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ARTICLE

### Three Answers: Amy Goodman

by Dick Donahue, PW Daily -- 12/11/2006


 Article

Three Answers today are from Amy Goodman, author—with her brother David—of last fall's *Static* and host of the radio news program *Democracy Now*, who today is receiving the 2006 Puffin/Nation Award for Creative Citizenship

**PW:** The subtitle of your book *Static* is "Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back." Who constitutes these three segments of the population?

**AG:** The liars: those in power that led us into war, whatever their party, saying that there was evidence when there wasn't, providing a pretext for war that was false. The media are the media that continually repeated the lies, and those journalists who said "Well, how are we to know? The government told us this." Well, they're supposed to be more than government spokespeople and there were many, both inside and outside the establishment, who were saying the evidence didn't add up, but they got iced out of the front pages of the newspapers and the top stories in the newscasts. And then there are the people who fight back, in every walk of life, who are working in their communities to make the world a better place. They are the real experts, not only in their own lives, but in what should happen in the world, and they need to be heard.

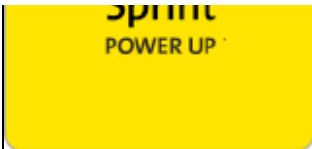
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**PW:** PW's review of *Static* said that you "synthesized radio interviews with secondary sources on charged issues that the corporate media too often overlook." Does that mean that there wasn't much new writing or new content in the book?

**AG:** Not at all. There's a lot of original research in it. We might have spoken to someone on



television, for example, and then followed it through beyond that. The whole idea of the book is that in this high-tech digital age with high-definition TV and digital radio all we get is more and more static—a veil of lies and distortion and misrepresentation. We get half truths that obscure reality, when the media should be giving us the dictionary definition of static—opposition and criticism and unwanted interference. We need a media that covers power, not covers for power; media that is the fourth estate, not for the state. And we need a media that covers the movements that create static and make history. So what we do in *Static* is present those movements; quote people who are deeply involved in those movements; show the power of the movement, not just of the individuals; and go further in this period about what those in power have done.

**PW:** Do you see the results of the recent election as being a vindication of what you've been saying in your books and on the radio?

**AG:** We're not a party to the parties: this is not partisan, Democrat or Republican. We have to remember that in the lead up to the invasion the Democrats joined with the Republicans in authorizing the invasion. Now the Democrats have won, but ultimately what matters is what people demand. It's not going to come from these people in Congress; it's going to come from the pressure from below. And I think people are beginning to find their voices, no question about it. And they're also questioning media. President Bush not finding weapons of mass destruction has led people to be not only skeptical of the pretext for war, but of the media that brought it to them. The media acted as an unquestioning conveyor belt for the lies of the administration. Why?

*This article originally appeared in the December 11, 2006 issue of PW Daily. For more information about PW Daily, including a sample and subscription information, [click here](#) >>*

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