

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

Art: Mike Konopaki



By Frank Emspak, WINS Director

The Workers Independent News Service continues to grow. This month for the first time, WINS (www.laborradio.org) will be broadcast daily on more than 30 commercial radio stations in the US. In addition another 10 community stations broadcast WINS on a daily basis. It is sad but true that WINS is now the most widespread daily labor-oriented broadcast since the mid fifties. Sad, because WINS is still so small and working people need a daily voice on the radio now—more than ever. WINS is also in discussions with the new liberal talk show network. The new network is considering taking the WINS newscast.

The WINS strategy to build local support as a springboard to getting on local radio also appears to be bearing fruit. Working with local unions made the difference in New York State and in Madison, WI. Local union support also encouraged the Beckley West Virginia station WNOV to start playing WINS.

UPPNET members can help WINS grow. If you are a member of a local union, ask your local to subscribe to WINS. Put WINS on your local's website and work with WINS to get on the radio in your area.

Even as WINS grows, it faces serious financial challenges. WINS needs financial support to continue. WINS has also been attacked by VIACOM. In early February VIACOM told WINS that it was entering a suit in the federal Court for the Southern District of New York to enjoin WINS from using the logo WINS. VIACOM claimed that WINS was infringing on their trade mark "WINS 1010 Radio". The AFL-CIO is offering legal support. Settlement discussions are in progress as we go to press.

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Chicago's labor radio begins new chapter

Wayne Heimbach retires after 10 years of producing *Labor Express*, and Jerry Mead takes over the show, with a format change

UPPNET News interviews both the retiring producer and the new producer of *Labor Express*, Chicago's only labor radio series, and the first regular radio program in Chicago since WCFL in the 1940's.

Wayne Heimbach

UPPNET News: How long ago was it that you started doing labor radio in Chicago? What was it like then?

Wayne Heimbach: We started off with doing Real World Radio, which was a combination of individuals and a couple of community organizations trying to get something on. Then about 10 years ago Loyola University (WLWU-FM) was starting to do community-based production, and they wanted to a labor show, and I agreed to do it [*Labor Express*].

And I've been doing it for about ten years, with one summer off. It started off fairly low tech, always recording interviews where I worked or wherever, and putting them together for the show. Quality was uneven, to say the best. Using cassettes and Marantz recorders, recordings were fine, but putting it together for a show took quite a bit of work, to make it sound like a seamless production, tho it never quite got to that point.

I've a degree in broadcast communications, but the technology's changed so much, the cutting and pasting that got into the digital editing. That did two things. It made the quality of the show sound better at the same time it took a lot of time to do everything to make sure that things would work.

So there was a transition with the quality of the show over ten years, from doing it from cassette to disc.

Did very few live shows, which is different from what Jerry [Mead] is doing. I've only done one or two of those over ten years, from the studio. Most were interviews, sometimes in the studio, often on site, sometimes in people's houses. Once I did an interview in a women's wash-room over at the Teamsters Local. So there was a varied experience over ten years.

U.N.: Could you say that *Labor Express* is fairly unique because it's a recorded, pre-edited show. Are most of the labor radio shows around the country pretty much going into the studio and doing it live, or recording live?

W.H.: It varies. It depends also on availability of studio space, or how people are doing production.

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It's a combination of things. One thing I like about pre-recording the show is that you can get the kinds of things happening in the life of the labor movement. Like people giving speeches, sometimes really important speeches that need to be broadcast as widely as possible. One example was the AFL-CIO hearing here in Chicago on immigration rights. Over a couple of days there were lots of really, good presentations from union people as well as rank-and-file. They were said to a large audience, but that large audience needed even a larger dissemination. We were able to get it on our show and also a lot of it on the internet for international distribution. Obviously I did a lot of on-site interviews at picket lines and demonstrations, at meetings, where you can talk to the people about the issues where they are in their environment, to be heard on the radio for a larger audience.



Photo: Labor Beat

Wayne Heimbach [R] interviews Alan Gomez [L], production worker at StreetWise newspaper during a labor dispute.

At the same time with a live show you get spontaneity, which is quite important, quite exciting. And it give you also a different sense of where radio should be, in a sense of a real participation with the audience, where the audience feels it's much more a part of that discussion than you get in pre-recorded stuff.

It was a combination of things over the years that made the reason to go pre-recorded. You could get something from a demonstration or rally that you weren't able to get any other way, that had a life to it, that's really important.

U.N.: To what extent were you able to rely on other radio producers around the country for segments, especially since we've arrived at the mp3 audio file attachment era?

W.H.: Closer to when I stopped doing the show, it became extremely important. At various points I used a lot of Building Bridges out of New York, a very good show, very good guests, very important issues. It was really fine to be able to use some of their productions for Chicago audiences.

The internet made a lot of the expressions of the labor movement internationally acceptable and at the same time I was able to get some of my stuff up when there was some discussion about education and a new school here in Chicago in Little Village. I was able to go over to the sit-ins and tent city and do some interviews there and put it up on the internet and I remember a number of radio stations around the country would email me asking for more information or interviews and followup.

You got a real sense that there was a dynamic life not just

among producers but people interested in labor programming around the country. Up in Canada there was a lot of stuff put up, historical, being put up on the internet, and we were able to download that and put them together for a Chicago audience.

At the same time I opened the show with a labor news segment, and there's a lot of news out there that people might not know about. We emphasized in that part of the program a lot of international news. And labor around the world, things are very difficult but at the same time things are very alive, very vibrant in some place and were able to get off the internet that kind of information as well. So the new technology has been really important both in the sense of producing, pre-recording the show, but also where we get segments and where we get news from.

U.N.: How much time did you spend putting together shows?

W.H.: It was surprising how much time it took. At one point we did a segment on historical voices, of people giving speeches, from Eugene Debbs, to A Philip Randolph and put up a minute of their voices and asked people to call in and say 'hey, I know who that was'. But those things took an extraordinary amount of time. On the average I was say probably 7 or 8 hours during the week, and then I would edit the show together on Sundays, and that would take almost the same amount of time. Then I drove the tape down to the radio station.

The importance of it is vital but it takes time to do it. How can you continue to do a good show, and do the things you need to do to build my own local.

U.N.: You've lived and breathed labor media for over a decade. Are you going to retire completely from it?

W.H.: I'm looking forward now to two things, to do spot interviews, and either *Labor Express* can use them or I can put it up on the internet. The other thing is that when you're doing a weekly show you don't have the luxury of the time to do longer term things, documentaries. I'm not talking about some massive thing, but something that takes a little more work in production to take an issue to follow it through and come up with a short piece that has some staying power. I'm looking forward to that.

Jerry Mead

UPPNET News: Jerry, a month ago you were an activist in Chicago Jobs with Justice, and pretty busy with other movement activity, and now you're also doing *Labor Express*. What happened!

J.M.: Well, I was sleeping about four hours a night and I thought that was too much. Actually, I was talking to Thomas Yun who's with Labor Beat and he was on about the fact that Wayne, with all the things going on in his life right now, it was time for him to retire from the show, and they were having trouble finding a replacement to take over. And I was real disappointed to hear that because there is a real need to have *Labor Express* on the air, to have labor radio program. Particularly in the city of Chicago, which I consider the labor capital of the world. Without having a labor radio program would have been a real loss, and so when I heard that was a possibility I kinda just jumped and said, "Hey, I'll find somebody to do it." And that somebody ended up being me, which is just fine because I've been enjoying doing it.

UN: Now you have four shows under your belt. Maybe it's

www.labortech2004.org

This conference will bring together labor video, computer and media people from throughout the country and around the world. It will be a critical arena for the development of labor's media in the battles ahead to make our voices heard. We know that our unions and the working class as a whole are under attack on numerous areas and that this assault is escalating. Under these circumstances, the need to have a media counter-offensive is absolutely essential.

Workshops Including:

- A Multimedia Approach to Labor Information
- Labor Radio (WINS, NRP, KPFA, Pacifica)
- Labor Media, Lessons in Breaking the Corporate Media Blockade and Defending Democracy
- Police Repression of Alternative and Labor Reporters from Oakland to Miami
- Union Journalists Getting the Message out to The Membership & The Public
- Building Labor Cultural Art Movement, Using the Internet
- New Technology, Stress & Labor
- Building A Labor TV Channel
- Labor, War and Media - Plenum
- ICANN & Democratic Control of the Internet
- Prison Media (Prison Radio, Prison Legal News)
- Workplace Discrimination in High Tech
- Censorship and the Media Workplace
- Spying and Surveillance, How to defend Your Privacy
- Organizing Media Workers (IATSE, AFTRA, CWA, others)
- Technology & Toxics in the Workplace
- WiFi, Remote B'casting: How Labor can get Rallies, Conferences & Actions Live on the Internet & Satellite
- Community Access Cable & How to Establish a Labor TV Show for Your Local/Council/International
- Unofficial Labor Web sites and Outreach (AUD, CDU)
- Lessons from Front-Line Local Union Web Masters
- Labor Education in the Schools and Using Technology
- The Indymedia Movement and Labor-What is It and How to Build The Links
- POD (Program for Online Deliberation) and How Labor Can Use This Tool for Communication and Action
- Broad Band Access and Our Rights to Bandwidth
- Labor & Research Tools
- Open Source (Non-Proprietary Software)
- Labor Film Festivals, Labor Shorts-How to Have A Festival and Support Labor Videographers

Highlights:

- The first international labor flash animation competition (Cartoons from around the world will be screened)
- Labor musical presentations
- Screening of important new labor videos
- Focus on the growing repression and censorship of labor media activists from Miami to the UK, Korea and Japan. Labor journalists and labor media activists have come under assault both on the job and in the field.

Initial Sponsors And Endorsers

Symbolic Systems Program of Stanford University, ILWU International, San Francisco Labor Council, SEIU 715, NALC 214, OPEIU 3, CWA 9415, CWA 9423, San Jose City College Labor Studies, San Francisco State University Labor Studies, Laney College Labor Studies, Union Producers & Programmers Network (UPPNET), Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition. Labor Video Project, LaborFest, LaborNet, LabourNet Germany, LaborNet Japan, District Council of Iron Workers Of The State Of California and Vicinity, WINS, International Labor Communication Association (ILCA), SEIU 535, AFT 2121, UBC 22, ILWU 34, SEIU 790,

Initial List of Participants

Christopher R. Martin-Author "Framed! Labor and the Corporate Media"; Todd Davies, Symbolic Systems Program Stanford University Mag Wompel-Labournet Germany; Ralf Pandorf-Labournet Germany; Myoung Joon Kim-Labor News Production Seoul; Nancy Brigham-Cross Border Organizer & Former UAW Web Master; Hebard Olsen-Labor TV Producer Monterey; Karin Hart-Laney Labor Studies Program & CWA 9415; Lincoln Cushing, Electronic Librarian UCB Labor Center; Gary Huck-Labor Cartoonist-UE; Mike Konapacki-Labor Cartoonist; Art Shostak-Author "Cyberunion"; Edward Hasbrouck, Author; Dorothy Kidd, Professor Media Studies; Ken Hamidi-Founder, Faceintel; Henry Norr, Journalist Technology Mac & Activist; Louie Rocha-President Of CWA Local 9423 & Radio Producer; Erica Zweig, LaborNet; Steve Hil, LaborNet; Barb Ingalls-CWA-UTU Detroit; Bob Ingalls-UAW Detroit; Carl Bryant, Producer, NALC 214 TV214; Frank Emspak, Founder and Director of WINS; June M. Fisher, MD, Trauma Foundation; Nick Yale-Labor Videographer, SEIU1000; Tami Callen, Labor Video Project & SEIU 1000; Fred Glass, Director Communications CFT; Art McGee-Computer Activist; Peter B. Collins, Radio Producer & Host, AFTRA National Executive Board; Lindy Chris-USF OPEIU 3 & LaborTech Planning Committee; Jack Chernos, AFM 6 and Labor Musician; Steve Stallone-Editor & Director Communications ILWU; Gen Guracar, Bul Bul, Labor cartoonist; Doug Ohmans, Web Master LaborNet; John Parulis, LaborTech Web Master & Brightpathvideo.com; Wes Brain, Producer SEIU-OPEU Productions; Shannon Sheppard, Holt Labor Library; Jimmy Kelley, San Jose City College Labor Studies and Reelworks; Judith Woodruff, Founder Spontaneous Productions, Labor Film Festival Boston; Vicki Warner, Director Global Education, California Community Colleges; Peter Olney, Ass., Director Institute for Labor and Employment Center; Carolina Luzuriaga & Hernan Martin, Ojo Obrero Argentina; Captain Steve Blankenship, Communications Chair, Allied Pilots Association; Ray Quan, V.P. BART Chapter SEIU 790

St. Louis, April 22-25

“The Axis of Empire” UDC Conference Agenda Highlights

As reported in our last issue, the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale is hosting “The Axis of Empire: An International Conference of the Union for Democratic Communications.” It takes place in St. Louis on April 22-25. More detailed information about the conference can be found at the UDC website, www.udc.org.

For space purposes, we are listing here some of the scheduled highlights, especially of interest to labor media activists. We highly recommend visiting the website and downloading the entire conference schedule.

Conference Schedule Highlights (Not The Complete Schedule)

Thursday, April 22

Opening Plenary: Media: The Axis of Empire and the Spike in its Spine. Moderator: John Downing, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Bob McChesney, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: Academics and the Struggle for Control over Media; Amy Goodman, Pacifica Radio: Independent Media in a Time of War and Elections; Fred Lonidier, University of California, San Diego: Artists Spike the Spine of the Axis of Empire: Resistant Practices

Panel Sessions (not complete list)

Labor Media: The State of the Union

Moderator: Larry Duncan, Labor Beat, Chicago (Labor Beat producer, editor), Union Producers and Programmers Network News: Labor Television: Regional-National Developments and Strategies for the Future; Judy Ancel, Heartland Labor Forum, Kansas City: Labor Radio in the Heartland; Peter Miller, The Illinois Labor Hour, WEFT-FM, Urbana; Frank Emspak, WINS Director: National labor radio.

Labor in the Media

Moderator: Vincent Mosco, Carleton University; Catherine McKercher, Carleton University: Union Politics in the CBC; Bonnie Brennen, University of Missouri: Media Practices from the Labor Perspective: The LA Herald Examiner Strike, 1966-67; Casey Peters, KPFK Election Supervisor, LA: The Battle Over the Democratization of Pacifica Radio

The Labor Beat

Moderator: Walter Jaehnig, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; John Magney, S.I.U.: Unions and the Struggle for a Democratic Workplace—Then and Now; AFL-CIO representative. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch Situation; Joe Atkins, U. of Mississippi: Covering for the Bosses: labor and the Southern Press

Media and the Iraq War

Moderator: Tom Johnson, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Michael Fahey, U. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Newspaper Coverage in Three Countries During the Build-up to the War on Iraq; Margaretha Geertsema, U. of Texas at

Austin: The Story of Jessica Lynch and Shoshana Johnson: Media spectacle and the Formation of a Black Counter-public; James Compton, U of Western Ontario: Shocked and Awed—The Convergence of Military and Media Discourse; Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, University of Texas: Ominous Parallels: Press Patterns in U.S. Coverage of Central America in the 1980s and the Middle East 2001-03.

Media Conglomerates and Empire

Moderator: William S. Solomon, Rutgers; Matthew A. Killmeier, Truman State U—Pre-emptive Strikes in the Culture Wars and Big Radio: The Dixie Chicks and the Right’s Cultural Putsch; William S. Solomon, Rutgers: News and Empire—The Structural Transformation of the News Media; Eileen R. Meehan, Louisiana State U: Media Empires and Corporate Synergy—Toward a Typology; Chris Jordan, Penn State: Reigning in the Reagan Legacy—CBS Cancellation of “The Reagans”

The Political Economy of Communications

Moderator: Jim Wittebols, Niagara University; Victor W. Pickard, UIUC: A Giant Besieged—AT&T, FCC, and the Contestation in Corporate-State relations, 1935-1939; James F. Tracy and Maris Hayashi, Florida Atlantic U: Intellectual Labor and the Strategic Enclosure of the Info Commons—A Case Study of Reed Elsevier; Steven Jackson, UC San Diego: Mapping the Prison Telephone Industry; William Kunz M., U of Washington, Tacoma: A Historical Analysis of the Ownership of Prime Time Programming: 1976-77 to 2003-2004

Media Activism and Media Reform: Past and Present

Moderator: Bob McChesney, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: The Problem of the Media, Past and Present; Ben Scott, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: The Battle over Control of Journalism in the 1930s; Dan Schiller, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: The Battle for the Control over Telecommunications in the Late 19th century; Inger Stole, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: The Battle for Control over Advertising in the 1930s

New Scholarship Roundtable: American Media and Propaganda

Discussants: Eileen Meehan, Louisiana State University and Ron Bettig, Penn State; Daekyung Kin, S.I.U., The New York Times Coverage of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan and the Falklands War; Whain Kang, Rutgers: Constructing a Threat—The NY Times Coverage of North Korea; Jin Sun Lee, Rutgers: Creating a Demon: News Portrayals of Junk II Kim and His Leadership; Euichul Jung, Rutgers: Race and the Arms Race: News of the North Korea-U.S. Nuclear Dispute; Wei-Hsin Fu, Rutgers: Framing independence: Hope or Disaster in the Taiwan Strait; Changho Lee, U.Texas, Austin: War as Propaganda—Embedded Journalism and Objectivity

Political Economy and Media Ownership

Moderator: Ronald V. Bettig; Ronald V. Bettig, Penn State: Napster’s Back—The Incorporation of Digital Music; Jennifer M. Proffitt, Pennsylvania State University: Rupert Murdoch’s Challenge to Democracy: Concentration and the Marginalization of Dissent; Chris Demaske, University of Washington, Tacoma: Covering Iraq: The Free Speech/Free Press Paradox; Venkata Ratnadeep Suri and Siddhartha Raja, UIUC, The Media Ownership Debate: Common Themes and Arguments

too early for you to have grey hairs from doing it. But a live show, which you're doing, is a lot different than a pre-edited show that Wayne was did. How is the live show format working for you?

J.M.: The live show format was more a product of circumstances than anything else, where I just don't have the experience that Wayne had in doing the production side of it. It was really my first involvement at all in broadcasting. So pretty much out of necessity I went with the live format, which I was familiar with from being on the other end, being interviewed on live shows, and I thought that was something I could handle.

Interestingly enough I think it's turned out to be a good way to go with the show. A lot of people have responded and told me that they like the live format, the timeliness of it, the interactions and spontaneity of the show. It's allowed me to get a lot of people involved with the show, they've let their co-workers and other activists know that they're going to be on. So hopefully it will help build the listenership of the show.



Jerry Mead [R] interviews Maristella Zell [L] of Friends of the MST on live show format for Labor Express, at the WLUW-FM studio.

UN: Can you give us a little of your background as an activist and as someone interested in the labor movement? Your activism in the Chicago labor community really helps you draw upon people that you know to come down as guests.

J.M.: As you've mentioned, I have been involved in the labor movement as an activist for many years. I have been doing labor activism and other types of activism for the last fifteen years. It really started in high school, actually, in human rights work and things like that. In college my focus was originally in peace and justice in general, but I became increasingly aware of the fact that these movements required a greater participation of the labor movement and that the labor movement was key to a lot of these other struggles—Central America, the working poor in the U.S. It was a natural thing because I come out of a family of trade unionists. My father was a Chicago policeman, a kind of an interesting side of the labor movement, but he was a union member and big supporter all his life. A lot of family worked for Kraft here in Chicago, I had family that worked for the Transit Authority. All trade unionists. So it was very natural for me to see the link between trade unions as organizations representing working people and the struggle of working people internationally as well as locally.

UN: What do you have lined up for the next few shows?

J.M.: Next week we're going to have some students from Student Labor Action Project, and they have an upcoming conference that they want to talk about. We're going to have Bill Carey come in at the end of the month and talk about blue/green coalitions, bringing the labor movement and the environmental movement together. We're going to have someone involved in the Chicago Teachers Union talk about the reactions to the recent contract that was very controversial. We're going to have a special show on April 4 to talk about African-Americans and the labor movement on the anniversary of MLK's assassination. And then a show I've been looking forward to, talking about immigrants rights and labor, particularly the response to the recent proposal for guest workers.

UP: You're in good shape if you've got things that well planned ahead. I'll let you go now so you can get that four hours of sleep.

Labor Express is streamed live at 7pm, CST Sundays
www.wluw.org

Free video or DVD and study guide on Freedom at Work

The Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies and Research has produced a video (also DVD) that you can have for free (\$20 donation very much appreciated) on the topic of "Freedom at Work." This was part of a project funded by the RI Council on the Humanities. The video is 15 minutes of interviews with over 30 Rhode Island workers, union leaders, members, professors, teachers, etc.

Divided into 4 sections so that it can be used for discussion, the segment topics are: What Does Freedom in the Workplace Mean?; Is there Freedom in the Workplace?; How can we get Freedom at Work?; Who is Responsible for Seeing that there is Freedom at Work?

There is also a study/discussion guide on the subject that is available for free. We think that this will lead to interesting discussions with students or workers about their rights at work.

You can order the free video or DVD and study guide by responding by e-mail to charlesvschwartz@att.net with your address. Please put "Freedom at Work" in the subject line.

Or you can write to Institute for Labor Studies, 99 Bald Hill Rd., Cranston, RI 02920

For more information, call 401-463-9900, fax 401-463-8190 or see www.rilaborinstitute.org.

"In a world where every thing seems to get dumbed down, the Freedom at Work video reminds us of a vibrant concern for the larger issues in life among ordinary working people. These speakers provide hope for the future through their earnest, sincere, and even passionate defense of the Bill of Rights. Push the pundits aside and listen to fifteen minutes of rank and file philosophy for a dose of optimism."

—Scott Molloy, Labor History Professor, University of Rhode Island

Venezuela

Pirate Radio as Public Radio, in the President's Corner

[The Fall '02 issue of UPPNET News ran an article by Maurice Lamoine in Le Monde Diplomatique titled "How Hate Media Incited The Coup Against The President", which described the role of the media in the April, 2002 coup attempt against President Hugo Chávez. As a followup on this topic, we offer here this recent article on grassroots pirate radio in Venezuela and its relationship to that country's ongoing political crisis. The article is edited for to fit space available.]

By Juan Forero, in *Caracas Journal*

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 7 — The sound room of Radio Perola, a small community station on the poor edge of this city, is papered with posters celebrating Latin American revolutionaries like Fidel Castro and offering a stern warning to the behemoth to the north: "Death to the Yankee Invader."

The setting seems fitting for José Ovalles's politically charged Saturday radio program. Gripping a microphone and waving reports from a government news agency, the white-haired retired computer teacher charges that a far-flung opposition movement arrayed against President Hugo Chávez is part of an American-led conspiracy.

He ridicules the president's foes as criminals with scant backing. He urges listeners to defend what Mr. Chávez calls his Bolivarian Revolution, which is under international pressure to allow a recall vote on the president's tumultuous five-year rule. "We have to fight for a free country," he said recently, "one with no international interference." The message, beamed from a 13-kilowatt station in what was once the storeroom of a housing project, reaches at most a few hundred homes.

But Radio Perola is part of a mushrooming chain of small government-supported radio and television stations that are central to Mr. Chávez's efforts to counter the four big private television networks, which paint him as an unstable dictator. With Venezuela on edge, stations like Radio Perola are poised to play an even bigger role in this oil-rich nation's political battle.[...]

The stations have been important to Mr. Chavez's government during the current turmoil, in which the opposition has accused the government of fraudulently disqualifying hundreds of thousands of signatures for a recall referendum.

Through it all, the private television and radio stations and the nation's largest newspapers have stepped up their pressure, presenting a parade of antigovernment analysts and opposition figures. Mr. Ovalles, though, calls the opposition "gangsters" and accuses private news organizations of faking the sizes of antigovernment marches. At first glance, the community stations and their largely volunteer staffs hardly seem political, nor do they offer the wallop of the big news organizations.

Programming often deals with mundane matters like trash pickups or road conditions. The stations are staffed by volunteers, from teenagers eager for the chance to play Venezuelan hip-hop or salsa to homemakers who want to

Brazil

Union starts tv show

By Marcelo Cajueiro, in *Variety*

Latin America's largest federation of labor unions, the Workers' Unified Central (CUT), bowed a weekly news-magazine show on national television on Saturday.

The 30-minute show aired at 2:15 p.m. on Rede TV, Brazil's fifth-ranked net. CUT is paying the show's costs of about 75,000 reals (\$26,000) per episode, including production costs and the purchase of the airtime on Rede TV.

First episode focused on unemployment and featured a three-minute exclusive interview with Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a former union leader and CUT member. CUT has about 3,400 affiliated unions that represent 22 million workers.

Advertising agency Fischer America, a partner in the project, is seeking advertisers and sponsors. Local production company Radar TV made the show.

Read the full article at: www.variety.com/story.asp?story&a=VR1117900022&c=14

UK

Radio LabourStart to be launched—looking for content

LabourStart is the London-based online trade union news service, founded in 1998 and located on the web at www.labourstart.org.

It is just about to launch Radio LabourStart, which will broadcast news, features and music 24/7 using Live365.com. They are eager to promote other labour radio stations and are looking for content—short MP3 files with music, news or features that will interest LabourStart's worldwide trade union audience.

They are already featuring the daily news service from WINS, and expect to have content soon from South African unions and other partners. You can see (hear) the beta version of Radio LabourStart here: <http://radio.labourstart.org>

If you want to work with Radio LabourStart and help with content, please write to ericlee@labourstart.org.

tell listeners how to stretch earnings in tough times. The main objective, say those who work at the stations, is to show there is another side to neighborhoods that, in the popular press, are presented as crime-ridden ghettos.

"The image of the barrios is one of criminals, violence, prostitution, where kids are abandoned," said Gabriel Gil, a producer at Catia TV, a three-year-old station that recently moved into a vast building belonging to the Ministry of Justice. "We say we are television of the poor." Radio Un Nuevo Día, in a poor neighborhood, is much like the rest. Its small transmitter has been set up in the corner of a bedroom in a two-room cinder block house belonging to a cleaning woman, Zulay Zerpa.

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title, Producer, City/Station, Phone No.

Fighting Back, Ralph Kessler, Berkeley, CA, 510-845-9285, KUSF 90.3 FM
David Bacon on Labor, David Bacon, Berkeley, CA, 510-549-0291, KPSS 94.1 FM
Labor Line, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, SFLR 93.7 FM,
Working LA, Henry Walton, Panorama City, CA, 818-894-4079, KPFF 90.7 FM
Talking Union, Larry Dorman, Rock Hill, CT, 880-571-6191, WATR 1320 AM
Labor Express, Wayne Heimbach, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, WLWU 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Peter Miller, Champaign, IL, 217-337-5174, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFI 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248,
CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
726 Express, Stewart Ransom, New York, NY, 718-761-6681, Staten Is. Cable
Rank-And-File, Larry Maglio, New York, NY, N.A., Staten Is. Cable
Labor on the Line, David King, Portland, OR
working TV, Julius Fisher, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 604-253-6222
Labor Radio, Bill Zimmerman, Portland, OR, 360-695-6552

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
UPPNET News editor Larry Duncan at: lduncan@igc.org

Stop Employee Intimidation at Comcast!

Tell Comcast regional manager Craig Snedeker to respect the democratic rights of Comcast employees to form a union and bargain a contract free from fear and intimidation. Comcast maintenance technician Stephen White, who was an outspoken union supporter, was fired shortly after talking to one of his co-workers about forming a union at Comcast. Before that, he cites incidents of threats and being verbally humiliated by management in front of his co-workers.

For more info: www.unionvoice.org/campaign/s_white/

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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/

WorkWeek needs video segments

WorkWeek the show on Free Speech TV needs your segments. The 28 minute show uses 5 minute segments from throughout the US and around the world. If you are interested in contributing a segment contact producers:

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

WINS, The Workers Independent News Service

www.laborradio.org

The Workplace Project honors “Building Bridges”

The Workplace Project (Centro de Derechos Laborales) is a non-profit organization located in Hempstead, NY, which fights for the rights of Latino immigrant workers in order to end workplace abuse and exploitation and to achieve full political and cultural participation in the struggle for social and economic justice for their people.

Recently The Workplace Project celebrated 11 years of existence and honored members of the media and journalists.

Their goal was to recognize those journalists and other members of the media that have projected the image of the Workplace Project with conviction rooted in the defense of

workers rights, and to distinguish media projects that, through their publishing, have built a new image of the immigration worker and the Workplace Project.

Among, those honored were WBAI’s Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report reporters Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash who were presented with a plaque for having had the strength to denounce the abuses immigrating workers have suffered. We know very well that without their commitment, our work would not be possible.

For UPPNET News back Issues:
www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm

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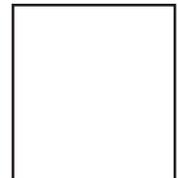
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people



East Bay Labor Media Center participants (L to R) Ann Worth, Nick Yale, Terry Rey, Kaz Torii, Steve Zeltzer, Jerome Otis, Alan Hollie

East Bay Labor Media Center Started

By Steve Zeltzer

Trade unionists from the Teamsters, ATU, SEIU, Sign and Display Union, Operating Engineers and labor media activists from KPFA inaugurated the East Bay Labor Media Center in Oakland. The proposal to set up the media center came from discussions and a vote at the LaborTech 2004 conference.

The center is located in the offices of the Oakland chapter of SEIU 1000 chapter. SEIU 1000 represents over 90,000 California state workers. Plans were made to have classes to train how to shoot on a video camera, how to interview and to edit video and audio as well as streaming video and audio on the web. Arrangements were also made to participate in the SEIU national convention which will be held in San Francisco on the week of June 19.

The Labor Media Center activists were planning to video tape and audio tape the participants at the convention as well as encouraging SEIU delegates to begin to use video and radio to tell their stories.

Participants also discussed working with the KPFA Labor Collective to have programming on KPFA.org during the June 19, 2004 march on the bridge on to celebrate Juneteenth. This would be broadcast and available on the web.

Programming that was done by the KPFA Labor Collective on Mayday 2004 is also available on the web at www.kpfa.org/specials/mayday2004

To get more information on the Labor Media Center contact Nick Yale, SEIU 1000, email: nyale@mindspring.com, phone: 510-938-2881

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Kaz Torii giving lesson to Alan Hollie on Final Cut Pro Editing.

Office politics give liberal radio a rocky start

By JACQUES STEINBERG, NY Times

www.nytimes.com/2004/05/31/business/media/31air.html

May 31, 2004—Even by the chaotic standards of a new media company, Air America Radio's first two months of broadcasting have been convulsive.

The fledgling talk-radio network has replaced five top executives, been taken off the air in two of its top three markets and lost several crucial producers. By late April, current and former executives said last week, the company was perilously close to running out of money. It has since received an infusion of cash, though it has not disclosed how much or from whom.

The roiling in Air America's front office has undercut its continuing assurances that it has the financing and leadership to survive past the presidential election in November, in pursuit of its goal of establishing a permanent liberal counterpart to Rush Limbaugh and his radio cohort on the right.

In a sign that the privately held company's financial woes have not fully abated, Al Franken, the network's best-known star, said in an interview last week that he had agreed not to draw a salary, however temporarily, making him "an involuntary investor."

"We had some bad management," Mr. Franken said. "Then we got some good management."

Still, Mr. Franken, his tongue only partly in cheek, added, "It's a little fuzzy to me exactly who's in charge."

The turmoil has shed light on the network's corporate culture, laying bare a mismatched collection of managers and investors, including Democratic Party fund-raisers, Internet entrepreneurs and radio veterans who, as it turned out, did not get along especially well. Even as the network was finding an audience with its blend of humor and commentary, many of the principals' business relationships were dissolving in a flurry of charges and countercharges. The most serious concerned how much money Air America actually had on hand when it went on the air on March 31.

In early March, the network's chief executive, Mark Walsh, said that the company had raised more than \$20 million, enough to keep it broadcasting for months, if not years, before making a profit. At the time, Mr. Walsh said that the network's primary backers included Evan M. Cohen, a venture capitalist who was the network's chairman, and Rex Sorensen, a business partner of Mr. Cohen's who was the chairman of Progress Media, the parent company of Air America.

But in an interview on Friday, Mr. Walsh said: "I was misled about that number." Mr. Walsh refused to say who had misled him, but he said that he had resigned in April because "the company wasn't transparent" and "I was unable to decipher how it was being operated."

Less than a month later, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sorensen, who had previously operated radio stations together in Guam and Saipan, resigned under pressure from the company's other investors. David Goodfriend, who served as general counsel and later as acting chief operating officer of Air America, resigned about a week ago, having done his best, he said, to hold the company together in the wake

of the departures of Mr. Cohen, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Walsh. (Separately, Dave Logan, executive vice president for programming, also left, in late April.)

Jon Sinton, the president of Air America and one of the few top executives who remains from the day it went on the air, underscored Mr. Walsh's comments by saying, in a separate interview, that he, too, had been misled about the company's resources and that a cash crunch had ensued as a result.

"Financing wasn't as available for operational issues as we'd thought it was," he said. Reached on Friday, Mr. Cohen declined to comment on the state of the company's finances under his watch.

Despite the intrigue concerning its management—and the abrupt pulling of its programming last month from stations in Chicago and Los Angeles, in a contract dispute—there are early indications that, where it can be heard, Air America is actually drawing listeners. WLIB-AM in New York City, one of 13 stations that carry at least part of Air America's 16 hours of original programming each day, even appears to be holding its own with WABC-AM, the New York City station and talk radio powerhouse that is Mr. Limbaugh's flagship.



Air America personalities Al Franken and Katherine Lanpher

For example, among listeners from 25 and 54, whom advertisers covet, the network estimates it drew an average listener share (roughly a percentage of listeners) of 3.4 on WLIB in April, from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays, according to the company's extrapolation of figures provided by Arbitron for the three months ended in April. (Arbitron, which does not provide ratings in monthly increments, said the network's methodology appeared sound, although such figures were too raw to translate to numbers of listeners.)

By contrast, according to Air America's figures, WABC-AM drew an average share of 3.2 during the same period in April for the same age group. That time period includes the three hours in which Mr. Limbaugh was pitted head to head against Mr. Franken.

Phil Boyce, the program director of WABC, cautioned against drawing conclusions from preliminary data. "If they end up doing that well when the final number is out, which is two more months, I'll give them a congratulations," Mr. Boyce said.

While the network is awaiting the release of similar figures from Arbitron for other cities, KPOJ-AM, the Clear Channel station that carries its programming in Portland, Ore., informed Air America executives by an e-mail message in late April that its ratings appeared to have tripled

Book Review

FRAMED! Labor and the Corporate Media

Review by Andy Zipser, The Guild Reporter
www.ilcaonline.org

FRAMED! Labor and the Corporate Media
by Christopher R. Martin, Cornell University Press. (2004)
248 pp. \$19.95 (paper)

The idea that “news” today is little more than mercantilism run amok is not original. From “stories” about new products to breathless narratives about celebrity to a relentless glorification of wealth, the mass media are awash with the message that the key to success and happiness is consumption—of goods, of exotic experiences, of attention. Throw in the increasingly concentrated corporate ownership of the mass media—only a dozen media conglomerates now control just about every media sector—and no reasonable person can be surprised at the lack of serious challenges to the status quo.

But as Christopher Martin makes clear in *Framed!*, such observations simply acknowledge the obvious. The more subtle dynamic is that by addressing readers and viewers as consumers, rather than as citizens, our broadcast and print media marginalize class dissent, discredit organized labor’s values and reinforce the legitimacy of the controls established by the rich and powerful. That all this is accomplished under cover of the seemingly unassailable principle of reportorial “objectivity” only strengthens the corporate stranglehold on discourse.

Among the notable casualties of this state of affairs is organized labor, which despite a deepening malaise for the nation’s working class has been unable to capture the public agenda. “With increasing economic inequality among classes . . . stagnant or declining wages and benefits, the greatest work load of any advanced economy . . . the conditions would seem ripe for a nationwide examination and discussion of the one institution that has historically worked to remedy these problems for the American worker—labor unions,” Martin writes. “Why, then, isn’t this happening?”

The conditions would seem ripe for a nationwide examination and discussion... why, then, isn't this happening?"

Mostly, he decides, because the media have slipped into describing the world from a consumer perspective. And while a consumer-oriented framing of labor stories can be “objective” on its own terms, all perspectives embody values and have consequences. “Thus, the news media cover strikes, lockouts, shutdowns, and protests largely based on the relevance of the conflict to the interests of the consumer—that is, the impact of the conflict on such things as the price, quality, and availability of consumable goods and services and on the consumer economy at large,” Martin observes. Left out or minimized in such coverage, meanwhile, are the problems that prompted such actions in

the first place—be they work safety, out-sourcing, low pay or any of a dozen other critical issues—because they seem largely irrelevant to shoppers. The primary concern of the latter, the media emphasize, is coping with inconvenience.

We saw this a year ago, for example, when the West Coast longshore workers were locked out—and the dominant news theme was how the labor dispute was going to affect the Christmas shopping season. We see it repeatedly in stories about the troubled airline industry, as in the USA Today story that began by focusing not on those involved in a strike but on a “typical consumer”:

Paul Dean, 38, of Silver Spring, Md., didn’t get to Dallas on American Airlines Thursday. But his luggage did. It was left on a jet that was empty of fliers because American Airlines didn’t have flight attendants to fly with it. “This is a disaster,” Dean said. . . .

Such narrative forms, Martin writes, are meant to give individual events and circumstances meaning. They make sense of events—but “sense” always implies a set of values and perspectives. And in dissecting news coverage of major labor stories during the ’Nineties, Martin identifies five major frames that set the boundaries of public discourse:

- The consumer is king—and therefore “treating the individual consumer as a allowed entity is the unstated assumption of all news.” Americans are told they can “vote” with their pocketbooks, transforming an essentially mercantile decision based on incomplete knowledge (see next item) into the highest form of civic virtue.
- The process of production is none of the public’s business—the consumer’s role is to decide whether or not to buy a product. But whether a garment is made in a sweatshop or what chemicals are put in cigarettes are the kinds of questions the consuming public isn’t expected to ask—and indeed, that corporations will lobby fiercely to keep secret.
- The economy is driven by great business leaders and entrepreneurs—as anyone picking up a copy of *Forbes* or *Fortune* can readily see. Why bother talking about average workers when the heroic CEO is so much more important, and fabulously rich to boot?
- The workplace is a meritocracy—good people rise to the top (with the very best becoming heroic CEOs) and everyone gets what he or she deserves. Moreover, “working is like consumption—an individual choice. If people don’t like their job, they should get another.”
- Collective economic action is bad. For one thing, it runs counter to the “consumer is king” view, which stresses individual action. Dissatisfied with work place conditions? Be a man: tell your boss to “take this job and shove it.”

But collective action also threatens the meritocracy paradigm and therefore would upend the whole apple cart. No surprise, then, that collective labor action is described by the media as inflationary, protectionist, naïve, disruptive to consumers, leads to violence—hell, it’s just plain un-American. “Whereas businesses are the visible creators credited with the achievements of the consumer economy,” Martin writes, “organized labor is almost always portrayed as an impediment for the consumer.”

Union activists who have smarted for years from coverage of this sort may have no more than an “ah-ha” moment in reading Martin’s analysis. Reporters and editors who

FRAMED! *Continued from p. 3*

pride themselves on having professional standards of “objectivity,” on the other hand, may need to read his five case studies to be convinced. The evidence he musters, however, is persuasive. And damning.

Major media coverage of the way General Motors whipsawed two of its production plants between 1991 and 1994, at Willow Run and Arlington, “set up the classic horse race frame that typifies coverage of political elections.” Accepting GM’s decision to close one of the two plants as inevitable, the media focused entirely on which of the two labor locals would demonstrate greater “flexibility” in responding to new economic realities. The fact that the “loser” in this artificial race was the more profitable plant was scarcely noted, supplanted by praise for the Arlington local’s eagerness to make numerous workplace concessions even though GM’s “official” position was that concessions were not an issue. But while GM skillfully promoted a divide-and-conquer strategy that had workers fighting among themselves, the news coverage stressed the “teamwork” and “cooperative spirit” in Arlington.

The 1993 strike by flight attendants at American Airlines, meanwhile, was framed largely as “a story of consumer inconvenience and expense, precluding rational-critical debate of class and compensation issues in the airline industry or of the way in which the airline industry had been managed since its deregulation in 1978.” Indeed, much of the news coverage emphasized the possible savings to frequent fliers if management prevailed. “Thus, from a journalistic standpoint, advocating a cost-cutting strategy that undermines labor is not necessarily a probusiness bias (although it is) but an acceptably objective, neutral, proconsumer position,” Martin writes. “In other words, the consumer-oriented ends justify the antilabor means.”

Turning to the 1994-95 baseball strike, Martin observes that the amount of news coverage a labor dispute receives is directly related to “the level of presumed consumer relevance.” Whereas a strike idling perhaps 700 unionized ball players received pages and hours of news coverage for months on end, a several-year lockout of roughly the same number of Midwestern industrial workers got a big yawn, as no one noticed any particular disruption of the consumer market for corn by-products.

“This is how labor disputes are covered in the United States,” Martin concludes. “The consumer marketplace is defended by the news media, but the labor marketplace is not. Would the news media defend a sustainable minimum wage as quickly and actively as they have defended a fan’s desire to see baseball games?”

Smartly written and well documented, Framed! suffers a few minor flaws, including a description of the Detroit JOA as “federally imposed.” But it raises significant questions for journalists, and not just in terms of how they do their jobs. To what extent, for example, are Guild-represented reporters handicapped—as trade unionists—by the frames through which they view the world as journalists? Can those who accept a consumer perspective ever see themselves as engaged in class struggle?

“Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.”—James Bovard

KPFA looking for Labor Day programming

The KPFA Pacifica Labor Collective is now producing programming that is also available on the web. The programming for Mayday 2004 is now available at www.kpfa.org/specials/mayday2004

The KPFA Labor group is also soliciting labor radio programming for Labor Day 2004 for broadcast on September 6, 2004. Please send proposals for Labor Day programming to lvpsf@labornet.org

WINS growth continues

WINS- The Workers Independent News Service continues to add stations. In the last few weeks WMNF in Tampa and WILI in Connecticut have added or upgraded the WINS service. In addition several labor radio programs have also started to use WINS. We can provide a schedule in the next issue.

Although this is very good news, WINS must still be attentive to the contact need to encourage unions at all levels to contribute to WINS. Locals can build WINS in one (or all) of three ways: 1) Locals can subscribe to WINS meaning they can post WINS on their web site, get cartoons from Mike Konopaki and get special features from WINS :cost \$120/yr. 2) Locals can work with WINS to get WINS on a radio station in their area-call 608-262-0680 to start this process; 3) Locals can ask their districts or International to support WINS financially.

WINS gives voice to our issues. In this election year—especially in this election year—a media presence by and for working people is a necessity.

WINS, The Workers Independent News Service
www.laborradio.org

Million Worker March includes “democratic media” in its list of demands

Among a list of demands that include single-care health care, a national living wage, cancellation of “free” trade agreements, end to privatization, and a host of other important objectives, the Million Worker March calls for radical change in the nation’s media.

The statement calls for “a democratic media that allow labor and all voices to be heard and oppose monopolization and union busting of media workers.”

LaborTech activists focus on labor, technology

By John See, Workday Minnesota webmaster
www.workdayminnesota.org

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Over 100 labor activists attended LaborTech 2004 at Stanford University during the weekend of April 2-4 to participate in a wide assortment of 25 workshops about labor and technology in the United States, Germany, Brazil, Belgium and Korea.

Sessions included “How the Stream Labor’s Video and Audio on the Internet,” “Labor Radio,” “Censorship and the Media Workplace,” “Technology, Stress and Health and Safety,” and “Labor and Research Tools,” to name a few.

Featured speakers included Ken Hamidi of the Intel vs. Hamidi e-mail case which Mr. Hamidi won in 2003, yet who is still prevented by the state of California from sending e-mails; Henry Norr, Newspaper Guild member and computer technical writer who was fired from the *San Francisco Chronicle* after participating in a labor rally on his day off; researcher Nancy Bupp from the Education Department, IAM, about researching companies, and spying and surveillance techniques used by some companies; and Steve Stallone, Communication Director for the ILWU during the ILWU lock-out on the docks in San Francisco and the experiences of the dockworkers dealing with the media and the Bush administration.

John See, Labor Education Service/Workday Minnesota, presented at three workshops, “Labor Education in the Schools and Using Technology,” “Organizing Media/Tech Workers,” and “Community Access Cable-How to Establish A Labor TV Show.” He also shared his experiences with the Minnesota labor movement and its support of Workday Minnesota, and which remains a unique service in the United States. The web site generated numerous questions about how such a service might be started in other states.

The LaborTech Conferences began in 1990, and are held almost annually in different cities around the U.S. and Canada. It was held in Minneapolis in 1994, and there was a strong interest among this year’s participants to bring the conference back to the Twin Cities in 2005.

RESOLUTIONS from LaborTech 2004

Protest attack on anti-war and FTAA protestors and attacks on labor and other journalists; Support LPFM radio; Call on the AFL-CIO to support future LaborTech conferences; Support development of the Labor/working families channels; Support legislation to require media ownership diversity and license removal for record of union busting; Support media democracy groups and Indy-media; Oppose the attacks on community access channels including so called “lotteries”; Support the establishment of independent labor media centers; Reclaim the commons airwaves— take last ears FCC campaign to another level; Support the Latin American Working Class Film and Video Festival in Argentina on November 25-27, 2004; Support the Seoul LaborMedia Film Festival in November; Support the Million Worker March on October 16, 2004 www.millionworkeremarch.org; Have similar actions internationally including Korea; Protest the arrest of trade unionists and the repression of unions in Korea for supporting the Democratic Labor Party; Oppose finger printing, biometric data for visitors to U.S. and for I.D. within U.S. including the 12 million transportation workers; Support WINS and the development of labor radio

Air America Continued from p. 2

last month, according to the station’s informal survey. (A station executive, Mary Lou Gunn, did not return a telephone message left at her office on Friday.)

The network, which is also carried on the satellite radio providers XM and Sirius, has found an audience on the Internet. In its first week, listeners clicked on the audio programming on the Air America Web site more than two million times, according to RealNetworks the digital media provider.

“It’s clear the audience is there,” Mr. Franken said.

The conventional wisdom in the radio industry had been that, unlike the conservatives who dominate commercial talk radio, liberals could not entice and hold listeners.

“This shows there’s an appetite out there,” said Tom Taylor, editor of Inside Radio, an industry newsletter whose publisher is owned by Clear Channel. “There’s a good chance they’ll right the ship businesswise and keep going forward.”

In addition to Mr. Franken, the Air America lineup includes Janeane Garofalo, an actress and comedian, and Lizz Winstead, a former head writer of “The Daily Show” on Comedy Central.

Air America’s stumble outside the studio in its early weeks was partly a function of the ambitious task it had assigned itself. While Mr. Limbaugh quickly found a niche on AM radio beginning in the late 1980’s—he is now heard on more than 600 stations—he began syndicating his program at a time when AM radio was thought to be dying, thus presenting him little competition.

Now, in an era of media consolidation, AM and FM stations alike are thriving. Few are for sale (Air America had initially hoped to buy five, but has yet to buy one), and few have enough air time available for lease or barter to accommodate Air America’s block of programming.

But interviews with more than a dozen people currently or formerly affiliated with Air America made clear that the network had been hobbled by the failure of its early principals—some of whom had been drawn to the venture by ideology, others for business reasons—to forge common ground.

The idea for a liberal talk-radio network was first hatched by Sheldon and Anita Drobny, venture capitalists from the Chicago area who had a lot of experience raising money for the Democratic Party but no real radio expertise. They were led to Mr. Sinton, who has 30 years experience in the radio business, and Mr. Franken, who has made a cottage industry of writing best-selling books that skewer the right.

In Air America’s current incarnation, Mr. Sinton, the president, reports to the network’s new chief executive, Doug Kreeger, an early investor whose entrepreneurial efforts have included founding a chain of outerwear stores (Kreeger & Sons) and investing in a New York restaurant (City Bakery).

For chief operating officer, the company has selected Carl Ginsburg, a former news producer at NBC and CBS. Ms. Drobny is its chairwoman, Mr. Sinton said.

Mr. Sinton said that the company was seeking to expand the number of stations carrying its programming—which includes Burlington, Vt.; West Palm Beach, Fla.; and

Victory in lawsuit

The Labor Video Project was one of the organizations that covered the convention and two of their reporters were shot at by the police. Bill Sparks and Bud Gundelach were part of this lawsuit. The *UPPNET News* Fall 2000 issue reprinted an article in *L.A. Weekly* on the ACLU filing the lawsuit immediately after the Democratic Party convention events. This is a follow-up that we wouldn't want to miss. —Ed.



Photo: supermedia

Police riot outside Staples Center during D2KLA.

Lawsuit from protest in 2000 settled

Agreement in the final case claiming police abuse during the Democratic convention brings L.A.'s total payouts to \$4.1 million.

By Patrick McGreevy, Times Staff Writer

May 8, 2004—A federal judge Friday signed the last settlement in a group of lawsuits claiming that Los Angeles police officers roughed up protesters and bystanders during the 2000 Democratic National Convention, bringing to \$4.1 million the total the city has paid out.

The latest settlement, for \$1.2 million, ends a class-action lawsuit filed by 91 protesters, reporters and bystanders who said their civil rights were violated when police opened fire with beanbag munitions, stinger rounds and hard rubber bullets after ordering demonstrators to disperse.

Despite the payouts, city officials maintained that Los Angeles Police Department officers did nothing wrong when dealing with demonstrations around Staples Center during the convention. The settlements, they added, were business decisions made to avoid the cost of full trials.

But attorneys for those injured fault the LAPD for failing to change tactics after the protests or discipline some of the officers involved.

"We believe that [the] LAPD's purpose was to punish and intimidate people exercising their 1st Amendment rights," said James Muller, an attorney for the protesters.

The plaintiffs said they would press ahead with a request for a court injunction barring the LAPD from using rubber bullets and beanbag projectiles for crowd control. [...]

Labor Radio Streams and Sites

Is your labor radio show being streamed, or archived? Send *UPPNET News* the info, and we'll add it here.

Email: lduncan@igc.org



www.laborradio.org
WINS daily news feed

www.wluw.org
Labor Express, Chicago
7pm Sundays

Chairman Powell is AWOL

By Mitchell Szczepanczyk, President, Chicago Media Action

FCC Chairman Powell has plenty of time to listen to Big Media—but no time for citizens. He's skipping out on his own Localism Hearing, and we won't stand for it.

Sign the petition demanding a public hearing in your state! If 500,000 citizens demand to be heard, the FCC and Chairman Powell will have no choice but to listen. Visit www.freepress.net/rules

Air America *Continued from p. 5*

Sacramento—to new markets in Colorado Springs, Santa Cruz, Calif., and Reno, Nev. It is also seeking new outlets in Chicago and Los Angeles, having settled its contractual dispute with the owner of the stations where it had first leased air time.

Mr. Sinton and Mr. Franken refused to say how much money the network had now, but said they had received assurances that the network would have no problem staying on the air through November, and beyond.

"No one is promising things they can't promise," Mr. Franken said. "But it appears to me that from the other people that are stepping up, the financing will be in place." He added: "Imagine how we're going to do when we know what we're doing."

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title, Producer, City/Station, Phone No.

Fighting Back, Ralph Kessler, Berkeley, CA, 510-845-9285, KUSF 90.3 FM
David Bacon on Labor, David Bacon, Berkeley, CA, 510-549-0291, KPSS 94.1 FM
Labor Line, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, SFLR 93.7 FM,
Working LA, Henry Walton, Panorama City, CA, 818-894-4079, KPFF 90.7 FM
Talking Union, Larry Dorman, Rock Hill, CT, 880-571-6191, WATR 1320 AM
Labor Express, Wayne Heimbach, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, WLWV 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Peter Miller, Champaign, IL, 217-337-5174, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFJ 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248,
CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
726 Express, Stewart Ransom, New York, NY, 718-761-6681, Staten Is. Cable
Rank-And-File, Larry Maglio, New York, NY, N.A., Staten Is. Cable
Labor on the Line, David King, Portland, OR
working TV, Julius Fisher, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 604-253-6222
Labor Radio, Bill Zimmerman, Portland, OR, 360-695-6552
PM Primetimes Labor Show, Larry Johnson, www.gmptoday.org, Kokomo, IN

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
UPPNET News editor Larry Duncan at: lduncan@igc.org

ILCA protest *Continued from p. 8*

Fortunately, freedom of the press and media democracy still count in this country. Tomorrow, Air America will launch a series of progressive radio talks shows hosted by Al Franken, Janeane Garofalo, Laura Flanders, Robert Kennedy Jr. and others to counter the reactionary talk radio hosts that have dominated the airwaves on stations controlled by a shrinking number of corporate owners like Clear Channel. This is the direction we must go in, toward alternative media owned and democratically operated by progressive organizations like unions, environmental groups, and community and independent organizations. That is the only way we can insure that different points of view are voiced and discussed, and that the doors of media organizations will never be padlocked in this country.

UPPNET National Executive Board

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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.uppnet.org

WorkWeek needs video segments

WorkWeek the show on Free Speech TV needs your segments. The 28 minute show uses 5 minute segments from throughout the US and around the world. If you are interested in contributing a segment contact producers:

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

ILCA protests closure of Iraqi newspaper

Statement from Marty Fishgold, President, International Labor Communications Association, mfishgold@earthlink.net

www.ilcaonline.org

March 30, 2004

The image of American soldiers shutting down and padlocking the doors on Sunday of a popular newspaper in Baghdad, Al Hawza, must send chills down the spine of anyone who believes that freedom of the press is one of the bedrocks of democracy.

Under orders from the Bush Administration's proconsul, Paul Bremer III, the Shiite weekly was shut down for 60 days for allegedly printing false anti-American rumors that stirred up hatred, undermined stability, and indirectly incited violence.

If these allegations are enough to shut down media, many newspapers, television programs, and radio talk shows in this country run by the likes of Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, and Oliver North would surely qualify for a padlock.

Continued on page 7

For UPPNET News back Issues:
www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm

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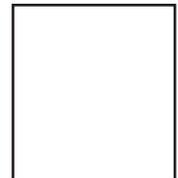
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

St. Louis

Workers Independent News Service makes mainstream media breakthrough

National labor radio news service will now be heard on major metropolitan radio station—the 50,000 watt powerhouse St. Louis’ KMOX



The new WIN logo. Visit www.laborradio.org

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From the *St. Louis Labor Tribune*

Sept.2, 2004—With the sponsorship of five major unions, a news and analysis show about workers and issues important to them will debut in St. Louis on Labor Day on KMOX radio, the radio broadcast leader in St. Louis for years.

The Workers’ Independent News Service (WIN), the only radio news source endorsed by America’s major unions, will enter the St. Louis area with its award winning headline news. It will have three reports **Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m., 6:55 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.**

The unions sponsoring the show are UFCW Local 655, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562, Bricklayers Local 1 and the Masonry Institute of St. Louis, IBEW Local 1 and the Electrical Connection, and Sheet Metal Workers Local 36. Each will have a message tailored to their particular craft or workplace.

The news reports will highlight national and international developments affecting workers, said Frank Emspak, executive producer of the show. A highlight each day will be a 30-second economic report called the “Dow-Bob” report, featuring economic news affecting working families.

“The Dow-Bob report provides the latest news on such things as wages, housing and medical costs, economic information that means something to working people,” Emspak said. “Unlike Dow Jones, which is irrelevant to most working families, this is news that will mean something to workers.”

Emspak said recent news broadcasts had included stories on a congressional budget office report that jobs were not being created at the rate the Bush administration had claimed. Another report featured former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich discussing a census bureau report on America’s shrinking middle class. A report from Argentina featured union electrical workers in contract negotiations. Another story was about union jockeys who won a court decision giving them the right to wear their union patches while racing.

David Zimmermann, business manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 36, said he hoped the program would attract new listeners, union and nonunion alike who would appreciate its information about blue-collar families and the issues that affect them.

He’s hoping it might even help in this year’s elections. “God help us if we don’t get our members out to vote

continued on page 7

Support for CAN TV mounts as Chicago City Council vote nears

- Chicago Access Network Television is the premiere public access facility in the U.S.
- Long an outlet for labor-oriented and grassroots tv shows, CAN TV now faces financial crisis because a cable company flaked out on money owed
- In the balance: an ordinance that would ensure stable funding

Report from www.cantv.org

Mayor Daley has received letters from hundreds of local citizens and civic, educational and community organizations as well as thousands of signatures on petitions supporting an ordinance proposing that one-fifth of the City's cable franchise fee be designated to fund operations at Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV). Almost 80 percent of public access centers across the country are funded in this reliable way.

The Chicago City Council will vote on the ordinance at its September 1, 2004 meeting. Fiftieth Ward Alderman Bernard Stone, the only remaining member of the original cable committee formed in 1980, introduced the ordinance on May 5. "Chicago Access represents, and has always represented, the peoples' network," stated Stone. "It is the one place the people of Chicago can go and have a voice, which is exactly what we intended back in 1980 when we were working on the original ordinance." The Committee on Finance passed the ordinance at its June 18th meeting but it was held back from immediate consideration by the full Council because the administration requested time to seek alternative funding sources. To date, no alternative funding sources have been identified.

CAN TV's future is currently threatened by the funding structure set up in the late 1990s, which incorrectly assumed continued competition among cable providers. CAN TV is currently funded under agreements with the three franchised Chicago cable providers: Comcast, RCN and WideOpenWest. Each pays a flat fee of \$215,000 per service area. RCN has defaulted twice on significant payments due CAN TV, most recently in January of 2004. RCN's parent company filed for bankruptcy protection on



photo: CAN TV

50th Ward Alderman Bernard L. Stone [seated, at center], sponsor of an ordinance to fund CAN TV with over \$2 million, debates the ordinance with a Council member at a Committee on Finance meeting on June 18. Attended by hundreds of local residents loudly showing their support of public access, the Finance Committee meeting unanimously passed the ordinance to fund CAN TV. But that was only the first hurdle.

May 27 and its Chicago subsidiary joined the parent company's bankruptcy restructuring on August 5th. RCN has made it clear it can't fulfill its obligations in three out of four of its cable areas. That puts CAN TV at risk of losing close to \$1 million per year, equivalent to about 40 percent of its cable funding.

What is needed in such a volatile cable market, according to Stone, is not just a quick fix, but a long-term solution that will safeguard this valuable community resource for the benefit of all Chicago's residents. "This ordinance provides for one-fifth of the franchise fee to go to Chicago Access, and that means that in the future, Chicago Access won't have to worry about its budget. They've been very frugal and proven in the past that they know how to handle a budget. To give you an idea of the amount of money we're talking about, a commercial run on network television for the Super Bowl produces ad revenues somewhere in the vicinity of a little more than \$2 million. That is what one-fifth of the franchise fee would produce annually for Access."

Since its founding in 1983, CAN TV has become a lifeline for thousands of Chicago residents and nonprofits. Its five local, noncommercial, cable channels 19, 21, 27, 36, and 42, help viewers find jobs, locate HIV/AIDS and domestic violence counseling, access art and educational resources, volunteer for nonprofits, interact with local public officials, and experience a diversity of viewpoints. CAN TV is an award-winning, highly successful, independent nonprofit which is recognized nationally as one of the finest access centers in the country.

For further information, see www.cantv.org or contact Allan Gomez at CAN TV 312-738-1400.

New Videos on UNITE/HERE struggles



Six-minute QT movie

UNITE HERE! Local 2: Janice Loux speaks

Coast-to-coast unity was the theme at the August 13th rally in San Francisco of hotel and restaurant workers.

Thousands of San Francisco hotel workers left their jobs and took to the streets in a mass rally. The hotel bosses want to eliminate the Kaiser Healthcare Plan and also seek to prevent many part time hotel and restaurant workers from receiving health-care. Their contract expires on 8/14/04.

www.indybay.org/uploads/loux1.mov

Sweatshop Wear Is Unfair

Located mostly on Chicago's North Side, a number of low-profile sweatshops job out work to the giant, billion-dollar laundry and uniform supplier Cintas. These companies operate in old nondescript buildings, and the people who go to work there are typically immigrant workers—Hispanic and Polish. Their wages are sub-minimum, and usually based on piece work.



photo: Steve Dalber

Eluteria Mazon, a Cintas worker, explains that "compared to the work we do, what they pay us is horrible."

The conditions are deplorable. Dirty, cluttered work areas, barred-up windows, insults from supervisors. During the taping of this video workers reported that one Cintas supplier required that employees bring their own toilet paper for bathroom breaks.

Hidden camera footage of the insides of these sweatshops is incorporated into the video.

UNITE/HERE, interviewed extensively in the video, has been involved in a national campaign to expose these kinds of conditions faced by Cintas workers around the country (www.uniformjustice.org).

This Labor Beat video includes interviews and testimony by community and religious activists who paid surprise visits to a number of Cintas sweatshops and saw for themselves these conditions.

Cintas has gotten away with these violations and nurtures work environments that are throwbacks to the late

nineteenth century. These sweatshops are social cancers in the United States which, if allowed to fester and spread, threaten every workplace and community.

"Sweatshop Wear Is Unfair" also follows a protest at a board meeting of Chicago's Metra railroad. Metra had previously given Cintas a multi-million dollar contract to supply it with uniforms. As a result of the community pressure exerted upon Metra, the Cintas contract was cancelled, a significant victory in the Cintas campaign.

The video is 16 minutes. Indicate title, "Sweatshop Wear Is Unfair", and mail check for \$20 to Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. Info: mail@laborbeat.org



A shot from a hidden camera shows the sweatshop conditions that exist in this Chicago north side Cintas supplier.

Coalition to Comcast: don't hang us out to dry

Community, labor, media, consumer, and social justice groups launch their Grassroots Cable Coalition and urge Comcast to be a better corporate citizen

PHILADELPHIA—A coalition of community groups kicked off its campaign to hold cable giant Comcast accountable at a press conference outside the company's headquarters at 1500 Market Street on Wednesday, June 30, at 9:30 a.m. The press conference coincided with the release of a national report on Comcast's treatment of workers prepared by the first National Workers' Rights Board and comes on the heels of a court ruling critical of relaxed media ownership rules as well as local debate over tax breaks that would benefit the cable giant.

Calling itself the Grassroots Cable Coalition, the group announced plans to develop a code of conduct for how the nation's largest cable company should operate. The issues to be included in the group's demands include lower rates, improved customer service, better treatment of workers, diversity in content, commitment to the community, and support for public access television.

"Comcast is hanging consumers out to dry with high rates, poor customer service, and no commitment to its fair share of taxes," said Beth McConnell, director of the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group.

Initiated by Jobs with Justice, the National Workers' Rights Board found Comcast to have a poor record regarding its treatment of employees. Members of the Grassroots Cable Coalition say that the company treats workers as well as consumers with disregard.

The campaign's code of conduct will be a model for how Comcast could act in the best interests of workers, consumers, and all people. Convened by Media Tank, the coalition also includes PennPIRG, Communication Workers of America, Jobs With Justice, Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Media Tank, Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women, Philadelphia Community Access Coalition, and the Prometheus Radio Project. Representatives from five of these organizations spoke at the press conference.

"These eight organizations recognize that each of our respective issues—media access and democracy, rights for poor and working people, consumer justice—are all threatened by the actions of Comcast," said Dan Berger, campaign manager for the Philadelphia Community Access Coalition. Similar cable campaigns are being formed in San Francisco and Seattle.

Press conferences surrounding the release of the National Workers' Rights Board report will also take place in ten cities across the country. The board's 52 members included congressional representatives, well-known authors, people of faith, professors, and social justice activists. For more on the board, see www.jwj.org. For more on the court ruling about media ownership, see www.prometheusradio.org.

Contact Information for Participating Organizations:

Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)
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215-686-3821

Communications Workers of America
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www.cwa-union.org

Jobs With Justice
Contact: Fabricio Rodriguez
215-735-3615v
phillyjwj@mindspring.com
www.jwj.org

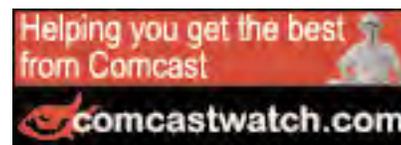
Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWURU)
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www.kwru.org

Media Tank
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www.mediatank.org

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www.pennpirg.org

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Prometheus Radio Project
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hannahjs@prometheusradio.org
www.prometheusradio.org



www.comcastwatch.com

March on the Media coalition holds protest during RNC in New York

As reported from the Democracy Now! (www.democracynow.org), on Thursday, Sep. 2, the "March on the Media" took place in New York to protest uncritical coverage of the Bush administration by the mainstream press. 2,000 protesters participated. The march converged across the street from CBS, and rallies were held at Time Life/CNN and FOX. WBAI provided live simulcast.

Statement of March on the Media

"Why We Protest"

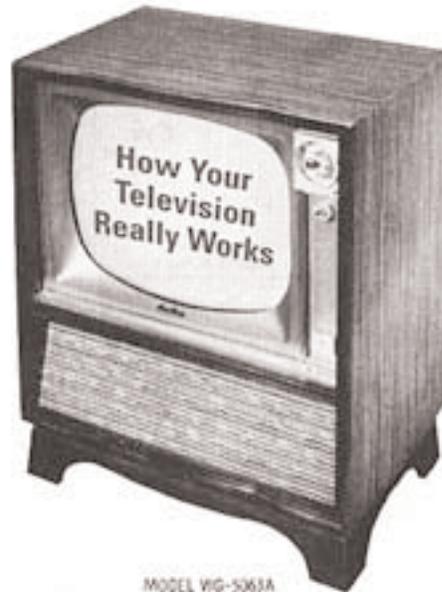
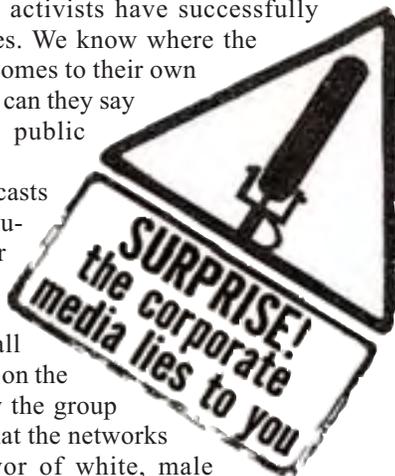
www.marchonthemedia.org

For the past few years, the mainstream media have marched in lockstep with the Bush administration. Now it's time to march on the media.

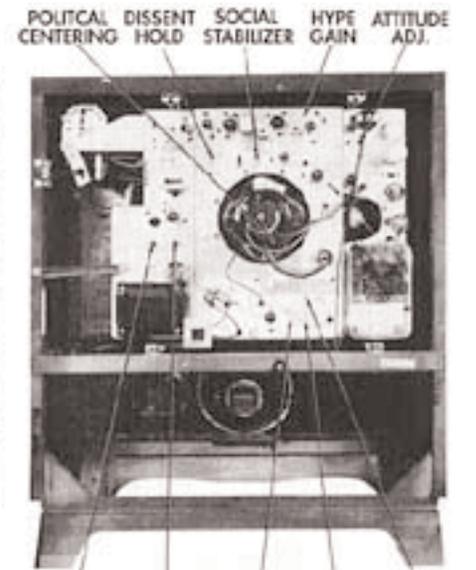
Whether the issue is corporate abuse, the 2000 Florida recount, the Patriot Act or post-9/11 detentions, the mainstream media have behaved more like lapdogs than watchdogs. When the Bush administration pursued a plan to attack Iraq, the media amplified the charges of the Bush partisans and ignored or downplayed dissenting views.

And it's important to remember that the media giants aren't yet happy with their domination of the public sphere. They have serious business before the government—the business of getting even bigger. When the Federal Communications Commission sought to "relax" the limits on media ownership in 2003, big media companies were thrilled. Despite overwhelming public sentiment against the plan, the FCC went ahead with part of its plans. Thanks to hard work, media activists have successfully blocked these changes. We know where the media stand when it comes to their own self interest. But what can they say they've done in the public interest?

The network newscasts are still the most popular source of news for Americans. But what kind of news are we getting? A study of all the sources appearing on the newscasts in 2001 by the group Media Tenor found that the networks tilted heavily in favor of white, male Republican sources. Women and people of color were scarce; women made up between 14 and 18 percent of those appearing on the newscasts, while



CORP. TV – FRONT VIEW



CORP. TV – REAR VIEW

How Your Television Really Works — from March on the Media

Arab-Americans and Latinos each were less than one percent of the sources on the network newscasts.

The media giants are granted licenses to broadcast on the public airwaves; in return, the public has the right to hold these companies accountable for their collective failure to present a wide range of viewpoint and perspectives.

Your media is broken and can't be fixed

Supporters of the March on the Media

Organizations

FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting); Paper Tiger TV; Third World Newsreel; Media Super Villian; Prometheus Radio Project; Reclaim the Media; Colorado Media Reform; Mediachannel.org; Critical Notes; Changé; Verdictsinn Publications; Songs of Freedom TV; Social Criticism Review; Media Alliance; www.rocknation.tv; CommonDreams.org; TvNewsLIES.org; seedsofdoubt.com; Infraspsect Associate; Deep Dish TV; AIVF; Center for Religion & Media; Sag Harbor Basement Pictures; Margins of Faith

Senate Commerce Committee passes historic bill to expand low power FM community radio!

Grassroots organizing leads to major victory, one step closer to LPFM service in America's cities

Contact Pete Tridish, petri@prometheusradio.org;
Hannah Sassaman, hannahjs@prometheusradio.org

The United States Senate Commerce Committee voted to approve a major bill on Thursday, opening the way for Congress to substantially expand the number of community media outlets in the United States. The bill is designed to allow thousands more Low Power FM Community radio stations to reach Americans in cities, and all across the country. An amendment by Senator Burns of Montana to further delay low power radio was defeated, but an amendment imposing special additional interference requirements for New Jersey was passed.

Senate Bill #2505, the bill designed to “implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission regarding Low Power FM”, (LPFM) was introduced by Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont. This unusual bipartisan partnership, and this successful movement of the bill into the full Congress, came about as a result of the enthusiastic and energized grassroots advocacy of Americans frustrated with the poor quality of media across the country.

“Low Power radio should not be controversial,” said Pete Tridish, Technical Director of Prometheus Radio Project. “While the question of whether a 100 watt station can interfere with a 50,000 watt station is a simple ‘No’ at first—and last—glance, the NAB has been trying to make the issue look more complicated than it is with a snow job of irrelevant technical nitpicking. All that stands between American communities and Low Power FM radio is the deeply entrenched lobbying group, the National Association of Broadcasters. They are fighting an interference threat that doesn’t exist on behalf of a constituency of broadcast stations that has more important things to worry about.”

According to advocates and volunteers who stood in the extremely crowded Committee meeting room today, the bipartisan beginnings of s2505 did not extend completely into today’s vote. Senator Conrad Burns, Republican of Montana, introduced a bill that would force the FCC to study the economic impact of more LPFM stations, and the ‘potential interference’ they would cause, in today’s markets. “It is ironic to see calls for economic impact studies from free market Republicans. Protecting existing broadcasters from new competition is a great example of how lobbyist-driven economics works—socialism for the rich and well connected, and artificially scarce ‘markets’ for everyone else,” said Tridish.

After Burns’ amendment was defeated, Senator Frank

Lautenberg introduced an amendment that would supposedly protect radio consumers in densely populated New Jersey from the ‘potential interference’ offered by LPFM stations. “The Lautenberg amendment did pass, by a voice vote, and then the bill itself passed, also by voice vote,” reported Prometheus’ Program Director Hannah Sassaman. “Unfortunately, Senator Lautenberg didn’t realize that he was precluding many more opportunities for LPFM with this amendment, especially for his own state’s residents. We’ll work with the Senator to revise his position, and allow new, local, New Jersey stations to blossom between the 50,000 watt flamethrowers in the New York-Philly corridor. Lautenberg’s amendment certainly proves to us that the corporate lobbyists aren’t going to let this go without a fight, but the real communities of America will be working overtime to make sure their legislators, in the Senate and the House, represent them, and bring LPFM to their doorsteps.”

Approximately 400 Low Power FM (LPFM) radio stations currently serve communities across the United States.

(For more info: www.prometheusradio.org)

Million Worker March builds

By Steve Zeltzer

The Million Worker March on October 17, 2004 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. continues to build support within the labor movement despite the attack on the rally by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney who said the march would be a “diversion”. The APWU, representing over 330,000 postal workers, endorsed the rally at their national convention as well as the National Education Association and TWU Local 1 in New York City, representing over 30,000 transit workers.

Actor and SAG unionist Danny Glover was also able to speak for the march at the NYC Central Labor Council rally of 50,000 workers during the RNC.

The Million Worker March has also challenged the corporate media with its policy “For a democratic media that allow labor and all voices to be heard and oppose monopolization and union busting of media workers.”

The demonstration has also been endorsed by the Union Producers and Programmers Network (UPPNET). There are plans to carry the rally live on the Pacifica network and also on C-Span. There also maybe a booth at the rally on the need for a democratic media. There is more information about the march at www.millionworker.org

KPFA Labor Collective Special Labor Day Programs

KPFA’s Labor Collective will be producing a series of programs for and by working people on Monday 9/6/04.

Program topics: Labor And The Attacks On Education, Lessons Of The S. California Grocery Fight, SchMike Shoes Blues, The Million Worker March, 2004 Workers Memorial Day At Oakland UPS, Immigrants and Labor Rights on The Job, Bankruptcy of the Airlines, The Attack on Pension and Airline Workers, Terrorism In The Workplace, Discrimination and Federal Workers

For further information call (510)-848-0124x606 and leave a message with the KPFA Labor Collective. Available on the web at www.kpfa.org

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title, Producer, City/Station, Phone No.

Fighting Back, Ralph Kessler, Berkeley, CA, 510-845-9285, KUSF 90.3 FM
David Bacon on Labor, David Bacon, Berkeley, CA, 510-549-0291, KPSA 94.1 FM
Labor Line, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, SFLR 93.7 FM,
Working LA, Henry Walton, Panorama City, CA, 818-894-4079, KPFF 90.7 FM
Talking Union, Larry Dorman, Rock Hill, CT, 880-571-6191, WATR 1320 AM
Labor Express, Wayne Heimbach, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, WLWU 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Bill Gorrell, Champaign, IL, 217-359-9338, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFI 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248, CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
726 Express, Stewart Ransom, New York, NY, 718-761-6681, Staten Is. Cable
Rank-And-File, Larry Maglio, New York, NY, N.A., Staten Is. Cable
Labor on the Line, David King, Portland, OR
working TV, Julius Fisher, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 604-253-6222
Labor Radio, Bill Zimmerman, Portland, OR, 360-695-6552
PM Primetimes Labor Show, Larry Johnson, www.gmptoday.org, Kokomo, IN

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
UPPNET News editor Larry Duncan at: lduncan@igc.org

WIN on St. Louis KMOX Continued from p. 1

this year. "If this guy (President Bush) is elected, it's going to be all over."

Zimmermann, whose union has been a sponsor of Cardinals baseball on KMOX, said response to that programming has been good. He is expecting KMOX's broadcast voice to be equally effective during the morning drive time.

Mike O'Connell, business manager of Local 562, said he hoped the union's sponsorship would help create broader understanding of the training his members have and the importance of what they do.

"Maybe when they see the ice cream melting in the store, they will know that the refrigeration wasn't installed properly."

Bricklayers Business Manager Don Brown said he thought the news show would carry important messages to Local 1's membership and help create good will among the public for union bricklayers and the Mason Contractors Association.

"It's a good public service to bring news affecting working people to our community. We think it will be widely appreciated."

UPPNET National Executive Board

President: Howard Kling, producer *Minnesota at Work*, hkling@csom.umn.edu

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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.uppnet.org

Dearborn, MI Town Meeting on the Future of Media

www.freepress.net/future//dearborn

Tuesday, September 14, 2004, 5:30pm-9:30pm

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center

Center Theater

15801 Michigan Avenue

Join us to learn more about who owns your media in Michigan and to gain helpful tips and insights as you craft your testimony. Both events are free and open to the public!

Featuring special guests Federal Communications Commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein

Presented in partnership with the City of Dearborn, Communications Workers of America Local 4100, American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, ACCESS, Southeast Michigan Jobs With Justice, Community Television Network, and the Grand Rapids Community Television Center.

Portland, OR video showtimes

Argentina: Factory Occupations

Claire Closmann of OPEU recently spent six months in Argentina. She became known as the “North American woman with the opposition” and was taken to visit occupied factories and went on marches with Piquetaros and generally had a good time.

“Argentina: Factory Occupations” (one hour twelve minutes) starts with Leopoldo Rodriguez giving a very clear description of the historical background leading to the occupations. Then Claire shows two videos from Argentina, one of which actually shows the people taking over, welding the doors shut and gathering rocks. Lots of cops show up

and you can cut the tension with a knife. The program ends with a demonstration of Tango dancing.

Portland, OR cablecast information

Sun	9/12	07:00 pm	Channel 11
Tue	9/14	10:00 am	Channel 22
Thur	9/16	08:00 pm	Channel 22
Mon	9/20	10:30 am	Channel 23
Wed	9/22	07:00 pm	Channel 23

For more info: landd@igc.org

For UPPNET News back Issues:
www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm

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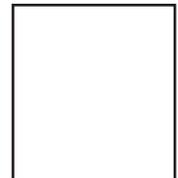
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

UPPNET Editorial

The election, the AFL-CIO debate, and labor media

The ongoing debate in the AFL-CIO about the future direction of labor and how it is going to survive will be limited unless it includes the issue of a labor media strategy that involves all forms of media and how to use it in the battles against union busting multi-nationals and the governments they control.

After spending over \$200 million dollar on the this year's election cycle, the AFL-CIO and its affiliates have nothing concrete to show for it. It has no labor tv channel, no labor radio station, no national labor newspaper and no plan on how to challenge the corporate media as well as the corporate dominated PBS which millions of our members contribute to with their tax dollars.

UPPNET has fought since its inception in 1989 not only to support labor media on tv, radio and the internet but also to develop a labor media movement based not only on the institutional structures of labor but on the rank and file.

Labor needs to train tens of thousands of unionists in locals throughout the country to produces labor tv and radio programming on community access tv, the internet and community radio stations.

We need to develop a plan of action to protest anti-labor stories by the corporate media and PBS/NPR and to demand that labor get regular programming on PBS/NPR like business gets.

How about a labor perspective on the economic news every day on tv and radio that can be listened to by millions.

Every local should have a media committee that supports the training of members on how to use a video camera, edit and get it on the web and how to post pictures and

continued on page 2

Breakthrough at First Latin American Working Class Film & Video Fest

By Steve Zeltzer, LaborFest, Labor Video Project

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 26, 2004—It began with an avante garde and experimental music composition to film segments of Einsenstein’s Strike to the massive protest and rebellion in Argentina against the Menem government in 2001 that was produced by the labor film group and festival initiator Ojo Obrero. Titled “XOON-Artistas Independientes Contemporaries”, the 9 contributing artists brought the silent films to life with their music. This exciting original composition was performed by some of the leading musicians from Argentina and was held at the National de Artes de las Secretqeria de Cultura de la Nación. It was part of a production by Frente de Artistas en Lucha. (Front of Artists In Struggle).

This was the opening evening of the first Festival of Latin America working class Film and Video. It was sponsored not only by a organizing committee of independent labor film and video producers (www.felco.ojoobrero.org) and Luch Arte but also received the support of the Argentinean Film Council and the use of their theaters for free. It was also supported by Palaise de Glace. The film festival organizers with a campaign were also able to get the council to produce 500 large festival posters that were placed on boulevard signs throughout the city.

Buenos Aires used to be the 3rd richest city in the world and Argentina the richest country in Latin America. The city was built on this past wealth but the collapse of the peso threw millions of workers and their families out of their jobs and many ended have ended up on the streets of the cities. This economic devastation has spread throughout Latin America. From Bolivia and Ecuador to Brazil and Mexico the people of the continent have seen their living standards torn to shreds.

These devastating and dire economic conditions have been planned and implemented in the US by the multinationals and the IMF with the collaboration of Menem and a host of US controlled puppet governments in the Americas.

These rebellions and explosions have been censored from the media in the US and around the world but were brought forward on the screen at the festival. The media in Argentina has also censored out the historic protests in

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articles on indymedia web sites around the country and internationally.

Labor cannot rely on public relations firms to tell its story. They cost too much and they negate the need to train rank and file workers to start to tell the stories themselves and use new communication technology to get it out throughout the country. Only an engaged rank and file labor media movement can put the punch into a real media campaign.

We have supported annual Labortech conferences (www.labortech2004.org) as a means to develop our skills and to educate labor about corporate media—how they control the agenda and how to challenge them. As we all know if you are not on tv today you are marginalized since most workers get their information from TV in the United States and most industrialized countries. We can learn an important lesson from the Korean labor movement where hundreds of labor videos are being streamed by nearly all the major unions and thousands of rank and file Korean workers are being trained to do their own media.

We have supported the proposal of CFT Communications Director Fred Glass that regional labor media centers be set up around the country to help do the training and help broadcast their stories. If the AFL-CIO had put aside \$5 to \$10 million of the money it spent on the last election cycle these labor media centers could be up and running around the country. The technology is in place now for 24 hour labor tv and labor radio programming in English, Chinese and Spanish to reach millions of workers in the US.

The UPPNET-supported initiative of WIN, the Workers Independent News Service (www.laborradio.org) is an important and historic step and it should just be the beginning but it has yet to be fully supported by locals and internationals that need to break the media blockade.

We need in depth documentaries on tv and radio on the attack on pensions using the bankruptcy laws and the effort to end all defined pension programs. We need documentaries on the effects of deregulation and privatization and the war against labor's right to organize with case studies. Many independent producers are working night and day to get these docs out but they need help. Many such as "Thirst" on water privatization, "The Corporation" need to be shown in every city in the country.

We need labor festivals in every city of the country that will have labor film and video festivals that present this rich material to workers and the millions of unorganized.

This material will not be provided by corporate media and their bosses who want to hide these stories. It is up to us in labor to develop this labor agenda to go on the offensive media wise.

The failure to include this in the growing debate within organized labor is something we cannot afford.

If you agree with this agenda and some of the proposals please contact us. We want to build support for them at the AFL-CIO convention this coming July in Chicago.

"The labor movement has not grasped the fact that we are in a labor movement in the most powerful, dominant, and hegemonic empire the world has ever seen...Our empire has created the demographic changes in this country.

"We lament media coverage, but an international president wants to spend more on politics. That money pays for candidates' advertisements on the media. Why not cut out the middle man and make our own media?"

"If you want to raise a lot of money, don't spend it by giving it to the Democratic Party. Spend it creating an independent media system!"

—JUAN GONZALEZ, *DAILY NEWS* COLUMNIST

From a report on the recent Labor at the Crossroad conference by David Swanson, Media Coordinator for the International Labor Communications Association:
<http://chicago.indymedia.org/newswire/display/49828/index.php>

Holiday gift idea



Hangs on your keychain and turns off virtually any television!

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Buenos Aires *Continued from p. 1*

neighboring country Bolivia against the effort to privatize gas and export it to Peru.

One of the films from this struggle in Bolivia, “Fusil Metralla el pueblo no se calla” by Tercer Mundo had used tv footage, mainstream newspaper articles and powerful editing to show the massive explosion against the privatization of the gas industry and the successful movement to stop the export of this valuable resource to Peru.

The protests of indigenous Indians, women and unions from the miners to the teachers and students were tied together with fast clip editing and powerful scenes.

Tercer Mundo (tercermundo03@hotmail.com) had also traveled for 4 days by bus from La Paz to Buenos Aires to participate and screen their video at the festival. They were elated to meet with other labor film and video producers from around the world. One of the final scenes of their video is the hated US supported president of the country taking off on his jet to escape to Chile after using the army to massacre hundreds of trade unionists, peasants and indigenous people.

The festival screened dozens of films from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay. The films were selected by a showing them first at workers assemblies and community meetings throughout the country. Viewers then chose their favorite films and these were the films screened at the festival. Two films were shown from the United States and Korea. Workers were stunned to see the violent attack on workers and students protesting the Iraq war in the film “Shots on The Docks” (lvpsf@labornet.org) and the film “Friend or Foe” by Labor News Production (mjkim@mediact.org) directed by Jiyoung Lee in Seoul Korea.

The experience of Korean telecommunication workers fighting contract labor and their long struggles and betrayal left a sharp impression on Argentinean workers since they are also fighting the destruction of permanent jobs.

One part of the festival was a retrospective of Raymundo Gleyzer who was a militant film maker during the 60’s and 70’s who was murdered by the military dictatorship which came to power with the support of Kissinger and the US in

1976. Four of Gleyzer’s films were shown including “Los Traidores” about the transformation of a trade union militant into a supporter of the bosses and the government. Attending the retrospective was musician and a leading actor of the film Victor Proncet.

Proncet was joined by his son Carlos Pronzato who is now producing labor videos from throughout the Americas. One of his films on the Bolivian rebellion was screened at the fundacion Centro De Estudos Brasileiros as well as “Revolta Do Buzu” of a city-wide protest of students against bus fare increases. The festival organizers also organized discussion panels during the festival on Militant Cinemas and the Popular Rebellions, The Experience and Practice of labor video producers, The Attack on Women by the Church and Global Economic Policies and The Movement of the Piquetero and the Elections. The Piquetero movement was a mass organized response to the economic collapse and the criminalization of the poor and unemployed by the government and capitalist media.

Committees were set up throughout the country that blocked roads and organized to provide food for the starving people. They also supporters hundreds of factory occupations. Many of these factory occupations have now been filmed by labor videographers and their documentaries were screened by the festival. Ojo Obrero was set up only in 2001 and many of the other labor video groups came out of the Argentinian upheaval and the need to show this struggle on video not only in Argentina but throughout the world.

Some of the international conference participants stayed at a worker occupied hotel in downtown Buenos Aires. The hotel B.A.U.E.N. Coop. on Av. Callao 360 (b.a.u.e.n@latinmail.com). This hotel was seized by the workers and reopened as a cooperative. It has conventions and rents rooms around \$20.00 for a single and \$33.00 for a suite which includes breakfast.

The workers said it was a struggle to learn how to run the 210 room hotel but they have overcome and are now in a political battle to legalize worker occupations permanently not only for their hotel but for worker cooperatives throughout the country.

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photo: MJ Kim

Panelists Steve Zeltzer (far Right) and Myoung Joon Kim (2nd from Left on the panel) lead the discussion following the screening of “Shots on the Docks” and “Friend or Foe”. Other people on the panel are moderators and translators.

Seventy percent of the Piqueteros movement are women and many of these women are now organized politically in various Piqueteros groups that provide food and other support for the working class and poor women.

One of these movements Pollo Obrero has forced the government to even provide food to their offices for distribution in the barrios and communities.

One of the films of this movement "Open The Road To The Women Fighters" (Paso a Las Luchadoras) by Ojo Obrero (www.ojoobrero.org) had previously been screened at Laborfest 2004 (www.laborfest.net) in San Francisco.

Many of the labor film makers are also involved in labor media in general. Cine Piquetero (cinepiquetero@datafull.com) has established pirate broadcast television in some of the barrios.

The same time the festival was taking place, an encampment of ceramic workers from Sonoren were conducting a protest against the government next to the National Congress building. They had arranged a photo exhibition of their struggle and also were screening videos in the evening.

Another of the groups who had videos at the festival and at the screening of the workers' encampment was Grupo Alavio (alaviocine@yahoo.com). They have also produced journals about their work in English. One of their films "Fallujah Bajo Sitio" compared the conditions that the Iraqis now face to the economic conditions facing the poor and oppressed in Argentina.

The festival organizers also proposed the establishment of an international labor media network that would produce on the web a journal of articles by labor media groups from around the world and also a data bank of all labor films and videos. It would also establish a calendar of all labor film and cultural festivals throughout the world and links to their festivals. They also proposed that there be an open discussion and debate of labor film and videographers as well as radio producers about the issues and experiences of their productions. It also supported the initiative of the Bolivian group Tecer Mundo to have the festival in La Paz, Bolivia in October 2005 and to support the distribution of the festival throughout the US and internationally. Laborfest organizers have offered to help circulate the festival throughout the US next year. Labor Video activists, solidarity centers or Labor or Latin American studies programs can contact Laborfest for more information if they would like to screen the festival in their community. This festival marks a new beginning of working class film and video in Latin America and will provide a major impetus for its growth and expansion throughout the hemisphere. There are also discussions to have another Latin American Working Class Film and Video Festival in Buenos Aires and the first launching of a LaborTech Latin America conference alongside the festival next year. It would be supported by LaborTech2004 which was held this year in San Francisco. The importance of developing labor communication media and technology in Latin America to educate workers about their common struggles and to build solidarity is a critical task for the international labor media movement.

new video

Mardi Gras: Made in China

A 63 minute documentary that explores the production, consumption, and disposal of Mardi Gras beads. Filmed on location in Fuzhou, China and New Orleans, Louisiana, Mardi Gras: Made in China follows "The Bead Trail" backwards from the bacchanalia at Mardi Gras to the factories in Fuzhou where the beads are made. When each group is shown images of the other, the cycle of misunderstanding goes a long way to explaining how the unjust system is kept in place.



"Mardi Gras: Made in China" is a story of globalization told through humor and sadness, hope and violence by the

owner of a bead factory in China; the largest Mardi Gras bead distributor in the world; carnival revelers who exchange beads during Mardi Gras, and four teenage beadworkers in China who make Mardi Gras beads.

www.calleymedia.org/home.htm



Author Ian Angus at book launch

Canadian Bolsheviks The Early Years of the Communist Party of Canada

New on the web www.workingtv.com

Highlights from the November 17 launch in Vancouver of the second edition of "Canadian Bolsheviks: The Early Years of the Communist Party of Canada" by Ian Angus.

Webcast at www.workingtv.com/canadianbolsheviks.html
In RealVideo, QuickTime, and Windows Media formats.



Chicago City Council oks resolution for continued talks on interim funding for public access tv

In a follow-up on our story in UPPNET News Summer 04 about the funding crisis for Chicago Access Network TV (CAN TV), Chicago's public access center has announced that Comcast and the City of Chicago have worked out short-term and long-term funding solution CAN TV.

"Comcast made a proposal for interim funding over a three-year period that has been accepted by CAN TV," the public access non-profit corporation announced in early December.

"At the December 1, 2004 meeting of the Chicago City Council, Alderman [Bernard] Stone substituted a resolution for the pending ordinance. The resolution, which was unanimously approved by the City Council...directs CAN TV and the franchised cable operators to work with the City to complete a plan to address CAN TV's long term viability by December 1, 2006."

CAN TV has stated that it should now a reasonable amount of time for all of the parties to work cooperatively in resolving CAN TV's funding situation in the long-term.

Public Television's Digital Dreams

How the obsolescence of your TV set could mean a new nest egg for PBS

By Deanna Isaacs, Chicago Reader

December 10, 2004—Here's a question for you: How much do commercial TV stations pay for the privilege of monopolizing the airwaves? The answer's a grabber. Although television is a highly profitable business and the airwaves are public property in limited supply, a license to operate on them costs nothing. In fact, according to the media watch group Free Press, we're giving away the use of an asset that's been valued at \$367 billion nationwide, and the major beneficiaries of our largesse are a handful of large station owners including companies like Viacom, Disney, Time Warner, and News Corp.

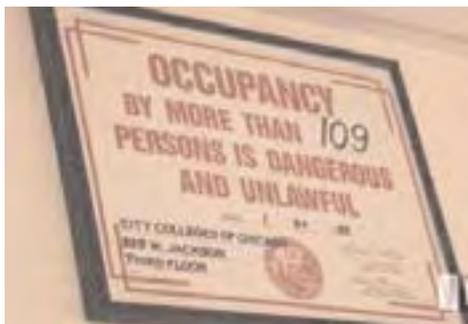
At a conference on the future of public television held by the University of Chicago's Cultural Policy Center at the MCA last week, this free ride merited a full jowl shake from local broadcast icon John Callaway, who called for the American people to "get outraged" about it and "rise up".

What's that got to do with the future of public television, which (never mind those 30-second underwriting spots) is noncommercial? Everything, according to the mavens at the conference. Right now broadcasting's on the cusp of something big—"the greatest change since the introduction of television," says Corporation for Public Broadcasting president Kathleen Cox—and as a result your television set is as good as dead.

Over-the-air broadcasters are going digital and eventually will turn off the analog transmission most sets were

Continued on page 6

New video: "The Battle at the Boardroom Doors"



Nowhere near 109 people were in the room...



...but strikers were kept out because of "fire code"...



...while Vice Chancellor removes max capacity sign.

In the Fall of 2004 a bitter strike of Chicago City College teachers dragged into the third week while fears rose that the entire semester would be lost. It was clear that the administration wanted to bust the union. This half-hour video documents what happened when the CCC Board tried to prevent union members, students and supporters from entering the board room for a public meeting to discuss the strike. The teachers and supporters were told initially that they couldn't enter because the room was at maximum occupancy, but the Labor Beat camera disproves that. Viewers

will be astonished to see Vice Chancellor Donahue clearly removing the maximum occupancy sign (see photo sequence above) so nobody would know what the maximum legal number was. Is removing such a sign illegal?

In any event, this battle at the boardroom doors was the turning point in the strike and 24 hours later, it was settled as 94% of the faculty voted in favor of the contract.

Mail a check for \$20 to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60607. (Please indicate the title "The Battle at the Boardroom Doors") More info: mail@laborbeat.org

Digital Dreams *Continued from p. 5*

built to receive. The original government deadline for pulling the plug on analog was December 31, 2006. Now the date's getting nudged father into the future, but in spite of an apparent lack of demand (no e-mail campaigns from citizens eager to toss their TVs out the window), it's going to happen.

The FCC says digital broadcast will give those with DTV sets a sharper, interference-free picture along with a bunch more channels. People who don't have DTV sets will be able to get something like their old picture with a converter, and if they can't afford a converter, the government may spend a few billion supplying them.

But the big bonanza will go to the stations, which will get as many as six digital channels for every analog channel they have now, and of course to the manufacturers and distributors of digital TV sets and converters. Though it's currently planning to give the digital channels away, the government is hoping to get the analog channels back and sell them to businesses for use in wireless communications.

That's where public television sees an opportunity. PBS, created in 1967 as an ad-free educational and cultural resource aimed primarily at the "underserved," leads a hand-to-mouth existence that has it starting from scratch every year, seeking funding from Congress, donors, and corporate sponsors.

Given this arrangement, public TV looks vulnerable to outside influence: in the past conservatives have described it as a bastion of liberals; these days the liberals are crying foul. New Yorker media critic Ken Auletta, rehashing one of his pieces in a conference lecture, told of PBS head Pat Mitchell being invited to tea at the vice president's mansion, where she was pitched on a new children's program to be hosted by Lynne Cheney.

That didn't happen, but Bill Moyers—long a bete noire of conservatives—is retiring this month, and his weekly show, *Now*, will be cut from an hour to 30 minutes. Meanwhile conservatives Tucker Carlson (of CNN's *Crossfire*) and Paul Gigot (editor of the *Wall Street Journal's* op-ed page) are hosting new shows.

In a keynote speech at the conference, Mitchell announced that she's working on new sources of income that will make PBS more independent—including a multi-billion-dollar trust that might be funded by the government with the proceeds of the analog channel sales. (Mitchell, perhaps wary of the powerful station-owners trade group, the National Association of Broadcasters, left it to others like Callaway to suggest that user fees for the airwaves could be an additional source of funding.) She also noted that this fall PBS took a "bold step into the future" by partnering with Comcast to establish a new digital-cable channel for preschoolers that will carry advertising. Exactly how this fulfills PBS's original mandate was left a little fuzzy.

WTTW president Dan Schmidt was one of the many speakers who said the salvation for public broadcasting stations rests in "bonding with the community through local programming." Very little of such stuff is now done, however—according to Auletta, only 16 of 349 PBS affiliates air nightly local public-affairs programs—probably because it doesn't travel well. And local media watchers were on hand to dispute the impression that

WTTW (aka Winnetka Talks to Wilmette) has been practicing what it preaches.

Karen Bond of the grassroots organization Chicago Media Action, which this summer issued a quantitative analysis of *Chicago Tonight* [see link below -Ed.] charging that it "ignores news and perspectives of interest to... communities of color and the working class," observed that "we don't feel like we're part of the process. There's no mechanism whereby people that are supposed to be served by the station have input that would be binding."



Chicago's PBS station, has become the target of a critique by a Chicago Media Action study of WTTW's show "Chicago Tonight". See: www.chicagomediaaction.org/pdf/files/fair_ct_article.pdf

Chicago Media Action secretary Scott Sanders said that when the group approached WTTW with a coalition of 25 community organizations to request a series of public forums on the invasion of Iraq before it happened, they were put off. When they tried again after Bush's victory speech from the deck of an aircraft carrier, said Bond, "I was told, 'Karen, the war is over. It's no longer in the public consciousness.'"



Chicago Media Action (CMA) chairperson Mitchell Szczepanczyk (L) and board member Ron Kunde (R) at a recent protest against FCC.

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title, Producer, City/Station, Phone No.

Fighting Back, Ralph Kessler, Berkeley, CA, 510-845-9285, KUSF 90.3 FM
David Bacon on Labor, David Bacon, Berkeley, CA, 510-549-0291, KPSA 94.1 FM
Labor Line, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, SFLR 93.7 FM,
Working LA, Henry Walton, Panorama City, CA, 818-894-4079, KPFF 90.7 FM
Talking Union, Larry Dorman, Rock Hill, CT, 880-571-6191, WATR 1320 AM
Labor Express, Wayne Heimbach, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, WLWV 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Bill Gorrell, Champaign, IL, 217-359-9338, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFJ 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248,
CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
726 Express, Stewart Ransom, New York, NY, 718-761-6681, Staten Is. Cable
Rank-And-File, Larry Maglio, New York, NY, N.A., Staten Is. Cable
Labor on the Line, David King, Portland, OR
working TV, Julius Fisher, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 604-253-6222
Labor Radio, Bill Zimmerman, Portland, OR, 360-695-6552
PM Primetimes Labor Show, Larry Johnson, www.gmptoday.org, Kokomo, IN

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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.uppnet.org

Iraq Tells Media to Toe the Line

From Reuters

BAGHDAD, 11/12/2004 — Iraq's media regulator warned news organizations Thursday to stick to the government line on the U.S.-led offensive in Fallouja or face legal action.

Invoking a 60-day state of emergency declared by Iraq's interim government ahead of the assault that began Monday, Iraq's Media High Commission said media should distinguish between insurgents and ordinary residents of the Sunni Muslim city.

The commission, set up by the former U.S. governor of Iraq, was intended to be independent of the government and to encourage investment in the media and deter state meddling after decades of strict control under President Saddam Hussein.

The commission statement bore the letterhead of the Iraqi prime minister's office.

It said all media organizations operating in Iraq should "differentiate between the innocent Fallouja residents who

are not targeted by military operations and terrorist groups that infiltrated the city and held its people hostage under the pretext of resistance and jihad."

It said news organizations should "guide correspondents in Fallouja...not to promote unrealistic positions or project nationalist tags on terrorist gangs of criminals and killers."

It also asked media to "set aside space in your news coverage to make the position of the Iraqi government, which expresses the aspirations of most Iraqis, clear."

"We hope you comply...otherwise we regret we will be forced to take all the legal measures to guarantee higher national interests," the statement said. It did not elaborate.

The state of emergency, which covers all of Iraq except the Kurdish north, gives the prime minister extra powers to try to crush the insurgency before elections set for January.

The media commission has not previously issued a call for media to take a certain line, and it was not clear what provoked Thursday's statement.

The Miami Model

By Wes Brain, Miami Model co-producer, UPPNET Board

Spending nearly a week in Miami a year ago for the FTAA protests as a union-member videographer from Oregon was an extraordinary experience. I have now been branded with more than Levi 501's. What a trip!



The FTAA IMC Miami Video Working Group stayed in a leased unfurnished house. No beds, folks. While my local's delegation (yea! SEIU503) stayed in a fine union hotel I was in my sleeping bag on a 2 inch foam arthritis pad of comfort.

But never mind, that. This was a once in a lifetime adventure for sure. We came together from all over the

United States and Canada, all independent media center volunteers working collectively to breakthrough the corporate media blockade of censorship. And we had big time censorship around FTAA-Miami. Still do.

The FTAA IMC Miami Video Working Group produced "The Miami Model" on a budget of zero and we are now proud to make this 91 minute documentary available for all activists. Take a look at The Miami Model webpage where you can watch a video trailer, read some review quotes, or purchase a dvd and be host for an upcoming screening in your area. <http://www.ftaaimc.org/miamimodel/>

For UPPNET News back Issues:
www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm

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