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Goodman bashes U.S. media in speech

BY AUTUMN PHELPS
FLORIDA TODAY

About an hour before Amy Goodman was scheduled to go on stage at the Florida Tech Gleason Center, Space Coast Progressive Alliance member Cammie Donaldson excitedly announced that sound would be piped through to the lobby of the building so anyone without a ticket could listen.

That's how well received Goodman was Saturday night at the sold-out Space Coast Progressive Alliance's third annual progressive celebration. Goodman, host of the syndicated radio show, "Democracy Now!" was there as part of a tour for her latest book, "Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back."

"I think I'll talk about the big issues of today," Goodman said backstage. "War, torture, and how it is that these issues have come to represent the United States and the world."

Goodman will tell you she is 100 percent against the war in Iraq, and in her eyes, the mainstream media has not done an adequate job covering the war. She calls irresponsible reporting "beating the drums of war."

"Even in this high-tech age, all we get from the media is static," Goodman said.

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Book signing. Amy Goodman, host and executive producer of "Democracy Now" and author of "Static," speaks with Tahirah Walston, 8, and Lois Jones, Walston's grandmother, both of Palm Bay, during the Friends of Amy VIP book signing before Goodman's speech Saturday at Florida Tech. Christina Stuart, FLORIDA TODAY

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"We need a media that covers power, not for the power."

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Shelly Paccione, president of the Space Coast Progressive Alliance, says she agrees with Goodman's views.

"Her new book is really great," Paccione says. "It really shows what's going on in national news."

The Space Coast Progressive Alliance is a group of citizens with neither Republican nor Democratic political affiliations who aim for "domestic and international policies beneficial to the well-being and self-determination of Americans," according to their Web site.

Barbara Keith of Satellite Beach joined the group six months ago, and went to see Goodman Saturday.

"I have no idea what I am," Keith said, referring to her political affiliation. "I just thought it would be an education; something to broaden my horizons. I respect free-minded, independent thinkers."

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