

adpsr ny

Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility

Spring 2003

ADPSR Anti-War Bus Review A Self Interview with Zack Barowitz

So what is the ADPSR anti-war bus?
In November ADPSR rented a forty-nine-seat bus to send New Yorkers down to D.C. to protest the impending war against Iraq. Tickets were \$30 apiece although many were subsidized. The goal was to get fifty people down there who would ordinarily not have gone. In January, Les Robertson subsidized two ADPSR buses allowing most passengers to travel to Washington for little or nothing.

Is that the same Les Robertson who was the engineer of the WTC Towers?
Yes, he designed the structure of the Twin Towers and quite a bit more. In addition to be a talented engineer, he is a tireless proponent and activist for peace and sanity.

Do you consider this a return to the activism that formed ADPSR in 1982?
I would like to say that the activism and commitment to world peace never left but I can't say that's the case. Only three ADPSR-NY members were on the first bus, Jim Morgan, Les Robertson and I. (Bob Bogen was on a Quaker bus). That may sound like a grim showing but Jim Morgan asserts that the only requirement for showing the 12-foot long ADPSR banner is to have "another person there to hold it, more often than not that tends to be whatever woman I am dating at the time". The protests this fall and winter have shown a 200% plus improvement.

What about subsequent mobilizations?
We had a few more people on the January bus. At the New York mobilization there were so many people that we missed some at our meeting point.

Still, with 6% ADPSR participation how can you sit here and tell me that these were an "ADPSR buses?"

Although we had only a few ADPSR members on the buses, ADPSR members bought tickets to send others in their stead. So by "overselling" the bus we were able to offer cheaper tickets to Hunter MFA students, high school students from the Lower East Side girls club, Institute of Collaborative Education (ICE HS), and a youth group from Red Hook Brooklyn.

Is that like the Civil War practice of paying someone else for fighting in your place?
You'd have to ask Bush and Cheney about buying their way out of military service. I have no problem with folk's donations; as I said, it made it possible for about 35 young people to get down there who would not have gone otherwise.

Do you think that a lot of so-called "mainstream" people are turned off by the peace movement and the Left because of its tendency to include groups with a lot of off-topic agendas, animal rights, indigenous people's land rights, etc?
I can't speak for others but it doesn't bother me particularly, rather I see it as the nature of the Left today. If, for example, an indigenous people's land rights organization puts in thousands of volunteer hours to organize an event, why shouldn't they speak? *continued on page 3*

Right: "Mainstream White Guys for Peace" sign created by Zack Barowitz. It has appeared in two Washington marches and the February 15 peace rally in NYC. It has been highlighted on Salon.com as well as a dozen other websites.

ADPSR Spring Series

1.5 CES/HSW credits

May 6

Author **Roxanne Warren**, AIA, and engineer/transportation planner **George Haikalis** of Vision42 & **Fred Kent** of Project for Public Spaces on urban design that reaches and cares for people.

May 22

Bill Bobenhausen, FAIA, adjunct professor at City College and president of Sustainable Design Collaborative, on sustainable design.

All Lectures at:

Pratt Manhattan, Room 213,
144 West 14th Street, NYC,
6:30 to 8:00 PM.

1.5 CES/HSW credits per lecture

ADPSR members for credit: \$15

Nonmembers for credit: \$20.

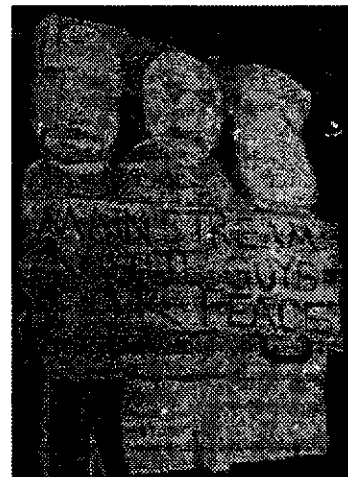
All others: \$5; Students with ID: free

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Secondly I have a lateral-thinking mind: Land to the People = Power to the People = Less Power to Autocratic Dictators and Would-be Emperors who are inclined to war. Many disparate issues are, in fact, interconnected.

I can't disagree, how do you feel about Al Sharpton speaking at such an event? Many say he alienates mainstream democrats, maybe he does, but if the Bush administration are chickenhawks then the Democratic Party are just chicken. Yesterday's fringe players (MLK, Malcolm, Jesse) are today's mainstream. All these folk moved toward the center when given a chance. I distinguish between the message from the messenger at these things. I didn't hear a single 'kill whitey' reference from Reverend Al, he just fired up the crowd.

Your PC statements qualify you as a true multiculturalist. There are a lot of misconceptions surrounding that term. Most people understand multiculturalism to mean 'diversity.' The other popular conception of multiculturalism the practice of creating loose cultural histories.

So what do you maintain is "true" Multiculturalism"? I think Marx was correct when he wrote that history and social relations are the result of power struggles. Today these struggles are not limited to class but encompass cultural identity: ethnicity, gender, faith, sexuality, political affiliation, etc. Multiculturalism is Marxism that substitutes cultural identity for class. The nice thing is that we get to choose some of our affiliations. Cultural identities are more fluid and groups form coalitions with one another.

Design Education *continued from page 2*

From this initial exercise students can continue the project either laterally (drawing their whole apartments) and vertically (building walls and furniture).

If a student has a problem, they are encouraged to go back to the drawing board. Design activities teach students the art of revision. Design education engages the creative process and helps students learn to do for themselves, set their own problems, solve them, and work on multiple aspects of a problem. This is a valuable skill whether you are working with a student, a client or a community.

Can this coalition be effective is fighting the war machine?

I think the most important aspect of fighting the war machine is to ask questions and stick to the facts. What is Saddam's capacity to deliver his "weapons of mass destruction?". What are the ramifications of war? More and more Americans are speaking out against Bush's aggressive stance including most major religious leaders and former President Jimmy Carter.

If this war is so wrongheaded, how did the Bush administration get this far? I think there is a lot of fear after September 11th and, personally, when I am scared I am willing to trade off civil rights and freedom of the press for my own personal security. Bush has attempted to make us believe that we will all be safer from another 9/11 as a result of the Iraq war. There is a certain comfort in ignorance. Bush, Ashcroft et al are giving us an object lesson is the seductive nature of fascism. We hope that it's gonna change.

I guess we've strayed a bit from the topic of the bus trip, would you like to thank the contributors?

Yes, ADPSR contributors include: Buck Moorehead, Magda Salvesen, Glenn and Alexandra Garrison, Jerry Eben, Roxanne Warren, Kira Gould, Robert Sanborn, Tarry Hum, Martha Soler, Walter Thabit, Michael and Karen Shannon. I also got money from my mom and dad, aunt and uncle, my grandmother's best friend from high school, my doctor, my brother, an ex-girlfriend (she owed me money anyway) and a cousin.

Around the Web

Petropolitics: Oil and War in Iraq
<http://faculty.washington.edu/jhaveri/petropolitics>

A website with an essay by Nayna Jhaveri, Professor of Geography at the University of Washington. It was put together by Professor Jhaveri as part of a course "Consumption, Nature, and Globalization" to help students understand the links between US oil interests and the Iraq war.

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) is a national non-profit organization of architects, designers, planners and related professionals. We are committed to correcting the imbalance between the need to provide for the common defense and the need to promote the well-being of all citizens. ADPSR's efforts are directed toward arms reduction, protection of the natural and built environment, and socially responsible development."