

THE WORD on the street

from portland.indymedia.org

November 7, 2004

Hundreds of Portlanders take to streets to protest business-as-usual politics

Weeks before sElection Day, activists in Portland called for demonstrations the day after, "No Matter Who Wins". For many free thinkers here in Cascadia, John Kerry and George Bush were a choice that offered no choice at all. The intent of many was to re-focus on the real problems facing the world: capitalism, imperialism, the unsustainability of the American lifestyle, etc.

Reports to the Portland Independent Media Center website put the crowd on

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Protesters in Portland, Nov. 3, 2004. Sign says, "Diebold is not Democracy". Diebold has connections to the Republican Party and makes electronic voting machines that are easy to hack. (Photo: Jim Lockhart)

(S)ELECTION 2004

It's okay to say the 'F' word: *Fraud!*

You'd never know it from watching or reading the corporate media, but "free and fair elections" did not occur on Nov. 2, 2004, in the United States. The nation's print and TV media have degenerated into a mess of celebrity-worship, baby-down-a-well-watching, and corporate propaganda. Real news doesn't seem to interest them.

But in their place, the internet has become a haven for real investigative journalism. On hundreds of websites, ordinary citizens and professionals from many fields are digging, reporting, and exposing what *really* happens.

And what really happened on Nov. 2 was Fraud with a capital "F".

Bev Harris, founder of Black Box Voting, has no problem saying the "F" word. Over the last couple years her research into electronic voting machines has revealed a circle-jerk of Republican shenanigans clearly intended to steal the vote from Democrats at the national level. Black Box Voting is currently conducting what it is calling the "largest Freedom of Information action in history". At 8:30 p.m. on the night of the sElection, they "blanketed the U.S.



Protester on the streets of Portland, Nov. 3, 2004. (Photo: Chris Leck)

with the first in a series of public records requests, to obtain internal computer logs and other documents from 3,000 individual counties and townships."

Independent journalist Greg Palast, who broke the story of the Florida vote fraud of 2000 to an international audience, estimated that, before sElection Day even arrived, at least 1,000,000 voters had been illegally disenfranchised. Palast has since gone on to say that Kerry won the popular vote in both Ohio and New Mexico, but was denied victory by local Republican leadership: "At 1:05 a.m. Wednesday morning, CNN's exit poll showed Kerry beating Bush among Ohio women by 53 percent to 47 percent. Kerry also defeated Bush among Ohio's male voters 51 percent to 49 percent. Unless a third gender voted in Ohio, Kerry took the state."

For more information, visit:

www.BlackBoxVoting.org

www.GregPalast.com

www.WhatReallyHappened.com

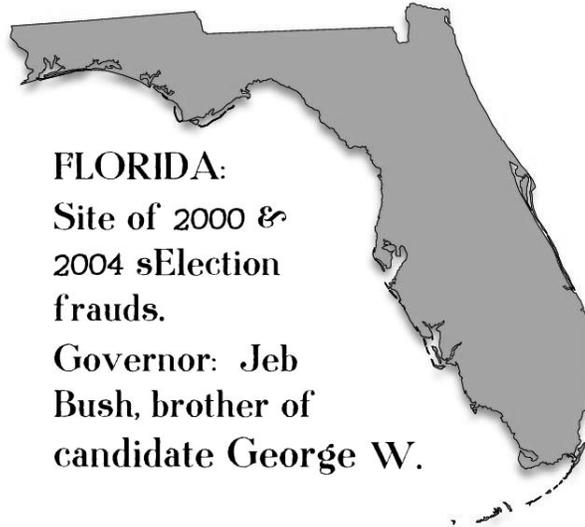
Optical scan machines skew vote in Florida

Adapted from an article by Thom Hartman

Almost half of the people eligible to vote in the United States declined to do so on Nov. 2, 2004. Those who did were quite partisan. That is, those registered Democrat tended to vote for Kerry, while Republicans went for Bush.

This pattern was nearly universal except in 50+ rural counties in Florida, where final official tallies varied wildly from what was expected. For example:

- In Baker County, with 12,887 registered voters, 69.3% of them Democrats and 24.3% of them Republicans, the vote was only 2,180 for Kerry and 7,738 for Bush
- In Dixie County, with 4,988 registered voters, 77.5% of them Democrats and a mere 15% registered as Republicans, only 1,959 people voted for Kerry, but



FLORIDA:
Site of 2000 &
2004 sElection
frauds.
Governor: Jeb
Bush, brother of
candidate George W.

4,433 voted for Bush.

- Franklin County, 77.3% registered Democrats, went 58.5% for Bush.
- Holmes County, 72.7% registered Democrats, went 77.25% for Bush.

The counties experiencing these high fluctuations used optical scan voting machines, which read paper ballots that are fed into a cen-

tral tabulator PC that is quite vulnerable to hacking.

The pattern repeats over and over again, but only in the smaller counties where, it was probably assumed, the small voter numbers wouldn't be much noticed. In the larger counties, where such anomalies would be more obvious to the corporate news media, high percentages of registered Democrats equaled high percentages of votes for Kerry.

Portland protests

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Nov. 3rd at 700-1000. Police arrested at least three people and pepper-sprayed many more. Despite this, the demonstration remained lively as it snaked throughout downtown, ending at the "Justice" Center, where arrestees were being held.

A Critical Mass bike ride also took to the streets on November 3rd and rode free for a couple hours before facing police on the East Side. Writes "Blue-BombingCowboy": "Unlike their cohorts still spraying and arresting marchers on the west side, these burger munching flunkies had no bikes or motorcycles. Just big dumb giant cars. Ha-Ha!" The cyclists scattered and the

writer hoped most escaped safely.

Local corporate media was typically biased in its coverage of people exercising their First Amendment rights. Posting to portland.indymedia.org, "tyler" noted that Channel 12 called the demonstrators a "mob", and observed: "Every channel painted the police as 'just trying to protect the public, keep the streets safe and traffic moving'. Every channel portrayed the presidency as validly won and took glee in bush's 'promise to unite the country'."

Nov. 3rd's march was followed by another march (and more arrests) downtown on the 6th. Do these actions represent a mere flare-up of anger following the theft of the pResidency, or will they become the start of a new wave of creative resistance? Only time will tell...

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The information in "The WORD on the Street" was found through portland.indymedia.org, the website of the Portland Independent Media Center.

Indymedia is a world-wide, grassroots, non-commercial phenomena that empowers individuals & groups to report the news themselves, rather than depending on corporate-controlled media.

Indymedia's audience numbers in the millions and continues to grow. With each day, corporate media becomes more unread, unwatched, and irrelevant. May it die a quick death so the truth can flourish freely.