themselves and for our democracy. So, just how do local officials, including police commissioners and chiefs, view such authority? What measures might they take to protect residents from unwarranted police and judiciary action?

As a member of the Alliance for Democracy I am proposing that citizen delegations question our local officials as to their compliance with HS requests or demands, or how they would propose to challenge such requests or demands. This is a basic feature of citizen oversight of our local government--something like the "question period" in Britain and Canada at both national and provincial levels, or what a free press is supposed to do. Then, through public debate concerning these responses to a federal government arguably out of control, let our local citizens come up with appropriate measures, old or new, to encourage our officers to protect local civil society--our democratic rights and governance.

Your perceptions and advice would be very useful. How should we approach Boston's chief of police, or the chief in any other city or town in the Commonwealth? How useful would be the suggestions outlined in the subsections "Interview Request" and "Interview Questions" at newenglandalliance.org? I would like to sit down and discuss these things with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely, with thanks,

David W Lewit, PhD

* * *

Dean Greene's response:

Thanks for your thoughts, but I dont see on on connection with our college.

Ed. Note: CCJ's course descriptions online, which include internships with local police agencies, indicate relevance. Approaching Dean Greene was a "cold call". We have decided to take a new tack by adding another communication link: Review our list of friends and acquaintances in Boston, and contact those who may have relations with police or other officials.

Readers: If you live or work in Boston, or wish to form a delegation to question officials in your town, please consider working with this project. Call Dave at 617-266-8687.

Readers: What project WOULD engage you in a working group? For example, who would like to get prepared, and then lobby state representatives to co-sponsor with Byron Rushing and others the Globalization Impact Bill, to warn Massachusetts what trade deals not to support? Call Dave (above) or Joanna (617-864-0506) or Cynthia (781-259-8104), and they will put you in touch with interested others. Or call Barbara (781-894-1179) to attend the next pow-wow at the Waltham office).

MORE PROJECT NEWS

The New Civics project, thank god, has many community people working on it—Boston city councilor Chuck Turner, Hyde Square Task Force's Jesús Gerena and most importantly a group of 10 or so high school student activists (see photo in *BCA Dispatch*, April 2007). Chuck arranged a hearing at the Boston City Council, 18 October 2007, with students and other citizens testifying, including yours truly. Most city councilors put in cameo appearances and all endorsed the idea of introducing civics in the junior and senior years of all Boston high schools. The content will be determined in a collaborative effort by all concerned. Here is my testimony:

My name is David Lewit. I live in Boston, I'm a social psychologist, and I'm active in the Alliance for Democracy.

In my view, two undercurrents are clashing in our schools: the civic and the corporate. In the last three decades the corporate has been aggressive and has been winning out. Civics was dropped from the Boston high schools in 1970, and standardized testing in English and math has taken its place in front of the shrinking curriculum in arts, community engagement, and the fostering of individual and group initiative. This testing features questions which have only one correct answer, and fosters rote learning—a form of obedience. Test subject-matter is convenient for routine corporate or bureaucratic thinking, but limited with respect to community concerns and ways of problem solving and innovating. Both students and teachers are sick of the time and energy drill takes—and takes away from other learning.

Furthermore, there is double punishment for below-par performance—not just holding the student back, but warnings against the school, putting it at risk for corporate takeover, for example, as a charter school. The political agendas of directors of organizations promoting MCAS and its federal enforcer, the No Child Left Behind Act, leave little doubt as to the corporate bias they contain. The whole No Child Left Behind program is disempowering, and Boston should renegotiate its relations with this federal mandate.

I take my hat off to the students who have organized this hearing. To promote "Human Rights in Action" goes well beyond "civil rights". It is empowering. The term "human rights" was coined by Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations in 1948 when they drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UDHR not only mandates civil rights like those spelled out in our state and national constitutions, but bans discrimination of all kinds and specifies many other rights, including education and community.

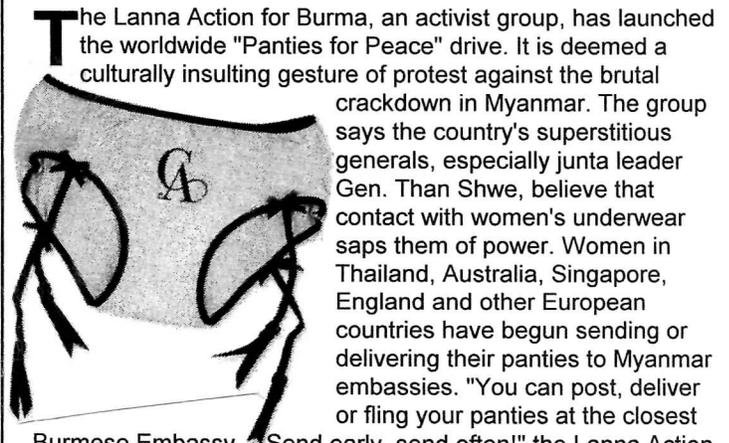
The UDHR says "Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible." The student's personality development requires significant participation in the larger community of Boston, hitched to the student's desire to act. What a boon it would be for our schools to foster media literacy, field investigation, community projects, system modeling including all-important side-effects, following citizen careers, comparison with other cities, how corporations as well as legislatures and social movements work, design of new institutions, and so on.

Give new civics a chance—Human Rights in Action. Thank you.



Panties for Peace Women Hex Burmese Junta

by Dido L. Arellano, *NewsRightNow.com* 19 Oct 2007



The Lanna Action for Burma, an activist group, has launched the worldwide "Panties for Peace" drive. It is deemed a culturally insulting gesture of protest against the brutal crackdown in Myanmar. The group says the country's superstitious generals, especially junta leader Gen. Than Shwe, believe that contact with women's underwear saps them of power. Women in Thailand, Australia, Singapore, England and other European countries have begun sending or delivering their panties to Myanmar embassies. "You can post, deliver or fling your panties at the closest

DIRECTIONS TO WALTHAM MEETING

The next join Boston Cambridge Alliance/North Bridge joint meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. (not 7 p.m.) at the Alliance for Democracy office in Waltham. We hope to be over with the meeting by 9 p.m.

The office is located on the second floor of 760 Main Street, Waltham. The building is behind Christ Church (Episcopal), an old fieldstone church about three blocks west of the Waltham Common. If you're driving east from route 128, route 117, or route 20, look for the Waltham post office. You can park in the parking lot for our building or behind the episcopal church. Come to the side door and knock and we'll let you in. By bus:

from Central Square, Cambridge, take #70 bus at 6:43 at Green and Magazine Sts. Runs every 15-20 minutes. Arrive Waltham green at 7:21. Walk across green to Main; then left ~3 blocks.

—Barbara Clancy, AfD office coordinator, 781-894-1179.

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: _____

Street No./Box/Apt: _____

Town and Zip: _____

Phone: Day _____ Night: _____

E-mail: _____

COLOPHON

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

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

Visit the Alliance web site: www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org

Visit our regional web site: www.NewEnglandAlliance.org