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Essay
STS300, “The environmental context”
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Science, Technology & Society
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Major Essay Criteria:

Dialogue between two people addressing an environmental issue.

Characters:

Ani DiFranco- (Folk singer and political activist from Buffalo, USA) Democrat.

George W. Bush- (president of the USA) Capitalist, or as seen by DiFranco-Crony capitalist.

Major Topics:

Global warming, suppression of environmental science and technological choice

Total Dialogue Word count: 2198

Enter a exhausted George Bush: after a day of riding around in his pickup truck and chasing armadillos with his two dogs¹ on his ranch in Texas. Bush walks out onto the porch and eases back in his ol' rocking chair. The radio is playing in the background on a non-commercial radio station.

Bush: What's this crap Jenna's² listening to these days?

Despite his distaste to the radio station, the day had taken its toll as his eyes grow heavy and he drifts off to sleep. On the radio a song by Ani DiFranco is playing, she sings:

DiFranco: Coming of age during the plague of Reagan and Bush watching capitalism gun down democracy it had this funny effect on me, I guess... and the mighty multinationals have monopolised the oxygen, so it's as easy as breathing for us all to participate.³

[Bush moves in his chair as DiFranco's words penetrate his subconscious]

Bush: Mmmmm, conservation good. Mmmmm, my energy plan good.⁴

DiFranco: What crap are you going on about?... Hello...Hello.

[DiFranco leans over and knocks on Bush's head]

DiFranco: Knock, knock...Hello, anybody home...Earth to Gorge.

[Bush opens his eyes and sees a small, blue haired DiFranco standing in front of him. He jumps from his chair]

Bush: Who? What? Where? Who are you and what are you doing here?

DiFranco: Oh, you don't know me. Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Ani Fucking-DiFranco⁵ *[said with attitude]*. And lets just get one thing straight, your so called 'comprehensive energy plan' it's a joke.

¹ Moore, M. (2004) *Farenheight 9/11*, (motion picture), Westside Productions LLC. In this film there is footage of Bush on his ranch in Texas talking about chasing "armadilla's" in his pickup truck with his dogs.

² Jenna is one of Bush's daughters.

³ Quoted from the song 'Your Next Bold Move' written by Ani DiFranco. DiFranco, A. (2001) *Revelling and Reckoning: Your Next Bold Move* (compact disc), Righteous Babe Records, inc., Buffalo, Disk 2, Track 1.

⁴ Bush's 'comprehensive energy plan' drafted in 2001: Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁵ DiFranco has use this term to refer to herself on numerous occasions and has even been printed it on t-shirts. website: www.righteousbaberecords.com

Bush: I don't know what you're talking about, the energy plan outlines over 100 solutions or proposals to solutions for the problems we face and its based on...Ummm, its based on...[wracking his brain for the word]...on conservation.⁶

DiFranco: Conservation my arse, that's just what you want the American people to believe. All that media crap, smiling nicely for the cameras while you visit renewable power plants and green energy research centres, conveying the image that you actually give a damn.⁷ ⁸ Well you don't fool me.⁹ It's just another attempt by you and your administration to stifle democracy¹⁰ in this country by keeping people in the dark while you pass your phony policies and plans.

Bush: Now look here, I don't know where you're getting this rubbish from but the truth to the matter is...it is...the truth to the matter is...we are committed to conservation and...umm...paving the way forward with the American people...to a future...a future that is sustainable.¹¹ However, we must also be realistic about the matter, in an attempt to combat the severe energy shortages we are facing.¹² The simple fact is that the only

⁶ On May 17, 2001 Bush unveiled his energy plan and he stated that '...I outlined over 100 solutions or proposals as a solution to the problems we face...I've laid out an initiative that said first and foremost we better be conservationists in the country.' Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, pg 93.

⁷ Bush in May 2001 with a convoy of media toured an innovative power plant in Minnesota and a research centre for new more efficient technology to produce energy in Iowa, where he praised the merits of conservation. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁸ This from a president who refuses to sign the Kyoto Protocol, refuses to increase fuel efficiency on vehicles, cut programs that provide renewable technologies to developing countries and assisted utilities oppose a Senate energy bill that required power companies to produce 10 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York.

⁹ In the song by DiFranco 'Self-Evident' she sings: '...the media is not fooling me!' DiFranco, A. (2002) *So much shouting so much laughter: Self-Evident* (compact disc), Righteous Babe Records, inc., Buffalo, Disk 2, Track 9.

¹⁰ One of the Key principals to maintaining an effective democracy is having well informed and educated citizens who can think for themselves (Mosley, I. (2003) *Democracy, Fascism and the New World Order*, Imprint Academic, Exeter). Bush has hinder this process through eliminating funds that support environmental education in public schools and funds for EPA grants for graduate student research in environmental science. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York.

¹¹ Bush's disjointed speeches are well documented. For example, in the calendar entitled 'George W. Bushisms' by J. Weisberg (2004) there is an incoherent or blatantly arrogant quote by Bush for each day of the year. Weisberg, L. (2004) *George W. Bushisms*, (2005 Calendar), Andrews McMeel Publishing, Kansas City

¹² This severe energy shortage Bush speaks of was calculated using estimates of increasing energy consumption from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. However, the projected energy production data came from the Sandia National Laboratories a quasi-government entity. By doing this it appeared that there would be an extremely large gap between projected energy production and consumption by the year

way to provide energy at a price affordable to the average family budget is to build more power plants and explore reviving nuclear energy sources.¹³ This energy plan is focused on conservation while giving us the ability to meet our energy needs now and in years to come.¹⁴

DiFranco: What *you mean is* we need an energy bill that encourages consumption¹⁵ one that supports your buddies in the oil, coal and automotive industries. You don't care about the average family, all you and your millionaire Congress buddies care about is the people who 'matter' like the corporate executives and elite who have full-time lobbyists and make campaign donations of thousands of dollars.¹⁶ You've lost touch with the people and no longer truly represent what they believe in.¹⁷ [*pauses briefly and shakes her head*] Representative democracy,¹⁸ what a joke the government has turned this country into a capitalist system.¹⁹

2020, which was not accurate. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

¹³ Bush pushed for the building of new power plants and increase in nuclear energy as a result of the 'severe energy shortages' the country was facing. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

¹⁴ Bush maintained that he had 'developed a sound national plan to help meet our energy needs this year and every year.' Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, pg 94.

¹⁵ Bush was quoted on September 23, 2002, in New Jersey as saying: 'We need an energy bill that encourages consumption.' Weisberg, L. (2005) *George W. Bushisms*, (Calendar), Andrews McMeel Publishing, Kansas City.

¹⁶ Only 0.7 percent of Americans are millionaires however, it is reported that nearly half the people newly elected to Congress in 2002 were millionaires. While only 0.12 percent of Americans are corporate executives and elite who have full-time lobbyists that make campaign donations of thousands of dollars. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York.

¹⁷ Six out of ten Americans say the U.S. government is doing too little to protect the environment from corporate plunder. While two-thirds say that environmental protection should be the priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York, pg 121.

¹⁸ Representative democracy is what most modern democracies are as it is almost impossible for all the people of a country or even city to meet as a group to make decisions. For this reason representative democracy is adopted and the people elect a certain number of their 'fellow citizens' to represent them in making decisions about laws and other matters. Abraham Lincoln described democracy as '...government of the people, by the people, and for the people...' Harris, N. (2001) *Democracy*, Hodder Wayland, London, p. 4. However, the current structure of government (outlined in footnote 16) and the beliefs of the American people (outlined in footnote 17), highlight the problem with the American democratic system as it stands. People are being excluded from government due to the large economic barriers and thus 'the people' are not truly represented.

¹⁹ DiFranco quoted on November 21, 1999, at a concert in Denmark: '... In the land of my people [America] we've come to an excruciatingly stupid point in our cultural history... uhh... All the stereotypes... you know...everything you think about America is true... it's actually true. And it's getting, it's getting really f**ked up... you know, it's just evidence of the fact that my country is not so much a democracy as it is a capitalist system... And money um, which is so unfortunate... cause the ideas of democracy... I think there's something there... But really our country and our government seem to be controlled by the forces of big business...' *Ani-Isms* (2002) [Online], http://www.geocities.com/tacoma_the_tiger/ahumor.html [Accessed 13th April 2005].

Bush: Now look here if there is one thing I hate it's you damn environmentalists and your anti-capitalist crap. Capitalism made America what it is today and I for one am damn proud to be an American citizen.²⁰ And yes, the government must get involved, but this is merely to sustain a properly functioning market and protecting public interests.²¹

DiFranco: Oh...Man...Look my real issue isn't with [said with eyes bulging, at a superhuman fast rate] the-theoretical-definition-of-capitalism-that-you-supposably-uphold-for-the-smooth-running-of-this-fine-nation.²² [returning to a more human rate of speech] No, I have a problem with you passing off your energy plan as a ready to roll Apollo-like project for conservation.²³ When in actual fact it's a gross display of your 'crony capitalism'²⁴...drafted by you and your buddies in the oil, coal and auto industry²⁵. And to make things worse your trying to wrap it in Green and stuff it down

²⁰ Adam Smith (quoted in DiLorenzo, 2004) a Scottish economist wrote: *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), in which he described capitalism as a system that allows individuals to act as 'free agents' who will pursue their own self interests. As a result Smith believed 'free agents' would bring about the greatest good for society '...as if guided by an invisible hand.' This 'free exchange' allows people to avoid the economic desperation of autarky (where people had to grow their own food, make their own clothing and build their own houses etc). Therefore, capitalism allowed and encouraged people to continue with education and improve their skills so that they could provide better and better goods and services in return for money. Easing poverty, increasing living standards and the expansion of economic opportunities have all been attributed to capitalism. DiLorenzo, T. (2004) *How Capitalism Saved America*, Crown Forum, New York, p. 2 & 11.

²¹ No purely capitalist economy has ever existed. However, capitalism is often described as a system that mostly relies on private decisions with the support of certain government controls. For example, governments tax households and businesses in order to purchase goods and services and to assist the needy. Key areas of government involvement in capitalist systems are to ensure competition is maintained, protect the interests of the public, stabilise the economy and to equalise the distribution of wealth. (DiLorenzo, T. (2004) *How Capitalism Saved America*, Crown Forum, New York, p. 2 & 11.)

²² DiFranco often speaks in this manner when she is being sarcastic or critical of what someone is saying.

²³ Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

²⁴ Crony capitalism is a derogatory term used to describe a type of capitalist economy that has an extremely close relationship between private business and government. This relationship often functions in a secretive or less obvious manner with government giving legislative favours to certain businesses or types of businesses, by easing permits, giving government grants or creating specially tax benefits, etc. These relationships are influenced by opportune friendships and family ties, which lead to the corruption of public-serving economic and political ideals. Wikipedia (2005) Crony Capitalism [Online], <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism> [Accessed 3 March 2005]. It must be noted that Bush before become president he worked for companies such as Arbusto Energy, Spectrum 7, Harken Energy and Texas Rangers, Inc. With his father George H. W. Bush being a influential member of the Carlyle Group, a private investment group with significant interests in oil and gas. Callinicos, A. (2003) *The New Mandarins of American Power: The Bush Administration's Plans for the World*, Polity Press, Cambridge.

²⁵ CBS Market Watch's executive editor (quoted in Krugman, 2002) warned that 'a small group of business leaders exert enormous clout over Bush and his team in getting the rules changed to their benefit.'

the throats of the American people while at the same time deceiving them with your false energy crisis fear-mongering.²⁶

Bush: I don't know where you're getting all this non-sense from but the simple fact remains that the United States energy requirements will increase and as a result we need more power production methods to keep up with demand.

DiFranco: Well why not focus time and money on more environmentally friendly Green energy sources? You have totally overlooked the benefits of their use.²⁷ Why not invest money into the design of technologies which could improve current practices, such as, using fossil fuels more wisely to extend their life span?²⁸ Or better still, invest in research for alternative processes and sources of energy²⁹...Such as, increasing research in to renewable energy technologies, like solar and wind.³⁰

Bush: The energy plan already has a strong focus on this...with over \$10 Billion allocated to the research and development of renewable energy over the next 10 years.³¹

DiFranco: Regardless, your main focus is still on 'dirty' technologies that require large and restricted distributions, that must be managed by a few elite experts.³² Why not

Krugman, P. (2002) *New York Times*, January 15, 2002, p. 68. The article also states that '...Enron helped Dick Cheney devise [Bush's] energy plan that certainly looks as if it was written by and for the companies that advised his task force.'

²⁶ *Forbes* magazine wrote 'there is no energy crisis and there is little reason to expect there will be.' Quoted in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 95.

²⁷ A Department of Energy study in 2000 entitled: 'Scenarios for a Clean Energy Future' was totally overlooked when Bush's energy plan was drafted. The study reported that a correctly implemented policy promoting energy efficiency and renewable power sources could cut the projected increase in energy consumption per capita by almost 20 percent in the next two decades. Therefore, keeping energy consumption around the 2000 level and reduce the need for new non-renewable power plants. Cited in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 96.

²⁸ The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) reports that through learning to use energy more efficiently greenhouse pollution could be markedly reduced. ACF brochure Carlton VIC web: www.acfonline.org.au.

²⁹ DiFranco is referring to the idea of 'appropriate technologies,' which look at finding alternative processes or sources of energy. For example, designing technologies such as solar and wind power that use renewable resources. Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham.

³⁰ The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) reports that by adopting alternative, 'clean energy sources' such as solar power, green house production can be drastically reduced. ACF brochure Carlton VIC web: www.acfonline.org.au.

³¹ The *New York Times* reported that this \$10 Billion commitment was '...below what the Clinton administration had projected spending for roughly the same period, and well below what energy experts say would be required to make some cutting-edge energy technologies commonplace.' Quoted in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 98.

³² Langdon Winner, argues that technologies possesses political properties, with some technologies favouring certain groups of people over others and technologies requiring various forms of political

focus on solar power. It would be able to have a widespread, unrestricted distribution, thus, enabling local communities to control their own energy production.³³ This in turn, would help bridge the gap between the supply and demand of electricity that you're so keen to get us all worked up about.

Bush: These suggestions are all well and good but alternate energy technology takes time to develop and implement.

DiFranco: But the technologies already exist, yet aren't being utilised.³⁴ We are one of the highest polluters in the world, not through a lack of technology, but rather due to the large and powerful oil, coal and automotive industries and their influence on government³⁵...Just face it, the report was nothing more than a crony capitalists attempt to wrap policies in a whole lot of wishy-washy conservation ideas with no hard goals or procedures set in place.³⁶ Now let me think...[counting on her fingers] refusing to sign the Kyoto Protocol, refusing to increase fuel efficiency on vehicles, relaxing energy-efficiency standards for new air conditioners³⁷...shall I go on? Now this hardly looks like a caring sharing environmentally aware government now does it George?

Bush: Now...listen...the...the...energy plan was created to alleviate these such issues...had you read the report, for example, you would know that the report discusses and makes suggestions...about further proposals...to potentially increase the efficiency of automobiles.³⁸

DiFranco: Man...discusses, suggesting, proposing or potentially doing something about it is not good enough, action needs to be taken now. Stop preaching all this conservation crap, put your money where your mouth is.³⁹ Promote energy efficiency by increase fuel

relationships to function. Cited in Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham.

³³ Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham

³⁴ Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham.

³⁵ McCully cited in Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham.

³⁶ For example, the report proposed that energy efficiency of homes and offices should be increased, to reduce power demand, but the report did not outline any real goals to achieve this. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 98.

³⁷ Two months before Bush released his energy plan in May 2001 the administration relaxed energy-efficiency standards for new air conditioners. It was estimated that this move would force the construction of more than 40 power plants by 2020. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York.

³⁸ The report discussed how raising fuel efficiency standards for automobiles in the 1980's had been a positive step but then avoided making a decision on increasing the standards that are currently at a 20-year low. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

³⁹ Two weeks before Bush released his energy plan in May, 2001 the administration released a budget that '...slashed funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy and cut spending on research and

efficiency standards⁴⁰ and invest in renewable energies such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric technologies...The Federal government is getting too bold, you think you can control everything and as a result the basic democratic constitution set up to prevent power hungry administrations are being annihilated⁴¹...And don't even get me started on how you stole the oval office in the first place⁴²...and kicked to the curb any hope of true democracy.^{43 44}

Bush: But...Umm...Well...firstly the energy plan...Umm...we are promoting green energy sources...it is a 'roadmap for conservation' [*Not quite sure what to say, but dodging any comment on the U.S. presidential election*]

DiFranco: The truth to the matter is that your supposed 'roadmap' energy plan is crony capitalism⁴⁵ at it's worst...A bold attempt to increase coal mining and oil drilling, while at the same time reducing pollution regulations for power plants and refineries⁴⁶...Stop

development for solar, wind, and hydroelectric power by about 50 percent. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York

⁴⁰ Bush's energy plan stated without recommendation that '...an increase in the average fuel economy of the on-road vehicle fleet by three miles per gallon would save one million barrels of oil a day.' Quoted in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 101.

⁴¹ Democracies are set up to in a manner that is suppose to prevent any one person or branch becoming too powerful. In the U.S. political power is divided between state and federal governments, with certain powers given to each level of government (Harris, N. (2001) *Democracy*, Hodder Wayland, London). However, the Bush administration has been known to put pressure on state governments. For example when they joined forces with Daimler-Chrysler and GM to oppose California's rule on zero emissions from vehicles (Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York).

⁴² 'Take away our play-stations and we are a third world nation, under the thumb of some blue blood royal son. Who stole the oval office and that phoney election. I mean, it don't take the weather man to look around and see the weather Jeb said he'd deliver Florida folks and boy did he ever. And we hold these truths to be self evident number 1: George W. Bush is not president; number 2: America is not a true democracy and number 3: the media is not fooling...' From the song 'self-evident' of the cd 'so much shouting so much laughing' 2001. 'Jeb' is Bush's brother, governor of Florida and DiFranco is referring to the electoral fraud that occurred in the 2000 presidential election that saw Bush into power.

⁴³ If vital importance to a democratic system is the running of 'free elections' which give the people a chance to choose their leaders and therefore, express their opinions on issues. The fundamental key to these democratic elections is that they are protected against dishonesty and fraud (see footnote 35). Mosley, I. (2003) *Democracy, Fascism and the New World Order*, Imprint Academic, Exeter.

⁴⁴ 'And behold those that try to expose the reality...who really, really...try to realise song democracy... Are shot with rubber bullets and gassed off the streets, while the global-power-brokers are kept clean and discrete...' song by DiFranco 'serpentine' from the cd 'evolve' jfjdsjafksajfksjkdafjsdk.

⁴⁵ Crony Capitalism here is being referred to as a systematic merging of private and public sectors to the point where the distinction gets lost. Companies use former government officials to gain access to inside knowledge and therefore know the areas where government will invest. These companies can often have profound influence on government policies. Shorrock, T. (2002) *Crony Capitalism Goes Global, the nation* [online] [accesses 13 may 2005] www.thenatton.com/doc.mhtml?1=20020401&s=shorrock.

⁴⁶ From Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p.99: 'The true spirit of this energy plan-concocted by an administration led by two former oil industry executives-was found not in its nods towards conservation and renewable energy but in its calls for more coal mining, additional oil drilling, and a revived nuclear industry...[t]he document also

playing the conservation card it's nothing but green camouflage for a plan that embraces the biases and needs of traditional energy producers.

Bush: That's not true...the energy plan embraces the concerns of many different sectors...A conservation plan would be foolish if the needs of the economy were not also incorporated.

DiFranco: but the fundamental flaw with your policy is that the environmentalists got no say what-so-ever, you slammed the door in their faces^{47 48}...And why?...Because the only people you care about is your good friends from the coal, gas, oil and auto companies...which I must add...all give hefty contributions to the Republican party.⁴⁹

Bush: Last time I looked we were living in a democratic nation...and fundamental rights...such as...freedom of speech and freedom of the press...are protected by the First Amendment⁵⁰...There has been no attempt to silence environmental parties...However, in order to draft a sound energy plan, the major energy companies need to taken into consideration and the impact on the America economy.

DiFranco: That's not how I see it...something has gone terribly wrong...the essence of democracy...our power to control decisions that affect us...have...have...slowly and quietly been stolen away by capitalist greed.⁵¹ Take for example, global warming. Your stalling for time...denying there's a problem, so you can protect your dirty industries...and meanwhile scientists and the American people are screaming for action.⁵²

urged easing pollution regulations for power plants, refineries, and pipelines in order to enhance production.⁷

⁴⁷ Environmentalists were excluded from the energy plans drafting process. Numerous leading environmental groups requested meetings with Cheney and the Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to discuss the energy plan however, these requests were denied. Abraham used the excuse that he was too busy to meet with them but it was later revealed that he had the time to meet with 109 executives, trade association leaders and lobbyists from the energy industry. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁴⁸ A factor of a properly functioning democratic system is that citizens are entitled to equal protection of possessions and rights, with an equal right to political participation. (Mosley, I. (2003) *Democracy, Fascism and the New World Order*, Imprint Academic, Exeter). By shutting the environmentalists out of the drafting process of the energy plan they have taken away their democratic right to participate in political matters.

⁴⁹ Of the industry groups that were able to meet with Abraham 18 of them contributed a total of \$16.6 million ion to the Republican party over the pervious two years. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁵⁰ Harris, N. (2001) *Democracy*, Hodder Wayland, London.

⁵¹ DiFranco is referring to a modern day interpretation of capitalism (often referred to as Crony Capitalism), in which the lines between politics and business are blurred. This form of capitalism does not reflect the true, pure definition of capitalism. Shorrock, T. (2002) *Crony Capitalism Goes Global* in on line sourcedsdjfkdsajkfgsdjakhgjkadhjklksa.

⁵² In a report released in June 2001 by the National Academy of science, it was reported that human caused climate change is a real problem that needed to be addressed. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

Bush: The administration is committed to a leadership role on the issue of climate change, despite what you may think.⁵³ We are...committed to a...detailed research program...so that the main causes and solutions can be found.⁵⁴

DiFranco: Oh, come on! You don't really think I am going to believe that?⁵⁵ You have a total disregard for the worldwide problems that may result. For example major flooding, mass extinctions, disease outbreaks and wide spread famine, just to name a few.⁵⁶

Bush: We are taking the issue seriously however, the jury is still out...scientists have shown again and again that these fluctuations may simply be a natural occurrence.⁵⁷

DiFranco: You can't keep flogging that dead horse...it's just an excuse to warrant your lack of action on global warming and get around signing the Kyoto Protocol⁵⁸ **to reduce pollution standards.** Something needs to be done...America produces around 25% of the anthropogenic greenhouse gasses.⁵⁹

Bush: A strict regime for emission reduction can not be implement based on the questionable science that exists.

DiFranco: The science is far from 'iffy'⁶⁰

⁵³ Bush was quoted on June 11, 2001 'My administration is committed to a leadership role on the issue of climate change.' Quoted in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p.109.

⁵⁴ Bush called for more studies into global warming due to international pressures as a result of not signing the Kyoto Protocol. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁵⁵ In the first few months in office Bush proposed policy retreats and he was criticised by U.S. allies around the world for his do-nothing approach to global warming. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁵⁶ Fritz, B., Keefer, B. and Nyhan, B. (2004) *All the President's Spin*, Simon & Schuster, New York.

⁵⁷ Blaming lack of scientific knowledge is a tactic used by the republican party and a memo released to members of the party reminded them to '...make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue of debate' and to 'emphasize the importance of acting only with *all* the facts in hand' Quoted in Fritz, B., Keefer, B. and Nyhan, B. (2004) *All the President's Spin*, Simon & Schuster, New York, p.88.

⁵⁸ Some businesses, media entities and even governments would have us believe that the patterns and predictions of global warming are somewhat speculative. But this isn't true and over 99 percent of climate scientist worldwide agree on the reality of global warming. Some scientists believe it is probably the biggest threat facing human survival and the survival of our plant. CUTE CHICK.

⁵⁹ Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁶⁰ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) an international body of thousands of scientists assembled by the U.N. and World Meteorological Organisations all agree that temperatures are on the rise and could climb by 10 degrees. This increase was determined to be due at least to some degree by human-induced emissions, with very few scientists urging otherwise. Overall, it is undeniable that most experts believe a rise in temperature is occurring due to human activities and that this rise in temperature would have terrible consequences. To counter this rise in temperature most scientists believe extensive

Bush: I'm sorry but uncertainties DO exist⁶¹ and the American lifestyle will not be sacrificed without strong scientific proof.⁶² All we can do at this stage is more research.

DiFranco: [*said sarcastically*] Oh...I see...your really going to take the issue seriously and *study it some more!* You're just playing on the inability's of science to come up with an iron clad guarantee, in an attempt to discredit the scientific argument⁶³...and all the while covering your arse, hoping that the truth doesn't get out.⁶⁴

Bush: That's simply not true all I am suggesting is that policy should reflect the limits of our knowledge, and at this stage mandatory reductions remain out of the question... such as the Kyoto Protocol...which is not based on science.^{65 66}

DiFranco: [*shaking her head*] but don't you see the Kyoto Protocol is a bare minimum in an attempt to prevent the global warming catastrophe⁶⁷ and is backed by numerous scientific organisations...yet you can't even commit to that.

Bush: We take environmental protection very seriously, that is why the administration and I crafted a alternative to the Kyoto Protocol...one that was based on sound science.⁶⁸

emission cuts are required. Fritz, B., Keefer, B. and Nyhan, B. (2004) *All the President's Spin*, Simon & Schuster, New York.

⁶¹ All scientific work contains some level of uncertainty, however the administration seem to focus on this rather than the strong evidence that indicates global warming is a serious issue (see footnote 50).

⁶² Bush when talking on consumption and energy policy said: '[t]he American lifestyle is not negotiable.' Quoted in Beder, S. 1993, *The Nature of Sustainable Development*, Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, Newham, p. 217.

⁶³ This is what's known as suppression of environmental scientist. It occurs when scientists come under attack from governments, corporations or other interested parties, due to the unpopularity of their research or findings. Martin (1992) believes scientific results may be suppressed due to there being: '...powerful interests involved in environmentally destructive practices and policies' (Martin, B. (1992) Intellectual Suppression: Why Environmental Scientists are Afraid to Speak Out. *Habitat Australia*. 20(3): 11-14, p. 11). There are numerous instances where environmental scientists have been harassed, penalize or slandered due to their scientific results not supporting the position of various parties (Kuehn, R. (2004) Suppression of Environmental Science. *American Journal of Law & Medicine*. 30: 333-69).

⁶⁴ The bush administration deleted from its 2002 annual report on air pollution the section on global warming, which contained the news that carbon dioxide emissions responsible for the warming were up 17 percent. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York, p. 31.

⁶⁵ On June 11, 2001 Bush delivered a speech in which he spoke about global warming using terms such as 'unrealistic' and 'not based on science' to describe the Kyoto Protocol . Quoted in Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 112.

⁶⁶ Bush is again discrediting the strong scientific knowledge and as a result suppressing environmental science (see footnote 56)

⁶⁷ Several prominent climate scientists believe the Kyoto Protocol was not harsh enough when setting greenhouse gas emission standards. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

DiFranco: What a joke...in order to take something serious you actually need to take action. Besides your plan was a sham, merely an illusion, that actually allowed greenhouse gas production to increase.⁶⁹

Bush: Look...we are addressing the issue, however it will require a sustained effort over many generations in order to make progress.⁷⁰

[*loosing her patience*]

DiFranco: But don't you understand?...action to prevent global warming needs to be taken immediately, while we still have the chance.⁷¹ We need to reduce greenhouse pollution by 60 percent by the year 2050.⁷² Initiatives such; promoting renewable energy, making polluters pay, implementing sound emissions trading schemes and endorsing the Kyoto Protocol are the only way to achieve a real turn around.⁷³

[*going off on her own tangent*]

...God, it's like talking to a fucken brick wall...the major problem with this country is the total lack of progressive politics...the will of the people is going unrecognised.^{74 75} Even if some other fool was elected things probably wouldn't change.⁷⁶ We need to burst open

⁶⁸ Bush used the term 'science-based' to refer to his alternative to the Kyoto Protocol, in an attempt to discredit the scientific background of the Kyoto Protocol. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 112.

⁶⁹ Bush's alternative to the Kyoto Protocol pushed for a slower increases in greenhouse gasses, however this slower increase wasn't even made mandatory. Bush said he intended to achieve his goal through mostly voluntary action, with tax credits for encouragement. However, tax credits were given to companies for simply monitoring and reporting emissions. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York.

⁷⁰ Bush quoted as saying 'Addressing global climate change will require a sustained effort over many generations' June 11, 2001. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 114.

⁷¹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change maintain that a dramatic change needs to begin now, or the opportunity to redress global warming might be lost. Corn, D. (2003) *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*, Three Rivers Press, New York, p. 112.

⁷² Australian Conservation Foundation (2005) *There is an invisible killer at work*, (brochure), Carlton.

⁷³ Australian Conservation Foundation (2005) *There is an invisible killer at work*, (brochure), Carlton.

⁷⁴ DiFranco quoted in June 2004 'We have a complete void of progressive politics in this country right now. The will of the people goes ignored and unrealised.' DiFranco, A. (2004) Ani DiFranco Quotes [Online], http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/ani_difranco.html [Accessed 3 May 2005].

⁷⁵ Two-thirds of the American public believe environmental protection should be the priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth. Hightower, J. (2003) *Thieves in High Places*, Penguin Group, New York.

⁷⁶ Martin, B. (1993) 'Are elections the ultimate in democracy?', *Green Left*, 14 July, p. 12. Discusses how '...it probably doesn't matter too much who is elected, since the programmes of the major parties are so similar. In any case, much policy is made and implemented by government bureaucrats who are not up for election.'

the stifling two party strangle hold and bring progressive voices into the national political system.^{77 78}...However, even if more progressive parties were elected, I don't think all the problems would be solved. Ultimately, we need to become more than a static democratic nation⁷⁹...we need to regain power by going back to a grassroots⁸⁰ level and take issues into our own hands, through public education campaigns, direct action and by promoting alternative technologies and practices⁸¹...the people of America need to get off their butts and stop blindly following some out of touch millionaire...we all need to get involved...grassroots action⁸² is the only way to see changes realised, short of [*said at un-humanly fast rate*] some-magical-restructuring-of-the-entire-political-system⁸³ and a move towards a more participatory system⁸⁴

Bush: [*sarcastically*] Well you do that, get all you and your tree-hugging, dope smoking, dreadlock wearing, hippie mates together to talk about climate change, just get out of my face.

⁷⁷ An article written by DiFranco she stated; '...I know that a vote for [Nader and the Greens] truly counts over the long haul, because it's helping to bust open the stifling two-party stranglehold on our system and bring progressive voices into the national political discourse.' DiFranco, A. (2000) 'If You're Talkin' Politics...' [Online], <http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20001120&s=letter> [Accessed 3 May 2005].

⁷⁸ Martin, B. (1993) 'Are elections the ultimate in democracy?', *Green Left*, 14 July, p. 12. Discusses how better candidates, new parties, fairer procedures and a better educated electorate can lead to a more representative democratic system. With it stated that; '[t]he major complaint is seen not as the electoral system itself, but with the people who are elected and the policies they implement.'

⁷⁹ Martin, B. (1993) 'Are elections the ultimate in democracy?', *Green Left*, 14 July, p. 12. Discusses how overall; '[t]he challenge for a society is to be more than a static democracy, but to continually be in the process of democratising itself.'

⁸⁰ Martin, B. (1989) Green election fever. *Chain Reaction*, 59: 24-27, discusses how grassroots refers to environmental campaigns that involve people taking action to directly changing their lives.

⁸¹ Martin, B. (1989) Green election fever. *Chain Reaction*, 59: 24-27, discusses the problems with electoral politics and how it removes power from the people. Martin states that; '[e]nvironmentalists have long been effective at taking issues into their own hands. Public education campaigns, direct action, promotion of alternative technologies and practices – all these can be done without reliance on politicians.'

⁸² Martin, B. (1989) Green election fever. *Chain Reaction*, 59: 24-27, stated that '...grassroots action can lead to changes in policy, even though little or no direct involvement in parties or elections is undertaken.'

⁸³ Martin, B. (1989) Green election fever. *Chain Reaction*, 59: 24-27, stated that '...[g]rassroots action, like electoral politics, is a way of operating within the present system...'

⁸⁴ Martin, B. (1989) Green election fever. *Chain Reaction*, 59: 24-27, stresses how it is important for people to participate directly in making decisions that affect them, which rarely occurs in the current political system. Martin discusses the potential for using a less well-known form of participatory democracy called random selection. In this system governing decisions are made by committees who are randomly selected from a group of interested volunteers. These committees only focus on a certain section of government. As a result, the problem of politics being dominated by ruthless, power-seeking individuals can be overcome. It also ensures that all interested individuals will get an equal chance to have their say.

DiFranco: Man, you can't even call it global warming, using a less threatening term like 'climate change' won't make the issue go away you know...⁸⁵
...man, I bet you can't even say global warming...

Bush: Climate change is a an accurate term to describe the process.

DiFranco: Global warming

Bush: Climate change

DiFranco: GLOBAL WARMING!

Bush: CLIMATE CHANGE, CLIMATE CHANGE, CLIMATE CHANGE!

[Bush begins to drift out of the dream world]

Bush: Glow... glow... bal
War... War... War... ming
Global warming... global warming

[Bush fully wakes up and shakes himself when he realises what he is saying]

Bush: CLIMATE CHANGE!!!

⁸⁵ Bush was advised to use carefully calibrated language and after 2001 replaced the term global warming with the 'less frightening' term climate change. The term global warming was said to have catastrophic connotations attached to it, while climate change suggested a more controllable challenge. Fritz, B., Keefer, B. and Nyhan, B. (2004) *All the President's Spin*, Simon & Schuster, New York.