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The Dominion

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dominion, *n.* 1. Control or the exercise of control. 2. A territory or sphere of influence; a realm. 3. One of the self-governing nations within the British Commonwealth.

Flooding in India Leaves 400,000 Homeless

A major flood on the Brahmaputra river caused by heavy rainfall displaced over 400,000 people in the Indian state of Assam this week. In 2002, a similar flood forced 10% of the area's population of 26 million to relocate. The floods are a regular occurrence in the region during the monsoon season. (Environmental News Service)

Almost Half of US Senators are Millionaires

Financial disclosure forms released last week revealed that at least 40 out of 100 US Senators possess a net worth of over \$1 million. Of the millionaires, 22 were Republicans and 18 were Democrats. All but six were men. A similar, earlier report revealed that all of George W. Bush's Cabinet are worth six figures or more, with several multimillionaires, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld among them. (CNN, Washington Post)

13,000 Muslim Men to Be Deported from US

US immigration authorities called for 82,000 Muslim men living in the US to take part in a special registration between December 2002 and April of this year. Now, 13,000 of them are facing deportation. According to a report by the World Socialist Web Site, the Justice Department issued numerous statements stating that there was "nothing to fear". 11 of the 13,000 are alleged to have terrorist ties, though these are unspecified.



Protesters in Sacramento: highlighting alternatives to genetic engineering. *Biotech Indymedia*

Fayiz Rahman of the American Muslim Council was quoted as saying that the program was "targeted only towards Muslims.... They are planning to reduce the number of Muslims on American soil... discourage Muslim immigration, make our lives difficult." A Justice Department report issued on June 2 documented numerous violations of civil liberties against Muslims directly following September 11th, including "verbal and physical abuse, withholding of counsel, and denial of bond."

A year-old Canadian law enables CSIS, with the authorization of the immigration minister, to detain immigrants indefinitely, without charge or trial (see p. 2). (*World Socialist Web Site, New York Times, Agence France-Presse*)

Biotech Conference in Sacramento Draws Protests

The US Department of Agriculture staged a conference in Sacramento, California designed to promote the virtues of biotechnology to various foreign ministers before the upcoming WTO summit in Cancun. The US and Canada have been continually at odds with Europe over the issue of Genetically Modified (GM) foods; many African countries have declined imports of GM foods for fear of contaminating their own crops and cutting off essential European markets.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman touted GM crops and free trade as solutions

for starvation in developing countries. Outside, protesters sought to draw attention to alternatives in organic farming and other sustainable practices, while decrying the unforeseeable consequences of biotechnology. Critics have argued that famine is almost always a consequence of faulty distribution mechanisms, not insufficient supply. Others have accused the US Government of subsidizing unsold GM crops by foisting them on developing countries through USAID. (*Indymedia BioTech, Mercury News*)

Iraq Briefs: US Occupation for a Decade?

USA Today reported that "two top U.S. defense officials signaled Congress on Wednesday that U.S. forces might remain in Iraq for as long as a decade and that permanent facilities need to be built to house them there." According to the report, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "gave no explicit estimates for the time U.S. forces would stay in Iraq, but they did not dispute members of Congress who said the deployment could last a decade or more." Pace and Wolfowitz also reportedly "did not dispute" suggestions that the US would need an annual budget of \$54 billion to maintain the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq.

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Moroccan immigrant with alleged terrorist ties to be deported

Adil Charkaoui, a 29 year old Moroccan immigrant and resident of Montreal, has been charged with being a "dormant agent" of Al Qaeda by CSIS. He is being deported under a section the one year old Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which allows CSIS to gain approval from Solicitor General Wayne Easter and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Denis Coderre to detain or deport immigrants without a conventional trial. The public evidence offered by CSIS claims that Charkaoui associated with terrorists in the 90s, and that he visited Pakistan at the same time that Ahmed Ressay, a member of the Canada-based terrorist group that planned attacks on the Los Angeles Airport, was training in Afghanistan. No evidence is offered that connects Charkaoui to terrorist activity.

Under current Canadian law, a federal judge will examine the evidence provided by CSIS, and if she concurs, Charkaoui will be deported. Since CSIS claims the evidence would jeopardize national security if made public, Charkaoui and his lawyers will not be privy to the evidence against him. After a decision is made, no appeal is available. Charkaoui, who is married and has one child, has denied connections to terrorist activity in the past, and has claimed his arrest is retribution for refusing to spy on other Montreal muslims for CSIS.

Mohamed Harkat, an Algerian refugee, was arrested under a similar security certificate last December, and has been held in solitary confinement for seven months. Under similar claims of a risk to national security, Harkat has not been made aware of the details of the charges against him. His hearing is set for July. (*Toronto Star, Canadian Press, Montreal Muslim News*) •••

The articles quoted and referred to below have been selected from a variety of online sources. To read the full articles, or suggest additions for the next issue, visit <http://dominionpaper.ca/reading>

Ontario's minimum wage

The [Ontario] provincial minimum wage sits at \$6.85 per hour. It was set there back in January, 1995 by an NDP government that knew it had no hope of re-election, and hence was truer to its principles in its dying days than the Tories are being today.

More than eight long years have passed, making Ontario's by far the most outdated minimum wage. (Second place goes to Alberta, which last boosted its minimum in 1999; most other provinces have increased theirs within the last year.) Inflation has since eroded 20 percent of the purchasing power of Ontario's minimum wage. During this period, high-income Canadians (the top 10 percent) enjoyed a 15 percent rise in their incomes, after inflation. But the burger flippers and clerks and manual workers who toil on the bottom rungs of the labour market saw their real incomes move in the other direction - and faster.

Some 250,000 Ontarians are employed at minimum wage, which is only about 5 percent of total provincial employment. Two-thirds of that total are women. But many more Ontarians work within spitting distance of the minimum wage. Over a million Ontarians, nearly one-quarter of the employed labour force, work for \$10 per hour or less. A higher minimum wage will bump up their wages, too, as employers throughout the lower segment of the labour market act to maintain pay differentials.

—Jim Stanford

Income Deficiency Syndrome

One of the strongest non-random patterns is that rich and powerful people are healthier than poor and powerless people. They get sick less often because their physical and social environments are more protective, and when they do get sick they can more easily get treated. Fortunately, this pattern has been obscured to a great extent in Canada — because we have deliberately worked to counteract it. But most conditions (and especially diseases like AIDS, malaria, and TB) clearly reveal this pattern both within countries and between countries. In Africa, AIDS is often referred to as "Acute Income Deficiency Syndrome".

—Christina Zarowsky

Patents: innovation or monopolization?

The pharmaceutical industry maintains that stronger intellectual property rights protection will allow it to afford the R&D costs for new, more effective and safer drugs. However, profit levels in the pharmaceutical industry in the mid-1990s were substantial at over 15% on capital employed. Furthermore, most new drugs do not offer any significant improvement over existing therapies. Out of 455 new patented drugs introduced into Canada from 1996 to 2000 only 25 were major improvements or breakthroughs.

—Alex Lexchin

Background

Native Governance Act

While interpreted by many as a heavy-handed return of Jean Chrétien's 1968 "White Paper" (that sought to solve native land claims issues by the full assimilation of indigenous people), the FNGA is being touted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) as a step towards self-governance. The FNGA will turn band councils into municipal corporations and take away the special legal status of aboriginal people. Conceivably, First Nations Bands will soon have to compete on financial and legal playing fields with multi-national corporations as equals.

—Thunder Bay Indymedia

Multiple online articles are available on the Native Governance Act, including material from Amnesty International, government materials, and explanations of why first nations oppose the NGA.

The Dominion is a not for profit free newspaper covering topics of interest to Canadians. We aim to provide a progressive counterpoint to the mainstream papers, direct attention to quality work published on the internet, and establish a venue where alternative forms of journalism can be practiced. The Dominion is published bi-weekly.

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“Iraq Briefs,” continued from page 1 »

A poll conducted by the University of Maryland found that over one third of Americans believe that the US has discovered weapons of mass destruction in Iraq; 22 percent believe that Iraq used banned weapons during the invasion. No such weapons have been found to date. “This level of misinformation suggests some Americans may be avoiding having an experience of cognitive dissonance,” suggested one pollster quoted by the Associated Press. An NBC-Washington Post poll found that 54 percent of Americans would support military action against Iran to stop it from acquiring nuclear weapons; 34 percent of respondents were opposed.

In what one correspondent called “a bizarre musical reprise from Vietnam war film ‘Apocalypse Now,’” American troops listened to Wagner’s “Ride of the Valkyries” before raiding Iraqi



Iraqi women at a pre-invasion demonstration; the *Washington Post* reports that rising Islamic fundamentalism is eroding women’s freedom of movement. *Iraq Journal*

homes to look for gunmen.

By the most recent estimate calculated by Iraq Body Count, an organization that compiles press reports of civilian deaths in Iraq, between 5,000 and 7,000 Iraqi civilians been killed since the beginning of the war. 54 US troops have died in Iraq since George W. Bush declared the

war over; 139 died during the war. An investigation by Human Rights Watch concluded that US troops “responded with excessive force to a perceived threat” when they shot into a crowd of protesters.

A crowd of 10,000 protesters threw stones at British troops and vehicles and chanted

slogans demanding self government; British forces had recently disbanded a town council, replacing it with a committee chaired by a senior British military commander. A recent attempt at a local election was abruptly and unilaterally cancelled by L. Paul Bremer III, the top US official in Iraq. According to the *New York Times*, “marines had built makeshift wooden ballot boxes,” and an Army reserve unit had “conducted a voter registration drive.” The report stated that “privately, American officials said they believed Iraq was not ready for elections, and voting could inflame tensions.” According to a report in the *Washington Post*, Iraqi women are increasingly pressured to wear veils. (*USA Today*, *Moscow Times*, *Iraq Body Count*, *Washington Post*, *Human Rights Watch*, *Daily Telegraph*, *New York Times*) •••

Dru Oja Jay

Media Regulation Abroad and at Home

FCC ruling inspires wide resistance

After hundreds of thousands of Americans wrote letters, made phone calls, and staged nationwide protests, the US Senate Commerce Committee this week approved a bill rolling back a recent controversial ruling by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC ruling in question would have eliminated a cross-ownership ban which prohibited a single company from owning a TV station and newspaper in the same market. The bill, which will be debated in Senate, would also bring the national TV ownership cap back to 35%; the FCC ruling would have raised the limit to 45%.

Canadian regulations place very few restrictions on cross-ownership. NDP media critic Wendy Lill has charged that Canada’s media ownership laws

allow larger concentrations of media ownership than would be allowed in either the US or the UK. (*Mediageek.org*, *Urbana-Champaign Indymedia Center*, *NDP News Release*)

Bremer declares “prohibited activities” for nascent Iraqi Media

L. Paul Bremer III, the top US official in Iraq, recently declared a new set of restrictions on the country’s recently unshackled press. A list of nine “prohibited activities” includes incitement to racial, ethnic or religious hatred, publishing material that is patently false, or “calculated to provoke opposition to the CPA or undermine legitimate processes towards self-government”. Media found to not comply can have their license revoked, or be fined \$1000. The only recourse for

media outlets found in violation is to appeal Bremer himself.

Iraq, long under a stringent censorship regime, has recently seen an explosion of new publications, many sponsored by political parties or religious leaders. Many new papers reportedly print unattributed reports accusing western forces of everything from gang rape and robbery to ‘insults to Islam’.

The US Government has invested \$20 million to rebuild the “Iraqi Media Network” (formerly Iraqi state TV & radio). US officials have demanded that the network stop broadcasting readings from the Koran, “man-on-the-street” interviews (which are usually critical of the US invasion), and submit to pre-broadcast checks. Bremer has “reserved the power to advise” the Iraqi Media Network on any aspect of its performance.

(*Christian Science Monitor*, *Index on Censorship*)

British regulator: Fox News not biased

In Britain, the Independent Television Commission responded to complaints of bias at Fox News, saying the network had not violated “due impartiality” rules regulating television news coverage inside the UK. During the recent invasion of Iraq, high profile interviewer Bill O’Reilly told viewers that the US should go in and “splatter” the Iraqis.

In 1999, the ITC revoked the license of a Kurdish TV station, MedTV, for failing to comply with “due impartiality” rules. The popular Arab network Al Jazeera does not fall under the ITC’s jurisdiction, as its European base is in Paris. (*Media Guardian*) •••

Dru Oja Jay



Day or night, bank machines somewhere are calculating fees on your bank account or interest on your credit card. *Dru Oja Jay*

Gouging Together a Living

How banks get away with making you pay for your savings account

by Dru Oja Jay

Most Canadians don't need to be told that bank fees are rising, while interest rates paid on deposits—even in long term savings accounts—have diminished to the point of being inconsequential. Since the early nineties, the “big five” banks in Canada (Toronto Dominion, Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal) have been accelerating a collective move away from traditional retail banking, which is based on the premise that depositors *lend* their money to a bank and receive interest and certain services in return.

Instead, the trend has been to charge increasing service fees while moving customers into areas more lucrative for banks such as credit cards, mutual funds, money market accounts, and stock market investments. Simply storing money in chequing and savings accounts is no longer a considered as a mutually beneficial arrangement; it is now a service to be paid for. For example, Royal Bank customers pay up to \$1.25 for each cheque used, and can pay up to \$1.50 when withdrawing money from a non-Royal Bank tellers machines. Similar fees apply to deposits, Interac transactions, and teller visits. One always has the alternative to pay a higher monthly fee for a set number of “free” transactions. Such fees are typical in other big five banks.

Meanwhile, interest rates on savings accounts under \$5,000 are all but nonexistent.

Royal Bank, for example, pays 0.1% on savings accounts under \$5,000. Rates reach 2% on deposits of \$10,000 or more: still below the rate of inflation, which hovers at just over 2%. Again, other banks offer similar rates, with some variation.

For customers who want to keep pace with inflation, much less earn interest, there are mutual funds, money market accounts, and stock portfolios, all of which the banks manage for a fee. For an annual administrative fee, these customers receive personal advice and higher returns. Other customers receive unsolicited complimentary “visa cheques” in the mail; as the fine print informs those who care to look, any use of the cheques carries a hefty 17.5% interest rate. To keep record profits coming in, banks must leverage their “brand” in as many ways as possible to sell

their customers a wide variety of financial services.

At first glance, this state of affairs is baffling. There are five different banks in Canada, each with hundreds of outlets across the country. Given that a large number of customers are annoyed at paying just to have an account, surely they would compete with one another for customers by offering lower fees and higher interest on deposits? The situation seems even more strange when one notices that competing banking services from Presidents Choice and ING Direct offer no-fee banking and Interac service, with interest rates well above inflation on any amount (2.75% and 3%, respectively). Many community credit unions offer similar benefits.

So why do Canadians overwhelmingly stay with the big five banks? Do the CEOs of the big five sit in smoke filled rooms and conspire to raise fees? As it turns out, they don't need to.

“People bank based on convenience; what's close to home, school, or work: that's where they have their bank,” says Duff Conacher. Conacher chairs the Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition, a collection of “anti-poverty, consumer, community economic development, labour and small business groups” that advocates for bank accountability in Canada.

Conacher cites a 1998 study by the federal Competition

Bureau which found that fewer than 1% of Canadians had ever switched banks. “You're not going to switch to save \$10, if you have to drive ten minutes to get to your branch.” Perversely, the recent new competition from virtual banks like ING Direct and President's Choice seems to be partially responsible for new fees and ever-increasing credit card interest rates. “They've lost some of their customers, but they don't think they're going to lose any more, so they're gouging their remaining customers,” says Conacher. The reason for this is decidedly simple: “baby boomers on up will not do their banking electronically,” so virtual banks are out of the running.

Of the bricks-and-mortar banks, none has any incentive to try to compete with the others. “You're not going to lower your fees as a bank,” explains Conacher, “and then open up a whole bunch of branches, because you're going to have costs from opening up the branches, and you're going to have lower revenues from reducing your fees, so you're going to lose money... unless you get an enormous number of people to switch over.”

The problem, says Conacher, is that despite a clear lack of competition in many retail banking areas, banks are regulated as if they were competing. Having multiple competitors doesn't make a market

competitive, he says. "The measurement of competition is based on whether companies can steal customers from each other based on what they do, in terms of price or quality of service... if you have record profits year after year, it's a direct sign that there is no real competition."

The simple answer, according to the Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition (CanCRC), is to regulate the financial services industry in the same way that some utilities and telephone service providers are regulated. Conacher: "For each line of service (teller banking, self service, telephone, and internet banking)--we know they track their profit margins for each of those sectors-- they should be required to disclose the profit margin. If the profit margins are higher than 15-20%, it should automatically trigger a review by the regulator, and possibly force a lowering of interest rates [or fees]."

Ironically, such practices might be better for everyone in the long run. According to Conacher, the record profits from alleged price gouging allowed the banks to lose millions of dollars on bad investments in Mexico, Argentina and the telecommunications industry, as well as companies like Enron and Worldcom. If regulated, competitive profit margins might force the banks to be less cavalier with their customers' money in the future.

But profit margins on specific services aren't the only thing that CanCRC would like the banks to disclose. According to www.canarc.org, "banks have refused to disclose detailed information about their lending to women, minorities, in low-income neighborhoods or specific regions of Canada." Without this information, there is no way to determine with certainty whether banks are discriminating against certain groups, or denying financial services to certain demographics. Critics have argued that banks deny access to individuals with low incomes by demanding kinds of identi-

fication they are not likely to have before granting an account, among other tactics.

In the current political climate, however, it is unlikely that the government will force the banks to disclose any information, much less attach consequences to it. Instead, the principle discussion among banks and the government centres around mergers, which would accelerate the processes described above. Canadians are left with few alternatives: the virtual banks, and community credit unions. However, the former are not an option for many people with low incomes; households with internet access are much more likely to be

"They've lost some of their customers, but they don't think they're going to lose any more, so they're gouging their remaining customers"

of better means. Community Credit Unions often offer their members some degree of democratic accountability from management through an elected board, but they are often not in accessible locations, and require dedicated individuals and organized groups to get started.

"It's a tough issue, because everyone has a minute amount of outrage about it," says Conacher, "no one is going to dedicate their life to working on [this issue]." But, he explains, there is a very simple way of collectivizing the ubiquitous minute outrage: "The government would require the banks to enclose a one-page pamphlet when they mail out a bank statement or a credit card bill. The pamphlet would invite you to join a group that would watch over the banks. That pamphlet would reach 20 million people for a very low cost. If only one percent joined, you'd have a group with 200,000 members.

We've done a national survey, and people have said they're willing to pay \$30 as a membership fee. So you'd have a group of 200,000 members and a \$6 million annual budget. Then you'd have collectivized outrage, and you'd see the government change their position right away."

As it stands, the banks wield an enormous amount of influence with the current government. In addition to the hundreds of lobbyists that work Parliament Hill on their behalf and two recent Liberal Junior Finance Ministers who were career bankers, banks gave at least \$233,000 to the national Liberal party in 2001, more than any other industry or group.

Conacher says this explains why the simple plan to piggy-back a consumer rights group pamphlet on bank mailings has not been implemented. "They haven't rejected it, because they know there's no reason to reject it. They haven't said anything publicly about it... even though Martin's own task force recommended it, and so did the House committee and the Senate committee that reviewed Martin's task force report."

While groups like CanCRC continue to attempt to draw attention to issues of competition and accountability, mainstream debate on the issue of banking regulation has taken an opposite tack. Judging by two recent *Globe and Mail* articles, the debate is about mergers, and the dispute is not about *whether* they will happen, but when.

Last November, Michael Den Tandt wrote in the *Globe* "In 1998, bank mergers seemed likely. Now, they're virtually inevitable. Jean Chrétien, on this as on a number of other key economic files, is fighting the historical tide. Everyone seems to know it but him." The argument for bank mergers seems to rest squarely on the need for the banks to be "globally competitive". This argument, however, doesn't become urgent until we believe that further NAFTA integration is inevitable, "ultimately forcing Canada to remove the

20-percent ownership limit that now prevents foreign banks from buying controlling stakes in Canadian institutions." Without the "historical inevitability" of deepened free trade, the big five banks might just have to settle for competition amongst themselves, a proposition that is at once less lucrative, but better for Canadian consumers who want consistent service and better for small businesses that see loans drying up with the further consolidation of banks.

Mainstream debate seems to leave out altogether the massive popular opposition to bank mergers in 1998, when the banks last formally proposed to merge. Only the NDP is strongly

"It's a tough issue, because everyone has a minute amount of outrage about it... no one is going to dedicate their life to working on it."

opposed to further bank mergers in Canada. Lorne Nystrom, the NDP Finance critic, wrote the following upon the conclusion of hearings on bank mergers in the House Finance Committee: "When four of the largest Canadian banks proposed to merge in 1998, it took a year of public hearings, protests, \$4 million, five reports and the Competition Bureau to convince then Finance Minister Paul Martin that leaving one or two large private banks in control of the nation's credit was bad for competition, bad for jobs and bad for communities, and, therefore, not in the public interest... The Canadian banking system is one of the most concentrated systems in the world. The six largest banks account for more than 85 percent of the assets of our banking industry and have even increased their share of deposits from 70% in 1997 to 73% in 2001. What could possibly improve if only two or three banks controlled the banking business?" ...

Cruise Control?

The Cruise Ship Industry In Canada

by Yuill Herbert and
Karen Gorecki

What images spring to mind when you imagine a northern cruise vacation? Crystal clear water, teeming with sea life; humpback whales, porpoises and dolphins frolicking for your viewing pleasure; or perhaps just the vastness of a clean, wild ocean untouched by human pollution. These images contradict the current reality of the cruise industry.

A single cruise ship discharges approximately 1.3 million litres of waste water per day, more than the port city of Haines, Alaska. Haines can expect several ships per day, creating a floating mega-city in the harbour. NGOs concerned about cruise ship pollution have found that cruise ships burn fuel that has a 90% higher sulphur content than that used by cars. An American environmental group, the Blue Water Network, estimates that 77% of all ship waste comes from cruise ships. About two billion pounds of trash is dumped into the world's oceans each year and 24% of that waste comes from cruise ships. Approximately 14 million kilograms of waste was produced in 2000 on the Alaska-Canada route. With the exception of plastics, most of this waste can be ground up and legally dumped.

John Hansen of Northwest Cruise Ships Association is puzzled at the concern of many environmental groups and citizens. "I can't quite understand the degree of interest that they have in our industry and where it stems from". Ross Klein, author of a detailed study of cruise ships titled *Cruise Ship Blues*, thinks there are obvious reasons for the interest: "one needs to keep in mind that three of the four major cruise companies are convicted environmental felons, with those convictions occur-



A single cruise ship discharges approximately 1.3 million litres of waste water per day, more than the port city of Haines, Alaska. VIPIRG

ring since 1998." Cruise ships have accrued over 60 million dollars in environmental fines over the last five years in the United States. Yet, in Canada there have been no fines despite the fact that these same ships visit our waters. The only explanation is a lack of Canadian monitoring and enforcement.

Even more disturbing is the nature of some of the environmental violations, companies purposely and systematically polluting throughout their fleet. The Royal Caribbean Cruises Incorporated and Norwegian Cruise Lines were caught having installed lines to bypass the oil/water separator, a mechanism used to clean water of oil before being discharged. These lines were removed during US coast guard inspections to avoid detection. Both of these companies were also found guilty for purposefully dumping hazardous waste into their waste water. Ironically RCCI was promoting its "Save the Waves" campaign while purposely and illegally polluting our oceans. Carnival Corporation Limited also had to pay for dumping oily waste from 5 ships, and making false entries into their log books.

There is a serious need to strengthen environmental regulations that govern cruise ships.

Linda Nowlan, of West Coast Environmental Law, points to one area of weakness: "a ship that sails from Seattle to Alaska can't dump sewage in Washington's waters and it can't dump in Alaskan waters. But it can dump raw sewage for most of the thousand kilometres it travels in BC."

Most of the ships that ply through Canadian waters are also flying "flags of convenience". Companies register vessels in countries that charge little or no tax and turn a blind eye to international conventions on marine safety, the environment and labour standards. Some nations that offer flags of convenience include Panama, Burma, Cambodia, Lebanon, the Bahamas and Liberia. Liberia gains \$15-20 million per year for its registered cruise ships and allegedly uses this to support brutal rebel groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Canada has recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol, yet a loophole benefiting cruise ships has emerged. Greenhouse gas emissions of international ships are excluded from the national emissions inventories. Bunker fuel emissions of commercial vessels (whether registered as domestic or foreign-flagged),

like airplanes, whose "point of departure or point of destination" is outside territorial waters, will find their emissions are not counted.

Over the last three years there has been a 300 percent increase in cruise ship traffic in Victoria, British Columbia. The cumulative impact of this year's 320 000 passengers and crew members from almost 160 visits has not been studied or planned for in Victoria despite the fact that the cruise port resides in a residential neighbourhood, with massive ships less than 300 metres away from the frontsteps of people's homes.

Local citizens' groups have begun to take action on the issue of cruise ships. In a report titled *Ripple Effect*, the Vancouver Island Public Research Group (VIPIRG) is calling for a public assessment of the cruise ship industry, in particular relating to impacts on the environment, and the community. •••

For more information read Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group's report *Ripple Effects: The Need to Assess the Impacts of Cruise Ships in Victoria B.C.* : www.vipirg.ca/rippleeffects.pdf

Wayzgoose

An Exclusive Group of Lunatics

by John Haney

The unseasonably warm afternoon of April 26 of this year was the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Wayzgoose festival of the printing arts in Grimsby, Ontario. A curiously named event (various sources confirm that, historically, a cooked goose did indeed figure prominently), the Wayzgoose festival is a gathering for practitioners of all arts relating to the production of fine, small-editioned, usually hand-made books.

Wayzgoose was first organized in 1978 by the industrial designer and master printer Bill Poole, who operated Poole Hall Press out of Grimsby, an otherwise typical Southern Ontario town butted up against the Niagara Escarpment, faced by Lake Ontario, and slashed across the middle by the Queen Elizabeth Way. What brings printing aficionados to the Wayzgoose from as far away as the Maritimes is a quixotic concern for, quite simply, beautiful things -- books as aesthetic objects. William Rueter, founder and sole operator of Aliquando Press, had for display and sale a beautifully conceived broadsheet, with a simply ornamented quotation by George Bernard Shaw:

There is nothing on earth more exquisite than a bonny book, with well-placed columns of rich black writing in beautiful borders, and illuminated pictures cunningly inset. But nowadays, instead of looking at books, people read them.

Certainly, those who peddle their wares at the Wayzgoose are the type to look as well as read; they are those gentle, harmless lunatics who would endure great physical obstacles in order to hold, sniff, and stroke a hand-made book.

John Metcalf, the Ottawa-based writer and editor, puts it succinctly in his memoir, *An*

Aesthetic Underground, when describing his discovered love for books as objects:

I wallowed in bindings and leathers and fonts, in all the lovely jargon of the trade, half-titles, colophons, blind stamping, foxing, black letter, washed leaves, cancels ... I came to believe that there were few things in the world more beautiful than the deep burning black of Baskerville type on crisp rag paper.



A woodcut by Margaret Lock; from the keepsake "December", Locks' Press, 1999. Fred and Margaret Lock were amongst the exhibitors at this year's Wayzgoose.

Having only recently gained a view into this new world of fine books myself, I was surprised to see at the Wayzgoose not only the exhibiting artists, but an enthusiastic turnout from the public. After all, one doesn't find one's way into the basement of the Grimsby Public Library by accident. Many people had come expressly for the purpose of seeing these deliberate, considered bookworks. Apparently, many more people than I had

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Sounds Prohibited

Censorship Rockin' in the Free World

by Matt Brennan

For the first time in nearly three years, aging hip-hoppers the Beastie Boys recorded and released a new song. Called "In a World Gone Mad", the song was inspired by the overt militarism of U. S. President George W. Bush. But Mike D of the Beastie Boys also cited another motivation for the recording: the reports of artists being discouraged from mentioning the Iraq conflict during this year's Grammy Awards. In the

called free world has returned to the headlines.

Artists ranging from Chumbawumba to Yo La Tengo released protest songs during the war, but according to the *New York Times* these tunes were "virtually absent from commercial radio stations, where most programmers wouldn't dream of dividing or alienating their listenership." And yet somehow corporate censorship didn't stop redneck-cum-country-megastar Toby Keith, who scored a huge #1 in America with "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue", featuring the stunning lyrics "This big dog will fight / When you rattle his cage / And you'll be sorry that you messed with The U. S. of A. / 'Cause we'll put a boot in your ass / It's the American way."

The recent wave of music censorship in the West has led some journalists to discover that the corporations who control the entertainment industry have long been close buddies with the world's most powerful political leaders. The top management at Clear Channel, which owns over 1200 radio stations in the U. S., has well-established personal and financial ties to the Bush administration. A recent *Village Voice* article summarized how Clear Channel's vice chair, Tom Hicks, "made George W. Bush a multimillionaire by buying the Texas Rangers from him, and chaired a state university board that steered most of its endowment to firms with Bush and GOP ties." Caught with their paws in each other's pockets. Is it at all shocking to hear, then, that Clear Channel stations sponsored pro-war rallies across America? (This included one in Louisiana where they rented a tractor to crush Dixie Chicks CDs and merchandise, on account of singer Natalie Maines having mentioned at a

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months of March and April, it seemed that everywhere you turned there was a pop artist or activist complaining that dissenting voices were getting crushed by the powers above. Surely, you'd think, all the belly-aching was exaggerated -- but then again, you'd also think that if the Beastie Boys released much-anticipated new material, you might have had a chance of hearing it on the radio. Fat chance, apparently. The age-old debate on censorship in the so-



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London concert that the band was “ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas”.)

Meanwhile, President Bush has called rapper Eminem “the most dangerous threat to American children since polio”. You can see how some musicians might be getting nervous about being listed in the music industry’s axis of evil.

Here in Canada, there haven’t been widely-publicized cases of music suppression, but that hardly means we’re immune from the change in the censorship landscape that’s occurred since the war on terror began. Martin Cloonan, chairperson of the censorship watch group Freemuse, says that the new climate in the west is not so much one of outright censorship as it is one of consensual control, where the listening public has voluntarily accepted the corporate mechanisms that restrict the free flow of musical ideas.

We’re getting used to the idea that certain pop songs are inappropriate or -- a broadcasting public-relations favourite -- “insensitive” to such fragile times. You’ll rarely hear of stations using ugly words like “banning”; instead, Clear Channel, BBC Radio 1, and MTV Europe have all recently circulated memos with “suggested guidelines” for playlists. Apparently, these broadcasters believe that listeners are incapable of handling subversive music, but are ready to swallow euphemisms.

So what exactly should we be watching out for in the future of this debate? Censorship under another name, perhaps. Goodbye to “censorship”, then, and hello to policing pop. ...

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imagined were interested, or at least intrigued. I was troubled by my own surprise, and I pondered the reason for it.

Good, and especially great book artists are a grossly underrated crew. They have chosen to work in a medium which is challenging in that it is ubiquitous. A painter might splash abominable hotel-art watercolours of flowers and nudes, but to the common perception this brush-wielder is—by association with Impressionists and Surrealists—an *artist*. Those who spend obsessive months hunched over a hulking iron printing press, sweating over the proportions and placement of a colophon, are working with the more ‘common’ media of paper, ink, and type -- and therefore might more likely be thought certifiably loony than genuinely artistic. In a

day when computers are pandemic as viruses, anyone with access to design software has access to the medium of typography. And with contemporary design software comes almost infinite possibility: thousands of fonts and colours, the ability to adjust spacing on the level of the pixel. From this environment of ubiquity and possibility emerges the art of restraint.

This restraint focusses the artist on a simple and beautiful notion: the arrangement of symbols on two-dimensional space. Inexperience makes itself obvious through unconsidered and overcompensated design—design that makes up in clutter for what it lacks in compositional sense. The experienced designer, on the other hand, may achieve by the simplest means a perfect balance of the form and content of a piece of printed

matter. The composition sings. One is taken aback by the surprising pleasure of it—an inked-type-induced elation, which I suspect for many of us is followed by a brief moment of, perhaps, embarrassment or confusion—such as one would feel when admitting that he truly, genuinely, loves those pine-tree-shaped air fresheners that dangle from rear-view mirrors.

Still, on the last Saturday of next April, I will find myself in strange but familiar tire ruts that lead back to the basement of the Grimsby Public Library, for my second visit with that exclusive club of lunatics. Admittedly, this is a club that I would be honoured to be a part of, even if they’d have me as a member. ...