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Interview by Jan H. Kuliska

Bill Douglas – An American Visionary

*In a December 2, 2002 BUZZFLASH.com Commentary, you stated that,
"The obvious media bias is the most dangerous threat to US democracy."*

Q: Do you still believe this statement to be true?

A: Yes, IF we had a real critical investigatory media there would be such outrage in this country about Bush's theft of the election, his deception to get us into this war, his cover up of the Enron scandal, the failures on 9-11, etc. It is the failure of U.S. media that is largely responsible for the disasters facing America. The Bushes, Cheneys, Rumsfelds and Wolfowitzes would not have any popular support if the corporate media did it's job.

Q: What caused your initial involvement with the September 11th issue?

A: Like thousands of other Americans I became increasingly disturbed by the Bush Administration's attempts to STOP any 9-11 investigation. I grew more and more alarmed at the shabby way the Bush Administration has treated the 9-11 families struggling for the truth of 9 11. Then I saw the Canadian documentary on 9-11, "The Great Deception," and it confirmed in detail the suspicions that I and many others had had, that the breakdowns on 9-11 were too vast and pervasive to be explained away with the official story. I and many other Americans realized there was a cover up going on by the Bush Administration, and that U.S. media was doing a miserable job of searching for the truth.

Q: What was the reception to your 9-11 concerns at that time, compared to today?

A: In the beginning the peace & justice community largely failed to even contemplate the idea that we were being deceived about 9-11. David Corn of The Nation did great damage to the 9-11 truth movement by lambasting those who were researching the issue. This caused many in the movement to turn off their logic and refuse to even look at the facts of 9-11, and how they radically challenged the official story. HOWEVER, now that Bush is obviously obstructing the 9-11 investigations so blatantly that even mainstream corporate media is now suspicious of why . . . the peace & justice movement has now healed from the wounds David Corn inflicted, and are now moving to support the courageous 9-11 families and 9-11 Commissioners Roemer and Cleland who are working hard for FULL disclosure on the 9-11 facts.

Also, pressure is coming from outside the U.S. to force Americans to look at a very disturbing reality that we are being deceived about 9-11. For example, 30% of German people believe the Bush Administration was complicit in 9-11, and over a million Canadians have seen "Zwicker's documentary" which suggests the same thing. This reflects a growing awareness worldwide. American media could only ignore this for so long before they had to actually take note that there are major problems with the Bush Administration's official line about 9-11.

*Q: Which group has been leading the call for Governmental
accountability regarding the 9-11 attacks?*

A: Kyle Hence and unansweredquestions.org have been at the front of pushing the 9-11 Commission to actually do a REAL inquiry. However, there are researchers worldwide doing great work. Michael Ruppert at www.copvicia.com, Jared Israel at www.tenc.com, etc. Also a Canadian artist at www.deceptiondollar.com has distributed several million "Deception Dollars" worldwide educating millions of the great 9-11 research sites that permeate the internet.

Q: In your opinion, what are three most critical questions about the September 11th attacks?

A: Let me give you FOUR questions. 1) How could the most secure building in the world be hit by an aircraft with no interceptor jets flying with it, when two other building had been hit before, and the first plane went off course nearly an hour and a half before the plane hit the Pentagon?

2) Why were all FAA and DOD standard operating procedures broken on 9-11 by the FAA and DOD?

3) Why has the Bush Administration tried to stop a 9-11 investigation, and continues to illegally block documents from the 9-11 Commission? Roosevelt commissioned TEN independent investigations within weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

4) Why hasn't the SEC and Bush Administration told us who made the insider stock trades against United and American Airlines the day before 9-11, and particularly at AB Brown Trust which was chaired by the current Executive Director of the CIA, Buzzy Krongard, prior to his induction into the CIA? Why is \$2.5 million of that winning still unclaimed, and why did the current head of AB Brown Trust quietly resign only 4 days after 9-11-2001?

THERE ARE MANY MORE QUESTIONS, BUT THESE ARE ENOUGH TO DEMAND FULL COOPERATION FROM BUSH – WHICH IS NOT FORTHCOMING SO FAR.

Q: Do you believe that citizen activists are making a difference in uncovering the truth about the 9-11 attacks?

A: ABSOLUTELY. When you view the documentary “The Great Deception,” and read the book “The War on Freedom,” and tell others about it, and encourage others to call, fax and phone the 9-11 commission and write letters to the media, and stand in public with signs reading “STOP THE 9-11 COVER UP” you affect many to pay attention to this.

The corporate media, if it were a REAL media, would make the 9-11 issue THE ISSUE, it would be on all the tv talk shows, and headlines on all the newspapers day after day. After all 9-11 is the most horrific and LEAST examined event in modern American history, and our President is involved in a cover up. BUT, since the media isn't doing that, activists have a profound impact by raising this issue, and urging people to seek out the 9-11 stories on page 20 or 24 of the newspaper.

This democracy simply will not last if those who are aware do not act aggressively. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “When we remain silent about things that matter, our lives begin to end.” We simply cannot remain silent. Our very democracy depends on what we do now at this critical point in time. Get involved. Email findtruth40 (at) hotmail.com to find out how.

Also, EVERYONE should subscribe to www.truthout.org and get their weekly emails with important news stories.

On September 4th at the President's protest, you carried another sign with a graphic photo of an Iraqi young child with his skull torn away.

Q: Why did you create and hold this disturbing sign?

A: Americans are asked to pay for 2,000 pound bombs to drop on people. That is what bombs are created for. However, our media will not allow Americans to see exactly what such weapons actually do in reality. This is very unhealthy.

It is a psychosis that enables us to allow things done with our taxes and in our name that are not acceptable to the average American. When someone's drinking or gambling gets destructively out of control, family's may have an “intervention,” whereby they sit that person down and force TRUTH on them, even though the person likely finds that truth “distasteful.” However, the result of truth is often an experience of healing. It is painful to look at truth, when the truth is painful. But, it is psychotic to NOT look at truth that is painful, and it enables us to continue psychotic behavior like dropping bombs on human beings, human beings who did NOTHING to us.

So, by showing that revolting photo of that horribly injured Iraqi child, I was doing what CNN, FOX, or other corporate media should be doing, which is showing Americans what happens to human beings when they allow their tax dollars to be spent in this way.

Bill, you have expressed strong opinions about the care of America's Veterans.

Q: What personal experience do you bring to this?

A: It is a disgrace the way veterans are treated. A huge percentage of America's homeless population are Vietnam veterans. The trauma of war is so revolting, so deeply fracturing to a human's psyche that those who truly experience real combat never truly heal from it. My father was wounded in World War II, and suffered from delayed stress syndrome his entire life. When in desperation he went to the VA hospital when I was young they said there was no money for counseling or therapy for him. They said he could take drugs for the rest of his life, or commit himself into the psychiatric hospital at the VA.

Nothing to help him rebuild his psyche thorough therapy and counseling . . . there was no funding for that. This country is all to eager to create new combat veterans, and all to eager to dump them like garbage after the war.

I was shocked to read that the Massachusetts Veteran's Parade tried to prevent Veterans for Peace from marching on Veterans day, saying "we don't consider them real veterans." I met Ron Kovic, played by Tom Cruise in the movie "Born on the 4th of July." When Ron joined Veterans against the war and tried to attend the Republican National Convention, Republicans spat on him because of his opposition to the war. So, the fact that Ron had lost use of both legs in Vietnam in combat injuries . . . didn't matter. To them he wasn't an American.

My father saw more combat than most people in the world. He was sick of war. He wanted to see global disarmament and would have been disgusted at our recent pre-emptive attack on Iraq. I honour my father's sacrifice by fighting for peace and democracy here, which he gave everything to preserve.

On September 16th you were arrested at the Laura Bush protest for Disorderly Conduct, a charge you deny.

Q: Do you believe you were singled out by police because you carried the sign "What is Bush Hiding about 9-11? STOP the 9-11 COVER-UP!"?

A: My feeling is that the Secret Service put pressure on KCPD to be stern with protesters, and created an over zealous situation. I did nothing illegal. I was arrested in a legal crosswalk on a legal street, and I was over 100 feet from any police line when arrested. My protest sign was give a mug shot, and a detective asked me if my writing was "subversive." Ashcroft has created a manic mood in America that is affecting law enforcement at all levels.

(Bill Douglas' Kansas City arrest ordeal has been featured in The Nation magazine and will also be included in an upcoming segment about Civil Liberty abuses by ABC news.)

<http://kcindymedia.org/feature/display/673/index.php>

You recently said of the Patriot Act: "The effect this has on society is it creates "a very shaken-belief in one's right to do the things absolutely necessary to sustain a free and open society" that being to speak the truth as you see it even when the truth disagrees with your government."

Q: What is your personal philosophy regarding attempts to belittle and intimidate activists and peace loving Americans?

A: Those who question their government are the greatest patriots. The BEST of friends are the ones that tell us the truth when we get off track. After 9-11 due to Ashcroft & Bush's carefully worded speeches . . . suddenly, any American who questioned Bush & Ashcroft's absolute LUNACY . . . were called "traitors."

This is the most UN-AMERICAN administration in modern history, for that reason alone. Those Americans who in the face of this intimidation reach deeply within their souls to struggle for truth, and compassionate solutions to our national and international challenges are incredibly inspiring heroes.

Brad Grabs, Ira Harritt, and many many others reflect a greatness that I find historic in proportion, and they are two of millions throughout America who are exhibiting such courage. They will never be celebrated in history books, they will never be rewarded in any way . . . but they follow their soul and put everything on the line.

The Israeli soldiers who sit in prisons rather than attacking Palestinian neighborhoods are heroes of such epic proportions. The pressure we feel here is much less than what these brave young men are feeling in Israel. When I hear these stories it steels in me, it provides sustenance to my soul. It helps me believe what Gandhi told us, "there are tyrants in the world, but in the end, they will always fall." Human beings have an allergic reaction to injustice that cannot be suppressed by any government, that eventually is irrepressible.

We are living in dark times for our nation, teetering on the edge of losing our democracy to fear. We hunger for hope and vision. The bible warns, "those without vision . . . perish." America's potential to be a light of peace, rationality and hope is being squandered. Yet its promise still exists . . . if we can rediscover our vision.

George Bush's America is un-American. It is based on fear and weaponry. We must rediscover our "faith." Einstein once wrote, "The most important question you can ask yourself is . . . is the universe a friendly place?" All our actions proceed from that basic question. George Bush wants us to feel that the universe is a TERRIFYING place. He wants us to hate the French, distrust the Canadians, Germans, Mexicans, even other Americans, and in fact the majority of the world who opposed his illegal attacks on Iraq. Personally, I see these people in the world as good friends trying to help us see, "intervening," to help us out of our psychosis of fear.

The majority of the world is still sane, even though they have experienced terrorism more than we have. We have nothing to fear, but fear itself. Keep the faith. Behave as if we still have our democracy. Ashcroft has no power over any of us, so long as we can maintain our faith in the friendliness of the universe. Our soul force, as Gandhi and Dr. King spoke of, is greater than anything that Washington can ever foment . . . and it comes from a higher place that cannot be touched. It is incorruptible and limitless. The massive anti-war protests that exploded across the planet before the war on Iraq stunned the Bush Administration. They'll never admit it, but it did. It was a shining light of hope for us all.

The Chinese character for "crisis" is made up of two other characters "danger" and "opportunity." The world's diseases are coming to the surface, greed, globalization, pollution, global warming, are being rubbed in our faces to a point that they cannot be ignored any longer. Awareness is the first step in healing. As dark as things are, as the 9-11 investigations bring to light the truth, this will unleash a chain of revelations and awakening in America that may be the healthiest and most hopeful event in our history . . . it will dis-illusion Americans. And that is good. There is something very dangerous about living in a world of "illusion" when you are the world's only super-power. It will be humbling. But, the meek shall inherit the earth.

Like others longing for truth and vision, I do fear . . . but I also hope. We have the "opportunity" to see an American and world renaissance in coming years. Let's renew our faith in the friendliness of the universe and in that faith dedicate our lives to bringing truth to light. 🌍

Bill Douglas is a founding member of the recently formed 9-11 Visibility Project