Soto

19

Statement to the Cambridge City Council
Monday, May 5, 2014

- Thank you; PF Soto, 243 Broadway.

- Nine years ago, I founded UPandOUT, a small volunteer group that raises awareness about issues that are being distorted in mainstream media. Our key activity is a monthly documentary film screening that I host in the community room of my building. The screenings are free; I pay with my limited funds for all expenses.

- This month's film, *Shadows of Liberty*, addresses this subject of U.S. media. Americans aren't fully informed about pressing issues that greatly affect them, nor do most understand the role their government plays in world events.

- Primarily we outreach by placing flyers on parked cars in my area. We don't always do the same streets every month; we randomly flyer every third car or so. It's unlikely anyone gets a flyer every month; I'd guess more like a few times a year.

- Leafleting cars is the only way to let the neighborhood know of these screenings and the issues they cover. I announce on the internet, but for that someone has to 1) have internet access and 2) know where the information is. Other methods of outreach—mailings or person-to-person handouts —would be prohibitively expensive, labor intensive, time consuming ... not within my means.

- People thank me and tell me how much they appreciate getting a flyer as a reminder to come, or because they're learning about the screenings for the first time. Even if they can't come to a film, many tell me how much it means to them that I'm doing this. Amongst the more aware, I find MUCH disillusionment and even anger. What I do, I think, helps to assuage that anger. People are relieved to find they're not alone.

- My contact information is on all flyers. The very few times in 7 years that someone's complained, I've apologized and asked for a description of their car and whereabouts they park it so we can try to avoid that car in the future. All of us are respectful and would never knowingly force information on someone who doesn't want it.

- One person who HAS complained - here ??- bragged to me that it's due to him that I've been targeted for this activity. I believe he attended one screening and decided he didn't like my politics. I bother to mention this because it's clear to me that this is almost surely a political issue.

- On December 12, 2011, I was leafleting when I was stopped by a Cambridge police officer who told me I couldn't leaflet cars, that I was littering. This was the first time i was ever told I couldn't flyer cars. Subsequently, I very reluctantly filed a lawsuit against the City. I'd like to leave my full statement with you for the record; it includes what led up to all this that I don't have time for in 3-minutes.

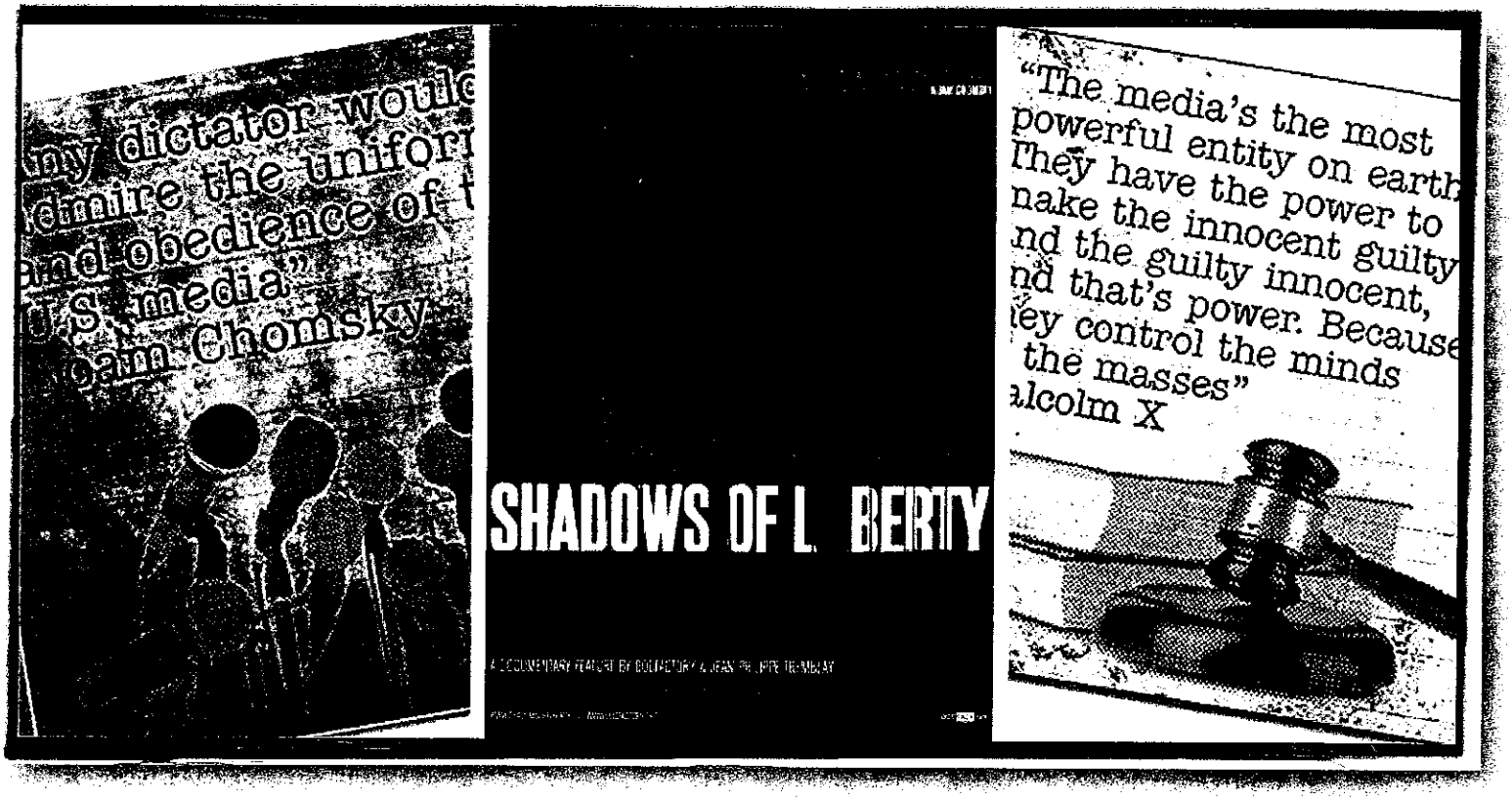
- I'm not a litigious person. I've never filed a lawsuit before, and doubt I ever would - other than for a cause like this. I'm doing this now because of a concern MUCH greater than me. We've lost our democracy and are rapidly losing our rights in this country. I hoped

to avoid a lawsuit. It was only when the City insisted they would enforce the ordinance against me—after many unsuccessful attempts by my attorneys to dissuade them—that I felt I had no choice but to file.

ALL I want—nothing else—is the freedom to leaflet cars in Cambridge without fear of being fined or reprimanded; and the same for anyone else who wants to be a responsible citizen.

I urge the City to amend the ordinance or declare that it won't enforce the ordinance against political leafleting like ours.

Thank you



FREE **Snacks & soft drinks allowed in** **Door prizes**

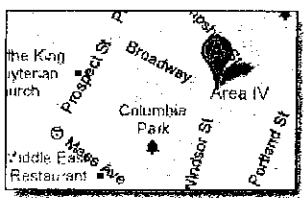
UPandOUT 3rd Thursdays, free film series

Showing

Thursday, May 15

6:40pm doors open
7pm film starts promptly

243 Broadway, Cambridge
corner of Broadway & Windsor, entrance on Windsor



Next month, June 19: *Untold History of the US* - chapters 5 & 6
[Eisenhower: a conflicted legacy & JFK: to the brink by Oliver Stone]

Shadows of Liberty

[93 min]

Synopsis

90% of the media in the USA are controlled by 5 big for-profit-conglomerats, creating a media monopoly that manipulates our political, economical, and social world.

Shadows of Liberty reveals the extraordinary truth behind the news media: censorship, cover-ups and corporate control. Take an intrepid journey through the darker corridors of the US media landscape, where for decades, overwhelming corporate dominance has distorted news journalism and compromised its values. Controversial news reports are suppressed, people are censored for speaking out, and lives are shattered as the arena for public expression is turned into a private profit zone.

Shadows of Liberty poses a crucial question: why have we let a handful of powerful corporations write the news and subvert democracy?

"When men yield up the exclusive privilege of thinking, the last shadow of liberty quits the horizon. ~Thomas Paine

"The media's the most pawerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innacent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and thot's power. Because they control the minds of the mosses."
~Malcolm X

"Propaganda is ta a democracy what violence is to a dictatorship." ~William Blum

"Any dictator would admire the unifarmity and obedience of the US media."
~Noam Chomsky

'It's hard to imogine a more potent sign of a weak, declining empire than having one's national 'credibility' depend upon periodically bambing other cauntries."
~Glen Greenwald

Film screenings: 243 Broadway, Cambridge UPandOUT.org 617-864-3322