Get Involved with the Public i
You don’t need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The Public i is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursday at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), to post a story to the web site (http://publici.ucimc.org), or to contact one of the editors.

• Become a citizen journalist; write a news story or opinion piece.
• Make a tax-deductible contribution.
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• Help with fund-raisers.
• Join the editorial board.

Sustaining Contributors
The Public i wishes to express its deep appreciation to the following sustaining contributors for their financial and material support:

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If you or your organization would like to become a sustaining contributor to the Public i, or would like more information, please call 344-7265, or e-mail imc-print@ucimc.org.

Postcards for Peace
Postcards for Peace, a charity art auction to benefit the UCIMC and AWARE, will be held SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 FROM 2-5 PM AT THE COWBOY MONKEY
6 Taylor St., downtown Champaign.
Music will be provided by Theory of Everything.
The auction features donated art works from local, national, and international artists and will include both silent and live components. In addition, select art works will also be available for purchase as mass-printed postcards (think Christmas cards!). If you would like to contribute your art work or volunteer to help with framing, contact Rebecca Plumhoff at 217-328-3059 or rplumhoff@uiuc.edu.

UNICEF Cards Available
A large selection of UNICEF cards, calendars, and gift items will soon be on sale at the University YMCA, 1001 S. Wright St., Ch. UNICEF products will be sold during the lunch hours (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.) on weekdays from Nov. 1 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 29 - Dec. 7. Purchase of UNICEF cards and calendars enriches the lives of children throughout the world with programs designed to protect their rights and improve their health. For more information contact Joan Nelshophen at 369-2853 or jnelshophen@insightbb.com.

Peace Bazaar Dec. 4th
The 34th annual Peace Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 4th at Community United Church of Christ (6th and Daniel) from 9 to 3. The Peace Bazaar is an annual community event selling alternative gifts (new and recycled), UNICEF cards and calendars, artwork, toys, books, plants, fresh-baked goods and much more. Funds raised go to groups promoting peace and social justice.

We are looking for donations of items to sell, as well as volunteers. (We are not accepting donations of used clothing, computer equipment, broken items or violent toys.) Please contact Joan Nelshophen at 369-2853 or jnelshophen@insightbb.com if you have donations you would like to contribute (or drop them off at 412 W Oregon St, Urbana), or if you have any questions.

Anti-War Protest
The Anti-War Anti-Racism Effort (AWARE) will demonstrate against war and occupation, no matter who wins the elections, on Saturday November 6, 2004, from 2-4 pm at the northwest corner of North Prospect Ave and Marketview in Champaign. All are welcome. Bring your own sign or borrow one of ours. Dress warm. And please don’t park at Red Lobster: they need their space. See www.anti-war.net for more on local anti-war anti-racism efforts.

AMERICA LOSES! When the democratic system is broken.

Please choose one: ☐ Despot ☐ Sellout ☐ Corrupt, money- and media-driven system in which “majority rule” means nothing

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The Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception

By Brooke Anderson

Brooke Anderson is a Community Organizer for Champaign County Health Care Consumers. She is the lead organizer for CHCCH’s Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception.

On March 3rd, 1873, the U.S. Congress passed the Comstock Act, criminalizing the publication, distribution, and possession of information about contraception. In the intervening century, everyday women fought hard for their birth control rights. They marched and picketed, were arrested and jailed, and saw their clinics raided and ransacked. Eventually, they succeeded in legalizing birth control. But it was not until 1965 that the U.S. Supreme Court made contraceptives legal for married women and not until 1972 that contraceptives were legalized for unmarried women.

Our mothers and grandmothers fought to legalize contraception, but that legal right means less and less in a world of rising health care costs and plummeting wages that make contraception unaffordable for many women. Today, we fight for accessible and affordable contraception. In 2003, Champaign County Health Care Consumers, Planned Parenthood, and dozens of other groups throughout the state joined to pass statewide legislation that requires all health insurance plans in Illinois to cover prescription contraceptives. Millions of women throughout the state now have access to prescription contraceptives. But we know that regular methods of contraception are only about 98% effective (depending on the method). Throughout the course of their lives, many women will have their regular method of contraception fail, rely on unprotected sex, or be sexually assaulted and need timely access to affordable emergency contraception. With this in mind, in May 2005, we began the Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception. Emergency contraception (or EC) is a special dose of ordinary birth control pills that can prevent unintended pregnancy when taken up to five days after unprotected sex, contraceptive failure, or sexual assault. EC is not a substitute for correct use of regular contraception and provides no protection against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

While EC can be taken up to five days (120 hours) after unprotected sex, it is most effective the sooner it is taken. For instance, EC can reduce the risk of pregnancy by 95% when taken within 1 day (24 hours) and up to 89% when taken within 3 days (72 hours). Dr. Kim Glow, a specialist in adolescent and young adult medicine said, “Emergency Contraception is every woman’s right, and health care providers need to inform their patients of this very important pregnancy prevention option.”

EC is not an abortifacient. If a woman is already pregnant, EC will not work. EC can only prevent, not terminate, a pregnancy because EC works by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization, and/or the implantation of a fertilized egg. According to Samantha Hack-Ritzo, a volunteer for the campaign, “The American Medical Association defines pregnancy as the implantation of a fertilized egg. EC should never be confused with an abortion because EC has no effect on an already implanted, fertilized egg.”

Since a woman must currently have a prescription to get EC, many women cannot get EC in time for it to be effective. For this reason, the Campaign for Access to EC has launched an effort to make EC available to women without a prescription. There are two ways to do this — (1) on the national level, FDA approval of EC for sale over-the-counter, and (2) on the state level, legislation that would allow pharmacists to dispense EC to women at the pharmacy without a prescription.

In December 2003, the Food and Drug Administration’s expert panel convened to consider an application to make EC available over-the-counter. The FDA commissioner, woman’s signature was needed for approval, caved to political pressure from the Bush administration and right-wing members of Congress and refused to sign off on the recommendation of the expert panel, citing concerns about EC and teen sexual activity. University High School senior and EC organizer, Lauren Feldman, disagrees with the FDA Commissioner’s decision, saying that young women need access to health care and information. “It’s important for high school students to be involved in EC advocacy, for their own education, to help educate their peers. Without correct information, teens can’t be expected to make informed decisions.”

But laborator- ies, makers of Plan B, have since re-applied to the FDA with a revised application that stipulates that women 16 and older could get EC over-the-counter, while women 15 and younger would be required to obtain a prescription. While the EC prescription believes that all women of reproductive age should have access to EC over-the-counter, we are pushing for FDA approval of the application as a first step in increasing women’s access to EC.

However, we also believe that women in Illinois don’t have time to waste waiting for the FDA to approve EC for sale over-the-counter. Instead, we’ve proposed state legislation — Illinois House Bill 6577 — that would allow pharmacists to dispense EC to a woman without a prescription. Six other states currently have similar laws and those laws have already helped more women access EC.

The Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception recently launched its push for FDA approval and state legislation at a rally for EC on Thursday, October 28th at Mini Park II in Champaign. The rally was attended by over 150 people, including community members, high school and college students, physicians, religious leaders, and parents.

At the rally, organizers distributed the results of a survey of all Champaign County pharmacists. The survey indicated that while many Champaign County pharmacies stock EC, many (such as Target, Wal-Mart, Meijer, and Provena Covenant) refuse to fill prescriptions for EC. Parkland College student and representative of the Student Alliance for Multicultural Education, Rachel White-Domain, said, “Some pharmacies refuse to stock EC because they say it’s ‘controversial,’ but you don’t see pharmacies refusing to stock Viagra because it’s controversial.”

Protestors called on all pharmacies to stock EC, chanting “Target, Target, can’t you see, we want you to stock EC!!!” Local physician, Dr. Anne Robin, wrote EC prescriptions for women on the spot. A delegation of women then went across the street to Osco Drug Store to fill their prescriptions, and returned, holding their prescriptions in the air as the crowd cheered them on.

If you need emergency contraception, call Planned Parenthood at (217) 359-8200 or visit www.ccpeoi.com. If you are a UIUC student, you can get EC at McKinley Health Center by calling (217) 333-2700 or visiting www.mckinley.uiuc.edu. If you live outside Champaign-Urbana, you can get EC by calling 1 (800) NOT-2-LATE or 1 (800) 230-PLAN, or by visiting www.not-2-late.com. It is strongly encouraged to get a prescription for EC ahead of time to keep on hand in case of an emergency.

For more information on the Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception, contact Brooke Anderson at (217) 352-6533, ext. 17 or cchcc@healthcareconsumers.org. You can also visit the campaign’s website at www.healthcareconsumers.org/EC.
IN THE POURING RAIN, ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, spirited members of our community marched for unity and weathered the storm. They met at two locations – Douglass Park on the North side and Scott Park on the South side – to walk to the police station in Champaign, where the two groups converged and marched on to West Side Park for a rally. The 2004 Unity March represented a wide cross-section of the community. The following comments reflect their shared desire for unity.

CATHERINE HOGUE, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 5
I like to see this coming together of our entire community—children, adults, some of us older, some of us younger—and we can get some of these things accomplished, because we can make changes by doing this. I’d like to see us not so re-active. I’d like to see us be more pro-active.

JIM BARRET (above right)
There’s some specific issues like the eavesdropping case and the pursuit of a civilian review board for the police in Champaign. I think the main thing is to bring the different communities of the town together around issues of social justice. Because of the color-line—which is definitely there, the city is segregated—you have to make a special effort to bring the community together. It’s my police department, this is my town. I support the police in general, but I like to see them treating all citizens fairly.

ANAND PILLAY (above left)
I’m here to support the demonstration in favor of a citizen review board, dropping these eavesdropping charges, in favor of a greater racial unity in the Champaign-Urbana area, for all these progressive issues, that’s why I’m here. Racism concerns everybody. If there’s police discrimination, it should concern everybody. Therefore, you should be concerned with fairness, with justice.

PETER RODLOFF
I’ve been in Champaign for six years and I’ve never seen the North and the South sides come together. It’s just amazing to see broad-based community things happening and I’m excited to be a part of it. One of the problems with white liberal movements is that they oftentimes don’t recognize the real needs and concerns of minorities. I’m here because minorities have problems, they need to set the agenda, and then we need to follow what they tell us.

DAVID KELLY
It started out to be a good deed for my grandchildren, which are ten. I’ve always been a person that believes in unity and the United States and all that it represents. This is the only way you’re going to have unity. Everybody is on one accord, striving to have the same thing. Being a born-again Christian, I’ve learned of how God’s people are to act and conduct themselves. They are to be in unity for the good of each other.

WILL HILL
What unity means is, just like we did today—it was withstanding the storm. Holding your ground on what you believe in Unity to me is holding your ground. Over the years, of what I’ve learned about the history, is that the campus and the town used to be a lot more united. And over time the relationship has been hurt. So I’m here to provide some healing, to show some initiative, and let people know I’m a student. I also live here now, I’m a resident. I’m voting on November 2nd as a Champaign resident. Now it is critical. You want to yell the loudest right when you see people coming across the finish line.
**Are the changes to voter registration forms and procedures for all citizens being implemented?**

The changes to voter registration forms and procedures for all citizens seem to be in place. However, there are some problems that are emerging as a result of these changes. For example, some people are having trouble registering and voting in one small town, no matter who is specifically blamed, it isn’t there a problem. And it isn’t just here.

**What is the effect of these changes on voter registration?**

The effect of these changes on voter registration seems to be mixed. While some people may find the forms more user-friendly, others may find them confusing or difficult to fill out. Additionally, there may be issues with the implementation of the changes, leading to confusion and frustration among voters.

**What is the current state of voter registration in the United States?**

The current state of voter registration in the United States is complex and varied. While some states have made significant progress in improving their voter registration processes, others continue to face challenges. The recent election cycle has highlighted the importance of accurate and efficient voter registration, as well as the need for ongoing improvement in this area.

**What is the role of the Citizens for Peace and Justice in this context?**

The Citizens for Peace and Justice organization is involved in advocating for the rights of voters and in promoting fair and inclusive elections. They are actively engaged in monitoring election processes and advocating for changes that will help ensure that all citizens have equal access to the vote.

**What is the role of Greg Palast in this context?**

Greg Palast is a former Consumer Protection Bureau attorney who has become an vocal critic of the practices used in the 2000 election. He has written extensively about the issues surrounding voter registration and has been involved in advocating for changes to improve the process.

**What is the current status of voter registration in Florida?**

Florida has been the focus of much attention due to issues surrounding voter registration. While some progress has been made in improving the process, there are still concerns about accuracy and accessibility, particularly in minority communities.

**What is the current status of voter registration in Michigan?**

Michigan has also faced issues with voter registration, with concerns about accuracy and accessibility particularly in rural areas. The state has taken steps to improve the process, but there are still challenges that need to be addressed.

**What is the current status of voter registration in New York?**

New York has made some progress in improving voter registration, particularly through the expansion of voter registration access points. However, there are still concerns about accessibility, particularly in low-income and minority communities.

**What is the current status of voter registration in the United States as a whole?**

The current status of voter registration in the United States is a complex issue, with improvements and challenges occurring simultaneously. While there have been some successes in improving the process, there are still significant issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the vote.
Enthymeme

CARA FINNIGAN

In the first two debates, President Bush delivered at least five versions of the following argument about the Iraq War:

BUSH: I don’t see how you can lead this country to succeed in Iraq if you say wrong war, wrong time, wrong place. What message does that send to our allies? What message does that send to our soldiers? What message does that send to the Iraqis? Post-debate spin made much of Bush’s clumsy repetition of the phrase, “wrong war, wrong time, wrong place.” But I am interested in a different feature of this argument. I submit that this argument illustrates in perfect microcosm Bush’s political philosophy, one that treats criticism as the primary threat to success.

We may classify this argument as an enthymeme, defined by Aristotle as an argument with a missing premise to be filled in by the audience with its own knowledge or beliefs. For example, if I said, “Susan is a great teacher; her classes always fill up first,” the audience would fill in the missing premise “the classes of great teachers tend to fill first.” For Aristotle, the enthymeme was the most powerful form of persuasion because it is grounded in the beliefs of the audience. However, it is also a risky form of persuasion because if the audience does not fill in the premise accurately, that is, “fill in the blank” with the right answer.

Let’s see how the enthymeme works in a composite version of Bush’s arguments about Kerry’s criticism of the war:

PREMISE 1: John Kerry has criticized decision-making about the war.

PREMISE 2 (MISSING – ASSUMED/FILLED IN BY AUDIENCE): People who criticize decision-making about war can’t be successful at conducting war.

CONCLUSION: John Kerry can’t lead us to success in Iraq.

This argument is only successful for Bush if audience members share Bush’s belief that criticism is a pervasive threat to the higher values of “consistency,” “certainty,” and “success.” But such a belief is not necessarily self-evident in an American political system that was in fact founded on the opposite view: criticism is vital to a healthy democracy.

The fear of criticism has been a central focus of the administration’s re-election campaign, as illustrated by the risky enthymeme Bush sets forth. The Onion acknowledged this when it recently announced on its front page that the Bush administration had declared a “War on Critics.” For Bush, criticism creates uncertainty, uncertainty creates weakness, and weakness wreaks havoc. Here are Bush’s own words from his closing remarks at the Sept. 30 debate: “If America shows uncertainty and lack of resolve, it is ... .” Questioning the way Bush does things is not the same as questioning the president’s decision to go to war.

Fallacies

ROBIN JEHSEN

Many presidential candidates committed logical fallacies during the debates. For instance, Bush made use of the red herring fallacy, otherwise known as changing the subject. Ask Bush where he stands on affirmative action policies and why, and he discusses his support for small businesses. Ask him about the lack of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and he commits a tu quoque fallacy along the lines of “yeah, but he did it too.” Bush claimed that he might have thought “little” WMDs were in Iraq, but so did Kerry, so their mistakes cancel each other out. This line of reasoning overlooks the fact that Bush and Kerry were in very different positions of power when the U.S. invaded Iraq, and Kerry might have reasoned differently if his statements and decisions represented those of the entire country.

Kerry’s main fallacious tactic involved appealing to authority. He attempted to build up his own credibility by listing well-known public figures that he admires and with whom he hopes to be compared. He repeatedly mentioned former presidents Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan and their various achievements. Clearly, Kerry attempted to appeal to wavering swing voters who are critical of Bush but tend to align themselves with Republicans. Yet, dropping a name says little about the person who dropped it, and it could be argued that Kerry’s comparison of himself to other public figures is a false analogy.

By the third debate, Kerry stooped to Bush’s level by appealing to the fallacy of personal attack. Bush repeatedly made claims about “knowing how the world works” and “feeling” other people’s prayers for him and his family. It is all but impossible to refute these claims because there is no way to prove if Bush has a special relationship with God. In the second and third debates, Kerry began to back up his own statements by claiming he too “felt it in his gut,” therefore countering Bush’s self-evident truths with his own. Both candidates would be better served to trade in fallacious reasoning for well-reasoned, clear argumentative appeals.

Religious Rhetoric

KEVIN COE

In the final debate, President Bush claimed, “God wants everybody to be free,” reiterating a theme that has been a staple of his discourse—and foreign policy—since January 2003. For Bush, such rhetoric is politically invaluable: it speaks directly to the large block of conservative Americans who believe in the administration’s hopes to mobilize the entire electorate to the right, and to blunt criticism of Bush’s war. Bush and others who have attempted to mobilize the electorate to the right have blamed the Iraq conflict on the Democratic Party, portraying the two major political parties as the most fundamental difference between the Iraq conflict and the American political parties. For Bush, the Iraq conflict is a war between Bush and Kerry, with whom he hopes to be compared. He repeatedly used religious rhetoric just to keep pace. Regardless of one’s individual religious beliefs, all people should be wary of the president making such claims because it is just the latest in a series of tactics that he has used in the past to maintain his popularity.

Indeed, since Franklin Roosevelt took office seventy years ago such claims have been nearly nonexistent in major presidential addresses. Bush makes them in every major speech he gives, forcing Kerry to elevate his religious rhetoric just to keep pace. Regardless of one’s individual religious beliefs, all people should be wary of the president making such claims because they leave the world in a horrifying position: two leaders are fighting an endless simulated holy war, both claiming loudly that god is on their side, and both holding firm to the belief that no end will suffice to save the world.

Escalation

JEREMY ENGELS

Escalation is a trope that attempts to create a sense of crisis by predicting future calamity. We’ve seen this trope repeatedly during the Presidential Debates; the most glaring example was Vice-President Cheney’s claim that if Senator Kerry were elected, the United States would experience another 9/11.

President Bush has used this strategy to argue that if Senator Kerry were elected, he would, as a liberal politician, raise taxes, legalize gay marriage, and turn the control of the United States’ armed forces over to the United Nations (thus turning Senator Kerry’s “global test” back upon him). Senator Kerry, with his recent suggestions of a “December Surprise” if President Bush is elected, has also used this strategy; indeed, he has claimed that if the President is reelected, he will reinitialize the draft and continue to slash taxes for the upper classes.

The problem with this trope is that it is impossible to predict the future. By creating a sense of crisis through claims that call on citizens to make uninformed, uncritical decisions based on the fear of future consequences rather than on who has a better solution to current problems.

Clichés

JEREMY ENGELS

Clichés are generally thought of as overused or trite expressions, like “every cloud has a silver lining” or “nobody is perfect,” and hence given scant attention. Yet many clichés are what Richard Rorty calls “dead metaphors,” once new and provocative turns of phrase that have become commonplace. In the debates, President Bush was especially fond of using clichés. During the first debate, he used the phrase “it’s hard work” (or some variation of it) at least 11 times. This cliché was important for two reasons. First, it acted as a stand-in for a well-articulated answer to questions, because instead of detailing his plan for victory, the President said, “it’s hard work.” Second, this cliché worked well as a memorable phrase that stuck with an audience. In a nation populated by citizens heavy...
should not be "hard work" to show compassion to some — was a repeated theme for Bush in this first debate, it audible groans of disgust. While the idea of "hard work" harms way." I watched the first debate on campus in a the end of this narrative, Bush said, "You know, it's hard, to turn away from the President’s challenges that the U.S. must work hard is to sin. The cliché of “hard work” is therefore powerful because it is nearly impossible to rebut clichés. The most effective strategy is to counter a cliché with another, but then the quality of the debate deteriorates to sound-bites and platitudes.

Anesis

MICHAEL EVANS

Although the President cultivates the image of a plainspoken Texan, and despite his oft-criticized ineloquence, Bush frequently has a sense of what is appropriate to say in a given situation; however, his actual execution may veer slightly—sometimes grossly—off track. Rhetorical scholars have a term for this problem, anesis, or when a concluding remark diminishes the overall impact of what has been previously said. For Bush, frequent slip of tongue makes him look insincere, uncompromising, or just plain pompous. Whether Bush means to convey what his anemic comments say is irrelevant, for in communication message effects are more easily discernible than a speaker’s intent.

Throughout his tenure, Bush has given us many examples of anesis, but one statement during the first Presidential Debate raised heckles. When asked to justify the number of American causalities in Iraq since the official end of combat, Bush replied that every life is precious and acknowledged that he had difficulty with the decision to put soldiers in harm’s way. This seemed to be an appropriate response, but then he launched into a narrative about Missy Johnson, whose husband P.J. was killed while serving in Iraq. At the end of this narrative, Bush said, "You know, it’s hard work to try to love her as best as I can, knowing full well that the decision I made caused her loved one to be in harm’s way." I watched the first debate on campus in a crowded auditorium. When Bush said this, there were audible groans of disgust. While the idea of "hard work" was a repeated theme for Bush in this first debate, it should not be "hard work" to show compassion to someone who has suffered because of a decision he made. Whether Bush meant to say those exact words is not important—image is rarely formed solely on a speaker’s intent. In this instance, Bush only succeeded in giving his enemies more ammunition for claims that he is insensitive to troops and doesn’t understand the impact of his decisions.

Identification

TROY COOPER

Much emphasis has been placed on Kerry’s military service record. The ubiquitous and sometimes satirized recount of his three Purple Hearts may come to mind. Kerry is using this strategy as a form of rhetorical identification. That is, in order to persuade an audience, he is establishing common ground. Using language that appeals to average American patriotism, Kerry attempts to build rapport with the public through common values. Bush relentlessly attacks this identification with another pervasive phrase: “Wrong War, Wrong Place, Wrong Time.” In an attempt to destroy the common ground that Kerry is building, Bush tries to discredit Kerry’s military prowess by referring to this comment Kerry made about the Iraq war. It is, however, remarkable that Bush’s military service is rarely recalled, especially with the emphasis that he places on military power and dominance.

Distinct Rhetorical Styles

RICHARD BESSEL

In regurgitated statements against Kerry, Republicans often included zingers like “flip-flop.” Democrats often referenced the line “consistency when wrong is no virtue.” Although it would be easy to dismiss these words as political posturing by biased individuals, a more interesting rhetorical complexity is that conservatives tend to argue in terms of principles while liberals argue in terms of practical circumstances. Borrowing from Richard Weaver’s The Ethics of Rhetoric, I contend this year’s candidates are making two very different kinds of arguments couched within two very different political and rhetorical styles.

Bush utilizes what Weaver has called “argument from principle.” Individuals using this argument style often employ “axiomatic definition” and argue from “fundamental sources.” For example, in the third debate President Bush addressed the issue of jobs and taxes. His basic argument was to keep government out of the lives of individuals as much as possible and to let them decide how to spend their money. He concluded his answer with the following: “I believe the role of government is to stand side by side with our citizens to help them realize their dreams, not tell citizens how to live their lives.” Bush is clearly arguing from a principle, that government should absolutely not dictate how citizens should live their lives through tax policy.

Kerry, unlike Bush, used “argument from circumstance.” This argument style is “the nearest of all arguments to purest expediency.” It is one based on “facts standing around.” Thus, if the facts of a case change, one could also change her mind about it. For example, just before Bush talked about jobs and taxes, Kerry talked about how we need to restore some of the tax policies of previous generations. He concluded by saying: “Restore fiscal discipline, we’ll do a lot better.” For Kerry, tax policies and jobs were put into a comparative frame. This frame allowed Kerry to argue for something that is “better” for the times and not necessarily “right” at all times.

Anaphora

JAVAI RAULOLPH

Senator Kerry used anaphora, a rhetorical strategy in which the same word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of a phrase, clause, or sentence, throughout the debate to emphasize his points about the failures of the Bush presidency. One example is from the third debate, when Kerry stated, “he’s the only president in history to do this. He’s also the only president in 72 years to lose jobs – 1.6 million jobs lost. He’s the only president to have incomes of families to go down for the last three years, the only president to see exports go down, the only president to see the lowest level of business investment in our country as it is today.”

Kerry wants Americans to know that the president is the “only” president to preside in this way, stressing the fact that Bush has been a horrible leader and that he has worked on behalf of the wealthy instead of ordinary people. Using anaphora, Kerry powerfully suggests that Bush’s failures as president are not just appalling but unique to U.S. history.
The 2004 Election Legal Challenges: We All Lose, Not Because He Won

by Scott Edwards

“Anyone who is capable of getting things done must not insist on "accountability" or "accountability be allowed to do the job.”


“The United States is a nation of laws badly written and randomly enforced.”

— Frank Zappa

AS YOU READ THIS ARTICLE, there is a decent chance legal challenges are delaying the final results of the presidential election, assuming the outcomes said legal challenges might affect the final electoral balance. Analysis of the pre-election electoral landscape of my home state, Florida, leads some to believe that we are indeed likely to see another delay in the final results from there and possibly Ohio. With 20 electoral votes, an Ohio delay will likely lead to a similar situation we saw in 2000, a contested election day or even days after voting.

The Democrats have recruited as many as 20,000 lawyers that will be rapidly deployed to contest legal challenges, and the Republicans have a similar number. Lawyers for both sides will be at polling stations, prepared to head-off any problems as they develop. There are people who felt that the Democrats didn’t fight hard enough [in 2000]. That’s not going to happen [this time].”

— DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe, in response to RNC accusations that Democrats intend to circumvent the electoral process through the courts.

The major parties have been planning for post-2004 election legal campaigns well before primary races were completed. The Bush and Kerry Campaigns have already been using a well-funded legal accounts, raising an important question about the scope of campaign finance laws as they relate to this type money. One could make the case that if a campaign has the legal ability to buy the election through the legal system, the status of legal-charge fundraising could allow them to “buy” the election through the court system.

LENGTHY LITIGATION

“POOR LOSER”

Al Gore was vilified by partisans as a “poor loser” when he decided to pursue legal remedy (at least half of the pre-election electorate polled in Florida to be counted. In this election, we are likely to see most legal-charge initiatives made by Democrats, as we saw in 2000. Is this because Democrats are poor electoral sports? Ralph Nader might believe such, given the difficulty he’s had in promoting a significant Democratic legal challenge to ballot access in many states (despite circumstantial Republican help).

While I certainly wouldn’t defend ballot access challenges, Democrats may be more likely to pursue legal action because the election after the make-up of the party’s constituency. Minorities, the poor, and inexperienced voters are disproportionately more likely to identify as Democrats. These are also segments of the electorate that are most likely to be disenfranchised in some way. [We didn’t hear about the disenfranchisement of the religious right or CEOs in 2000, did we?]. These groups are also likely to be geographically concentrated, increasing the chances that political problems in certain communities might constitute the basis for legitimate economic protection violation claims.

ADISSA PRECEDENT, OR IMPENDING JUSTICE?

The fact that elections are being decided in the courts presents a major threat to the political system. It may seem as if, somehow, elections have gotten “worse” starting with 2000. I disagree. Before 2000, ballots were simply miscounted. Votes were miscounted. And yes, like in the 2000 election in Florida, poor and minority voters were systematically disenfranchised. These problems have always been here.

POLS indicate that a majority of Americans believe the election will be decided in the courts. The fact that elections now have an assumed judicial component is not a problem in itself, but rather an indication of a greater ill in the American electoral system.

If anything, court challenges may be the best development for American democracy since the banning of poll taxes. While having the President chosen by the courts is not ideal democracy, it makes it difficult to ignore problems of unequal ballot access, election irregularities, equal representation disasters, and the general malaise of U.S. democracy. Addressing these problems require both institutional reform and practical changes in the way elections are run. And, hopefully, enough people will become sick of appointed judges deciding the outcomes of elections to initiate some meaningful change in how citizens in the U.S. choose their government.

As you read this, however, it may also be the case that there was a clear winner on Nov. 2, and there were little or no legal challenges. Remember, though, just because there were no challenges based on racial discrimination, improper election management, or uncounted ballots doesn’t mean it didn’t happen. It surely did. Now let’s do something about it.

If you are interested in working towards electoral reform, contact the author at sedward1@uiuc.edu

What is Anarcho-Syndicalism?

In an attempt to provide information about alternatives to electoral politics, the Public I will be publishing a number of articles about anarchism, each written by a different community member with a different take on the subject. Look for the next installment in our December issue.

ANAARCHO-SYNDICALISM combines the movement for political liberty with the movement for economic liberty. Anarcho-syndicalists believe that formal democracy is not enough. Citizenship rights do not mean much when elections can be bought by wealthy campaign contributors and the media is controlled by large corporations. Nor does democracy exist when communities and even national governments are held hostage to large monopolistic corporations that threaten to withhold investments or run away to other countries unless laws are “business friendly”. Local communities and workers should make the decisions that affect them and plan their economic livelihood.

Anarcho-syndicalists believe that democracy can only be achieved through the abolition of wage slavery. Wage slavery exists where ever workers must give up their rights in order to earn a living. Workers should be involved in decisions about wages, working conditions, safety, and economic planning to the extent that these decisions concern them. Just as citizens in our country believe there should be no “taxation without representation”, neither should there be work without representation. The highest authority in any workplace should be the general assembly of the workers themselves. No managerial duties should be delegated except by election of the workers. Managers should be limited in powers and be subject to recall.

In order to abolish wage slavery it will be necessary for workers and local communities to take ownership over the means of production and distribution. Any workplace that is not currently owned by those who work it would be turned into a democratic cooperative. Small businesses would function as before with the exception of those employing workers outside the family. Local communities would provide essential public services like health care, transportation, utilities, elementary education and so forth, by making contractual agreements with workers in those fields, and paid for by a tax on the cooperatives. Banking and investment would be a joint arrangement between the worker cooperatives and the communities. Activities beyond the scope of a single community or single industry would be organized by collectively run federations.

These federations would be accountable to their members.

The way anarcho-syndicalists bring this about is by organizing workers into worker-run unions. Anarcho-syndicalists call this “building the new society within the shell of the old.” To realize its true potential the labor movement needs to function as the same way as the future society. Union officials should be limited in their powers, and accountable to the members. The assembly of all union members must be the highest authority in any union local or branch. When worker-run unions represent the majority of the labor force, they will be in a position to shut down the autocratic side of the economy and start up again in a democratic and cooperative way.

Anarcho-syndicalism has had some success in practice. The labor movements of many countries have unions that are influenced by anarcho-syndicalist ideas. The Industrial Workers of the World is such a union in the United States. So far the peak of the anarcho-syndicalist movement was achieved in South Africa (after the example given by the Spanish Civil War) and many industries within Republican Spain were under the control of worker collectives, until the rebel military junta aided by Hitler and Mussolini crushed the loyalists. There are more recent examples of labor movements producing sweeping social changes. In the 1980s the Soviet Union was undermined by the Polish Solidarity movement, which deserves more of the credit for “winning the Cold War” than does Ronald Reagan. During the same period, the labor movement of South Africa played a similar role in ending the apartheid regime. Currently there is a growing workers’ movement in Argentina that has begun a series of takeovers of factories that were threatened with shutdowns by their owners.

To find out more about anarcho-syndicalism there are some websites you can visit. The Industrial Workers of the World can be reached at www.iww.org and the magazine Anarchist-Syndicalist Review, can be found at www.syndicalist.org. Perhaps the best known anarcho-syndicalist in the United States is Noam Chomsky, who has written numerous books on media and foreign policy issues. The best introduction to anarcho-syndicalism is The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning by Sam Dolgoff, available thorough the Anarcho-Syndicalist Review. Other works written by Dolgoff, such as The Anarchist Collectives and Bakunin on Anarchism are also recommended.

B. Salt lives in Champaign-Urbana and is currently involved with the local labor movement for several years.
Brief: Indymedia Server Seizure

by Scott Edwards

ON OCTOBER 2 2004 Rackspace, a web-hosting provider based in San Antonio, was issued a secret court order, apparently in search of what the Interfax Legal Assistance Treaty, that required them to surrender two servers. The seizure took offline more than 20 IMC websites and more than 10 streaming radio feeds. The order prevents the company from developing what authority seized the servers, or for what purpose.

In coordination with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Indymedia is aggressively defending itself (and thus all independent journalism) from this latest state activity that effectually stiles the free exchange of ideas.

In late October, the EFF and the Urbana-Champaign IMC filed a motion to unseal the secret US federal court order that led to the seizure. The motion seeks to discover which gov-

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Two zines recently made their way to the IMC that I thought would be perfect to review together, because both take different approaches to the subject of travel. “Footloose,” a locally-produced zine by Sarah Lazarre, is a travel journal that follows her through Mexico and different parts of the United States. The other zine is “go by bicycle” #2, which addresses car culture, and offers the reader information about different alternative transportation projects occurring all across the world.

Though only 15 pages, “Footloose” is one of the best travel journals I’ve ever read. From the very get-go, the reader is sucked in by the author’s beautiful use of language – vivid sceneries are created by Lazarre’s cut-and-paste narratives.

The reason I couldn’t put down this zine is because Sarah only gives the reader snippets of her journal – each one delicately chosen to give only a taste of what she experienced. The whole time I was reading the zine, I kept thinking, “I want to know more!” I want her to tell me the whole story. I want to meet these people.” In reality, I want to read her entire journal!!!

A zine made south of San Cristobal, Sarah stayed with a farmer in an indigenous farming town. She describes some of the people she met while staying with him: “he took me around town today, introducing me to some of his friends. I met three women potters who, as expected, refused to have husbands. They were sitting in front of a store, sculpting, talking, laughing. They greeted me with such female comradery – putting me on the back and smiling so big…” The way Sarah describes this and often how she really makes me realize how many different realities and cultures there are in the world. This zine allowed me to live vicariously through Sarah’s perception of these realities.

I truly enjoyed the layout of the zine – the text overlays timely photos and drawings, and manages to make sure that the reader can easily distinguish the different images that are presented. Sarah moves back and forth from travel-like journal entries to reports on the various protests she attended (Cancun and Miami), which is really effective in allowing the reader to imagine what Sarah isn’t telling us. I hope that Sarah decides to continue to travel, and decides to publish more of her journals. At the end of the zine, I was salivating for more of her writing, and to go and travel the world, myself!

“go by bicycle” #2 is a totally different experience. Equally as engaging, this zine provides the reader with an insight into the many bike/pedestrian-centered projects that are being implemented across the world.

In New York City, for instance, a group called “Vision42” is organizing a campaign to turn 42nd Street in Manhattan (one of the most congested streets in the city) into a light-rail / pedestrian-friendly avenue free of cars. Scott Larkin, gbb’s creator, includes in this zine an intense interview with one of Vision42’s organizers. I’m in awe of the immensity of the proposed project, which organizers say will cost around $200 million – only 1/10th of the extension to the #7 subway (which is also being proposed by the NYC deputy mayor).

Larkin also includes articles on a London-based policy to limit cars entering into the city, and Walt Disney’s idea that the “City of Tomorrow” should be more pedestrian-friendly, and less car-centric. This hodge-podge mix of writings is enjoyable more for the information it purveys than for its literary quality. Its simple design makes the information easily accessible to any reader, and will certainly pique the interest of any bike enthusiast or anti-car activist.

If you’re into traveling to far-away lands or just down the street on your bicycle, I’m sure that you’ll enjoy these zines just as much as I did.

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“go by bicycle” #1 & 2 are now available for check out to members at the U-C IMC zine library, and are catalogued under “political/zen.” Sarah Lazarre’s “Footloose” can be found under “perzine.” Both will be featured with other newly-catalogued zines in the front of our library for your reading pleasure. Enjoy!