

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 843, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808-0843



FALL, 2003

MOLLY IVINS HONORED WITH DEBS AWARD

Banquet Date is November 1

Molly Ivins will receive the Debs Award at this year's Award Banquet. Who is she, you may ask, and what has she done to deserve this prestigious award? First, who she is: Molly Ivins is a syndicated columnist and author who lives and works in Austin, Texas.

What has she done which is "Debsian?" We will describe that in some detail. First, to my knowledge, Ivins does not refer to Eugene Debs as the inspiration for her form of social criticism/information sharing, and she probably never thought of herself as "Debsian." However, in today's language, both Debs and Ivins deal with empowerment, and both of them recognized that information is essential to achieve that empowerment. A large part of Debs' efforts were devoted, not to agitating or union organizing per se, but to writing articles and pamphlets aimed at educating the working class. Debs used the written word especially well in the editorship of *Locomotive Fireman's Magazine* and in guest editorials in *Appeal to Reason*. Debs' goal was empowerment and quality of life, broadly defined. He perceived that workers could gain empowerment—and the resultant benefits of earning enough to buy food, shelter, clothes, health care, etc. for their families. These are *pro-family values*. Debs knew that workers needed lots of information if they were to be motivated and able to strive together to attain what they needed. On this subject, Debs said:

You are looking for some leader to lead you into the Promised Land. I would not be that leader even if I could,

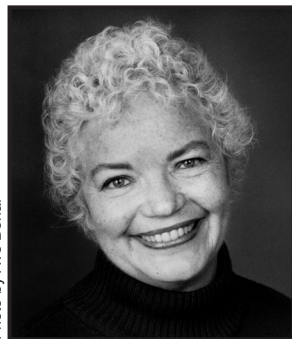


Photo by Ave Bonar

MOLLY IVINS
Syndicated Columnist,
Author

because if I could lead you in, someone else could later come along and lead you out.

You, and not just industrial workers, by the way, have to be informed of what truly is that best "Land," and you must know how it can be achieved.

This information is not easily attained, but must come from speeches and writing. Debs was good at speaking; he was a real spellbinder. Likewise, his writing skills, as mentioned above, were exceptional.

Molly Ivins' forte is writing. her syndicated columns range widely over the landscape—and boundaries—of contemporary social life, from the "Peace from Hell" in Iraq to the Ken Ley/Enron influence on Bush's energy policy, and including such shady characters as one Ahmad Chalabi (who, incidentally, was the source of most of the flawed intelligence which got us into the Iraqi war). Her *Shrub* is a book about George W. Bush. It describes his style and programs as Texas Governor, as well as his earlier business dealings. It also reveals the

continued on page 2

MICHAEL SULLIVAN

Presentation Speaker



MICHAEL SULLIVAN
Pres., Sheet Metal Workers,
Pres., Eugene V. Debs Fdn.

The presentation speaker for the November 1st banquet is Michael Sullivan. Most of our readers already know Mike. He is the young and energetic General President of the Sheet

Metal Workers International Union. In 2000, he was honored with the Eugene V. Debs Award, and just last year he was elected Debs Foundation President to succeed Jack Sheinkman. Those who sensed the sincerity, clear thinking, and determination in his acceptance speech in 2000 will be eager to hear Mike again.

We expect an excellent turnout for this event. In anticipation of this, we have shifted the banquet from Heritage Ballroom to Hulman center, ISU. A sell-out would be more than the Chamber of Commerce could attain when Bobby Knight was their featured speaker. However, we need 500 guests in order to look respectable in Hulman Center. Besides, you don't want to miss Molly Ivins. Dinner guests will have the opportunity to meet her, buy her book, and get her autograph. Also, non-ticket holders will be able to join a meet-the-author/autograph session at 5:00 p.m. on the outer concourse of Hulman Center. Doors for the banquet area will open at 6:00 p.m.

As usual, there will be **no ticket sales at the door**, so don't wait; place your order now! Tickets are \$30 (K-12 & college students 1/2 price). A table of 8 is \$210. We prefer to hold tickets at the door, but will mail them on request. **Ticket order information is on p. 7 of this newsletter.**

JIMMY (ie) HIGGINS IS ALIVE

Back in Debs time, a lot of important work of the Socialist Party was done by volunteers who served without name recognition or pay. If anyone asked who had done it the answer became "Jimmy Higgins." Higgins was credited with everything from leafleting and stuffing envelopes, to doing things which discredited, embarrassed or confused the opposition.

Yes, Jimmy Higgins still operates today to do such things for the Debs Foundation as stuff envelopes for membership mailings, and meet and provide transportation for banquet day guests, to and from Indianapolis Airport. Who Does it? The Jimmy and Jimmie Higgins of today.

Here is another example of Jimmy Higgins work. Our fall banquet was announced in a large union's newsletter being sent to all its members—several thousand—in Indiana and Kentucky. The announcement also included how to order tickets, and made a strong pitch for why unionists should attend. The foundation benefits from such free advertising. Thanks, Jimmy Higgins!

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2003

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The *Debs Foundation Newsletter* is published twice yearly for distribution to members and friends of the Foundation. The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a non-profit, private organization which maintains the home of Eugene and Kate Debs as a museum and shrine to labor, and carries on educational and informational programs which aim to honor and promote the goals for which Debs struggled: industrial unionism, social justice, and peace. For those wishing to become members, an application form is provided elsewhere in this issue.

Critical Essays and Vignettes

A large part of this newsletter is devoted to essays and short pieces intended to pique your interest and, more importantly, contribute to an informed, critical awareness of what is going on and what the possibilities are for more open, participatory democracy.

These essays and vignettes are the result of a long hot summer. It has been that in many ways. For this editor of the newsletter, it has been a long, hot summer of recovery from hip-joint replacement surgery. No camping in Canada, no splitting firewood, listening to the loons, swimming, and visiting with Canadian camper friends. I had plenty of time

on my hands: time to be amazed, get informed, and get mad at where this country is being led by the Bush Administration, what is happening to our environment and to our world leadership role, etc. Out of this summer of discontent was born a lengthier newsletter, hopefully more informative and more motivating while still "Debsian."

Do read it through. I hope you will appreciate it and even learn from it. Mainly though, I hope you will get as mad as I am.

CDK

Continued from Page 1

truth about the Houston National Guard unit which G.W. joined in order to avoid the draft during the Vietnam War. This was a guard unit to which only sons of rich, well-connected Texans need apply. A reading of *Shrub* prepares the reader for what to expect out of G.W. Bush as President. A new book, due out in September, enlarges on Bush's exercise of power, who really benefits, etc. This new book will be available for purchase and autographing at the banquet.

Speaking bluntly, the quality of democratic participation in American society will be greatly enhanced if more people—including workers—inform themselves by reading Molly Ivins and the few others of her ilk. This is our case for why she deserves the award and why you should join us November 1st in this celebration. Here's betting you will flat-out enjoy yourself!

Can Money Buy An Election?

If big money can buy an election, Democrats may as well close up shop as far as the 2004 presidential election is concerned. Don't plan to spend another dollar aimed at unseating G.W. Bush. Put all your money into Senate and House races. Bush already has hundreds of Million in his re-election fund. The news accounts of what he can raise in one evening is astounding: \$4 million at one dinner in New York, trip to Texas nets \$7 million, trip to California—although a strongly Democratic state - nets millions. Ironically, Bush has to stay completely out the gubernatorial "Recall" farce. His endorsement would be the kiss of death for any Republican hoping to replace Gray Davis. Members of big business can become "members" of a couple of support groups, based on how much money—\$100,000s of dollars—they themselves contribute, and more importantly, how many other moneyed individuals he or she can line up to make big—I mean \$100,000 plus pledges.

Any reader of this newsletter prepared to contribute that kind of money to the Democratic party? What would Debs say?



Critical Essays

Bob Hope and the Capital Gains Tax

Bob Hope died yesterday. He was an aged entertainer so popular and adored that some said they expected him to be immortal. President Bush declared that all flags be flown at half-mast today, and he made a brief statement about what a great and patriotic American Hope was.

Bob Hope was adored by many as the guy who traveled overseas in war after war. He did it last fall, visiting the American troops amassed just outside Iraqi borders, waiting for Bush's war to begin. I didn't see any gorgeous, perfectly stacked girls displayed who are supposed to build moral and remind the boys in uniform of "what they are fighting for: country and home." I never could imagine how those slim, slinky, but curvaceous women could remind any G.I. of home: mother and girlfriend or wife.

Hope's original joke on that occasion might have been a morale booster. At least the loud laughter and cheers meant something. The funny joke: "I would love to see a star for Saddam Hussein on the Hollywood Walk of Stars (pause, ripple of laughs). Then any American could walk by and spit on it (loud roar of approval, troops standing and applauding.)

Where does the Capital Gains Tax fit into this discussion? The Bush Administration intends to pass legislation to reduce or even eliminate the hated Capital Gains or "Death" Tax. Only the survival of Bob's widow will delay the date when his children will get their inheritance, but only after the "Death Tax" has taken close to half of it. The total amount will be so huge, however, that even then each individual share will amount to millions.

An idea: Why couldn't Bob have found a way to avoid paying inheritance tax on part of the estate? Today the talkative host of an early morning musical program (yes, a live announcer on this little radio station) paid tribute to Bob Hope by playing the tune "San Fernando Valley." As

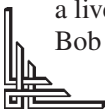
almost an afterthought, he said: After all, he owns half of it. After the tune he elaborated. It seems that when Hope first came to Hollywood, he asked Mae West for advice on how to invest some of the money he was earning during those early Depression years. Mae West's advice: invest in land—in San Fernando County. Bob did just that. Over the next decades, as L.A. expanded north, land values multiplied thousands of times over.

We certainly can't fault Bob for what happened. It is the American way for a man to work hard and lay aside a bit for a rainy day. Hope's rainy day never came, and now his heirs stand to reap huge benefits, **maybe half a billion dollars worth.**

The prize tract of land is highly valued by developers, who would pay millions for it, then turn around and make their own millions through luxury-priced suburban development. For several years, certain public interest groups have urged Hope to donate a chunk of this pristine, wooded, hilly countryside to either the state or county park systems, where it could have been enjoyed by the public, its trees would have been good for the environment, and not one penny would have been paid in inheritance tax! You can't take it with you. Would you prefer to leave a legacy named Bob Hope Exclusive Suburban Community (including Bob Hope Mall) or as Bob Hope Nature Preserve and State Park?

A further point about inheritance taxes: When this tax was first introduced in the late 19th century, it was supported by many of the nation's wealthiest men, who had the vision to see that without such a measure which redistributes wealth, eventually, simply through inheritance, the wealth of the nation would be concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer ever richer families.

CDK



Two Political Cartoons

One presents the words from the Democratic donkey, answering "What a present day Democrat stands for."

"We Democrats want you to know what we stand for; We're Progressive, Conservative, Liberalish, Moderates, Who remain open to suggestions if that's okay with you.

(Little figure says: How dumb can you get!)

Another, on facing page to number one, at left, shows a huge billboard being completed which reads:

Re-elect
George WMD Bush
2004

(Little figure: looks like G.W. Bush, says; "Hey wait a minute!")



Critical Essays Continued

Affordable Drugs for the Elderly

Older Americans are overly represented among those who cannot afford to pay for the expensive drugs they need to buy. They have to choose between skimping on the drugs or on food, shelter, and clothing. Blame it on the high cost of drugs and no assistance from Medicare/Medicaid. The high cost of drugs, the pharmaceutical industry claims, is caused by the high cost of research and testing which is necessary to bring a given drug onto the market. Critics of the industry blame the high cost on greedy companies, pointing out further that a lot of the basic research comes at no cost to the industry, for it is done by university scientists whose work is supported by other, often governmental, sources.

Be that as it may, and strangely, one way seniors can get cheaper drugs is by going to Canada or Mexico, sometimes buying the drugs for one-half what they cost in the U.S. Only a few seniors can do that, however—only those who can drive across the border or go by charter bus. (The latter way, the charges for the charter company cut into savings.)

Finally, both parties in Congress have decided the government must act to provide a solution, but the two parties could not agree on any. The Republicans were under extreme pressure from the pharmaceutical industry lobby.

Last week they hit on a partial quick fix, one which wouldn't cost the government, and which Bush said he would not reject. Apparently, to benefit even those

seniors who can't personally go to Canada or Mexico, U.S. pharmacies can bring the drugs into the country for sale to the needy seniors. The pharmaceutical industry lobbyists swarmed Capitol Hill. One congressman complained that there was at least one lobbyist working this case per congressman. The industry changed its pitch, claiming fear that fake and inferior drugs might get in and harm people's health.

There is some legitimacy to this claim. If there is any way for fraud to enter the picture, more likely if mail orders are possible, some crooks will be there fast. Come to think of it, even now the public is not 100% protected from diluted and fake drugs. In a couple of well-publicized cases, immoral and crooked individual pharmacists made millions by diluting expensive drugs and charging regular price. Scores of cancer sufferers were denied the proper dosage of life-saving medication. What an atrocity!

I have a question about this possible partial solution. If U.S. pharmacies can buy (and import) the drugs for needy seniors, how can it be guaranteed that sale will be made only to the needy seniors? What is to prevent a pharmacy chain, in order to get a leg up on the competition and widen profit margins, from also selling these drugs to the non-elderly at whatever price the market will bear?

CDK

Forget the Kyoto Accord?

A news release from the Bush Administration dated July 23, 2003 carried this headline: "More research needed on cancer and effects of global warming." The Kyoto Accord dealt with procedures to reduce emissions which cause global warming. The U.S. under President Clinton's leadership, had been a key framer of the accord. Now all the kinks had been worked out, and 176 countries met in Oslo to ratify it. President Bush personally went to Oslo to defeat adoption of the accord by the World community. Bush thought his negative stand would kill it, but the participants passed the accord with an overwhelming vote of 175 to 1, the U.S. being the lone dissenter. The participants all stood and cheered heartily when the vote results were announced.

The U.S. is estimated to be responsible for 35% of all the harmful pollutants. Bush came back from Oslo saying, "I went to Oslo and stood firm, fighting for the U.S. economy and the American people." Thanks G.W., but we didn't need that, and our planet does not need a 10-year delay in any action from the nation which is 35%

of the problem. You need to understand, according to Bush, that 30 years of previous research is of no value for policy or action because it was all "ideologically tainted." Now the world must wait for 10 years of "objective" scientific research directed by the Bush Administration.

Most Americans regrettable do not know or care much about the Kyoto Accord, but Western Europeans do, and they are willing to take action based on existing scientific evidence. For over a year now, Europeans have been enraged at Bush's arrogant, go-it-alone approach, as shown by his stand on this accord, which looks out only for the U.S. concern for short-term economic interests. That approach had generated strong anti-American (Bush) sentiment in Western Europe long before Rumsfeld began referring to the *New Europe* and the *Old* (irrelevant) *Europe*. Eugene Debs would say something like, "Come on, Bush, join the world!"

CDK



JOHN CALVIN versus ROGER WILLIAMS

Roger Williams, We Need You Now!

The Protestant Reformation of 1500s fame had some strong leaders. There was John Calvin in Geneva Canton, Switzerland, and Martin Luther in Prussian Germany. The Reformation Memorial Garden in Geneva has statues for the main ones. Martin Luther and his main lieutenant, Melancthon, are much smaller figures, located at one end. But right in the middle of the “wall” are 20-40 foot figures of John Calvin and his main lieutenant, Zwingli, as well as two figures from a century later in the Protestant Reform Movement. One is John Knox, of Scottish Presbyterian fame. The other is Roger Williams, an American Baptist of Colonial America. More about him follows later in the essay.

Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, *et al* are leaders of a strong resurgent fundamentalism in the U.S. (recently taking on the mantle of *Christian Zionists*). They actually strive, sometimes successfully, to shape U.S. political and social life and even our foreign policy, especially as regards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Case in point: Bush’s “Road Map for Peace” speech in 2002. In draft form, according to *Newsweek*, it was given the usual close scrutiny by master political advisor Karl Rove and others. In a June 2003 article, *Newsweek* reported that “a former senior Bush Administration official” claimed that proposed language, favorable to the Palestinian cause, was “modified” after the speech was reviewed by Dick Cheney, Condi Rice, Rumsfeld, and Karl Rove. Rove in particular is acutely aware of the activism of the so-called Christian Zionists (Religious Rightists) who, when galvanized by their leaders Gary Bauer, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and others, flood the White House with hundreds of thousands of e-mails and letters urging unqualified support of Israel and of the so-called “Covenant of Abraham,” which allegedly promised the Israelites their entire ancient homeland *forever*. The Christian Zionists warned Bush that any attempt to be “even-handed” between Israel and the Palestinians would be “morally reprehensible.” Falwell and Robertson are vocal in giving notice that they are going to monitor the “Roadmap for Peace” very carefully.

Pat Robertson is perhaps the most vocal—with his 700 Club, prayer partners, etc.—on the customary hot-button political issues, calling his

followers to pray to God for the removal by divine intervention of three of the U.S. Supreme Court justices who recently joined in the vote striking down sodomy laws. These justices are old and ailing, and God should “convince” them it is time to retire (so Bush can nominate “*right-thinking*” jurists). These Religious Rightists clearly envision something like a theocratic form of government, a *government by the Ten Commandments*.

Here we are back to where the essay began: with the history of the Protestant Reformation and one American named Roger Williams. Clearly, a modern-day Christian Conservative U.S. government (theocracy) would attempt to be as oppressive as was John Calvin’s Geneva. Those people weren’t allowed to have any fun! It was *all work and worship!*

However, thanks to the opposition from Anabaptists and the lack of Calvinistic tendencies among Luther’s followers, theocracy did not last long in Europe. And, thanks to the example of Roger Williams and the belief of some other early American religious bodies—including Baptists, Jews, and others, the U.S. Constitution did not create a theocracy for us to live under.

What Roger Williams did to earn a position of high honor in Geneva’s Reformation Garden was to take a stand for separation of Church and State. He saw that 12 of the colonies were really theocracies. A man could not vote unless he belonged to the established church. So what Roger Williams did was go off and establish his own colony, Rhode Island, where genuine religious freedom was the law of the land. One could be a full citizen of the colony, with voting rights, and be a member of any religion of his choosing, or no religion at all!

I say we need to reaffirm this country’s roots, recognizing Roger Williams’ impact on the framers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. We must insure liberty for all, even for those who are non-religious. Thanks, Roger Williams. Without you, it might never have happened as it did.

CDK

Christ and the Ten Commandments

Christ said something momentous about the Ten Commandments (Law of Moses). He didn’t mince words. He said: “I give you a new commandment” (there actually were two). One: Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul, and number 2, Love thy neighbor as thyself. Christ went on to say that by keeping these two fully, you would be complying with all the Law of Moses, and any other laws or interpretations of such by Prophets and Scribes since Moses. That is what I call clear and concise. It clarifies the “vertical” (right with God), and the horizontal” (right with other persons). A lot of Fundamentalist Christians today, like those rallying around the Ten Commandments at the Alabama Supreme Court Bldg, are stuck in the Old Testament (Covenant). Using their kind of language, they are living under Law, not under Grace (The Cross).

I think I know why these Christian Rightists are so hung up on the do’s and don’ts of the Ten Commandments. They have a serious problem with that second commandment from Christ. That “neighbor as thyself” bit is a slippery slope with all sorts of implications for tolerance, social justice, share the wealth, in short, give more concern for relationships than with material wealth or with outward signs of

compliance with moral standards.

How different our world would be if all Christians took seriously Christ’s two Commandments!

CDK

The Big Blackout of 2003

It was the worst blackout in history, and we hope it remains the record. But with the ridiculous blame game going on in Washington it may take more catastrophe to bring them around. The Bush Administration is hung up on an ideology of deregulation and free markets. Secretary of Energy Abraham says: “We have to “incentivize” the entire system. Incentivize is the new buzz word for providing every actor or class of actors a *monetary incentive* to do that which is in the interest of the entire system. How do you incentivize the consumer? Deconstructing (stating clearly) it goes like this. The individual electricity user won’t mind paying double as much for electricity if he and she are getting cheap gasoline. So, incentivization works also on the supply side. Insure a supply of cheap oil and gas by drilling in the Alaskan North Slope Wilderness Preserve, and opening the National Forests and Parks to oil and gas exploration.

In this way supply and demand will be in balance, every player incentivized, and all works beautifully for so long as the supply of

oil lasts! How about a bit of conservation? Why not the development of alternate sources of energy? The answer, of course is: “not good for business.”

CDK

President Bush has assigned the task of finding *Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq to highly qualified experts*. One thousand of them have taken over that responsibility from the U.S. army. On Meet the Press, August 24, 2003, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff expressed confidence that it is only a matter of time before the WMD’s are found. Then Bush’s reason for going to war to “Liberate the Iraqi People” will have been supported by irrefutable evidence.

Wait a minute, has not most of the world moved beyond the WMD debate? Ah, all that is except Bush, Rice, Karl Rove, et.al. It is about Bush’s re-election, stupid! The question is, *if it is all about Bush’s re-election, why should not the Republican Party be picking up the tab* for keeping 1,000 highly qualified experts (privately contracted, and no doubt well paid and protected) who are digging, snooping, testing, bribing, or whatever tactics they use, to find WMD’s. Why should the tax payers of America be paying for this? Let Bush’s wealthy contributors pick up the tab.

CDK

It was an *historic moment*, when President Bush hosted the recently elected Palestinian Prime Minister. What did he take back to Palestine? Some nice words and a reference to *the wall* being an *obstacle to peace*.

A couple of weeks later *Israel's Sharon* came to Washington and met with Bush. What did he take back to Israel. Language which referred to *The Wall* as a *point of discussion*. He also got \$10 billion in so called "loan guaranties," and one billion dollars in military aid. The \$10 billion was to help *offset the economic loss* suffered by Israel due to the Iraqi War. (Seems that they had to keep scud missiles on high alert for six months).

Talk about an even handed Middle-East Policy!

Saddam Hussein is proving hard to find, and Bush wants to find him the worst possible way. He wants to try him and convict him before the world, especially for U.S. public opinion. He has posted a \$25 Million reward, hoping that some greedy Iraqi will rat on him and come forth to claim the prize.

A sequence of possible likenesses of Saddam are being distributed to troops in case they might meet up with him and recognize him. What if a single PFC GI meets him, recognizes him, and arrests him on the spot. Would this PFC get the entire \$25 Million? How many of those millions would he be willing to pay simply to be *on the next plane out of Iraq*.

About the Wounded. The casualty count per day should not be just a reporting of the number killed. For every G.I. killed, a larger number are wounded, some wounded lightly, others very, very badly. This can involve burns, which will require one skin graft after another. It involves loss of limbs, eyes, etc. One Friday CBS evening news carried a lengthy segment on the *other casualties* of the Iraqi war, *the wounded*.

It was mentioned that the orthopedic ward at Walter Reed Army Hospital is overflowing, and many of the wounded from Iraq are being cared for in overflow space at area hospitals. They interviewed one of the wounded who described how painful it was to get a thumb shot off. Two amputees were interviewed. Both were more or less upbeat. One had a stub where a right arm had been. He demonstrated how difficult it is to tie a shoe with one hand. The other had a stub where his right leg had been. He talked cheerfully that *all* his other body parts were uninjured. He clearly was optimistic about those reproductive organs so close to the stub of a leg. I couldn't help but think of that incredibly graphic anti-war, country song of protest coming out of the Vietnam era: "Don't take your love to town. I know I'm not much of a man after I lost both legs in that dirty Asian War, but don't take your love to town."

The odds on getting into Harvard are better than the chance of getting into the newly opening Red Lobster in New York, as an employee, that is. The news release stated that because of the overwhelming response from out-of-work New Yorkers, Red Lobster had a rejection rate hundreds of times higher than has Harvard University. What would Debs say to this sad state of Affairs?

NOT A GOOD REPORT CARD

What would you do if your child brought home a report card like this one. It is from the National Parks and Conservation Assoc. "Report Card on the Bush Administration". Their assigned grade for the three key areas are as follows.

SUBJECT

GRADE

PRESERVING PARK RESOURCES

- _ Attempting to weaken clean air laws
- _ Opened 13 national park units to oil and gas drilling
- _ Supports unnecessary road building in parks and wild lands

F

QUALITY OF PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- _ Reversed snowmobile ban in Yellowstone and Grant Teton national parks
- _ Encourages personal watercraft in parks
- _ No action to curb low-flying commercial flights over Grand Canyon and other parks

F

PARK ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

- _ Attempting to hand over park service jobs to private, for-profit contractors

D

Experts At Photo Ops

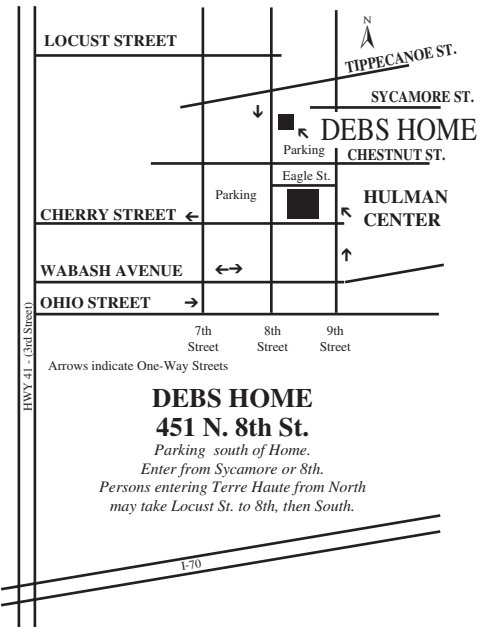
No question, the Bush handlers are masters of the photo opportunity. The *Carrier Flight Deck scene* was a *stroke of sheer genius*. The photo op advance team had been on that carrier for days, arranging every detail (taking charge of the carrier). They positioned the ship so that the shoreline would not show, and so that the angle of the sun was to the President's advantage, and so that the banner reading "*Mission Accomplished*" was highly visible (a picture is worth a thousand words). The photos of President as Commander in Chief are intended for heavy use in Bush's re-election campaign. One photo was used as a pass for all the Bush workers going through security while Bush was on the West Coast recently, raising millions in California, Oregon and Washington states.

The number one headache for Karl Rove right now is what if the Iraqi war is going just as badly next summer and costing as much in lives and dollars as it has in this long, hot summer.

There was the same careful attention to details in *Bush's quick trip* to Africa this summer. Take the poignant scene of President Bush on the island where so many slaves began their voyage to the Americas (both North and South). He spoke standing in the prison doorway, looking out across the Atlantic, cool as a cucumber as he declared: "never again!" Why was the President so cool while Colin Powell and Condi Rice were literally wilting in the hot equatorial heat? The advance team had positioned AC to blow directly on the President. That is attention to details. It played well on the evening news.

CDK

<p>ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TERRE HAUTE</p> <p>November 1 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Honoring MOLLY IVINS</p>
<p>SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Afternoon</p> <p>1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Debs Home Open</p> <p>5:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Meet the Author/Book Signing, Outer Concourse, Hulman Center (West doors)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evening</p> <p>6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center, ISU</p> <p>7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Molly Ivins</p>
<p>The fall business meeting will be Sunday, November 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home</p>



Parking is free in lot west of Hulman Center and also one block north.

Individual Greetings

You have the opportunity to participate in sending greetings in either of two forms. For a listing of your name (one or two persons), send \$20. For a listing which includes your personal greeting not to exceed 20 words, send \$30. Indicate if not attending the banquet in order that a copy of the souvenir program can be mailed. This order must be received by October 15. Use space at bottom of this page to provide name, \$20 or \$30 listing (include message) and if attending the banquet. Your greeting honors the Award Recipient, Molly Ivins, and the Debs Foundation as well.

Dinner Ticket Order

(\$30 per ticket, Table of 8 is \$210)

NOTE

We offer a choice of entrees. Please **indicate your choice when you order tickets and again at the door.**

Name _____

_____ X \$30 = \$ _____

number of tickets amount enclosed

Prime Rib _____
Number

Fish _____
Number

Tickets must be paid in advance, checks payable to The Debs Foundation, P.O. Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808
Please check one of the following options.

Hold tickets at the door, in the name of _____
(actually the preferred way)

Mail my tickets to the following address:

Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443.

The High Cost of National Security

The richest country in the world should be able to buy national security. No matter how high the cost, as long as the experts say it is going for national defense or homeland security. John Q. Public is willing to pick up the tab--or allow it to be passed on to succeeding generations--for any costs attributable to security, be it even \$100 billion dollar wars, etc.. A blank check! It buys freedom.

But is the Bush Administration really buying security, giving good value for our dollars? Back when the evil Soviet Union was seen as the threat, the spending cycle went like this. The Russians have xxx number of tanks, we have only xx number. We must catch up. But wait, our Intelligence tells us that the Russians are intending to build x-number of more tanks year by year. Furthermore, we know from reliable sources that they are developing a far bigger, more sophisticated weapon than any we have on the drawing board, so we need to spend xx dollars for R&D on more efficient ways to kill people.

This kind of escalation we called the arms race, and an unprecedented increase in defense spending during the Reagan-Bush years. Ronnie became convinced that the ultimate defense was "Star Wars," -- the anti-ballistic missile defense shield over America to protect against incoming missiles. President Clinton was skeptical. There was no proof it would ever work or that such a shield was even necessary. Now that the Soviet Union no longer existed, Clinton refused to endorse Star Wars, but he could not kill it altogether. Every defense budget had a few billion dollars for Star Wars R&D.

As soon as President George W. Bush was in office, his inaugural speech included that he would fulfill his campaign promise to keep America safe, and a first step would be full speed ahead with testing and development of an anti-ballistic missile "shield" over our homeland. G.W. thought, never mind that the Soviet Union is dead, there will always be rogue nations.

There is a more serious and potentially deadly flaw in Bush's reasoning and strategy. A Cardinal rule is to know your enemy. Condi Rice described the problem frankly. "No way we could have prevented 9/11, because we never "dreamed" that they would take a simple passenger jet, and use it like a missile and drive it into a building." Hey, why not for once give credence to another nation's intelligence. About a year before 9/11, France reported a foiled plot which would have hijacked a plane and driven it into the Eiffel Tower.

The strategy used to proceed with Star Wars is a simple, but significant switch from the approach taken by administrations up until Reagan-Bush. Put simply, it reversed the test-then-deploy strategy with deploy-then-test; (or deploy-and-test-and deploy some more). Rumsfeld, in testimony before a Congressional Committee said, "Look, I cannot and will not sit here and tell you that I can guarantee that the testings will ever prove with 100% certainty that it will work. the reasonable approach is for us to say: Look, lets get the thing out there ("deploy" and test and refine until we have a system that will do the job). Of course, Rumsfeld failed to mention that this deploy-then test -- I call it

stumbling into an uncertain (in)security -- would cost up to \$10 billion annually. Bush has included in next year's defense budget \$9-10 billion for development of the anti-ballistic missile defense shield. That's high-cost, high tech security!

This is buying high priced security, no questions asked. Realistically, there is a more eminent terrorist threat from small bands of scrubby guys but well trained at what they do, who take over planes armed with box cutters, and maybe a quantity of explosives on their persons, or hidden in fake shoe sole, but in any case with enough explosives to at least destroy that jet and all its passengers. Or the terrorists need only to know how to blow up power stations or dams, cause train wrecks, etc... Protection from these eminent threats is not brought with deployment of a \$100 billion anti-ballistic missile shield.


It appears that the problems of deploy without adequate testing goes as far back as the Vietnam war. G.I.'s were equipped with Colt produced M-16 rapid fire rifles. At best, one would fire off about 16 rounds in rapid fashion. They often jammed or failed. Soldiers wrote home to parents complaining about the M-16. "Mom, get them to send us better, more dependable rifles." They were facing an enemy not organized or trained, but a few of them could pop up at close range and just point and shoot, or more accurately described as spray an area with bullets which came tumbling along and if one entered a soldier's body, it wouldn't penetrate far but would leave an unbelievably large, jagged mess of torn flesh.

The weapon used by the Vietcong was the ugly duckling, stubby AK-47 of Russian or Chinese origin. It was an incredibly deadly spray gun. Years after the war, it came out that some G.I.s learned to take these AK-47s off slain Vietcong and use them until they ran out of ammunition. Only after extended and expensive R&D did U.S. combat soldiers have access to a weapon comparable to the one our men were dying from in Vietnam. So much for our way of spending money blindly on high-tech defense. One thing you cannot deny, however, the high tech way is good for the defense industry.

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