

UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Winter 2000

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

An Open Letter/Editorial to AFL-CIO Executive Council from UPPNET

A Media Initiative for the AFL-CIO

The dramatic events in Seattle emphasized the need for a labor-based nationwide media strategy for the AFL-CIO. While the thousands of people in Seattle tried to frame the issue as a fight for democratic control of the world economy, the large media conglomerates continually attempted to frame the issue in the most negative terms possible. They continually harped on the violence. They characterized "protesters" as opposed to globalization and world trade with the implication that they were somehow from another century.

However, the existence of a well-organized independent media center enabled thousands of people around the country and around the world to get the real news of the Seattle events. By midweek CNN and other media conglomerates gave some credit to the existence of the independent media and indeed expanded their own coverage. It would be safe to say that without that independent media center millions of people throughout the world would not have gotten the true picture of the fight for democratic trade policies that took place in Seattle.

What is the independent media independent of? It is independent of corporate control. What is the independent media dependent on? It is dependent on local cable and radio organizations, community groups, labor unions, environmental organizations, women's groups and progressive organizations of all kinds.

But the coverage of Seattle by hundreds of media people also demonstrated something else. The existence of high quality, relatively inexpensive communication technologies allows the existence of hundreds of locally based media organizations with a potential worldwide ability to get and disseminate information. We urge the AFL-CIO to work with, support and collaborate with these organizations. At a minimum the AFL-CIO should use its own media to encourage its member unions to promote listening to, watching and reading the alternative media, especially labor media. Articles in Work in Progress as well as the newspapers and magazines of the Internationals could list labor radio and TV programs as well as Pacifica News, Democracy Now and similar programs. This would be of great help. Last but not least the AFL-CIO could encourage Internationals and locals to give financial support to the alternative media.

Organized labor must speak in its own voice to a nationwide audience. Collectively community-based independent media outlets reach people in every single major media market in the United States. What is missing is the organizational support by the labor movement. Support by the AFL-CIO would enable community-based, labor-endorsed media

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WTO INDY MEDIA REPORT And Where Can We Take This From Here?



By Eric Galatas, Program Manager, Free Speech TV

The following is one person's perspective, as a participant in Seattle '99, on just what took place during the recent WTO ministerial meetings and protests. As with any single perspective, it is imperfect and limited, and does not attempt to provide an all-encompassing account of events.

Summary: What the hell happened?

According to police reports, over 85,000 activists from all over the world descended upon Seattle to protest corporate globalization and shut down the WTO ministerial meetings from November 28th through December 3rd, 1999. In response, over 400 media activists and journalists mobilized, and worked collaboratively to break through the corporate media blockade, and cover the protests from the activists' perspective.

The protesters, in numbers not seen in the U.S. since the 1960s, managed to not only shut down the opening day of talks, but by Friday evening, December 3rd, helped close the WTO Seattle round altogether. The birth of a global movement to dismantle corporate domination was heralded by media outlets and activists alike.

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From Sunday evening, November 27th, and continuing well beyond the official WTO shutdown on December 3rd, independent media makers provided the world with a street-level view of the goings on in Seattle. The level of expertise working out of the Independent Media Center (IMC) ranged from Amy Goodman's Democracy Now crew, to Free Speech TV internet and television coordination, and first time camcorder activists taking to the streets as legal witnesses of police activity.

Where the corporate media attempted to distract the public's attention with disaster and mayhem, the IMC worked to report on the issues that brought so many to protest WTO policies. When CNN reported that no rubber bullets were being used against activists, the IMC sent images of hard evidence out through the internet, radio, print, photos, and satellite television. Five hours of satellite television coverage was up-linked each day from Seattle. By mid week, over a million visitors had logged onto www.indymedia.org for up-to-the minute coverage free from corporate mediation.

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Mainstream camera crews frequented the IMC for dispatch information and access to the Direct Action Network, the folks who organized the blockade that shut down opening ceremonies (and continued to resist the police state 'protest free zone' orders throughout the week). Local TV affiliate coverage, familiar with the corporate media critique coming from the IMC, began to focus on issues as much as the 'rioters.' CNN and ABC, and a host of print journalists who began to cover the IMC itself by week's end, announced that a new media was being born in Seattle, a peoples' media. It was also reported that the IMC will be nominated to receive this year's prestigious Polk award for journalism.

How did this all come together?

Some 10,000 activists organized and trained through the Direct Action Network to create a human barricade on the morning of the opening ceremony. Over 1500 organizations signed onto Public Citizens' call to reform the WTO, and made commitments to organize the critical mass necessary to make their voices heard. The AFL-CIO alone managed to gather 50,000 for their opening event on November 30th. The result: an unprecedented coalition of labor, environment, indigenous, AIDS, farmers, and pro-democracy groups came together to form the beginnings of a movement to reign in corporate power and build a better world. (For an activist overview on planning the Seattle convergence, visit (www.seattle99.org))

Media organizing for WTO emerged from a growing decentralized network of committed media activists. Members of the Seattle Independent Media Coalition (formed in 1995 by 24 print, video, radio and internet media activists) began plans for independent coverage of WTO protests in the early

summer of 1999. Talks had been under way, since the WTO ministerial was announced, to create a media center based on the model conceived in Chicago during the 1996 Democratic National Convention. There, hundreds of activists provided 'countermedia' coverage of protesters locked outside the convention center gates. Jeff Perlstein, who had been arrested in Chicago along with his camcorder, coordinated the Seattle-based organizing, and formed a Seattle Independent Media steering committee to create a physical independent media center in time for the November protests.

Simultaneously in early August, internet-based planning began to encourage media groups to come to Seattle, and to get media activists together in Austin for the 2nd annual Grassroots Media Conference in October. There, groups met face to face to create and advance strategies to strengthen alternative networks, and to specifically prepare for WTO events coming up in late November. The Direct Action Media Network, Free Speech TV, Paper Tiger TV, Accion Zapatista, Citizen Vagrom, The Seattle Independent Media Coalition, The Robeson Fund, and a host of others worked through the conference to help build a team that would converge upon Seattle in what the New York Free Media Alliances' Mike Eisenmenger referred to as 'a dress rehearsal' for events to come.

In Seattle, funds were raised and in-kind services donated to provide both a physical space, as well as the technical equipment needed to support media feeds from print, radio, internet and video activists. Deep Dish TV's Dee Dee Halleck managed to raise funds for a daily satellite uplink. Mike Eisenmenger coordinated the uplink scheduling. Manse Jacobi, Free Speech TV's webmaster, visited Seattle in early November, while attending a computer conference, and helped organize both the technical and web based operations. Matthew Arnison, a linux programmer from Sydney, offered a live web template, which became the blueprint for the indymedia.org web site. Free Speech TV also arranged licenses for 5 one half hours of pre-produced content that would be up-linked alongside five 30-minute segments of fresh WTO coverage. In short, some

50 lead organizers, both in Seattle and from cities across the country, worked collaboratively to make sure that media activists coming to town would be able to do their work.

Each medium, video, print, audio, and internet, coordinated independently and in cooperation. A newspaper, *Blind Spot*, was published daily and distributed directly to activists and bystanders on the street. Six micro-radio stations were in operation throughout Seattle, which were also simulcast on the internet. Aside from a cell phone report to a micro-radio station from the Naval base where arrested protesters were being held in busses, I was mainly hooked into the web and satellite coordination, so will address that side of things.

The Sydney-based web site was upgraded (and revived) at a break-neck pace, and provides a peek into the future of activist media in the digital age. Behind the front page is a sophisticated web-based database, set up to accept a host of content files, which can be uploaded simultaneously from any computer with web access from around the world. There is no FTP protocol required to place files directly onto the web site. Files are uploaded automatically, at the touch of a button.



Indy Media Report *Continued from p. 2*

The result: literally, up-to-the-minute, round-the-clock, unmediated coverage from the event print, photos, audio and video.

Here is one example of how this remarkable web tool was used in Seattle. Cameras from the streets would check in at the Independent Media Center to drop off their tape for satellite television edits. A 30- to 60-second segment would be recorded directly from the camera onto a VHS video tape at the video dispatch desk, along with a description, location, time, event and camera operator.

These clips contained video of police brutality, interviews with peaceful protesters, and outraged bystanders who got pepper sprayed or tear gassed. Each hour, this VHS tape with clips would be taken by volunteer courier to an encoding location. Each clip was then encoded, entered into the web-based forms, and presto, available for the world to see on www.indymedia.org.

Over 100 camera operators were issued IMC press passes to cover the WTO events. Interviews with key WTO opponents, emphasizing women and people of color, were scheduled by Greg Ruggiero (Open Pamphlet Series/7 Stories Press) and a professional camera crew that came along with a donated Avid editing system. An exclusive interview and Q&A with Ralph Nader was also held at the IMC. (Upon leaving for his next appointment, Nader was met by an NBC camera crew and asked if he would speak to them for a few minutes. He promptly turned them down). Exclusive interviews were also granted by musical luminaries Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys), Krist Novoselic (Nirvana) and Michael Franti (Spearhead), who had formed "The WTO Band" in tribute to the rallying call to arms the international organization had inspired. By the end of the week, the entire IMC would feel like rock stars.

Production meetings were held to ensure coverage of key WTO protest events. A system was set up to receive video



Photo: Chicago Tribune

tapes at the downtown location, label them, bundle detailed descriptions of footage, get a release signature for satellite use, and then get them to the editing facility north of downtown. Satellite television editing facilities received shipments from the main IMC location several times a day. Tapes were logged into a database, and dubbed to beta for that night's program edits. Several segment producers met each night to plan the 30-minute show. Mike Eisenmenger helped coordinate an all-star list of line producers: the Whispered Media crew, VideoActive, Big Noise Films, Paper Tiger TV and Changing America. Each group took on 5 minute segments. Many of these crews, working throughout the night, were also covering events during the day. The final 30-minute program was edited together, and rushed to an uplink center at 11 am on time, every day. No one slept very much.

Where do we go from here?

The momentum is building and the necessary communications tools are perhaps more accessible today than ever before. The experience in Seattle—coupled with simultaneous actions in Paris, London, Sydney, India and beyond—seem to have galvanized a movement to reign in corporate power. And media activists are responding. We are both experienced and committed to breaking through whatever information blockades that are set in our way.

The Seattle-based IMC organizing committee will have much to say about the future of a more permanent IMC, perhaps with mobile, rapid response capacity. And the teams that pulled into Seattle are also debating the where's and how's of ongoing collaborative activities.

A "Direct Action Headline News" (www.damn.tao.ca) was launched this week, to encourage ongoing locally based media activism by providing an international alternative to CNN. This video news service will be produced monthly at first and will be distributed via the Internet, Cable, and soon, Satellite TV, in cooperation with Free Speech TV.

The main events on the horizon at this point revolve around the upcoming presidential election season. There is talk of creating centers at both major national nomination conventions, in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, a sort of repeat-plus of the '96 Counter-Convention coverage. And many are talking about joining in the International Day of Action on May Day 2000, and upcoming IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington D.C.

What will come of all this, naturally, is up to all of us to decide.

For more information about the Independent Media Center, and related organizing activities: www.indymedia.org. For more information about Free Speech TV, call 303.442.8445, www.freespeech.org ♦



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UPPNET/LaborNet Forum Held In Seattle

SEATTLE, WA — In a well-attended forum in Seattle in the week of the WTO protests, labor communicators from around the world spoke about the need to build independent labor video, computer networks and labor radio programs.

The forum, which took place at the Seattle Labor Temple, began with Louis Rocha, president of San Jose CWA Local 9423. Rocha outlined his experience producing and being host of a regular labor radio show on community radio. According to Rocha, his show has become an important vehicle to get information out directly to the members of his local. He also talked about the successful national effort to get the CWA to back micro-radio.

Julius Fisher, producer of *working tv* in Vancouver, B.C., gave a report on how labor tv was being developed in Canada and why this was gathering more support and he reported that the use of the internet was helping to get the show out more broadly.

Young-Su Won from Korea LaborNet spoke about the establishment of their network and how it has been used to unite all of labor as well as rank and file workers. Korea LaborNet is now supported by both the Korean Confederation of Labor as well as the Korean Federation of Trade Unions. He also discussed how trade unionists were using the internet in their unions to discuss and debate issues of union democracy and other questions.

Peggy Law of the National Radio Project talked about how their program "Making Contact" was now being broadcast internationally and was even getting support in the Southern US. She encouraged labor radio producers to help them get material that they can put on their show which she said now airs on over 120 stations.

Wes Brain, a member of the executive board of UPPNET, also spoke about the efforts to fight corporate media in Oregon and the need to support the petition calling for the AFL-CIO Executive Committee to establish a labor cable channel. [See *Open Letter/Editorial, page 1 -Ed.*]

Michael Blain, an organizer with Washtech, explained the effort to organize temps and other workers at Microsoft. He outlined how the corporation used temporary agencies as a scheme to prevent workers from becoming permanent workers and how, through the use of their web page, they were able to reach thousands of workers.

The meeting also discussed the use of the WTO rules to destroy the film industry in many countries. Yang G-Hwan, from the Emergency Committee to Protect the Screen Quota System, reported on the need to defend the Korean film industry from total destruction.

One of the last speakers was UPPNET Recording Secretary Steve Zeltzer. Zeltzer discussed the work that UPPNET was doing to build independent media around the U.S. and internationally and also the effort to develop a weekly labor tv show on satellite television. He also encouraged other labor videographers to begin their own labor cable tv shows on their local community access stations. Zeltzer also reported that LaborNet was now independent from IGC and would be developing a new web page for activism and solidarity on the internet.

The UPPNET/LaborNet meeting was the only presentation during the WTO week of protests to focus in on the need for labor media to build its own communication network while fighting against the corporate information blockade. All the participants were excited about the future possibilities. ♦

Open Letter to AFL-CIO *Continued from p. 1*

to make the quantum leap necessary to more effectively penetrate the markets they are in.

The 1999 AFL-CIO convention took important steps towards supporting the concept of a labor-based media presence. Resolution 30 (www.aflcio.org/convention99/res3_30.htm) called upon the AFL-CIO to support investigations into media monopoly and the privatization of public radio and TV. Additionally the resolution noted that the public airwaves should be opened to organized labor in an equitable fashion. To ensure that labor's voice is heard in deliberations concerning media, labor representatives should be appointed to all appropriate boards, enforcement agencies, and committees.

Convention Resolution 31 (www.aflcio.org/convention99/res3_31.htm) is more specific. Resolution 31 calls for the support of a labor TV show on satellite. The AFL-CIO could support these resolutions in the form of increased publicity and assistance from headquarters in Washington and by encouraging affiliates and central labor bodies to support community-based and labor friendly media with both financial and technical help.

If the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO endorses these two resolutions and urges the affiliates to work with local media outlets, what can organized labor expect? First and foremost, the media presence of organized labor in all of its richness would be enhanced. Second, efforts to get a satellite-based TV program would be strengthened as the satellite TV companies could expect that a significant number of AFL-CIO families would watch the program. Third, local radio and TV entities would be encouraged to work more closely with organized labor, and organized labor for its part might feel more comfortable supporting these entities. Fourth, more local leaders and rank and file would learn how to use the media.

The result would be an increase in labor's outreach and influence. However the key achievement of labor-based independent community media would be that organized labor could frame the issues the way we wanted them to be framed. The media conglomerates would still attack us and characterize our views negatively. But if organized labor helps the independent community-based media reach its potential, then locals, internationals and the AFL-CIO would have the ability to respond.

In Seattle the existence of the independent media prevented our message from being lost. We have the opportunity to build on that momentum. We urge the Public Policy Committee of the AFL-CIO Executive board to act favorably on motions 30 and 31 as passed at the AFL-CIO 1999 Los Angeles Convention.

Signed,
Union Producers and Programmers Network



Photo: Indy Media Center

2nd Seoul International LaborMedia '99 Report

By Wes Brain

SEOUL — The 2nd Seoul International LaborMedia '99 conference was held in Seoul, South Korea November 15-17, 1999. Joining more than 600 participants who attended were 34 foreign guests from the following countries: USA, Great Britain, Turkey, Japan, South Africa, Germany, Belgium, Australia, Hong Kong, and Malaysia.

A dark cloud appeared when six of the seven USA participants, all traveling on the same flight from San Francisco, first arrived in Seoul.

UPPNET Member Steve Zeltzer 'Blacklisted' by South Korean Government

While clearing customs, Steve Zeltzer was directed to a side room where he was told he could not enter S. Korea. Reasons were not provided but it is believed that Steve was "blacklisted" by Korea's National Security Law which controls entry. Steve had participated just one year earlier in a labor demonstration in Seoul, a demonstration against the National Security Law—the very law that apparently excluded his entry into S. Korea. The U. S. delegation protested the expulsion with a visit to the U. S. embassy, a press conference at the Korean Press Club, and a phone interview back home "live" to KPFA radio in Berkeley. Another press conference was held in the San Francisco airport when the U. S. delegation arrived back home, and this generated a story in the San Francisco *Chronicle*. Additional protests to the S. Korean government came from all over the globe.

LaborMedia '99 conference sessions and workshops included in-depth discussions on the following topics: what is to be done in the next century, challenges the labor movement faces, how to organize and connect internationally, how to stop surveillance, what WTO means for the labor movement, and specific media issues such as labor's use of radio, TV, video, and the internet.

One highlight of the conference was the incredible volunteer efforts of university students from Seoul. Students made themselves available for all aspects of the conference including tabling the many sessions and workshops and providing professional-style translation services. Headsets were available for participants with English to Korean and Korean to English translations. Volunteer students were a huge assistance for the international delegation and provided help with transportation, accommodations, and on the street translations, too.

Delegation Honored at 25,000-strong People's Rally

Another highlight in Seoul was the annual People's Rally on November 14, the day before the conference. 25,000 workers, farmers, students and members of various social movement organizations attended the rally and participated in the march that followed. Our international delegation was shown a great honor when asked to sit on the main stage. For the march a banner was carried which read "International Solidarity for KCTU" (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions), and at the bottom were listed the various nations of the international delegation.

Outings were made to KCTU and to the KIA automotive plant where discussions were held with union leaders. Another field trip was to the offices of JinboNet, the cooperative

Heartland Labor Forum Wins ILCA Award

by Judy Ancel, UPPNET Executive Board member

The Heartland Labor Forum, the labor radio show in Kansas City, has won 2nd place in the 1999 International Labor Communications Association Film and Broadcast Competition in the Radio Programs produced by union members and staff category. The winning show was called "Raspberry Pickers Organize". The show was produced by Judy Ancel with help from HLF volunteers Tom Kerr and Laura Spenser. It featured interviews with raspberry pickers in April, 1998 in Watsonville California about working conditions, how and why they were organizing, and the impact of organizing on their lives. The judges comments said, "Here's where the strawberry story worked. Again, production values need to be added to keep the listener engaged."

This show illustrates the challenges we face in producing as non-professionals with limited technical resources since the interviews were all in Spanish and had to be translated.

A telling comment. The women and men we interviewed told wonderful stories about building solidarity and confronting the bosses, of how they'd learned to stand up for themselves and how that affected many aspects of their lives beyond the workplace, and of the difficulty and oppression they faced in the poverty, lack of respect and sexual harassment on the job. Their hope and commitment came through. This show illustrates the challenges we face in producing as non-professionals with limited technical resources since the interviews were all in Spanish and had to be translated.

The Heartland Labor Forum celebrated its tenth anniversary on the air in 1999 producing an original one-hour show every week with volunteers from Kansas City area unions and unorganized workplaces. Heartland Labor Forum has won the ILCA contest on two previous occasions. The show is coordinated by the Institute for Labor Studies, the labor education program which is a joint project of The University of Missouri-Kansas City and Longview Community College. Throughout its ten years, it has received significant support from Kansas City area unions and labor councils. We are hoping that in the next year, our shows will be available on the Internet. For more information and a program list, contact Judy Ancel at (816) 235-1470 or ancelj@umkc.edu. ♦

internet site that hosts web pages for labor unions, NGO's, and many progressive organizations in South Korea.

Following the conference, on Nov 18-21 was held The Third Labor Video and Film Festival. Hosted by Labor News Production, this three day festival highlighted 20 movies and videos from nine countries. Many were subtitled in English.

Labor Videos Cover the WTO Protest Story – *Ordering Information*

6 Videos from Canada's working tv

Here's a chance to get the Canadian point of view. Videos are approx 30 min. Tapes can be ordered via the *working tv* website: www.workingtv.com/

- "Deadly Embrace: Nicaragua, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund". Neo-liberalism, the debt crisis and "free" trade.

- "Take It Personally (#1) Teach-In on the World Trade Organization". The 1st of 3 programs taped at the November 12 / 13 1999 WTO teach-in, at Robson Square, Vancouver, featuring an introduction by Tony Clarke of the Polaris Institute and keynote speech by Maude Barlow, of the Council of Canadians.



- "Take It Personally (#2). Keynote speech by Malaysian lawyer and activist Chee Yoke Ling, representing the Third World Network.

- "Take It Personally (#3). Hassan Yussuff, Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress, plus Messages to Jean from workshop participants to Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

- "The Last Protest of the Century". Maude Barlow, of the Council of Canadians, at a BC Federation of Labour sponsored rally in Vancouver on the evening of November 30 1999.

- "The Road to Seattle - WTO Special #2". A look at the organizing that got thousands of Canadians to Seattle for the November 30 1999 giant march and rally against the WTO. Rally and march video, plus police violence against protesters.

- "The Road to Seattle". Local organizing for the November 30 1999 WTO protest, plus rally video including Ken Georgetti and Vandana Shiva. Also march video, police violence, and summation from Maude Barlow back in Vancouver.

- "Seattle WTO Rally highlights". Highlights from the November 30 rally in Seattle against the WTO, including Linda Chavez-Thompson AFL-CIO, George Becker USWA, a Mexican maquila worker, and a South African miner. ♦

WTO Seattle from Chicago's Labor Beat

"WTO Seattle" is in four parts: The Revolution Starts Here: Through cinema verité you become one of the peaceful protesters on the streets of Seattle, and experience in real-time the pepper gassing and concussion bombing, demonstrators herded and badgered by the police; Get Past the Costumes: Construction workers chat with topless dykes on the theme of class solidarity, the episode becoming a positive humanistic antidote to the armored 'jackboot' world of police repression; Testifying: A bemused middle-class Seattle woman finds herself in the midst of a 'sixties flashback' as she runs into the demonstration downtown; Why the Talks Collapsed: Professor David Ranney of the University of Illinois/Chicago Center for Urban Studies discusses some aspects of why things fell apart for the WTO. These four parts combined in this 27-minute video.

Make check of \$20 to Labor Beat: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. More Info: www.wva.com/~bgfolder/lb ♦

From OPEU in Ashland, OR: *Wachet Auf*

"Wachet Auf" captures the huge Labor March which took place in Seattle, WA., Nov. 30 as part of the demonstrations against the WTO. This production also covers the People's Town Hall Meeting held Dec. 10 in the Ashland, OR, city council chambers when Southern Oregon activists gave first-hand accounts of the WTO protests in Seattle. The show ends with "turtle interviews" and a street theater performance in downtown Seattle.

"Wachet Auf" (Wake Up) is hosted by OPEU District Four Productions which is broadcast on Rogue Valley Community Television, cable channel 31.

To order a copy of the video, contact Wes Brain:

San Francisco's Labor Video Project: *Labor Battles The WTO In Seattle99*

This 38-minute video provides the most extensive coverage of the historic labor mobilization against the WTO. Included are clips from the massive rally and march and dozens of interviews of why workers went thousands of miles to protest this organization.

Also included is footage of WTO Director Mike Moore's statement to the ICFTU as well as footage of the clash on the streets. Take a front seat to see the real enthusiasm generated by this protest and how it has helped revitalize the labor movement. Please send \$30.00 to: The Labor Video Project P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142 ♦

Media Centralize Even More

NEW YORK (AP) – Three networks are joining their news services into a single domestic news cooperative, they announced Monday. Network News Service will consist of ABC NewsOne, CBS Newspath and Fox News Edge.

NNS will collect video from the affiliates of all three news services, as well as the three network's newsgathering units and other sources, and supply this "raw video" back to ABC NewsOne, CBS Newspath and Fox News Edge.

Each network's news service will select from all of that day's NNS material for inclusion in its regular feeds to affiliates. Meanwhile, the three services will continue to operate as separate competing entities.

NBC is not part of the arrangement. "We think it's curious that we were not included in these discussions," said NBC spokeswoman Alex Constantinople.

"NNS will be particularly important to breaking news coverage," said Roger Ailes, Fox News chairman. "It will dramatically enhance the ability of each network news service to cover breaking stories by offering more than one source of video."

CBS News president Andrew Heyward added that the new arrangement "enables each network news service to devote more resources to its own coverage...which will ultimately differentiate one station or one service from its competitors." ©1999 ABC ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title	Producer	City/Station	Phone No.
<i>Fighting Back</i>	Ralph Kessler	Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM	510-845-9285
<i>David Bacon on Labor</i>	David Bacon	Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM	510-549-0291
<i>Labor Line</i>	Steve Zeltzer	San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM	415-641-4440
<i>Profiles of Labor Working LA</i>	Ruth Holbrook Henry Walton	Sacramento, CA Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM	916-455-1396 818-894-4079
<i>Talking Union</i>	Larry Dorman	Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM	880-571-6191
<i>Labor Express</i>	Clif Brown	Chicago, IL WLWU 88.7 FM	312-226-3330
<i>Labor Beat</i>	Martin Conlisk	Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv	312-226-3330
<i>Illinois Labor Hour</i>	Peter Miller	Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM	217-337-5174
<i>AFSCME On-Line</i>	Dan Hart	Dorchester, MA cable-tv	617-266-3496
<i>Heartland Labor Forum</i>	Judy Ancel	Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM	816-235-1470
<i>Minnesota at Work</i>	Howard Kling	Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable	612-624-5020
<i>Building Bridges</i>	Ken Nash	New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM	212-815-1699
<i>Communique</i>	Bill Henning	New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM	212-228-6565
<i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i>	Pat Passanilin	New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM	212-815-1535
<i>America's Work Force</i>	Jerrod Sorkey	Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM	440-975-4262
<i>Boiling Point</i>	Michael Wood	Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM	513-961-4348
<i>Talking Union</i>	John Lavin	Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM	610-660-3372
<i>Labor on the Job</i>	Steve Zeltzer	San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 54 cable	415-641-4440
<i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i>	Chuck Schwartz	Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv	401-463-9900
<i>Solidarity</i>	John Speier	Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access	616-375-4638
<i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i>	Rick Levy	Austin, TX	512-477-6195
<i>Which Side Are You On?</i>	Hal Leyshon	Middlesex, VT	802-223-4172
<i>Radio Labor Journal</i>	Bil Borders	Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM	425-921-3454
<i>Labor Radio News</i>	Frank Emspak	Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM	608-262-2111
<i>LaborVision</i>	John Webb	St. Louis, MO DHTV	314-962-4163
<i>Labor X</i>	Simin Farkhondeh	New York, NY CUNY-TV cable	212-966-4248 ext. 216
<i>OPEU Productions</i>	Wes Brain	Ashland, OR cable-tv	541-482-6988
<i>Labor Link TV</i>	Fred Lonidier	La Jolla, CA cable-tv	619-552-0740
<i>First Tuesday</i>	Leo Canty	Connecticut cable-tv	860-257-9782
<i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i>	Carl Bryant	San Fran., CA cable-tv	415-885-0375
<i>Springfield Labor Beat</i>	Jim Hade	Springfield, IL cable-tv	217-787-7837
<i>New Hampshire Labor Scene</i>	Bill Whitmore	Manchester, NH cable Channel 16	N.A. 603-644-0131
<i>The Price Paid</i>	Gene Lawhorn	Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM	503-282-9541
<i>working tv</i>	Julius Fisher	Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV	604-253-6222

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
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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.mtn.org/les/

November 2000 *LaborTech* Conference Set

LaborTech2000 In The New Millennium

The Union Producers and Programmers Network and LaborNet (www.labomet.org) are now planning for LaborTech2000. The conference will be held in Madison, WI on November 17, 18 and 19, 2000.

The conference will have workshops on the use of video for locals and union activists as well as how to stream video on the web. It will look at the use of computers in the labor movement both in the United States and internationally.

We will also look at how the internet and email is now

being used by employers to control and spy on workers on the job and what labor can do to fight back.

We also plan to have participation of labor communicators from other countries to strengthen our international ties and networks.

There will be panels on issues such as overcoming the information blockade and efforts to develop regular national labor tv programming on satellite as well as cable. We will also look at the use of the internet and video and radio to get the message out at the Seattle WTO protests.

If you have ideas or proposals for this upcoming *LaborTech2000* conference contact Frank Emspak at femspak@peacenet.org or Steve Zeltzer at lvpsf@labomet.org

Set your calendar date now and more details will be coming in the next few months. ♦

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

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

Fill out the following form, and mail to address below:

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Phone no: _____ e-mail: _____

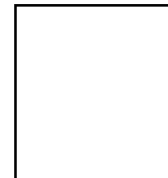
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UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Spring 2000

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

UPPNET Pilot for FSTV Satellite Channel Ready

UPPNET celebrated Mayday 2000 with a first ever compilation television program of segments from UPPNET member programs and friends of UPPNET in Korea. The program was put together by Julius Fisher, an UPPNET member and labor television producer in Vancouver Canada. It was first broadcast on April 28 and 30, on his weekly "working TV" community access television program in Vancouver and throughout British Columbia Canada.

"This program was meant to be a pilot or a dry-run for a potential labor television program on Free Speech TV's new satellite channel" said Fisher. "Only a few UPPNET members contributed but given the quality of their work, it's obvious we have the potential to put together a great program for satellite distribution."



Pilot has international flavor; with segments from U.S., Canada, and South Korea.

Dubbed an "UPPNET Showcase" the program included segments from "Connecticut At Work" produced by Leo Canty; from "Labor Beat" in Chicago; from "The Labor Video Project" in San Francisco; from Vancouver's "working TV", and, in the International spirit of Mayday, from Labor News Production in Seoul Korea.

"The Korean video was fabulous" said Fisher "even with English subtitles. It makes me think we are limiting ourselves if we only aim for an English language series".

Copies of the "UPPNET Showcase" are available from working TV in Vancouver Canada. Contact them at workingtv@telus.net or watch it in streaming video at www.workingtv.com ♦



UPPNET pilot tv show: a scene from D.C.A-16. View it at: www.workingtv.com (go to video online page).



Photo: Steve Dalber

Indymedia Journalists Cover IMF Protest in D.C.

By Jay Sand

WASHINGTON, April 16-17, 2000—By the end of the anti-IMF demonstrations in mid-April, even IMF/World Bank delegates, government officials and members of the mainstream media had to admit that the protesters had been getting the public to question the institutions that form the infrastructure of globalization.

As a Time magazine article on the horrid effect that World Bank loans and IMF Structural Adjustment Programs have had on the African nation of Tanzania, stated, "the activists have it exactly right."

To make sure the public would know what the activists were saying and why they were saying it, more than eight hundred independent journalists, radio producers, videographers, photographers and web workers, many of whom had participated in the Independent Media Center (IMC) in Seattle during the WTO demonstrations, worked together to form a collectively run, non-hierarchical DC-IMC. As demonstrators threw their bodies in the way of globalization, IMC

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5th Annual Grassroots Radio Conference, July 20-23, 2000, Madison, WI

The fifth annual Grassroots Radio Conference is coming!! Mark your calendars for GRC5 at the Pyle Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, July 20-23, 2000.

This year's conference will be hosted by WORT-FM which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2000. We hope to make the conference as accessible and affordable as possible and are expecting international participation. Plan on having a great time and making some good connections.

For those of you booking flights, we are planning to start things slowly on Thursday July 20, with workshops and plenaries in full swing on Friday and Saturday with everything finishing up by 2:00pm on Sunday. The weekend will include station tours and a live music event. Some meals will be provided and housing will be available at a range of price levels (from hotel to hostel to home stay).

Plans for the conference are just developing and we need your input. Would you like to propose to do a workshop? Is there a workshop or discussion that you think needs to happen but you want someone else to lead it? Is there something you really want to do or see in Madison? Send us your ideas and comments by March 20th; we hope to have a tentative agenda completed and final brochures done in early April.

Workshop ideas so far include:

Low-power radio; Guerrilla radio in Guatemala; Media strategies for labor; Webcasting; Collectives & committees; Community radio with an activist agenda; Volunteer systems; How to do local news; Audience: Who are they and how do you know?; How do we respond to listeners/soliciting input; Creating a well-oiled pledge drive machine; Fundraising that works for you; Satellite Systems; Music libraries & charts; Survival tips for staff well-being; Community radio history; How far to go with professionalism.

We are also hosting a regional gathering of AMARC-North America, so we look forward to having workshop sessions with our colleagues from throughout the Americas.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have suggestions. We look forward to seeing you in July!

Sincerely, the folks at WORT-FM ♦

Please respond with your questions, comments, & suggestions to the e-mail, phone or address below:

WORT-FM Listener-Sponsored Community Radio
118 S. Bedford St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone (608)256-2001/2695
FAX (608)256-3704
e-mail: wort@terracom.net
www.netphoria.com/wort

October 6-8, 2000—New York City, NY

Labor's Voice: Labor Journalism, Communication, And Media, Past And Present

On October 6-8, 2000, in New York City, a consortium of labor, research, and academic organizations* will host a conference on the history of labor journalism and communications, its role in the past, its current challenges, and its place in the future. The conference will bring together labor journalists and communicators, mainstream and independent journalists, union activists, historians, other scholars, and students.

This will be an occasion to question, discuss, reflect and envision, to celebrate and learn from the past, but also to think ahead: what is the future of labor journalism, what are the challenges and responsibilities we face as professionals charged with shaping, transmitting, studying, or critiquing labor's message?

What does America's labor movement need from labor communicators as we move through a period of even more promise and perhaps greater uncertainty than we have faced in the past? This is a call for proposals to present papers and organize roundtable discussions and workshop sessions at the conference. While we welcome all proposals that deal with the general theme of the conference, we are especially interested in proposals focusing on:

- History of labor journalism, from 1830s to the present
- Labor film, radio, and other media
- Current challenges for labor journalism, especially the question of ethics, the tension between journalism and advocacy for communications in a labor organization, challenges facing the journeyman labor communicator
- Mainstream media's coverage of labor
- Alternative and independent voices covering labor, including the African American press, independent weeklies, rank and file papers
- Radical labor press, past and present
- New technologies and labor, including the internet/World Wide Web, public access and low-power television, and radio
- Directions for the future of labor communications

Paper proposals (approximately 250 words) should state topic, thesis, and research methodology. Include author's name, address, institution, telephone number, email address and fax number. Roundtable or panel proposals (500-750 words) should include topic, questions to be addressed, and names, addresses, and presentation titles of all panelists or speakers for that session. The individual submitting the proposal should include his or her name, address, institution, telephone number, email address and fax number.

All proposals should be sent by or before June 30, 2000 to Sally Alvarez at Cornell University ILR, 16 E. 34th St., New York, New York 10016, or emailed to sma21@cornell.edu. Or fax to S. Alvarez at 212-340-2822. Call 212-340-2816 for more information.

*Co-sponsors include the International Labor Communication Association, Metro NY Labor Communications Council, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Wagner Labor Archives, New York State Labor History Association, City College Center for Worker

Undercover Cop Caught In the Act Clubbing Independent Media Reporter

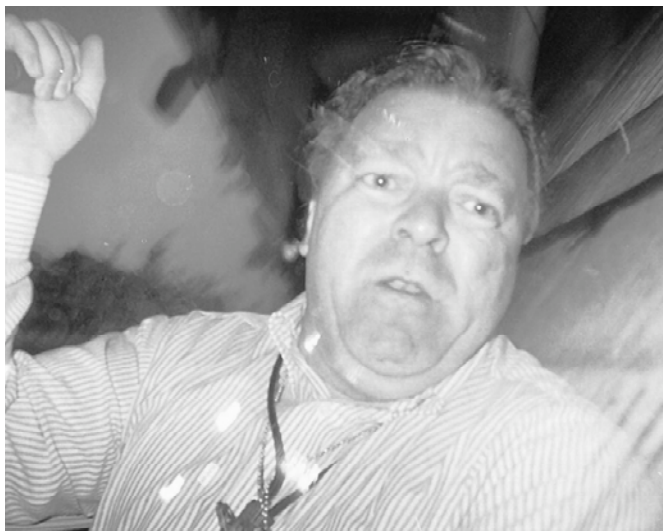


Photo: Rob Fish

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

Here's a photo of him beating the author of the appeal below! If you can help identify him, contact: ecology12@yahoo.com

Hi everyone.

I need your help. Monday morning at about 8:30 am near the corner of 18th and K on Monday, April 17th, 2000 I was beaten by a plainclothes officer (not sure if Fed or MPD) after photographing him going crazy through the streets hitting people over the head with his baton. At the time I didn't even think it was a cop! Being a part of the Independent Media Center, and wearing my Independent Media Center ID, I photographed this man, who I believed was an angry motorist. After seeing me about to take the photograph of him, he lunged towards my neck with his hands and proceeded to club me at least two times with this club like device and pushed me to the ground.

He then hit me several more times and wrestled the camera from my hands. I called for police to arrest this man

still believing this was a case of road rage. Upon arrival the police officer (not sure if MPD, secret service or another agency) informed me that the man was a plainclothes officer. The camera at this point had been knocked to the ground and the plainclothes officer attempted to stomp on it. He was able to crack the frame, but the camera slipped out from under his foot. As he was about to stomp down a second time I was able to swipe the camera and throw it back into the crowd. In turn I received several more blows to the head.

This continued for I believe about 20 seconds. I have little recollection of this time period and believe I may have briefly lost consciousness. My glasses were ripped from my face and I yelled for them back as they dragged me away yelling for medical attention after realizing the extent of my head wound and thrown into a pile near an approaching group of officers. They made no effort to get me medical attention more or less smirking when I made this request. As I laid in a pile bleeding the medical team for the collection pulled me away to the sidelines and treated me for severe head wounds. I was bandaged up to stop the bleeding (by this point I had blood running down my face into my ear and onto my pants) and then helped to the opposite corner where we called cab to bring me to the hospital. At this time I was extremely dizzy and shaky.

The man was in a beige trench coat with a pin stripe dress shirt underneath. He was older and larger and apparently had a chain with ID hanging from his neck. He was away from any police line and just going crazy. After taking the photo I received the same treatment and required seven stitches and have a concussion. I need your help — I know some of the witnesses from the event were from NY (Syracuse I believe) and the medics who treated me were from NYC. I was wearing jeans and a green shirt covered by a black trash bag — well, before the cops ripped it off me and had on glasses with black plastic frames. If any of you out there think you saw this take place, please email ASAP. ♦

Rob Fish: ecology12@yahoo.com

Indymedia Cover IMF Protest *Continued from p. 1*

reporters shot video, recorded interviews, snapped photos and recorded observations for articles that they posted to the World Wide Web through the www.indymedia.org web site. While the mainstream media reported that the demonstrators and police were working together to keep the protests non-violent, IMC reporters documented hundreds of acts of police violence, both in the streets and in the jails (away from the glare of the cameras).

While the mainstream media followed protesters and police activity, many IMC reporters turned their focus on the issues that demonstrators had come to highlight — the terrible debt that the World Bank holds over poor nations, primarily in the Global South, and the Structural Adjustment Programs that the International Monetary Fund imposes on those nations that force them to exchange social programs for being part of "the global economy."

The DC IMC was hectic, exciting, overwhelming and quite effective in letting people demonstrating on the streets tell their story about what they were doing in Washington and why they were there. The IMC was housed in a warehouse/art gallery in one of the less affluent neighborhoods in DC's Northwestern quadrant. Dozens of independent media

makers had been communicating over e-mail for about a month before the A16 protests to make the DC IMC happen. The organizers had broken the media activists into teams, each with its own coordinator/s.

Part of the excitement of the DC IMC was that most of the coordinators came into town from other parts of the continent, proving that the independent media movement is widespread, unified and ready to mobilize whenever and wherever the need arises.

Leslie Howes from Seattle coordinated the print team which produced two issues of a real-life print publication called "Blind Spot" during the protests; Seattle's Jeremy Simer headed the translation team which translated IMC reports into Spanish and French; Jade Paget-Seekins from San Francisco coordinated the audio group which posted hours of interviews and audio pieces to the www.indymedia.org web site; co-coordinators Heidi Reijm from Western Massachusetts, Ali Tonak from upstate New York and Adam Green from DC assured that hundreds of photos would make it from the streets to the web site; Eddie Becker and David Russo from DC, Arthur Foelsche from Boston and Adam Stenftenagel from Boulder worked together to man-

Continued on p. 6

New York Labor Video Producer Dies

KEY MARTIN

Key Martin, an indomitable fighter for justice, equality and the rights of the working class, died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York on March 18. Martin was 56 years old. He is survived by his spouse, Estella Vazquez, their children, Alejandro and Evelyn Vazquez, Tamara Martin and three grandchildren.

For almost 40 years, Key has stood on the front lines of every battle in the United States against racism, war and oppression.

In 1980 Key Martin became head of the Newspaper Guild at Time Inc., Local 3 TNG, now part of the Communications Workers of America. Representing over 1,200 workers at Time Inc. in New York City, Martin rebuilt the Guild there, waging an ongoing struggle to force management to bring on staff temporary workers it had denied security and benefits. Martin helped build a nationwide campaign to support fighting workers at the Detroit Free Press and News, who were locked out of their jobs for over three years by the Gannett and Knight-Ridder newspaper monopolies.

Founds People's Video Network

Key Martin founded the People's Video Network in 1993 to try and break through the curtain of silence the corporate-owned news media impose on the people's struggle. He went to behind the walls of US prisons to interview Mumia Abu-Jamal, Russell Maroon Shoates, Mutulu Shakur and other political prisoners whose cases are buried by the big business media. His revolutionary video work took him to Haiti, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, most recently, South Africa, where he spent several months in 1999. At the time of his death he was working on two major video projects—one on the life of martyred South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani and another on the impact of HIV-AIDS in Africa.

Working with PVN and the International Action Center, Martin was always in the thick of militant actions. He covered the Seattle demonstrations against the World Trade Organization, where he was teargassed and shot with plastic bullets. Though he suffered from asthma, he refused to slow down. His last activity was to film a Bronx demonstration protesting the police murder of Malcolm Ferguson, one week after the acquittal of the cops who murdered Amadou Diallo.

Key Martin joined Workers World Party in the early 1960s and had served on its leading body—the National Committee—since the 1970s. He was a revolutionary Marxist who gave 100 percent of his unflagging energy to the struggle of the workers and the oppressed for a socialist society free of capitalist exploitation and injustice.

A public memorial was held to celebrate his life. Details will be available on the International Action Center web site, www.iacenter.org; e-mail: iacenter@iacenter.org ♦

John Speier of Kalamazoo's Solidarity on Key Martin

Friends,

Key encouraged me in becoming a social justice labor video producer. I enjoyed seeing him the few times I had the pleasure. The brother was an exceedingly prolific producer of fearless advocacy videos about things people need to know more about. He will be missed.

— Sincerely, John Speier ♦

Media Activists Protest KQED-NPR Alliance With NAB Bosses

by Steve Zeltzer/Wes Brain

On April 28, a protest was held by media activists in front of San Francisco's major public broadcasting station KQED. The protest was called to oppose the support by KQED and National Public Radio of a bill that would eliminate the development of micro-broadcasting.

The Federal Communication after years of pressure finally agreed to support the addition of micro-broadcasting to the increasingly monopolized airwaves. Bill Kennard, the chair however was surprised to find out that not only was he facing the opposition of Disney, Murdoch, GE and other media monopoly bosses who are represented by the National Association of Broadcasters but National Public Radio.

The tax supported National Public Broadcasting supported the Wilson-Dingell House Bill which would effectively kill the FCC proposal for low power (100 watt) broadcasters.

Kennard who has gone along with the monopolization of the media and supported the 1997 Telecommunications Act was even surprised by the attack on Micro-radio by NPR. In a statement he said he surprised that "an organization which has done so much to promote opportunities to be heard on the airwaves would join with the special interests in curbing this new service."

According to the Current magazine which is put out by the major PBS/NPR affiliates, NPR's opposition to LPFM (Low Power Frequency Media) has been "incredibly destructive," says Michael Bracy, director of the Low Power Radio Coalition.

During the demonstration in front of KQED, trade unionists and supporters of San Francisco's Liberation Radio 93.7FM and Radio Free Berkeley attacked the effort by KQED and NPR to destroy the only alternative labor and community people have to the airwaves.

The CWA nationally has supported the expansion of Micro-radio and the San Francisco Labor Council in a resolution on March 27 opposed the House Bill 3439 and Senate Bill 2068 that would eliminate micro-broadcasting. [See text of resolution on this page.]

Supporters of the KQED demonstration learned that KQED Public Relations Director David Shaw said that the station was opposed to micro-broadcasting because of the study done by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) that said that it would interfere with their signals.

This is very significant since the NAB study was financed by those media monopolies that are opposed to micro-radio and want the total privatization of public broadcasting. It also runs counter to the studies done by the FCC. This is like PBS/NPR taking the surveys of food, chemical and tobacco companies as the reason to be opposed government action on cancer.

Labor media activists should get their local, labor council and state body to oppose these bills and to write and call their Congressional legislators as well as sending letters to the newspapers and the NPR affiliates in their areas.

The San Francisco Labor Council resolution also called on the AFL-CIO national office to immediately contact labor supported representatives to oppose the bill. John Dingell, a Democrat of Michigan is obviously a key target since the UAW has hundreds of thousands of members in Michigan.

Continued on p. 6

KQED-NPR Alliance *Continued from p. 4*

For further information on Labor and Micro Radio contact Art Persyko at alpersyko@earthlink.net or (415) 693-2235. Art Persyko is the Political Representative of Teamsters Local 85 and is working with the National Lawyers Guild Committee on Democratic Communications. You can also contact Peter Franck from the Guild at pfanck@culturelaw.com. You can also go to their web page at www.nlg.cdc

Ashland, Oregon

In Ashland, Oregon, where the NPR affiliate Jefferson Public Radio (JPR) is headquartered, we find that one of the largest NPR affiliates (geographically) was very much in tandem with the NAB at a lackon LPFM. Station Director Ron Kramer could be heard with his personal editorial every single day as he denounced plans for the LPFM proposal.

This scare tactic for listeners provided questionable technological comment, like how LPFM would bleed over on JPR's signal and destroy so called "public radio" all around the broadcast area. What a scam! but it worked. At one of Ashland's meetings for the progressive Alliance For Democracy, an activist leader showed up with petitions for people to sign to protect JPR. Contributor for this paragraph, Wes Brain was at that meeting and, "I nearly fell out of my chair when I saw this petition being offered right next to the initiative for Oregon's campaign finance reform!" Wes said. ♦

San Francisco Labor Council Resolution Supports Low Power FM Radio Service

On March 27, 2000 the San Francisco Central Labor Council passed a resolution defending the FCC's move to implement a lower power FM radio service. Excerpts of the resolution are printed below. For the complete text, and for further information call San Francisco Labor Council at 415-440-4809, or go to the National Lawyers Guild Web page on Micro-broadcasting at www.nlgcdc.org

Whereas, on June 2, 1999, the San Francisco Labor Council adopted a resolution in support of the creation of worker-oriented, community-based, local, low-power radio stations; controlled and operated by the people in the communities they serve; to act as a counterbalance to the current commercial radio system which favors large, wealthy corporations and has entirely abandoned localism and public service; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council urged the FCC to craft a plan for allocating spectrum space to communities which is simple, straightforward, and easy for workers' groups, unions and others to use; and

Whereas, as a result of the comments submitted to the FCC by the San Francisco Labor Council, other union bodies and community groups from all over this country for the establishment of a system of community radio stations: on January 20, 2000, the FCC established a new non-commercial Low Power FM (LPFM) Radio Service which incorporated the aspirations and ideas submitted to them by unions and other community groups, which was carefully

designed by the FCC so as not to interfere with the signals of pre-existing radio broadcasters; and

Whereas, LPFM is an important initiative by the FCC to open the airwaves to people in unions and other groups at the community level; and

Whereas the FCC initiative for LPFM contributes to the common good and was adopted after wide public participation in its rulemaking proceeding; and

Whereas, a groundswell has emerged from across the country as many community groups are preparing to begin the application process for LPFM licenses that the FCC has established; and

Whereas, opposition to LPFM, mainly from the national broadcasting industry and conservative members of Congress, has emerged to squash this new, grass-roots community expression of free speech on the public's airwaves before it can even begin, through legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 3439), the U.S. Senate (SB 2068), and/or in a supplemental appropriations bill which could be attached as a rider to other legislation; and

Whereas, this legislative action to destroy LPFM is being so quickly moved through Congress that urgent action by the lobbying arm of national organizations which represent community groups is needed immediately to save LPFM;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council requests that the AFL-CIO national office immediately contact its friends in the U.S. House and Senate and urge them to oppose the bills in Congress which would overrule the Federal Communications Commission decision to authorize Low Power FM Radio; and

Be it further resolved that the AFL-CIO be asked to immediately contact members of the House and Senate commerce Committees, including Congressmembers Dingel and Markey to request their support of LPFM; and thank Congressman Bonier for his continued support; and

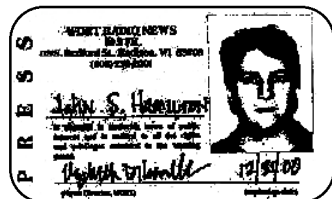
Be it further resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council hereby go on record supporting this Resolution and communicate our position to the AFL-CIO immediately. ♦



Scene from San Francisco segment of UPPNET tv pilot show for FSTV satellite channel. [see article on p. 1]

Community Radio Journalists Denied Access to IMF

Three reporters from WORT-FM Community Radio were denied press credentials to cover the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington




DC. On Friday April 7th, shortly before the final deadline for credentialing press to cover the meeting, IMF official William Murray told WORT News Director Elizabeth DiNovella that no WORT reporters would be allowed to cover the event because they were working for a "community radio station."

The reporters, who had faxed in their application forms along with copies of their photo IDs well prior to the deadline, were told by simple one line replies that their applications were declined.

WORT and other community radio stations across the country are currently investigating various avenues of legal response to this serious affront to openness and a free press.

According to statements on its website and elsewhere, WORT 89.9 FM Listener-Sponsored Community Radio in Madison, Wisconsin, was established in December, 1975. The



Facsimile Transmission
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20431

From: Dowers, Dorothy
Fax Number: 4835
Voice Phone: 94085

To: JohnHamilton/NathanChappel
Company: WORTRadio
Fax Number: 18092503704

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your requests for press accreditation to the 2000 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group. We regret to inform you that your requests have been declined.

Press Registration

station currently employs 6 fulltime staff and over 200 volunteers. Since its creation, WORT-FM has served as a training ground for numerous radio professionals, contributed to national news coverage of many important events, received many awards for programming, and been honored in proclamations by Madison's Mayor, and Wisconsin's Governor.

WORT-FM Listener-Sponsored Community Radio, Madison, WI, Phone (608) 256-2001/2695, wort@terracom.net

Letter from AMARC to the IMF's William Murray

Dear Mr. Murray:

The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), a global non-governmental organization with nearly 3,000 members in 106 countries, has learned that the current policy of the IMF is to deny press accreditation to public access TV, community radio, student and academic publications.

This policy was made public just before the IMF/World Bank meetings began this spring.

As members of the AMARC International Board of Directors, we are deeply concerned with this practice of exclusion.

The AMARC Milan Declaration on Communication and Human Rights affirms the Right to Communicate as a fundamental human right which serves and underpins all other human rights. This right upholds the importance of a pluralistic society and the need for all members of civil society to just and equitable access to the communications media.

Based on these principles, Elizabeth Robinson, V.P. North America on the International Board of Directors states that, "this IMF categorical exclusion is particularly reprehensible since the IMF/World Bank meetings were being held in the United States capital, a country whose founders championed a free press. In an age of increasing corporate control of media, community media are more important than ever to protecting that freedom."

As advocates of the Right to Communicate, AMARC joins with the National Federation of Community Broadcasters in urging the IMF to its press policy and recognize the legitimacy of community media practitioners.

— Respectfully, The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters ♦

Indymedia Cover IMF Protest *Continued from p. 1*

age facilities and coordinate all the equipment that people donated to the IMC; San Francisco's Lisa Sousa managed the IMC's press outreach and coordinated the many mainstream reporters from outlets like CNN and the BBC who came to do stories on the IMC itself; Evan Henshaw-Plath from Boston and Manse Jacobi from Boulder coordinated the effort to get all the coverage up to the web site.

There were also several general coordinators, such as Boulder's Eric Galatas (FStv), Jeff Perlestein from Seattle, Jay "Paper Tiger" from New York and yours truly, from West Virginia, as well as an expansive video team composed of dozens of individual producers and activist video groups who compiled video both for broadcast through the web site while the protests were happening and for an hour-long documentary called "Breaking the Bank," which was broadcast via

satellite on April 21 and should soon be available in VHS and PAL format for screenings around the globe.

The demonstrations in Washington proved that the concerted effort of people organizing through grassroots, collective means, can turn the public's attention to even the most consciously hidden global institutions. People from a round the world, in countries like Mexico, Nigeria, India, the Philippines and South Korea, have been long been fighting institutions like the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and IMF that are trying to turn the global economy into an active agent of the most powerful multinational corporations. Now people in the United States have joined them in making their opposition to globalization known. As people around the world continue their struggle against globalization, and especially as they begin to present viable, directly democratic alternatives, independent media makers will be there to assure that their stories get into the hands of the people. ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

Show Title	Producer	City/Station	Phone No.
<i>Fighting Back</i>	Ralph Kessler	Berkeley, CA KUSF 90.3 FM	510-845-9285
<i>David Bacon on Labor</i>	David Bacon	Berkeley, CA KPSA 94.1 FM	510-549-0291
<i>Labor Line</i>	Steve Zeltzer	San Fran., CA SFLR 93.7 FM	415-641-4440
<i>Profiles of Labor Working LA</i>	Ruth Holbrook Henry Walton	Sacramento, CA Panorama City, CA KPFK 90.7 FM	916-455-1396 818-894-4079
<i>Talking Union</i>	Larry Dorman	Rock Hill, CT WATR 1320 AM	880-571-6191
<i>Labor Express</i>	Wayne Heimbach	Chicago, IL WLWU 88.7 FM	312-226-3330
<i>Labor Beat</i>	Martin Conlisk	Chicago, IL Chan. 19, cable tv	312-226-3330
<i>Illinois Labor Hour</i>	Peter Miller	Champaign, IL WEFT 90.1 FM	217-337-5174
<i>AFSCME On-Line</i>	Dan Hart	Dorchester, MA cable-tv	617-266-3496
<i>Heartland Labor Forum</i>	Judy Ancel	Kansas City, MO KKFI 90.1 FM	816-235-1470
<i>Minnesota at Work</i>	Howard Kling	Minneapolis, MN MCN Cable	612-624-5020
<i>Building Bridges</i>	Ken Nash	New York, NY WBAI 99.5 FM	212-815-1699
<i>Communique</i>	Bill Henning	New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM	212-228-6565
<i>It's Your City, It's Our Job</i>	Pat Passanilin	New York, NY WNYE 91.5 FM	212-815-1535
<i>America's Work Force</i>	Jerrod Sorkey	Eastlake, OH WERE 1300 AM	440-975-4262
<i>Boiling Point</i>	Michael Wood	Cincinnati, OH WAIF 88.3 FM	513-961-4348
<i>Talking Union</i>	John Lavin	Norristown, PA WHAT 1340 AM	610-660-3372
<i>Labor on the Job</i>	Steve Zeltzer	San Fran., CA BUT Ch. 54 cable	415-641-4440
<i>Rhode Island Labor Vision</i>	Chuck Schwartz	Cranston, RI Chan. 14, cable-tv	401-463-9900
<i>Solidarity</i>	John Speier	Kalamazoo, MI Cable Access	616-375-4638
<i>Talkin' Union Labor Int. Radio</i>	Rick Levy	Austin, TX	512-477-6195
<i>Which Side Are You On?</i>	Hal Leyshon	Middlesex, VT	802-223-4172
<i>Radio Labor Journal</i>	Bil Borders	Everell, WA KSER 90.7 FM	425-921-3454
<i>Labor Radio News</i>	Frank Emspak	Madison, WI WORT 89.9 FM	608-262-2111
<i>LaborVision</i>	John Webb	St. Louis, MO DHTV	314-962-4163
<i>Labor X</i>	Simin Farkhondeh	New York, NY CUNY-TV cable	212-966-4248 ext. 216
<i>OPEU Productions</i>	Wes Brain	Ashland, OR cable-tv	541-482-6988
<i>Labor Link TV</i>	Fred Lonidier	La Jolla, CA cable-tv	619-552-0740
<i>First Tuesday</i>	Leo Canty	Connecticut cable-tv	860-257-9782
<i>Letter Carriers Today TV 214</i>	Carl Bryant	San Fran., CA cable-tv	415-885-0375
<i>Springfield Labor Beat</i>	Jim Hade	Springfield, IL cable-tv	217-787-7837
<i>New Hampshire Labor Scene</i>	Bill Whitmore	Manchester, NH cable Channel 16	N.A. 603-644-0131
<i>The Price Paid</i>	Gene Lawhorn	Portland, OR KBOO 90.7FM	503-282-9541
<i>working tv</i>	Julius Fisher	Vancouver, BC Rogers Comm.TV	604-253-6222

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.mtn.org/les/

Note changed date from that announced in Winter UPPNET issue: Dec. 1-3

LaborTECH 2000 – Dec. 1-3

The Labor Tech 2000 conference entitled: BUILDING the NEW GLOBAL UNIONISM THROUGH LABOR MEDIA, Communication Tools for the 21st century will be held December 1-3, 2000 at the University of Wisconsin Madison Wisconsin. The new date of December 1-3 was chosen to accommodate both sponsors and participants.

LaborTECH 2000 is an international gathering of labor media activists and technologists and who will come together to show, share and organize with the tools of the new millennium: Internet, radio, cable, TV and Print.

WHO SHOULD COME to Labor Tech 2000?: We encour-

age participation by any person who is interested in getting the word out about working people, our culture, our issues, our goals and our struggles. We urge writers, producers, web site aficionados, video and moviemakers, rank and file activists and good leaflet writers to come and share their knowledge.

Our goal is to bring new ideas about how to use current communication technologies and techniques to build our union movement.

We want to share the media experiences of Seattle and Washington. We want to help people develop cross-border solidarity. We want to help people communicate across town as well. All in all, we invite all those who wish to enhance the voice of working people in whatever medium.

For more information contact Howard Kling of UPPNET at 612-624-4326 or Frank Emspak at the School for Workers at 608-262-0680. ♦

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

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UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Summer 2000

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

Rockford, IL Unions Win Right To Air Public Access Show

by Charlie Laskonis

[The cable-tv company in Rockford, IL is trying to stop a labor tv show from getting on the access channel, in this account written by a key player in this fight. — Editor.]

Over time the corporate controlled media has had a chilling effect on the effectiveness of unions to thrive. Mass media by design of its corporate owners, from print, to television, to the movie industry, predominately portrays labor unions wrongly as the enemy of the working class. The business community owns the media, so their views are expressed in a positive light. Labor unions, being the adversaries of big business are therefore portrayed in a negative fashion. Some sort of conspiracy, you ask? No. It's simply the obvious result given these circumstances.

The question that came to my mind was what can we do as unionists to begin to overcome this? Something, I felt, must be done. Settling for the status quo would do nothing more than guarantee that things would at best, remain the same. After reading Michael Moore's book, "Downsize This!", and also world-renowned political activist Noam Chomsky's opinion that public access television was being underused by people such as ourselves, I decided to try to run labor union issue programming on my community's public access cable television channel in Rockford, Illinois.

Having no experience with television or even with using a video recorder of any sort, I decided I should try to find labor programming that was already produced. With the use of the Internet, I was able to get in touch with the independent rank-and-file union cable television producers at Labor Beat in Chicago, Illinois. They enthusiastically agreed to send me Labor Beat shows on 3/4-in. video tape (what my cable company required) so that I could start running them in Rockford.

At first, the cable company seemed to actually encourage me to submit tapes for public access. I gave them two shows and they ran them over a period of two months. I sent in a third show and requested that I be given a weekly slot. The third show ran. This show was a little more militant than the previous two programs. It was nothing too drastic. The program dealt with the labor protest concerning the locked-out workers in the Detroit Newspaper struggle. However, after this show ran, the cable company refused to take my calls or return my repeated messages. There was no question in my mind, that the reason they were avoiding me was because of the program's more militant labor union message. From then on, I decided that I would document any attempt I made to contact them, and if they responded, to keep a record of what they said.

Forcing the issue, I decided to submit three more tapes all with the appropriate paperwork. This time the cable company sent all my tapes (including the last show to run)

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LaborTECH 2000 On Course

The LaborTECH 2000 conference is an international gathering of labor media activists and technical people. We will come together to show, share, and organize with the tools of the new millennium — the Internet, radio, cable, TV and print. The conference will be held from December 1 to December 3 in Madison Wisconsin. Sponsors include UPPNET, the School for Workers, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, The Wisconsin Federation of Teachers among many others.

LaborTech 2000 is the fourth in the series of LaborTECH Conferences, held about every two years. But this year it is more important than ever to get together. In the last year we have seen that effective use of media technologies can break the strangle-hold of the media conglomerates on the reporting of important events. The Seattle independent media center showed what could be done. We saw how the Internet and e-mail could be used to build rank and file organizations to fight for decent contracts. The battle of the Northwest Airlines flight attendants illustrated the technique. Likewise rank and file activists fighting for real democracy within their union have used e-mail and web sites to build their organizations and defeat top-down decision making.

Cross-border organizing in cooperation with workers in Mexico has been given a huge assist as activists have begun to employ new communications technologies. Likewise the anti-sweatshop movement has benefited from the ability to use satellite communicants to go "on line" from east Asia and bring instantaneous reports of working conditions to those fight in the abuses of Nike and their ilk.

We have much to learn from each other. But there are other even more important reasons to come together. At each step of the way the corporations have sought to impede, destroy or disrupt worker to worker communications. On the one hand the year-long undermining of Pacifica has hurt progressive radio. Northwest Airlines attempt to silence flight attendants by seizing computers and prohibiting the use of e-mail by flight attendants for the purpose of organizing was beaten back but only at great costs. Meanwhile, in Washington DC,

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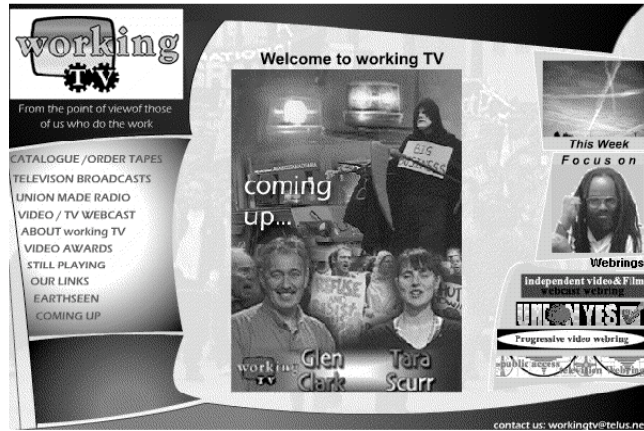
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Labor Streaming: A Powerful Tool For Labor

by Steve Zeltzer

The potential of on-the-spot instant video for labor struggles offers a new tool for labor nationally and globally. Already more and more labor videographers are using the ability to stream their video to build viewers for their programs.

"Working TV" of British Columbia, Canada was one of the earliest labor shows to stream on the web. It is now streaming its programming on www.workingtv.com and is also streaming a new UPPNET pilot 30 minute labor tv show.



Vancouver, B.C.'s "Working TV" web site.

Also, UPPNET board member and producer Carl Bryant of NALC Letter Carriers Local 214 now streams his regular monthly tv show TV214 on the web and is getting hits from postal workers around the country. It can be found at www.brightpathvideo.com/html/labor_3.html



Detail from web site for Letter Carrier's TV 214 show

During the battle of Seattle, the Independent Media Center along with many labor videographers were able to get on the web as well as develop national programming on a satellite feed.

Seoul Labor News Production's "The Crisis Of Capital & The Hope Of Labor" was put on the satellite during the week's protest. It was also streamed.

One example of the potential for viewership was the Labor Video Project. After doing a rough editing of labor video shot during the Seattle protests, the edited piece was streamed the following Tuesday. It began to receive 300 hits a day and 12,000 for the month. While this number was not massive it allowed unionists from Belgium to Turkey to see a first hand report on the labor perspective in Seattle.

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Rockford Continued from p. 1

back by mail. When I called to ask why the tapes were returned, I was informed they would no longer run programming submitted by me because their employees no longer had the time to review our programs.

In my mind I knew that what they were doing was against the law. After discussing the situation with the people at Labor Beat they suggested I contact the Alliance for Community Media. From them I received all the relevant legal documents that clearly showed that the cable company was breaking the Communications Act. They also suggested I get a copy of the franchise agreement between the city and the cable company, which I did by filling out a Freedom of Information Act form. Clearly these legal documents showed that we were being illegally censored by the cable company.

Realizing I had no chance to convince the cable company on my own, I decided to seek help from Rockford United Labor (RUL), the local AFL-CIO chapter. I am a delegate to RUL from my IBEW local. They said they would help by contacting local politicians and even by filing a lawsuit if necessary.

In the meantime I had discovered a misplaced note sheet that a cable company employee had mistakenly left in the last program tape case I sent in that aired. The show derogatorily described scenes from the program and the elapsed time in the program which each scene took place. The word "BAD" in

*By march @ Tiger stadium / HUE March
more like a parade than a march
BAD songs about the unions
What's wrong with this guy? 20:36:00*

all capital letters and underlined appeared next to one scene's description. Other comments described protesters as "rabble rousers." Still another questioned the tactics unionists used to

*National march in Detroit
Pro strikers - rabble rousing*

shame business leaders ("wanted poster"). Now we had evidence that the cable company disliked running our

*Scabs? anti-Scab signs
Wanted posters for business leaders?*

program altogether and that they were reviewing our tapes for content, which in itself is illegal.

After convincing some local politicians to contact the cable company on our behalf, the cable company finally responded with the actual reason why they would not run our programs. The branch manager said point blank that they only ran not-for-profit group's programming and that we were labor unions so they were not required to run our stuff. We informed her that every group on our side that had anything to do with the program from RUL, to the unions, to Labor Beat was indeed not-for-profit. They told us that we were not really not-for-profit because we, "collected dues." Every not-for-profit including churches collect dues.

Another thing they said was that the public access

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Rockford *Continued from p. 2*

channel was not really a public access channel but a "local issues" channel. We began to feel their resistance as well as their reasoning was wearing thin.

We put together legal reasons why we felt the cable company was violating our right to public access with the intent of going to the City Council. First we decided to see the Rockford City Legal Department.

We arranged a meeting with a city attorney and presented him this argument:

The Argument

The reason we have come here on behalf of the taxpayers, voters, and citizens of Rockford, Illinois is to ask your assistance as the legal Grantor of the franchise agreement for our city's community cable television system, to utilize this system to cablecast regularly scheduled Public Access programming.

On a number of occasions we have attempted to have half-hour pre-recorded tapes shown on our community cable system. At first, after much unnecessary and deliberate delay by the Insight Communications Cable corporation, we were successful over a five month period in having two pre-recorded programs shown. Since then we as citizens have been informed by the highest executives of Insight [the cable company], that we would no longer be able to run Public Access programming because of our affiliation to a workers' organization and because of the labor union content of the pre-recorded tapes which we submitted.

As you are well aware, the streets of Rockford are public property, managed by our local government. The poles on the side of the streets are also managed by our local government. These "rights-of-way" and "pole attachments" are leased to Insight Communications and other for-profit companies. In other words, our public property is used for the corporation's private gain.

To offset this financial relationship, aside from charging the cable companies and other utilities franchise fees, many local governments have implemented a community access program.

Access is usually divided into three categories; Public, Educational and Governmental commonly referred to as "PEG" access. Our franchise agreement with the cable company does not specifically spell out a PEG program, but as part of sections 11 and 12 does call for the Council to be allowed to control the programming on two stations with the reserved right to control a third. The two stations currently under Council control are utilized for Educational and Governmental use.

Although not spelled out specifically in our franchise agreement with Insight, the cable corporation has implemented a PEG program. A copy of their own rules for PEG access which I received from Insight, are titled "Insight Communications of Rockford/Park Public, Educational and Governmental Access Rules / Standard Form PEG Access Rules". Also, in body of their rules in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 out of seven total sections of the agreement there are numerous references to "Public Access" and "Access". Lastly, on the application question 5 asks which "Type of access" is the applicant applying for, then has boxes to check labeled in order, "Public," "Educational," and "Governmental". So in fact they do currently have a PEG program in place.

PEG programs are subject to certain federal guidelines established by the legislative branch of the federal government and by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Federal Communications Act, Section 611 (e) says that, "... a cable operator shall not exercise any editorial control over any public, educational, or governmental use of channel capacity provided pursuant to this section, except a cable operator may refuse to transmit any public access program or portion of a public access program which contains obscenity, indecency, or nudity." This statute has been challenged and upheld in court many times.

Recently the part of the Communications Act which allows the cable company to refuse to cablecast obscenity, indecency, nudity, was held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Therefore Insight's refusal to allow us to cablecast labor programming in our community is both illegal and a constitutional violation of our rights.

The pre-recorded programming produced by Labor Beat in Chicago, Illinois which we have attempted to air is far from being indecent or obscene. Labor Beat has been cablecast on Chicago's community cable system where it has been a regular series since 1987 and is the cable-TV public access series for and about working people and their labor unions.

According to the national organization, the Alliance For Community Media, "Labor Beat is the best known labor TV series on public access in the country." They have received such awards as ACM's First Prize, Hometown USA and the programming regularly airs in St. Louis and well as other U.S. cities.

A Labor Beat documentary which Insight did cablecast has appeared on the Chicago PBS affiliate WTTW channel 11 and has also appeared in numerous international labor video festivals. Labor Beat is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and is affiliated with IBEW Local 1220.

As citizens of Rockford, we urge you as the franchise Grantor and legal governing body, and as our democratically elected representatives to exercise your authority to our community's right to the third reserved station spelled out in our franchise agreement with the cable corporation, or to simply require the cable corporation to begin to allow citizens their right to Public Access on one of the other two channels reserved for our community's access without illegally interfering by editorializing as we feel they have done, obviously by their own admission.

We also urge you to take action with expediency as the cable corporation has used delay tactics in the past to thwart the exercising of our legal rights.

The Rockford City Legal Department agreed with our plea and put pressure on the cable company to relent.

Finally, after overcoming much resistance from the corporate cable television provider, we managed to preserve and regain our right to utilize our community's public access channel.

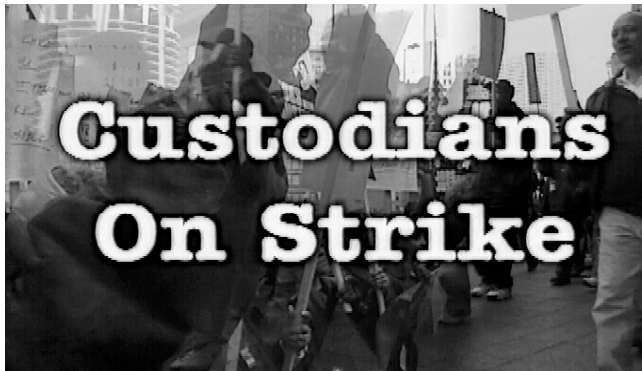
After a year-long struggle the legal right of workers to utilize our community's Public Access channel has been reinstated. The Labor Beat program will be cablecast the second and fourth Tuesday of every month on Rockford's cable channel 17, at 8:30 PM. ♦

— Charles Laskonis, laskonis@xta.com

[As we go to press: The battle with the cable company over the right for labor programming remerged when the author submitted the very show that the city attorney reviewed before making his decision in favor of the unions. (It was a presentation of 'working tv's' The Road to Seattle.) The cable company blocked it's getting on, claiming that protesters who were peppergassed in their faces by police were using bad language! Obviously, this censorship is being fought.]

It may be a first... Custodian union strikes *and* covers it on its live cable-tv show on the same day

by Ed M. Koziarski, CAN TV communications coordinator,
reprinted from *CAN TV Connection*



Scene from "SEIU Says"

CHICAGO — On June 7th Chicago Public School custodians went on strike. The custodians, members of Service Employees International Union Local 46, say they've seen their wages and benefits erode since contractor Ashley Cleaning Services won the low-bid contract for school cleaning services on the far North and South sides of the city.

SEIU members picketed outside Mather and CVS high schools and held a rally at Daley Plaza, demanding full health care benefits for their families and a reinstatement of lost wages. As the strike unfolded SEIU took its case to Chicagoans on CAN TV.

For four hours that day, SEIU representatives hosted the live call-in show "SEIU Says". Union reps explained the difficulty that workers experience living without family health coverage on low wages. Throughout the day, viewers called in to learn more about the strike.

"Doing the show is one of the best ways to get out our ideas about what's happening on the streets," host Wayne Heimbach says. "It's important for our members that the people of Chicago knew why we were on strike. CAN TV gave us the opportunity to make that happen."

An SEIU video crew covered all three events, talking with union leaders and rank-and-file members about the union's grievances and objectives. The crew rushed the tapes back to the CAN TV facility, where they were rapidly edited and played between segments of the call-in show.

"SEIU Says" lets us communicate more effectively with our members, and engage the general public in discussions of these critical issues," says Ricardo Loza, assistant to the president of Local 46.

"CAN TV is one of the only media outlets the labor community can use to reach the public with issues of importance to working men and women of this city," Loza continues. "At CAN TV we find an opportunity to represent ourselves, an opportunity that is not available anywhere else."

"SEIU Says" runs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on cable channel CAN TV21 in Chicago. ♦

Letter from AFL-CIO Opposing Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act (HR 3439):

April 11, 2000

Dear Representative:

This week Congress will take up H.R. 3439, The Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act. The AFL-CIO opposes this bill and urges members to vote against it when it comes to the floor. This bill is effectively an effort to preserve and increase the control of the public airwaves by a handful of private companies. The bill effectively blocks the Federal Communications Commission from issuing low power radio licenses. These licenses are essential to ensuring that there remains a diversity of programming and voices in a time of deregulated radio markets.

Low power radio stations have limited broadcast areas and are relatively inexpensive to own and operate. Community groups and non-profit groups, including unions, religious organizations, community-based groups, which do not have the resources to operate a full-strength broadcast station, can contribute to the diversity of the airwaves through low power radio.

It is particularly important to give community groups access to low power radio stations in the aftermath of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. That Act removes restrictions on a single entity owning multiple radio stations in one market and has led to a dramatic concentration of ownership of radio stations in the hands of a few large companies.

The Federal Communications Commission has engaged in an extensive process designed to ensure that low power licenses do not interfere with existing radio stations' broadcasts and are granted to a broad range of individuals and organizations. H.R. 3439 is an effort on the part of a narrow special interest to deny the public the use of the airwaves that are rightfully the public's property. We urge you to vote against H.R. 3439.

Sincerely,
Peggy Taylor, Director
Department of Legislation



Support Labor Media — Scene from Connecticut's labor tv series, "First Tuesday".

LaborTECH 2000 *Continued from p. 1*

agents of the police and Federal government invaded the Independent Media Center and disrupted telephone satellite communications. Meanwhile, the consolidation of the media world goes on.

LaborTECH 2000 is not the kind of conference which will give answers to all the issues facing us. But we are the type of conference that encourages discussions and new ideas. LaborTECH 2000 is the type of conference where people who work in one medium can learn from those who work in other ways. LaborTECH 2000 is the conference to go to get hands-on knowledge about web design, building a cable TV program or learning how to collectively produce a radio show.

We encourage the participation of any person who is interested in getting the word out about working people, our culture, issues goals and struggles. We urge writers, producers, web site aficionados, movie makers, rank and file activists, and good leaflet writers to come and share their knowledge.

For more information please contact Frank Emspak or Sam Amacher at The School for Workers, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703. You can call 608-262-2111 or e-mail us at emspakf@workers.uwex.edu. ♦

NAB Protest in September *Continued from p. 8*

- Engineering the give away of billions of public dollars by handing over the digital TV spectrum to the corporate media.
- Fighting tooth-and-nail against grassroots media efforts like low-power radio that would bring hundreds of new voices and perspectives to the airwaves.

See you in San Francisco! Bring your microradio transmitters, your dancing shoes, and your militant nonviolent attitude. Join Media Alliance, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, Project Censored, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Micropower Radio Coalition, Global Exchange, DirectAction Network, Prometheus Radio Project, and many other organizations in protest! DON'T MOURN THE MEDIA MONOPOLY — ORGANIZE!

Contact: Media Alliance: www.mediademocracynow.org • ma@igc.org, / 814 Mission St., Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 546-6334. ♦

Plans are being made to mobilize trade unionists and their locals against the national conference of the National Association of Broadcasters. If you local is interested in getting a speaker please let us know. The convention which will be held in San Francisco between September 20-23 will include all the media moguls and their hangers on. Most of these member organizations have been followed and taken on.

This is an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the action of the NAB to censor and control the news as well as fighting the growth of Micro-radio. The NAB in alliance with the NPR is now working to "reform" the housing planning crisis by setting low rent spaces for non-profit groups.

A.T.U. Sponsors New York Labor Cable Program: 155 Shows and Counting

by Stewart Ransom

I produce the "726 Express", which airs every Wednesday at 8:30pm on Channel 57, Staten Island Cable TV in New York City. We have just completed our 155th Half-hour episode and have been on the air for eight years.

One of our most successful episodes dealt with our attempts to reduce the Express bus fares from \$4.00 to \$3.00. It took almost 2 years and about 20 different shows to make our case, but in March of 1998 we were finally successful. As a result of the fare reduction, bus ridership has grown from a daily ridership of 16,000 passengers a day to 38,000 passengers every day.

We have seen a growth in new members on the job of approx. 200 new drivers since March 1998. We had 700 in 1998 and now have 900. We interviewed passengers and local politicians for some shows and went live in the studio to take calls over the phone for 3 shows.

"726 Express" has won numerous awards, which are called NOVAS, from our public access station, and also from the International Labor Communications Association- AFL/CIO.

The show is sponsored by the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 726 (718-698-7700).

To contact the producer of "726 Express" (Stewart Ransom), call 718-761-6681, or e-mail: smransom@mindspring.com ♦

Labor Streaming, Tool for Labor *Continued from p. 2*

As more in labor get DSL or digital cable, the audience will certainly grow on a global level. Unions facing big confrontations with global corporations have a useful tool to not only portray the issues in their struggle but to reach workers a round the world who work for the same multinational. They also have the ability to do voice-overs in various languages.

Labor cultural events are now coming on-line. The recent AFL-CIO national Great Labor Sing Out streamed its main concert and the San Francisco LaborFest screened a performance by actor Ian Ruskin of Harry Bridges and writer Tillie Olsen. It reached longshoremen in Oregon and people in London and Singapore.

Also, it is possible to have a chat or interactive discussion on while the streaming is taking place. This can provide an opportunity for instant feedback.

In the future, labor rallies, demonstrations and actions will be able to be streamed live and publicized internationally. Joint actions with workers around the world working for the same multinational can be broadcast simultaneously.

This power of these tools have yet to be fully utilized by labor but their growing value will soon be felt. ♦

— lvpsf@igc.org

Call for entries

The 4th Seoul International Labor Film Festival November 16–19, 2000

Hosted by Labor News Production and sponsored by Korean Film Commission (KBC) and Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), the 4th Seoul International Labor Video and Film Festival will be held during November 16 and 19th, 2000.

The main issues of this year's non-competitive festival will be devoted to the international struggle against globalization, labor media, women workers, and international labor solidarity. Besides these issues, any video or film on workers' lives and struggles will be screened in the festival.

For further information, please contact Myoung Joon Kim at LNP89@chollian.net, or fax : +82-2-882-9611 / phone: +82-11-270-7150 (Demonstration tapes must be sent to 903, Sejong Officetel. 865-2, Bongchun 4 dong, Kwanak-gu, Seoul, Korea)

Further information on the festival

During the LaborMedia 97 conference, with the financial support from Crocevia and Videazimut, several hundred labor communication activists gathered and discussed the urgent issues raised by international labor communication. The conference and the festival, which happened simultaneously, caused huge on-going discussion and activities throughout the world and was considered by many labor activists as one of the most important event occurring in the international labor movement during the past decade. (You can still get access to the document materials from LaborMedia 97, 99 web site: <http://lmedia.nodong.net>)

This year, Labor News Production, which was one of the organizers of LaborMedia 97 and LaborMedia 99 (<http://lmedia.nodong.net>) will hold the Fourth Seoul International Labor Film and Video Festival with the support from KFC and KCTU. The festival will be composed of two different sections.

Screening

About 30 programs on the international labor movement will be screened during the festival. The Festivals always have the following two major sections which are: the section on the landscape of the international labor video and films, and the section on labor video made by rank-and-file Korean labor video activists.

Seminars

The issues and subjects of the seminars will focus on the use of video as an empowering tool by the rank and file workers. This special program will be a timely opportunity to discuss the possibility of using the technological progress for the labor video activism and sharing the tactics and strategies, trials and errors of labor video activists. Korean rank and file workers will be a strong presence, but at the same time the global solidarity will be another important issue of this seminar. ♦

From India: *Lifting The Veil*

Directed by Shonali Bose

"Lifting The Veil" is a powerful documentary film made in the context of fifty years of Indian Independence and the new globalized world order. It poses the questions: what problems are being solved in this "new" India? Whose aspirations are being fulfilled? Do those most affected by the decisions have a say in them? Who benefits, and at whose cost? And in the final analysis to whom do the country's resources belong?

In search of these answers, U.S.-based film maker Shonali Bose interviewed a cross-section of Indian society — from workers, tribals, schoolteachers, shopkeepers, housewives, to the most influential and wealthy political and economic elite of the country.

The film has had numerous international screenings which have led to enthusiastic and, at times, heated discussions on one of the most relevant subjects of today.

Shonali Bose grew up in India, and after receiving B.A. from Delhi University, went to Columbia University for her M.A. in Political Science. She is a graduate from the Master in Fine Arts in Film Directing from the UCLA Film School. Her earlier short film, "Undocumented", about the dehumanizing treatment of immigrants in the United States, was screened in film festivals in Europe and on PBS in the U.S. Her latest film, "Lifting the Veil", won the Best Documentary Film Award at UCLA.

For more information, kindly contact: Shekhar Krishnan, Indian People's Media Collective (ipmc@rediffmail.com), 10, Laxmi Nivas, 2nd Floor, 697, Katrak Road, Wadala, Bombay 13, India

Indian People's Media Collective

The IPMC is an organization of students, activists and media practitioners in Mumbai, India working towards returning the media to the people.

Today, the so-called mass media communicates a message alien to the lives of the majority of people, imposing upon and distorting their experience, rather than affirming it. The television, film, and electronic media, fashioned in the self-image of a small ruling class, represents the aspirations of the people as identical with those of their exploiters.

Despite the public celebration of India's potential in information and software production, and the massive investments in these industries, the recent boom in media and information technologies has become, like police and state violence, nuclear jingoism and neoliberal economics, yet another apparatus of elite domination.

The IPMC recognizes that the proliferation of new media technologies has opened new public spaces, a terrain which has been hegemonised by the elites and their programs of repression, profit-making and ideological obfuscation. This media, however, can regain its mandate as an instrument of communication and transformation of the lives, ideas and aspirations of the majority of the people. It can become a medium through which people tell their own stories, rather than having their stories told for them. We are committed to evolving an alternative discourse and democratic media practice which does not rely upon, nor is controlled by, a particular class or group, but is truly a mass medium.

We believe that the only medium which should be called a 'mass medium' is one which belongs to the masses and reflects their aspirations. ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.mtn.org/les/

An Invitation to Direct Action, Sept. 20-23: Confront the Corporate Media in the Streets of San Francisco

Join us in protesting the National Association of Broadcasters convention September 20-23, 2000. Help make history when media activists from all over North America converge on the National Association of Broadcasters' radio convention.

From Seattle and D.C. to Philadelphia and Los Angeles, people are mobilizing for social justice. Mark your calendars for the next historic confrontation — four days in San Francisco beginning September 20.

The National Association of Broadcasters is the WTO of the broadcasting industry. It spends millions of dollars every year lobbying to keep the airwaves out of the hands of the

public. We can thank the NAB and the media giants that it represents for:

- Putting out the trash that we call commercial radio and TV.
- Stereotyping youth, people of color, and working class people.
- Censoring and misrepresenting the issues that we care about—from homelessness and immigrant rights to the environment and labor.
- Pushing for legislation like the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which legalized media monopolies, creating The Gap and Starbucks of the airwaves.

Continued on p. 5

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

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

Fill out the following form, and mail to address below:

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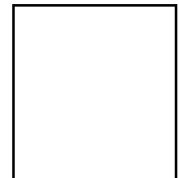
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UPPNET News

Official Publication of the Union Producers and Programmers Network

Fall 2000

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

Trade Unionist Target N.A.B. Union Busting, Censorship

By Steve Zeltzer, UPPNET Board Member

Over a thousand union and activists rallied in San Francisco to protest the censorship, monopolization and union busting by the National Association of Broadcasters. One of the clearest of what the monopolization of the media means is in the struggle against the Bridgestone-Firestone corporation.

In 1996, thousands of Bridgestone/Firestone workers had hit the bricks against an effort by the corporation to cut benefits, expand contracting out and force rotating 12 hour shifts.

In an effort to bust the union, Bridgestone/Firestone brought in thousands of scabs into their plants to keep the operation going.

With untrained scabs and managers doing the work, the quality and integrity of the tires rapidly deteriorated. The United Rubber Workers which merged into the United Steel workers of America began a national publicity campaign to warn the public about the dangers of these tires and especially the tires produced at the Decatur, Illinois plant.

Despite the efforts of the union and the strike supporters, the message did not get out in the mainstream media.

The reason for this is clear, the same multi-nationals that run the media industry are not interested in exposing their fellow bosses. As a result of this criminal cover-up by not only Bridgestone-Firestone and the corporate controlled media, thousands of people have been killed and injured in these faulty tires.

Continued on p. 2



March against National Association of Broadcasters, which met in San Francisco in September, 2000.

Photo: Don Maddux

Countdown to LaborTECH 2000 Building New Global Unionism Through Labor Media

Dec. 1-3, 2000, Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison

Labor Tech 2000 is a conference designed to introduce you to others who are using many types of new technologies and the media to build our movement.

- Jim Catterson, Communications Director of the International Federation of Chemical Energy, Mine and General Workers Union will join us.
- Communications Directors from many unions will be at LaborTECH.

- Trade union representatives from Korea and England active in the fight against the WTO and for decent working conditions world wide will be at LaborTECH.

- The Minnesota AFL-CIO has joined the list of sponsors.
- Experts in the use of the internet to educate, mobilize and organize will be at LaborTECH 2000.

We encourage participation of any person who is interested in getting the word out about working people, our culture, issues, goals and struggles. We urge your organization to send people interested in any facet of media outreach.

Our goal is to bring new ideas about how to use current communication technologies and techniques to build our union movement.

LaborTECH 2000 is organized so we can share the media experiences of Seattle and Washington.

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The Pyle Conference Center will be the location of LaborTECH 2000 — state-of-the-art facilities, overlooking scenic Lake Mendota on U. of Wis. campus.

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N.A.B. Protest *Continued from p. 1*

Advertisers control of the news and information sector is becoming a flagrant example of corporate tv. Information about genetic technology in our food, corporate crime, flagrant violation of democratic rights and union busting and other issues rarely see the light of day. In fact the massive police attack on demonstrators in Philadelphia and Los Angeles during the Republican and Democratic conventions were virtually ignored. The same was the case in Washington during the meetings of the IMF & World Bank. Through a national network of police and FBI/CIA intelligence, peaceful activists were targeted and arrested. Some were beaten and face years in jail.

This was also the case in the most recent protests in Prague. Protesters who had not even been arrested in Seattle were stopped at the Czech border and were prevented from going into the country. According to reports the FBI was ensconced in Prague giving lists to the police of who should not be allowed into the country.

Why does this matter to labor? Think about what happens where US trade unionists try to reach their brothers and sisters in other countries and are prevented from meeting them because the FBI controlled by US bosses don't want them linking up to fight these multi-nationals. The defense of democratic rights is not an idle question.

On September 20-23 of this year trade unionists and media activist joined together against the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) to voice their anger at the monopolization, censorship and union busting by Disney, Time-Warner, Fox, NBC-MS and the other robber barons who run the media industry.

The Union Producers and Programmers Network and the Labor Video Project in San Francisco helped publicize and build the protests and demonstration of over 1,000 people.

The protest also gained the support of organized labor. The San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo and South Bay Labor Councils all endorsed the demonstrations. [See resolution on page 5.]

One thousand trade union and other activists marched down Market Street in San Francisco to Union Square.

Louie Rocha, President of CWA Local 4150 of San Jose spoke at the rally on the efforts of the CWA to defend micro-radio and against the censorship by these media monopolies.

There were unionists attending the rally from the ILWU, Bakers and Confectionary Workers, the Nation Writers Union/UAW, the Sign and Display Workers Union Local 510, SEIU 790 and the Coalition of University Employees among others.

This was preceded by a well attended labor forum titled "The NAB, Union Busting Censorship & Labor". Over 100 trade unionists and media activists heard media critic Norman Solomon, Janine Jackson, host of the national radio show Counter Punch and also co-host of New York's Labor At The Crossroads (Labor X), Bill Fiore, producer of the community access show Bay Area Labor News and an official with IFPTE Local 21. The forum was held at the Letter Carriers Hall. Letter Carriers Local 214 itself sponsors a labor show called "TV214" hosted by UPPNET board member Carl Bryant.

The effort to expose the antics of these corporate liars and propagandists was not welcomed by the NAB bosses. Credentialed independent media activist were literally thrown out of the convention. The reporter for the San Francisco Bay Guardian Stephen Rhodes was also ejected without cause by the San Francisco police.

Media Alliance and other bay area media activists including the Labor Video Project also helped to put together an independent media web site with pictures, stories, audio and video. The web site located at www.indybay.org has interviews of trade unionists at the rally as well as pictures.

A demonstration was also held at the headquarters of Clear Channel Communications. The mega radio monopoly controls numerous radio stations in the United States and, under the Democratic-Republican deregulation bill in 1996, they have destroyed many local community radio stations.

A thug from the company, without provocation, physically assaulted some of the protesters while the San Francisco police looked on. The police, instead of arresting the Media One thug, arrested the protesters.

When three lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild went to the Hall of Injustice to see those arrested they themselves were arrested by police.

This flagrant violation of democratic rights is not an accident or a misstep. The growing anger by working people at the monopoly control of the media was not only directed at the corporate titans but National Public Radio.

At the convention, Democratic Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon spoke at a NAB Breakfast. Wyden said he was concerned about micro-radio because the NPR stations in Oregon had complained to him that their signals in the rural areas would be effected by micro radio stations.

When this reporter asked him for any specific instances of radio interference in rural areas he could not name one. He also said his only concern about the monopolization of the media was that Murdock was getting the "cream" of deregulation unfairly. Murdock, according to Wyden, should not get more benefits of deregulation than the other media monopolies were getting.

Activists also went to the National Board meeting of NPR being held at the same time in San Francisco to demand that they drop their support of the NAB bill in Congress that would likely mean the elimination of micro-radio.

This protest was an important first step in alerting the bay area labor movement about the threat to democracy and our communication rights. There are plans to also form a Bay Area Labor Media Committee that would help train workers to set up community access tv shows, do micro radio and develop a regular ongoing labor media presence.

This effort has just begun. ♦



NAB suits. They want to decide what you should know.

Freedom of Press Is Great, If You Happen To Own a Press

Ken Carl, *Prometheus Radio Project*



So much for the liberal media conspiracy. Most of us aren't aware of the FACT that nearly all media outlets in the US are owned by a handful of mega-corporations. As I write this, the Philadelphia teacher's union is poised to strike, and negotiations with the city aren't looking good. Meanwhile, one of our local conservative pundits is busy raising millions

of dollars to support the city's position denying teacher equitable compensation and smaller class sizes. Much of this anti-union money is for media consultants who, like lobbyists, are paid to build relationships with corporate media. Corporate media whose SOLE motive for broadcasting is advertising revenue. Corporate media whose only interest in local community is making themselves look friendly and caring.

Community organizations spend precious time and resources also working this corporate media for pitiful seconds of airtime. On airwaves that legally belong to the public. Union organizations, civil rights campaigns, educational initiatives, community concerns, and local leaders and organizations ought to have just as much access to the airwaves as corporate behemoths.

From its early days, there is a rich history of community broadcasting, especially radio, including its use to support labor organizing. Labor movements from Western Europe to Central America have utilized community radio to build solidarity. For years however, the AM/FM radio airwaves have been accessible only to those who had gobs of thousands of dollars to shell out. With the exception of a few community and college stations, the great majority are owned by those few conglomerates. And trust me, when you own well over one thousand radio stations, putting money towards community access does not increase your profit margin.

In 1996 Congress gave away use of the public airwaves to corporate broadcasters in exchange for an agreement to serve the "public interest." Their promise to "serve the public interest, convenience and necessity" rings hollow when public affairs shows and public service announcements air only at 4:00am. Did you know that by the time a child turns 18, she or he will have seen 40,000 murders and 200,000 violent acts on TV? This is not in the public interest.

Instead of shallow network cartoons with endless product tie-ins and boatloads of commercials aimed directly at kids, imagine a community produced kids radio show with songs and games and call-in quizzes. Imagine entertaining and educational programming that celebrates kids in your community and encourages them to make a difference locally. Now imagine a kid you know participating in creating that show.

Instead of Wall Street Week or Marketplace, imagine tuning in to Labor Movement Weekly where the issues of union leaders and rank-and-file members are explored. Imagine informative programming that celebrates strong union solidarity instead of vilifying it by inferring it hurts quarterly profits. Now imagine your local helping to produce that show.

After years of public comment and engineering studies, the combined pressure from media reformers and direct action activists prevailed to win a partial victory. In January 2000 the

Federal Communications Commission voted to create new low-power FM (LPFM) radio service. The new rules allow small non-profit groups, libraries, churches and community organizations to apply for licenses to operate simple, inexpensive local radio stations.

Individuals cannot apply for licenses, but any group can apply, from a local health organization to the Rotary Club. The equipment costs of these stations can be as low as a few thousand dollars. Funding is available and accessible from local business, local community foundations and other sources. Hopefully thousands of non-commercial micro radio licenses will be given out across the country over the next year.

The Prometheus Radio Project is a not-for-profit anti-corporate organization dedicated to the democratization of the airwaves through the proliferation of non-commercial community-based, micropower radio stations. It is our belief that access to communications for all citizens is at the heart of a democratic society. Prometheus was created by media activists to engage in grassroots organizing promoting, encouraging and assisting local community media work.

We serve as a microradio resource center offering technical, legal and organizational support for non-commercial community broadcasters. We offer technical services including building a plan to apply for a LPFM license. We sponsor and produce educational workshops, tours, events and literature on microradio and democratic media issues. In fact, right now, we're putting together educational tours of the US, and would like to come to your town! Frequencies for these new LPFM stations will not be available everywhere.

Where they are available, the Prometheus Radio Project is working to find activists and community groups with interest in building community media access through community radio stations.

Radio is a remarkable medium that is cheap to produce. It is easy to put together programs more informative and entertaining than those of the "pros" with MBAs and high tech equipment. Kids love to produce it and love to listen to it, creating great opportunities for youth-adult partnership in your community. It can serve as a great training ground for youth to learn to speak publicly, to be comfortable with computers and equipment, to fix things, raise money and plan ambitious projects. Everyone in your community has something to contribute, whether its someone offering a weekly reading of captivating fiction classics, history or folklore; someone with a giant collection of the music of Lower Serbia, or someone who can explain the news behind the headlines and soundbites as it relates to your community.

We would like to talk to you about your interest in community radio, and possibly link you up with other folks in your area who may already be involved. Our assistance is free, and we will walk you through the process of putting the station on the air from your first application to your first program. Right now folks across the country are building local coalitions to apply for LPFM licenses. Get in touch with us to find out how real and do-able community radio is. There will be just one five-day window of opportunity to apply for a low-power FM license in your town sometime in the coming months. If you have interest in a community media project, or in taking the airwaves back for your community—the time is now! ♦

Prometheus Radio Project, PO Box 30942, Philadelphia, PA 19104 • 215-476-2385 • www.prometheus.tao.ca • prp@tao.ca

Shoot the Messenger

ACLU lawsuit: LAPD targeted reporters

Police targeted both independent and mainstream media reporters covering protests at Democratic Party Convention, a disturbing trend in the state's repression of its critics.

By John Seeley, *L.A. Weekly*, August 25-31, 2000

One federal lawsuit was filed Monday, and more may follow, charging that police interfered with the media covering convention-week protests. The ACLU sued on behalf of five plaintiffs who say that the LAPD targeted reporters and photographers covering a post-concert fracas August 14 outside Staples Center.

The complaint, says ACLU attorney Michael Small, focuses only on incidents in which the LAPD "deliberately targeted members of the media, clubbing and shooting them." The complaint does not include encounters where journalists may have been accidentally hit in a crowd.

"This was a critical test to see whether a discredited police department could discharge its duties without violating individuals' civil rights," Small said. "The department failed...and then turned on those who were documenting that failure." The complaint, which seeks damages for physical and emotional distress, also aims to require the LAPD to institute new policies protecting demonstration coverage.

Other media organizations, including the Associated Press, the Houston Chronicle and the Hearst Newspapers, are not part of the lawsuit but plan to write letters protesting the abuse their employees faced.

LAPD spokesman David Kalish said complaints about the police breaking up the crowd after the concert by Rage Against the Machine are without merit. "It would be ludicrous to imagine the LAPD would target members of the media. However, during the incident following the rock concert, it may be possible that media who were in the group were inconvenienced."

Plaintiffs include consumer advocate David Horowitz, photographer Al Crespo, and three freelancers working with network news crews. Several other assaulted journalists are consulting with their employers and unions before deciding whether to join the ACLU suit, take separate action or drop the matter.

Horowitz wandered into trouble en route from Staples Center to a parking lot, carrying a video camera and audio gear after a day of interviewing delegates. It was his bad luck to arrive at Olympic and Figueroa just as protesters and concertgoers were trying to leave the intersection and police decided to forcefully break up the crowd. As mounted officers moved in, said Horowitz, he ran to what he thought was a safe spot and pulled out a small digital video camera to record the action.

As Horowitz recounts events on his www.fightback.com Web site, though his press pass was clearly visible, an officer "came at me with a baton, and shouted, 'Move! Move, or else!' I turned, and another officer swung at me with his baton, while the second officer knocked me down and kicked the camera out of my hand. I shouted, 'I'm press, I'm press! Please stop!' Then a third officer kicked my briefcase into a nearby wall as rubber-bullet shots crackled like firecrackers around me."



Photo: supermedia

Police riot outside Staples Center during D2KLA.

It was almost three hours before Horowitz was readmitted to the area to recover the briefcase. While his day's notes were still inside, his 35mm camera and the shot roll of film it contained were missing. Horowitz, who describes his long relationship with the LAPD as excellent, found its Monday-night actions a shock: "The police attacked the crowd with such ferocity that it reminded me of disturbances I covered in war-time Saigon, where demonstrators were shot by overzealous police trying to control the crowd and their public image," he wrote.

Miami TV-commercial producer Al Crespo came to L.A. to get shots for a photojournalism project on protests. Monday night he got at least three shots—rubber bullets to the shoulder, ankle and temple fired at close range, seconds after he snapped pictures of an officer firing at individuals on a roof where a radio team had been broadcasting. "There's clear time on both sides to recognize who we are, who the police are and who the press is. And you know, we are supposed to have a white flag," Crespo said. "I was in Kosovo last year, you know, and I didn't get shot there. I got shot in Los Angeles." According to the ACLU complaint, the nearest protesters were 20 feet away from Crespo when he was fired upon.

Audio engineer Greg Rothschild and cameraman Kevin Graf, working freelance Monday for an ABC news crew, were walking backward up Olympic while recording police activity. Suddenly, says the complaint, officers started shooting at the crew, striking Rothschild six times and Graf in 10 places, including twice in the head.

At about the same time, cameraman Jeffrey Kleinman was filming events in the Figueroa-Olympic intersection for NBC from atop a short ladder. After a volley of rubber bullets was fired toward the crowd, one officer in riot gear, the suit asserts, kicked the ladder, shouted "Move!" and hit Kleinman in the chest with a baton, knocking him to the ground.

"It was a really shocking and, I think, troubling display of excessive force by police," said ACLU spokesman Christopher Calhoun.

Other reporters incurred injuries during the protest coverage, but at this time are not part of any lawsuits. Houston Chronicle reporter Lisa Teachey said, "I wouldn't want to cover the cops in your city." A veteran of six years on the police beat, Teachey was trying to re-enter the Staples area as the 15 minutes for clearing the "illegal assembly" zone elapsed. She was told by officers inside the security fence that they couldn't open the gate until all protesters had left, but that her group of about 20 journalists and delegates should just crouch down and wait. However, while huddled in a corner, the group was rushed by mounted officers.

A horse collided with the group, knocking Teachey over a

Labor Action Resolution on NAB

Leading up to the protest actions in San Francisco against the National Association of Broadcasters on Sept. 20-23, the following "Labor Action Resolution on NAB" was endorsed by the San Francisco, San Mateo, and South Bay Central Labor Councils, the ILWU, SEIU LOCAL 535, NWU-UAW LOCAL 3, the San Francisco Bicycle Messengers Association, and Local 510 Sign and Display.

WHEREAS the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) will hold its convention for radio in San Francisco on September 20-23, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the NAB was founded in part to oppose the payment of copyright residuals to musical artists whose work was broadcast from their member stations; and

WHEREAS, the NAB is the lobbying arm of the owners and management of the commercial broadcast industry; and

WHEREAS, the NAB spends millions of dollars to influence Congress and their influence has:

- led to the the growing concentration of ownership of broadcast media into fewer hands; and
- undermined labor's access to the airwaves by lobbying against the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) legalization of micro-radio with the new Low Power FM (LPMF) service; and
- acted to weaken the public discourse on issues of concern to labor and citizens in general; and

WHEREAS, corporate broadcasters rarely examine the issues of importance to workers; and

WHEREAS, the US labor movement supports freedom of speech for all-not just the wealthy and powerful- and has demonstrated this with the AFL-CIO's support for LPMF ; and

Whereas the right to receive and impart information and ideas through any media is an internationally recognized human right (Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- this body calls for its members to join with other labor organizations, community groups, and concerned citizens to protest the privatization of the public airwaves and exercise our civil and human rights by participating in the non-violent protests against the NAB; and specifically:
- this body calls for all of its members to inform themselves about the NAB protests by contacting the Media Alliance in San Francisco [www.mediademocracynow.org]; and
- this body encourages and invites all union members affiliated with it to attend a forum on "The NAB, Union Busting, Censorship, & Labor" on Thursday, 9/21/00 at 7 pm at Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), 214 12th St., San Francisco: and
- this body calls for all labor union members affiliated with it to actively support and participate in the labor contingent of the NAB protest rally and march starting at UN Plaza, 4pm on Saturday September 23, and ending at Union Square. ♦

LAPD - Shoot the Messenger *Continued from p. 4*

cement barricade, cutting her knee deeply. A gain they pleaded to get inside the security fence, says Teachey, but only one—a crying Indiana delegate with a torn dress—was allowed through. Seeking help for her bleeding cut, Teachey was instead ordered to keep moving with the protesters. Six different officers refused her pleas for help in finding first aid, and she had to walk blocks to the south side of the secured area, being admitted only after the intervention of an elderly delegate. The cut became infected due to delay in cleaning it out, said Teachey, "so I'll have a nice little scar—it should be in the shape of an LAPD badge."

Judy Holland, a reporter for Hearst Newspapers' Washington bureau, said she was clubbed by an officer and knocked to the ground as she was trying to return from the convention to the Marriott Hotel. She had removed her press ID and DNC credentials at the suggestion of several officers at Staples who told her demonstrators might hurt her if she was wearing them. The Chronicle and Hearst have also sent written protests to the city over police conduct.

On Wednesday at a protest against police brutality, a Cable News Network sound technician sought medical attention after being struck in the chest by a police baton during a stand-off between police officers and protesters. A 62-year-old CBS-TV cameraman was hit in the chest and bleeding during the Wednesday encounter.

Still other reporters and photographers who mingled with the crowd leaving the protest/concert area were hit with rubber bullets fired by police.

Associated Press broadcast reporter Brian Bland and Flynn McRoberts of the Chicago Tribune were arrested Tuesday night while covering a bike-ride protest to "take back the streets" and "relieve traffic congestion and pollution." The two reporters were arrested with 35 protesters from the Critical Mass group while cycling through downtown streets with police escorts. They were held for more than seven hours before being released; other cyclists were held for more than 30 hours. The two reporters and the others were initially cited for "reckless driving" of a bicycle, but this charge was changed to "obstructing a public way," a misdemeanor, when prosecutors realized that the recklessness charge cannot apply to bicycles. McRoberts' rented bicycle is still being held by police as evidence. Bland's sound-recording equipment and bicycle were confiscated. The AP is protesting the arrest. LAPD Commander David Kalish said that the two reporters were arrested because they were doing the same things that the protesters were doing. Bland says he wasn't aware of anything illegal going on. Arraignments are scheduled for September 5.

Arresting and assaulting journalists during Democratic Convention week seems to be part of a growing trend during protests at large political events, said Lucy Dalglish of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "Police and prosecutors are arresting and charging journalists for doing their jobs at rates not seen in decades. There's no willingness to give reporters the benefit of the doubt anymore." ♦

For a new video on labor protests at the Democratic Party Convention, and attacks against independent labor media reporters, see "Behind The CHARADE/Workers Voices In D2K" on page 6.

two new labor videos

“Behind The CHARADE/ Workers Voices in D2K”

A New Video by The Labor Video Project

What was really going on in Los Angeles at the Democratic convention. The Labor Video Project has finished this important 40 minute video on why thousands of workers went to the Los Angeles and the LA Staples Convention Center and what they were demanding. Left out of the sanitized corporate media were the real voices of the working people and homeless who were in LA to demand justice. From the hotel workers to the SEIU and the AFT demonstrations were held daily at the convention center and throughout the city.

Dozens of workers speak about their struggle to survive and their fight for democratic unions and human rights. The video also exposes the attack by the Los Angeles Police Department on not only the thousands of demonstrators but dozens of journalists and videographers.

Two photographers of the Labor Video Project were shot and injured by batons and rubber bullets. Their footage takes you to the front lines. ♦

To Order Send \$30.00 Check or Money Order to: Labor Video Project, P.O. Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142 • (415)282-1908 • lvpsf@labornet.org

“Chicago Upsurge”

A New Video by Labor Beat

Chicago hasn't seen such demonstrations in the streets since the Viet-Nam anti-war movement. Now, in this key midwest city, there is a harbinger of a mass movement in the U. S. heartland growing over a broad range of working class issues. This new video by Labor Beat documents this upsurge of activism in a period of 4 days. If you didn't hear about it, it's not your fault, for even the Chicago Tribune buried it on page 3 of the metro section. This is something corporations don't want the rest of the country to know about.

Beginning with the 10,000-strong (police estimate) march for amnesty for undocumented workers on Sept. 23, the video then covers the all-day actions on Sept. 26 in the loop in solidarity with the Prague protests against the IMF. Organized by a coalition of labor union members including the UAW, UE, SEIU, USWA, UNITE, students, Direct Action Network, Jobs with Justice, and others, protests cover: Harris Bank Corp. against Titan International Corp.; Nike (where arrests take place); Chicago Board of Trade (IMF); at LaSalle Bank (ABN AMRO) against the Burmese junta; CitiCorp, the largest backer of IMF, United Airlines (against laundry sweatshops); and then to the Metropolitan Correctional Facility, to target police brutality and Sydexo-Marriott. ♦

To order video, send \$20 check made out to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. Info: laborbeat@fs.freepress.org
www.wva.com/~bgfolder/lb

from Portland, Oregon **Labor on the Line cable show**

Labor on the Line has had six programs over the last six months. Each program is aired six times on three channels covering most of Portland Oregon's metropolitan area. The focus is on issues of general interest to labor activists or potential activists.

There is a minimum of talking heads in favor of colorful actions. We've covered the WTO action with Labor Video Projects' "The Battle of Seattle", Steelworkers' actions in their struggles with Oregon Steel and Kaiser Aluminum, Teamsters leafletting Bi-Mart in support of their boycott to get a contract at the warehouse in Eugene, Or. and the historic two year struggle of Powells' booksellers to form a local of the ILWU with a decent contract.

We do enough interviewing to inform the viewer as to what the action is about, but most of the time is aimed at showing the actions as the colorful, interesting, fun and important activities that they are. ♦

Labor on The Line: 503/286-5850, c/o Dave King 8728 N. Edison St. Portland, OR 97203 • landd@igc.org

LaborTECH *Continued from p. 1*

Workshops and plenaries include:

- Developing cross border solidarity
- Using the internet and e-mail to organize and mobilize
- Protecting communications among activists from disruption
- Building community radio, cable and TV
- Increasing the access by working people to the media
- Hands on workshops in web design, radio and video techniques

We invite all those who wish to enhance the voice of working people through whatever medium.

For more information, contact UPPNET at (415) 282-1908 or Frank Emspak at the School For Workers (608) 262-0680 or emspakf@workers.uwex.edu ♦

Photo: Greg Boozell



Scene from "Chicago Upsurge" as 10,000 march for amnesty for undocumented workers.

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.mtn.org/les/

**UPPNET reports on protest against
National Association of Broadcasters
in San Francisco**



Photos: Don Maddux

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