

8-24-6-03

# Take heart and make a difference

Susanna Freymark

Living on the Edge sounds dangerous but as a theme for a weekend of provocative discussion it can challenge the way we think.

Renowned eco-economist Clive Hamilton is joining a host of national and local speakers for the Big Talk weekend, a Heart Politics event taking place in the A&I Hall in Bangalow on June 27-29.

Clive will kick start the Big Talk on the opening night by asking the big questions – about the way we live, about happiness and about greed. Clive is the executive director of the Australian Institute and author of a new book *Growth Fetish*. He believes affluence and materialism has a lot to answer for in our society.

'We have lost sight of the things that give us full lives,' he says.

The theme of *Living on the Edge* ties in with a recent study by the Australian Institute looking at the downshifting phenomenon – a concept familiar to many Byron Shire residents who have reduced their income in order to live here.

'It also means a reduction in consumption level,' says Clive, 'people choose to devote themselves to fulfilment.'

The study shows that a quarter of the population of Australia is doing this, they are living on the edge.

Being a man who thrives on ideas and known for his independent voice, Clive will add his own views and thoughts to the challenge of living here and in these times.

Joining him on the night is Kali Wendorf, activist and editor of *byronchild*, who will be



discussing the structure and nature of the nuclear family. It is the bigger picture that interests her and she has an urgency to address issues around children without sentimentality attached to the debate.

She believes her own children have a community that stretches beyond the family home.

'Our Child, Not Mine', the title of her talk, will explore this issue and look at the wider human family we all inhabit. What our responsibilities to each other? What is our vision?

Judith Atkinson, Professor of Indigenous Australian Studies, will add further thought to the evening with her talk 'Deep Listening Across the Cultural Divide'. She will explore the issues surrounding reconciliation versus healing. How do we build an understanding across the cultural and political divide when we don't even speak the same language?

There will be opportunities for questions as well as singing and music from Chris James, Colin George and Chinta.

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night or you can buy a weekend ticket for all the events.

This includes a Saturday afternoon session on June 28 with Sandy McCutcheon, radio broadcaster, author and host of Radio National's *Australia Talks Back* program. Sandy will present a talk on 'Compassion Activism'.

'I'm really interested in the new type of activism that's needed to deal with the masquerade of democracy that we're being presented with,' he says. 'It seems to me that the forms of "re-active" activism that emerge to respond to incidents like the building of a dam or conditions at a detention centre are not enough. It has got to the time where we as a community need to be more pro-active to change the culture that allows these incidents to occur.'

Sandy is a frequent visitor to Byron Shire and will be staying with family in Mullumbimby.

'It will give me a chance to go to a part of the world I love and the concept of Heart Politics really resonates with me. I think that too often our reaction to politics is governed by the intellect. I believe you need to respond with both mind and heart.'

The Saturday night panel session will be opened by Cape Byron Playback Theatre who will engage the hearts and minds of the audi-

ence before the speakers continue the discussion of 'Does the Rest of the World Matter?'

On the Sunday Senator Kerry Nettle and Ruth Rosenhek will discuss Democracy, the Peace Movement and Compassionate Action.

KaOZ Klezmer end the festival with a celebration on Sunday 7 pm. Tickets at the door or included in full weekend ticket for \$45/\$35 concession. Single sessions \$15/\$10. Tickets outlets, The Bookshop, Mullumbimby or Barebones Artspace, Bangalow. Workshops and Youth Forum are free (see below).

For more information telephone 6688 6494 or 6688 6624. Heart Politics is run by Interhelp, a non profit organisation dedicated to action for social change.

## FREE WORKSHOPS

Saturday June 28

9.00-10.30am

Wild Earth, Wild Mind, Wild

Heart – Ruth Rosenhek

Transform Your Communication – Art Burroughes

Slow Down and Get There

Sooner – Jill Benham

Yin Activism: Acting from

Being – Shelia Keane

Spiritual Anarchism: Can

Radical Politics have Heart?

– Ral Cunningham

Internalised Racism – Cathy

Hillard

Saturday 2.00-3.30pm

Youth Forum – discussion

panel

Saturday 4.00-5.30pm

Humour in Activism – Gareth

Smith

Testing the Boundaries of

the Human Family – Kali

Wendorf

The Language of Empower-

ment – Jacob Baldwin

Linking Heart Politics to

Local Government – Ken

McLeod

Yoga – Nadine Hood

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## DEADLINE

for the June issue  
24th June

## HERE & Now Magazine

Editor/layout: Alok  
Cover photo: Alok 'Pears', National Gallery Canberra  
Astrology: Jagadeesh  
Proofreader: Pratima  
Sales: Samantha 0500 503 316, or 0418 740 562  
or <ads@byronpublications.com>  
Film Processing: Graphic Expressions  
Printer: Quality Plus Printers

4000 copies printed.  
Estimated readership: 10,000

Published on the first Friday of the month,  
[hereandnow@byronpublications.com](mailto:hereandnow@byronpublications.com)

Published by Byron Publications Pty Ltd  
Local, Private and Independent  
P.O. Box 1542  
Byron Bay 2481  
Ph/Fax: 0500 503 316

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## Byron Dreaming

A couple of weeks ago I was interviewed on Bay FM. I had about two hours' notice, and was happy that Maree Cameron who asked 'me' in for the interview was running a little behind so I could think about what it was I wanted to say. What came to me to speak about was anger.

What I said was that we are not angry enough. That we are not angry enough about the priests and parents that abuse small children. We are not angry enough about paying for a war fought on bogus premises while there is not enough money for hospitals and education. We are not angry enough about young men and women being used as pawns of big business and being sent off to fight a war over oil and the control thereof. We are not angry enough about the lies that our politicians tell us about some terrorist threat. We are not angry enough about the bonuses paid to executives of big businesses who lost the life savings of the investors because they failed at their

job. We are not angry enough that our environment has been trashed and is ceasing to be able to support us and our children. We are not angry enough about the poverty in our society. We are not angry enough about our dysfunctional government. We are not angry enough about a whole lot of things, and to me it seems that until we get angry enough none of the changes we would like to see will occur.

Most of us who have been on some spiritual path and many others who are just living their lives, have done lots and lots of workshops about anger; about getting rid of it. Anger is bad we are told; anger is something to be gotten rid of, anger is not spiritually correct. From the time we are babies we are not allowed to be angry, that if we get angry we are wrong, bad. The more intelligent teachings seek to transform anger into something a lot more palatable like love, others just ignore it, hoping that it will just go away. Years ago I read *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, a story of a man's inner journey. In it he comes across a teacher/master who happened to run a garage in LA. This guy said that anger was to be appreciated as the energy in which change can be wrought in our lives. This made an impact on me, cause like many people I had felt the rage inside that was provoked by the most innocuous things, and so thought of myself as being an

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byron bay, june 03  
issue 67

byron's free monthly magazine

## The Tapeworm of US Imperialism

### Not angry enough?

If only it was  
a joke



angry person, and so rejected and judged by my own and others' anger. Yet anger is the most powerful weapon transformation we have.

One of the hallmarks of the alternative movement is its lack of anger. We try to deal with things in as conscious a manner as possible, and we do workshop after workshop to express our anger (in a 'safe' place), to learn techniques so we would not be subjected to that rage that burns bridges, but rather so that we would be in 'control'. We want to be Buddhas sitting in a pool of silence, with no 'problems', rational mature beings who do not lose it.

The trouble is that in the process of becoming these wonderfully enlightened beings that we aspire to be, we castrate ourselves, our passion gets dimmed, and before we know it we are wimps whose ideas and opinions can easily be ignored and overruled. Anger, like sex (to which it is quite intimately related) is one of our core energies. Osho put his disciples in red clothes to awaken the base chakra, passion, anger and sex. (It worked, with the whole world seemingly pissed off at sannyasins, as well as thinking they were having endless orgies!) It certainly shook up the predominantly comfortable middle class people who were attracted to him.

Nirava made the point last issue about people fighting for peace being impossible. Osho once said that also. I disagree. It is easy to make that statement, yet the main reason why the Vietnam War ended was the anger on Western streets. The reason why globalisation of trade (read 'slavery') remains a debate and not a fait accompli is because some people raged outside WTO meetings and we heard about it and paid attention. It is because of their anger and desperation that we are aware of the genocide of the Palestinians.

There is plenty to be angry about in the world these days, perhaps more than ever, and it is true that it can be poisonous to us to be in a state of permanent anger about all the things we don't like 'out there', as well as a perfect excuse for not dealing with all the things to be angry about 'in there'. But what is our choice? Get involved and risk being consumed on the off chance that what we do will make a difference, or be uninvolved and cool and watch as our rights and everything that is beautiful gets trampled on?

Arundhati Roy in her speech (page 16) encourages us to resist this new imperialism, to channel our anger, through our hip pocket; ie, boycott those companies who are involved in the worldwide scam to degrade human life a la *Matrix*, and support business that creates good products, and tell all your friends to also. We need to consolidate in our communities, really ground the values that we want to foster. We need to stop feeding the

machine, again a la *Matrix*. In the *Matrix* it is about machines, in real life it is corporate America.

The people/machine behind these events have no shame and they appear to be not concerned about anyone finding out about their lies and manipulations, possibly because it is too late for anyone to stop them. In the past it seemed that if a politician was caught out in lies he would get in trouble, but not so this time. The normal checks and balances in democratic countries no longer work, so different methods are needed.

Much has been said about Gandhi and his non-violent revolution. He was just a coward as anyone who has read anything about his involvement in the Indian freedom struggle or the partition of India and Pakistan would know. His inaction and unwillingness to be part of a creative solution meant that a million people were slaughtered. Yet this is held up as the way the modern power elite have decreed we should fight for our planet. Martin Luther King was fabulous, but ultimately failed.

The penny seems to be dropping all over the world these days about the illegitimacy of the war in Iraq. Even mainstream media is talking about the forged or plagiarised documents that the war was based on. (See Weblinks on page 21 — some fabulous articles there.) The lies in relation to Iraq I have been writing about for months are now appearing in the daily papers. Blair is in trouble as the UK parliament realises they were sold a bogus war. Rumsfeld's mates have already said that the WMDs were just the most saleable rationale for an invasion, not because there was any factual basis for the prewar claims. And little Johnnie soldiers on undaunted by all that, utterly content now that he has had a weekend at Bush's ranch with George's pubes stuck on his nose, and will never say he was wrong. He is not even concerned about the bill the Australian government has received from the US for the bombs our planes dropped on Iraq. He recently claimed that Australia was a terrorist target long before Sept 11, but because of Olympics, security was too tight. What a load of bollocks! There was no increased security in WA, SA or Victoria. Just more US spin.

What is happening in Iraq now is just awful; just the humanitarian disaster that was predicted. Kids are swimming in radioactive water because there is no other way to wash. Hospitals are flooded with people with radiation sickness after all the depleted uranium that the COWards bombed Iraq with. Cholera, typhoid and dysentery are further decimating the population. Still no electricity or running water. (The COW destroyed it, and until sanctions are lifted there is no money to rebuild and no long-term contracts to be signed by the US com-

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Alok

My 90 year-old maman is reading the last issue of Here & Now — and wants me to tell you how much she is enjoying and appreciating it. Her laughter was unstoppable when she was on the jokes page.

And while we're on the subject of feedback, please accept accolades from yours truly as well. You are doing a great service with intelligence, compassion and humour.

Louisa Simons

(I received some other letters, but ran out of room. Sorry. Keep sending letters in — your voice is welcome. Alok)

panies involved.) Saddam is apparently alive and kicking, and ready to mount a jihad. I wonder if this too was part of the plan, to ensure the presence of US troops and to allow incursions into Iran easier? Making the \$US the Iraqi currency was a brilliant move by the US, as it helps the US with its spiralling debt and ensures the abject poverty of all but a few Iraqis for decades to come.

Now it appears that Iran is indeed next, with plans already afoot for an invasion. And that will be big time. No generals being bought off this time. No UN sanctions to weaken the resolve and fighting ability of the Iranians. Bombing of Irani targets began during the Iraq war, though the US claimed it was accidental! More like testing the water! This will be a much bigger event, and will require much greater softening up of the Western populace. Prepare yourself for a barrage of unrelenting anti Iran propaganda which we will be subjected to as the US and its mates demonise Iran and its 'regime'.

Now the US is building military bases in Australia, with perhaps more soldiers there than in the entire Australian Defence Forces. That is one way to ensure that there is no rebellion against US imperialism. That is scary.

So what do we do when we are 'angry enough'? Get juicy. Love each other enough to be angry if required. Buy local produce. Support those in our community and sub communities. Write letters to our politicians. Get involved politically, locally and federally. Coalesce around like-minded people and brainstorm a future as thousands all over the world are doing. Put our hands up and shout, "I have something to say!"

Enjoy the mag, Alok



# OSHO

## BELOVED OSHO,

*The US proudly proclaims itself the land of the free and the home of the brave and points to its constitutional protections of fundamental rights. At the same time the government twists and breaks its own laws to persecute you who embody freedom and truth. It seems the politicians always tell the biggest lies in the loudest voice. The worst tyrants talk most about peace and freedom. Could you please comment.*

And what I am going to say is not only true about the United States of America; it is more or less true about every nation dominated by the cunning, clever and crooked politicians.

The first thing you say is, "The US government proudly proclaims itself the land of the free and the home of the brave and points to its constitutional protections of fundamental rights."

The first thing to be noted about the United States of America is that the land does not belong to the so-called Americans; the land belongs to the natives, the Red Indians. And America is, in fact, one of the most strange places to talk about freedom and democracy.

It is a strange kind of democracy in which the people of the land, the real owners of the land have no participation at all. And the foreigners, the invaders who have killed mercilessly the innocent people of America, are proudly proclaiming freedom, democracy, basic human rights, freedom of expression and all kinds of nonsense. Especially Americans should not use these words at all. It is the greatest slavery that is still in existence.

As far as their constitution is concerned, Americans have been very proud, proclaiming that they have one of the best constitutions. The latest research has just been published. Just two or three days ago I received the information that all that is beautiful in the American constitution is borrowed from the Red Indians and their old, ancient books of wisdom. So the so-called "great American fathers", the founders of America, were simply thieves and nothing else. They have not mentioned, not even once, that they have borrowed the whole constitution from the poor Red Indians and their books of wisdom.

And you are saying, "At the same time it twists and breaks its own laws to persecute you." It has been persecuting the Red Indians; if it decided to persecute me, there are valid reasons for their persecution...

*... I am a simple person and I simply say whatever is the truth. Whether it hurts you, shocks you or not, it does not matter.*

To me truth is what matters — and certainly only the very cultured cream of the society has been attracted towards me. I cannot attract the beggars, I cannot attract the orphans, and I cannot attract the aboriginals, because they will not even be able to understand what I am saying. Everybody is not capable of understanding the music of Mozart or Wagner; you will need very trained ears to understand those great masters.

And as far as spirituality is concerned, it is the highest point of intelligence. Unless you have that intelligence you are bound to misunderstand. Authentic religion is only for very few people, because it requires a tremendous preparation beforehand.

I am absolutely anti-political.

Deep down I am an anarchist.

My ultimate goal finally is that there should be a humanity without any government. Government is a condemnation of every one of us. The very existence of the government and the police and the army shows that we are still not civilised; otherwise there is no need for courts, judges, police officers. What is the need of them?

If man is really man, if people become meditators and their criminal mind disappears, then the politician is naturally alerted. It is dangerous. If this commune succeeds, then there will be more communes arising in the country, and the politician will be in danger.

I have been condemning the politicians and the priests together, because they are two sides of one coin. They are conspiring together against humanity. They have made a division: the politician will rule the body of man, and the priest will rule his soul. And they will support each other, because their interest is the same — domination over humanity.

*My effort to make life absolutely based on freedom and to destroy all possibilities of domination by anybody, naturally brought the politicians and the Christian priests together.*

My effort is that I want to see whatever I am saying as a realised experience for all those who have come in some deep loving commitment with me...

Whenever you see politicians telling the biggest lies in the loudest voice, you should know that lies can only be told in loud voices. The loudness of the voice hides the lies. Truth can be whispered, but lies can only be loudly declared. Their strength lies in your voice.

*Truth is self-evident.*

*Just whispering it is enough.*

Prem Niren, what happened with me in America and with my people has to become a historical fact, exposing both the religions and the politicians, and all their bogus talk and great words.

Just the other day I was informed by Barkha,

who was the head of the commune police. Because the commune had become a city, was incorporated as a city, the government wanted the city to have a magistrate, a police department. We did not want non-sannyasins to be in the commune, because they would feel strange and our people would feel strange, so the only way was to train our own people as police, as magistrate. So one woman was the magistrate; Sangeet is here, she was the city attorney; and Barkha is here, she was the city's police chief.

The day I was arrested and I was shown on all the television stations of America, the chief of police of Oregon phoned Barkha. Barkha was working under him as chief of police of the city of Rajneeshpuram. He phoned to tell her that this was absolutely illegal; you cannot arrest anybody without an arrest warrant. And even if you have to take somebody into custody in special cases when the warrant has not arrived yet, but you have been told to do so, then you cannot put handcuffs and chains on the person, because he is not yet confirmed by the magistrate as a criminal.

But that's what was done. And the police chief said, "I am feeling so sad and sorry that they arrested Osho with twelve loaded guns, and they did not show any arrest warrant, they did not even show verbally what was the cause of arrest."

When he saw the second day that I had been taken to another jail and I was descending from the staircase of the airplane with handcuffs, chains on my hands and feet, with another chain around my waist to which the handcuffs were also joined — I could not even scratch a fly which was sitting on my head — he said, "It is absolutely unprecedented. A man who has no warrant against him, a man who has done no wrong..."

In three days the government attorney could not prove a single thing against me, and he accepted in his summarising statement that "we have been unable to prove anything against Osho." Still, the way they were behaving was simply for humiliation.

But you cannot humiliate me — and they felt it. Even the jailers said to me, "Everything is being done to humiliate you — but it is strange, we don't see any humiliation. You are taking it so coolly and so silently and so peacefully as if this has been your whole life's practice."

I said, "Who knows, it may be in the future. So I am training myself, because one never knows about tomorrow — this may be my whole lifestyle for the future, and I never miss a single moment of learning."

According to every psychoanalytic school, politicians suffer from inferiority complex. In fact, if a man does not suffer from inferiority complex he will not try to dominate anyone. The very effort to dominate is just to convince oneself that "I am not inferior, I am superior to those whom I rule, whom I dominate." It is strange that your presidents, your prime ministers are all psychologically sick people. They are full of jealousies, competitions.

The whole of America, and particularly the politicians, became jealous. This is danger-