

Pesticide Testing on Humans Raises Concern

By Judy Stege

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for protecting our air, water, and food, monitoring waste disposal systems, and keeping Americans safe from hazardous and chemical materials in our environment. Children are especially vulnerable to toxins in the environment because of their developing brains and nervous systems. We adults need to be doing everything we can to encourage all children to develop and grow up healthy. Parents know the government cannot do it all, yet we often assume it is doing most of the protecting, because we have our lifestyle to keep up and little time to involve ourselves in environmental issues. Look back at the typical American family preparing for the Fourth of July party at home last month. Friends and family would share fun and food, so the house and yard were spiffed up. Oh, ants on the patio! Gosh, the weeds in the lawn! Bugs in the kitchen! Quick, get the Raid, Round Up, and mosquito repellent, and yes, we know that pesticides are not good for living things. But it is worth it! (Parents, did you notice how often your kids crawl, roll, or lie on the floor and lawn? Did you think to keep them away from sprayed areas?)

Thankfully, many parents are careful and choose a pesticide-free lifestyle, or search out the least harmful consumer products. Also, some of our elected officials are paying attention and taking action to keep our children safe, even if the general public, like the EPA, is willing to assume pesticides are safe because no visible tragedy has occurred. Senator Barbara Boxer used her political position to stall and finally eliminate the proposed EPA pesticide study named CHEERS. In October 2004, the EPA was given \$2.1 million from the American Chemistry Council, a chemical industry front group for Monsanto, Exxon, Dow, and other prosperous corporations, to run the Children's Environmental Exposure Research Study. Our tax dollars would have supplied the rest of the funding. The two-year study was supposed to monitor Florida infants in low-income families to find out how "chemicals can be ingested, inhaled, or absorbed by babies to children up to age 3, as well as the health effects they would cause." (Why not high-income or EPA families?)

The participating parents "were to receive \$970, a t-shirt, a bib for their baby, a calendar, a newsletter, a framed certificate of appreciation, and a video camcorder." The study did not require parents to "change the level of pesticide use in their home, nor add any special chemical products, but it required that they "demonstrate a use of these toxic products in their home."

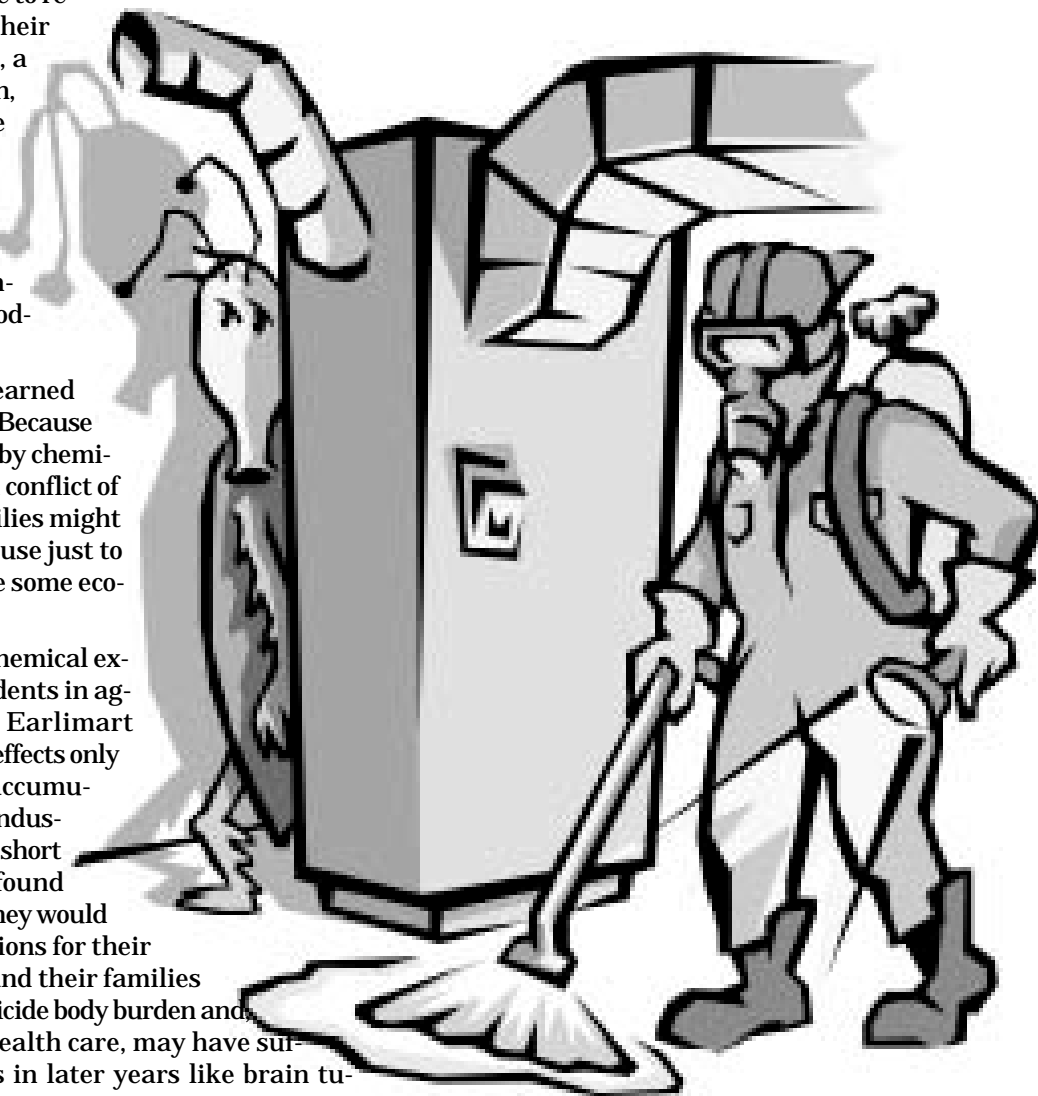
Fortunately, Americans who learned about this study were appalled. Because the study was partially funded by chemical companies, it represented a conflict of interest. Also, low-income families might have increased their pesticide use just to be involved, as \$970 would give some economic relief.

Further, unless the pesticide/chemical exposure is acute, as in drift incidents in agricultural communities like Earlimart (1999) or Arvin (2005), adverse effects only show up when the pesticides accumulate in the body. The chemical industry could have claimed after the short two-year study that the EPA found their pesticides safe, and then they would have lobbied for looser regulations for their use. Meanwhile those babies and their families would have increased their pesticide body burden and, with limited or non-existent health care, may have suffered serious health problems in later years like brain tu-

mors, leukemia, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, birth defects, nervous system damage, hormone or endocrine system problems, and behavior and academic problems in school. Thankfully, this study was cancelled on April 8, 2005.

This inhuman study was made possible because the Bush Administration, lobbied by the pesticide industry, had reversed a moratorium on human pesticide testing. The EPA felt that human studies were "available, relevant, and appropriate", and implemented studies like CHEERS. However, a review of actual and planned EPA testing reported by Senator Boxer and Representative Waxman in June 2005 showed that the EPA allowed more than 20 human-pesticide experiments that "violated ethical, scientific, and moral guidelines." The current EPA guidelines allow dangerous human pesticide testing on pregnant women, children and babies, which appalled even the legislators. On June 29, 2005, the Senate passed (60-37) the Boxer/Clinton Amendment to reinstate the expired moratorium on human pesticide testing. The House passed a similar amendment last May, so for one year pesticide testing with human subjects will be restrained, at least by our federal "by and for the people" agencies like the EPA.

1. <http://www.epa.gov/cheers/>
2. <http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=239845> (06/30/05)
3. Waxman and Boxer Release Report on Human Pesticide Experiments
www.truthout.org/issues_05/printer_061705HA.shtml - 13k
4. www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-04-11-pesticides-inside_x.htm
5. www.nospray.org/articles/farm_workers



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Back-to-School: Time to "Opt-Out" of Military Recruitment

by Ken Hudson

Opt-Out: Most readers of the *Community Alliance* are aware by now that the No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to release student contact information to military recruiters. Now is the time to exercise the right to opt out of this provision (NCLB, Sec. 9528). Otherwise, the school district is required to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of male and female high school students to military recruiters who request them. In other words, if the school doesn't hear from you, they assume consent.

Although the law allows students to opt out at any time of the year, they will need to do it at the beginning if they want their name removed from the list's first release. In Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) the list is scheduled for release on October 1, 2005, so the deadline for getting removed from that list is September 16, according to Robert Pankratz, FUSD's executive director of student services. An Opt-Out form will be included in the registration packet that is handed to the students on the first day. However, official school forms are not required. The law allows for any written notice to be sufficient (even if it is written on toilet paper, I suppose).

One of the easiest opt-out forms on the Internet locates the mailing address of the school superintendent in your zip code. You can find this at www.leavemychildalone.org. An opt-out form with Peace Fresno's contact information that is useful for distribution is found on the web at www.peacefresno.org/pdf/Do_Not_Call_Military.pdf.

Or clip and use the form below, mailing it to your school district Superintendent's office. Of course, after submitting the opt-out request, it is important to confirm that your name was actually removed from the list. FUSD students can expect a confirmation through the mail, thanks to the efforts of Peace Fresno; others may wish to contact their school district. If a military recruiter does phone your home, ask how your number was obtained. If the school district has released your directory information despite your request, it may be in violation of federal law. The Peace Fresno Education Committee is compiling local abuses of this sort as well as aggressive tactics by recruiters and would appreciate hearing from you at (559) 455-0821 (Vincent Lavery).

Toward a new Opt-Out Policy at FUSD: Peace Fresno and the Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition will be requesting changes in FUSD's opt-out policy. We are hoping to present this request at one of the August school board meetings. Our proposed changes include the following:

- Release directory information **only** of juniors and seniors. FUSD currently includes students in grades 9-12 on its list, although a joint letter by Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld and (then) Secretary of Education, Rod Paige (October 9, 2002) states that the release of information under NCLB affects only juniors and seniors.
- Provide the "Opt-Out" option on the student emergency card. Pajaro Valley USD in and around Watsonville was the latest district to pass this board policy.
- Allow students to opt themselves out. NCLB, Sec. 9528 (a)(2) states, "CONSENT—A secondary school student **or** the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing... not be released without prior written parental consent..."

- Notifications from FUSD regarding the right to opt-out should include the fact that telephone numbers are included in what the District is required to release under NCLB. Currently, notification from FUSD states that only names and addresses will be released. (The District has stated that it has not released telephone numbers in the past.)
- Charge recruiters \$.03 per student for the list as Los Angeles Unified School District does.
- Make Opt-Out forms readily available in every high school office.
- Pass a resolution supporting the Honda Bill, H.R. 551, and lobby for its passage. The Honda Bill addresses the release of student information under NCLB, reversing the procedure for obtaining consent from "opt out" to "opt in." Under an opt-in policy, the only students on the list would be those students for whom the school has actual written consent (imagine that!).

All items in the proposal are 100% legal, are in use by other school districts, and do not put federal funds at risk. When placed on the school board agenda (hopefully in August), notice will be distributed and posted on the home page at www.peacefresno.org. We hope to have a school board member sponsor the proposal. For more information or to have your group endorse the proposal, contact the Peace Fresno Education Committee at the above phone number.

This won't be the first time Peace Fresno has presented opt-out issues to the FUSD school board. A new book edited by Ann Fagan Ginger (2005), *Challenging US Human Rights Violations Since 9/11*, gives the following report:

The Peace Fresno Foundation Committee responded to this problem (NCLB, Sec. 9528) on December 3, 2003, when Vincent J. Lavery, chair of the Peace Fresno Education Committee, presented to the Superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District a request that teachers from each high school grade read a statement to their students regarding parent/student approval to have their directory information released to military recruiters, and instructions on how to notify the School District if they did not want this information released. In its presentation, the Committee also pointed out that the District failed to notify all parents that they could opt out of the system before the date on which opting out ended. (P. 260)



CUT AND MAIL TODAY!

OPT-OUT FORM

To: Administrator at _____ School District

Re: Release of student directory information

I do not want this student's directory information released to **military recruiters**.

Student name (print): _____

School: _____ District: _____

Student I.D. number or Date of Birth: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name of person signing: _____

Pentagon's national database: People concerned about protecting their privacy from military recruiters were dismayed at the recent news that the Pentagon has also been creating a national database of information on 16- to 25-year-olds to distribute to local military recruiters, separately from the data it receives through the No Child Left Behind Act.

According to an Associated Press report (June 23, 2005), the data are collected from "individuals who volunteer it, state motor vehicle departments, commercial information brokers, and the Selective Service system." The data include "name, gender, address, birthday and, if available, the Social Security number, e-mail address, ethnicity, telephone number, high school, college, graduation dates, **grade-point average**, education level, and military test scores." This was discovered by a group called Electronic Privacy Information Center when they found a notice on the Federal Register placed by the military. News reports do not say specifically how grade-point averages are obtained, but I know they don't come from the motor vehicle department.

Local Action—Opt-Out March, Sept. 10: Problems with military recruitment have certainly been on the media radar lately. Aggressive tactics by recruiters, privacy concerns, the public's frustration with the war in Iraq, the Pentagon's "stop-loss" policy of keeping soldiers involuntarily beyond their terms, the Downing Street memo/smoking gun, and Karl Rove's revelation have all come together to make this moment ripe for a response from the community.

The Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition is a newly formed group consisting of area peace, social justice, and religious groups interested in providing an alternative to the message of military recruiters. It has called for events to publicize the right to Opt-Out of military recruitment in local school districts on Saturday, September 10, 2005 (date chosen to meet FUSD's deadline to Opt-Out).

Peace Fresno is sponsoring an opt-out march called "Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone!" (borrowing a slogan from Mainstreet Moms): Saturday, September 10, 2005, 11:00 AM-12:00 noon. March in downtown Fresno from the Fresno Unified School District Office, at Tulare and M Streets, to the military recruiter office at 2020 Tulare (less than a mile). Marching from the school district office to a military recruiter office symbolizes the schools' role in filling the ranks of the military. Suggested signs are Opt Out Now!, Protect Your Privacy from Recruiters!, Books Not Bombs!, and, of course, Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone! As students are the focus of NCLB, we are hoping they will be a focus of the march. So students, get your school involved, make your signs, plan your street theater, bring your drums, and get in front, because we don't want to "leave any child behind."

Groups and individuals in other Central Valley school districts wanting to publicize the right to opt out are encouraged to hold public events in their areas on that day, Saturday, September 10. For more information or to get help about what you can do in your community, contact the Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition at (559) 432-3445 (Dan Yaseen) or by e-mail at danyaseen@sbcglobal.net. Let us know what you plan to do!

June 6, 2005: Supreme Court Rules Against Medical Marijuana Patients

Raich & Monson: State Law Not Affected

The Supreme Court rejected the constitutional challenge of medical marijuana patients Angel Raich and Diane Monson to the federal Controlled Substances Act in a 6-3 decision.

The Court did not overturn Prop. 215 or other state medical marijuana laws, which remain in full force at the state level.

Writing for the Court's majority, Justice John Paul Stevens ruled that the federal government had power to prosecute patients for personal possession and cultivation of marijuana as part of its own powers to regulate interstate commerce notwithstanding state laws allowing medical marijuana.

Medical marijuana supporters expressed disappointment at the decision, but noted that it did not change existing law. "California must know that state and federal laws are no different today than they were yesterday," declared California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. "People shouldn't panic. There aren't going to be many changes," he added.

"The court's decision will not stop Californians from using medical cannabis," said California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer. "The burden is now on Congress to change our bankrupt federal laws."

In its opinion, the Court pointedly questioned the wisdom of prosecuting patients. "The case is made difficult by respondents' strong arguments that they will suffer irreparable harm because, despite a congressional finding to the contrary, marijuana does have valid therapeutic purposes. The question before us, however, is not whether it is wise to enforce the statute in these circumstances; rather, it is whether Congress's power to regulate interstate markets for medicinal substances encompasses the portions of those markets that are supplied with drugs produced and consumed locally."

A spokesman for the San Francisco DEA office said that the agency was not interested in pursuing individual patients, but rather large-scale traffickers.

The court's opinion did not bear directly on the legality of distribution or sale of medical cannabis through California's 150-plus patients' coops, dispensaries, and delivery services. However, it did preclude them from potentially invoking the defense that they aren't engaged in interstate commerce. A dozen or so facilities indicated to California NORML that they were closing, but most continued to operate.

The Court's majority opinion was written by Justice John Paul Stevens, joined by liberals Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Stephen Breyer, and conservatives Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter.

The minority opinion, by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, held that the federal government was over-reaching in trying to cover individual medical marijuana patients under its powers of interstate commerce. O'Connor was joined by conservatives Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice Rehnquist.

The Court left open other possible legal challenges to the federal law such as medical necessity or substantive due process. Above all, it suggested that medical marijuana supporters get Congress to change the law.

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, California has seen a resumption of raids on medical cannabis dispensaries both by the DEA and local police. So far, the DEA has been working in cooperation with local police, who have targeted operations accused of abusing local regulations. Federal authorities insist they aren't interested in pursuing medical marijuana patients, but only organized criminal enterprises.

By Mark Stout



Medical marijuana is available in Fresno.

In San Francisco on June 22, the DEA raided three medical marijuana dispensaries and arrested 19 defendants, most of them Asian-Americans, in what was described as an organized crime operation. Federal agents searched 24 homes and businesses, located 10 indoor grow sites, and seized over 9,000 plants. To date, 20 defendants have been indicted for conspiracy to cultivate and distribute over 1,000 marijuana plants. In addition, three have been indicted for sales of ecstasy, and two others for money laundering. There are also allegations of international cash smuggling.

Federal spokesmen denied attacking medical marijuana per se. "It's not an attack on medical marijuana," one law enforcement official told the San Francisco Chronicle. "This is an organized crime group that is using the whole pot club thing as a front."

Supporters say that the defendants were mostly involved in medical marijuana. One of them, Van Nguyen, was well known as the director of the first Asian-American dispensary, the Herbal Relief Center, which was known to give away cannabis to needy patients. "I am not a profiteer, I don't know what money laundering is," Nguyen told the San Francisco Bay Guardian. "This is what I believe in. I'm not going away."

Defense attorneys argue that the involvement of minority Asian-Americans plus the charges of ecstasy sales, money laundering, and large-scale operations, made this an opportune target for federal officials.

Significantly, the defendants had also attracted the ire of the San Francisco police department, who were intimately involved in the investigation. Eleven of the defendants had been arrested by the SFPD in the course of six other raids for growing in San Francisco and Oakland over the past two years. They had avoided prosecution on grounds of Prop. 215.

The organization had also attracted neighborhood complaints by opening what was the third dispensary along Ocean Ave. in the sleepy Ingleside district, where they also operated another facility. Complaints about over-concentration of clubs were a major factor in San Francisco's recent decision to impose a moratorium on new facilities.

California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer described the San Francisco raids as a "warning shot across the bow" and expressed hope that further raids could be avoided through better cooperation between police, dispensary owners, and public officials.

On the same day as the San Francisco raids, federal officials in Sacramento arrested medical marijuana physician Dr. Marion Fry and her husband, attorney Dale Schafer, on a sealed indictment. Fry and Schafer, who run a medical cannabis center in El Dorado County, had been under investigation since 2001, when DEA agents raided their office.

Although Dr. Fry was protected from prosecution for recommending marijuana under the federal court Conant decision, a medical marijuana garden was discovered on the couple's property, rendering them liable to federal prosecution. Dr. Fry, who is also a cancer patient, contended the garden was legal under Prop. 215. However, the Supreme Court's Raich decision ruled out any defense based on personal medical use, clearing the path for the couple's recent indictment.

In San Diego, police arrested a medical cannabis dispensary owner, Jon Sullivan, at his home. Sullivan was arrested on account of a neighbor's complaint, not out of any investigation of his two dispensaries, which operate under the name "Triple Holistic Chronic." Police seized more than a pound of marijuana and patient records that were stored at his home.

Several other dispensaries remain in operation in San Diego, which so far has no ordinance regulating their presence. Three days after the Supreme Court decision, the San Diego grand jury rebuked the county for ignoring the needs of medical marijuana patients and urged it to take "all possible action" to promote access for the seriously ill.

Another major medical cannabis operation, Compassionate Caregivers, closed several of its outlets after becoming embroiled in a federal IRS investigation. Their troubles began last May, when Los Angeles police raided their West Hollywood outlet, confiscating over \$300,000 cash and hundreds of pounds of product. Following the Supreme Court decision, Compassionate Caregivers suspended its business, including seven outlets from Ukiah to San Diego. They have since re-opened two outlets in Oakland and San Francisco.

Another large medical cannabis operator, United Medical Caregivers Clinic of Ukiah and Los Angeles, voluntarily closed doors after the Raich decision. The move followed another LAPD raid last March, which resulted in seizure of \$180,000 in cash and 200 pounds of product. No charges have been filed.

The IRS is said to be considering assessing operators for



James Mitchell of Medical Cannabis of Fresno with one of his plants. Photo by Mike Rhodes

back taxes. Although medical cannabis businesses say they pay IRS taxes, the IRS is claiming that they cannot deduct the expenses of product purchased from growers unless they file 1099 forms for them. This presents an irresolvable dilemma to the dispensaries, since they need to assure anonymity to their growers in order to protect them from federal cultivation charges.

June 30, 2005: Americans for Safe Access (ASA) served a lawsuit against the City of Fresno for restricting medical marijuana dispensing collectives from operating as enumerated in California law.

The City of Fresno is one of seven localities that have passed legislation restricting the rights of qualified patients and their primary caregivers—limiting to three the number of qualified patients and primary caregivers who can form into cooperatives.

ASA filed the lawsuit on April 25, 2005, and actually served the suit on June 30, one week after the state Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued an opinion affirming that municipalities may not restrict the protections afforded by the Compassionate Use Act and SB420 to qualified medical marijuana patients. In particular, the opinion states that a city cannot define a "primary caregiver" more narrowly than state law or limit the amount of marijuana state law permits a qualified patient to possess because such provisions would be preempted by state law. (To see the AG opinion, go to <<http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/agopinion.pdf>>.)

"The Attorney General's opinion goes a long way to curb the implementation of unlawful local ordinances," said ASA Legal Campaign Director Kris Hermes. "Municipalities considering restrictions on patient access to medical marijuana should be warned that these actions will have very real consequences." Lockyer's official opinion on this matter is one of several actions he has taken



Angel in front of a wheelchair. Photo by Martin Cohen

Progressive Talk Radio for Fresno

By Mike Rhodes

Air America Radio, talk radio for the rest of us, started broadcasting in Fresno on July 4, 2005. KFPT 790 AM identifies itself as progressive talk radio for Fresno. A clear alternative to right-wing talk radio that has dominated the airwaves for the past decade, Air America is a national phenomenon now broadcasting on 74 affiliate stations. They expect to be in 100 market areas by the end of this year.



Al Franken and Katherine Lanpher are on the air from 9 AM - 12 Noon

Patty Hixson, vice president & general manager of Infinity Radio Fresno, said, "Fresno and the Valley have been crying out for a new talk radio station like this and we heard them loud and clear. We believe there is a large and enthusiastic audience for progressive perspectives, and AM 790 will serve that audience. AM 790's programming will include Air America shows such as *The Al Franken Show*, *The Randi Rhodes Show*, Mike Malloy, along with syndicated hosts Ed Schultz and Stephanie Miller. This is an excellent line-up and one that Fresno and the Valley needs. We are excited to bring a progressive talk radio format like AM 790 KFPT Progressive Talk to the Fresno radio community. Our goal at Infinity Broadcasting is to develop products that reflect the voice of the community and the people we serve. AM 790 Fresno's Progressive Talk will represent that audience."

The following is the AM 790 KFPT Fresno's Progressive Talk weekday lineup:

3 AM – 6 AM	Morning Sediton with Mark Riley and Marc Maron
6 AM – 9 AM	The Stephanie Miller Show
9 AM – 12 PM	The Al Franken Show
12 PM – 3 PM	The Ed Schultz Show
3 PM – 7 PM	The Randi Rhodes Show
7 PM – 10 PM	The Stephanie Miller Show
10 PM – Midnight	Mike Malloy

Here is how Air America Radio describes some of their programs:

Morning Sediton

It's your daily wake-up call, with a healthy shot of laughter and a thorough look at the day's news; not just what the mainstream media are focusing on, but the stories they DON'T tell you about. It's all brought to you by comedian and reluctant messiah Marc Maron (creator of the book and one-man show *Jerusalem Syndrome*) and New York radio veteran Mark Riley, abetted by newsreaders Rachel Maddow and Wayne Gilman. Together, they bring you the day's big stories, thoughtful explorations of the issues underlying those stories, and far more fun than any self-respecting liberal is supposed to have.

Morning Sediton's regular segments—from Maron and a writing crew that includes veterans of *The Daily Show*—include "The Liberal Agenda," Barbra Streisand's daily marching orders for all good liberals, and "Planet Bush," reports from the alternate reality in which our nation's leader operates.

Morning Sediton also breaks news. Past highlights include unearthing and airing the first national reading of "The Pet Goat," the story that kept President

Bush entranced while his country counted on him to lead; the first interview with voting commission chairman "Buster" Soaries after rumors floated that the elections might be delayed in the event of a terror attack, and our breach of security during the RNC convention, demonstrating just how shoddy President Bush's security measures are, even when it's his own party on the line.

Past guests include: Former President Bill Clinton, Pat Buchanan, Tim Robbins, Michael Stipe, Ambassador Joe Wilson, Gov. Howard Dean, Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bob Graham, Will Ferrell, Robert Reich, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and many others.

Join us for *Morning Sediton*, while it's still legal.

The Al Franken Show

After debunking right-wing propaganda in his best-selling books *Lies*, and *The Lying Liars Who Tell Them* and *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot*, Al Franken is taking the fight to America's airwaves—and he's doing it drug-free. With his co-host, veteran radio personality Katherine Lanpher, Franken delivers three hours a day of fearlessly irreverent commentary, comedy, and interviews. Franken and Lanpher have a mean streak a mile wide. *The Al Franken Show* energizes fans, infuriates liars, and delivers the truth—in what Al Franken likes to call the Zero Spin Zone.

The Randi Rhodes Show

The smoky-voiced Brooklyn native with the lightning fast wit cracks the mic and legions listen.

One of the country's first female entertainment and



The Randi Rhodes Show airs from 3 - 7 PM

political talk show hosts, Randi has a passion for people.

Her radiogenic odyssey started in Seminole, Texas, where she was a waitress in a Mexican restaurant to support her radio habit. She made it to New York, Dallas, and Milwaukee before settling in South Florida (WIOD-Miami) and West Palm Beach (WJNO).

Randi was also voted "Most Outstanding Woman" in the Air Force in 1979 and won the American Women in Radio and Television award for "Best Entertainment Programming." During her acceptance speech she thanks her gynecologist as well as her plastic surgeon before adding, "I want a stinkin' syndication deal. Thank you."

The Ed Schultz Show

Here's what the *Nation* had to say about Ed Schultz in its January 31, 2005 issue:

What is it that works about Schultz? For one thing, he comes from radio. "I'm here to do a good radio show first," he says. "If you go into this with political aspirations, or thinking you're going to change your country, you're going to fall on your face." The former quarterback knows a thing or two about hurting his face, and his ego—and also about recovering. After the former NCAA Division II passing champion got turned



down by the pros, he went into sports announcing in Fargo, North Dakota. Eventually, he got his own local talk show and, at the prodding of the woman he eventually married, started discussing issues like homelessness and the Upper Midwest's lingering farm crisis. Schultz is not a cookie-cutter liberal: He hunts, eats red meat and is the first to point up when he believes Democrats are boneheads. "I think I have the old traditional Democratic values," says Schultz, 50. "I think I represent the people who take their shower after work. I'm as much a populist as I am a progressive."

He's also quick-witted, funny and just over-the-top enough to draw an audience. One of Schultz's most enthusiastic Fargo listeners was North Dakota Democratic Senator Byron Dorgan, an old-school progressive populist who had grown increasingly alarmed at the dominance of the radio airwaves by conservative talkers. With encouragement from Dorgan and a few others, Schultz started exploring the prospect of going national. He knew that more-prominent figures, from Mario Cuomo to Jim Hightower, had tried to be the liberal Limbaugh. And he knew radio programmers had come to dismiss the idea that there might be an audience for something other than round-the-clock right-wingers. But, says Schultz, "I just didn't buy it. I was on radio in Fargo doing liberal talk-radio and getting high ratings."

After laying the groundwork, Schultz made his move last January. Since then his show has changed many minds. Howard Dean hails him as "a tremendous voice for Democrats." John Kerry made three appearances (Schultz complains, "Kerry and his people really did not understand radio the way Bush and his people did"). Potential 2008 presidential contenders, from Hillary Clinton to Russ Feingold, have begun appearing. Schultz says they're smart to come on—not just because his show is hot but because radio is the medium of the future for progressives. "You're not going to win elections anymore on an editorial page; you're going to win elections with a constant repetition of themes that finally get to people. And that happens on radio," he says. "Progressives better get on radio, because radio is where the message is delivered—and we've proven over the past year that it doesn't have to be some Limbaugh-clone, right-wing message."

The Mike Malloy Show

Here's what Salon.com had to say about it:

"For nearly 20 years, Mike Malloy has been making talk radio like this: caustic, abrasive, inventive, confrontational and resolutely left of center. It has won him admirers and awards, and it has cost him jobs. At a time when the very genre of talk radio is widely seen as synonymous with strident conservatism, his career both ratifies and belies that premise."



Morning Sediton co-hosts Mark Riley and Marc Maron