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A DIFFERENT KIND OF UPRISING

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REBELION MAGAZINE
www.therebellionproject.com
Printed by Publication Printers Corp.
Denver, Colorado. Copyright 2002,
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Special Thanks: Charles and Esther Hall, Mary Rankin,
Andy Miller, Maury Cohen, City of Littleton BIA, Michelle
Barnes, Chill Factory Talent, Zebra Junction, Eric Hornak,
Mark Riva, The Integral Institute, Publication Printers Corp.,
Sheila Ivy Traister, Troy Dauenbaugh, Corey P. Linn, Jim
Drake, Kate James, PeaceJam, Dixon's Bar and Grill, Abe's
Cafe, Kali.

Rebellion Magazine is printed on environmentally
friendly New Leaf Legacy paper.

september / october 2002

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ENGAGING

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PROPPING IT UP

HOW PROPAGANDA SUPPORTS THE WAR ON TERRORISM by Brian Klocke

Most Americans are familiar with the propaganda efforts of Adolph Hitler, but few know that he based his tactics on the success of the U.S. propaganda that altered public opinion in favor of the United States entering World War I. A soldier in that war, Hitler noted that "What we failed to do, the enemy did, with amazing skill and really brilliant calculation. I myself learned enormously from this enemy war propaganda."

"This is the most information intensive war you can imagine. We're going to lie about things."

— U.S. military officer speaking about the War on Terrorism to the *The Washington Post*



PROPAGANDA 101

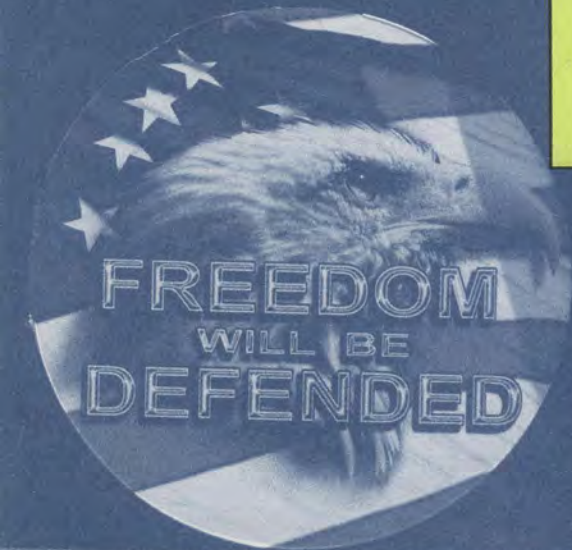
Propaganda is organized mass persuasion that attempts to move recipients to thought and/or action by the manipulation of images and slogans that truncate thought by playing on emotions and prejudices. Propaganda is not the same as personal persuasion but is, rather, a form of *mass* persuasion sponsored by groups or institutions. Key to propaganda (whether used for good or for ill) is its intent to discourage free and independent thought and to discourage open and honest debate of issues. Its goal—and therefore its danger—is to limit what we think about and how we think about it, without our even being aware of the manipulation. At its most successful, propaganda leads the individual to believe that he or she came to accept the position of the propagandist voluntarily—indeed, that the idea was his or her own from the start. At its most dangerous, propaganda can lead an entire culture to dehumanize others to the point of justifying their extermination.

"[Propaganda's] task is not to make an objective study of the truth insofar as it favors the enemy...its task is to serve our own right, always and unflinchingly."

—Adolph Hitler



GOD BLESS
AMERICA
LAND OF THE FREE,
HOME OF THE BRAVE.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

The goal of propagandists is to move people toward a predefined goal—which may be a way of thinking or a way of acting—by appealing to emotions while minimizing thought. To this end, propaganda, according to the Institute for Propaganda Analysis, can be categorized into nine different tactics: *name-calling* (applying a negative label to an idea or person), *glittering generality* (associating your campaign with a virtuous concept like freedom), *euphemisms* (words that make an unpleasant reality more palatable), *transfer* (using authority or prestige of one message or symbol to legitimize the propaganda), *testimonials* (using celebrity endorsements to make the message more appealing), *plain folks* (to appear as if the message is coming from ordinary citizens), *bandwagon* (everybody's doing it; you should too), *appealing to fear* (like threats of future attacks), and *false logic*.

The goal of name-calling is to get the audience to reject a person or idea without examining the evidence. A good example of name-calling is to label anyone who questions the actions of the Bush administration and either its approach to the current "war" and/or what it knew about the World Trade Center attacks as "unpatriotic." In April of 2002, U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney called for an investigation of what the Bush administration knew before September 11 about possible terrorist attacks. Several media outlets and government officials lambasted her request for a congressional review. The National Review said she was spouting "paranoid, America-hating, crypto-Marxist conspiratorial delusions." Like so many other tactics of propaganda, name-calling serves to silence open, free, discussion of issues and questions.

After Bill Maher, comedian and former host of TV's *Politically Incorrect* (the show is no longer on the air), was made to apologize for commenting that the suicide hijackers were not cowards because they put their bodies on the line, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer commented in an alarming statement that views such as Maher's are "reminders to all Americans that they need to watch what they say, watch what they do. This is not a time for remarks like that; there never is." Aren't these restrictions on one of our country's founding principles—free speech—what the terrorists want? And, ironically, Bill Maher personally supports the War on Terrorism.

In yet another round of name-calling, Attorney General John Ashcroft implied that anyone critical of the erosion of our rights to privacy was scaring peace-loving citizens and aiding terrorists. Although he refers to concerns about lost liberties as "phantoms," his police-state policies grant the power to record private conversations between attorneys and their clients and the ability to inquire at your local library about what you've been reading.

"To those who scare peace-loving people with phantoms of lost liberty; my message is this: Your tactics only aid terrorists—for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve. They give ammunition to America's enemies, and pause to America's friends. They encourage people of good will to remain silent in the face of evil." —Attorney General John Ashcroft, Dec. 6, 2001, Senate Judiciary Committee hearings





This rather frightening propaganda should have raised an outcry from the American public and the media, but unfortunately received very little attention amid the current political climate.

The glittering generality device seeks to have its message blindly accepted without any examination of evidence. George W. Bush referred to the abstract concept of freedom (a glittering generality) more than 220 times in his speeches about the War on Terrorism during the first four months of "Operation Enduring Freedom." The power of the word "freedom" is that, although it may mean different things to different people, it has a positive association for everyone. The Institute for Propaganda Analysis explains, "This lowers our 'sales resistance' and makes us far less suspicious than we ought to be when the speaker begins telling us the things 'the United States must do to preserve freedom.'"

Euphemisms like "collateral damage" (civilians killed), "soft targets" (human beings) and "smart weapons" are some of the most powerful tools of propaganda. All these euphemisms are used widely in the current war to create the image that the United States avoids targeting of civilians and has accurate weapons technologies.

GOOD VS. EVIL

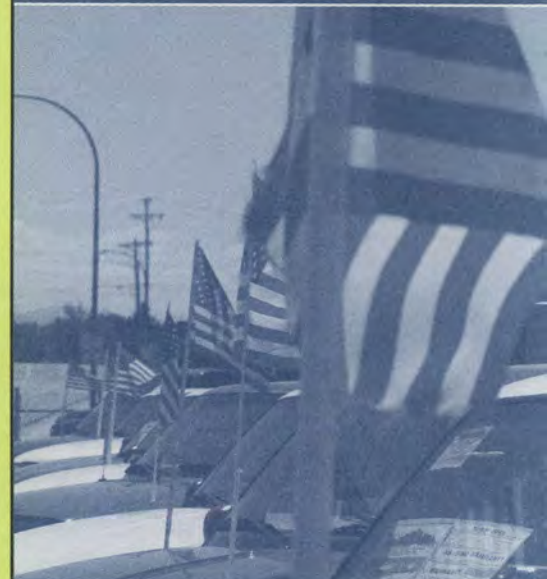
"No threat, no threat will prevent freedom-loving people from defending freedom. And make no mistake about it: This is good versus evil. These are evildoers. They have no justification for their actions. There's no religious justification, there's no political justification. The only motivation is evil." —President George W. Bush, September 25, 2001

Demonization of the enemy is a common propaganda tactic used in war. When it is coupled with emotional agitation by creating fear and hatred of the enemy, it is very effective in mobilizing an indifferent population in support of war. Of course, the horror of actual destruction and loss of nearly 3,000 lives on September 11, 2001, made this task significantly easier.

"Our enemies are evil and they're ruthless. They have no conscience. They have no mercy. They have killed thousands of our citizens, and seek to kill many more." —President George W. Bush, November 21, 2001

Propagandists have demonized al Qaeda and the Taliban as evil, barbaric terrorists who are opposed to all civilization, claiming that there is no political or rational human explanation for their existence or their behavior. This propaganda serves to curtail thoughts of trying to understand the social, political and historical aspects of terrorism and U.S. foreign policy. Propagandists frame the suicide hijackers in a way that reduces them to a single abstracted and irrational source of evil. We are taught that terrorists are motivated not by a human or political cause, but only by pure hatred of "our freedom" (Bush, September 20, 2001), "our way of life" (Bush, September 13, 2001) and a thirst for controlling the world.

THIS ARTICLE CONTINUES IN UNDERGROUND, NEXT PAGE



a fashion statement

by Willow King

There you are as a child in all your glory. Perhaps you're wearing your special cowboy boots, a favorite tutu, or maybe just the plastic guitar and nothing else. It's you: a shining example of pure, unadulterated beauty—right there, for the entire world to see. Then the doubts of adolescence arrive, the itch to understand your body and the simultaneous terror, the fear that you don't measure up, the wanting to change some (or all) of your features...all steps on the long road to where you are now, flipping through some glitzy style mag at the hair salon hoping that the beautician is enough of an alchemist to transform you from straw into gold.

Find your way back to that original shine. Feel the sericeousness of your skin. Look to the trees and into the eyes of the ones you love for inspiration, for therein lies beauty—not in the inky newsprint of lack and luster.

A marvelous orgasm, a hot bath, a ripe avocado. Things that make us feel good: Are they what make us feel beautiful? Botox injections into tender, aging skin; shoes that pinch toes into one cramped mass; tight bodices and jeans that wear us rather than us wearing them. Things that make us feel uncomfortable: Are they what make us look beautiful? Are feeling beautiful and looking beautiful two different things? Is the gap so wide that we get lost in the abyss of advertising and trends? Have we lost our sense of well-being and delight and instead transformed ourselves into pinched reflections of what we should look like, as prescribed by the glossy pages of fashion mags and billboards?

I do not mean to condemn fashion; quite the contrary. Fashion as I see it is the play of texture, color, style and wit that allows human beings to rejoice in and express their own complexity, uniqueness and vision. However, fashion as it plays out in our culture requires commentary on the fragility of our self-image and the advisability of protecting ourselves from the barrage of unreal visions that take us not into the grand experiment of self-expression but rather into a conformist pattern that promotes a very narrow and limiting image of beauty. As defined by *Webster's New Universal Dictionary*, fashion is "the prevailing mode or customary style of dress, speech, conduct or other things subject to change, especially, the mode or style favored by dominant circles of society." These dominant circles of society will



underground

Another way to dehumanize an enemy is to compare their behavior and their deserved treatment to that of animals. Note the implied dynamic of a fox hunt in the following quote:

"They run to the hills; they find holes to get in. And we will do whatever it takes to smoke them out and get them running, and we'll get them." —President George W. Bush, September 15, 2001

WAR IS PEACE

"We're a peaceful nation. Yet, as we have learned so suddenly and so tragically, there can be no peace in a world of sudden terror. In the face of today's new threat, the only way to pursue peace is to pursue those who threaten it." —President George W. Bush, October 7, 2001

When the United States began bombing Afghanistan (one of the most impoverished and

devastated nations in the world), we were told in a sort of double-speak reminiscent of Big Brother's mantra in George Orwell's novel *1984* that "war is peace." Upon the announcement of the bombing, chants of "USA! USA!" echoed throughout American football stadiums. But how much real thinking has gone into the public's response to this "War on Terrorism," a war against no particular country, a war focused on the desolate region of Afghanistan (although most of the attackers were from Saudi Arabia, and al Qaeda is a *worldwide* organization), a war against a people who a few short years ago were our allies and who we armed and supported, a war that was created in response to a terrorist action that in the past would have been considered a crime to be prosecuted rather than justification for war?

The war has been billed as a war to "to save civilization" (Bush, January 10, 2002) and Bush has claimed that "We are supported by the conscience of the world" (October 17,



happily send us down the road of enormous debt while selling us a mirage of "the good life," the circles that create enormous holes in self-worth that need to be filled with bigger boobs, new trousers and expensive handbags.

Why not take fashion back into our own hands? Why not use fashion to express and celebrate our cultural heritages, our stages of life, our art, the desire to honor our bodies and the Earth? With the rise of mass media and prominent advertising campaigns has come an enormous lack of personal creativity.

Instead of asking ourselves "What do I really like? What do I really find beautiful?" we simply subscribe to the regurgitated icons that suggest that thin, white and young are the doors to happiness and the keys lie in the purchase of the latest low-slung jeans. Most fashion models give us a painfully difficult example of what it looks like to be hip. Impossible waistlines, airbrushed skin and the absence of blemishes, cellulite and bellies leave us feeling frumpy, discouraged and disempowered. The capricious world of the supermodel hands us depleted, junkie-eyed, frail, pale fantasies that don't swell with childbirth, don't lift heavy objects, and don't get their hands dirty in the garden. They aren't subject to the usual rules.

We live in a world full of situations that require great strength. We need real role models, not

digitally generated beauties whose whole lives are structured around manicures and tummy tucks. It's up to us to create the *beau ideal*. It's our responsibility to link our beauty to our power and our pleasure.

I propose a fashion manifesto in which individuals reclaim their own sense of themselves based solely on introspection rather than the addiction to what the limited few at the top think is hot, hot, hot. Perhaps this inner contemplation will reveal that you actually *want* to wear tight, restrictive clothing and shoes that require serious concentration in order not to swivel into an ankle spin. So it is for you.

The issue is not the *what*, but the *how* and the *why*. Which in this case means letting ourselves explore our elemental natures: the metal, the wood, the water, the fire that live through us. It means being the light and spirit that we are and finding our own way through the fashion jungle based on trusting ourselves, not buying into self-doubt. The idea of our outer image is that it is a reflection of our inner being. Of course, this inner being is constantly changing, subject to thousands of storms, upheavals, purring content, rage, desire and breakthroughs. Thank goodness, then, for wool, denim, rayon, pleather, zippers and rubber soles.

They are our tools and our playthings. Remember the dress-up trunk from when you were a child. Be a brave, strong example of a beauty that is a prism of your inner grace. Do whatever it takes to find that grace, knowing no amount of lipstick or liposuction can create it. Sometimes that may mean lying in the shade in cutoffs and a dirty T-shirt, eating watermelon as the juice runs down our well-sunscreened chins. Sometimes it may mean dressing in flamboyant reds and oranges when we are feeling blue. Sometimes it means silence; sometimes screaming into a pillow.

Dust off your old plastic guitar. Recycle, reuse, redefine style for yourself. Shop garage sales and thrift shops; what we need is so often right in our own backyard. Trade with friends, cut things up, sew them back together to fit you like a glove. Learn to knit, crochet, patch and tailor. Be your own favorite designer. Fashion is our chance to free ourselves, not to mask ourselves in the drag of the dominant "look." Mix things up or disappear in the soft cashmere of a quiet afternoon spent reading Colette or Persian poetry. Stretch, sing at the top of your lungs, celebrate your freedom. Our choice of dress, speech and conduct is just that: ours. We are here to enjoy our lives, our unique bodies and tastes. There is no formula for our own fabulousness—except trust. I remember a writer friend telling me in the chaotic streets of Bangkok: "I just want somewhere I can be alone with my fantasies." Try wearing your fantasies on the outside for the entire world to see. Now that's fashion, baby. *b*



2001). The American public is given the impression that everybody is jumping on the war bandwagon. However, a post-September 11 Gallup International poll of 30 countries found that extradition of terrorists for trial was preferred over military attacks by large majorities in all countries except Israel and the United States, with only a slim majority of 54 percent in favor of bombing.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

United States war propagandists have always used false stories of enemy atrocities to garner the emotional support of the masses. During World War I, the War Department's (now called the Department of Defense) propaganda arm, the Committee on Public Information, placed false stories in the mass media that claimed German soldiers boiled the skin of dead Allied soldiers to make soap. During America's war against Iraq, the Pentagon hired the public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton, who orchestrated a media

event in which the daughter of Kuwait's ambassador to the United States fabricated the story that Iraqi soldiers were ripping babies out of Kuwaiti incubators and leaving them on the floor to die. For the current war, the Pentagon has hired the PR firm, The Rendon Group, whose past clients have included the government of Kuwait and the CIA. As with the Iraq war—previously considered the most media information-controlled war—it may take some time before we can sort out fact from fiction with regard to the War on Terrorism.

"There has never been an American war, small or large, in which [media] access has been so limited as this one." —CBS TV newscaster Dan Rather

The propaganda of the War on Terrorism has been so effective that the overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens define the suicide hijacking attacks as a declaration of war rather than a horrible crime. Yet after the first terrorist attack on U.S. soil (the February 26, 1993, World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured thousands), war was not



the **2** minutes **LAUGH**

by Greg Berry

In talking to friends, family and strangers who live and work in New York City, it is clear that many people were deeply affected by the terror delivered to their doorstep. The shockwaves of fear radiating from the World Trade Center have motivated many in our country to trade restraints on our liberty for a false sense of security. Unable or unwilling to live with the risk of danger that results from true freedom

underground

declared. Instead, the federal government arrested four perpetrators and put them on trial. All individuals found responsible, including a fifth extradited from Pakistan in 1998, were sentenced to fines and 240 years in prison.

One hundred ninety-eight people, including several children and babies, were murdered in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, yet the United States did not declare war on right-wing militias and neo-Nazis. Instead, they sentenced Timothy McVeigh to death and Terry Nichols to life in prison.

But for some reason, the Bush administration made sure that retaliation through war was the only response considered for the September 11 attacks. President Bush claimed (November 6, 2001) that "The Taliban regime of Afghanistan refused to turn over the terrorists." Yet the Bush administration declared "no negotiations" and ignored all offers.

Before the bombing began, the Taliban offered to put Osama bin Laden on trial in a Muslim court of his peers. The United States made no counteroffer. One week after the bombing, the Taliban offered to have bin Laden stand trial in a neutral country. Again, the offer was ignored. If we were truly after bin Laden and "those responsible," why did we not jump at the chance to prosecute the most wanted man in the world—a man whose whereabouts are completely unknown to our government and whose capture and prosecution by the United States now seem highly unlikely?

Bush used the phrase "war against terrorism" in his first televised address to the nation after the attacks. Within the first month of the tragedy, he made use of the word "war" more than 200 times. Our nation was not allowed much time to grieve before being encouraged to channel its natural human response of anger into revenge and to lash out at the faceless enemy: terrorism. Less than four weeks after the attacks in New York City

Although the reductions in our freedoms fly in the face of the fundamental principles upon which our democratic nation was founded, the mindset of the frightened seems to have spread to the U.S. senators and congressmen who passed the Patriot Act in the weeks following 9/11. In addition to supplying additional funding for U.S. government intelligence (an oxymoron highlighted by the the attack) this act removed several impediments to the government's surveillance of citizens.

A reading of the Patriot Act reveals many layers. At one level, it exposes the labyrinth that is federal law, prescribing changes in numerous other laws and statutes that redefine the meaning of previous legislation. This makes the law seem innocuous unless you're ready to tackle the thousands of pages of laws it affects. At another level, the act engages in the types of nationalistic statements necessary for any war machine to thrive. More deeply, it increases the depths of surveillance that the government can conduct in all our lives. It removes constraints on governmental wiretaps that can track both voice calls and Internet data while increasing the use of camera-based surveillance in public places, both of which undermine basic constitutional rights to privacy and protections from unreasonable search and seizure. The act also more broadly defines "terrorism" to include, in the opinions of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and ACLU among other privacy and watchdog groups, acts of protest that include even incidental violence. It is now possible for previously legitimate acts of protest to fall into the category of terrorism, and for those with a dissenting voice to be treated like enemies of the state.

It is now possible for previously legitimate acts of protest to fall into the category of terrorism, and for those with a dissenting voice to be treated like enemies of the state.

In addition to the Patriot Act, related legislation addresses specific additional measures meant to remove our liberties. One of the most obscene is the TIPS program, provided for in the Homeland Security Act. This act funds a program that encourages private-sector service employees with access to your home (meter readers, package delivery people, electricians, et al.) to report any suspicious acts to local authorities, effectively turning Americans against one another. For a comprehensive review of current laws and pending bills, punch the keywords "USA PATRIOT ACT" and "HOMELAND SECURITY ACT" into thomas.loc.gov, the Library of Congress's searchable Web resource.

These compromises to our basic freedoms evoke the warnings of George Orwell, who anticipated the danger of an over-empowered government intelligence apparatus. In his novel, Orwell highlights the kind of mind control a government can have when pervasive surveillance demands conformity with government-driven thought. One example from the book is the "Two Minutes Hate," in which the citizenry gathered in public and were presented with images of the enemy of the party, to which they were instructed to react with a seething hatred. This kind of hatred, when practiced in a group and repeated over and over again, helped support the war machine that drove their economy and reinforced the power of the state and party. Ubiquitous surveillance, practiced in large part through two-way TV-like screens in public spaces as well as private residences, ensured compliance with the risk of detainment and assassination for those who did not properly participate. Further, like the modern TIPS program mentioned above, individuals were encouraged to report the nonconformity of fellow citizens.

and Washington, D.C., the United States, without an official declaration of war, was bombing one of the poorest countries in the world and calling for the removal of the Taliban government of Afghanistan, though none of the hijackers were Taliban nor Afghan. More than 75 percent were from a single province in Saudi Arabia, and the rest were from Egypt. What was our motive in choosing Afghanistan as the target for this war?

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

"The enormous gap between what the U.S. leaders do in the world and what Americans think their leaders are doing is one of the great propaganda accomplishments of the dominant political mythology."—Michael Parenti, author of *The Terrorism Trap: September 11 and Beyond*

The entire military budget of the United States is six times larger than that of the next

biggest spender, Russia, and 26 times that of the countries labeled "the axis of evil," including Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. The United States' sale and transfer of weapons makes up more than 50 percent of the global arms trade. Often we supply both sides in a conflict—a situation that has a tendency to produce what the CIA terms "blowback," when groups we have trained and armed, like al Qaeda, turn against us.

Prior to the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein was a U.S. ally for decades and was supplied with U.S. weapons, including biological and chemical weapons that ended up being used in a gross violation of human rights against Iraqi Kurds. The U.S. military supported Iraq in its war against Iran, during which the U.S. warship Vincennes shot down an Iranian commercial airliner in 1988, killing 290 people. When he moved troops into Kuwait over an oil dispute, Hussein was suddenly no longer a U.S. ally but became the enemy. Figuring out what is and isn't terrorism



Orwell's fictional warning invites an alarmingly close parallel to the current state-driven wargasm, broadcast into your living room 24/7 by the six corporations that control 90-odd percent of what Americans see, hear and read.

Although our government is not fairly represented by 1984's monolithic Ministries of Truth, Peace, Love and Plenty (ironies, all), it is nonetheless complicit in managing the American mindset. Rather than legislating anger, as Orwell envisioned, our government peddles fear out of one side of its mouth while promising security out of the other. The security, they're reluctant to tell you, comes at the price of your civil liberties, especially the rights to privacy and the protection against unreasonable search.

Some of the most pervasive tools of the increased surveillance are cameras, especially those in public spaces. In cities big and small, buildings public and private, the actions of millions of Americans are recorded each day. The availability of functional face recognition software signals the beginning of an age where your actions can be tracked to your identity. While the practicality of applying this technology to each apartment lobby and street corner may lead the rational to dismiss this warning, the application of Moore's Law (that the computational power of the silicone chip will double every 18 months) and the corollary geometric increase in communications bandwidth make ubiquitous monitoring of individuals a very real possibility in the near future.

Consider the following glimpse of this future, courtesy of a recent visit to Las Vegas that would make Hunter S. Thompson proud (and very, very paranoid). The sun was coming up as we were coming down on the gaming floor of the Hard Rock Casino. A member of our party was still optimistic about his chances of a romantic rendezvous, and was chatting up a rather cute woman. As thick fellows in dark clothes converged on our spot, one stepped forward and asked the young woman to leave. It turns out not only that she was under the legal age to be in a casino, but she had passed a fake ID to a bartender in another part of the hotel three hours prior. After a short protest, the casino representative told her they not only had the ID, but they also had a videotape of her handing it to the bartender.

While this incident earned the friend in question a bit of good-natured teasing, on the serious side it raised concerns in my mind. What else

had our hosts videotaped unbeknownst to us? How much surveillance of individual behavior and activity was being conducted?

As private entities, Las Vegas casinos are allowed more latitude in their intrusion into our actions than is the federal government. So far. And you might not care that casino video surveillance turned up an underage gambler. But imagine that passing through screening for a political rally you were denied entrance based on your recent attendance of an Islamic film festival or your purchase of a subversive magazine.

Laws like the Patriot Act and the related pervasiveness of video and individual surveillance lead us down a road where our public actions are catalogued and cross-referenced, and dissent is less likely to be tolerated. While this future may seem far off, surveillance technologies are readily available and are being employed at many high-security checkpoints. What's more, the laws of that future are being written today.

As we set these precedents in law and security practice, I suggest we continue to promote individual freedom as a primary value in this country, and that we hold it more dear than the illusion of security. How can we support the defense of the country if it comes at the cost of our core values? "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" places liberty (freedom) second only to the value of life itself. Let us not play lightly with this fundamental principle upon which this country was built.

The battle against the danger presented by the demented among us, both foreign and domestic (who can forget that, despite our assumptions about Islamic fundamentalists in the hours following the Oklahoma City bombings,



underground

and who is and isn't a terrorist seems to depend on who is providing the definition.

THE NEXT WAR?

"Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America and to support terror. The Iraqi regime has plotted to develop anthrax and nerve gas, and nuclear weapons for over a decade. This is a regime that has already used poison gas to murder thousands of its own citizens—leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children. This is a regime that agreed to international inspections—then kicked out the inspectors. This is a regime that has something to hide from the civilized world." —George W. Bush, January 29, 2002

Apparently not satisfied with the war against Afghanistan, the Bush administration has begun beating the war drums again. The "axis of evil" propaganda apparatus is in high

gear to manipulate the opinions of the masses with fear of another evil terrorist. All Bush administration efforts to tie Hussein to the al Qaeda network and the September 11 attacks have failed, yet the administration seems undeterred in its efforts. We hear frequently now about Iraq's not *possession of*, but *plans to develop*, weapons of mass destruction.

It was reported that Iraq kicked out U.N. weapons inspectors, but in reality, on August 5, 2002, the Bush administration dismissed an invitation from Iraq for members of Congress and arms experts to inspect any facilities alleged to produce chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The response to the invitation from Bush: "When I said no negotiations, I meant no negotiations."

Republican Scott Ritter, former chief inspector for the United Nations Special Commission

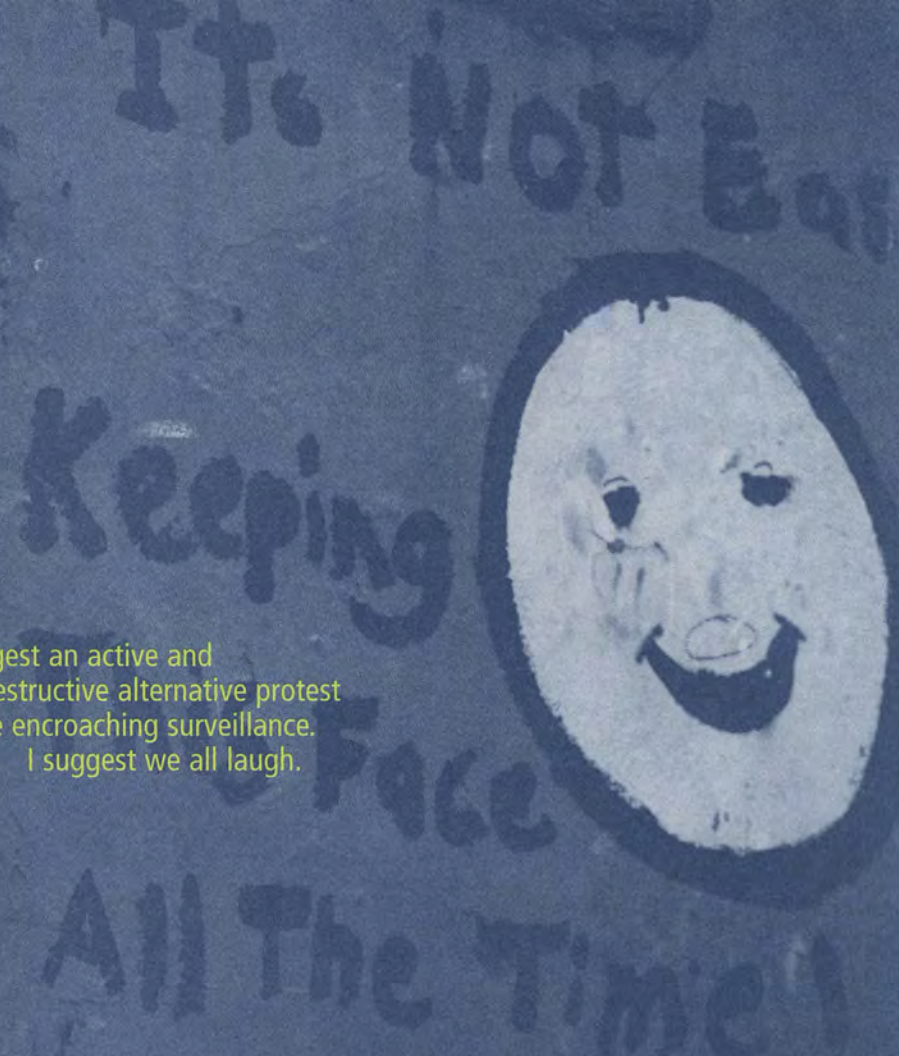
that this act of terrorism was committed by one of our own?) should not be subsumed to a false sense of security.

Though traditional advocacy may be effective, I suggest an active and nondestructive alternative protest to the encroaching surveillance. I suggest we all laugh. To get angry is to give your emotions over to the fear that drives the process. The Hindu culture includes a tradition of daily laughter. Although initially awkward to the Western mind, these group laughs are infectious and powerful. In addition to the chemical releases that make the body and mind feel better, the group laugh frees the spirit to allow light to triumph over darkness.

Every Tuesday at two o'clock in the afternoon, with proper homage to George Orwell and his protagonists Winston and Julia, we can all laugh *en masse*. Public demonstrations of laughter become infectious, growing each day. Imagine a simple sign—HA HA!—seen on surveillance cameras around the world. Within Orwell's Big Brother metaphor, imagine what the control room would look like if a majority of the cameras were filled with the image—HA HA! If you agree, make big signs for public spaces. Take them to political rallies. Make a small card that you put in front of the fisheye surveillance cameras at ATMs. Put stickers on your cars that can be read by the cameras in police cruisers. Join others with these signs in daily laughter.

Let them know that—HA HA!—the joke's on them. We're fundamentally free, and in ironic *sipatico* with the citizens in 1984 we laugh at their attempts to control our thoughts and actions, to take our freedom. **b**

I suggest an active and nondestructive alternative protest to the encroaching surveillance. I suggest we all laugh.



(UNSCOM), resigned in the fall of 1998 because "continued manipulation of the UNSCOM inspection process by the United States led to a fabricated crisis that had nothing to do with legitimate disarmament." He reports that the crisis led to the United States "ordering UNSCOM inspectors out of Iraq two days before" the United States and Britain began a 72-hour bombing campaign, which used non-weapons targets accessed by the inspectors.

Many of our allies, including officials from Britain, have warned that starting a war against Iraq may lead to a wider war in the Middle East. As with the War on Terrorism, U.S. propaganda about Iraq serves to close off greater understanding of the social, political and historical context of the confrontation and any democratic discussion of alternative options.

Despite the War on Terrorism (or, more accurately, the War on Afghanistan), Osama bin Laden is still unaccounted for; and few, if any, significant al Qaeda leaders have been

captured. Now the government has turned our attention to Iraq, which, not coincidentally, controls some of the largest oil reserves in the world. Will Iraq become the next "most information-intensive war" we fight, where again the U.S. military admits "we're going to lie about things"?

It is up to each and every one of us to see that it does not. It is up to each and every one of us to ensure that the propaganda machine does not succeed in its mission to "truncate thought" and manipulate emotions and silence our questions and concerns. Do not be fooled into thinking that it is somehow anti-American to question our leaders. That is just more propaganda. Democratic and open debate bolstered by free thought and free speech is as American as you can get. **b**