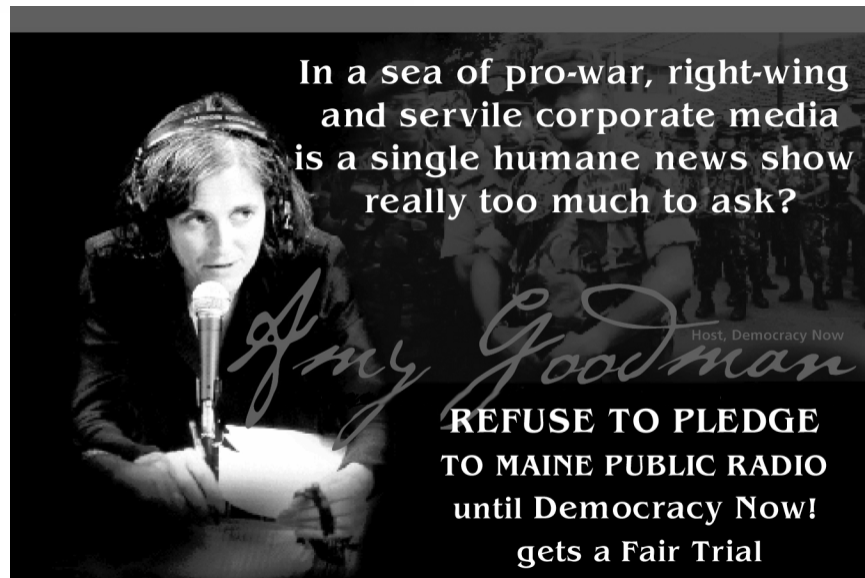




# MPR Says NYET! to *Democracy Now!*

No more Mr. Nice Guy ...

Despite thousands of requests and massive support from churches, schools, unions, environmentalists, farmers, health workers, small business leaders, minority communities and three political parties, MPR Program Director Charles Beck said "No!" - equating Amy Goodman with Rush Limbaugh (sic).



**HISTORY :** A few months ago a handful of Mainers began a "**Bring *Democracy Now!* to Maine**" campaign to get at least one program on the air that dared to question our ruling powers and even considered their Wars on Terror-Iraq-Dissent-Drugs-the Environment from their victims' point of view. In Phases I and II of the effort, we tried the polite approach - gathering eminent endorsements and demonstrating unprecedented popular demand. That didn't work. Nor did a copy of the Supreme Court ruling that the First Amendment "rests on the assumption that the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public" Nor did statements from other NPR affiliates swearing that *Democracy Now!* generated larger audiences, more successful fund drives and more devoted followings than either Morning Edition or All Things Considered. Nor did a free gift of DN! for a year or thousands offered in underwriting aid. So MPR is essentially saying, "We don't care about your support, we don't need more diversity, and we don't give a damn about the thousands who promise to become new members if *Democracy Now!* is tried on the air. We shall decide what the public will hear and the public will kindly stay out of it."

**We think MPR should rethink this, and to encourage that meditation, let's ask family and friends to:**

Call the MPR Pledge Line (1-800-866-1475) this week (April 5th-12th) and say:

- A) "I'm not yet an MPR member but would gladly become one if you'd just give *Democracy Now!* a 3-month trial." OR**
- B) "I am an MPR member, but I'm withholding my pledge until you finally give *Democracy Now!* a fair trial."**

*The public sphere must be a democratic sphere. Public radio should serve (and respond to) our felt needs for a true democracy. Ask MPR to air Amy for just three months and then **Let the People Decide!***

For more info on the "**Bring *Democracy Now!* to Maine**" campaign, see [www.nancho.net/dn2maine/](http://www.nancho.net/dn2maine/) or call 207-833-5730