



Volume 1, Issue 1
January 2006

This quarterly newsletter carries news and views of a socio-economic movement based on the ideals of the Progressive Utilization Theory (PROUT) for educating the new generation of leadership in North America in **sadvipran** values, essential for the establishment of an exploitation free (economic) democracy .

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Proutist Universal Inc.

Globalization and Poverty in India

Proutists, especially in eastern and southern India , are busy organizing public meetings , seminars, symposia, debates and discussions centered on Globalization and its already visible effects on India's poor. Recent moves of the Indian Federal Govt. favoring the forces of globalization have alienating 80% of the population in this twenty thousand year old agrarian society. Youths and farmers fear the loss of their cultural heritage, which until now has provided strength to the nation's Prana Dharma.

Prout favors gradual industrialization using its formula of balanced economic growth developed by **Shrii P.R. Sarkar**, propounder of the PROgressive Utilization Theory (PROUT). PROUTists have opposed the rapid industrialization forced upon the underdeveloped and developing member nations of the

WTO. Proutists believe it is important to protect the collective interests of people and secure humanity's long-term subsistence on planet earth.

Proutists oppose the rampant exploitation of natural resources. Prout's agenda of **Economic Democracy** is being examined by students on campuses, and is being debated by new generation intelligentsia. The Prout platform proposes **restructuring of the national economy** into four distinct areas and includes the creation of a vast **people's**

(cooperative) economic sector. It is being discussed as perhaps the ideal way to prosperity for India with its huge agrarian population, which has entered a turning point now .

The ruling United Progressive Alliance of the leftist and left leaning parties has courted globalization. Under their watch, multi-national corporations have effectively started privatizing the water resources in India. Meanwhile, certain parties within the Alliance are busy recruiting rural youth as professional revolutionaries.



A Seminar on People's Economy

Clearly, the UPA is a snake with two heads. Now is the time for Proutists, with a single voice, to offer the antivenin to this madness.**PNA**.

Prout Activities in New York Sector...

As a great inspiration to participants of the 2005 Summer Retreat at Ananda Kanan, a day was set aside to study Prout. Senior Proutist Bhaktaviirya Towsey (Ph.D.) from Australia gave a captivating talk on Prout's economic & political aspects to three hundred attendants in two

sessions spanning four hours.

Following was an in-depth and lively discussion between the audience and a panel consisting of Towsey, senior Prout activist Doris A. Olivers and Prout economist Mark Freedman.**PNA**



Participants took notes...



Panelists elaborated response

New York Sector ...

Prout's vision of "**Prosperity beyond Capitalism**" was introduced to a gathering of sixty students, youths and senior citizens assembled at Texas University Campus in Austin. The program ran for three hours. An introductory film was shown at the end. There was a gathering of forty students, activists and professionals at the Fort Collins Campus of Colorado State University. The audience appreciated Prout's Agenda of Economic Restructuring, designed to assure prosperity to common people. Participants wished to join future Prout activities on campus. In Boulder, Colorado, Prout's introductory film was shown to activists at a cooperative store.

R. Bjonnes and D.A. Olivers gave Prout workshops at a regional seminar in Eugene...

A group of four American Proutists led by Dada Maheshwarananda ji went to Caracas, Venezuela to impart Prout training to administrators at the National Botanical Garden Project.

Senior Proutist, Ramakrsna Olivers from Montreal reports that six members of a religious group have approached us asking permission and guidance in starting a Prout Farming Cooperative at our Master Unit there.

Devika, presently the Chairperson of the Prout Sectorial Board, is a board member for the labor union of the teachers

and staff of her school fighting for the right of 65 employees currently negotiating with school board for a three year contract.

The Boston regional retreat in early October '05 had a session of Prout workshops. Senior Prout activist Tattvika Deva Nist'ha' led an absorbing program for sixty participants titled "**Minimum Requirements and Maximum Amenities**". The workshop was preceded by a PowerPoint presentation on the original discourse on the topic by Shrii P.R. Sarkar.



Prout Workshop in Progress

Ac. Vimalananda presented a PowerPoint titled "**Five Kinds of Conscience (Viveka)**", which concluded on the theme that devotion is the most valuable treasure of human life, supplying endless vitality to individuals as well as society....**PNA**

PROUT Utilization Training Camp, Sambalpur, Dec. 15-20, '05



A very successful PROUT Utilization Training Camp was held for three hundred delegates and Prout activists in Sambalpur, a district HQ in Orissa state in India on December 15-20, 2005. The public symposium on Dec. 18, which attracted an additional three hundred participants, was addressed, among others, by Shrii J. Pattanayak, a prominent economics professor at Sambalpur University. Pattanayak praised PROUT for dozens of its extra salient features compared to other social theories. ...**PNA**

Public meetings and Lectures on Campuses...

Ac. Vimalananda Avt. was invited to give a talk to four hundred students and thirty lecturers assembled at an undergraduate college campus at the district headquarter of Nalanda. The topic, globalization and poverty alleviation, was taken up by some of senior professors as well. Prout won acclaim for its focus on **balanced economy** and **economic democracy**.

On December 04, '05 he ad-

ressed a large book-fair gathering at Patna Gandhi Maidan grounds, propounding the **Proutistic model of economic re-structuring** as a practical and safe means to **develop impoverished Bihar state**, assuring rationalized prosperity for its huge agrarian population. The public meeting that started at 5:00pm, continued until 8:00pm despite the biting cold of the winter setting.

The local Prout Bhukti Pradhan and full time Prout volunteers took great pains to organize the event. They had a good reason to feel satisfied with the public response....**PNA**



Section of Audience at Patna Book Fair

Prout in America ...

"**Cooperatives and Cooperation**" was the name of a 2-part Prout program held at **W. Philadelphia's A** (for anarchist) -Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave., on Oct. 24 and 27, by Dada Vimalashananda., RS Philadelphia. Dada Dhruva also came for the 24th, visiting from Washington, DC. Vimalashananda recently directed a course for governmental managers in Venezuela, which added 300,000 new cooperatives in a year. Part 2 of the Philadelphia program concentrated on different aspects of cooperation. All ten people in attendance were highly inspired by Prout.

Likewise, twenty five people attending the Philadelphia regional seminar in Virginia, close to Washington D.C. took keen interest in a Prout workshop presented by Dada Vimalashananda ji.

A team of seven senior knowledgeable Proutists of the sector began preparing a **Prout Study Curriculum** for undergraduate students on U.S. campuses. It would be an eight week course offered to universities for introducing Prout to students..**PNA**

Washington D.C. has been the seat of **Prout** in North America and **New York Sector** for the past thirty years. A while ago our Washington headquarters

received an invitation to present PROUT at a conference on developing a New Economic Model for Latin America. Prout was invited a second time to their internal workshop at Inter American Development Bank for elaborating Prout further to their study group. Dada Vimalashananda ji and Tattvika Bro. Dhruva, a senior Proutist, were with them for more than two hours and were amazed to find their seriousness in studying Prout with 80 pages of hard copies of downloaded study materials from www.prout.org.

Three years ago the Prout Sectorial Board committed itself to bringing PROUT into the consciousness of main-stream America in five years time.

The Board reviewed and further discussed this objective during last summer's retreat at Ananda Kanan. The Board also began contemplating a new question: Can Prout ever give a president to the USA?" ...**PNA**

Women's Prout Global HQs:

Ta'ttvika' Devanistha visited the global headquarters of Girl's Prout in Tiljala, India, in January. She found Didi Ananda Deshana W.P. Central Secretary in very good spirits despite the many problems she faces running a worldwide movement despite all odds, from a humble office in Kolkata. As one of the last remaining supporters of the Ranchi-based administration in Kolkata area, she had to fight for months to retain her office. Besides her global work she operates a medical clinic a few miles away with a doctor that has worked there for 15 years. Didi would love to have more communication with Proutists around the world. Her e-mail address is; anandadeshana@yahoo.com. She also very much needs help paying the utilities and taxes on her house. Donations may be sent to Devanistha, 1005 Burts Pit Road, Florence MA 01062.

Mark Friedman, a Ph. D. candidate at Colorado State University, attended the January 5-8 annual conference of the **American Economic Association** in Boston. He presented a paper entitled, "**Toward an Optimal Level of Income Inequality: The Sarkarian Productivity Curve.**" This first introduction of PROUT ideas to a professional forum of American economists was well-received, with other participants in the workshop panel requesting more information. The paper is likely to be published in a future issue of **Review of Social Economics**.

Nada Khader, the Executive Director of WESPAC Foundation happens to be a Prout activist based in New York City. She has helped create and set up a Women Proutist listserv. Her special interest relates to social justice issues. She organized a public library screening of the film "**Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price**" that exposes

the discrimination against women and people of color employed by Wal-Mart as well as the sweatshop working conditions of Wal-Mart factories in China.

She was invited by the City of White Plains to be part of the Juneteenth Planning Committee. Juneteenth (June 19th) is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Last year she organized a contingent in the first annual parade through down town that was attended by tens of thousands of people of African descent...

She spent two and a half hours knocking door to door in local neighborhood searching for the elderly and the vulnerable in freezing temperatures in many homes without power, to send them to temporary shelter as phones were also not working. This effort was coordinated by the local Community Emergency Response Team.

She was interviewed by Pacifica Radio KPFA in California regarding a hate ad that

was published in The Nation magazine that denies the existence of the Palestinian People and furthers the demonization of Arabs in American media. Interview can be heard on website www.flashpoints.net.

She met with a coalition of county-wide non-profit organizations and community groups to plan a Spring Conference on the Criminal Justice (Injustice) System. The first part of the conference will expose the racism within the system as well as the prison-industrial complex and the second part will focus on what we would like the Criminal Justice System to look like: the **restorative justice movement** etc (very much along the lines of what Shrii P.R. Sarkar advocates for in a correctional system).

She was asked by the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Non-Violence to moderate a panel discussion at their annual conference at Manhattanville College "Global Conflicts, Local Impact"....**PNA**

"Marching ahead is life. Crushing the pebbles of hindrances and obstacles with a stroke of your feet, disdaining the frowns of tornadoes, meteors and roaring thunder, and rendering all superstitions to ashes without any second thought, march on and on. Parama Purus'a is with you. Victory is yours." —**P.R. Sarkar**

Economic Democracy...P.R. Sarkar (1987)

Nature has been kind enough to provide abundant natural resources to every region of this earth, but she has not given the guidelines on how to distribute these resources among the members of society. This duty has been left to the discretion and intelligence of human beings.

Those who are guided by dishonesty, selfishness and mean-mindedness misappropriate these resources and utilize them for their individual or group interests rather than for the welfare of the whole society.

The mundane resources are limited, but human longings are limitless, hence for all the members of society to live in peace and prosperity, human beings have to adopt a system, which ensures the maximum utilization and rational distribution of all resource. For this, human beings will have to establish themselves in morality and then create a congenial environment for morality to flourish.

Economic decentralization means production for consumption, not production for profit. Economic decentralization is not possible under capitalism because capitalist production always tries to maximize profit.

Capitalists invariably produce at the lowest costs and sell at the highest profits. They prefer centralized production, which leads to regional economic disparity and imbalances in the distribution of the population. On the other hand, in the

decentralized economy of PROUT, production is for consumption, and the minimum requirements of life will be guaranteed to all. All regions will get ample scope to develop their economic potentiality, so the problems of a floating population or over-crowding in urban centers will not arise.

Unless a country attains optimum development in industry and other sectors of the economy, it is impossible for it to be highly developed. If more than 30% to 45% of a country's population is engaged in agriculture, there will be excessive pressure on the land. Such a country cannot become highly developed, nor can there be balanced, decentralized development in all sectors of the economy. India is a classic example of this. About 75% of India's population is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood.

In some democratic countries like Canada, Australia, etc., a large percentage of the population is engaged in agriculture, and although these countries are regarded as agriculturally developed, they depend on other industrially developed countries because they themselves are industrially undeveloped. For instance, Canada has traditionally been dependent on the U.S.A. and Australia on Britain.

As far as India is concerned, as long as around 75% of the population is engaged in agriculture, the unbearable economic plight of the people will continue. Any country confronted with such circumstances will find it very difficult to meet its domestic and international responsibilities. The purchasing power of the people

will keep decreasing while economic disparity will go on increasing. The social, economic and political environment of the whole country will degenerate. India is a clear example of all these evils.

Thus, economic decentralization does not mean that the majority of the population will be dependent on agriculture for their livelihood or that the other sectors of the economy remain undeveloped. Rather, each sector of the economy must strive for maximum development, and all sectors must strive for maximum decentralization.

In all the democratic countries of the world, economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals and groups. In liberal democracies, economic power is controlled by a handful of capitalists, while in socialist countries, economic power is concentrated in a small group of party leaders. In both cases, a handful of people -- the number can be easily counted on the fingertips-- manipulates the economic welfare of the entire society. When economic power is vested in the hands of the people, then the supremacy of this group of leaders will be terminated, and political parties will be destroyed forever.

People will have to opt for either political democracy or economic democracy. That is, they will have to choose a socio-economic system based on either a centralized economy or a decentralized economy. Which one will they select?

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Last Minute:

Two senior Proutists were chosen as the representatives for New York Sector to attend a global meeting in Ranchi, India on January 14-15th. The meeting included Margii representatives from Suva Sector, Manila Sector, Georgetown Sector, and Berlin Sector. Acharya representatives from all sectors were in presence there. The meeting consisted of a SWAT analysis - looking at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to our global organization. There was intense discussion of many important issues, and an attempt to put together a comprehensive plan that would solve the many problems we are faced with at this time. The Central administrators have promised another global meeting within a few months to continue the solution and implementation process.

For more details, contact representatives;

Ta'ttvika' Devanist'ha' (jody_wright@hotmail.com); or Bro. Mayatiita (mfried@lamar.colostate.edu).

The Continual Shift of Economic Burdens (Part 1)

by Alex Jackimovicz

For many the United States of America has been branded the "Land of Opportunity" where those with the ambition, the innovation, and the moral courage are afforded the opportunity to persevere and obtain a generous piece of the American pie. Assertions of the American mythology of a time when sincere efforts and honest hard work yielded positive results and a bright future remain a consistent theme in conventional political discourse. As national memory would have it, Americans have done well for themselves—or so the story is told. Indeed, for the past 20+ years the media has reported record corporate profits, growing economy, and sizeable gains of national wealth. Unfortunately, the underbelly of this rosy picture has been that the economy has had distinctly separate groups of relatively few winners and multitudes of those who have generally lost out and foot the bill. However, the issue of who has gained from the booming economy and general good fortune of the country is a reflection of a larger socio-economic order which underlines the growing tension between the interests of the collectively few 'haves' versus the growing multitude of 'have-nots'.

The record is very clear as to the direction of the trends of who has benefited and continues to benefit from the U.S. socio-economic system and policies. During the past 25 years nearly all of the gains in household income have gone to the top 20% of households. The top 1 percent now control about 40 percent of U.S. wealth, having doubled their share of resources over the same time [Kamin].

During that time the purchasing power of wages for middle and low income workers has stagnated and declined. Generally, living expenses across the board have raised. Families that used to make ends meet with a single wage earner now are often required to have at least two wage earners with several jobs. For the vast majority of American communities the fruits of the strong economy have brought trends of globalization and an accompanying reallocation of manufacturing jobs overseas (as capital follows the most profitable locations, largely determined by low regulation standards as well as a

low-wage work force), staggering national debt, and an increasingly fragmented, atomized secular society of competing interests and 'cultural wars'. Additionally, national, state, and local governments remain engaged in struggles over fiscal management, and, in many cases, damage control as national and state revenues are held in check and reduced as a pervasive sentiment of anti-government social spending and 'fiscal discipline' has taken hold.

A large part of the polarization within the U.S. concerning the interests of the affluent in opposition to the needs of the vast majority remains in the struggle over the distribution of public resources, in the undermining or support of the welfare state. In this regard Democratic and Republican party policies have never made serious attempts to conceal whose interests they ultimately represent—though in differing degrees. The current Bush administration has demonstrated a firm commitment toward a pro-business agenda of rolling back all sorts of regulation and U.S. cooperation in international standards affecting its economic and strategic interests. The administration has also brazenly moved forward with its agenda of reducing 'government spending' in favor of giving money 'back to the people'. Reducing 'government spending', in effect, means the shrinking of social spending or spending by government bodies not directly relating to profit-making or capital investment. Reducing the 'size of government' does not mean the reduction of corporate welfare, military spending, or subsidies to the rich via tax cuts. 'Putting money back in the pockets of the people' has been effectively equated with lopsided tax cuts aimed primarily at benefiting the rich and super-rich, as well as a general strategy to roll back regulation and all its impedances to the general aim of maximizing profits, *Über Alles*.

Even though many of the richest corporations pay little or no taxes, and many of the wealthiest individuals benefit from loopholes only afforded the affluent, the Bush administration has endeavored to obtain further tax cuts and to finance them with budget deficits and slashing social programs. Meanwhile 37 million people live below the poverty line in the U.S. and millions more are unable to "afford adequate health care, housing, child care, food, transportation and other

basic expenses above the official poverty thresholds, which are set too low." [Sklar] In other words, large sectors of the U.S. population remain without basic amenities like healthcare, access to affordable housing, and effectively are barely able to survive without some form of assistance from state and local governments. As the cuts to programs assisting the less fortunate have been targeted for reduction, the effects have become regrettably predictable. Budget cuts cleared the way for tax breaks with the slashing of the traditional safety net of Medicaid, food stamps, and reduction of spending on federal child support enforcement. While these items compensated only slightly for the deficit(s) created by the tax cuts, mostly the cuts were unfunded, or, rather, funded completely via increasing the national debt by 2004 an average of around \$9,000 for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. since Bush came to office in 2001 [Kamin].

The effects of reducing the "size of government" have taken their toll on state and local budgets. The reduction of national revenues have dampened the strength of socio-economic institutions on state and local levels as the "size" of the federal government was diminished and federally subsidized programs for the states were reallocated effectively making the tax cuts an upward redistribution of income. The scope of tax cuts is actually a roll back of state allocated revenues that had been trickling toward social services for which the poor and semi-poor were and are dependent on and redirecting them to the wealthiest taxpayers. Under the Bush plan, the wealthiest individuals who used to pay the most taxes have their share of the tax burden reduced thus increasing the burden on other parts of the society. In a society where nearly 40 percent of the country's wealth is controlled by the richest 1%, shifting the tax burden away from the upper-income earners translates to lower revenue for government budgets across the board—national, state, and local. To keep the same levels of services and programs requires either doing more with less by adjusting to shrinking levels of services and programs, raising taxes and fees on other parts of society, or simply eliminating the level services no matter the consequences.

continued on page six

Shift of Economic Burdens....

In terms of the federal to state government level this has meant that while nearly 200 billion dollars in tax cuts were given to the rich and moderate tax cuts for middle and low wage earners, state and local taxes increased. Thus, while perceived as tax cuts, the tax burden merely shifted from the national level to the state level as federal revenues were put in check. While the Bush administration was able to sell this effort as helping to "put money back in peoples' pockets"--for instance, with the \$400 checks made out as advance payments for the expanded federal tax credit to millions of parents--the effect was the

largest increase of tax burden (15%) by the states since 1950 [Kamin]. The continual shift of economic burden onto the backs of the middle and low income workers via shrinking government revenues translating into greater fiscal responsibility of the states and away from the traditional targeting of high end income for taxation has resulted in a growing crisis of the welfare state. It continues to be a hotly debated subject as many are questioning the logic of holding future generations hostage to present-day indulgences and abdication of social and fiscal responsibilities. [To be continued.....]

Notes:

- “STUDIES SHED NEW LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF ADMINISTRATION'S TAX CUTS” by David Kamin and Isaac Shapiro <http://www.cbpp.org/8-25-04tax.htm>.....
- “Growing Gulf Between Rich and Rest of US” by Holly Sklar <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article10530.htm>.....
- “Taking from the poor to give to the rich” by Leigh Saavedra http://www.onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_320.shtml

Prout in America....

Prakash Laufer has always been a very dynamic Prout activist. Here is a report of his directly Prout related activities in the past 6 months.

Another World is Possible Film Series:

I am one of the coordinators of this monthly film series and also the projectionist and represent Proutist Universal as one of the sponsors. Some of the films we have shown have been

1. Rize - a powerful documentary on the role of dance - specifically clowning and krumping - on the streets of Los Angeles - in empowering individuals and communities spiritually, politically and creatively.
2. Amandla - a Revolution in 4-part Harmony on the role of music and dance in the successful struggle against apartheid in South Africa.
3. The Agronomist - about a radical radio broadcaster in Haiti
4. Proutist Economics and worker-run businesses in the US.

Future films will include - The Revolution Will not be Televised - about the attempted coup in Venezuela

Favela Rising - Afro-Reggae music in the Favelas of Rio Brazil - very spiritual / political documentary - several significant references to Shiva as providing important inspiration- very tantric spirit

Home Street Home - documentary about homelessness and service work of Zen Peacemakers Community - Bernie Glassman of The peacemaker community will be presenting this film - as his community is nearby.

United for A Fair Economy (www.faireconomy.org) - a Boston based NGO:.....

In September I was elected to the board of UFE after being nominated by fellow UFE board member and Proutist Alanna Hartzok. Of the 5 new board members elected I was the only Caucasian elected. I was chosen partly because of my business experience in the area of Social Responsibility and also because I had done some previous work for UFE and spoke to the Massachusetts senate hearing in favor of a proposal to increase the minimum wage. My testimony is included in a chapter in the book After Capitalism by Dada Maheshwarananda. I have recently assumed the responsibility as treasurer on UFE's board and participate in monthly conference calls with the Executive Committee of the Board.

Dallas: Ac. Shubhacetanananda ji, our PLO for Dallas, Los Angeles and Vancouver with his office at Dallas (TX), has been quite busy in so many ways. He organized vegetarian dinner in Dec. '05 on a regular basis at Brookhaven and Richland colleges with the help of our Yoga Club. About 30 students, and some professors including journalists participated. Vice-president and the Director of SPAR and other college faculties also joined in. Glensovian (Ganesh), Omkarnath, and his wife, Seema helped generously in cooking.

Glen explained about the benefits of vegetarian food habit. Meanwhile, Yoga classes continue in Northlake college, BHC and RLC. 25 people have learnt meditation and yoga asanas. They have

started attending Dharmacakra regularly at our Prout office in Richmond. Asanas, Kaoshikii and Tandava were introduced in these colleges during the inter-cultural festival. Besides talks on yoga exercises, he includes Prout introductory to the participants. One such talk recently attracted 25 students. Local Newspapers also published articles about his works. Relief works for Katrina and Rita hurricanes refugees were conducted Prout volunteers and new members at the convention center and the reunion arena in Dallas for one month. BHC Courier and NLC News Register published news with his pictures in Avadhuta uniform. Good public relations was done also during the period. Now he is busy with the follow up.

FOR THESE COLUMNS ;

Please gather & send us reports on PROUTIST activities from your areas including news of such developments that merit your attention and analysis . Fellow Proutists and sympathizers in America , and the world over, have a great appetite for reading PROUT.

— Peoples News Agency

State of the Union Address (Jan. 31, '06)

Commentary: By Alex Jackimovicz

On January 31, 2006, President George W. Bush gave his State of the Union Address to the nation. A primary focus of the speech concerned foreign policy and trying to firm up the dwindling support for the continuing U.S. occupation of Iraq. In framing the rationale for the continued U.S. involvement in the Middle East George Bush proclaimed the long term desire of U.S. policies as the ending of "tyranny in the world". He also portrayed the U.S. efforts in the "War on Terror" as being inevitably successful, noble and benevolent, as well as necessary for the continued security of the United States and the procurement of freedom for people of the world. During the rationalizing of continuing of the war, e.g. "there is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat." the president declared that the U.S. can never retreat without success because "if we leave these vicious attackers alone; they will never leave us alone." He went on to state his belief that the U.S. will win and that "we are winning".

The president portrayed the U.S. presence in Iraq as promoting freedom in the region and the major effort in fighting the war on terrorism. However, this was not the story when the U.S. Senate passed a resolution to support the president as the administration made a strong case on almost non-existent evidence that Iraq was seeking and had developed weapons of mass destruction. After all, Bush had stated, "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud." The president forgot to mention that before the U.S. invasion Iraq was not a haven of terrorism or al-Qaeda, and Saddam Hussein's regime had been more or less contained. Also not included was that the unilateral U.S. action to occupy Iraq on the pretext of phony allegations has fomented anti-American sentiments and eroded goodwill of many nations whose people and governments had shown sympathy toward the U.S. after September 11th...Oh yes, and sparked what may turn out to be a world-wide religious war, a jihad against the United States.

While the officially declared motives of the U.S. attack on Iraq may be obscure and malleable, it's not to say that Saddam was a nice guy and that some form of intervention based on humanitarian grounds was completely

unjustified; Saddam's was a harsh dictatorship with a terrible human rights record. Yet, there is a selective use of memory in political discourse at play in condemning Hussein which ignores the record of U.S. support of him. For instance, during the worst of Iraq's atrocities against its own people, Saddam Hussein's regime received the firm support of the U.S. Reagan administration in obtaining 'weapons of mass destruction' and in developing its chemical weapons capabilities as Iraq was useful to the U.S. strategic interest of damaging and threatening Iran. The U.S. concern for human rights of Iraqis and the peoples of the Middle East only came to the forefront after Hussein stepped on the toes of the previous Bush administration by invading Kuwait. Before this time Hussein was a U.S. ally, and afterwards described as a 'Hitler in the making' which had to be removed for the good of the world. Moreover, missing from the president's address is much historical veracity and mention of readily predictable consequences of the U.S. war in Iraq to both the people of the U.S. and the peoples of the Middle East. Instead he paints a surreally positive picture of the U.S. adventure in Iraq,

Other aspects of the State of the Union Address brushed upon the president's strategy of a smarter, more efficient, 'greener' and cleaner, guest-worker friendly economy. Along with the desire to make tax cuts permanent, returning money 'back to the people', the president stated that America should be adept at remaining competitive in the global marketplace and not give in to fear-based protectionist policies to defend U.S. industries but to remain committed to the global marketplace. Also, but in striking contrast to previous statements and in a radical departure from his 'oil man' image of justifying continued consumption of fossil fuels, George Bush acknowledged a growing sentiment of the need for affordable and cleaner energy sources. Further, he described U.S. dependence on Middle East oil as an "addiction" and that the country "can move beyond a petroleum-based economy and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past ." While remaining unopposed to high U.S. consumption of resources, Bush made clear the aim of using existing technology and future technologies to make the U.S. more self-reliant and environmentally sustainable.

A large omission of substantive

policy proposals was found in the issue of healthcare and its continuing upward costs. The president's antidote to the growing healthcare crisis in the U.S.—a crisis he notes threatens the entire welfare state itself as the Baby Boom generation is projected to live long and put an "unprecedented strain on federal programs" left much to be desired. Remaining in the familiar venue of promoting an "ownership" society—the idea that individuals should take on more of the responsibilities and risks now included in government safety-net programs—the president promoted "health savings accounts". As with his ideas of Social Security savings accounts, the idea is that individuals should be given some form of tax free incentives to make their own choices, in this case assuming their own risks in choosing healthcare providers. But the proposal does nothing to curb increases in prices or necessarily increase access to healthcare of those who need it most and are unable to afford it. Critics of the administration charge that such initiatives are gimmicks designed to make the administration look like it is at least trying to do something to confront the rising costs of health care, an annual increase of 20-25% a year.

Some of the most positive initiatives within the State of the Union Address gave deference to the aim of removing and limiting HIV/AIDS and its stigma, a considerable increase in the number of teachers, and aiding areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. These important issues affect very many lives yet are not traditional points of focus for an otherwise 'business-first' administration. The expansion of such initiatives along with the proper and responsible financing could have great potential and truly be noble endeavors. Unfortunately the U.S. administration's promises fall in the face of the fiscal responsibilities of the nation. The reduction in federal revenues directly related to the shrinking allotment of taxable income, along with huge expenditures for never-ending war on terror, the growing pervasive inflation of high energy costs and other general increases in living costs like healthcare make many of the high sounding promises ring hollow. One may wonder what it will take for leaders to be able to assess and deal with issues effecting all of the citizens in an equitable way before financial disaster finally sets in and the consequences of "irrational exuberance" become too large to be avoided.



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Moralists of the World Unite

Sadvipra & Society

The social cycle moves constantly in a cyclic order. That is to say, with the continuance of class struggle, one class or another dominates a particular era. Now if science remains completely controlled by static minded people, the results will be hopeless. If class struggle continues unabated, humanity must finally understand that none but *Sadvipras* can be the leaders of society. I call *Sadvipras* only those who strictly follow the principles of morality (Yama and Niyama). The fullest possibilities for the establishment of peace and human progress lie only in the collective endeavours of *Sadvipras*. Not even democracy can solve human problems, because in a democracy one particular class gets the greatest opportunities to dominate while other classes are substantially deprived of their freedom. As democracy does not recognize any cardinal principles of morality, then rivalry, jealousy, meanness, immorality, etc., take deep root and flourish unchecked. Moreover, the colour and form of democracy keep changing because it continually gives importance to relative truths as its cardinal principles. The establishment of a classless society is only possible by those people who accept the Supreme Entity as the goal of their lives -- whose entire mental energy is ceaselessly applied to one supreme goal. All classes will have to unite in a society free from class warfare and strive to implement a common ideal on a common platform. This can only be done by *Sadvipras*.... **P.R. Sarkar.**

A Salute to Diipali

We would like to give their last respects to one of our most dedicated Prout workers. Diipali worked to spread the ideals of Prout for many years, in Washington DC, New Haven CT and Portland OR. She jumped right into Prout work after learning meditation in 1978 in California. In 1979 she moved to Washington DC to work in the Prout office there and work to support it. And from there she and her Proutist husband, Daya'prema, moved to New Haven, where a group of Proutists worked to set up a store (Edge of the Woods), and developed a model grassroots Prout movement which included classes, seminars, Food For All Programs, wall-writing, and the natural foods store. Diipali was in charge of the produce section of Edge of the Woods, she knew just how to how to select the right fruit and veggies. Whatever she did, she was good at. **She, and the other New Haven Proutists got together with the Marxists and other alternative groups and formed the Green party in New Haven.**

She was a wonderful musician, and charmed people with her singing, when she wasn't educating them with her strong, clear voice. One of her songs was recorded on the Quiescent Waves CD: **"How Many Times Will I Call Out To You?"**

She moved to Portland OR and became a naturopathic doctor. She married a fellow student, and completed her training through the years that she gave birth to her two sons. As they grew up she developed a practice specializing in hydrotherapy and taught at the Naturopathic college.

Diipali was an ideal person - and always had her hand in many pots. She loved to teach Baba's philosophy to whoever would listen. Dayabati from Washington State says, **"I learned so much philosophy from her."** She did a lot of research on biopsychology and Dayabati hopes to go through her paper and computer files and find it. For example, at a sister's retreat a year ago, Diipali gave an incredible talk on biopsychology and the biological differences between men and women.

One of the points that people brought up over and over at her memorial service in Portland was that she was a good friend - someone who you could call when you had a problem and she would give you her total attention, along with hugs, stories, listening, praising and introducing you around.

She was a real net-worker, and knew so many people, and would never hesitate to introduce you to anyone who she thought you should connect with.

In her last few weeks, though there was no indication of heart problems, she got very serious about her sadhana. **The day before she left her body, she told one Margii sister, "I just want to be with Baba." On her last day, she got up early to do her sadhana. Afterwards she went in the kitchen to get a glass of water, and she was found there on the floor of the kitchen, with the candle still burning on the puja table.**

Our salute to you, Diipali for a life dedicated to serving your fellow human being through medicine, education, activism and Prout. And our best wishes to her two teenage sons, and her husband, Rich. — *By Devanistha with the help of Dayabati and Carla Dickstein.*