

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



SPRING 2007

Remembering Molly Ivins

The 2003 award banquet honoring Molly Ivins drew 730 to the occasion. They came with high expectations, and no one went away disappointed. It was a diverse audience, extending from the usual “Debsians” from organized labor to many who are not frequent attendees but who jumped at the chance to join in honoring their favorite syndicated columnist, political analyst, and social critic.

Molly Ivins was a gracious honoree and proud to have a connection to Debsian principles going back to the old Texas judge who had been her mentor and who had been Texas state Socialist Party leader during the thirties and forties. She noted wryly that in one race—1932 or 1936—the Socialist Party in Texas drew more votes for president than did the Republicans. Molly took a few choice shots at Bush-Cheney and company, but did more. She indicted all members of “the best Congress money can buy,” and called for we the people to change things in Washington by grassroots action. Ivins was one of the first and most consistent critics of the war in Iraq as being the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time and mainly for the wrong reasons. Shortly before her death, she wrote in one column that she could wish that she would be proven wrong in her prediction that the war would be followed by a “peace from hell.”

So many things have been written in remembrance of Molly Ivins. We were indeed fortunate to have her here for the 2003 banquet. By the way, less than a half dozen attendees knew that she almost was forced to cancel the engagement on short notice for health reasons. Her long-time administrative assistance Betsy Moon had been working for Jim Hightower when he received the award. Betsy urged Molly to keep the commitment, remembering Hightower’s glowing account of his experience at the banquet. It truly was an exciting and uplifting experience for all present. Her own words are the best commentary on her life, so we conclude this memoriam with a few choice quotes from Molly’s column.

March 1998: On Clinton’s Sex Scandal

“I do not believe the President’s sex life is any of our business. After thirty years of political reporting, I have been unable to establish a link between marital fidelity and high performance in public office. It really doesn’t matter who they screw in private, as long as they don’t screw the public.”

Later she wrote:

“With all due respect to the President’s private parts, we do have bigger problems in this country.”



MOLLY IVINS

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The 2006 Banquet

Last year’s banquet was somewhat different. It was different in that the award was given to a film production company—Brave New Films—rather than to a person. Also different was that there was less emphasis on speeches—the presentation speech and the acceptance speech. The emphasis instead was on the showing of a short version of “Iraq for Sale: the War Profiteers.” The message of the film was not strictly anti-war. It focused on the corruption and waste of money and resources which add to the inevitable cost in human life which war brings.

Recent generations of historians have been more careful to bring out the real and diverse costs of war. Howard Zinn, a Debs Award recipient, dug deeply into the real and regrettable costs of war: who pays and who profits. Going back to the civil war, the major gun manufacturers made enormous profits selling to both North and South. After the war, Bowie sold tens of thousands of knives invented for one-armed war veterans. In those days a pocket knife was considered essential to any farmer’s daily activities.

How good it was after the 2006 elections to hear President Bush sheepishly admit to having received a “good threshing.” Then he commented on looking forward to “so-called” bipartisanship and cooperation to solve the nation’s problems. (There was precious little bipartisanship during the first six years of his presidency, and we certainly can say that since the election there has been a dearth of cooperation across party lines, especially in the Senate.) Yes, the 2006 elections were a major step in the right direction, but no more than that. We still have by and large, as Molly Ivins liked to say, the best Congress money can buy.

C.K.

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The 2007 Banquet

The banquet date for 2007 has been set: October 6. The public announcement of the Debs Award recipient awaits final approval at the April 28 business meeting. We expect this to be a well-attended banquet. Tickets will not go on sale until the fall newsletter is distributed, but this early announcement of the date allows you to keep the October 6 date reserved for the Debs Banquet.

The Financial Statement A Few Pointers

It is worth mentioning that the Museum Director's salary is higher than would first appear. It includes \$4,741.99 paid to the IRS for withheld income tax and social security, and the \$2,236.57 paid to the Indiana Department of State for state and county income taxes withheld.

Membership dues and contributions remain about the same from year to year. A major source of income—dinner program listings—were down considerably. The result overall is that we spent more in 2006 than came in as new money. So in 2007 it will be necessary to draw some supplemental money from the endowment fund for operating expenses. This one of the reasons for which the endowment fund exists, but we would rather add to rather than take money out of it. We expect 2007 to be a good year financially and otherwise.

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007

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Foundation Officers:

Michael Sullivan, *President*
Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*
Charles King, *Secretary*
Mick Love, *Treasurer*

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.

2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Expenditures:

Debs Home/Museum:

Director's Salary.....	\$ 14,390.40
Utilities	4,842.98
Insurance	1,189.00
Web Service	720.00
Garden Flowers	54.72
Fire Extinguishers	105.25
ADT Service	186.00
Computer	999.00
Copy Machine	300.00
Terminix	379.20
Laughrey Brothers (Roof)	997.16
Assoc. of Indiana Museums	35.00
Fred Sutton (window repair)	40.00
Harrah Plumbing	64.00
American Express	475.13
Sub-Total	24,777.84

Administrative/Operating Expenses:

ISU Agency Account	\$ 650.00
U.S. Postal Service	581.47
Internal Revenue Service.....	4,741.99
Internal Revenue Service (Penalty)	193.93
Indiana Dept. of State	2,236.57
Jewett Printing	4,263.06
Indiana Dept. of State	10.00
Sub-Total	12,677.02

Annual Banquet Expenses:

Meier Johan-Wingler	\$ 535.20
Brave New Films (DVD for Sale)	1,047.97
Anne Feeney	690.00
Azar's Catering	5,021.20
Heinl Flowers	74.00
Moore Photography	50.00
Rick Jacobs Travel	1,738.62
Room Rental (Banquet & Film)	1,674.50
Sub-Total	10,831.99

Miscellaneous Expenses:

Contribution to Human Rights Day	\$ 200.00
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	326.32
Sub-Total	526.32

Total Expenditure

\$ 49,013.17

Revenues:

Dues and Contributions	\$ 6,854.02
Dinner Program Greetings	5,775.00
Ticket Sales	7,669.00
Memorabilia	1,779.10
Transfer from Endowment Fund	15,000.00
Total Revenue.....	\$ 37,097.12

Fund Balances:

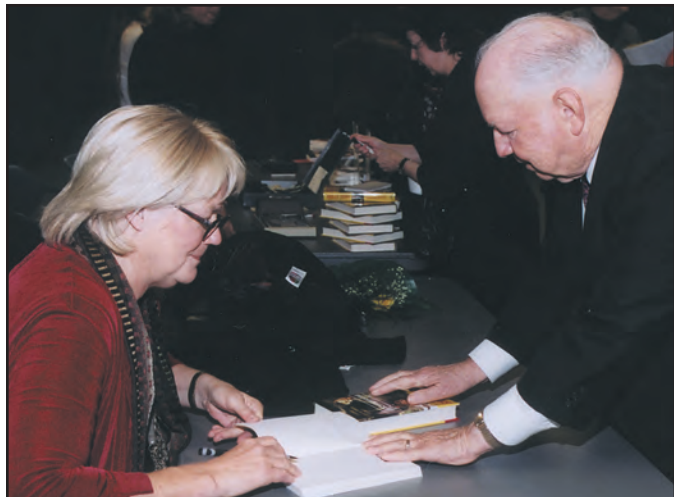
Checking Balance 12/31/05	\$ 6,348.50
Checking Balance 12/31/06	3,730.67
Endowment Fund Balance 12/31/05	463,901.99
Endowment Fund Balance 12/31/06	521,369.54

Mick Love, Treasurer

Molly at the Debs Banquet 2003



Molly Ivins acknowledges applause upon receiving the plaque.



Autographing copies of *Bushwhacked*.
Many bought more than one copy.



She held us spellbound for 45 minutes, laughing or applauding.

Photos from the 2006 Banquet



Jacobs receives the award from Noel Beasley.



Rick Jacobs speaks.



Anne Feeney sings.

Molly Ivins continued...

June 2001: On War

"Maybe we should add a rule that we can't invade any country the President can't pronounce."

December 2001: Foolish Military Strategy

"It's hard to convince people you are bombing that you're doing it for their own good."

January 2003: Corporations Cash In

"You have to admit: The corporations are getting prompt service from Republicans in return for their donations."

May 2003: The Myth of the Coalition

"So constant is the reiteration of the words 'coalition,' 'coalition forces,' and 'coalition position' that you might assume one actually exists.... Eritrea and Ethiopia do not a coalition make."

June 2003: Iraq

"We knew going in this was going to be the peace from hell, and so far the Administration has made every misstep possible."

This form is provided for new members or for late payment of 2007 dues. The 2008 Dues Notice will be included in the December Membership mailing.

NOTE: Please check here if this is a:

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS CHANGE

Email Address:

October 2003: Iraq

"I have a suggestion for the withdrawal deadline: Let's leave Iraq before we've killed more Iraqis than Saddam Hussein did."

December 2004: After Bush's Reelection

"I can think of nothing more likely to convince the people not to vote for Republicans again for a long time than four more years of George W. Bush."

March 2005: To the Barricades

"Now is the time for all good citizens to come to the aid of our country, and it won't help if you all cower in places like Madison and the Upper West Side, having hot fantods over the approach of fascism. To the barricades, team. And for Lord's sake, don't leave your sense of humor behind."

July 2006: On Corporate Influence

"Either we figure out how to keep corporate cash out of the political system, or we lose the democracy."

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 28, 2007 - DEBS HOME

Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$ 5.00 Student Member _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Member

_____ \$10.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members

_____ \$25.00 Supporting Member _____ Other

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation • P.O. Box 843 • Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

We are a not-for-profit organization, so your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs.

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