

UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Winter 2001

Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

The Media Battle: Global, in the Streets

In New York, Prague, Guatemala, working people demand access to and control of radio and tv



Photo depicting Pacifica Foundation National Board members Bessie Wash, John Murdock and Steve Yasko as corporate pigs for their attempts to corporatize New York's community radio station WBAI.

photo by: wbai

UPPNET Statement & Resolution On Pacifica Union Busting at WBAI

We are outraged by the actions taken by the Pacifica management on December 23, 2000 in New York, against WBAI radio. In the dead of night, management changed the locks at the station and locked out union members from both AFTRA and the United Electrical workers. Management threatened, intimidated, and illegally fired union members, who have filed grievances challenging these actions.

This is not the first flagrant violation of labor and human rights by the management and Executive Director of Pacifica. It follows the lockout at KPFA in Berkeley last summer, affecting members of CWA 9415.

WBAI has provided the only regular labor radio programming on a major radio station in the New York area. An attack on WBAI is an attack on labor itself, and plans by members of the Pacifica Board of Directors to sell the major-market sta-

Continued on p. 2

Czech TV Strike Victory “An Inspiration To Journalists Everywhere” Says IFJ

JAN 11, 2001—The International Federation of Journalists today welcomed the strike victory of television journalists and media staff in the Czech Republic. “Your victory is a triumph for journalists and media workers everywhere,” said Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary, from Vienna where a

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photo by: AP

The largest demonstration in Wenceslas Square since the fall of the old Communist regime called for the chief of Czech tv to resign.

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tions of the network are an affront to free broadcasting, fair labor practice, and democratic process. John Murdoch, a board member, is part of a law firm dedicated to creating a "union free" environment. The firm (www.ebglaw.com/laboremp.html) is on the boycott list of the AFL-CIO. The growing monopolization of media outlets and the deregulation of radio, television and cable systems has eliminated many minority, community and labor voices from the airwaves of the United States. Congress and the President recently signed legislation (supported by the National Association of Broadcasters and National Public Radio) which severely limits development of the micro-broadcasting that the CWA and the AFL-CIO support. Pacifica's recent actions are the latest addition to a coordinated attack on labor, programmers, and the community.



photo by: inc-nj

Because organized labor must defend not only labor rights, but the right to free and democratic communication throughout our society, this body condemns the union-busting lockout of WBAI radio staff and volunteers.

- We demand that the lockout end.
- We call on all affiliated bodies for concurrence.
- We will support a national labor campaign, including educational forums on media democracy and broadcasters' rights.
- We will support labor and community protests against union busting by the Pacifica Network management.
- We call for the resignation of the Executive Director of Pacifica network and those Pacifica board members who approve of the board's egregious actions.
- Finally, we call for a reorganization of the Pacifica Board so that it is elected and representative of all communities, including the labor community and the many labor, environmental and human rights activists who have made the Pacifica network the most significant alternative non-corporate media network in the United States,

This body will forward this resolution to all members of Congress and Senators and will also send copies to the Federal Communication Commission and the Corporation For Public



In Berkeley, CA, '99, an earlier community protest against Pacifica policies took place to defend locked-out and fired KPFA personnel. This became a warning of things to come at Pacifica's WBAI in N.Y.

Broadcasting.◆

RESOLUTION ON WBAI

Whereas, on 12/23/2000, the Pacifica management in New York changed the locks on the WBAI radio station and locked out union members from both AFTRA and the United Electrical workers and,

Whereas, the Pacifica management has threatened and intimidated and illegally fired union members and these members presently have grievances challenging these actions and,

Whereas, this is not the first flagrant violation of labor and human rights by the management and Executive Director of Pacifica Radio Network and,

Whereas, this follows the lockout and union busting effort at KPFA 94.1 Berkeley and the members of CWA 9415 in Alameda California and,

Whereas, WBAI has provided the only regular labor radio programming on a major radio station in the New York area and,

Whereas, this continuing attack on labor and democratic communication rights cannot be accepted by organized labor and,

Whereas, members of Pacifica Board of Directors have indicated that they are interested in selling the major market radio stations of the Pacifica network and,

Whereas, John Murdoch, a board member who is part of a law firm that advertises creating a "union free" environment (www.ebglaw.com/laboremp.html) and is on the boycott list of the AFL-CIO and,

Whereas, the growing monopolization of media outlets and the deregulation of radio, television and cable systems has eliminated many minority, community and labor voices from throughout the United States and,

Whereas, the US Congress and the President have recently signed legislation supported by the National Association of Broadcasters and National Public Radio managers that severely limits the right to develop micro-broadcasting which has been supported by the CWA and the AFL-CIO and,

Whereas, this coordinated attack on labor and democratic rights of programmers and the community is a threat to all democratic rights throughout the United States and,

Whereas, organized labor must defend not only our labor rights but the right to free and democratic communication in all of our society,

Therefore be it resolved this body condemns the union busting lockout of WBAI staff and radio volunteers and demands that the lockout ends and calls on all affiliated bodies for concurrence and,

This body will support a national labor campaign including educational forums on our media democracy rights throughout the country and will support labor and community protests against union busting by the Pacifica Network management that call for the resignation of the Executive Director of Pacifica network and the those Pacifica board members who have supported this action and,

Finally, this body calls for the reorganization of the Pacifica Board so that it is elected and representative of all communities including labor and the many labor, environmental and human rights activists who have made the Pacifica network the most significant alternative non-corporate media network in the United States and,

This body will forward this resolution to all members of Congress and Senators and will also send copies to the Federal Communication Commission and the Corporation



Guatemalans Rally for Community Media and Mass Communication

Nov. 22, 2000—Hundreds of people came in buses from the interior of Guatemala to unite in front of the congress, putting pressure on the government to democratize the media and to recognize the community radio stations, illegal under the current telecommunications law. They came in support of independent media and radio, to witness the presentation of a proposed law, a document worked out at the grassroots level. This mass mobilization began three days earlier, almost spontaneously, demonstrating the popular support of these radios.

The president of the congress, Rios Montt, as well as congressmen Gregorio Chay and Romulo Caal, came out to receive the proposed Law on Community Media and Mass Communication. Rios Montt responded stating the importance of community radio, to strengthen local identity and recognize the cultural values of the community. The proposal was also presented to a representative of the Commission for Accompaniment charged with the responsibility of follow the process of the implementation of the Peace Accords. Also present was a representative of MINUGUA, the Guatemalan Verification Commission of the United Nations, which has supported the community radios since the beginning.

The legal basis for this law comes from the Peace Accord on the Rights and Identity of Indigenous Peoples, Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization and the InterAmerican Commission for Human Rights recent resolution on the Freedom of Expression.

This proposed law would reserve certain radio frequencies on national, regional and local levels for the use of Associations and Community Councils, at the service of the community, with the active participation of community members and civil society to strengthen local identity, democracy and a culture of peace. The proposal was worked out in consensus by organizations representing the community radios in Guatemala; the Coalition of Popular Broadcasters of the South West of Guatemala (CEPSOG), the Association of Community Broadcasters of Guatemala, the Association Mujb'ab'l Yol—United Expressions, the Association of Community Broadcasters of Sololá (AMECOS), the Association of Community Radios of Guatemala (ARCG), the Federation of Guatemalan Radio Schools (FEGR) and the Department of Communications of COPMAGUA. ♦

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Czech tv *Continued from p. 1*

meeting of international trade union leaders also voiced their support.

The resignation of Czech TV boss Jiri Hodac was “an inevitable consequence of your solidarity and determination to fight for the principles of editorial independence and genuine public service broadcasting,” said White, who visited the strikers and met with political leaders earlier this



photo by: CNN

Protesting Czech tv media staffer waves to supporters.

week.

“The message from Prague is that politicians must not play games with public broadcasting,” said the IFJ. “The strike victory will be an inspiration to journalists to redouble their efforts to defend public broadcasting. Every country in the region must now act to ensure that they create structures for public media that are completely independent.”

The IFJ particularly thanked the Czech Trade Union Federation and the Syndicate of Journalists for their solidarity.

The IFJ and its regional group the European Federation of Journalists plans now to focus attention on problems in Hungary where there is still political deadlock over the administration of public broadcasting. “Our colleagues in Hungary and elsewhere will take great heart from the events in Prague,” said White.

Further Information: 32 2 223 2265

The IFJ represents more than 450,000 journalists in

“Labor Computers” video

After a year in production, Professor Art Shostak has created a new 30-minute video, “Labor Computes: Union People, Computer Power”.

It stars ten Meany Center students, and uses their own words to explore their upbeat experience using computer power on behalf of organized labor’s best efforts.

Designed to encourage more and better uses of computer possibilities by locals and IUs, the video fills a vital gap in available educational material—and does so in a zesty and viewer-friendly way (music by folk singer Charlie King helps matters along). For more information:

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LaborTECH 2000 — A Huge Success

“Great Networking Opportunities!” “Very important cutting edge” and “Very informative” were some of the written comments received by the School for Workers regarding LaborTECH 2000. The LaborTECH 2000 conference was judged a huge success by most people who came to Madison, Wisconsin from December 1-3 for LaborTECH 2000. More than 850 people attended the conference kick-off event—a showing of the movie “Bread and Roses” by Ken Loach. [See audience responses on page 5.] Conference organizers wanted to emphasize that movies too are part of the labor media. But UPPNET also wanted to set a tone for LaborTECH 2000. In UPPNET’s view the movie showed that working people are on the move and willing to take on great odds in the fight for justice.

The conference itself drew about 150 registrants. There were about 50 speakers in various workshops. Speakers included rank and file media activists, producers, and representatives from International Labor organizations such as ICEM. Senior AFL-CIO staff also came to lend their expertise and insights to the gathering.

One of the more exciting aspects of the conference was the mixture of people. Men and women, old and young. Participants included local union officers who wanted to know how to use some part of the media spectrum to build their unions as well as web site designers, low power radio advocates along with radio and video producers. Last but not least LaborTECH 2000 also featured speakers from labor’s print media such as the South Central Federation of Labor’s Union Labor News and the AFL-CIO’s *America@Work*.

A highlight of the conference was Saturday night’s entertainment. Folksinger and organizer Larry Shaw provided songs. Gary Huck and Mike Konopacki put on a slide show history of labor cartoons. Their presentation was followed by a special rendition of “Temp Slave” a musical written produced and sung by Madison community and labor activists.

Labor media activists took several important steps to increase the presence of working people in the nation’s media. Video producers took steps to video for Free Speech TV’s 24-hour, 7-day-a-week video project. Radio activists decided to move forward and set up an Internet Labor Radio Network to provide features and a headline news service via the Internet to any station that would subscribe. Material could come from existing UPPNET partners. Last but not least, UPPNET decided to move forward with plans for UPPNET 2001. ♦

A.A. Bosses Trash Video *Continued from p. 6*

What will happen to the jointly produced video is unclear. Mr. Rubin said the union had spent \$50,000 on the project. He would like to get the master copy back from American so the union can complete it and distribute it to members.

But Mr. Doke was noncommittal.

“That is our product,” he said.

Releasing it to the union, he added, “is an issue that we will have some discussions with them about.” ♦

UPPNET President Howard Kling Addresses LaborTECH...

“We can use their technology to serve our purposes...”



First I’d like to bring you greetings from the organized workers of the great state of Minnesota, home of the 1916 strike of IWW miners on the Masabi Iron Range in the north, whose headquarters was in the Socialist opera house and whose immigrant miners from northern, eastern and western Europe spoke seven languages, and endured blacklisting, dislocation and death; home too of the historic 1934 Minneapolis Truckers strike that announced the arrival of militant industrial unionism and began the rise of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Minnesota’s great radical labor writer and feminist Meridel Le Seuer wrote of that strike and inspired workers and progressives with other stories and novels grounded in the experience of the working class. Minnesota is home too to a more modern version of the famous Iron Range strike—this time, though, it happened in the Twin Cities, early last summer, and the strikers worked in 9 different hotels, and spoke not seven but 14 languages and came from places like Somalia, Tibet, Vietnam and Bosnia. And they were solid. And they won. In another great victory, this same union, HERE 17 also successfully mobilized the community and labor to stop the deportation of seven Mexican workers arrested by the INS for being illegal aliens under the law, workers who were bargaining to get their first contract with the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Minneapolis and who were blown in by management.

The miners learned new ways to organize communication. Strike meetings involved simultaneous translation of the proceedings into all languages. The truckers developed flying pickets and an intricate network of communication to keep the employers and police off balance. The victories of HERE 17 were aided by different communications opportunities—by the consistent presence of local labor media through Minnesota At Work, our weekly cable show, and other video. Please don’t misunderstand—those victories were won by the workers and the union without question. But HERE would not be alone among locals in recognizing the importance of having a progressive labor media outlet to tell the stories of their workers. Also, don’t misunderstand, I am not bragging but rather suggesting this is one theme of the conference.

They – the hotel workers—have that because of the vision of the Minnesota AFL-CIO over the years. That’s all it took. At any rate, the Minnesota AFL-CIO sends its greetings to the conference. Many of you attended the LaborTECH conference in the Twin Cities in 1994 and I must say, I thought we did a good job of putting that conference together and I can remember the energy and the wonderful connections that were made and relationships that were built. We have John See to thank for a lot of what went on back then. But Frank, you have indeed outdone us. The crowd and the film last night were terrific, the preliminary events I have participated in have been energizing, the agenda before us is excellent, and

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***Bread and Roses:* Madison moviegoers comment on film after special preview screening at LaborTECH convention**

(collected by Wes Brain)

"I thought it was absolutely fantastic. I think a lot of people in this town who are active, particularly in the Labor movement, and active politically, are happy to see a movie that not just mentions, but actually champions a lot of the things we feel strongly about."

—Peter Kovaris, Academic Staff,
computer science research, University of Wis. at
Madison, member of Faculty & Staff Union, UFAS

"I thought it was absolutely amazing, it totally invigorated you. The best thing about it, I thought, was how complicated it was about the issues. They really got into it a lot about the class issues, what you're really willing to risk, and things not really being so easy...the relationship between the two sisters, and how they totally complicated the whole issue of striking and family and providing, and peoples' different perceptions of how much they've invested, and risked..."

—Jolanda, Madison, Social Work
Doctoral student, teachers' union member

"I liked how it went through not just what happened, but step-by-step how you can make it happen in your own life."—Robin—Madison student

"I think sometimes those of us here in Madison who deal with activist issues forget what its like to be someone who, if you lose your job you can't feed your kids and if your husband gets sick and you don't have health care, well, you're out of luck. Sometimes we here, involved in student activism, have a sort of fluffy sense of what organizing is. It was very realistic. The only real criticism, offered by a couple of people, was that they felt the film, especially at the end, was a tad bit too optimistic and upbeat."

—Jill, Madison student

"I think it made it all look too easy. All you have to do is get arrested once, and you win...the struggle didn't seem that hard."

—Ruth, State Department of
Transportation worker, AFSME member

Several people also noted that there was a lot of audience response during the movie, with the loudest cheers and applause re: Not giving \$40 million to the Democrats "next time". ♦

Howard Kling *Continued from p. 4*

folks gathered here are going to make this a memorable conference to be sure.

A lot has changed already in those short six years. Capital has deepened and consolidated its grip on nearly every aspect of modern life at a dizzying rate, really—communal space is rapidly disappearing, everything is being commodified (things formerly off limits like education), human bodies are being used for hanging regular advertising and no one thinks twice about it, competition between workers and between countries and regions has intensified as globalization and this new phase of the development of capitalism—the technological revolution—undermines the barrier of geographical distance while redefining human relationships. Nowhere is the grip of capital and commodification as hidden in plain site as the media. And nowhere are the stakes in terms of actually defining the real as high as the state of the media and the struggle over control and use and innovation.

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In 1994 we were able to discuss this new thing, the Internet, and bulletin boards and desktop computers and see their potential. LaborNET SF and LaborNET AFL-CIO were operational; a few attendees had stories about the use of computer communications during the anti-NAFTA struggle. No one had used the Internet to organize. Lots of us had not yet even been on-line. Cable access television was still rather cutting edge grass roots communication. None of us dreamed of the Independent Media Centers—how the use of video streaming on the Internet would one day break the mainstream media blockade of information and tell the story of the most significant mobilization against global capital in recent history, the Battle of Seattle—and change the terms of the public debate and dialogue about that action and those issues.

Then too, union activists had not yet been fired and found their computers confiscated as evidence proving concerted action to organize a sick in as happened to flight attendants at Northwest Airlines. Workers had not yet been subjected to rampant company snooping and intrusion into their use of the Internet, computers and other technology. Shiny dotcom companies like Amazon had not yet used e-mail to try to bust a union drive among its new economy workers. E-mail speedup was not yet an issue. Most large media mergers had not yet happened. Attacks on progressive media had not yet reached their current intensity. Possibility and threat. Possibility and threat. Pacifica radio goes through a struggle for its very heart and soul, confusion abounds. Possibility and threat. This is a theme of the conference to be sure. The enormous potential for workers and the community and progressives to use whatever media technology gets developed—and the nearly immediate threat and oppression of that same wonderful technology and the culture it spawns in the hands of multinational capital.

Isn't capitalism marvelous? It puts us in this position. Possibility and threat. I realized the irony of our often

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excitement with the new toys rolled out by the corporations but it wasn't until my son started his 7th grade term paper project that I saw it.

Karl Marx story about Aaron and the Communist Manifesto. Constant restructuring and revolutionizing of production. Constant innovation. Creates the forms and conditions for the organization of workers. How the workers use this organization for themselves. Within their forms are the seeds of their destruction. Still like that way of thinking, outmoded as it may be because of the interpreted idea of inevitability of the fall of capitalism and the socialist revolution. But I do think it is the most powerful description of the wonderful possibilities within the very real threats.

So we have come here this weekend to learn from each other. We have come to figure out how to do our own show, or how to organize on the Internet, or how to increase access to the media. We want to explore the weaknesses at our present stage, how women and people of color, new immigrants, have not joined us in a significant enough way. We have come to learn the technology, to understand the historical moment, to seize the opportunities before us for transforming labor media and communications and thereby transforming organized labor. We have come to advance that ephemeral quality we call the labor movement, to create momentum within one corner of that movement, momentum for a genuine progressive labor media and communications strategy.

This is corporate technology. They hold the cards, the power, the restrictions, the purpose. For the corporations, form is everything, and media forms simply exist to make profits and aid in the organization of production and exploitation of workers. Content becomes as identical as it can with form. Yes the medium is the message—the technology is the message; tv and radio and the internet is the message. All you have to do is buy one or it or whatever. And the more furious and frenzied the virtual content, the better. The simplicity of this is a strength, one that can deliver constant cooptation and perpetual excitement without raising too many issues. Non-news news, sensationalism, spectacle, slogans—it all sells.

But all these technologies contain the promise and possibility of delivering real content and are actually methods of doing so—whether you are an artist, a poet, a scholar, an activist, or a worker—you can use them if you can get your hands on them and figure it out. They are powerful weapons of free speech and creativity. Corporations don't need this quality and can't use it effectively. We can. And therein lies the battle—to see it, to learn it, to strategize and to use it.

We can use their technology to serve our purposes, to expand democracy into the economy, to extend liberty into the workplace, to give a voice to the Somali worker and create a bridge with workers everywhere, to change the terms of public discourse, to democratize the airwaves, to coordinate our struggles with our brothers and sisters in Korea and Britain and Canada and Japan and South Africa and Mexico, Columbia, Chile, France. We should do this, we should learn to use this technology to make this world a safe place in which to be a worker. The ideological battle between social and economic justice and globalization is central to the struggle at work and on the streets and in our homes. The corporations know this. That's of course why we aren't suppose to have this stuff. But we can have it. We can use this stuff—their stuff—to bring them to their knees. I suggest that when all is said and done, that's why we're here, every one of us. ♦

interviews with leading researchers around the world and with James E. Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Rich Rubin, an American 767 captain who wrote the script and has taken the lead on the crew-rest issue for the union.

Reducing the danger posed by so-called operator fatigue is one of the safety board's top priorities for all modes of transportation. And pilot fatigue is being considered as one possible cause of the crash of an American Airlines plane that slid off the runway in Little Rock, Ark., in June 1999, killing 11 and injuring more than 80 of the 145 people on board.

After that crash, the union and American, a subsidiary of the AMR Corporation, agreed to produce a fatigue-awareness training video. Mr. Rubin not only wrote the script but also did some of the camera work, while American's flight department provided most of the video production services.

The video was nearly complete on Dec. 6, Mr. Rubin wrote this Thursday in a letter to American's vice president for safety, when he was told by Robert Kudwa, who as the airline's chief pilot is a member of management, that American's support was being withdrawn and that no copies of the video would be released.

"I was told," Mr. Rubin wrote, "that he was taking this action as a result of my role in obtaining a clarification from the F.A.A. on Nov. 20, 2000, concerning crew rest and duty limitations."

Rest rules require that pilots have at least eight hours off within any 24-hour period. But before the recent clarification, airlines routinely let pilots work longer than 16 hours if there was an unscheduled delay, due to weather, say. The clarification informed the airlines that pilots could not work more than 16 hours a day even if their flights were delayed.

American and other major airlines have criticized that F.A.A. action, saying it will worsen delays because more crews will be unavailable to fly.

"It is a real problem for the traveling public as much as for the industry," said John Meenan, senior vice president for industry policy at the Air Transport Association, the trade group of the major carriers.

The Allied Pilots Association and the Air Line Pilots Association, the nation's largest union of pilots, say the airlines object to the clarification because it will force the hiring of more pilots, raising costs.

Mr. Rubin said Mr. Kudwa, American's chief pilot and vice president for flight, had complained to him that the union had not properly warned him about the aviation agency's decision before issuing a press release about it on Dec. 1.

"It is a misdirection of wrath," Mr. Rubin said. "The vice president of flight should be an advocate of safety. The action he is taking is to walk away from the game with his marbles."

Timothy Doke, American's chief spokesman, said that Mr. Kudwa was not available for comment but that Mr. Rubin was wrong.

"The hold being put on this video," Mr. Doke said, "has nothing to do with content and everything to do with the production process."

But he declined to elaborate, adding that American had decided to produce its own video and to train each of its pilots, at a cost of millions of dollars.

"This video is a very small component of what has been a very long-term commitment by American Airlines on this issue of pilot fatigue training," he said.

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

| Show Title | Producer | City/Station | Phone No. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Fighting Back</i> | Ralph Kessler | Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM | 510-845-9285 |
| <i>David Bacon on Labor</i> | David Bacon | Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM | 510-549-0291 |
| <i>Labor Line</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Profiles of Labor Working LA</i> | Ruth Holbrook Henry Walton | Sacramento, CA Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM | 916-455-1396 818-894-4079 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | Larry Dorman | Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM | 880-571-6191 |
| <i>Labor Express</i> | Wayne Heimbach | Chicago, IL WLUW 88.7 FM | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Labor Beat</i> | Martin Conlisk | Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Illinois Labor Hour</i> | Peter Miller | Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM | 217-337-5174 |
| <i>AFSCME On-Line</i> | Dan Hart | Dorchester, MA cable-tv | 617-266-3496 |
| <i>Heartland Labor Forum</i> | Judy Ancel | Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM | 816-235-1470 |
| <i>Minnesota at Work</i> | Howard Kling | Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable | 612-624-5020 |
| <i>Building Bridges</i> | Ken Nash | New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM | 212-815-1699 |
| <i>Communicue</i> | Bill Henning | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-228-6565 |
| <i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i> | Pat Passanilin | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-815-1535 |
| <i>America's Work Force</i> | Jerrod Sorkey | Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM | 440-975-4262 |
| <i>Boiling Point</i> | Michael Wood | Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM | 513-961-4348 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | John Lavin | Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM | 610-660-3372 |
| <i>Labor on the Job</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 54 cable | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i> | Chuck Schwartz | Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv | 401-463-9900 |
| <i>Solidarity</i> | John Speier | Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access | 616-375-4638 |
| <i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i> | Rick Levy | Austin, TX | 512-477-6195 |
| <i>Which Side Are You On?</i> | Hal Leyshon | Middlesex, VT | 802-223-4172 |
| <i>Radio Labor Journal</i> | Bil Borders | Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM | 425-921-3454 |
| <i>Labor Radio News</i> | Frank Emspak | Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM | 608-262-2111 |
| <i>LaborVision</i> | John Webb | St. Louis, MO DHTV | 314-962-4163 |
| <i>Labor X</i> | Simin Farkhondeh | New York, NY CUNY-TV cable | 212-966-4248 ext. 216 |
| <i>OPEU Productions</i> | Wes Brain | Ashland, OR cable-tv | 541-482-6988 |
| <i>Labor Link TV</i> | Fred Lonidier | La Jolla, CA cable-tv | 619-552-0740 |
| <i>CT@Work</i> | L. Canty/L. Dorman | Connecticut CPTV2 | 860-571-6191 |
| <i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i> | Carl Bryant | San Fran., CA cable-tv | 415-885-0375 |
| <i>Springfield Labor Beat</i> | Jim Hade | Springfield, IL cable-tv | 217-787-7837 |
| <i>The Price Paid</i> | Gene Lawhorn | Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM | 503-282-9541 |
| <i>working tv</i> | Julius Fisher | Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV | 604-253-6222 |
| <i>726 Express</i> | Stewart Ransom | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | 718-761-6681 |
| <i>Rank-And-File</i> | Larry Maglio | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | N.A. |

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Steve Zeltzer, producer *Labor on The Job*, San Francisco,
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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote and expand the production and use of television and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and the issues relevant to all working people.
2. To establish and promote the general distribution and circulation of this programming.
3. To address issues regarding the media and its fair and democratic use and accessibility by labor and other constituencies generally.
4. To encourage and promote the preservation of television and radio broadcasts pertinent to labor.
5. To establish a code of ethic governing television and radio production practices and other such matters UPPNET may determine as relevant to its work.
6. To require all productions to work under a collective bargaining agreement, secure waivers or work in agreement with any television or movie industry union having jurisdiction in the area.

www.mtn.org/les/

'Jointism' in making workplace video flops

AA Bosses Trash Training Video for Airline Pilots

By Laurence Zuckerman, 1/6/01 *New York Times*

A joint effort that American Airlines and the union representing its pilots undertook to combat fatigue in the cockpit has now collapsed in a dispute, and the union maintains that the reason is its success in obtaining a new federal guideline limiting pilots' flying time.

The casualty of the dispute is a nearly completed training

video for American's 11,000 pilots that the union and the airline agreed last year to produce together.

The union, the Allied Pilots Association, says American withdrew its support for the project in December because it was upset that the union had gotten the Federal Aviation Administration to tighten rules mandating rest time for pilots.

American acknowledges that work on the project has been suspended but says the reason is a disagreement over the video's production, not any action taken by the F.A.A. The airline, which declines to elaborate on the production dispute, says it will now produce its own training video.

The 35-minute jointly produced video was intended to educate pilots about the latest scientific research on sleep and teach them how to recognize and avoid fatigue. It features

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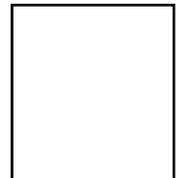
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UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Spring 2001

Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

Building Bridges Axed at WBAI

Ken Nash Speaks Out about Building Bridges & Utrice Leid

When Interim Station Manager Utrice Leid invaded, then took over the mike, on "Building Bridges" on Monday March 5th, she took it away from me, Congressman Major Owens and Larry Adams, Pres. of Local 300, National Postal Mailhandlers Union (who never did get to speak). Congressman Owens had just talked about the value of free speech radio and the need to insure it by democratic management of WBAI by listeners and Staff. Ms. Leid's hijacking of the show that Monday proved his point more than any amount of words.

Ms. Leid said to me in the studio that day that Building Bridges is cancelled. This is only the most recent in a long series of similar abuses at WBAI which include the firing of Bernard White and Sharan Harper, the banning of five other Staff members, and the firing and banning from the station and from WBAI's air of my partner Mimi Rosenberg. The question is who will be next?

At one point in the studio on March 5th Ms. Leid said to me something to the effect "Do you think you own this air time?". That's the big question. Who owns WBAI or really who should control it? In fact, Representative Owens had just answered that question — the listeners and workers at WBAI. Not the Pacifica Foundation who only leech off the work of the Staff and the money of the listeners. Not me and certainly not Utrice Leid. These are not utopian ideas. Our sister station KPFA in San Francisco after a monumental struggle has successfully experimented with Staff election of an Interim Station Manager and empowering the community of listeners with elections to their Local Advisory Board. We need nothing less.

Many people have asked me whether I've been fired and/or banned and urged me to call Ms. Leid to see if the cancellation was permanent. Later that week I called her and asked if Building Bridges was permanently cancelled or if she only cancelled the March 5 show. She asked me to restate my question, which I did. She then said she did not know. I asked if "Building Bridges was on the following week (March 12) and she said no. We left it at that.

On Wednesday, March 14, I again called Ms. Leid. I asked if "Building Bridges" was on for Monday, March 19. She said that she wasn't sure. I said that if I were to do a show the following Monday, I would need to prepare in advance. She said that I won't be on. I said how can she not know whether

Continued on p. 2

On My Removal from The Air And Banning from WBAI

by Mimi Rosenberg

On February 5, 2001, Interim General Manager Utrice C. Leid terminated my 32-year tenure as a producer at WBAI. For the last fifteen years I have co-produced Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report, the longest running, currently nationally-distributed program, covering the working class, from an anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-homophobic perspective. More recently, I produced In Brief, a half hour segment on Wakeup Call, covering issues of law and social justice. With my termination, the voice of an engaged journalist who sought to mobilize and empower workers disappears from the WBAI air waves and station. I did not just engage in programming but helped unionize WBAI and fought for paid and unpaid staff to remain in the collective bargaining unit. I serve as elected unpaid staff representative to the Local Advisory Board (LAB). Most recently, the LAB helped locate our current space, raised \$200,000 and has been a counter force to the Pacifica Foundation National Board (National Board) for years. My legal skills have always been at the service of station personnel.

My removal from the air was attributed to my alleged actions on the morning of December 23, following the "Christmas Coup" in which Utrice Leid was summarily appointed Interim General Manager and my colleagues Bernard White and Sharan Harper were fired and Janis K.

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“Building Bridges” is scheduled but say that I would not be on? (Especially since my Co-Host Mimi Rosenberg was fired and banned.) She said that I had said I was fired. (I have never said or written this. I have said that Ms. Leid cancelled “Building Bridges” — which is what she told me. After my initial conversation with Ms. Leid I began stating that “Building Bridges is cancelled indefinitely.”) In any event, I then asked her whether she was stating that I was fired. She said she did not know.

Not wanting to engage in any more such inane games with Ms. Leid about my status at WBAI and the status of what many consider to be New York City’s premier labor radio program, I asked UE Local 404 Chief Steward R. Paul Martin to call Ms. Leid. She told him that I was not to come back to the Station, that I was not to be physically there, and that I was removed from the air. She also said that I assaulted her in Master Control on March 5th by elbowing her at one point. This is untrue.

Utrice Leid is Interim General Manager of a radio station which only three months ago we proudly described as free speech radio. In addition to demolishing Building Bridges and Wake Up Call she has begun tightening the screws on all producers. Mario Murillo resigned rather than submit to an unreasonable demand that he not invite Any Goodman or other dissident producers on his Friday morning show. Robert Knight was told that none of the banned producers could be on WBAI air. But for Ms. Leid and her allies there is no gag rule. What will be next? Who will be next? Who else will listeners not be able to hear on what was free speech radio?

What will be next? Who will be next? Who else will listeners not be able to hear on what was free speech radio?

It’s time for Utrice Leid to resign. Indeed it’s been time for a while. Her conduct is unbecoming and anathema to the democratic traditions and values of WBAI Radio. How many more firings, bannings, and gaggings will it take. When will she next invade a program on the air because she has another opinion of the truth? Bernard White said it first — Utrice must leave. Her successor must not be selected by the Pacifica Board but by a democratic process. ♦

The best way to protest is to call on air when producers open up the telephelines. You can also email the Pacifica Board:

cpadga@aol.com; prbram@aol.com; vchamber@pop.uh.edu; acdarius@aol.com; alfigo@aol.com; kford@nahb.com; wendell_L_johns@fanniema.com; harav1@aol.com; bethlyons@aol.com; fmillspa@aol.com; tomasmoran@aol.com; jmurdock@ebglaw.com; mpalmer@cbrichardellis.com; robrobin@erols.com; kvpphd@aol.com; leslicagan@igc.org

Please fax letters of protest to:
Utrice Leid, WBAI Interim General Manager,
212-747-1698

For more information email: knash@igc.org or call
212-533-6515

Bryant, Cerene Roberts, Eileen Sutton, Ursula Ruedenberg and Rachael Barr were soon to be banned from WBAI.

In her letter of termination, Utrice Leid falsely accuses me of threatening her with physical violence. Such allegations of misconduct are entirely unfounded. I did express to her in the strongest terms my view that her collaboration with the National Board representatives was politically unprincipled and reprehensible. I told her how distressed I am over the dismissal of workers who helped build WBAI but now were deprived of their livelihoods and threatened with arrest if they dared to enter the station. Then in the face of Utrice Leid’s intransigence to my entreaties to provide access to the station I uttered a profanity, albeit not the word “bitch” of which I am accused. Profanity at WBAI is used too often to punctuate sentiment. In my case, it was used to justify my demonization and my punishment.

The real reason I — like other progressive Pacifica workers, have been harassed, and now silenced—is political. The political conflicts within Pacifica mirror the political contradictions within public broadcasting and the nation as a whole. For several years I have worked to resist the subversion of Pacifica’s historic mission and in support of the quest for the development and implementation of democratic governance procedures. This has included co-authoring Pacifica’s Crisis: Underlying Causes And Prescriptions For Renewal, referred to as “The Blue Paper”, opposing the lockout at KPFA and criticizing the policies and makeup of the National Board majority.

My more than three decades of work at Pacifica is a function of our political commitment to the struggle for social justice and freedom of expression, for an end to racism and war. The cause of Pacifica’s current crisis is the capture of the National Board by neo-liberals opposed to any radical agenda or truly participatory and emancipatory media. The former Executive Director, and now unpaid consultant to the National Board, Mary Francis Berry, embodies the terrible compromise of the Democratic Leadership Council. John Murdock, the head of the National Board’s governance committee and Senior Staff Associate of Epstein, Becker and Green, represents the anti-labor orientation of corporate law firms. Ken Ford, Vice Chair of the National Board, represents the power of lobbyist money over the needs of people. Utrice Leid and her allies at WBAI are willing tools of this neo-liberal politic, and cannot abide its critics. The Pacifica National Board and its allies must be removed from office.

In my termination letter, Utrice Leid writes that I must cease all my “on-air and on-site volunteer work at or for WBAI or Pacifica generally” and may not “enter or attempt to enter WBAI’s premises or participate in any WBAI activities.” Those removed from WBAI will not be silenced. If you demand that the firings be rescinded, that on air voices be restored and all the bans be lifted, we will prevail over our censors. If you demand that the Pacifica National Board and its allies be removed we will prevail over our censors. Then we can begin to democratize our governance structures and strengthen our wonderful broadcast medium, WBAI radio. ♦

To protest call Utrice Leid - 212-209-2800
or fax - 212-717-1698

for more information email Ken Nash - knash@igc.org

United Electrical Workers Files Suit Against WBAI

by R. Paul Martin, rpm@glib.com

Feb. 2, 2001—The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers' of America (UE) has filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board on behalf of WBAI/UE Local 404 in regard to the firing of Shop Steward Sharan Harper by WBAI Management on December 23, 2000.

The charges can be seen at:
www.glib.com/sharan_ulp.html

Ms. Harper was fired as part of the "Midnight Coup" at the Pacifica Foundation owned radio station WBAI in late December. Neither the new WBAI General Manager Utrice Leid nor Pacifica Foundation Executive Director Bessie Wash have stated a reason for Ms. Harper's firing. This is in violation of the Union Contract in place at WBAI. Additionally, the firing of Ms. Harper removes her physically from the Shop floor making access to Union representation by members much more difficult in this time of crisis. ♦

More information on this case can be found at:
http://www.glib.com/sharan_grievance.html

July 2001 San Francisco 8th Annual International Working Class Film and Video Festival

Call for Videos & Films

Registration and Videos/Films Due By May 31, 2000

LaborFest is now calling for videos & films to be submitted for our annual International Working Class Film & Video Festival. Laborfest which is held in San Francisco every July, is organized to commemorate the 1934 San Francisco General Strike through the cultural arts of working people. Videos and films can include union struggles, political struggles of labor, locally, nationally and internationally. Laborfest can be found on the web at www.laborfest.net

The videos should explore the connections between labor and democracy, race, sex, environment, media, war and the capitalist economy. We are looking for videos that will add to the knowledge and thinking of working people. The videos will be shown throughout the month in San Francisco and Berkeley.

Submit on VHS Or Pal, English Captions Preferred Open To amateurs, students and professionals, Open format which includes drama, animation & documentaries.

Please send the video, bio and narrative summary and pictures by mail with copies of written material by email. Also please send electronic publicity and information on your film or video. ♦

International Labor Film & Video Festival P.O.Box 425584
San Francisco, CA 94142 • Phone(415)282-1908
Fax (415)695-1369 • lvpsf@labornet.org
www.laborfest.org

We're Looking for Labor Video Producers for our UPPNET/FSTV monthly show

UPPNET and FSTV are collaborating to create a regular monthly (to begin with) national magazine-format 30-minute show to appear on the FSTV satellite channel. We invite producers in different areas around the country (Canada too!) to submit short, edited segments (aprox. 5 minutes) covering local labor stories. [For technical guidelines, contact us at e-mail below]. Producers would then send their segment to arrive at a deadline date every month.

If you are interested in more details on the time and show go to www.fstv.org

As soon as a producer knows the topic of his/her segment, if they are submitting one for that month, they should e-mail lvpsf@igc.org or carltv214@aol.com [Make subject of message: "UPPNET/FSTV show"], briefly explaining the topic, and, if possible, giving an estimated length. Also, when the segment is completed, again e-mail lvpsf@igc.org, giving the exact length.

The next upcoming edition of the UPPNET/FSTV half hour video magazine show will be in June, and interested segment producers should contact us for deadline information.

If producers do not have short segments ready for the June edition, please contact us and tell us about future segments you may be planning, estimated lengths and completion dates. ♦

UPPNET/FSTV show
Steve Zeltzer – lvpsf@igc.org
or Carl Bryant – carltv214@aol.com
415-641-4440



Independent Media Centers Web Sites Team Up with Labor

The IMC (Independent Media Center) movement has grown dramatically since its birth at the anti-WTO actions in Seattle in late 1999. Today, there are some 26 IMC websites representing cities and regions in the United States and 28 at last count additional IMC's throughout the world. Just as unions and working people, teaming up with community activists, environmentalists and human rights proponents, were part of the political cauldron in Seattle, just so is labor media part of the mix in this independent media movement.

IMC people are instinctively positive toward the cause of labor and view union activists as natural allies. Labor media reporters are especially welcome.

At the Chicago IMC site (chicago.indymedia.org), like many other sites, there is in the center column a special category called the "Labor Desk".



Rich Berg and Debra Simmons of the New Leadership Slate in Teamsters Local 743 as they appeared on the live call-in cable show in Chicago. Their campaign's story was then covered on the IMC-Chicago site.

delegates supporting Tom Leedham's candidacy at the upcoming IBT convention. William Jenkins, a member of the slate who was also a IMC-Chicago member as well as a *Labor Beat* producer, worked out the arrangements for his slate to go on a live cable-tv call in show prior to the election and have the campaign also get covered in the IMC-Chicago's

There is also a column of postings on the right side of the page where anyone is invited to self-publish articles, photos, audio and / or video streams. Recently a story was posted there about a reform slate in Chicago's largest Teamster local (743) that fielded



Here's a scene from "People vs Property in the 47th Ward", about working people who are fighting gentrification and skyrocketing rent in Chicago. *Labor Beat*, which is on CAN-TV 19 on Cable in Chicago, created a 2-minute preview of this show, then uploaded the RealMedia file to the Chicago IMC site (chicago.indymedia.org). People who don't live in Chicago or who don't get cable tv can still get some of the message. And a neighborhood organization posted their own report on this affordable housing battle, with a hot link in the article to the *Labor Beat* RealMedia stream <<http://clients.loudeye.com/imc/chicago/w47a.ram>> IMC websites create many opportunities for such synergies among organizations.



San Francisco IMC covers picket line news.

center column IMC Labor Desk. IMC-Chicago was very pleased to be part of this campaign and bent over backwards to help the Teamster activists work through technical tweaks.

But everybody was especially pleased when the New Leadership Slate actually won the majority of votes for delegates, which now sets up conditions for an even bigger upset in the local's election for officers this next fall.

It's a pretty good bet that the Local 743 activists who used live cable-tv access and the IMC-Chicago site for their first victory will be planning on using these new media resources again. "Using these new communication technologies," explained Rich Berg, leader of the slate, "gave us credibility and exposure to hundreds of 743 members we could not have reached otherwise. It created a lot of buzz at work."

At the hugely successful IMC-Chicago fundraiser in March Rich Berg was invited to say a few words of thanks, and a strong link was forged between union militants and independent media activists.

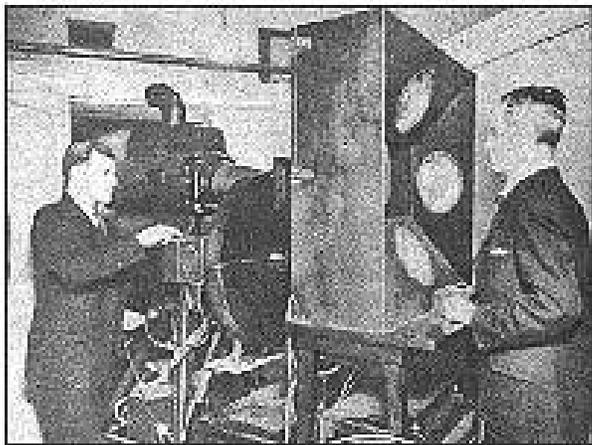


At the New York IMC site, views find coverage of WBAI protest, then quickly click their way to this video streaming with Mimi Rosenberg (see page. 1 article) speaking at support rally.

Reprinted for the first time in nearly 75 years – an UPPNET Exclusive

Labor Television in 1928

Even seasoned labor historians show surprise when they learn that Labor TV was experimented with back in 1928. We reprint here for the first time since this article originally appeared, the words of Virgil Shoenberg, the remarkable chief radio engineer of station WCFL. WCFL was a full-fledged radio station owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor. In 1928 the CFL was a forward-thinking organization that was the first in the country to start a radio station [See UPPNET News Fall 1997]. Below, Shoenberg describes to his technically uninitiated union readers plans for bringing labor tv to Chicago workers. However, it was not technical barriers which stood in the way of Schoenberg's plans, but political opposition to Labor radio stations (let alone tv) from the AFL-CIO. So sit back, get in touch with your inner "Milo Farnsworth" as we learn how they did labor tv in the 20s — for two weeks.



Television technology in Shoenberg's day.

TELEVISION AT WCFL

by Virgil Shoenberg, Chief Engineer, WCFL
(Reprinted from *The Federation News*, 9/1/28)

Television is here. There's no question about that. However, considerable work remains to be done, and there must be development of television receiving kits for the home.

At WCFL station we have clearly demonstrated that television is here. What is needed now is the adoption and refinement of laboratory equipment for home television receivers. We have constructed our own television transmitting devices in our laboratory. We have also constructed our own television receiving and checking machine. Furthermore, we have constructed a special short wave radio transmitter for the broadcasting of television. We are absolutely convinced that with the proper receiving apparatus in the home, television will be a success.

Moving Pictures via Radio Planned

We have under construction at the present time a special moving picture "projector" which will enable us to broadcast moving pictures in the very near future via radio. As we see it here in our laboratories, there are three steps in television at the present writing. The first step, which we will term "Step A," is the system generally used, whereby a strong beam of light is projected through a revolving disk, having a number of holes drilled into it spirally. From this disk revolving at a pre-determined speed, our object is scanned from right to left and up and down. The object to be televised is seated in a specially constructed booth facing the projector and disc. As the light passing through the revolving disk is picked up by specially designed lenses which gather the rays of light and

focus them into a small dot. As this dot passes over the object or person being televised, it appears to consist of a series of lines which can be counted and is equal to the number of holes perforated in the disc.

This light striking the person or object is reflected off of this object or person, and these reflected rays are picked up by specially designed photo electric cells. These cells were made especially for WCFL by the G.&M. Laboratories of Chicago, who are specialists in high class accurate photo electric cells. These photo electric cells are so sensitive that they act instantaneously with the amount of reflected light impressed on its surface.

These cells are nine inches in diameter. The energy expended by the cells is very minute and is approximately between one-quarter and one-half of one-millionth part of an ampere. (The standard electrical unit of current is the ampere. It is the current established in the circuit of an ohm resistance by an electromotive force of one volt. Micro-ampere, one-millionth part of an ampere.)

Solved Problem of Collecting Lost Rays

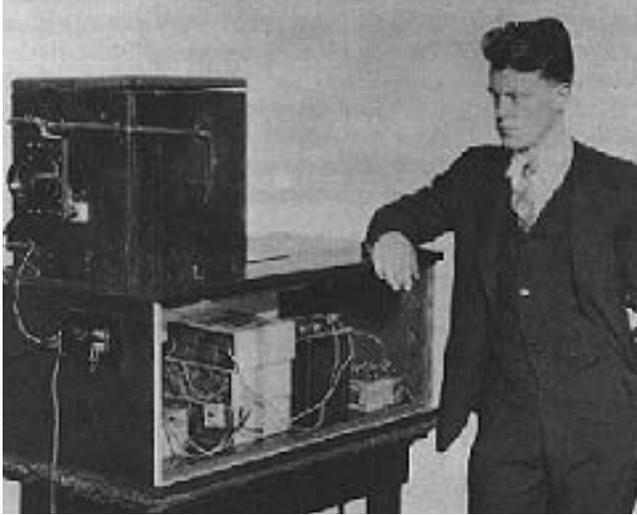
It can be readily seen that the energy or currents with which we deal in the preliminary circuits of television are very small. These photo electric cells convert the reflected light rays into electrical energy. This energy then is in turn passed through several stages of specially disguised amplification, all of which must be very exacting. This amplification of electrical energy can be dispensed with in various manners. For instance, it is quite possible to impress this signal upon records. It can also be converted into radio frequencies for broadcasting purposes, as well as for operating sensitive relays for the selection of tobaccos, grains, seeds of different descriptions, beans, clothing, etc. These photo electrical cells are now being quite extensively used in the various industries throughout the country in grading the above mentioned properties.

At the present time, quite a large percentage of the reflected rays striking the object or person being televised are lost, going off at such angles that the sensitive photo electric cells can not pick them up. We have solved the problem of collecting these lost rays and we are able to gather a large portion of them and utilize their influence.

Will Be Able to Televisé Groups

The above description comprises what we term "Method A." "Method A" has shown us the possibility of broadcasting moving pictures by radio. As already stated, we have under construction such an apparatus to broadcast movies via radio. The special projector has been loaned to us through

...Labor television in 1928



One of the first video cameras. Tv technology in the late 20's was experimented with by Chicago's union radio station WCFL.

the courtesy of the Enterprise Optical Company of Chicago. We hope to have moving pictures on the air within fifteen days from date. This is what we term "Method B."

"Method A" has also brought to our attention another system term, "Method C". This system or method of television will enable us to pick up and televise groups of individuals, boat races and athletic events, stage settings, etc. There is quite a bit of work to be done on this "Method C" system before it will be possible to televise large events quite remote from the broadcasting station. This, however, will be done. But will be necessary to work in conjunction with the companies supplying special lines for remote pickups.

Just what "Methods B and C" will bring us in further development of television is difficult to foresee. It is certain that it will enlighten us along new lines.

Broadcasted Television at WCFL

We, at station WCFL, have been broadcasting television in the short wave bands for the past two weeks over our experimental station 9XAA. At present practically all stations broadcasting television are using a 48-hole disc. We, at WCFL, also use a 48-hole disc.

There are a number of problems in broadcasting television, mainly the impressing of the modulated television signals to the carrier of the radio transmitter. We have been able to get good modulation with voice on this high frequency wave band we are using for experimental tests. One of the difficult problems in radio is the effort to use voice, instrumental music, etc., on the low wavelength channels. In our first experiments with television on the regular broadcast band of WCFL we were very much surprised to find a large drop in percentage of modulation with television signals as compared to the percentage required for good voice modulation.

We hope, within the very near future, to modulate our television signals somewhere in proportion to the voice modulation. It appears that television signals are lacking body as compared to voice modulation. I predict, accordingly, that not far in the future a station designed to broadcast television will be using discs employing two hundred or more apertures. Discs of this kind undoubtedly will give us very fine texture in our broadcasting pictures, but just what will happen to

the broadcast channel, which is being used for television, is somewhat hard to say at this time.

Difficulties Still Exist

We are making preparation here to conduct tests, employing discs of a large number of apertures. We will have more to say on this subject in the near future. It is advisable to state at this time that, although we encourage our listeners to equip themselves with television receiving apparatus, not to expect too much from television. Quite a technique is required to enable one to tune in on television. With all our experience at our laboratories, we have experienced some difficulties to realize fair results with some of the apparatus which is now being sold.

Those who are contemplating the erection of television receiving apparatus should take great pains in the selection of their equipment and material. First of all, a good short wave receiver is essential. This receiver should be so designed as to have it pick up a very sharp signal and to detect it without distortion. I suggest that the detector tube be separately biased with a C battery. The detector feeds into several stages of good resistance coupled amplification. Here again great pains should be taken in the selection of coupling condenser resistances, and tubes should be given consideration.

It is advisable that the last stage employ a power tube either of the 210 or 250 type. It is also advisable that this stage of power amplification be paralleled with a similar tube. The output of the stage can be heard with a head set or loud speaker. It is best to insert a condenser of some description in series with high voltage output circuit, so the head set will not be damaged. This output of the power amplifier is connected with the neon tube which is used for the conversion of electrical impulses into light. The neon tube is placed in the back of the revolving disc, having the same number of holes as the transmitting station. It is quite essential that this disc has the exact number of revolutions as the transmitting station's disc. There are various methods employed now to enable one to do this. My suggestion would be to equip oneself with a synchronize motor, especially if you are residing within the area supplied by the Edison Company of Chicago. This will simplify the speed problem considerably.

The controls for speed regulation on the universal motor are wide and varied. Any system of controls may be employed. It has been found quite difficult to hold pictures in synchronism.

Timely Suggestions

A few suggestions here will perhaps enable one to tune in on television. With a good signal at the end of the amplifier and the neon tube connected properly, and the disc starting to revolve, it will be noticed that there are various kinds of objects appearing on the disc. As this disc speeds up and approaches synchronism, these various dots of light variations will start to take form in lines. They will be distended along with the rotation of the disc. As this disc increases speed, these lines or forms will gradually tend to right themselves to a vertical position until synchronism has been attained, and then a true replica of the object being transmitted can be seen. Should this disc increase in speed, it will be noticed that the object being received will become distorted and will tend to elongate itself against the rotation of the disc. So it is quite apparent that to receive good television, good speed regulation and control are among the most important requirements. ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

| Show Title | Producer | City/Station | Phone No. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Fighting Back</i> | Ralph Kessler | Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM | 510-845-9285 |
| <i>David Bacon on Labor</i> | David Bacon | Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM | 510-549-0291 |
| <i>Labor Line</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Profiles of Labor Working LA</i> | Ruth Holbrook Henry Walton | Sacramento, CA Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM | 916-455-1396 818-894-4079 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | Larry Dorman | Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM | 880-571-6191 |
| <i>Labor Express</i> | Wayne Heimbach | Chicago, IL WLUW 88.7 FM | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Labor Beat</i> | Martin Conlisk | Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Illinois Labor Hour</i> | Peter Miller | Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM | 217-337-5174 |
| <i>AFSCME On-Line</i> | Dan Hart | Dorchester, MA cable-tv | 617-266-3496 |
| <i>Heartland Labor Forum</i> | Judy Ancel | Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM | 816-235-1470 |
| <i>Minnesota at Work</i> | Howard Kling | Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable | 612-624-5020 |
| <i>Building Bridges</i> | Ken Nash | New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM | 212-815-1699 |
| <i>Communique</i> | Bill Henning | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-228-6565 |
| <i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i> | Pat Passanilin | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-815-1535 |
| <i>America's Work Force</i> | Jerrod Sorkey | Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM | 440-975-4262 |
| <i>Boiling Point</i> | Michael Wood | Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM | 513-961-4348 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | John Lavin | Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM | 610-660-3372 |
| <i>Labor on the Job</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 54 cable | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i> | Chuck Schwartz | Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv | 401-463-9900 |
| <i>Solidarity</i> | John Speier | Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access | 616-375-4638 |
| <i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i> | Rick Levy | Austin, TX | 512-477-6195 |
| <i>Which Side Are You On?</i> | Hal Leyshon | Middlesex, VT | 802-223-4172 |
| <i>Radio Labor Journal</i> | Bil Borders | Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM | 425-921-3454 |
| <i>Labor Radio News</i> | Frank Emspak | Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM | 608-262-2111 |
| <i>LaborVision</i> | John Webb | St. Louis, MO DHTV | 314-962-4163 |
| <i>Labor X</i> | Simin Farkhondeh | New York, NY CUNY-TV cable | 212-966-4248 ext. 216 |
| <i>OPEU Productions</i> | Wes Brain | Ashland, OR cable-tv | 541-482-6988 |
| <i>Labor Link TV</i> | Fred Lonidier | La Jolla, CA cable-tv | 619-552-0740 |
| <i>First Tuesday</i> | Leo Canty | Connecticut cable-tv | 860-257-9782 |
| <i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i> | Carl Bryant | San Fran., CA cable-tv | 415-885-0375 |
| <i>Springfield Labor Beat</i> | Jim Hade | Springfield, IL cable-tv | 217-787-7837 |
| <i>The Price Paid</i> | Gene Lawhorn | Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM | 503-282-9541 |
| <i>working tv</i> | Julius Fisher | Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV | 604-253-6222 |
| <i>726 Express</i> | Stewart Ransom | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | 718-761-6681 |
| <i>Rank-And-File</i> | Larry Maglio | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | N.A. |

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote and expand the production and use of television and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and the issues relevant to all working people.
2. To establish and promote the general distribution and circulation of this programming.
3. To address issues regarding the media and its fair and democratic use and accessibility by labor and other constituencies generally.
4. To encourage and promote the preservation of television and radio broadcasts pertinent to labor.
5. To establish a code of ethic governing television and radio production practices and other such matters UPPNET may determine as relevant to its work.
6. To require all productions to work under a collective bargaining agreement, secure waivers or work in agreement with any television or movie industry union having jurisdiction in the area.

www.mtn.org/les/

The New *Workers Independent News Service* Is about to be Launched

WINS (Workers Independent News Service) is presently in the development stage and is gaining support from unions and community organizations. WINS has put together the initial production team and has commitments from Wisconsin Public Radio to house the service on their Internet site.

WINS will combine traditional broadcast techniques with the capacity of the Internet to allow discrete stations and individuals to share news and information. It will be a web-based resource from which numerous discrete stations or individual listeners can download pre-produced segments or full programs focusing on news of and about working people. WINS will have the ability to provide news of working

people and the labor movement in many time and style formats. Its ability to provide programs in various formats will encourage widespread use of the material. It is

- A news service to supply the most accurate news available concerning working people
- A news service with a strong labor focus
- A news service with multiple formats
- A news service with a strong working class culture content

All Union Producers and Programmers Network subscribers are encouraged to get in touch with WINS at 608-262-0680 for information regarding how WINS may share material. ♦

WE'RE THE ONES PUTTING WORKERS' STORIES ON RADIO AND TV – SUPPORT US, JOIN US.

- Yes. Subscribe me to one year of *UPPNET News* (a quarterly) for \$15.**
- I want to join UPPNET. Annual dues are \$30, which includes a year's subscription to the newsletter.**

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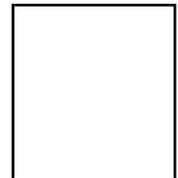
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

“WorkWeek” Hits The Airwaves



Photo: Minnesota at Work

APWU pickets in Memphis get mail truck to turn back in segment from September's "Work Week" satellite show on FSTV.

by Carl Bryant

Work Week is a 30 minute labor television program broadcast on the Dish TV and cable system—www.fstv.org. This is also the first monthly video magazine by union members, for union members, and about union members. It is a forum for labor issues in the US and abroad to be spotlighted like nowhere else in traditional media outlets.

In order to make it a success, we need your help! We need labor video producers to submit short, edited segments covering local labor issues. Information at the end of this article will be given on how to participate as a producer.

Work Week is now finishing its third installment for the month of which will be broadcast in September. This show will have segments about Teamsters' rank and file-dealing with convention floor etiquette-and postal workers in Memphis, TN facing the last bargaining chip: a strike! It will also include a segment on BART transportation workers facing a strike and the condition of Palestinian workers in Israel produced by Video 48 in Israel.

Continued on p. 2

The Second Return of 'Building Bridges'

WBAI Radio in Exile presents The 2nd Return of *Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report (in Exile)* produced by Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash. Wednesdays, 8-9pm (EST) over internet radio <http://www.wbix.org>

WBIX is produced by Errol Maitland and Ryme Katkhouda. Streaming every Wednesday evening, the first show on August 1 featured these stories: Kim Bobo, Executive Director of National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice talks with Building Bridges about the religious communities campaigns for low wage workers in the U.S. The Interfaith Committee is especially targeting poultry workers and farmworkers, nursing home and Child care workers and living wage initiatives. Marcos Camacho, General Counsel to the United Farmworkers of America on the national debate on immigration reform putting forth the views of the farmworkers especially about guestworker legislation which is seen by many as an unacceptable new bracero program that ignores worker rights.

The August 1 show's special guest was WBAI's award winning producer Robert Knight whose Show "Earthwatch" was yanked off the air last week by Interim Station Manager Utrice Leid. Is he fired or suspended? Is there a difference at WBAI? Tune into Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report (in exile)

For more information about *Building Bridges* contact Ken Nash: knash@igc.org

Continued on p. 4

UPPNET News in PDF format

This is the first PDF issue of *UPPNET News*, sent as an attached file with email. When you view it as a PDF you will be able to click on web site addresses in the text (shown in brown type and enclosed in a box) and be hot-linked directly to url's through your Internet browser. And, as a PDF, it's in color. We'll also be mailing out printed copies of *UPPNET News* to subscribers who don't get email. We hope that you'll like the change.

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Workers Independent News Service

WINS Prepares to Launch

The Workers Independent News Service or WINS is about to become a reality. Several unions have made significant contributions to help launch the service. The Communications Workers of America is the leading contributor with the Postal Workers, and the Wisconsin Education Association Council contributing amounts necessary to reach our minimum goal. As we go to press several unions are in contact with WINS regarding their commitment.

WINS intends to provide information about working people and our communities in a variety of formats. We will establish a headline news service-aimed at commercial radio. In addition we will produce features that deal with specific types of information. For example WINS will produce a two-minute feature on how to access OSHA. These might be utilized as public service announcements.

We will also produce features about different issues facing working people—for example the effect of free trade on wages. Last but not least will make the headline news, longer news stories and features available in a 30 minute format. We hope that the longer format or the features will be utilized by community and college stations.

*We need media activists,
community organizers and
labor activists to contact WINS
and become part of the WINS
news gathering family.*

In the immediate future WINS will begin to hire staff. Our objective is to work out the technical aspects of news acquisition, distribution and the maintenance of a searchable data base. We want the news to belong to all—and not just to our service. Therefore WINS will make it possible for contributors to access their own stories in both a produced and raw form.

What does WINS need? We need media activists, community organizers and labor activists to contact WINS and become part of the WINS news gathering family. WINS will also need assistance in placing the headline news service on local commercial radio.

Our organizational model is greatly influenced by UPPNET—which is also one of our sponsoring organizations. WINS believes that we as a news service should enable people to speak for themselves. Our job is to get that news out in a form that can be widely distributed.

Please get in touch:

WINS- Frank Emspak
608-262-0680 or femspak@facstaff.wisc.edu ♦

To download a sample of WINS, go to:
<http://wsum.wisc.edu/LaborRadio.html>

Click on Radio



**to download
WINS sample**

Work Week Continued from p. 1



Hoffa supporter interrupts Tom Leedham at floor mike. Scene from segment on Teamster convention in August "Workweek" edition. For streaming, simply click on web address, or go to www.leedham.org/leedham_at_mike.ram

"Strike!", produced by Howard Kling, the UPPNET President focuses on Memphis, TN. Facing contracting out by the post office, postal workers begin to understand the meaning of solidarity on the picket line.

The Memphis, Tennessee Area Local American Postal Workers Union went out on strike against the H.B. Phillips and J.E. Phillips companies last April. APWU has been trying to negotiate a contract with the employers for more than 18 months, while the companies have continued to commit unfair labor practices including harassment and intimidation. H.B. Phillips and J.E. Phillips contract with the US Postal Service to haul mail, and together employ about 100 workers represented by the APWU. APWU leaders and members from around the country traveled to Memphis to support the strikers. In another segment of September's Work Week, convention floor etiquette becomes a critical issues for union members.

Produced by William Jenkins of Labor Beat, the segment takes us to the boisterous Teamsters convention floor in Las Vegas. Tom Leedham—running against Jimmy Hoffa Jr. for president of the Teamsters—tries to defend his right to speak at the floor mike. The Teamsters have been a dramatic arena of internal debate for the last twenty years, and that will continue on into the Fall election, as issues of strike benefits and multiple salaries are brought up.

Satellite Info for the Sept. Work Week Show

Here is the information you will need to view September's edition of Work Week on your Satellite dish:
September 2001

Workweek #4 airs in week of 9/24.

Satellite: Dish Network Channel 9415

For exact scheduling time you should go to
<http://www.fstv.org/guide.htm>

We need your labor video segments. We need to get your struggle on the satellite. If you would like to submit a segment about labor's struggles that might appear on WorkWeek, please email Steve Zeltzer lvpsf@igc.org (415)282-1908 or Carl Bryant Carlvt214@aol.com (415)786-7530 as soon as you know the topic of your segment, with details, if possible, about topic, estimated length and date it will be submitted. To Contact UPPNET email hkling@csom.umn.edu ♦

December 7-9, 2001

LaborTech 2001 to Focus on Telecom, IT and Global Organizing

LaborTech 2001 is now developing a program for the upcoming San Francisco conference on December 7, 8 & 9. The conference will have workshops on how to develop a community access tv show, build a micro-radio station and stream your labor audio and video. It will also bring together international delegates who are using telecommunication to organize and build global solidarity.

Already labor activist brothers and sisters from Japan, Korea, Canada, Belgium, the UK and Russia are planning to attend and this will make LaborTech 2001 an important international meeting of labor communicators. There will also be an personal appeal from Japan Rail workers to LaborTech and the US labor movement to support their fight to get their jobs back and against the privatization of the railroads. They will also be bringing a video by Video Press in Tokyo about their fight.

As the media and computer monopolies seek to censor and control bandwidth and the internet it is critical that labor develops a strategy to defend our democratic communication rights. We will have presentations on the International Committee for the Assignment of Names (ICANN) and the need to have public control of bandwidth so we are not marginalized and cut out of the picture.

The conference will also see a selection of labor videos from throughout the world including the new Russian video "McDonald's, Conveyor of Smiles". Labor videographers are invited to submit videos to the conference for inclusion in the video programming that will be held during the entire conference. Labor writers will also be participating in the conference and discussing how to broaden the outreach of labor press.

Labor journalists David Bacon, Dick Meister and media critic Norman Soloman will all be participating. We will also have reports on how unions are using their web pages in locals, state federations and internationals and how we can make them more powerful as well as secure from intrusion and hacking.

Labor culture will also play a part in the conference both with music but also discussion on how we can use labor communication technology to get our music, poetry and song out in a popular way.

The conference cost will be \$175.00 and it will be held at the University of San Francisco. It has been endorsed by San Francisco Labor Council, UPPNET, LaborNet, University of San Francisco Media Department, National Writers Union UAW, NWU-UAW 1981, NALC 214, Brooklyn College Graduate Center for Worker Education, Labor-On-Line, WorkingUSA: The Journal of Labor and Society. and many others.

For information and registration go to contact us at: LaborTech, P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142, (415)282-1908. Email us at either: lvpsf@igc.org, carlvtv214@aol.com, kidd@usfca.edu

Also www.labornet.org will have a link on the front page about LaborTech 2001. ◆

November 12-14, 2001

The 3rd Seoul International LaborMedia 2001, Seoul, Korea



Now organizing for the third time, the discussion roundtable of labor media activists will be held in Seoul once again. Please join us at LaborMedia 2001, as we call for suggestions, recommendations, proposals and opinions !

As the myth of dot-com industry reveals itself as another impetus of economic crisis, and as the activities using media technologies for the labor movement in different countries becomes more vibrant and diverse than ever, the working class viewpoint on challenges and potentials pro-

vided by new media technologies become critical for the progress of democratic labor movement as a whole. Based on this basic concern, the Korean progressive communication activists will hold the third international LaborMedia conference with the fifth Seoul International Labor Film and Video Festival during the coming November.

With the initiative of "JinboNet" (Korean progressive network, and "NodongNet" (LaborNet in South Korea) and the sponsorship of KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions), this conference will be one of the most important events for labor communication activists world wide to discuss the broad issues related to the challenge and the potential of new communication technologies following the acclaimed LaborMedia '97 and '99.

- 10 days of struggle, debate and festival
- Peoples Rally & March : On November 11th, the day before the conference, there will be an annual people's rally & march organized by KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions).
- LaborMedia Conference : Three day conference will be held with the participants from different countries who are active in the different labor communication areas. (http://lmedia.nodong.net/1999/index_e.html)
- Labor film Festival: there will be entries to the festival of around 30 films & videos from different continents. (See the festival directory at <http://www.lnp89.org>)

In addition to these official programs, there will be various gatherings, lectures and meetings with the initiative of the participants and suggestion of the organizing committee. These programs will jointly make this coming November as the time of campaigning for the issue of labor communication.

• Urgent Call for financial support! Contact us at: NodongNet (LaborNet Korea) tel : +82-2-774-4551, fax : +82-2-757-8627, e-mail : lmedia@jinbo.net

For updated information: lmedia@jinbo.net ◆

“Life and Debt”: One Love, One Heart, Or a Sweatshop Economy?

By Stephen Holden, in the New York Times

The term “globalization” is so tinged with rosy one-world optimism that it’s easy to assume the essential benignity of an economic philosophy whose name vaguely connotes unity, equality and freedom. But as Stephanie Black’s powerful documentary “Life and Debt” illustrates with an impressive (and depressing) acuity, globalization can have a devastating impact on third world countries. The movie offers the clearest analysis of globalization and its negative effects that I’ve ever seen on a movie or television screen.

“Life and Debt,” which opens the Human Rights Watch Film Festival this evening at the Walter Reade Theater and continues its run on Saturday at Cinema Village, focuses on the deeply troubled economy of Jamaica and how that country’s long-term indebtedness to international lending organizations have contributed to the erosion of local agriculture and industry.

Far from being a dry exegesis crammed with graphs, pie charts and talking heads spewing abstract mumbo-jumbo, the film goes directly to the farmers and factory workers whose livelihoods have been undermined. In basic everyday language, they explain how high interest rates have helped devalue the local currency, raising prices for their produce and permitting wealthier countries to import the same products and sell them more cheaply.

The hard-nosed lending policies of organizations like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank may not deliberately set out to undermine fragile third world economies dependent on their aid. But as the movie shows, the market forces that operate once these organizations become involved are an economic form of Darwinism. The fittest economies prosper while the weaker ones tend to be snared in an endless and escalating cycle of debt repayment that eventually erodes the debtor country’s economic base. The banks’ lending policies are, of course, determined by the wealthier countries, especially the United States and those of Western Europe.

These dry economic realities are leavened by the cool, ironic lyricism of a voice-over narration by Jamaica Kincaid, who adapted the text from her nonfiction book, “A Small Place.” Adopting the alluringly soothing tone of a subversive tour guide, Ms. Kincaid informs potential tourists of the things that will be hidden from sight should they visit Jamaica. “When you sit down to eat your delicious meal, it’s better that you don’t know that most of what you are eating came off a ship from Miami,” she says.

That’s just one of a long list of things she mentions—from primitive hotel sewage systems that empty directly into the ocean to the dire poverty of Kingston’s slums—that all but the most intrepidly curious visitors to the country will not see. Recurring through the film are unsettling images of jolly, overfed American tourists engaged in activities like beer-drinking contests in Jamaica’s luxury hotels. One result of the country’s crumbling economy is the vulnerability to exploitation of Jamaica’s needy labor force. A segment about Jamaica’s free trade zones

introduces us to workers who toil five or six days a week in near-sweatshop conditions for the legal minimum wage of \$30 a week sewing garments for American manufacturers. No unionization is permitted in these foreign-owned garment factories where shiploads of material arrive tax-free for assembly before being transported back to foreign markets. Those who dare to make waves are fired.

The movie visits a plant that used to sell high-quality chickens for Jamaican consumption but whose business has been undermined by the dumping of cheaper, low-grade chicken parts from the United States under the guise of free trade. And until recently, Jamaica’s banana industry flourished thanks to an agreement with Britain allowing a tax-free import quota. But through the W.T.O., the United States has protested the agreement, forcing Jamaica to compete with multinational corporations based in Central and South America where labor is cheaper.

These are just a few of the stories told in a film that despite all the bad news it delivers refuses to raise its voice. Among the prominent Jamaicans interviewed the most eloquent voice belongs to Michael Manley, the former prime minister who reluctantly signed some of the agreements that have damaged the country’s economy.

Speaking more in sorrow than in anger, he acknowledges that his country made mistakes along the way. But the overall impression left by this devastating film is of the global economy as a dog-eat-dog world where the usual culprits, the United States and its multinational corporate clients, have the advantage.

“Life and Debt” was produced and directed by Stephanie Black; narration written by Jamaica Kincaid, based on her book “A Small Place”. ♦

“Life and Debt” on PBS

Tue Aug. 21, 10 pm

Public television’s award-winning independent non-fiction film series, P.O.V., presents “Life And Debt,” a co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

WBAI in Exile *Continued from p. 1*



Billboard calling for a boycott of WBAI

For more information about WBAI In Exile contact: wbaiinexile@yahoo.com

Please help us contact your community radio and ask them to relay some of our shows.

For FM quality signal, email us at wbixtech@yahoo.com or call (917) 225-8815

WBAI IN EXILE is on the road traveling around the country bringing you 3 weeks of specials. See <http://www.wbix.org> for more information! ♦

A Year in the Streets: WTO Seattle to the Bush Inauguration

A new generation of activists rises to expose the atrocities of neoliberal economic globalization and to confront the violence of the capitalist police state. In the belly of the beast, people are hitting the streets in mass actions, struggling for a future in which domination, exploitation and ecocide will be sad memories of a bygone era. Their message is a vibrant, raging cry for justice and a free humanity. From WTO Seattle to the Bush inauguration protests, *A Year in the Streets* criss-crosses the country (and goes to Prague, CZ), providing a street-level view of the clash between activists who recognize the need for urgent radical change and a state apparatus engaged in the widespread repression of free speech and assembly.

This film covers: N30: WTO Seattle; A16: IMF/World Bank, Washington D.C.; LADNC: 2000 Democratic National Convention, Los Angeles Seven Week Revolt; Eugene, Oregon; May Day Y2K: Portland, Oregon; S26: IMF/World Bank, Prague; J20: Bush Inauguration, Washington D.C.; Forest Defense Campaigns; Other Direct Actions and Demos

For more info, contact themc@efn.org or visit our website at <http://www.cascadiamedia.org>

TO ORDER: Send a check or money order for \$19.00 (s/h included) payable to: Cascadia Media Collective, P.O. Box 703, Eugene, Oregon 97440. Also available through AK Press (akpress.org) ♦

Praha 2000: World Bank and IMF Under Siege

On September 26th, 2000, activists from around the world gathered to protest the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's annual meeting in Prague. On the heels of persistent massive protests against global economic institutions, the protests in Prague marked the first time that trade unionists, students, anarchists, workers, pacifists, socialists, non-governmental organizations, communists, ecologists, and many other groups came together under the banner of anti-globalization and anti-capitalism. In this video, interviews with organizers, demonstrators, observers, and theorists explain this new movement for freedom and why the IMF and World Bank are "under siege".

You've been waiting forever, and it's finally here. *Praha 2000: World Bank and IMF Under Siege* is now complete and is ready for distribution. This is the U.S. mix of the video compiled in Amsterdam, re-edited in Italy, and now updated with more interviews and WB/IMF information. Individual copies of this tape may be purchased online at <http://www.freespeech.org> for \$20.

Tapes may be purchased wholesale at \$10 each in quantities of 10 or more.

To watch the video, or for more information, check out: <http://www.freespeech.org/ramfiles/praha2000.ram> ♦

Media Companies *Continued from p. 6*

A few weeks later, agency officials said, the commission will begin to substantially loosen or repeal the 1975 regulation that restricts a company from owning both a television station and a newspaper in the same market. At a recent gathering with reporters, Michael Powell, the new chairman of the F.C.C., called the cross-ownership restriction a "hard sell" that he was skeptical of keeping.

"I don't know why there's something inherent about a newspaper and something inherent about a broadcaster that means they can't be combined," he said.

Earlier this month, the federal appeals court temporarily blocked the F.C.C. from carrying out its limits on the market size of a broadcasting company. The court order was issued after Viacom demonstrated to the judges that it had a strong likelihood of prevailing in its case, asserting that the rule prohibiting a company from controlling more than 35 percent of the television market should be struck down. Last week, the F.C.C. decided not to appeal that decision. A Democratically controlled F.C.C. almost certainly would have appealed it.

And shortly before that, the same court struck down as unconstitutional the regulations limiting the nation's largest cable companies from growing larger and from broadcasting more of their own shows. That case was brought by a unit of AOL Time Warner, the nation's second-largest cable company after AT&T.

The rule that was struck down had prohibited a company from serving more than 30 percent of the cable and satellite television market and from providing more than 40 percent of its channels with programming from its affiliated companies.

The relaxation of the rules is a consequence of a new conservative Republican regulatory climate in Washington and an expansive reading of the First Amendment by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that makes it difficult, if not impossible, to justify ownership limits.

Earlier opinions by the Supreme Court and other courts sought to carefully balance the limited First Amendment interests of the companies against the competing public interest responsibilities of the F.C.C. in assuring a diversity of voices.

In a series of opinions running from the 1940's through the 1970's, the Supreme Court gave broad deference to the F.C.C. to take measures to promote diversity even though the justices acknowledged the difficulty of finding clear empirical evidence that the regulations achieved such ends.

The recent appeals court decisions, however, have given short shrift to the diversity claims and demanded a far greater level of evidence to justify the regulations. ♦

Flash Animation on FTAA

Mike Konopacki of Huck/Konopacki Labor Cartoons has created a Flash animation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). You can see it at:

<http://www.solidarity.com/hkcartoons/ftaa.html>

For more information on the FTAA go to

www.tradewatch.org. ♦

Media Companies Succeed in Easing Ownership Limits

By Stephen Labaton, *The New York Times*

Media companies have begun winning important changes to federal rules that restrict their ability to grow larger and to dominate new markets.

WASHINGTON, April 15—After years of litigation and lobbying, the nation's largest broadcasters, cable companies and other media outlets have begun winning important changes to federal rules that restrict their ability to grow larger and to dominate new markets.

The changes achieved by the powerful media and telecommunications companies reflect a new regulatory climate in Washington, both at the Federal Communications Commission and before a federal appeals court here.

In a marked departure from decades of Supreme Court opinions on the subject, the agency and the appeals court have become significantly more sympathetic to the free-speech rights of corporations and more skeptical of the role of government in promoting diversity in mass media.

Consumer groups say the regulations that are being rolled back have been crucial instruments for promoting a diversity of viewpoints in the news and entertainment businesses. The companies reply that technologies including the Internet have made the rules obsolete.

The next industry victory is expected this week, when the communications agency is scheduled to relax a rule that for decades has prohibited one television network from buying another.

And within a few weeks, officials said, the agency will begin to loosen a 26-year-old regulation restricting a company from owning a television station and a newspaper in the same market.

In recent weeks, the federal court, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, has handed two big victories to the largest companies in the cable and broadcasting industries. It struck down the rules that limit how big a cable company can grow, and it expressed grave doubts about comparable rules that have limited the nationwide size of broadcasters.

"This administration, the new leadership at the Federal Communications Commission and the courts are looking at every important ownership rule and saying, 'If you can't rationalize it, eliminate it,'" said Richard Wiley, a former chairman of the commission. "Everything is in play." As a senior partner at the law firm of Wiley, Rein & Fielding, he represents a number of leading media and broadcasting companies.

The changes have been denounced by some consumer groups, which say they will further concentrate media power in many markets with limited competition, sharply reducing the diversity of viewpoints on the airwaves and diminishing the number of companies distributing such services.

"These rules have been vital," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman, president of the Media Access Project, a

nonpartisan group dedicated to promoting the public's right to hear and be heard through diverse news and information outlets.

"They assure that the American public has access to news, information and programming reflecting many different perspectives and many tastes," he said. "The erosion of these rules portends a troubling sameness and enables a cartelization in which a handful of owners with increasingly common interests have the ability to shape public tastes, and less likelihood that one will be off the reservation."

Taken together, the rollbacks by the federal appeals court and the F.C.C. represent the most significant changes in the media ownership rules in many years. Some of the rules being revised or abandoned, such as the limitations on the number of stations that a broadcaster can own, date back to the dawn of television in the 1940's. Others, such as restrictions generally prohibiting a company from owning a station and a newspaper in the same market, were adopted in the 1970's and long ago survived legal challenges in cases resolved by the Supreme Court.

Some of the rules being revised or abandoned, such as the limitations on the number of stations that a broadcaster can own, date back to the dawn of television in the 1940's.

Some policy makers say that the changing climate, particularly among judges, is similar to the sharp reversal of the courts on affirmative action in the last 20 years. Federal courts once supported affirmative action programs but ultimately abandoned them after becoming skeptical that they could achieve their goals of promoting racial diversity in the workplace and at educational institutions.

Similarly, the federal judges in the Washington court have indicated a deep skepticism that government-imposed limits on media ownership will effectively promote diversity on the airwaves.

The changes by the courts and the F.C.C. will benefit an array of media conglomerates, including Viacom (the parent of CBS), AT&T, AOL Time Warner, Disney, (the parent of ABC), General Electric (the parent of NBC), the Tribune Company, and the companies controlled by Rupert Murdoch.

Those companies say that the rules have become both unnecessary and anachronistic at a time when new technologies such as the Internet make it more difficult for one company to control information coming into homes.

Officials said that on Thursday the F.C.C. will relax a regulation known as the "dual-network rule" that prohibits a network from buying another. The change will permit Viacom to own CBS and have a large interest in UPN, a second, far smaller network.

Continued on p. 5

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

| Show Title | Producer | City/Station | Phone No. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Fighting Back</i> | Ralph Kessler | Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM | 510-845-9285 |
| <i>David Bacon on Labor</i> | David Bacon | Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM | 510-549-0291 |
| <i>Labor Line</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Profiles of Labor Working LA</i> | Ruth Holbrook Henry Walton | Sacramento, CA Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM | 916-455-1396 818-894-4079 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | Larry Dorman | Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM | 880-571-6191 |
| <i>Labor Express</i> | Wayne Heimbach | Chicago, IL WLUW 88.7 FM | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Labor Beat</i> | William Jenkins | Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Illinois Labor Hour</i> | Peter Miller | Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM | 217-337-5174 |
| <i>AFSCME On-Line</i> | Dan Hart | Dorchester, MA cable-tv | 617-266-3496 |
| <i>Heartland Labor Forum</i> | Judy Ancel | Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM | 816-235-1470 |
| <i>Minnesota at Work</i> | Howard Kling | Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable | 612-624-5020 |
| <i>Building Bridges</i> | Ken Nash | New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM | 212-815-1699 |
| <i>Communique</i> | Bill Henning | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-228-6565 |
| <i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i> | Pat Passanilin | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-815-1535 |
| <i>America's Work Force</i> | Jerrold Sorkey | Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM | 440-975-4262 |
| <i>Boiling Point</i> | Michael Wood | Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM | 513-961-4348 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | John Lavin | Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM | 610-660-3372 |
| <i>Labor on the Job</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 29 cable | 415-282-1908 |
| <i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i> | Chuck Schwartz | Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv | 401-463-9900 |
| <i>Solidarity</i> | John Speier | Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access | 616-375-4638 |
| <i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i> | Rick Levy | Austin, TX | 512-477-6195 |
| <i>Which Side Are You On?</i> | Hal Leyshon | Middlesex, VT | 802-223-4172 |
| <i>Radio Labor Journal</i> | Bil Borders | Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM | 425-921-3454 |
| <i>Labor Radio News</i> | Frank Emspak | Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM | 608-262-2111 |
| <i>LaborVision</i> | John Webb | St. Louis, MO DHTV | 314-962-4163 |
| <i>Labor X</i> | Simin Farkhondeh | New York, NY CUNY-TV cable | 212-966-4248 ext. 216 |
| <i>OPEU Productions</i> | Wes Brain | Ashland, OR cable-tv | 541-482-6988 |
| <i>Labor Link TV</i> | Fred Lonidier | La Jolla, CA cable-tv | 619-552-0740 |
| <i>First Tuesday</i> | Leo Canty | Connecticut cable-tv | 860-257-9782 |
| <i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i> | Carl Bryant | San Fran., CA cable-tv | 415-885-0375 |
| <i>Springfield Labor Beat</i> | Jim Hade | Springfield, IL cable-tv | 217-787-7837 |
| <i>The Price Paid</i> | Gene Lawhorn | Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM | 503-282-9541 |
| <i>working tv</i> | Julius Fisher | Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV | 604-253-6222 |
| <i>726 Express</i> | Stewart Ransom | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | 718-761-6681 |
| <i>Rank-And-File</i> | Larry Maglio | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | N.A. |

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote and expand the production and use of television and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and the issues relevant to all working people.
2. To establish and promote the general distribution and circulation of this programming.
3. To address issues regarding the media and its fair and democratic use and accessibility by labor and other constituencies generally.
4. To encourage and promote the preservation of television and radio broadcasts pertinent to labor.
5. To establish a code of ethic governing television and radio production practices and other such matters UPPNET may determine as relevant to its work.
6. To require all productions to work under a collective bargaining agreement, secure waivers or work in agreement with any television or movie industry union having jurisdiction in the area.

www.mtn.org/les/

Call for entries

The Fifth Seoul International Labor Film Festival

November, 13-18, 2001

Hosted by Labor News Production and sponsored by Korean Film Commission (KBC) and Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), the Fifth Seoul International Labor Film Festival will be held during November this year.

This non-competitive festival is devoted to the screening of the video and film on the international struggle against globalization, labor media, women workers, international labor solidarity and workers' lives and struggles.

For further information, please contact Myoung Joon Kim at LNP89@chollian.net or fax : +82-2-888-5121 • phone: +82-11-270-7150 (Demonstration tapes must be sent to Labor News Production 509, Harvard officetel, 875-7, Bongchun 4 dong, Kwanak-gu, Seoul, Korea tel: +82-2-888-5123) ♦

Also: 3rd Seoul International LaborMedia 2001, Seoul, Korea. See p. 3 inside.

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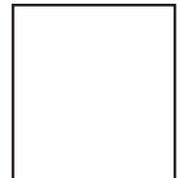
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

Making the Video...

Minnesota State Workers Strike



Photos: Howard Kling

Since the WTC bombing, bosses and the media have tried to exploit the war atmosphere in a way that weakens unions. As labor stands firm, labor media producers tell their stories in a changed, more threatening world.

Minnesota at Work's producer Randy Croce shoots footage for "State Workers on Strike: Our Stories"

by Randy Croce, producer

On October 1, 2001, unions representing the majority of Minnesota state workers went on strike. The walkout by over 22,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 6 and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) was the largest strike by public employees in state history and the first for the white-collar MAPE workers. What compelled so many workers to take this action, especially at a time when a sense of national emergency in the wake of the September 11 attacks made attracting public support and maintaining union member solidarity uncertain?

I offer my own perspective, based on interviews made during the two-week strike and the four months leading up to it. Labor Education Service at the University of

Continued on p. 2

UPPNET News in PDF format

If you are reading this newsletter on screen as a PDF, you can click on web site addresses in the text (shown in brown type and enclosed in a box) and be hot-linked directly to url's through your Internet browser.

New York's "Building Bridges" Responds to the 9/11 Attack

Responding quickly to the tragic developments of the attack on the WTC, New York's "Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report in Exile" producers Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash produced several shows examining different aspects of this story. Here are three of them, with related websites for downloading mp3 files of these program.

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Minnesota was asked by the AFSCME Council 6 executive committee to document the contract campaign and strike, if it came to that, last spring. We began videotaping in early June, 2001. The purpose was to provide a means to evaluate the successes and mistakes of the effort and provide a learning tool for future campaigns. I had the chance to shoot many events and interview dozens of union leaders and rank-and-file members. I can't claim my view to be statistically representative of all the workers—I talked to the most active union members and leaders and I came to identify with them—but it offers insight into the motives of the prime movers and supporters of the strike.

'I Dare You'

I think the strike happened because workers felt unvalued by Governor Jesse Ventura's administration and by the legislature. Time and again, union members said they had to strike to maintain their sense of dignity and gain the respect of the state government. The administration's opening pay increase offer was a quarter of one percent per year, a proposal that workers took as a slap in the face.



This figure was made at the time of a record state surplus. A billion dollar tax rebate and a regressive (in my estimation) tax reform plan and budget was pushed and eventually signed by the governor, who did not even request sufficient department increases to cover health care cost rises, let alone cost of living additions. State workers' pay raises had lagged behind the inflation rate for years, including pay freezes in bad times, with promises that this belt-tightening would be made up in "good" years? a promise many felt was broken.

The state government nearly shut down in the budget battle among the House, Senate and governor, without much apparent concern for state employees or the services they performed—at least that was the workers' perception. The administration final pre-strike offer increased to three percent, but the earlier bargaining had soured the climate, and it fell well short of the union's five percent bargaining position. It was not helped when the negotiator for the administration publicly expressed doubt that workers would really strike, despite 80% of AFSME members voting on the contract and 90% of them rejecting it and authorizing a strike. It was as though the administration was saying, "I dare you."

The sense of disrespect was repeatedly reinforced by the governor's statements during the strike, such as his advice to strikers to go get other jobs if they didn't like the



pay they were offered—this when understaffing and difficulty attracting new workers were already major state government problems and strikers' issues.

The biggest practical issue for strikers was a proposed state health plan that drastically shifted costs to employees through co-pays and premium increases. AFSCME members whose average salary was \$30,000, faced the possibility of annual family out-of-pocket expenses of up to \$3,800—effectively a pay cut for everyone and extreme financial hardship for those facing a chronic or catastrophic medical condition.

Union members had accepted lower pay increases in previous contracts to keep a secure, affordable health insurance plan. The plan was among the top reasons many workers joined and stayed in the state workforce. They did not want to give up the health protection they had fought to keep for decades.

AFSCME Council 6 Executive Director, Peter Benner, said that sometime in June or July, the workers took over the campaign themselves, that leaders were no longer organizing at the workers but with the workers. Indeed, workers turned out for big rallies, strike preparation workshops were standing room only and members confirmed their solidarity with the over 90% strike vote. In interview after interview, workers conveyed a conviction that they would strike if necessary and the belief that such resolve was the only to get the current administration to take them seriously. Training and widespread preparations, such as renting strike trailers and portable toilets and preparing picket sign-up sheets kept the momentum going.

After September 11 Media Say 'Strike Not Tenable'

Then came the events of September 11. AFSCME and MAPE were set to walk out on September 17, but after the attacks, decided to postpone talks and set a new strike deadline for October 1. The mood was decidedly more somber among everyone. People were still willing to strike if they had to, but the excitement was replaced by a grim determination. The union leadership said that no stone would be left unturned in an effort to reach a contract agreement. The local media created and pushed the assumption that a strike was not tenable in the circumstances. Both sides were under a lot of pressure to settle.

However, instead of the anticipated negotiations into the early morning of the Monday deadline, talks broke off at 10 p.m. Saturday. The state position had not changed at all and the governor said it was up to the unions to compromise.

Jack Hedrick, a founder of Labor Radio in Kansas City

by Judy Ancel

Jack Hedrick died Saturday. He was 54 years old. He had asbestos-related lung cancer and was gone within three months of diagnosis. He had retired from Ford last year after 32 years as a member of UAW Local 249, bought a bait shop at Truman Lake and was doing a lot of bass fishing.

Jack was a founder of The Heartland Labor Forum in 1989 and was there every week for eight years engineering the show and producing shows on issues involving auto-workers and fair trade. He also served on the Board of Radio Station KKFI and put in hours helping with repair and technical problems.

Jack was a founder of our Kansas City Fair Trade Coalition and a shop-floor militant who helped others believe that unions could be much more than they are. Jack went to Mexico on one of the first UAW delegations to meet maquiladora workers just across the border. For him it started as a trip to see where all the autoworker jobs were going, but he quickly developed a profound interest in issues of worker justice in Mexico.

He traveled to Mexico a number of times to build ties between the UAW and Ford assembly workers in Cuautitlán and auto parts workers in the plants along the border. Outraged by the poverty, violations of human rights, and pollution he saw there, he became an expert on trade and globalization issues, spoke widely and was a pioneer in developing international labor solidarity in his union and in the Kansas City area. Jack was willing to debate anyone on NAFTA, from UMKC economists, to editorialists for the Kansas City Star, to Bill Daley, former Secretary of Commerce. We need more like him. ♦

4 N. Cal. Labor Councils Pass Pacifica Resolution

Four Labor councils in Northern California—San Francisco, Alameda County, The Southbay and Northbay Labor Councils—have passed resolutions on the issue of the Pacifica Radio Foundation.

A partial list of the resolutions demands are: an end to the gag rule and censorship at all 5 Pacifica stations and the Foundation's national broadcast service; Pacifica's renunciation of and halt to any actions that would allow the sale of any of the assets of the corporation and contracting of firms whose work opposes the efforts of working people to organize for better working conditions.

It also supports expanding the accountability of the Pacifica Foundation to the communities it serves; the resignation of the Executive Director of Pacifica Radio, and those Pacifica board members who approve of the management's egregious action. The resolution also calls for the democratic reorganization of the Pacifica Board.

For more information on this resolution, contact Curt Gray at 510-704-8817 (e-mail: taproot@lmi.net). ♦

WINS Prepares to Launch

For the last 10 months preparations have been underway to organize a national labor radio news service. Those plans are reaching fruition. Agreements have been reached with WSUM (student radio at the UW Madison) and WHA public radio at UW for studio space. Computers and other technical support has been procured. We have a phone number, an office and a fax number. Enough funds have been raised to allow the hiring of two staff immediately. Preparations are underway to produce a Spanish language edition.

WINS (Workers Independent News Service) would not be possible without the strong support and encouragement demonstrated by UPPNET members. Members have helped WINS work with leading trade unions to see the value of the project. As a result several unions including the CWA, the APWU, the Food and Commercial Workers, the Painters, the Sheetmetal Workers and some state affiliates of the NEA have all contributed to WINS. The AFL-CIO has also endorsed the project and we have received considerable help and encouragement from Denise Mitchell of the AFL-CIO.

WINS' objective is to break the media blockade that keeps news of working people off commercial radio stations. As the project progresses to the point of actually producing content, we will continue to work with UPPNET supporters and members to create the nation's first nation wide labor radio news service.

For more information, contact Frank Emspak at: femspak@igc.org ♦

Building Bridges in Exile *Continued from p. 1*

Restaurant Workers from Windows on the World

The Disaster from the Perspective of Two workers from Windows on the World. Of the approximately 400 people who worked at the internationally famous Windows On the World restaurant located on the 106 and 7th floors of the World Trade Center, Local 100, The Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union represented nearly 270 people. Of the seventy workers scheduled to work the Sept. 11th morning shift at Windows On the World all perished. 47 of those were members of Local 100. Akmat Ali and John Bernieri, were employed at Windows On the World. They relate their stories which include grief for their fallen comrades, growing apprehension about the growth of bias attacks, war and unemployment.

Afghanistan and the Taliban

We talked also with William Maley, author of *Fundamentalism Reborn?: Afghanistan and the Taliban*, NYU Press. To listen, click on this link:

 <http://sf.indymedia.org/local/webcast/uploads/austral.mp3>

On The U.S. War in Afghanistan

Michael Ratner—International Law as it relates to the WTC Disaster and the War; Abdeen Jabarra—The roots of terrorism in Afghanistan; Manning Marable—A historical perspective on the War. To listen, click on this link:

 <http://sf.indymedia.org/local/webcast/uploads/ratner2.mp3> ♦



Photo: Haldon Sutton

Ken Riley, president of ILA 1422 and a key figure in the Charleston 5 campaign, is one of the top labor speakers in the country today. Here he speaks before an enthusiastic audience at Teamster 705 Hall in Chicago.

UPPNET Producers Cover the Charleston 5 Story

The campaign to defend the Charleston 5 is a major national (and international) campaign, and the trial of the Five is scheduled for November.

Over a year and a half ago ILA 1422 members were picketing a non union ship in Charleston, SC when they were brutally attacked by the police, and five members were charged with felonies. The 5, until only recently, were placed under house arrest. They had already been targeted by right-wingers in the state because their outspoken opposition to the Confederate flag being flown from the State Capitol. Since then, the AFL-CIO, along with thousands of union activists, has backed their defense campaign. For the right-wing, the destruction of ILA local 1422 in Charleston is central to stopping the development of unions in the South.

UPPNET radio and video producers have been covering this story, and here's information on how you can get these reports:

- Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report in Exile: "An Update on The Case of The Charleston 5". Selections from a program held recently in New York City sponsored by the Black Radical Congress, The Charleston 5 Defense Committee and N.Y.C. Jobs with Justice Featuring Ken Riley, ILA 1422 Pres.; Carol Pittman, N.Y.C. Jobs with Justice; Amiri Baraka; Bill Fletcher, Black Radical Congress, and more. To listen, click on this link: <http://dc.indymedia.org/local/webcast/uploads/metafiles/riley2.mp3>
- Labor Beat's video "Ken Riley at Chicago Charleton 5 Rally" (26 minutes). Includes new anti-Confederate flag PSA. Send \$20 made out to Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. View a video stream segment at: <http://clients.loudeye.com/imc/chicago/riley.ram>
- Labor Video Projects "Free The Charleston 5" video (13 minutes). <http://sf.indymedia.org/2001/10/107283.php> To Purchase the video send \$20.00 (50% goes to Charleston 5 Defense Ctte.) to Labor Video Project, P.O. Box 425584, San Francisco, CA ♦

Work Week: Send Us Your Edited Segments



Work Week brings together a variety of segments from labor video producers all over the world, including this scene from a report about organizing McDonald's in Russia, produced by KAS-KOR.

We are requesting video programming you might have on working people and their issues. If you have footage of labor and the war in Afghanistan please send that along. We would like to put some footage from around the world on what working people think about the war. If you have interviews, rallies, ect. please send it along. Also tentatively Nov. 14th there will be an international dockworkers protest/strike action against the government in S.Carolina for charging and putting on trial the Charleston 5 dockers. If you can get footage of any dockworkers action around the world please send us this material and we will put it on our show.

Also December 3-5 will be the convention of the AFL-CIO. We would like to do part of a program on issues facing the AFL-CIO and working people. If you can submit some video footage on these questions please get it to us. Following is the format we would like to have. If those of you internationally do not have access to mini-dv or NTSC please send the material in any format you have.

Here Is How we would like the tapes:

1. Opening bars and tone on submitted tapes is important.
2. Tapes should be clearly labeled, matching the titles on the script summary. Right now we can only use mini-dv, dv-cam, or S-VHS all in NTSC format for inclusion in the program.
3. Standard titles on screen before each segment begins, that can provide some continuity. Please use the Ariel font (or a simple sans-serif) with white fading up on black, fading out before the piece begins. Please put something to tell the audience what and where the segment is taking place: Workers Shut Down Port, Vancouver BC, produced by Working TV with the date of the program. It should also include groups to contact featured in the segments, and the producing groups themselves.

You can check the schedule of the show in your area on www.fstv.org

You can contact us by email: (lvpsf@labornet.org; or carltv214@aol.com) with an outline of your segment and the running time. Please send the tapes and a copy of this to:

Labor Video Project, P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142 ♦

Instead of bargaining, the administration issued an ultimatum. AFSCME and MAPE called the strike the next day.

Every striker I talked to on the first day said they felt scared. For most it was their first strike, as the last state AFSCME strike was twenty years ago. Veterans of that campaign remarked that they felt much better prepared and had more realistic expectations—that they might be out for weeks, as the 1981 strike lasted 22 days. Regular e-mails, faxes, a strike hot line and regular face-to-face picket line visits by union leaders kept members informed about what was happening and kept rumors in check. People on the line articulately rebutted administration arguments featured in the media. For example, they pointed out that administration figures for workers who had crossed the line were inflated by including essential employees who could not legally strike plus people on vacation and sick leave. In fact, less than ten percent of AFSCME members scabbed and 75 to 80% of MAPE members honored the lines.



Photos: Minnesota at Work

As expected, strikers were called “unpatriotic.” Members told me that, on the contrary, what could be more patriotic than taking the risks of a strike to exercise the freedom America was defending? President Bush had told Americans to go back to normal life, to fly, shop and go to work. Wasn’t fighting for economic justice equally important? Many of the strikers were veterans themselves, felt they had done their duty and resented the questioning.

One striker pointed out that under-trained, underpaid airport security personnel contributed to the plane takeovers of September 11. Food inspectors (represented by the unions) could stop another potential avenue of attack. Was it not patriotic to insure adequate working conditions and pay to retain these workers and enable them to do their jobs properly?

After two weeks, the unions agreed to halt the strike and bring the settlements to their members for a vote (which had not yet occurred as of the writing of this article). AFSCME agreed to additional half percent per year over the final pre-strike state offer of 3% and MAPE for a similar increase. Caps on out-of-pockets health care costs were cut in half, but the co-pay precedent remained in the contract.

Both sides declared limited victories. A published poll shortly after the strike end indicated that more Minnesotans favored the governor’s position than that of the strikers. The governor’s remarks have been vindictive, first threatening layoffs to offset the pay increases (despite state payroll savings during the strike that more than made up for

the wage increases) and recently attacking public employees’ right to strike.

Media Scolded the Strikers

Despite these statements, the governor’s approval rating has remained high. Many media stories and headlines scolded the strikers. On the first night of the strike, one TV news program featured an interview with an unemployed man on the street, wishing he had one of the jobs left by strikers. Articles since the settlement emphasize striker pay losses that will take years to make up. Given the tendency to support the government after September 11 and widespread layoffs at major Minnesota employers, such as Northwest Airlines and the steel industry, the unions had an uphill battle in the media struggle for public opinion. (On the ground experience and the polls seemed to conflict. Pickets said, and my observations confirmed, that people passing the lines continued to show support with waves and honks up until the end of the strike.)

Until the contract vote is over and I’ve had a chance to interview more strikers, it’s hard to assess the strike, to decide whether workers thought walking out was worth it. MAPE members overcame a major psychological hurdle by going on strike for the first time. They had seen successful strikes in the last two years by other professional groups, pilots and nurses, and the administration’s and legislature’s apparent disrespect pushed them over the edge. By coincidence, the AFSCME and MAPE contract expired at the same time and unprecedented cooperation, including between line workers and middle managers of the two unions, bolstered both their campaigns.

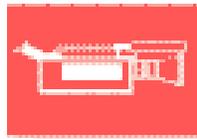
“We can put the stories out there, but we can’t make the media print or broadcast them.”

It seemed to me that the strike was well organized. Strike headquarters were well staffed and consistent, peaceful picket lines were run by workers who could ably express why they were out. The constant work was exhausting for union staff and many volunteers. But the only complaints I heard on the lines were that AFSCME had no strike fund (which others pointed out would have required a previous increase in dues which had been resisted) and that the media did not adequately represent their side of the strike. As an AFSCME communications staffer said, “We can put the stories out there, but we can’t make the media print or broadcast them.”

It remains to be seen what the ultimate balance of gains and setbacks for the unions will be. Inter-union cooperation was advanced and member solidarity strengthened on the picket lines. The unions showed resolve and skill in mounting the campaign. But the gains were modest and it appears that organized labor is facing more hostile government and public attitudes. ♦

[To find out how you can get a copy of the video, contact Minnesota at Work, at the Labor Education Services, Univ. of Minnesota, 612-624-5020]

LaborTech 2001



LaborTECH Continued from page 8

around the world. Join unionists from Canada, Japan, England, Belgium and Korea among other countries. We will screen labor videos from around the world. There will also be a report on a 24 hour labor internet radio channel and labor TV programming on satellite TV and the web. Even if you are unable to personally participate, we invite you to send your documents on labor, communication and technology for our web page.

10th Anniversary of LaborNet-USA

LaborTech 2001 will also be celebrating the 10th anniversary of LaborNet with a banquet on Saturday December 8th. We will look at how labor has responded to the telecommunication technology developments in the last 10 years and what the future may hold for working people in the US and around the world. We will celebrate our international networks that have mobilized to defend our unions and brothers and sisters from privatization, deregulation and repression.

Issues that will be covered in workshops & plenums

- High Technology & Visa Workers
- Creative Rights In The Global Digital Economy
- The Globalized Workforce
- High Technology & Work Related Injuries
- ICANN & The Labor Movement
- Streaming Your Video & Audio
- Broadband Access For Working People
- Setting Up A Micro-Radio Station
- The Independent Media Center And Labor
- How To Use Labor Multi-Media In The Schools: Case Experiences
- Workers, Chip Mills & Organizing
- Permanent Temp Workers
- Cross Border Organizing
- The Digital Divide In Hi-Tech
- How To Build A Labor Web Site
- Setting Up A Labor TV Show
- Using The Web For Research
- Democracy & The Internet: Case Histories
- Labor Culture & Multi-Media
- Spying On Workers & Workers Rights On The Job
- Censorship & Breaking The Corporate Media Blockade
- The Documentary & Labor Video
- Audio Digital Editing & Production
- State Federations Using New Technology
- International Labor Communication & Telecom Monopolization

Contact the organizers for hotel accommodation recommendations and scholarships. Conference volunteers are also needed.

For Further Information:

LaborTech 2001

PO Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142

(415) 282-1908

lvpsf@labornet.org

or Carltv214@aol.com, kidd@usfca.edu

LaborTech web page linked to www.labornet.org

Conference Registration Fees

Special for early registration! Sign up and send check by November 1st to get \$20 discount from regular \$175 for the whole conference. ♦

Video Activist Handbook



Hi all. Just to let you know that the second edition of the video activist handbook is now out. This is the first book out with the ABC of video activism with how-to tips from filming in conflict situations to selling your footage to TV news as well as stories by and about video activists around the world. For more info on the book go to:

www.cacklerharding.com/reviews.htm

As Charles Secrett, Director, Friends of the Earth said: “*The Video Activist Handbook* does exactly what it says on the label. Buy it. Read it. Act on it. Your world will never be the same again.”

I'm the author of the book and have just moved to West Virginia so I should be seeing some of you soon I hope!

all the best,

Thomas Harding ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

| Show Title | Producer | City/Station | Phone No. |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Fighting Back</i> | Ralph Kessler | Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM | 510-845-9285 |
| <i>David Bacon on Labor</i> | David Bacon | Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM | 510-549-0291 |
| <i>Labor Line</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM | 415-641-4440 |
| <i>Working LA</i> | Henry Walton | Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM | 818-894-4079 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | Larry Dorman | Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM | 880-571-6191 |
| <i>Labor Express</i> | Wayne Heimbach | Chicago, IL WLWU 88.7 FM | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Labor Beat</i> | Larry Duncan | Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv | 312-226-3330 |
| <i>Illinois Labor Hour</i> | Peter Miller | Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM | 217-337-5174 |
| <i>AFSCME On-Line</i> | Dan Hart | Dorchester, MA cable-tv | 617-266-3496 |
| <i>Heartland Labor Forum</i> | Judy Ancel | Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM | 816-235-1470 |
| <i>Minnesota at Work</i> | Howard Kling | Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable | 612-624-5020 |
| <i>Building Bridges</i> | Ken Nash | New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM | 212-815-1699 |
| <i>Communique</i> | Bill Henning | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-228-6565 |
| <i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i> | Pat Passanilin | New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM | 212-815-1535 |
| <i>America's Work Force</i> | Jerrod Sorkey | Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM | 440-975-4262 |
| <i>Boiling Point</i> | Michael Wood | Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM | 513-961-4348 |
| <i>Talking Union</i> | John Lavin | Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM | 610-660-3372 |
| <i>Labor on the Job</i> | Steve Zeltzer | San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 29 cable | 415-282-1908 |
| <i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i> | Chuck Schwartz | Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv | 401-463-9900 |
| <i>Solidarity</i> | John Speier | Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access | 616-375-4638 |
| <i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i> | Rick Levy | Austin, TX | 512-477-6195 |
| <i>Which Side Are You On?</i> | Hal Leyshon | Middlesex, VT | 802-223-4172 |
| <i>Radio Labor Journal</i> | Bil Borders | Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM | 425-921-3454 |
| <i>Labor Radio News</i> | Frank Emspak | Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM | 608-262-2111 |
| <i>LaborVision</i> | John Webb | St. Louis, MO DHTV | 314-962-4163 |
| <i>Labor X</i> | Simin Farkhondeh | New York, NY CUNY-TV cable | 212-966-4248 ext. 216 |
| <i>OPEU Productions</i> | Wes Brain | Ashland, OR cable-tv | 541-482-6988 |
| <i>Labor Link TV</i> | Fred Lonidier | La Jolla, CA cable-tv | 619-552-0740 |
| <i>First Tuesday</i> | Leo Canty | Connecticut cable-tv | 860-257-9782 |
| <i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i> | Carl Bryant | San Fran., CA cable-tv | 415-885-0375 |
| <i>Springfield Labor Beat</i> | Jim Hade | Springfield, IL cable-tv | 217-787-7837 |
| <i>The Price Paid</i> | Gene Lawhorn | Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM | 503-282-9541 |
| <i>working tv</i> | Julius Fisher | Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV | 604-253-6222 |
| <i>726 Express</i> | Stewart Ransom | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | 718-761-6681 |
| <i>Rank-And-File</i> | Larry Maglio | New York, NY Staten Is. Cable | N.A. |

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote and expand the production and use of television and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and the issues relevant to all working people.
2. To establish and promote the general distribution and circulation of this programming.
3. To address issues regarding the media and its fair and democratic use and accessibility by labor and other constituencies generally.
4. To encourage and promote the preservation of television and radio broadcasts pertinent to labor.
5. To establish a code of ethic governing television and radio production practices and other such matters UPPNET may determine as relevant to its work.
6. To require all productions to work under a collective bargaining agreement, secure waivers or work in agreement with any television or movie industry union having jurisdiction in the area.

www.mtn.org/les/

LaborTech 2001

Labor, Information Technology, Telecom & Organizing

December 7 - 9, 2001
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San Francisco, California

How are corporations using media and information technologies against working people? How can working people put media and information technologies to our own use to organize in the United States and internationally? Join us in

San Francisco in December as we address these two critical questions for the international labor movement.

The LaborTech International Conference has been held since 1990 in San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Madison, U.S.A., and Vancouver, Canada and Moscow, Russia. These conferences have played a key role in the development of labor communication media and technology for union locals and rank and file workers. They have aided the formation of LaborNets (Internet networks) in the US, England, Canada, Korea, Japan, Germany and Austria, which in turn have played an important role in building international solidarity in the Liverpool dockers strike, the Boeing workers strike, the Korean general strike and other labor struggles

Continued on p. 6

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