

ARE YOU A DISRUPTER?

At first, President Bush lied and denied that he had illegally ordered the NSA to spy on ordinary American citizens. Then, amazingly, two days later, he not only admitted that he had done so, but openly bragged that he would continue to do so. A growing bipartisan group of congressmembers believes that his lawbreaking practices are impeachable offenses. Hearings into this are scheduled for mid February.

It's important to understand that of equal or greater importance to American citizens, congress will soon be debating the renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act. The Patriot Act, passed by a knee-jerk congress shortly after 9/11, is capable of constitutional abuses worse than Bush's NSA spying scandal.

With the Patriot Act, the F.B.I. no longer has to show probable cause to get permission to spy on us, it just has to say that you are "part of an investigation." It used to be that your conversations with your doctor, family counselor, lawyer, business advisors, or your teachers were protected by confidentiality laws; no more. The F.B.I. can demand records of conversations you have had with all of these people, including your librarian. The F.B.I. is now even allowed to enter your home while you are away.

The Patriot Act even created a brand new type of criminal, the so-called "domestic terrorist." This title, "domestic terrorist" is misleading. In order to be called one, all you really have to do is "commit any act that attempts to influence or coerce the population or the government." This could be something as simple as participating in a strike or demonstration.

Most dangerous of all, the Bush administration is not only pressuring congress to renew the Patriot Act, they want to give it even more power. Bush recommends that a new type of criminal be invented, someone they call a "disrupter."

A 'disrupter' is someone characterized by "their unrest and insubordination." Legal experiments have already been conducted by the Bush clan. People with so-called controversial t-shirts or bumper stickers have been pre-emptively ejected from taxpayer funded presidential events. A blacklist, similar to the controversial "no-fly" list is already being assembled.

Bush shocked even jaded civil libertarians when he began to set up "free-speech zones" outside his events, complete with fencing and barbed razor wire (Remember when the entire country was a free speech zone?). Step outside

the cage and yell "Impeach Bush Now," and you would find yourself arrested under the proposed new laws.

Shallow minds say that "you don't need privacy laws if you're not doing anything wrong." Do not these same simpletons close the bathroom door behind them, or shut their curtains at night? As for those who defend arresting so called "domestic terrorists," or "disruptors," it's a simple case of free speech. Either you are FOR free speech or you are AGAINST free speech.

It's extremely important for us all to contact our representatives and senators in Washington and tell them that not only do you oppose strengthening and extending the USA Patriot Act, you want to see them work to repeal it. While you're at it, tell them that you support investigating what the President is doing with his spies at the NSA, and impeaching him if there is any sign of impropriety. •



Every Sunday • 6PM

Weekly Vegan Dinner. We'll cook the main dish. Please bring a vegan side dish, dessert, or drink. Dinner starts around 6:00PM. *The Confluence Collective (1450 Elm).*



Tuesday, February 14, 2006 • 7:00PM

MSC GJ Alternative Media's Documentaries for Change Film Series II will be screening "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism." at the *Saccomanno Lecture Hall.*

THE WHITE ROSE SOCIETY

Host people who have studied World War II are puzzled and disgusted with the German people. How could seemingly 'Good Germans' grow to accept Fascism at home, and systematically dehumanize and destroy other peoples? Moreover, why didn't anyone resist the injustice and insanity? The truth is, there were some groups that formed and did resist. The most famous group was the White Rose Society, which, sadly, most Americans have never heard of.

The White Rose Society formed at the University of Munich, in the fall of 1942. While relatively informal, the members were strongly bound by their morals and ethics. All had Jewish as friends and were disgusted and dismayed at Nationalist Germany's treatment of them. Not knowing what they could do to help, they settled on producing political pamphlets, widely distributing them throughout the campus and the nearby university districts.

There were a total of six pamphlets made. Reading any one of their tracts is very instructive, but within the limited space we have here, let's reflect simply on their titles.

- 1) "Do Not Forget that Every People Deserves the Regime they are Willing to Endure."
- 2) "An End in State Terror is Preferable to State Terror without End."
- 3) "Our Present State is a Dictatorship of Repression."
- 4) "Every Word that Came Out of His (Hitler's) Mouth is a Lie."
- 5) "The Imperialist Ideology of Pre-Emptive Force Must be Shattered."
- 6) "We Can Break the National Repression Through the Power of the Spirit."

While distributing the last pamphlet, member Sophie Scholl was seen by a school janitor, who



Hans, Sophie & Christoph

"WHITE ROSE" ON LAST PAGE

Thursday, February 16, 2006 • 7:00-8:30PM

Concerned Citizens Alliance presents a public forum on Community Supported Agriculture, and Gas Drilling in our Watersheds? at *GJ City Hall Auditorium 250 N. 5th St.* For more info: 256-7650.

ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Jin his State of the Union Address, Bush declared that "America is addicted to oil." The President went on to say that an upcoming breakthrough in alternative energy technology was the only way to cure our addiction. Bush isn't the only one to tout high-tech alternative energy technologies like: biodiesel, electric and hybrid cars, solar and wind energy, and alternative powered public transportation as the solution. But the reality is that none of these 'technologies' are new. Many have been around for over a hundred years.

Biodiesel, is a diesel fuel made from plant/vegetable oils rather than crude oil. It can run in any diesel engine with no modifications. The idea that we can grow our fuel is not new. The very first diesel engine ran on peanut oils. Diesel cars ran on biodiesel until the 1920s, when they started being adapted to a petroleum-based diesel. Biodiesel was used commonly as fuel, and a biodiesel industry survived until the 1940s.

In the early days of the automobile, there were many more choices than we have today. Steam, electric, and gas power vehicles battled for dominance over the emerging automobile market. Electric cars peaked in 1899-1900 when more electric cars were sold than gas or steam powered cars. From 1897 until 1908, the New York City cab fleet consisted entirely of electric vehicles. 1916 saw the first production hybrid car by Wood's automobiles. Can you imagine the world today if the electric car hadn't been abandoned for gas powered cars.

Solar energy was first discovered in the 1840s, but was not viable producer of electricity until the 1950s. Wind energy has also been with us for quite a while. The first wind turbine was invented in Ohio in 1888. Wind turbines were quite popular for producing electricity for industrial purposes. The first wind farm began selling electricity to the grid in 1941.

Considering the sad state of public transportation in the Grand Valley, it's almost shocking to learn that in 1909, the Grand Junction & Grand River Valley Railway opened with two lines, "The Fruitbelt Route" and "The Interurban," and later added lines to Fruita. In 1922, a ride cost a nickel. Electric public transportation, mainly street trolleys, were the most popular way to get around. In 1921, 90 percent of trips were by rail, and only one out of ten families had a car. In its hayday, there were 1200+ electric street car systems in the United States, with 44,000 miles of tracks. By the 1920s, almost every American town and city, of any size, had a street car system.

What happened to our nation's public transportation system? In 1922, Alfred P. Sloan, a General Motors executive, created a special group within General Motors to shut down America's electric rails and replace them with cars, trucks, and busses. Firestone Tires and a number of

"ENERGY" ON LAST PAGE

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 • 7:00PM

MSC GJAM's Documentaries for Change Film Series II will be screening "Still We Ride" and "ACLU Freedom Files: Dissent." Featuring 2 guest speakers whose photos were used in both films at *Saccomanno Lecture Hall.*