

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

Labor media a non-issue at AFL-CIO Executive Council's Vegas meeting

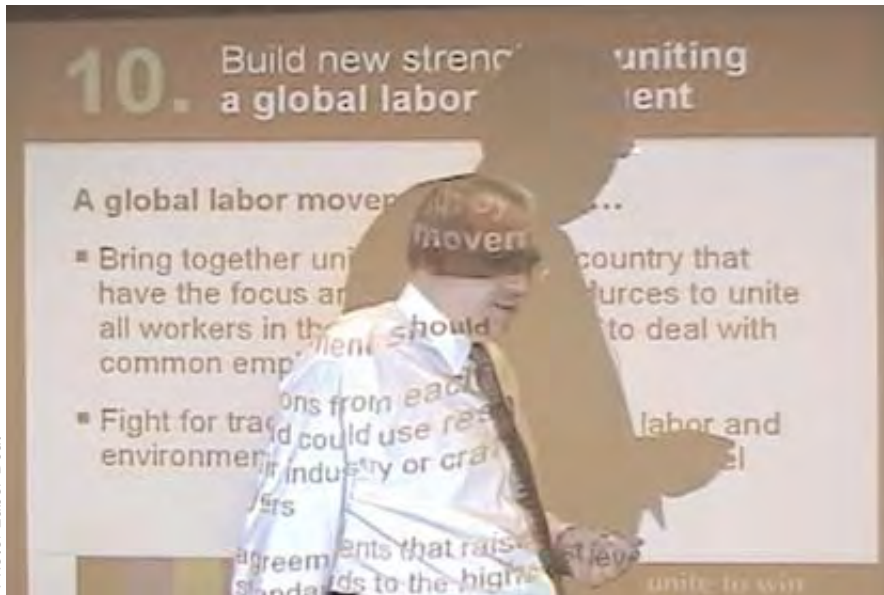


Photo: Labor Beat

Tom Balanoff, SEIU Local 1 President, explains Andy Stern's 10-point program for saving the labor movement at open meeting in Chicago. But there was no point dealing with a labor media strategy. In Q&A, the question came up. More on page 2.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council at its March 2005 meeting in Las Vegas did not resolve the ongoing crisis about the future of organized labor. Some jockeying took place over funds diverted back to individual unions, and a viable challenger to Sweeney did not materialize.

But on the question of organized labor ideologically competing with corporate media in the public forum, nothing was said. It's just not on their radar.

Chicago Meeting Discusses SEIU Plan

At a February 2 open meeting in Chicago, union staffers and a few rank-and-filers attended a presentation on SEIU's views in the debate, give by SEIU Local 1 President Tom Balanoff.

Hosted by Chicago Labor Education Program, University of Illinois, the meeting was initially advertised at a presentation on the New Unity Partnership. However, by the time of the event, the NUP had dissolved.

President Balanoff pointed out that it was still important to proceed with the discussion, that although the NUP had disbanded, the debate itself has expanded. He gave a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation, which was followed by a question and answer session.

Marnie Goodfriend, Communications Staff at SEIU 880, put her question this way:

"What concerns me is I don't see a point in any of your 10 points for putting any resources towards communications. What concerns me is there's no talk about finding alternatives, about even brainstorming new strategies. Are we going to have a labor paper, a nationwide paper or a regional paper, or cable tv show? Or some kind of strategy to deal with our image problem because it is a problem. Just dealing at the workforce level—that's major, but that's not the whole picture. What concerns me is I don't see any of that in the 10 points, or any direction of resources there."

President Balanoff responded, "First of all, we're still using methods that I don't think even work. We used to send out our newspaper and then we'd do a survey. How many people read it. We'd start to find out 3% said they

IAM: labor needs \$200,000,000 cable news/infotainment network—page 2

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One click on name of article takes you there.

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Photo: Labor Beat

Marnie Goodfriend, SEIU Local 880 Communications Staff, asks 'where's labor media in the 10-point program?'

got it. How many read it?

"We need to communicate. At SEIU we said 'let's get on top of technology because what we're doing here doesn't work'. We've gotten criticized a lot for having web sites—web sites this, web sites that..."

"The idea of a labor station—I don't know if it's such a bad idea. Another union [See box this page -Ed.] said we don't promote ourselves enough. They're proposing \$180,000,000 to set up a labor cable station. I think that's a bad idea, and I think that's not a good use of money. I think Labor Beat [See Labor Beat's comment this page -Ed.] could do it for a hell of a lot cheaper than \$180 million [laughter]..."

"In my local union when we communicate with mailings or anything we have to do it in 4 languages: English, Spanish, Polish, Serbo-Croatian..."

"So, first of all, we have to understand who it is we're organizing and we have to speak in their language. Second of all, I think we have to use technology. I think the Internet—it's been very successful for us."

"I'll agree to all kinds of ideas. If we can put together a newspaper that people will read on a regular basis. I'd love to put the newspaper out again."

For UPPNET's flyer distributed at this meeting, and suitable for future meetings discussing AFL-CIO policy, download from: www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetflyer.pdf



Photo: CAN TV

Tom Balanoff, SEIU Local 1 President, leads open discussion on SEIU's 10-point plan.

IAM Supports Creating Labor TV Channel

Excerpt from IAM's Statement on the Debate About Needed Changes in AFL-CIO

Use Our Power to project a positive image of the American labor movement on a 24/7 basis every week of the year. With an investment of \$200 million, the AFL-CIO and its affiliates could create its own cable news and info-entertainment network. What organized labor now lacks is a message delivery platform that reflects the advances in communication technology over the last fifty years.

When kids, women, tennis players, computer gamers, Trivia and Dallas Cowboy fans, Hispanics, the National Rifle Association and international travelers — all have their own cable television channel, organized labor must have one also.

When Ronald Reagan's Rasputin, Roger Ailes, can create FOX News, Fox News Channel, CNBC, and MSNBC and a host of other cable news shows tied to General Electric, then the labor movement must fund a message delivery platform where the Internet, cable television, satellite radio and news come together.

Forget about aping what the Republicans did in the last election. A portal like MSNBC is what Corporate America is investing in today—the future of domestic and international communications—where they can provide wall-to-wall, primetime programming that parallels and parrots their corporate agenda and philosophy.

The AFL-CIO and its affiliates, with their 5.5 BILLION dollars in total assets and their 6.7 BILLION dollars in disbursements each year, can readily afford to finance such a labor news and info-entertainment network. The return on that investment would be a focus on working families and the challenges they face and an opportunity to reinforce the message that union members live better.

Labor Beat's comment on Tom Balanoff's answer

Working with Chicago's public access tv station CAN TV, Labor Beat crew taped this event, which was cablecast in its entirety (2 hours) a few weeks later. Two Labor Beat camerapersons, Larry Duncan [full disclosure, also editor of UPPNET News] and Martin Conlisk, could not fully participate in the question and answer because of their camera duties. The opportunity is taken here to respond.

SEIU has utilized cable tv more than most other unions in the Chicago area, with the regular cable-tv live call-in show "SEIU Says", hosted by SEIU Local 73. SEIU Local 73 also endorsed a recent Labor Media Conference in Chicago, sponsored by Labor Beat, CAN TV and Chicago Labor Education Program, U of Ill. Urbana-Champaign.

Although Free Speech TV has demonstrated that a satellite cable-tv channel can operate for much less than \$180 million, organized labor nationally has far greater needs than FSTV. And, finally, although much is done by minuscule labor tv productions, their resources are far too small to do justice to what the labor movement needs and deserves in radio and tv outlets. It's time to think big, not small.

Proposals for Future of Labor Movement: Resolution on Labor Media

By ILCA (International Labor Communications Association, AFL-CIO, CLC)

On December 20, 2004, ILCA President Marty Fishgold sent a letter to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney proposing a number of steps to improve labor communications, and thereby to build the strength and reach of the labor movement. The letter is available online at: <http://ilcaonline.org/proposal.pdf>.

After discussion and suggestions from ILCA Executive Council members, Fishgold's original proposals have been developed into the following resolution, which will be discussed and voted on at the ILCA convention in Chicago in July. The version published here is a working draft. Between now and July, the ILCA would like to receive suggestions from as many of our members as possible on further revisions to this document. Please post your suggestions as comments below, or—if you do not want them posted—send them to dswanson@aficio.org

If this resolution is passed by the ILCA membership, it will be taken to the AFL-CIO convention the following week.

RESOLUTION ON LABOR MEDIA:

Whereas the media outlets owned by major corporate conglomerates routinely omit, distort, and otherwise marginalize the concerns of working class Americans, and

Whereas an investment in the creation of independent media outlets would allow labor to make facts known and shape public debate in ways that have proven impossible with corporate powers owning almost all of the newspapers and radio and television stations, and

Whereas the labor movement has the resources, both human and financial, to have a major impact through the creation of new media,

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will make a serious investment in national independent labor media during the next year, including the creation of at least one cable television show, at least one radio program, and at least one weekly hardcopy publication, all available nationally, and all with an additional presence on the internet. To these will be added within two years a radio network, and within five years a cable television network. These media outlets will provide coverage not only of the labor movement, but of the full range of politics and culture. Each media outlet created will be an independent organization subject to no editorial control by any union or labor federation. Each will be committed in its constitution to the promotion of growth in the labor movement and to accepting no funding or advertising from companies not approved by the AFL-CIO and the Union Label and Service Trades Department, and

Be it resolved that this national labor media strategy, including further initiatives taking advantage of new media technologies, will be developed by a commission made up of representatives of the ILCA, the AFL-CIO,

the international unions, the broadcast and communications unions, and other producers of labor media, and

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will work with central labor councils and federations to develop their current publications into mass-circulation newspapers with broader appeal to working people and members of the community, and

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will invest in grass-roots communications training for the labor movement, training in the production of labor media as well as in relations with the corporate media. This effort will train staff and rank-and-file members to train other rank-and-file members in media production skills and media activism. A focus of this project will be the establishment of regional media resource and training centers, which will continually develop skilled media workers able to produce radio, television, print, and internet labor media, and

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will provide resources for the development of local labor radio and television programs, documentaries, newspapers, and internet outlets, as well as providing support to existing labor-friendly media productions, and

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will promote democracy in labor publications and media productions, meaning the inclusion of multiple and dissenting points of view in articles, columns, and letters to the editor. The discussion in recent months on the AFL-CIO website about the future of the labor movement is a good example of what is needed, and

Be it resolved that the ILCA, the AFL-CIO, and the international unions will make media reform a top legislative priority, and will make the FCC, Congress, and media conglomerates the targets of aggressive campaigns including massive public demonstrations demanding democratic media coverage that does not marginalize workers in favor of a corporate agenda.

ILCA 50th Anniversary Convention

The ILCA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in Chicago, July 21-23, at its biennial Convention. For more info: <http://ilcaonline.org>

Labor Notes enters media discussion

Labor Notes has weighed in over the developing debate. In an article titled "Labor Media: Time for a Revival" the journal states:

"Labor has no national newspaper, radio show, or television show competing with the corporate versions, and the labor movement dumps millions of working people's dollars into advertising and efforts to spin reporters, with negligible results.

"New leaders of the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) want a strengthened labor media that activates both union and non-union workers and competes with Disney and Time-Warner in setting the terms of public debate..."

For the complete article: www.reclaimthemedias.org/stories.php?story=05/02/12/6912022

Report on WIN

The Workers Independent News continues to grow. The objective is to reach as many working people as possible, on a regular, preferably daily basis, with news and information focused on the issues and concerns of working people. WIN presents these issues and concerns from the point of view of working people.

Currently WIN is being broadcast on KMOX in St. Louis during drive time thanks to the support of The IBEW, the Plumbers and the Sheet Metal workers. Win is also broadcast daily on the 50 plus network of Air America, thanks to the support of the CWA. WIN expects to launch a daily broadcast in Chicago on WBBM, and in New York on WLIB within the next few weeks.

Taken together with non-commercial radio, WIN material reaches about 2 million people per day.

The challenge: While many in the labor movement recognize that “labor” should have a voice in the media and see the need for such a voice as the pre-requisite for political change, unions are structured and focus on their individual needs. Hence projects like WIN which encompass all working people run up against the contradiction of general needs and the specific financial and political needs of individual unions. WIN is seeking to overcome this contradiction by arranging city by city support for WIN, thus enabling individual locals to sponsor WIN and bring their message to working people in general. WIN also has a direct subscription service to local unions. The subscription service enables locals to put the WIN news on their web site via streaming audio system. The WIN service enables individuals to stay on their local’s web site while they listen to the news. At the same time WIN encourages individual locals to get in touch with WIN with their story. This system of mutual support allows WIN to reach down to the local union level and make the voices of local union activists available to the public at large.

Please visit the WIN web site at www.laborradio.org Support WIN. Ask your local to subscribe or make a contribution.

LaborFest 2005 International Working Class Film & Video Festival Call For Videos/Films

12th Annual International Working Class Film & Video Festival 71th Anniversary of the San Francisco General Strike

The 12th Annual International Working Class Film and Video Festival is launching a national and international call for labor documentaries as well as a competition for the best 3-minute labor videos.

The videos should illuminate the issues facing working people and the unemployed. They could include the effects on working people of the war in Iraq, repression and democratic rights for working people, the crisis facing retired workers and the growing Wal-martization of the economy. If submitted from outside the US we prefer work that either contain captions or an English narration, however we will accept all submissions. If work is submitted in languages other than English, a printed narration is requested. It will be accepted in PAL or NTSC.

The winner of this jury award will receive \$100.00 and it will be honored at the International Working Class Film & Video Festival in San Francisco from July 5-July 31. Producers of the videos screened will also be invited to present their videos at the festival screenings.

Videos/Films can be sent in DVDs, VHS or mini-dv format by May 15, 2005 to:

International Working Class Film & Video
Festival/LaborFest P.O. Box 720027
San Francisco, CA 94172
USA

You can find out more about LaborFest by going to www.laborfest.net

Just out May Day video—new Haymarket statue a bad joke



Photo: Martin Conlisk/Labor Beat

The new statue at Chicago’s Haymarket Square has sparked controversy amid cries of ‘spinning history’.

Thanks to a deal among the City, the Police Dept., the Chicago Federation of Labor, and the Illinois Labor History Society, the theme of the new statue at Haymarket Square is not about class struggle, but about “free speech.”

At the surreal ceremony introducing this jumbled and faceless stick-figured affront to history, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Fraternal Order of Police were both present. In fact, the CFL’s Dennis Gannon explained that after all these years the basic differences between labor and the police have been smoothed out, and then, giving him a hug, introduced Mark Donohue, his old high school friend and President of the Fraternal Order of Police, who spoke while a gathering of anarchists booed.

Labor Beat’s “Trainwreck of Ideologies, Part II: Historical Spin” documents the ideological chasm between Chicago area anarchists and the hosts of this event. 30 minutes. Send \$20 (indicate VHS or DVD) to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. Info: mail@laborbet.org

News about U.S. troops denying basic rights to Iraqi citizens is seldom reported. Photos by author.



Photo: Dahr Jamail

Woman with several family members detained pleads for their release, claiming they are innocent.



Demonstrators in December, 2003 against illegal detentions.



Soldiers harassing demonstrators.

Media Held Guilty of Deception

Dahr Jamail, Inter Press Service

ROME, Feb 14 (IPS)—A peoples tribunal has held much of Western media guilty of inciting violence and deceiving people in its reporting of Iraq.

The World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI), an international peoples initiative seeking the truth about the war and occupation in Iraq, made its pronouncement Sunday after a three-day meeting. The tribunal heard testimony from independent journalists, media professors, activists, and member of the European Parliament Michele Santoro.

The Rome session of the WTI followed others in Brussels, London, Mumbai, New York, Hiroshima-Tokyo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Lisbon. The Rome meeting focused on the media role.

The informal panel of WTI judges accused the United States and the British governments of impeding journalists in performing their task, and intentionally producing lies and misinformation.

The panel accused western corporate media of filtering and suppressing information, and of marginalizing and endangering independent journalists. More journalists were killed in a 14-month period in Iraq than in the entire Vietnam war.

The tribunal said mainstream media reportage on Iraq also violated article six of the Nuremberg Tribunal (set up to try Nazi crimes) which states: “Leaders, organizers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes (crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity) are responsible for all acts performed by any persons in execution of such a plan.”

The panel that heard testimonies included Francois Houtart, director of the Tricontinental Centre in Belgium that has backed several peoples movements in Latin America, and Dr. Samir Amin, director of the Third World Forum in Dakar, Senegal. Dr. Haleh Afshar, who teaches politics and women’s studies at the University of York in Britain, and Italian author and newspaper editor Ernesto Pallotta witnessed the proceedings. “This is not simply an exercise to denounce the mainstream media for their bias and incompetence,” said Dr. Tony Alessandrini, a human rights activist who has published several articles on the U.S. colonization of Iraq. “These denunciations have been going on for months. Here in Rome, we must go further...”

Alessandrini, who helped organized the WTI added, “What we are being asked to consider is not simply media bias, but rather the active complicity of media in crimes that have been committed and are being committed on a daily basis against the people in Iraq.”

Several experts gave strong testimony. Dr. Peter Philips, director of Project Censored at Sonoma State University in California where he teaches media censorship provided taped testimony. He said that at no time since the 1930s has the United States been so close to “institutionalized totalitarianism,” and added, “U.S. society has become the least-informed, most-entertained society in the world.”

The WTI Rome session also heard testimony from Dr. David Miller from Scotland, author of "Tell Me Lies: Propaganda and Media Distortion in the Attack on Iraq." "This is about condemning journalistic complicity of war crimes," said Dr. Miller, who is also co-editor of Spinwatch, a group that monitors public relations and propaganda.

Miller said the Pentagon "does not recognize the concept of independent journalists, because they are providers of unfriendly information", and that mainstream media in the United States and in Britain was "complicit in furthering the selling of the invasion, and ongoing occupation. All studies conducted on mainstream media show dominance by government policies, and wartime coverage of TV news in the UK was generally sympathetic to the government's case..."

[For more info: www.dahrjamailliraq.com/hard_news]



Basra oil union President Hassan with reporter Ewa Jasiewicz, member of NUJ, London Freelance Branch.

UK's National Union of Journalists Helps Iraqi Oil Union Set Up Media Program

From a report by Ewa Jasiewicz, freelance@mailworks.org

During a two-week visit with UK unions in February, President of the General Union of Oil Employees in Basra, Hassan Juma'a Awad met with General Secretary Jeremy Dear of the NUJ and spoke of the need for a General Union of Oil Employees' newsletter in order to spread news unavailable in the mainstream about privatization, Structural Adjustment Programmes and Iraq's debt.

Equipment identified to achieve the production of such a newsletter was: a computer, scanner, digital camera, and printer. Media training was discussed and deemed necessary. Jeremy Dear said he would get in touch with contacts within the Arab Federation of Journalists who might be able to help with media training. He also pledged to send an appeal to all NUJ branches to try and raise money for the Union to establish the newsletter. If published, it would regularly be sent back to the UK too and if possible translated so that all supporters of the Basra oil union would have an insight into workers, local concerns, struggles, gains and losses. More info: www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=2997&Language=EN

Iraq's FWCUI Needs Media Equipment

mics and video cameras for media center, more

UPPNET reprints below excerpts from an appeal for funds by the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI).

We take special note of the communications technologies that the FWCUI is particularly interested in acquiring. Please consider the appeal below (edited for space).

"FWCUI is a federation of a network of independent unions established by workers in the heart of their protests and their motivation to defend and achieve their fair demands for a better living condition, for a progressive labor law, for democratic rights of workers in Iraq. FWCUI has led many protest actions of workers in different industries and companies, confronted administrations, employers, Iraqi and US authorities to achieve the demands of workers. FWCUI is an important organization of the progressive civil front against the occupation in Iraq and demands immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from Iraq. It attempts to rebuild Iraqi civil society and is opposed to the terrorism of political Islamic groups and loyalists of the Baath regime.

"Now FWCUI attempts to strengthen the united leadership of labor unions in different parts of Iraq, to organize the working class in Iraq in a new model of unions and councils established by workers themselves in their general meetings, representing the workers' will and demands at different levels...FWCUI until now has led dozens of protests in Iraq and is now engaged in leading waves of protest of workers in the electricity, textile and oil sectors in Nassiriya, Basra, Kerkuk, Baghdad and Kut. FWCUI has branches in Basra, Kerkuk, Nassiriya and Baghdad and many preparatory committees in other cities in Iraq."

Among listing various expenses for transportation and office rent, the FWCUI asks for funds to:

- Buy computers for FWCUI central office in Baghdad and branch offices in other cities. Each Computer costs between \$800-1200 US. We require 12 Computer to supply all the branches urgently.
- Buy a photocopy machine for FWCUI media centre in Baghdad which costs \$5000 US.
- Buy mobile telephones for FWCUI to facilitate communication and contact inside Iraq and abroad with FWCUI branches and Labor Unions and media centers worldwide. Each mobile telephone costs \$300 US; Numbers of mobile telephones needed are 30 mobile telephones for FWCUI main activists in different branches.
- Media facilities like cassette recorders, microphones and cameras including digital cameras and video cameras for media centre of FWCUI .Each digital camera costs between \$200-300 US, each video camera costs between \$400-800 US.

To find out how to send funds, email info@uuiraq.org, or contact Aso Jabbar, Abroad Representation of FWCUI, Bern, 07.01.2005, www.uuiraq.org, Tel.0041 78 882 55 8

[For questions regarding the FWCUI, you may contact US Labor Against the War at info@uslaboragainstwar.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, 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

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

Fighting Wal-Martization

New Video By The Labor Video Project

Wal-Mart is now the largest private employer in the United States and has the same impact that General Motors had nearly 50 years ago. This 26-minute video shows why working people and trade unionists are fighting back and what Wal-Mart has in store for the communities it is seeking to build stores in. "Fighting Wal-Martization" is a hard-hitting documentary that looks at how the constant price cutting not only drives local small businesses out of the community but how this ends up driving down the living conditions of the very people who shop at Wal-Mart.

The video also looks at the healthcare crisis and how Wal-Mart increases its profits by sending its employees to public hospitals to get treatment—shifting costs back onto the taxpayer. This video can be used at union meetings, community meetings and on cable TV to get the message out about the Wal-Martization of America and what it means to every working person. \$20.00 Check or Money Order.

Please mail your check and order form to Labor Video Project P. O. Box 720027, San Francisco, CA 94172 For more info: lvpsf@labornet.org, (415) 282-1908

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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

San Francisco media's crucial year *Continued from p. 8*

The community access producers in San Francisco have experienced the rapid decline of public access under the management of Community Television Corporation. Some examples of the inept and corrupt management styles of the CTC rubber-stamp board are: they have closed the station on Sundays and Mondays; it is now open only 40 hours a week; they force producers into a lottery for time slot selection every 6 and 12 months; they are closing the facilities to producers and implementing charges for non-profits to use the facilities.

This is the corporatization of public access. The cable company and the city government will have to deal with this during the licensing renewal process. We local members of UPPNET are fighting to municipalize the cable company since we know we can't expect the situation to improve under Comcast.

For more information: carltv214@aol.com

Crucial year for media activists in San Francisco

By Carl Bryant, producer *Letter Carriers Today TV 214*

It's a crucial year for media activists in San Francisco. Local UPPNET producers are involved in two very important media issues that are coming to a head: the renewal of the cable franchise after 40 years, and the possibility of a new FCC license for radio broadcast at the New College radio station.

New College, a private, progressive college with a developing media department, is located in the Mission district in the heart of San Francisco. It has already built an Internet radio studio and is currently investigating the possibility of building an antenna that would broadcast independent,

community media. Workers Independent News (WIN) and its CEO Frank Emspak are consulting with the college on how to launch the radio station and make the community radio station a reality.

The other important issue is the renewal of the cable franchise after 40 years and how it will affect the struggle for democracy at the public access station (Channel 29).

As the Comcast media conglomerate has been no ally to labor and community producers at Channel 29, we're fighting for the municipalization of cable similar to what was done in Ashland, Oregon. *Continued on page 7*

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

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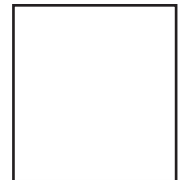
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Vote YES on S. F. Labor Council's labor media resolution at July AFL-CIO Convention!



AFL-CIO spikes America@work

By Larry Duncan, editor UPPNET News

The official publication of the AFL-CIO, *America@work*, which was “designed to inspire and support front-line union leaders and activists” has had its plug pulled. Now, the AFL-CIO has no national media organ, print or otherwise. Whatever happens after the July Convention in Chicago, a labor media strategy involving some national publication, radio show or tv channel is essential.

I don't know of any epitaph for *America@work* provided by the AFL-CIO, but in lieu of that, here's an article by Harry Kelber, written in January, on the eve of the publication's demise. It may offer some insights into why *America@work* died so suddenly and was thrown into an unmarked grave. The Kelber article is on [page 2](#).

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The San Francisco Labor Council resolution for a labor media strategy for AFL-CIO

June 13, 2005—Meeting of San Francisco Labor Council

Whereas, the anti-labor corporate propaganda blitz against working people by the major media is a danger to both the survival of organized labor and,

Whereas, the deregulation of the media has led to censorship and the control of the media by robber barons who are intent on not only silencing the voices of working people but supporting the corporate policies of privatization, deregulation, and eliminating all labor and human rights and,

Whereas the need to have regular labor education on history, health and safety, immigrant rights and all the issues facing working people is vital,

Therefore be it resolved that this council supports the call for an 24 hour Labor radio and TV channel that would include programming from all internationals and would provide labor and working class programming and,

This council also supports the development of labor media internet portals of all labor programming and links to all labor struggles in regional areas and,

This council supports the development of a labor media movement that will include the training of rank-and-file members in the use of labor video and radio both on community access television and on the web and supports and the Workers Independent News (WIN) service that is now broadcast on stations throughout the country and, this council will support the establishment of regional labor media centers that will provide such training and,

Finally this council will submit this resolution to the AFL-CIO convention and all affiliated bodies for action.

For more information on Workers Independent News (mentioned in the resolution) go to the article on [page 3](#).

If you are interested in supporting this resolution at the July AFL-CIO Convention, contact UPPNET President, Howard Kling, hkling@csom.umn.edu, or Carl Bryant, carltv214@aol.com.

***America@work*: In lieu of an epitaph**

Why won't *America@work* carry reports of unions' debate about labor's future?

By Harry Kelber, ILCA Associate Member

January 05, 2005—If you want to know what's happening in the labor movement, you won't find out much by reading *America@work*, the AFL-CIO's monthly magazine [now defunct —*Ed.*].

Your best bet for important labor news is *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *Business Week*, none of them particularly friendly to unions.

In its January 2005 issue, *America@work* uses its entire back page to ask union members to “help strengthen our union movement for the future.” It states that “the AFL-CIO is leading a detailed examination of what we must do to build strength for the future.”

Yet nowhere in the 24-page magazine is there any information about the 10-point program to revitalize the AFL-CIO that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has been publicizing widely in the commercial media. Why is there not even a mention of SEIU's “Unite to Win”?

Thoughtful proposals for strengthening the labor movement have come from the Communication Workers of America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and a group of leaders representing 12 central labor councils. They each offer important recommendations that union members are entitled to be informed about. Why haven't they been reported in the magazine?

It's not for lack of space. The editors devote nine full pages to print comments from union members that we need good jobs, health care, social security, paid overtime and labor law reform. That's hardly hot news. It's what the AFL-CIO was repeating month after month during the election campaign. Is that the best use that the editors can make of nine blank pages?

America@work boasts on the cover page that it is a source for “Ideas, Info and Ammo for AFL-CIO Leaders and Activists.” I'd like to hear what seminal ideas the editors have contributed to the labor movement. What they have made abundantly clear is they'll reject any idea, no matter how praiseworthy, if it is critical of the Sweeney team or comes from a known union dissident.

The magazine's staff sees themselves as cheerleaders, always on the upbeat, even if it means disregarding reality. An example: “The American labor movement, measured by the loyalty and pride of our members, is the strongest in the world and is stronger today than ever before.” So why all the fuss about the critical need for change?

The magazine has made it a point not to carry any news about Iraq, terrorism or homeland security. It would not even include a holiday greeting to the many union brothers and sisters who are in the armed forces in Iraq.

America@work distributes about 165,000 copies to unions in bundles, apportioned to the per capita payments they pay the AFL-CIO. Slightly more than only 1% of the 13 million union members receive copies. Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka's staff wouldn't tell us what the cost of the magazine was in 2003, but it's clearly an expensive publication, because its editors specialize in razzle-dazzle layouts and obsessive

(and distracting) use of full color in nearly every story.

Since the Executive Council meeting in March will be making important changes in how the AFL-CIO functions, it's an ideal time to take a hard look at labor's official magazine.

We suggest that the Council appoint a panel of distinguished labor editors selected by the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) to study *America@work* over a three-month period and report its recommendations to the Council.—hkelber@igc.org



photo: Labor Beat

New video on AFL-CIO debate

Review by Bill Onasch, billonasch@kclabor.org

Larry Duncan and the folks at Labor Beat have produced another top-notch video, “The AFL-CIO: The Workers Must Fix It!” It takes a look at the factional brawling in the upper echelons of the “house of labor” from a perspective of rank-and-file workers battling on the ground.

Interspersed with clips of such luminaries as John Sweeney, Andy Stern, and Lane Kirkland are remarks from commentators such as Bill Fletcher, a prominent figure in the labor, antiwar, and international solidarity movements who once served briefly as a special assistant to Sweeney; Harry Kelber, an old-time labor activist and educator who has written hundreds of articles over the years dissecting the workings of the union bureaucracy; Chris Silvera, leader of a Long Island Teamsters local and chair of the Teamsters Black Caucus; Kim Scipes, a labor educator who is an expert on labor foreign policy; Alan Benjamin, a delegate to the San Francisco labor council who has played a leading role in USLAW's solidarity work with Iraqi unions; and Mike Griffin, a former rank-and-file worker at AE Staley in Decatur, Illinois who came forward as a Road Warrior for solidarity during their long strike struggle a decade ago—and has been stirring up trouble for the bosses and bureaucrats ever since. (Some of you in Kansas City may remember Mike Griffin from when the local Labor Party helped arrange speaking engagements for him at the Labor and Politics conference, and a Missouri AFL-CIO convention, during the Staley struggle. A number of us also drove to Decatur to carry the Labor Party banner at mass solidarity rallies, where workers at Firestone and Caterpillar were also on strike at the same time.) In only 28 minutes, the video can't give all the answers on how the workers can fix our unions, but it sure poses the right questions. It's well worth a look and can be useful to show at union gatherings and house meetings. To order, send a \$15 check, payable to Labor Beat: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago IL 60607 and specify whether you want DVD or VHS. Info: mail@laborbeat.org / 312-226-3330

The Workers Independent News: The New Face of Labor Media

By Rebecca Jamieson, *WorkingUSA* Vol. 8 Issue 4

The Workers Independent News (WIN) is on the forefront of Internet news broadcasting, and was one of the first organizations to produce a daily, online, labor-related newscast. This article discusses WIN's founding and history, and how the use of Internet and information technology, in many facets of WIN's structure, has allowed it to succeed as a truly progressive entity. In an age where a handful of corporate conglomerates dominate most news media in the United States, this independent, progressive structure is more crucial than ever before. While recording artists in the music industry and their companies have often seen the Internet as a bane, with file-sharing sites making it easy for Web users to pirate songs for free, WIN uses Internet and audio programs to its advantage, ensuring that its news is spread to listeners all over the country and the world. This article also examines the cost-effective nature of beginning a radio news service by broadcasting online, as opposed to more traditional start-up models. Lastly, the article explores the future of WIN and the implications it could have for the face of labor media and the public's perception of labor.

Introduction

Three years ago, daily audio news broadcasts through the Internet were rare or unheard of. As one of the first online news organizations to give daily audio broadcasts, the Workers Independent News (WIN) used the Internet to revolutionize how the labor movement is represented in broadcast media. Today the Workers Independent News brings the words of working people to approximately two million listeners daily via the Internet and radio. WIN calculates the number of daily listeners based on reports provided by commercial radio stations that play WIN material. The Workers Independent News is an independent, not-for-profit audio news service that produces high-quality news focused on issues that are important to working people. WIN is broadcast on more than one hundred radio stations around the country, more than half of which carry WIN material on a daily basis. Currently, approximately 50 percent of these are college and community stations, while the other 50 percent consists of commercial stations. WIN news is also available on the Internet at www.LaborRadio.org.

WIN's History

WIN's beginnings come from two sources. In the mid-1990s, a collective of labor activists began producing a program called Labor Radio in Madison, Wisconsin on WORT, a community radio station. The weekly show continues today, and focuses on news of working people in the Madison area. In starting Labor Radio, the activists discovered there were many other community-based labor news programs around the country, and they began to envision starting a network of these organizations. In the process of achieving this goal, Labor Radio became involved with the

Union Producers and Production Network (UPPNET), an organization of labor media activists from around the country. In the year 2000, UPPNET joined with Labor Radio and the Madison School for Workers to organize a conference to bring together labor and media activists from around the country to encourage the development of democratic labor media. In the months preceding the conference, Dr. Frank Emspak, his Executive Assistant, Richard Thomson, WORT's Norm Stockwell, and UPPNET leaders Steve Zeltzer, Howard Kling and Larry Duncan created a proposal titled "The Internet Labor Radio Network." That paper later became the basis for WIN. The conference was hugely successful, drawing over three hundred participants. Over nine hundred additional people attended the Midwest premiere of the movie *Bread and Roses*. By the end of the conference, activists decided to launch a radio broadcast organization dedicated to the production of labor-related news. Dr. Frank Emspak agreed to head this endeavor.

Frank Emspak, a long-time labor activist and historian, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Through decades of fighting for workplace justice, Emspak came to realize that if workers were to have a voice in the media, they would have to create it themselves. His vision was to make it possible for the majority of working people to hear regular news that spoke to their concerns, not just stock tickers and the interests of multinational corporations and their CEOs. Emspak and WIN's initial producers, John Anderson and John Hamilton, wanted WIN, first and foremost, to be a voice of everyday people. They also realized that in order for WIN to survive financially, there would need to be large-scale distribution of a high quality product at a minimal cost. At a time when daily labor news hadn't been on the airwaves since the 1950s, they turned to the Internet to spread WIN's message. Emspak's goal was to harness technology to improve the democratic content of society and the nature of the Workers Independent News reflects that vision by its grassroots news gathering and interactive website. With the advice of UPPNET and Executive Assistant Richard Thomson, WIN initiated a board of directors to guide the fledgling organization. Its original members included the Communication Workers of America (CWA), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), the painters and sheetmetal workers, as well as members of nonlabor community organizations.

How WIN Uses the Internet to its Advantage

The Internet is the backbone of the Workers Independent News. WIN broadcasts a three-minute news headline every business day at [/www.LaborRadio.org](http://www.LaborRadio.org). Any person with Internet access is able to listen to WIN stories. WIN also airs several longer feature stories every week, submitted from professional journalists all over the country.

According to Emspak, "What makes WIN unique is what we do and how we do it." WIN supports grassroots

continued on page 4

WIN: New Face of Labor Media *Continued from p. 4*

participation in media by listening to the voices of people in the labor movement. Using e-mail technology, WIN encourages unions, labor groups, and activists worldwide to e-mail news tips and press releases, which WIN often turns into news stories. With the overwhelming consolidation of media in the United States² and with the heavy corporate control in most newsrooms, working people have little or no influence in contributing to news and sharing their own experiences. WIN strives not only to cover issues important to working people, but to actually listen to news tips they send and then get their voices on the air. The use of e-mail makes it easy for workers to contribute news tips and issues they or their organizations face on a local level.

In order to encourage additional diversity in news content, WIN uses feature stories from a large group of reporters around the country, who report on issues as varied as rising sexual harassment of teenagers in the workplace, college students organizing at Yale University and the success of concerned citizens in New York City in keeping a Wal-Mart from building in Queens.

A Cost-Effective Broadcasting Model

With only three years under its belt and ratings showing that WIN's daily listening audience numbers almost two million listeners on commercial radio stations alone, WIN is definitely having success finding an audience. Those numbers don't include the thousands of additional listeners that hear WIN material through community and college radio stations, via satellite radio, and on the WIN website.³ But WIN's staff is tiny compared to the scope of the vision, with only four office staff and two producers at the central office in Madison, Wisconsin.

Today the Workers Independent News brings the words of working people to approximately two million listeners daily via the Internet and radio.

How has WIN gained such a huge audience with so little people power? The answer is a combination of hard work, perseverance, and the use of Internet technology. Use of the Internet allows WIN outreach staff access to data from union and labor websites. The WIN staff sends out daily e-mails notifying unions and labor groups when WIN has covered a story about their organization, or that they might find of interest. WIN staff is also able to use the information gathered online to do fundraising letters and phone calls. As a result, WIN has gotten the support of hundreds of unions, labor and media groups and individuals.

WIN's website is also key to affordable, successful distribution. By broadcasting news directly from the Web, WIN could be heard immediately and therefore advertised to radio stations. Online distribution also allows WIN to distribute broadcast quality material for a fraction of the cost of more traditional distribution methods, which are often extremely costly and time consuming. This excerpt from the WIN Business Plan details some of the traditional distribution models:

Local radio station. Starting a local radio station, which in itself is so fraught with problems as to make the venture practically impossible. Stations must be licensed in order to operate. To be licensed, a radio frequency is a prerequisite, and none are available except on low power. Thus, the only way both a frequency and a license can be secured is by buying or leasing an existing station. This could cost millions. Then, it would be necessary to staff the operation in order to develop and deliver total programming, of which news would be only one part. In a best-case scenario, this approach would be very costly and difficult. But, even if it were viable, the market and listening audience would be limited to a specific locale. WIN's news would not reach the national audience it currently serves.

National contract syndication. A second approach would be to form a contract syndication company that would lease large blocks of time from existing networks and stations. Existing examples are built around celebrity talent to attract listeners. In order to reach a national audience, time would need to be leased from as many stations as possible, in as many markets as possible, and for as much time during the day as possible, because news would be only part of the program. This could cost tens of millions of dollars, and the burden of selling advertising would be on the contract syndication company.

Conventional short-form content programming (SFCP) using the Internet. WIN is essentially a short-form content programming organization that produces headline news in ready-to-use formats. There are other SFCP organizations, but they are largely editorial and use satellite equipment of CDs for distribution. WIN, on the other hand, and each of its subscribers has immediate access to its distribution system—the Internet, which is not possible using satellite technology. The Internet is also highly reliable, having no interference from sunspots and other weather factors. Finally, the Internet sound file is of very high quality.⁴

WIN does distribute some promotional CDs directly to radio stations, but even if WIN were not aired via radio, its news would still be heard. Broadcasting news from the Web also allows people to hear WIN news globally—anywhere there's a computer with Internet access. No longer do listeners have to rely solely on radio for this type of programming.

Internet distribution of WIN news also makes it possible for subscribing radio stations to access WIN material whenever they wish. Subscribing costs for radio stations are minimal in comparison to many other news content providers. WIN often allows community and small college stations to use material for free in order to support small, independent stations that don't rely as strongly on advertising and, therefore, their advertisers' approval. By encouraging community and college stations to play WIN material, WIN also gains wider distribution.

While distributing material for free or at a low cost to community and college stations is one venue for getting radio airplay, breaking into the major radio market is a different beast entirely. The Labor Advertising Network of St. Louis, working with WIN, reached an agreement with KMOX, a huge radio station that covers most of Missouri and Southern Illinois, in the fall of 2004. This agreement made WIN the first daily labor news program to run on a commercial station since the 1950s. A month before this, the liberal talk show network, Air America, also began to air WIN material on a national basis.

WIN: New Face of Labor Media *Continued from p. 5*

Another feature that makes the WIN website and distribution method unique is the WIN logo button. This small version of WIN's logo can be placed directly on the website of a union or an organization and, when clicked on, plays the daily WIN news headlines. This feature benefits both WIN and the organizations that place the button on their site, giving website visitors, a high quality labor newscast on a daily basis, and, at the same time, giving WIN publicity. An additional benefit of the logo button is that when clicked on, it plays WIN news, but doesn't open a new window or take visitors away from the organization's website.

The problems of contemporary media constitute a crisis for democracy. Until recently, there were very few clear progressive voices in mainstream media, and even fewer representing the labor movement. At the root of media's problems are the profit motive and the source of virtually all of their revenue-commercial advertising. In nearly any other business, this would not be a problem. But when the main product is information, following the fundamental business principle of giving the customers what they want puts the business objectives of media on a collision course with the essence of a democratic society. The basic cause of the problem is that commercial media is held captive by the financial interests of its owners and advertisers, and the news is either selected or tailored accordingly.⁵ How can an organization use technology to overcome this challenge? The answer is that technology in and of itself cannot overcome the challenge. But using tools such as the Internet creates a vehicle to distribute news and information without the costs that so often inhibit disbursement of these messages to the public.

Furthermore, WIN strives to be free of these pressures by being truly independent. By taking income from diverse sources and having an online broadcast, ensuring that WIN will be heard even without carriage on radio stations, WIN has successfully sidestepped the self-censorship that is so common in mainstream media.

If WIN's mission remains successful, it will help change the face of media in the US by continuing to bring the unheard struggles of labor to mainstream radio stations nationwide. If the current harshly conservative political climate continues, the need for organizations like WIN will be even more pressing. WIN envisions broadcasting on radio stations in every major city in the country, continuing to educate and open dialogue between the citizens who are, after all, workers.

Rebecca Jamieson is the Outreach Coordinator and part-time producer for the Workers Independent News in Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Jamieson is also a journalist for WORT, 89.9 FM, Madison. The author would like to thank Frank Emspak, Richard Thomson, and John Anderson for their assistance.

Notes

1. Frank Emspak, personal interview, Madison, Wisconsin, 31 January 2005.
2. "Free Press: Who Owns the Media," 2003. www.freepress.net/ownership.
3. Emspak, Frank and James Wrich. 2004. "Workers Independent News Business Plan," (Appendix: pp. 44-47)
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 1.

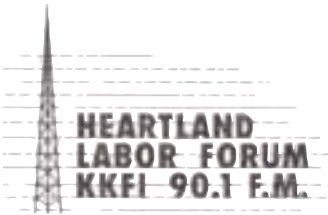
Kansas City, MO

Hear Heartland Labor Forum on line

A recent show:

"Family Feud III: The Future of the AFL-CIO"

The debate that's raging within the ranks of the labor leadership and which is threatening to break up



the federation focuses a lot on structure and use of resources and on how labor can turn around its declining fortunes. Many commentators have said that it's leaving out a lot: the rank-and-file, the issue of union democracy and the problem of apathy. Two commentators look at some of these criticisms, then we open it up for a few calls from listeners. As you will see, many people are quite passionate about this debate.

- Jerry Tucker, longtime labor activist and strategist, UAW member
- Kim Scipes, on AFL-CIO foreign policy and resolutions for the convention
- Call-ins from listeners
- Judy Ancel and Jeff Humfeld hosts

www.umkc.edu/labor-ed/radio.htm

Member-made labor media takes off in Oregon

By Wes Brain, OPEU District 4 Productions, Ashland, Oregon

In August, 2004 SEIU #503's General Council passed a resolution directing resources for member-produced labor television. This is exciting stuff and "member made labor media" is the newest buzz phrase as folks are gearing up to tell the many stories of working people. But first, some history to tell...

Back in 1995 public employees declared a strike in Oregon and successfully shut down the entire state for a week. Leading up to the strike SEIU campus workers at Southern Oregon University in Ashland appeared on an access TV show. Rogue Valley Community Television is located on campus, right where the union members work, and an interesting marriage was born. The successful production put faces to voices as campus workers told stories about the attacks against working people. This point in time really needs remembered. In Southern Oregon "member-made labor media" was born.

In 1997 SEIU #503 funded a video camera and some gear with expenses split between the statewide local and District 4 (five Southern Oregon counties), and this is when OPEU District 4 Productions was born. Now twice a week, cablecasts have taken place for over eight years. Programs are sometimes traded with other UPPNET producers and these productions from elsewhere also get air time.

OPEU District 4 Productions' success in Southern Oregon inspired the resolution which was passed by SEIU #503, Oregon's state-wide local of 38,000 workers.

Read the text of resolution on [page 6](#).

National Proposal for Pacifica from KPFA Labor Collective

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The KPFA Labor Collective at its June 6, 2005 meeting proposed that KPFA and Pacifica do a series of national labor programming days in these coming months. This could be an opportunity to use the resources of Pacifica and its stations and affiliates to build our movement and carry out our network goals.

The proposals were:

July 25, 2005—Live coverage of the the AFL-CIO convention in Chicago. We propose that we include viewpoints of workers around the country as well and that Pacifica stations in LA, NY, Houston, Berkeley, D.C. do interviews with trade unionists on this debate and what they think are the issues facing working people.

There will be 4 people from the KPFA Labor Collective in Chicago who can help facilitate and do interviews. The ongoing internal conflict within the AFL-CIO should provide an overview on why this is happening and the viewpoints around it from the leaders of the unions and the rank and file around the country. It should also include reports on the issues of the war in Iraq, Venezuela, the media and other issues that will be on the agenda at the convention. We could use this program as a vehicle to link up with many unions who are under attack around the country and in the listener areas that the stations reach.

September 6, 2005—Labor Day “The Onslaught Against Working People” We propose a whole day of programming on working people which will also include Spanish and Chinese programming. One 3 hour segment would be on “Human Rights and The Right To Have a Union”. This segment would include interviews and stories about workers throughout the US who have tried to organize and the concerted national campaign by corporations to fire, threaten and terrorize workers who are trying to join unions. We also propose that there be a national call-in with workers to talk about the problem of organizing and the flagrant union busting that is going on. Bernie Pollock from the AFL-CIO organizing department has indicated that they might be interested in collaborating as well as the IAM in Northern California. This would include all unions who are involved in organizing and could be publicized by those organizations. We could have reports from all the station areas and then tie this to national pieces.

September 24, 2005—The War Abroad and The War At Home National Day/Night of Programming On The Wars The US Is involved in Both in Iraq and around the world.

On September 24th there will be national and international protests against the US war on Iraq. We propose not only that the demonstrations be covered but that we do programming in the communities around the country on how the war is effecting:

Workers-interviews on cutbacks, Students and Youth, GI's, The economy, The environment, Democratic Human Rights and Immigrants, Healthcare, Pensions and retired workers, Housing, Women. That is include a national musical/Cultural segment of both national and international music against war.

How it is affecting countries around the world, including the militarization and repression—Some of these could include Japan, Korea, Turkey, Columbia. It could also

include music and stories about how workers around the world are organizing against the wars.

We also propose that there be a national segment/debate on the causes and reasons for the war and the lessons of Vietnam. We also propose that the affiliates be invited to contribute segments on this day of programming and that we develop a web page with the programming and links to this page.

Steve Zeltzer, Chair, KPFA Labor Collective
kpfalaborcollective@yahoo.com
(510)848-6767 Extension 606

Member-made media *Continued from p. 5*

The SEIU Local #503 General Council Resolution

Community Access Labor tv Program



Whereas mainstream television gives little regular and positive coverage of organized labor and the struggles of the working class, and

Whereas “branding” viewers requires purchasing regular television air time and broadcasting on an ongoing basis and is cost prohibitive, and Whereas the need of regular voices for workers is never more important than it is today, and

Whereas the struggles in the workplace give working people many stories to tell which are inviting, compelling and educational, and

Whereas seeing friends and neighbors on television gives locally produced public access television a sense of authenticity and community, and

Whereas producing local access television facilitates members working together as a team and is a very strong union building activity, and

Whereas running regular programming allows for outreach and advertising to build an audience, and

Whereas Oregon has several community access television stations which are ready-made venues for locally produced labor TV, and

Whereas access stations have training and certification classes which allow graduates to then use studio facilities and equipment for the production of television

Therefore, Be it resolved that SEIU 503 will provide staff services and finances for the recruiting and organizing of members to become producers of labor television in areas of Oregon where community access television exists, and

Be it further resolved that an ongoing program of member made labor television will be organized into a network for the sharing and distribution of labor productions, and

Be it further resolved that SEIU 503 will model its community access labor television programming after the finer components of “Our View” in Washington State and “Minnesota at Work”, and

Be it further resolved that this endeavor for member-made labor television will strive to have regular productions broadcast on community access stations all across the state of Oregon, and

Be it finally resolved that there be a financial cap of \$10,000 for this resolution.

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, 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

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

Building Bridges *Continued from p. 8*

We would like to thank the New York Labor Communications Council for this award which represents a vote of confidence in our program. Building Bridges has been the recipient of numerous other awards over the years from the N.Y. Labor Communications Council, the International Labor Communications Association, the Workplace Project and other organizations.

While the labor movement has been in crisis for some time now, the present situation is extremely crucial for its very survival. Building Bridges is the only independent radio labor news and discussion program in the New York City area as well as a leader in labor reporting nationwide. We cover the labor and social change movements on the local, national and worldwide fronts with the philosophy that its all about movement building and that the labor and community movements must unite to win. We urge all our listeners to spread the word that Building Bridges is a valuable resource for everyone interested in social change in the U.S. and worldwide. Tell your friends and co-workers about us, ask your union or community newspaper to give us a plug and keep listening on the air and on the Web thru streams and posts.

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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

Anchorage union is set to purchase left-leaning radio station

By Sarana Schell, Anchorage Daily News

June 18th, 2005—An electrical workers union has stepped up to buy Anchorage's liberal talk radio station, allowing operators to upgrade equipment, promote the station and broaden the state's political debate, Rich McClear, a co-owner of KUDO-AM 1080, said Thursday. The Federal Communications Commission must still clear the \$500,000 deal. It wouldn't be the first union-owned radio station in the country. WCFL in Chicago, "The Voice of Labor," started in 1926 and broadcast for five decades.

[Read rest of article at: www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/6619659p-6504821c.html]

Building Bridges A Winner!

By Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash



On May 19, 2005 the New York Metro Labor Communications Council presented its Doherty-Wells Award for Excellence in Non-Periodical Communications to WBAI's Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report produced by Ken Nash and Mimi Rosenberg.

The Judge's report states that: "Nash and Rosenberg provide a service to the labor movement by presenting high quality, varied and important material that is beyond the scope of most union publications. The items included in this entry cover exploitation of garment workers in Bangladesh, the role of Wal-Mart as a

retailer which is able to determine how manufacturers will operate, and a violent strike in a sugar plantation and mill in the Philippines."

The winning programs were aired on our regular weekly program on WBAI Mondays from 7- 8pm EST in the NYC area and streamed over the WBAI Web page. They were also aired on WBAI's morning program WakeUp Call and distributed nationally over our weekly National Edition which is archived at www.buildingbridgesradio.org

continued on page 7

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

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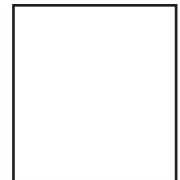
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UPPNET Web site gets big makeover



UPPNET has had a big makeover of its Web site and we hope that you like the new look, as we all do. We've been fortunate to have Joan Lockwood create the new site.

Joan has worked on the SEIU Local 503 Web site (www.seiu503.org) and several other sites. Joan has been a Web site designer since 1998, and in 2004 won second place for general excellence from ILCA for the SEIU 503 site.

We think that UPPNET members and supporters will appreciate the new look and links. Visit www.uppnet.org

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Uptick of labor programming at AFL-CIO Convention

By Steve Zeltzer, Labor Video Project

In a significant uptick on coverage of organized labor, dozens of labor journalists, radio producers and videographers gave extensive coverage of the July 2005 AFL-CIO convention in Chicago.

There were daily reports from Workers Independent News (www.laborradio.org), Jesse Russell (russell@laborradio.org) broadcast around the country (www.laborradio.org/search/node/afl-cio), as well as daily reports on Pacifica produced by WBAI labor journalist Ken Nash.



Photos: Paul Union Advocate

Fire Fighters President Harold Schaitberger (L) and AFSCME President Gerald McEntee (R) interviewed at the AFL-CIO convention.

These were broadcast in Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, and Houston. Webcasting of the convention were also done by UPPNET president and ILCA board member Howard Kling and John See, who broadcast this on the Minnesota AFL-CIO workday (www.workdayminnesota.org). Locally in Chicago, Labor Express (www.laborexpress.org/page6.html), produced by Jerry Mead with support from cable tv series Labor Beat, helped interview trade unions and labor journalists at his station and put up many of the convention interviews and debates.

Also Labor Beat producers Larry Duncan, Marty Conlisk, and Steve Dalber helped put on programming following the convention. [See page 3.]

The KPFA Labor Collective participated with four members—Tami Bryant, Carl Bryant, Steve Zeltzer and Kazmi Torii. Both Carl Bryant and Steve Zeltzer, who are on the UPPNET Board, were also interviewed by KPFA in Los Angeles, and the Pacifica network established a web page (http://pacifica.org/programs/State_of_Labor_2005/) with programming from many of the stations.

continued on page 2



SEIU President Andy Stern (at microphone) and members of the Change to Win Coalition announcing their split from the AFL-CIO.

Two new videos from Labor Video Project

“Focusing On Organizing”, the Sept. '05 founding convention of the Change To Win Federation

This documentary looks at the voices at the Change To Win founding convention which was held in St Louis on September 27, 2005. It includes interviews with IBT president James Hoffa, SEIU president Andy Stern, delegates and speeches at this convention. Also included is some of the video presentations programmed at the convention. This was the first new federation formed since the founding of the AFL-CIO in 1954. 58 minutes.

“The AFL-CIO Split, July 2005”

A 37 minute DVD documentary titled “The AFL-CIO Split, July 2005”. It covers interviews on the reasons for the split, the debate on the war in Iraq and voices from the rank and file at the convention. It also includes AFL-CIO executive board candidate and labor educator Harry Kelber's speech at the AFL-CIO convention.

These videos are available for \$20.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping. Please indicate title(s).

Labor Video Project
P.O. Box 720027
San Francisco, CA 94172

Labor Programming at AFL-CIO *Continued from p. 1*

A general problem is the failure of both the trade unions to webcast their entire convention where it could have been heard by many trade unionists. South Africa's COSATU showed that this is possible and a viable means of getting the information out.

Many trade unionists involved in organizing and other struggles made presentations at the convention and this could have been broadcast with very little cost.

An important debate took place at the International Labor Communication Association (ILCA) convention which convened prior to the AFL-CIO convention and the delegates voted to work for the development of a labor media movement in both print and electronic media. At the same time neither the AFL-CIO or the leadership of the newly formed Change to Win grouping had proposed any plan to develop independent labor media and training for rank and

file workers. A resolution which had been passed by the San Francisco Labor Council (<http://sflaborcouncil.org/control/assets/06-13-05LaborMediaStrategy.pdf>) never made it to the convention floor for discussion and, despite the complaints about the coverage of the capitalist media, there was no debate about labor making its own media.

Most of the corporate media were completely focused on the impending breakup of the AFL-CIO and not the issues that face the labor movement from deregulation, privatization and open assaults on the right to be in a union. Over 20,000 workers are fired every year for simply seeking union membership but these issues did not see the light of day on ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, MSNBC and the other networks. The continuing need to have a regular 24 hour labor radio show and 24 hour labor tv show both broadcast and streamed on the internet is receiving growing interest and support. UPPNET plans to continue its campaign to make this a priority within the labor movement.

Kansas City—The Heartland Labor Forum Radio Schedule, November-December 2005

Listen Thurs. 6:00-7:00 p.m. & Fri. 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Download a schedule:

<http://umkc.edu/labor-ed/documents/0511sch.pdf>

Listen on-line at www.umkc.edu/labor-ed/radio.htm

November 3. Whispers from the Streets—a radio play by Full Circle Theatre Company. Underwritten by: AFL-CIO Tricounty Labor Council, American Postal Workers, Greater KC UAW CAP Council

November 10. My City TIF of Thee. Underwritten by: UAW CAP Council, Amalgamated Transit Union 1287, Boilermakers 83

November 17. New Books for the Holidays: Hightower's Let's Stop Beating Around the Bush and Lisa Featherstone's Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle of Workers Rights at Wal-Mart. Underwritten by: Greater KC Building & Construction Trades Council, Firefighters 42, Greater KC UAW CAP Council

November 24. Heartland Labor Forum News and Music Follies. Underwritten by: Greater KC UAW CAP Council, Ironworkers 10, Intern'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 124

December 1. Salvadorans Look at the Future with CAFTA and Musician Chuy Negrete. Underwritten by: Greater KC UAW CAP Council, Missouri Council of Firefighters, Int'l Brotherhood of Elec Workers 53

December 8. How Safe Are Missouri and Kansas Workplaces? Underwritten by: Plumbers 8, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 814, Greater KC UAW CAP Council

December 15. The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy, with Community Activist, Author and Musician Si Kahn. Underwritten by The Greater Kansas City UAW CAP Council, Roofers 20, Intern'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 1464

December 22. Disaster Capitalism: The Katrina Model. Underwritten by: Sheet Metal Workers Local 2, Greater KC UAW CAP Council, Teamsters 955

December 29. Corporate Bankruptcy and the Fantasy of a Promised Pension. Underwritten by Greater KC UAW CAP Council, Transport Workers 530, Ironworkers Local 101.

New video

“A Union Man” documentary film George and Julius complete successful film & concert tour

By Wes Brain

It was wonderful hosting George and Julius during their recent west coast tour which extended from Bellingham to San Francisco and then wrapped up with stops in Salt Lake City, Fort Collins and Denver before returning home to New York City. Here in Southern Oregon the new film was a big hit.



Julius Margolin picketing in Washington, D.C., 1946

At the conclusion of the 9/22/05 Medford, Oregon gig it

was fun watching folks crowd around Julius Margolin to get his signature on a just-purchased dvd. After the show we hung out on my deck in Ashland and the excitement continued as Southern Oregon University students eagerly asked Julius question after question to learn more from the union man. Into the night Julius kept answering and obviously cherished the interest from the younger set.

“A Union Man: The Life and Work of Julius Margolin” is just over an hour in length and can be purchased at: <http://www.georgeandjulius.com/>

Take a look at the film’s 1-minute promotional trailer (Quicktime video) <http://rogueimc.org/media/2005/09/5340.mov>

Here’s a brief description of the film:

Julius Margolin, at 89, is a living legend in the New York City labor movement. He’s been active since the 1930s in the CIO, National Maritime Union and Local 52 of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, which he has represented in the Central Labor Council for 32 years. A tireless fighter for justice, equality, and against war, Julius embarked on a new career in 1999, making music and CDs with George Mann while still hitting picket lines and organizing workers in New York City and around the United States.

“A Union Man” is the story of his life through his eyes as well as those he’s met and worked with. A documentary film featuring guest appearances by Utah Phillips, Faith Petric and former NMU Vice President Joe Stack, as well as concert performances, this is an affectionate portrait of a rank-and-file activist still in the struggle for justice and workers’ rights.

New video

Two videos on AFL-CIO Convention by Labor Beat



Photo: Howard Kling

Fred Mason, head of Washington, D.C. AFL-CIO, makes a motion during the debate on Resolution 53

Resolution 53: How the AFL-CIO Stood Up Against the War

The video follows the story of the creation of a moment in labor history. At its 2005 Convention, the AFL-CIO for the first time passed a resolution against an ongoing war—the war in Iraq. Shows the preparations to this breakthrough, of how U.S. Labor Against the War worked at the Convention to strengthen the Resolution Committee’s initially weak resolution. It shows how USLAW used the momentum of its 2005 Iraq Labor Tour and the 18 anti-war resolutions passed by labor bodies around the country; how Resolution 53 was amended; how the discussion was moved up to a prominent point of the Convention agenda through Jesse Jackson’s call to “bring the troops home”; how Resolution 53 was debated on the Convention floor; and the celebratory Iraq Forum, with labor representatives from Iraq and Kurdistan immediately after the resolution passed. These two days in July 2005 will be remembered as a turning point in labor’s fight against the war. Narrated, and is 28 minutes.

The AFL-CIO’s Foreign Policy and N.E.D. Money

Prior to the AFL-CIO Convention in Chicago, rank-and-file workers held a protest and discussion about the need to reform the AFL-CIO’s foreign policy and the influence upon it from funding from the National Endowment for Democracy. Hear Kim Scipes, Labor Educator on the AFL-CIO and international politics, discuss the history of the AFL’s involvement with the foreign policy interest of American Imperialism. Also, an interview with Fred Hirsch, long-time critic of AFL-CIO foreign policy, as he and other opponents of N.E.D. funding attended the 2005 AFL-CIO Convention. Includes scenes of floor discussion on foreign policy resolution and reactions of supporters of “Build Unity and Trust Among Workers Worldwide” resolution, including Jeff Crosby, North Shore (Massachusetts) Central Labor Council and member of AFL-CIO Convention Resolutions Committee. Was shown on Venezuelan National Television the week President Chavez visited the U.N. Video is 29 min.

To order one of these videos, specify title. \$15 each, dvd or vhs. Mail to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607 or via PayPal on www.laborbeat.org. More info: mail@laborbeat.org, 312-226-3330.

New Video

“Meeting Face to Face: Iraq Labor Leaders Tour The U.S.”



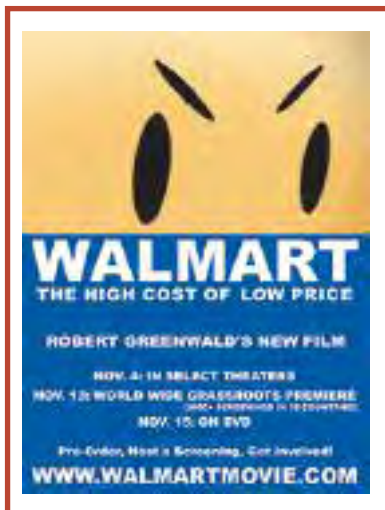
In June 2005 six senior Iraqi trade union leaders toured the United States hosted by U.S. Labor Against the War, visiting 25 cities and speaking to several thousand unionists, peace activists, and others. This documentary captures the energy and emotions of the tour while expressing the important substantive message Iraqi workers want to convey to all Americans: end the occupation; oppose the privatization of Iraqi national resources; and support the right of all Iraqi workers to organize free and independent trade unions.

Play the seven-minute trailer for this documentary: www.celt.sunysb.edu/workingclass/Trailer.ram

The finished documentary will be distributed widely, beginning with the networks of United for Peace and Justice, U.S. Labor Against the War, Code Pink, Educators to Stop the War, and teacher unions and academic associations. We welcome inquiries from other organizations who would use the documentary for education and organizing. E-mail us: workingclass@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

Give financial support <http://naples.cc.stonybrook.edu/CAS/wcm.nsf/pages/papers> to complete the full 27-minute documentary so thousands more Americans can share the rich experiences of this tour.

Meeting Face to Face: produced by the Center for Study of Working Class Life; directed and edited by Jonathan Levin: www.jonathanlevin.com



New Video

“Lockout 484”



Workers in Meredosia Illinois are battling a very profitable transnational chemical company, Celanese, which locked them out after demanding as much as a 33% wage cut and reduced health care benefits. Celanese hired Special Response Corporation, a security agency that is a leading anti-union force in the country. SRC constantly films workers not only at the picket line but in their homes. The Morgan County police is paid \$70 an hour to respond to calls and has told workers they are watching them as well. Lockout484 is a moving account of workers' attempts to build solidarity to confront Celanese. Visit www.lockout484.org for more information. Video clip: www.lockout484.org/movies.html

To order video: Boilermakers Local 484, P.O. Box 258 300 Main Street, Meredosia, IL 62665, 217-584-1916

workingtv streaming

BC Capital shutdown Oct. 17, '05 20,000 in Victoria back teachers



Workingtv has streamed coverage of the BC Federation of Labour rally at the British Columbia Legislature and shutdown of the city of Victoria, to support striking teachers, members of the BC Teachers' Federation. It can be seen at www.workingtv.com/17oct05victoria.html

Union members walked off the job Monday October 17 in Victoria as the first stage in a coordinated job action plan announced by the BC Federation of Labour last week. Up to 20,000 protesters marched to the Legislature on Monday, and services were disrupted throughout Greater Victoria as private and public sector union members refused to cross picket lines.

Focus on Latin America

Telesur goes on the air under fire from U.S.

By Alejandro Kirk

MONTEVIDEO, 7/22 (IPS)—Sunday will be the first day of broadcasting for a new Latin America-wide TV network aimed at competing with U.S. and European international news stations.



Telesur will start live programming on Oct. 31

Telesur, an initiative led by Venezuela, the majority shareholder, is also being financed by the governments of Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay, and will gradually become available on local cable TV channels around the region and on the DirecTV satellite system, said Venezuelan Information Minister Andrés Izarra. But the minister warned that the U.S. government could attempt to jam the station's broadcasts, which will initially cover four hours a day: "Our technological capacity is limited, and the United States is obviously superior in that aspect... We do not rule out the possibility of having to seek other routes, besides satellite, to air our programming."

Even before the content of Telesur's programming has become clear, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment Wednesday authorising Washington to create a station that would broadcast exclusively to Venezuela to "provide a consistently accurate, objective, and comprehensive source of news."

Through its embassy in Washington, the Venezuelan government responded that all continent-wide cable and satellite stations already operate freely in Venezuela, where most of the local media outlets are not only privately-owned, but are controlled by the opposition. The sponsor of the amendment in the U.S. legislature, Republican Rep. Connie Mack of the state of Florida, described Telesur as a threat to the United States that would undermine the balance of power in the western hemisphere and spread Chávez's "anti-American, anti-freedom rhetoric."

He also likened it to the pan-Arab satellite channel al-Jazeera. The comparison is not a casual one, nor is the fear totally unfounded. Al-Jazeera, based in Qatar, and Dubai-based satellite TV channel al-Arabiya rapidly overtook the U.S. news channel CNN, Britain's BBC, and other Western stations as the main sources of news programming on the Middle East. The United States would not like to see a repeat of that phenomenon in Latin America, which is exactly what could happen, said al-Jazeera international affairs analyst Lamis Andoni...

Telesur signal will reach throughout the Americas, western Europe and North Africa, through the New Skies Satellite 806.

To read the complete article:

www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=29614

Telesur begins transmissions in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Oct 31, Prensa Latina—The Latin American TV channel Telesur initiated broadcasts in Bolivia Monday, with the attendance of numerous popular leaders, diplomats and other personages.

The first images of the regular program of Telesur were simultaneously viewed by the enthusiastic audience on a giant screen and transmitted to La Paz and El Alto on local TV Channel 51.

Telesur deputy director Ovidio Cabrera, in charge of the La Paz transmission, said Telesur offers the Bolivian people a chance "to see ourselves with Latin American eyes" as an alternative to the dominating huge media corporations.

Cabrera pointed out that the channel is now present in 14 Latin American countries and more than 30 TV stations broadcast its signal.

Freddy Morales, Telesur press correspondent in Bolivia, informed that Telesur's signal can also be seen in the interior of Bolivia, and mentioned the Aymara community of Achacachi and the mining community of Llallagua, historically rebellious localities.

Telesur has contracted its services to La Paz University Television and Radio Television Popular, with private TV Supercanal and Cotel, both from La Paz, and others in the interior of Bolivia, and is negotiating with a State-owned national TV station.

After the ceremony, Bolivian Human Rights Assembly president Sacha Llorenti told Prensa Latina the beginning of transmissions was a decisive step for construction of a different and integrated America.

Venezuela, China sign satellite launch agreement

Source: Xinhua, People's Daily Online

Venezuela on Tuesday signed an agreement to purchase a satellite from China as part of a plan to guarantee its telecommunications autonomy, the Venezuelan government said.

At the signing ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez thanked China for the scientific and technological support, saying the satellite will help Venezuela develop its own industries of telecommunications, movies and TV, culture and education.

The satellite, named after Simon Bolivar, the famous South American independence hero, will be sent into orbit in 2008, according to the Venezuelan Ministry of Science and Technology.

The satellite will provide telecommunications services to all parts of Venezuela, including scarcely populated areas that have never been reached by commercial communications firms.

The ministry said the satellite will also help in the early detection of natural disasters and be used to broadcast educational and information programs.

ILCA Convention ok's three resolutions endorsed by UPPNET

The July, 2005 Convention of the International Labor Communications Association passed three resolutions supported by UPPNET that dealt with advancing labor media in the U.S.

The resolutions were: "Resolution For a Labor Media Strategy" [passed earlier by the San Francisco Labor Council] can be read in the UPPNET Spring/Summer 2005 issue (www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm).

The other two resolutions are given in their entirety on this page. For a complete report on the Convention, go to www.ilcaonline.org and then to "The Report From the 2005 ILCA Convention."

Moving toward a national labor media strategy

A national labor media strategy is more needed than ever.

The labor movement must immediately intensify its efforts to effectively communicate with and engage not only rank and file members, but also all working men and women. We must address their bread-and-butter concerns and their anger over the conservative direction of our country, where economic and social inequalities are the worst since the Great Depression.

Our message as a labor movement must make clear that we are part of a larger social movement fighting for fairness and democracy for all workers. This involves exposing and combating inequality and injustice wherever it exists: civil and human rights, education, the environment, religion, the economy and the media. The struggle for decent wages, adequate health care, good pensions, health and safety on the job and respect is a fight for justice and equality for all working people and their children regardless of race and ethnicity, in all nations throughout the world.

Further, the corporate dominated media routinely omit, distort, and otherwise marginalize the concerns of the working class.

The International Labor Communications Association should immediately convene a working group with the AFL-CIO and affiliated and non-affiliated unions to develop a National Labor Media Strategy, and explore the following goals:

1. Fight for the fair and accurate representation of working people and their issues in the mainstream press.
2. Make media reform a top legislative priority and demand the formation of a more democratic media that does not marginalize workers in favor of a corporate agenda. This effort would include fighting for re-regulation of the media, greater public access media and public broadcasting more responsive to labor's message.
3. Forge relationships with independent media, media for people of color, non-English language media, environmental media, community media, religious media and all progressive media that will form networks to counter-balance the conservative right.
4. Create new independent worker-centered media that get our message out quickly and clearly. This would include establishing regional media resource and training centers, which will develop skilled media workers able to produce radio, television, print and Internet labor media.
5. Provide communications training for labor media

professionals and workers that encourages media democracy, engages our members in dialogue and promotes constructive criticism, letters to the editor, and other forms of vital discussions.

6. Support existing newspapers, TV, radio and other media that promote labor's agenda and cover it fairly.

7. Utilize all communications tools and networks to strategically enhance organizing and political campaigns.

WIN Radio Project

Whereas, WIN (Worker Independent News) is devoted to bringing the issues and concerns of working people to the air waves;

Whereas, WIN has broadcast this news every work day since Feb 2002;

Whereas, WIN also provides this news to union locals and union publications;

Whereas, WIN notifies any interested person or union when WIN does a story about them and offers the organization the material;

Therefore be it resolved that the ILCA endorse WIN and urge its members, the AFL-CIO and other labor organizations to:

- 1) News: Send news of their activities to WIN
- 2) Availability: Make their officers and rank and file members available to Win for interviews
- 3) Distribute: Help distribute WIN by placing the WIN logo on their web site
- 4) Subscribe to WIN
- 5) Plan: Make WIN part of your organization's advertising and media strategy
 - WIN can do interviews in most areas of the country. A significant number of WIN reporters are bilingual
 - Placing the WIN logo on your web site is free. Any one who clicks on the logo can listen to the news WITHOUT leaving your web site
 - Subscriptions start at \$120/yr for locals of 1000 members or less. Subscriptions help finance WIN.
 - Build a permanent voice on the air waves. Unions, credit unions, law firms and insurance companies advertise. Sponsor WIN and reinforce your message while supporting an independent voice for labor in the broadcast media.

For more information, visit www.laborradio.org

Workers Independent News

www.LaborRadio.org



To listen to today's stories, go to www.laborradio.org/files/lo/winsheadlines.ram

"America needs to hear the voices of working people. WIN is addressing this need. Where there otherwise is disregard on the part of so much of the media, Workers Independent News admirably provides a voice, clear and forceful, for individuals in all walks of work life."—Studs Terkel

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, 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
Working New York, Mario Cilento, www.nysaficio.org, Albany, NY, 212-777-6040

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

First Call for the 2006 Internat'l Labor Film & Video Festival

ISTANBUL/ANKARA—We are laborers, labor union activists, unionists, academicians and mass organizations in Turkey. We are organizing The First International Labor Film And Video Festival in Istanbul and Ankara, in Turkey between 29th of April 7th of May 2006, during the May Day celebration. We invite your endorsement and participation.

This non-competitive festival is devoted to the screening of video and film on the lives and struggle of working class people all around the world, for the exchange and collectivizing of the experiences of the filmmakers, as documentary or fiction works of groups and individuals, committed to labor struggle; to spread the works that show the struggle of workers, unemployed,



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UPPNET News editor: Larry Duncan, lduncan@igc.org

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

students, farmers and women as well as screening films that show the popular uprisings across the world. We believe this will help arouse interest in labor films and promote their production in Turkey and around the world.

The festival dates are set to follow the mass May Day activities. For a week, there will be a variety of events related with the labor movement in Turkey. On April 30 2006, the participants of the festival will commemorate the massacre of the 37 May Day participants in 1977, participate the May Day March in Istanbul, and visit a site of labor struggle.

If you have any queries about the festival, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity,

DISK Basin-Is (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), Printing Industry Union), Halkevleri (People's Houses)

Contact: laborfest@sendika.org <http://sendika.org/laborfest/>

“Working New York” on Regional News Networks

ALBANY, NY—The first episode of “Working New York”, a half-hour talk show produced by the 2 million member New York State AFL-CIO and hosted by State Federation President Denis Hughes, aired on Wednesday, October 5th at 10 p.m.

It is believed that “Working New York” will be the only mainstream television program in the tri-state area, if not the country, to be solely produced by a labor organization for the purpose of bringing the needs, concerns and interests of working people to the attention of the general public. The show is designed to inform the public of policy, debates and issues that affect working men and women and their families.

Denis Hughes stated, “This groundbreaking endeavor is an opportunity to address a wide range of social, political and economic issues from the point of view of everyday working men and women. Until now, working people could only react to the news of the day, without the voice or opportunity to give their side of the argument.”

“Working New York” will air the first and third Wednesday each month at 10 p.m. WRNN-TV currently reaches over 5 million households in the tri-state area.

For more information, contact Mario Cilento at (212) 777-6040, or go to: www.nysaflcio.org

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

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