

Weapons of Mass Disinformation

The media is not in cahoots with big business - the media IS big business

Big Brother is You, Watching

"If you're not careful the newspapers will have you hating the oppressed and loving the people doing the oppressing."

-- Malcolm X

"If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed."

-- Mark Twain

The mainstream media restrict free speech but at least they make an effort to check facts (which is a cover for their form of propaganda). On-line blogs can allow any form of speech, but few of them document any efforts to check their facts, which makes most of them unreliable (for a different reason why the mainstream media is unreliable).

The biggest stories that are not in the US media:

-- the military industrial complex removed President Kennedy from office for trying to end the Cold War and nuclear arms race

-- the social impacts of Peak Oil and how the consequences could be mitigated

-- the mountains of evidence that the Bush administration let 9/11 happen in order to trigger invasions of the Middle East and the Homeland Security surveillance society, and covered its tracks

Fortunately, "Peak Oil" has got more media coverage since the Iraq invasion, although the "alternative" media has not been very interested. (An early exception was Earth Island Journal, which excerpted Richard Heinberg's book "The Party's Over: Oil, War and the fate of Industrial Societies.") It is curious that the BBC and even CNN have given more coverage to this than the Sierra Club, Working Assets, The Nation, The Progressive, etc. Perhaps understanding Peak Oil doesn't fit into neat ideological paradigms, and therefore these publications are unable to comprehend it. Unfortunately, most of the mainstream coverage of Peak Oil ignores grassroots efforts that hold the most promise for mitigating the crisis, and even less of the coverage examines the various policies of the Bush regime as part of a covert agenda to manipulate the outcome of Peak Oil and other resource conflicts.

In addition, since September 2003, the 9/11 scandal has received a small amount of traction in the corporate press, although the media do not dare stray beyond the official "surprise attack" and "incompetence" paradigms. Unfortunately, the "gatekeepers" on the left have gone out of their way to muzzle the story, attacking reporters who have dared to piece together evidence that the official story is as much of a lie (if not more so) than the "Iraqi WMD" scam. A good collection of this evidence is provided by the Center for Cooperative Research, whose "timeline" of 9/11 is entirely sourced from the corporate media (see www.cooperativeresearch.org). The "liberal alternative" publication such as In These Times, Mother Jones, The Progressive, etc. have ignored their quality work, even as some of them privately acknowledge it is excellent.

It is not a coincidence that the entire media -- from Democracy Now! to the New York Times -- is united in considering 9/11 "truth" as dependent on the demolition theories and the hoax(es) that the plane crashes were supposedly faked. No media, whether mainstream or alternative, dares to connect the dots to show that numerous warnings were deliberately ignored.

As with Peak Oil, the 9/11 issue gets much more coverage in Europe than the US.

From 2003 through 2005, this website was a participant in the Deception Dollar project, which has more than six million "Deception Dollars" in circulation to promote internet media efforts that expose the 9/11 scandal, bypassing the censorship in the corporate mainstream media and the foundation funded "alternative" media. To date, the national "alternative" media have refused to even mention the Deception Dollar campaign, which has been extremely visible at many "progressive" events and was prominent at the massive peace rallies just before the invasion of Iraq. (Unfortunately, the Deception Dollar project did not appreciate public statements that some of the claims for 9/11 complicity are not true, and this website, among others, was removed from the September 2006 edition.)

It is ironic that the internet, set up by the same Pentagon agency that created the "Total Information Awareness" office to spy on the citizens, allows people to bypass media control and censorship.

More than twenty years ago, Washington Post reporter Ben Bagdikian published a book called "The Media Monopoly," which showed how there were only 50 media companies that controlled most of the information flow in the United States. Today, if we had 50 corporations dominating the media this would be considered a great improvement on the status quo, since we now have about six conglomerates that run the show. Merely undoing the changes imposed during the Second Bush Regime will not be enough - we also need repeal of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and reinstatement of the "Fairness Doctrine," among many other reforms.

Ultimately, those television and radio stations that license the public airwaves to broadcast their programs must be required to provide airtime to all candidates who qualify to be on electoral ballots, since that would provide better opportunities for civic debate and reduce the obscene requirements for candidates to raise boatloads of money to win elections.

Perhaps a slogan for media activists could be "One Person, One Station."

While we wait, and wait, and wait, and agitate, for government to remember that there are anti-trust laws supposedly to prevent monopolies, we the people should not give our money to media conglomerates that lie to us. This also includes internet companies such as America On Line and MSN, Microsoft, most newspapers, magazines, and even many of the so-called liberal alternative press which publishes accurate information on many social ills but refuses to address the modus operandi of the empire (9/11). Instead, please support fearless media entities that ignore censorship, political correctness and pack journalism. Learn to create your own media. Community Cable Television. Call up talk radio shows to voice deeper issues and solutions. Publish websites and web logs (blogs). Investigate micro-power radio broadcasting. Write letters to the editor and opinion pieces for mainstream papers (some of them are easy to get published in if you write concisely). Think of your own approaches and follow a path that is right for you.

One unanswered question for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which licenses television and radio stations:

On September 11, the "Emergency Broadcast System" was not activated in New York or Washington, even after the military and Federal Aviation Administration knew that out of control planes were headed for destruction. In New York, a warning over the airwaves could have saved many lives, since no one would have gone back upstairs in the South Tower (the second one to be hit) after the North Tower had been struck if they had known a second plane was headed their way. Hundreds of lives would probably have been saved. A genuine investigation of 9/11 would inquire why the Emergency Broadcast System was not used to warn New Yorkers that another plane was headed their way and to seek shelter away from the towers.

Is it a coincidence that the anthrax attacks in the fall of 2001 targeted the media as well as the Democratic party leadership? or that journalists in Iraq have been targeted by the US military?