



DECEMBER 22, NYC—Pacifica Campaign and Concerned Friends of WBAI, recognize the banned and fired staff of WBAI in celebration of the settlement of the lawsuits which changed the composition of the Pacifica Board. At Local 32B-J SEIU.

We won! The battle for WBAI & Pacifica radio

By Ken Nash, co-producer of Building Bridges

For years Pacifica management had been steering a radical radio network in a neo-liberal or, at times, apolitical direction. They were first halted at KPFA in San Francisco and defeated in January 2002 at the Pacifica Board Meeting in NYC after a year long battle for WBAI.

The Victory at WBAI in NYC and at Pacifica nationally was a victory by a listener rebellion joined by many producers. The battle was initiated at the Xmas Coup of 12/22/00 when Pacifica Dir. Bessie Wash took over WBAI, changed the locks and fired about 10 management, paid, and unpaid staffers. Anticipating action by Pacifica, they had already formed an organization called Concerned Friends of WBAI which immediately went into high gear.

With the station gone as a communications link for this opposition after imposition of the gag rule, the resistance relied on list-serves, mass rallies, picketlines, and endless meetings. The Pacifica Campaign, initiated by Juan Gonzalez, promoted a very successful listener funds boycott, corporate campaign tactics, as well as extending the fight to other Pacifica stations.

By Sept 2001 more than 24 producers had been fired and banned for their role in the resistance. The first on the growing list to be fired in 2001 was my partner Mimi

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Pacifica-style struggle hits the Midwest

by Judy Ancel, Heartland Labor Forum, Kansas City

KKFI-90.1FM in Kansas City has been broadcasting 100,000 watts of community programming since 1988. A dedicated band of radio activists worked for ten years to get KKFI on the air, winning the frequency from a defunct religious station. Their mission was to provide news that's not elsewhere reported, give voice to sectors of the community who are excluded from mainstream media, provide a forum for local artists, and broadcast music of many cultures.

One of those underserved sectors is, of course, labor and working people, and KKFI has been the home to The Heartland Labor Forum for almost thirteen years. We are a group of volunteers from area unions and unorganized workplaces who do a one-hour weekly show about the workplace, organizing, workers' rights and current labor

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UPPNET News in PDF format

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

UPPNET mourns sudden loss of Board member, labor videographer William Jenkins

By Larry Duncan, *Labor Beat* producer

At the Jan. 6 William Jenkins Commemoration filling U.E. Hall in Chicago, legendary Teamster activist Pete Camarata told the crowd how Jenkins used to reminisce about being a kid growing up in Chicago's public housing and going over to Black Panther meetings in the late 60s. Jenkins' exposure to the Black Panther as a child laid the basis for his growing up a revolutionary with a social consciousness.

Later, as an adult, Jenkins connected up with Teamsters for a Democratic Union, where he met Camarata. In 1996 *Labor Beat* got a grant for editing classes for promising video editors interested in covering labor, and we contacted TDU, asking them to recommend someone who was serious about learning editing. They gave us Jenkins.

Thus began Jenkins' relatively brief—but extraordinarily prolific and laudable—career as a labor documentarist. It was the round peg meeting the round hole. Jenkins already had his own modest VHS camera (which he played like a Stradivarius), and had, before he met us and went digital, always dreamed of making video documentary in a class struggle context. He had an energy that was mythological, and *Labor Beat* had an insatiable appetite for footage (at the pace of two new shows a month).

Jenkins went on shoots with us, picking up techniques and attitudes from Steve Dalber, Marty Conlisk, and myself. But it became apparent very quickly that, despite the greater experience of the older members, Jenkins was beginning to teach the teachers, in a very unassuming, polite way. Last summer we asked him to become our next *Labor Beat* Chairperson, and he reluctantly accepted. Jenkins was also brought onto the Board of Directors of UPPNET in 2000.

His output was astonishing and the spectrum of topics was wide: to West Virginia to cover USWA, the UPS strike, the homeless and the fight against closing public housing in Chicago, TDU conventions in Detroit, the NABET/ABC strike, the WTO protests, privatization battles at Univ. of Illinois-Chicago Hospital, the SAG/AFTRA strike, May Day marches, Gas Workers strike and community protest against gas prices, and the list goes on and on.

Above all else, he devoted his energies to covering the rank-and-file fight for democracy in the Teamsters. Jenkins felt vindicated when Carey was declared innocent in his perjury trial in late 2000, because Jenkins' probably most complex piece, "The Teamsters—Whose Union Is It?", criticized the IRB's removal of Carey without allowing him a fair trial. I remember assisting Jenkins on the shoot that was covering Carey's visit to the big UPS distribution center just south of Chicago's Loop. Jenkins found out where Carey would be speaking, found a small ladder and staked out his position. The crowds gathered, and when Carey (along with Sweeney and Trumka) showed up, Jenkins took the best footage of anyone because of his premium location. It was Carey's best speech during the whole UPS campaign. CNN and the net-



Photo: Greg Boozell

William Jenkins III — 1956-2001

Labor Beat Chairperson, UPPNET Board member

works ran that speech as lead footage that night, but none of them got the close up and the full view that Jenkins got. He knew where the center of the universe was going to be that day before everybody else. And when Leedham ran the first time in '98, we had CNN and PBS calling us asking if they could get our footage of Leedham, because no one (except us, thanks to Jenkins) had any shots of Hoffa's unknown challenger. Yes, Jenkins had journalism in his blood. He loved the pressure and the challenge of the hunt.

During the last half of 2001, Jenkins and our *Labor Beat* Board began to talk more and more about the need to move from primarily a cinema verité approach to more analytical, narrative pieces (like "Teamsters: Whose Union Is It?"). Jenkins was pushing for this change, and we agreed that it needed to happen.

He died suddenly on Oct. 30 while at his job as a hospital worker at Rush-Presbyterian Hospital. It was a stroke.

It was the last week of the election campaign for reform in IBT Local 743, his local, in which he was deeply involved. The 743 New Leadership Slate was stunned by the loss. Jenkins had also joined this last year ISO, and was heavily involved in their anti-war campaign and Charleston 5 defense campaign. *Labor Beat*, IBT 743 reform slate, ISO, TDU, UPPNET...all of us robbed of a great, rising star.

The day before the funeral on the South Side, which was attended by over 300 from all over the city—family, personal friends, activists—I got a call from the *Tribune's* obituary writer. They were doing two columns with a photo (the *Sun-Times* did three columns with a photo). The reporter asked me what made Jenkins so different to be so politically active with so many groups. I had to bite my tongue. I began to tell her that the real question should be why are so many people are not as active as Jenkins was. Yes, he was a revolutionary, but he was the normal one, the rational one. But then I stopped before I got more angry. I didn't want to annoy the *Tribune*, this one time.

What could Jenkins have accomplished given a full life? What documentaries about critical moments of labor history are lost? What students of labor video journalism would have been nurtured by his experience? Much is lost, but much was done. [Some of Jenkins' video work will be seen on the next *WorkWeek* show—see page 5.] ♦



Kansas City Radio Fight *Continued from p. 1*

issues. The show is coordinated through our local labor education program where I am employed.

Now, however, there's war at KKFI. The station has been hijacked by a group of outsiders who want to change its mission. They've dropped "community radio" from its ID and replaced it with "public", and are talking about replacing Pacifica with Associated Press news.

When asked at a meeting how he defined community radio, Jim Olenick, head of the Programming Committee and new board member, looked baffled. After a pause, he said, "Community radio means the community of programmers on the air" [!] What drives Olenick is Arbitron ratings and improved fundraising because that's what he knows. He's a consultant for Entercom Communications, the nation's fifth largest radio station owner. Entercom has 85 stations, eight in Kansas City.

A year and a half ago, the KKFI Board of Directors, desperate for an experienced station manager who could expand fundraising and work for a low salary, hired Robert Barrientos. He'd worked for the local NPR affiliate, professed dedication to the station's mission, and was charming. Barrientos, however, had another agenda, and when he saw that many were opposed, he staged an outside takeover of the Board in the April 2001 elections. The elections had a number of irregularities. He and his cronies then began purging programmers and volunteers who protested.

Just before the elections, Barrientos booted out Shabahang, a long-time Iranian show, ostensibly for violating FCC rules, but when the station grievance committee investigated, there were no grounds, and they unanimously recommended the show be reinstated. It hasn't been. Instead Barrientos got the grievance committee dissolved.

Besides them, he's axed two shows each serving the African American and Native American communities, world music, reggae, and a number of others. Meanwhile, the number of members, entitled to vote on policy and at the next board election has been cut almost in half from 45 to

24 through manipulation of volunteer hours and favoritism.

Last October, Barrientos was quoted in the Kansas City Star saying he was thinking of shutting down, firing all the programmers, and starting afresh. That's when a number of programmers and volunteers, including many from Heartland Labor Forum, formed Friends of Community Radio (FCR) to fight back. In December FCR had a press conference and demonstration and went to a board meeting to state their concerns.

The board never responded. Instead they called a member meeting attended by only twelve members who were allowed to vote during the Christmas holiday and rammed through a resolution defining membership in FCR as "hostile and threatening which is a violation of KKFI code of conduct and policy" They then began the purges. They purged Steve Peters, former board member and 12-year programmer of Foolkiller Folk. Peters was purged, according to one current board member, for writing letters to the board that made accusations. The board has also voted to purge a former board treasurer and programmer of the show Everywoman and two of us from Heartland Labor Forum—Karen Wright, former president of the board, and myself, but they haven't followed through with our removal yet.

FCR is waging a campaign against the KKFI board. Since last April, half have resigned. In December the Pacifica Campaign sent out an alert nation-wide and got two of Barrientos's friends to resign. The two holdovers from the old board who had waged bitter opposition to the takeover finally resigned in January when their employers both said they didn't want the exposure. FCR is also considering legal action against the board for various violations of the Missouri non-profit law and open meetings laws. Unfortunately, as we all know too well, corporate boards have a lot of power, even fraudulent ones.

Many have commented that this sounds like the Pacifica struggle all over again. That fact is not lost on the victorious Pacifica campaign folks, and Amy Goodman is coming to town in mid-February to do a benefit for FCR. Lots of folks are offering support, and as the threat to Heartland Labor Forum becomes known, we're sure there will be a strong reaction from the labor community.

Meanwhile, Friends of Community Radio could use support and solidarity from around the country. If you'd like to make a contribution, you can send it to FCR at P.O. Box 410264, Kansas City, MO 64141. We're getting our web page up and running too for updates: www.reclaimkkfi.org. You can call or email Board members and ask them to give KKFI back to the community by reinstating the correct bylaws, restoring illegally-removed members and returning purged programmers to the airwaves. We want them to fire Barrientos and step down so democratic elections can take place. Following are the emails of the Board President and one member who we think can be pressured to resign. In any letters or calls, please keep the tone civil.

- Chuck Tackett, President • chuckkkfi@aol.com
816-931-3122
- Marcellus Hughes, Greater Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau • mhughes@visitkc.com • 816-691-3811
- Address for letters to the Board: KKFI Board of Directors, P.O. Box 32250, Kansas City, MO 64171 ♦

LaborTECH2001 hits mark in San Francisco

By Steve Zeltzer

Over 145 labor video, computer and media activists participated in the 2001 Labor TECH conference held at the Univ. of San Francisco, Dec. 7-9. The conference included a wide variety of workshops and panels. It also included a public launching of the Workers Information News Service [see p. 5] with a presentation by Frank Emspak and Norm Stockwell on the opening night.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, they offered a vision of developing a serious working class radio network touching issues and lives of potentially millions of workers. Several key questions were debated. The first was the need to defend democratic rights on the internet from powerful spying software to efforts to prevent free speech by workers on the net. Nancy Bupp of the IAM reported on the effort to defend workers who use email and the contract language that needs to be strengthened in order to do this.

Presentations on these issues were well received and many participants for the first time began to understand the importance of labor educating itself about the need to protect our democratic rights on the net and oppose the privatization of information.

Chris Bailey, APC Internet Rights coordinator, outlined efforts of unionists globally to begin to campaign for labor rights on the net. He also raised the importance of campaigns to defend web sites, including the Korean Labor NodongNet. Unionist Jonnie Hargis from UCLA reported on his suspension after he contributed some comments on the issue of the Middle East using the internet and the battle for his democratic rights at the University. There was also a report on the importance of the Internet in mobilizing workers for the recent victory of the Charleston ILA dockers. On Saturday night a video produced by the Labor Video Project "Free The Charleston 5" was screened.

Also debated was the role of the war and the new "Patriot Act" and other bills that further attack communication and democratic rights for the public at large and labor in particular.

There were also numerous workshops, from Micro-radio and labor, to how to build a web page and produce a labor tv show. Many of the panels and workshops were videotaped and plans include putting all the written documents on the www.labortech.org web page as well as eventually streaming in video and audio the presentations.

International participation included representatives from Japan, Pakistan, Canada, Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom. One of the most moving presentations was that of Max Babri, a labor videographer and educator from Pakistan. Max explained the massive problems facing organized labor and working people in Pakistan and the great potential at the same time. He also screened two videos on the conditions of workers and child labor in Pakistan. Babri also declared that he hoped to build a LaborTECH conference in Pakistan in the next year or two that could reach workers in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and all of South East Asia.

The conference also showed the film "Secrets of Silicon Valley" by Deborah Kaufman and Alan Snitow. A lively discussion followed with the producers on the difficulties

and problems in organizing in Silicon Valley and the battle to produce documentaries that cover these issues.

Health and safety issues were also covered in the workshops and what labor communciators can do to get the word out on these issues. One highlight of the conference was the 10th anniversary of LaborNet www.labornet.org. Labornet was a important sponsor of the conference and has been instrumental in supporting LaborTECH conferences throughout the world. There are now labornets in Korea, Japan, Austria, the UK, Germany as well as the US. LaborNet's anniversary keynote speaker, General Secretary Billy Hayes of the Communication Workers Union of the United Kingdom, gave a report on the struggle against privatization. He outlined the need to build broad coalitions to defend the labor movement from the attacks that it faces while defending a democratic process within the union. As he spoke, plans were moving ahead for a national strike vote of all postal workers in the UK.

Also joining the conference were workers from the locked out UFCW186D Krug winery workers. Kruglockoutcommittee@hotmail.com • www.progressive-portal.org/discussion/labor

They had been locked out nearly 6 months yet very few workers outside of Napa Valley were even aware of their struggle to defend the last unionized winery production workers in the Valley. This despite the fact that the California labor movement has over 1 million members and tremendous potential for solidarity.

The use of the web was also discussed with web meisters from Labourstart's Eric Lee to the plans of the AFL-CIO in the use of the web. Lee pointed out that only by opening up Labourstart to others was he able to keep the site alive. No one person can put together all the information that is needed on labor and workers struggles worldwide. Also he pointed out that new translation software now allows workers to instantaneously translate documents from one language to another. At a previous conference retired UAW web Coordinator Nancy Brigham had outlined how the use of this new technology would open the way to greater communication and solidarity. Tom Mattzie of the AFL-CIO Public Affairs Department outlined how they have developed new software that will allow greater organizing and information power for unionists throughout the country.

The pressing concern of all participants was how to build more support for labor media and communication. Discussion also focussed on the need to bring young workers and youth into LaborTech and to merge their needs and concerns with the labor movement. One part of that is the integration of music and culture into labor media. A panel led by musician Larry Shaw outlined how labor culture can be spread using the internet and other tools. Plans are also being made to program some of the presentations on the Union Producers and Programmers Network show "WorkWeek" on the Free Speech Channel on the Dish Satellite.

A key part of this is the development of more labor community tv shows on public access. Labor videographer Carl Bryant of the NALC's TV214 was one of the panelists on a workshop on how to put a labor tv show together. His show is the first regular labor cable show for postal workers in the United States.

Panels also discussed the importance of defending community access tv and the ongoing attack on community radio.

Continued on p. 5

WorkWeek report

by Steve Zeltzer

The upcoming show on "Workweek" will cover the role of women steel workers in "Women of Steel" and the life of labor videographer in "Our World Through Jenkins' Eyes". "Women In Steel" shows how women workers are now becoming integrated in the steel industry and the role the union has played to bring this about. "Our World Through Jenkins' Eyes" gives a vivid example of William Jenkins through his labor video work. [See page 2 this issue.]

"WorkWeek" will be programmed on the Dish system on the FSTV channel at 9415. Go to www.fstv.org to find the time it will broadcast in your time zone. ♦

The Fall, 2000 issue of *UPPNET News* reprinted a story by John Seeley of *L.A. Weekly*, which reported on the police attacks against both mainstream and independent media reporters at the Democratic Party's 2000 convention in LA. Here's the follow-up.—Ed.

Journalists assaulted in L.A. protest settle with police

By Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Seven journalists who were either clubbed with police batons or hit by rubber bullets during protests at the 2000 Democratic National Convention have reached a settlement with police and the Los Angeles City Council, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said Thursday.

Key points of the settlement include the Los Angeles Police (LAPD) agreeing that the media has a right to cover public protests and can remain in place to observe, photograph, and film events? even when police issue orders to disperse.

The seven journalists were injured on Aug. 14, 2000, when the LAPD attempted to disperse a crowd of several thousand antiglobalization protesters gathered outside the city's Staples Center, site of the Democratic Convention which formally chose Al Gore as the party's presidential candidate.

Some journalists reported being hit by rubber bullets; others said they were clubbed with police batons when they declined to move from the area. One journalist—freelance cameraman Jeffrey Kleinman, who was working for NBC—said he was clubbed by an officer who told the news crew to move. Kleinman was then shot in the abdomen by a rubber bullet and hit three more times in the back and shoulder.

The ACLU, who brought the case on behalf of the journalists, said all seven were clearly displaying their media credentials. The journalists also received small but undisclosed financial payments for injuries they sustained.

"We are very pleased with the settlement agreement," said Peter Eliasberg of the ACLU in Los Angeles. "A free press is a fundamental requirement to a free and democratic society. This agreement helps ensure this right will be respected." ♦

WINS countdown: Feb. 18



February 18th is the day that the Workers Independent News Service headline news will be available to 100 commercial radio stations nationwide. The event marks the first time that working people will have access to a national news service devoted to the interest of working people. The radio network ie.America will make the headline news service available to their affiliates five days per week twelve hours per day. Over time WINS expects to increase the number of headline packages available to ie.America.

Several ie.America affiliates are in locations with active UPPNET members and active labor councils. If you would like to know if you are in a WINS news city please get in touch with us at www.laborradio.org or call Frank Emspak at 608-262-0680.

WINS would not have been launched with out UPPNET's support and assistance. Nor will WINS survive without WINS' ability to continue to work with UPPNET for ideas, content and placement. ♦

LaborTECH 2001 Hits Mark *Continued from p. 4*

Judith Ancell reported on the effort to defend community radio in Kansas City and the link of this to the Pacifica Radio Network battle. Ken Nash and Mimi Rosenberg who had been purged by management at New York's Pacific WBAI reported on their efforts to mobilize labor support as well as the fight to continue their program on the internet.

Plans were also discussed for a 24 hour labor video channel streamed on the web with programming from around the world. Videographers in Korea, Canada and other countries have already indicated interest in supporting programming.

There was also an active volunteer staff that helped make the conference a success. All the electronic equipment and internet hook-ups worked without a hitch. Kazumi Torii, the conference coordinator was successful in making sure that the many details of the conference were successfully completed. Professor Dorothy Kidd of USF played an important role in helping to get university endorsement and support for the conference as well as fighting for the participation of voices from Mexico and immigrant workers. The conference was also greeted by Jake McGoldrick, a San Francisco Supervisor as well as president of AFT4269 on the campus. The planning committee also included Lindy Chris, Chief Shop Steward of OPEIU 3 on the USF campus and a OPEIU Delegate to the California AFL-CIO. Her efforts to get all the facilities was important to the success of the conference.

It was also announced that there would be a Labor's Voices/LaborTECH conference in New York at the Cornell Campus in New York. It will be held on September 27-29. ♦

Democratic Media and Organizing in Uncertain Times—A conference presented by LaborTECH and the Labor's Voices Group

September 26, 27 & 28, 2002 at The Graduate Center, CUNY, 365 5th Avenue, New York, NY.

For more information call 212-566-1930

www.laborsvoiceslabortech.org/lvlt/index.htm



photos: working tv

Templeton and Van Tech students
Rally in East Van, B.C., Canada.



Students walkout to support teachers, stream video online

www.workingtv.com/studentwalkout.html

Click and watch this video stream which shows middle school kids who walked out in support of their teachers in British Columbia, Canada, while high school students across B.C. walked out of class on January 23, 2002. The two minute clip is a very good example of how to best use streaming video (short, concise, to the point.) It is hosted on the net by UPPNET board member Julius Fisher who has “working tv” in Vancouver B.C. Grade 8 student videographer Kaylah Zander (inset) shot the video webcast. For more information, contact Julius Fisher of “working tv” at julius_fisher@bc.sympatico.ca ♦

Santa Cruz labor film festival

We’re planning to put on a labor film festival in Santa Cruz County around May Day. While we already have a good list of film titles to choose from (and to try to locate!), we’d be happy to consider your favorites as well. In particular, if you know of films about labor and working people’s movements that touch on war and militarization, that would be a very useful addition to the festival.

You may reply directly to me.
Jeffrey Smedberg, sprout@cruzio.com
Local 415 SEIU President

WBAI Victory *Continued from p. 1*

Rosenberg. By August, the fired and banned were joined by Amy Goodman and the Staff of Democracy Now who continued to broadcast nationally to a now wider audience outside of Pacifica control. Also outside of the Network was Free Speech Radio News—Pacifica News reporters who struck over Pacifica News’ centrist direction and then founded their own news service. By the end of the year they were broadcasting 50 stations—far more than Pacifica News. And then there was WBAI in Exile, Internet Radio on www.wbix.org which broadcast the voices of the fired and banned and the Pacifica resistance to a national audience.

By Fall, 2001 many at the Pacifica Board had started to bail out, leading to the departure of David Acosta, National Board Chair and finally Bessie Wash herself. It was also becoming apparent that Pacifica was heavily in debt while still facing a listener lawsuit set to go to Court in 1/2002. Negotiations produced a power sharing arrangement where an Interim Board was selected in which the old majority was converted to a minority but with almost veto powers. Soon all the principal Officers were taken by the insurgents including the new Bd. Chair Leslie Cagen. This was an interim solution preliminary to indirect Ntl. Bd. elections next year by the listeners.

At the 1/2001 Ntl. Bd. Meeting, 2 of the old majority failed to attend, giving the dissidents control. They reinstated all fired and banned WBAI producers & management. The new Pacifica ED is now Dan Coughlin, from the Pacifica Campaign. Finally the gag rule was virtually suspended until a new policy could be devised and management promised to recognize a new union of Paid and of Unpaid Staff. Victory!

At the January 2001 National Board Meeting, 2 of the old majority failed to attend, giving the dissidents control. They reinstated all fired and banned WBAI producers & management.

The following week the fired and banned returned to WBAI, which began to sound like WBAI again. The victory was also a national one. The Station Manager of the Houston Station resigned and those of DC and LA were soon to go. Not only had WBAI been taken back but the Network also. A network now with continued active listener support, WBIX, and hopefully soon Free Speech Radio News. The downside to all this is that the prior regime left an enormous debt of nearly \$5 million from their lawyers fees, PR firms, generous severance packages and even a surveillance firm.

But, for the first time in years, we’re back Network wide. And we’ll rebuild a radical radio network. ♦

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

*This list may not be complete. Additions contact:
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415-871-3550, ufcw101@igc.org

Julius Fisher, producer *working tv*, Vancouver, Canada,
604-253-6222, julius_fisher@bc.sympatico.ca

John Hamilton, *WORT/Access 4*, Madison, WI
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William Jenkins, co-producer *Labor Beat*, Chicago, IL
312-682-7526, wiljen@igc.org

Ken Nash, Co-producer *Building Bridges: Your Community and Labor Report*, WBAI Radio, New York,
212-815-1699, knash@igc.apc.org

John See, 612-624-5020, producer, *Minnesota at Work*,
612-624-6039, jsee@csom.umn.edu

John Speier, 616-375-4638, producer, *Solidarity*
616-375-4638, Acclaimvideo@igc.org

Steve Zeltzer, producer *Labor on The Job*,
San Francisco, 415-641-4440, lvpsf@labornet.org

Myoung Joon Kim, participating international observer
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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/

Interview with Pakistani labor videographer

Last December local labor-television producer Wes Brain attended LaborTech 2001, an international media conference in San Francisco, California, and while there he met labor videographer Maqbool Babri who had come from Pakistan to attend the conference. Maqbool goes by the nickname "Max." Max accepted the request for an interview and this upcoming production covers many critical aspects of life for workers in Pakistan today.

Max was raised in the west and speaks very good English. In this candid and personable video interview

important questions are answered about the workforce in Pakistan, the war in neighboring Afghanistan, and about the unthinkable—the threat of a nuclear war between Pakistan and India. Brought to Southern Oregon by OPEU District Four Productions.

"A Conversation With Max" can be purchased for \$15. (includes postage). Contact

OPEU District Four Productions
298 Garfield St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Inquiries can go to Wes Brain, brain@mind.net
541-482-6988

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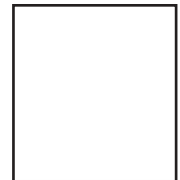
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

Community Access Threatened In San Francisco SF Labor Council Opposes Lottery, Supports Elected Board



Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco (PPNSF) pickets community access station to oppose lottery system.

By Steve Zeltzer Producer "Labor On The Job"

The growing corporatization of the media is not restricted to only the main stream news and propaganda tv and radio channels. In a critical fight in San Francisco, the management and board of directors of the Community Television Corporation is seeking to oust regular labor programmers and others from their slots and to corporatize the operation of the station. Community access television is the most important uncensored vehicle for television in the United States. It is the *only* way that labor and trade unionists have been able to get their point of view out on television on a regular basis.

The effort to commercialize the station at the unelected CTC board in San Francisco developed when the city transferred control of the community access station from the cable operator TCI to CEO Zane Blaney and a board that had been established to take over the running of the station.

Blaney and the majority of the board decided that they needed to "even the field" for new producers to get on the station. This despite the fact that there were open time slots on many hours of the day. Over the unanimous objection of the producers and programmers at the station, they instituted a "lottery" every 26 weeks for all producers for all time slots. They gave no priority to locally produced shows. Many of these shows that had been on the air for many years. Labor On The Job, which is a production of the Labor Video Project, has been produced continuously since 1983.

Time slots for labor shows are very important since most working people cannot watch the shows during the day time. Also, due to the lack of advertising of community access programs, developing an audience requires many years of work. If shows are switched every 6 months, the ability to build an audience would be severely impacted.

Former labor producer Bill Fiore, who is a union business agent with IFPTE Local 21, and David Miles who produces "Skating Place" were on the board and both

continued on page 3

Effort Continues to Save Kansas City Community Radio

By Judy Ancel

In the last *UPPNET News*, we reported on the fight in Kansas City to save KKFI Community Radio. General Manager, Robert Barrientos, had changed our ID from community to public radio, substituted fraudulent bylaws, purged longtime members and programmers and installed his cronies on the board. They were threatening a reformatting aimed at "improving" the listening audience and were purging shows

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UPPNET News in PDF format

Web site addresses in the text (shown in brown type) are hot-linked directly to url's through your Internet browser.

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Alert: Anti-Corporate Media Under Attack

By Larry Duncan, *UPPNET News* editor

Anti-big business news media producers operating independently of corporate control are facing a broad range of obstacles to growth and even survival, while community and labor support for these independent news media nodes continues to grow in loyalty and strength. UPPNET here alerts the public and the independent media community to worrisome trends in these media battles. We also call upon independent producers (who have in recent years rallied spontaneously to the aid of others) to consider developing more conscious, formal unity in overcoming these threats.

For the most part, these negative developments in independent media, on the surface at least, are a reflection of a downturned economy. At this time there is no evidence that these attacks are centrally orchestrated. But we should not completely rule out the possibility that they may be politically motivated, and may be part of a general assault against expressed opinions which do not fall in lock-step with corporate media culture. Such a possibility should be monitored.

Corporate media in the last year has grown even more centralized, ubiquitous, homogeneous, and immune to government regulations on media monopolization. At the same time, the government falls more and more under the control of the corporations. However, with growing effectiveness and grass-roots support, anti-capitalist media outlets have strongly countered the globalization media hype with coverage of anti-FTAA, anti-IMF mobilizations.

Independent news media outlets have provided a barrage of programming to counter Bush's 'War Forever Everywhere' policy. Heard underneath the war drums of CNN is a constant response of independent anti-war, pro-labor and pro-human rights messages. Certainly the right wing and their corporate patrons must want to silence this opposition on the airwaves and on the internet. We would expect them to try to find ways to pull the plug on community access tv, community-supported radio where anti-corporate voices are heard.

Whatever the cause may be for these problems, we can at least make two points: 1) such questions should be explored in a sober, objective way, and 2) our precious anti-corporate media outlets must be defended, whatever the cause behind the attacks.

We send out this alert to the labor movement, the anti-war, pro-human rights, and general progressive community, as well as the independent media community: Defend all anti-corporate media which are now under attack; and understand the causes and trends behind these attacks.

We briefly list a number of (but probably not all of) these battle fronts in the box, beginning on this page.

Tell Us About Your Media Battles

Lastly, maybe this discussion will motivate you to tell us about an independent media battle going on in your area which we haven't listed. Write to the editor of *UPPNET News* at: lduncan@igc.org

Independent Media Battle Fronts

PACIFICA RADIO

Open conflict between the governing board of Pacifica Radio and the KPFA community in Berkeley erupted onto the streets a few years ago. Probably the most dramatic national independent media battle, the national Pacifica Radio war's most recent skirmish was centered around WBAI in New York, where sizable community and labor support rallied forces to halt Pacifica management's gutting of progressive programming. "Building Bridges" (co-produced by UPPNET Board member Ken Nash), the labor show, and Amy Goodman's Democracy Now! have been reinstated.

KANSAS CITY: Community Supported Radio

In Kansas City, a history of mismanagement and anti-community-, anti-labor actions by a conservative KKFI Board of Directors has precipitated a lawsuit accusing KKFI's managers of trying to stifle dissent at the station. The board, according to the suit, has tried to change the station, which is staffed by volunteers, into a corporate clone of mainstream radio. Heartland Labor Forum (co-produced by UPPNET Board member Judy Ancel) has been one of the targets of management which has strayed from their community mission.

SAN FRANCISCO Community Access TV

In San Francisco, ATT Channel 29 has been pushing to institute a lottery system for show slots on the public access channel, which would mean that long-running shows (such as Labor on the Job, an UPPNET member show) would lose their regular slots and be forced to rebuild viewerships. The unelected board of directors of the Community Television Corporation have created a number of other obstacles to the growth of community access television.

CHICAGO: WLUW-FM

The popular radio station WLUW-FM (run by Loyola University) has been put under a financial sword of Damocles this year when the University announced that it need over \$100,000 to keep the station running. The station organized an on-air fundraiser, and gathered \$32,000, considerably exceeding their expectations, and demonstrating broad support for the station, which calls itself the "Voice of Diversity" with a broad spectrum of community-produced programming. What Loyola will do next is uncertain. Labor Express is a regular series on WLUW-FM.

CHICAGO: THE CHICAGO ACCESS CORPORATION

According to the City of Chicago's contract with RCN, the cable company must pay regular payments of \$650,000 to the Chicago Access Corporation, which is probably the best public access facility in the country. But RCN now claims it can't come up with the dough. If the \$650,000 isn't forthcoming soon, the C.A.C. will be forced to begin cutting programs and staff. The C.A.C. (which runs CAN-TV, on which appears many anti-corporate programs, including UPPNET member Labor Beat) has rallied considerable community support. In March over 80 CAN-TV supporters and producers packed overflowing rooms of the Chicago Cable Commission, asking it to act to get RCN to pay up. The Cable Commission's position was that it wanted to give RCN more leeway with any deadlines on payment. In late April the C.A.C. brought some 200 people to a hearing of the City Council's budget committee, where the problem with the RCN was put on the agenda. For more information: www.cantv.org

ASHLAND, OR: ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Rogue Valley Community Television has promoted a time-slot lottery system for the public access channel in Southern Oregon. Run by Southern Oregon University, the public access channel refuses to present in detail a line-item budget, leaving local producers wondering where exactly the money allotted to public access is going: to public access or to the university? The labor show on that channel,

(continued on page 3)

Community Access in San Francisco *Continued from p. 1*

objected to the proposed lottery. As two longtime producers who had regular programs on the community access, they knew the difficulty of producing a show and increasing the viewership. At the same time, the management of the station and the board majority sought to silence David Miles by putting him on 60 days probation from the board for speaking out publicly against the lottery, and for opposing the direction of the board.

One of the key backers of throwing Miles off the board was CTC vice chair John Higgins. Higgins, who teaches at Menlo College on the peninsula and previously worked for the US government “developing television” in Africa now, is also in charge of articles for the Alliance of Community Media (ACM) convention.

In fact, ACM is one of the forces nationally that is seeking to exert influence to push a “lottery” system at the over 2,000 community access stations around the country. ACM board and directors mostly represent station managers and staff who have a vested interest in having total control of the community access stations.

The effort by the CTC management to “professionalize” the station has meant the elimination of all volunteers, and this has led to a budget crisis at the new station facilities. The response of Blaney and the board has been to close the station on Sunday and Monday. Although for over 20 years the station has never been closed to producers and programmers on the weekend, this closure threatens the right of producers and programmers to do live shows on these days.

At the same time, the station is not even operating 24 hours a day since it still has programming from the CA government channel. Although community access is entitled to two channels, there has never been an organized effort to get the other channel on the air to allow additional programming slots. While programmers like David Miles have been thrown off their slots, there are empty time slots in prime time hours that go unfilled. This has created tremendous animosity and anger at the CEO Zane Blaney and the CTC board of directors.

At meetings of the programming committee of the CTC, board members have argued that the station needed advertising and fund drives to raise money to fund budget shortfalls. Also in the past, Zane Blaney had argued that he was not in principle against corporate funding on community access television. His assistant Aaron Vinck, who came from Sacramento Access, also had a record of pushing similar proposals and was also a key proponent of the “lottery system”.

The logic of these policies would lead to the eventual corporatization of the station with the city cutting back on funding and more and more “pledge drives” that would take the place of community programming. One of the board members has also argued for the individual shows to fund raise on the station as well.

Letter Carriers TV214 and the Labor Video Project have won the support of the San Francisco Labor Council [see statement on this page 4] for an elected board and for a halt to the lottery and are seeking to build broader community support. Also an organization called the

Continued on p. 4

Independent Media Battlefields (continued from p. 2)

OPEU Productions (produced by UPPNET Board member Wes Brain) often has the shows it submits shown out of sequence, sabotaging the effectiveness of publicity created by the producer.

MICRO RADIO

On May 2, the Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit overruled a previous decision favorable to micro radio. That earlier decision (U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit) said that the Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act barring persons who had previously broadcasted without a license from ever being permitted to apply for a LPFM license violated the First Amendment. In that earlier decision the Court said the Act raised “a suspicion that Court noted that the Radio Broadcasting Act raised “a suspicion that perhaps Congress’s true objective was not to increase regulatory compliance, but to penalize pirate micro broadcasters’ message.” Micro Radio legal teams will be appealing the May 2 decision. The full text of the earlier Court’s pro-micro radio ruling (which was vacated by the May 2 ruling) can be read at:

<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200202/00-1100a.txt>

Chicago producers defend access channels



Unlike San Francisco’s CTC, the Chicago Access Corporation (which has a partially elected Board and does not promote lotteries) is broadly supported by the access community. When the C.A.C. got a meeting of the City Council’s Finance Committee (see above) to discuss why RCN (a cable company) hadn’t coughed up \$650,000 it owes the C.A.C., about 100 producers and supporters showed up on a workday to support their access corporation. The CAC cablecast the City Council meeting, and has also created PSA’s about the deadbeat RCN company and its threat to public access.

Correction

UPPNET News apologizes to Eric Drooker for not crediting his art used in our last issue. That art was modified from an original by Eric Drooker for KPFA. Eric’s can be contacted at drooker@drooker.com

I recommend visiting Eric’s website, where more of his work can be seen.

It is: <http://www.drooker.com/>



*based on a design by
Eric Drooker*



PPNSF (seen here picketing cable station) has also lobbied members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Community Access in San Francisco *Continued from p. 3*
Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco (PPNSF) is picketing the station during the monthly "lotteries" and is also lobbying members of the San Francisco Board Of Supervisors to force a fully elected board and for the elimination of the lottery.

At the April 2002 "lottery", one of the new "lottery" participants said she came here to kick another producer off their slot at the lottery. This open threat against another producers show is a very clear example of the process that the "lottery" is creating, pitting producer against producer and allowing for the weakening of solidarity among the producers and programmers .

Part of the pressure by CTC management to dump long standing shows is also the unhappiness that politicians have over the programming. Many of the shows expose the growing corruption and attacks on working people, the homeless, and the use of the city for the developers and corporate union busters. In fact, CEO Blaney has made continual public attacks on a "long time show on Thursday night from 8:00 PM to 9:00PM." He just happens to be singling out "Labor On The Job".

This attack on labor producers and programmers from the community in San Francisco is obviously not just a San Francisco problem. Labor TV producer and UPPNET board member Wes Brain in Ashland, Oregon faced the same problem in their community. In order to confront these challenges we need to educate the entire labor movement about the need to defend seniority at community access stations as far as programming and begin the campaign for elected boards of a membership in order to keep community access television a resource for labor and the community. To contact Steve Zeltzer, producer of "Labor On The Job": lvpsf@labornet.org

Further Articles on the Issue

www.sfbg.com/36/20/news_public_access.html

www.sfbg.com/36/23/x_talkback.html

SF Labor Council Defends Democracy in Community Access Television

The San Francisco Labor Council Executive Committee on March 6, 2002 and the Council as a whole on March 11, 2002 passed the following resolution. The SF Labor Council represents over 60,000 workers in San Francisco.

Resolution In Opposition To Channel 29 Lottery and For an Elected CTC Board

Whereas, it is critical that locally produced community access shows on ATT Channel 29 be encouraged and,

Whereas, community access is the only uncensored free speech on San Francisco cable for those who have been excluded from corporate controlled media and,

Whereas, the implementation of a "lottery" of Channel 29 show slots threatens long standing San Francisco produced labor and community shows and,

Whereas, around the country community access is threatened by corporatization and policies including "advertising" that have removed labor and community shows supposedly in order to "professionals" community access and,

Whereas, the present unelected board of directors of the Community Television Corporation have ignored the unanimous opposition by San Francisco Producers and Programmers and,

Whereas, the need for a membership organization in which the board of directors is elected by the membership is critical to provide a more responsive board of directors of the Community Television Corporation,

Therefore, be it resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council opposes the change of policies by the Community Television Corporation to implement a lottery and supports locally produced shows having priority in programming slots and,

This council calls for the implementation of an elected board of directors for the Community Television Corporation and for it to become a membership organization open to all people in San Francisco and,

Therefore be it finally resolve that the San Francisco Labor Council will relay this view to the Community Television Corporation and the Board of Supervisors.

Adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council Executive Committee on March 6, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Walter L. Johnson

Secretary Treasurer

San Francisco Labor Council

1188 Franklin St. Suite 203

San Francisco, California 94109-6852

(415) 440-4809

KC Community Radio *Continued from p. 1*

which served specific genres and communities, like the labor show. Barrientos's long-time hostility to the insurgents at Pacifica and specifically against Democracy Now was well known.

Then on February 15, over 400 FCR (Friends of Community Radio) supporters heard Amy Goodman of Democracy Now talk about the campaign to save Pacifica and the importance of alternative media. We could relate.

When KKFI station management heard that Amy Goodman...was coming to KC on behalf of FCR, they went ballistic.

When KKFI station management heard that Amy, who they had tried to get fired last summer, was coming to KC on behalf of FCR, they went ballistic. Three board members preempted Amy's show that day to broadcast an hour-long denunciation of the event. One of them, Jim Olenick, a commercial radio consultant, called FCR members "terrorists" and tried to divide the labor movement by specifically criticizing our labor show, The Heartland Labor Forum, and one of our volunteers.

That evening, as people arrived at the Unitarian Universalist Church where Amy was to speak, the three of them were out front handing out flyers telling people this was not a benefit for the station (!) That our fight is looking like a farcical replay of the Pacific struggle isn't lost on any of us. However, despite a board member (Olenick the terrorist-monger) who signs off his responses to earnest emails asking them to return to their mission with "woof, woof, Ó this is a serious battle, that has many in town worried that we'll lose our only truly alternative radio station.

One influential alternative biweekly newspaper has published an editorial calling for Barrientos's resignation. Another weekly has published several articles very favorable to FCR. Even the conservative Kansas City Star (Knight-Ridder) gave us a fair shake in an article about the struggle.

Through March, as many of us continued to do each program as if it were our last, station management circled the wagons and refused to debate or to respond. Finally on April 8th we filed suit against them alleging multiple violations of Missouri's Non-profit Corporation Law and asked for a temporary restraining order barring retaliation.

Before our lawyer even got into the hearing on April 13th, their lawyer was proposing mediation. We agreed, and they promised no purges for 90 days. We had to agree to support the upcoming Pledge Drive.

Barrientos immediately drafted some of us to pitch for Democracy Now. He even tried to get Amy to pitch, but she didn't return his phone calls until we asked her to do it, and she graciously agreed, all the time appealing to the listeners to get involved in "their community radio station." We raised a lot of money during her show, and since Barrientos made it a "test" for all public affairs programming, at least he can no longer say DN has less than a hundred listeners and that public affairs is a drag on the station. At least he won't be able use our time to pursue his

dreams of big bucks fundraising through a computer-generated demographically-targeted eclectic music mix. (That's the niche we think he and Olenick are after.)

Since the pledge drive, it's back to open warfare. Two programmers have been yelled at and accused of not raising enough money and threatened with loss of their shows, and another was accused of a drug offense with absolutely no evidence. None have been purged so far. They're dawdling on the mediation, and we're rapidly losing even the faint hope that it will succeed. So, we're cranking up the pressure and raising money for court.

You can help by sending a donation to:

Friends of Community Radio
PO Box 410264
Kansas City, MO 64141-0024.

You can also send a letters to members of the Board demanding that they return the station to democratic governance, fire Barrientos, and restore the mission and purged programmers. Their addresses and more background information can be found at www.reclaimkkfi.org

Int'l Working Class Film & Video Festival Call For Submittals

Deadline: May 31, 2002

LaborFest is calling for videos for 9th annual event held in San Francisco. LaborFest festival is organized to commemorate the 1934 San Francisco General Strike through cultural arts of working people. Videos & films can including union struggles, political struggles of labor, locally, nationally and internationally. Works should explore the connections between labor & democracy, race, sex, environment, media, war & capitalist economy. Looking for works that challenge practically and ideologically the thinking of working people including the role of war and the economic crisis. Works will be shown throughout the month in S.F. English captions preferred. Open format incl. drama, animation & doc.

For more info: lvpsf@labornet.org; www.laborfest.net

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THE extraordinary events of the last year have inspired new alliances among those who value civil liberties, labor rights and democracy. At the same time, we see a government union busted on the grounds of “national security,” immigrants harassed and detained without charges, and civil liberties under attack. And labor has yet to meet its greatest challenge: to reach out and organize the millions of unorganized young people, people of color, women, and high-tech workers.

We’re not surprised when the dwindling number of mega media corporations won’t cover these issues, but how well are the labor and independent media doing? This conference brings together those covering labor for the mainstream, independent, and union media, radio and website workers, rank-and-file activists, the ethnic press, labor historians, students, and activist artists to engage in dialogue and debate that strengthen our understanding of the crisis and create alliances for the future.

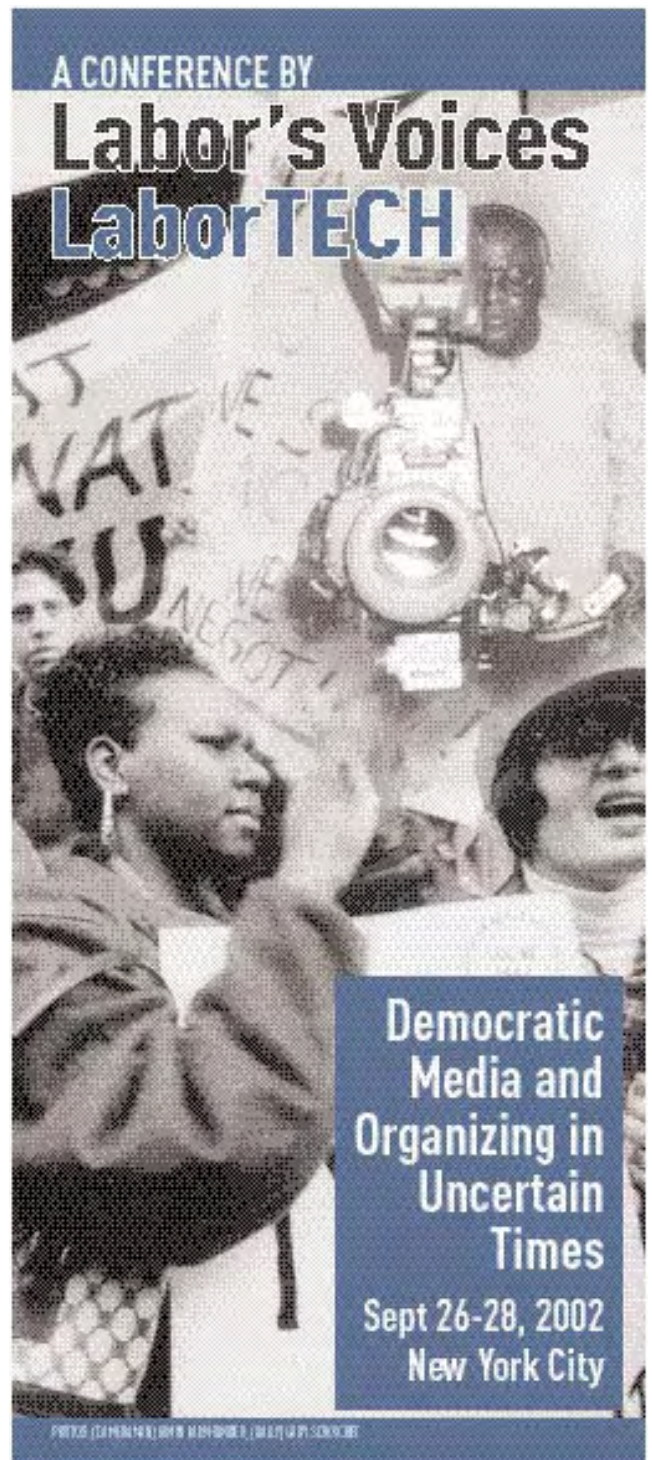
These discussions will build on the successful Labor’s Voices Conference in 2000, and on the LaborTECH conferences held biennially for the last ten years. As communicators, we are movement builders. Together, we can create a more inclusive and powerful future for the labor movement, for a new media, and for our world.

Co-sponsors of the conference include: the Independent Press Association; International Labor Communications Association; Metro NY Labor Communications Council; Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations; Continuing Education and Public Programs, The Graduate Center of the CUNY; LaborArts; New York City Central Labor Council; New York Labor History Association; Brooklyn College Graduate Center; University of Minnesota, Labor Education Center; School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension, Madison, WI.; Union Producers and Programmers Network; Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives (NYU); Professional Conference Location:

CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue @ 34th Street

Cost: \$100 before 7/31/02; \$140 after 7/31/02, \$35 retirees, students and unemployed. Scholarships available

For information on accommodations, call 212.566.1930



Democratic Media and Organizing in Uncertain Times website:
www.laborsvoiceslabortech.org/lvlt/index.htm

“CT@Work”

The Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees represents over 25,000 teachers, public employees, educational personnel, health professionals and college faculty. And it has a cable-tv show. CT@Work can be seen on CPTV2 Wednesdays at 11am and 9:30pm; Sundays at noon. A list of the many cities and town in Connecticut that get CT@Work can be found at their website:
www.cfepe.org/caw.htm

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

Two New Korean Labor Videos

Two powerful new labor videos from Korea are being distributed in the United States. Both videos are produced by Myoung Joon Kim (UPPNET participating international observer), Inp892@chollian.net.

Both of these videos give inspiration that workers can overcome the massive problems that they face if they are united and have solidarity.

• “Face off” is 25 minutes and is produced by Labor News Production Seoul Korea. It gives a brief introduction to the history of struggle of the Korean trade union movement and the fight for democracy. Includes battle against privatization and deregulation. With labor music and video collages. \$30.00

plus \$5.00 Shipping. “Face Off” is also being streamed at: <http://cast.or.kr:7070/ramgen/kctu/int/int020122.rm>

• “Record of Repression” is 25 minutes and is also produced by Labor News Production. The video shows the role played by the Kim Dae Jun Korean government in jailing and arresting thousands of trade unionists. It emphasizes various struggle during the first four years of the Kim Dae Jun government and the struggle against these repressive actions. \$30.00 plus \$5.00 Shipping

Send checks or money orders made payable to:
Labor Video Project
P.O.Box 425584
San Francisco, CA 94142

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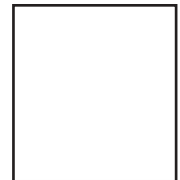
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WLWU, Chicago's "Voice of Diversity", Threatened by NPR Mgmt. Takeover

By Wayne Heimbach, Labor Express producer

Loyola University Chicago is currently in negotiations with Chicago's NPR affiliate, WBEZ, for WBEZ to manage the University's radio station, WLWU-FM. WBEZ is looking for a Management Agreement to run and program the station and, in return, to pay Loyola a to-be-determined amount of money.

Most of these negotiations have been conducted in secret with Loyola justifying its actions by saying that the discussions are only on management, not ownership, of the station. For WLWU's innovative programming, however, this change would be devastating.

Starting about nine years ago, the station's management took the bold step of taking a rather ordinary college music station and turned it into Chicago's premier community and alternative music station.

Labor Express [a participant of UPPNET -Ed.] has been one of its community programs from 1993 and currently has one hour every Sunday evening.

Not only has WLWU's programming been innovative, but it has also been successful.

Arbitron ranks it the most listened to student run station in Chicago, even beating out its big brother next door in Evanston, WNUR, at Northwestern University with 7000 watts compared to WLWU's 100 watts.

Last year the readers of New City, an alternative newspaper, voted WLWU Chicago's best radio station—student run or not. The station has also gone out of its way to help with funding.

An on-air phonathon raised over \$32,000 in the spring, and other cost-cutting actions have made a real dent in the University's financial commitment.

Is incentive ideological?

Some University insiders think the main incentive for the negotiations are ideological.

From the very beginning many University administrators did not like the program changes and, with a new University administration, this may be their opportunity to move.

A Friends of WLWU has been formed.

For more information, call 773-307-7268, or you can contact Wayne Heimbach at wheimbach@igc.org.



A panel at the International Labor Film Festival in Taiwan. A-Kai speaking on film panel (L-R: Hsu-Chung Chang [Director Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions], A-Kai, Akira Matsubara, Odeki).

International Labor Film Festival in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

By Vivian Price • blues3@verizon.net

I had the pleasure of visiting Taiwan for the first time in April of 2002 for the first Taiwan Labor Film Festival. Jane Yu, who curated the festival, invited me to come to Kaohsiung, the top labor city in that country, to show "Hammering It Out", my documentary on women construction workers in the US.

Two weeks later I was standing in the offices of the Telecommunication Labor Union, whisked over from the airport by my interpreter, Ching-wen, and one of the coordinators of the festival, Chao-nan. We were greeted by Director of the Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions, Hsu-Chung Chang ("Simon"), who made tea for us and for some of the other labor representatives who came by to help with the preparations.

Simon is the Director of the Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions, involved also in the strongest autonomous

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UPPNET News in PDF format

Web site addresses in the text (in brown type) are hot-linked directly through your Internet browser.

Taiwan *Continued from p. 1*

union, the Telecommunications Workers Union, which was sponsoring the festival—underwritten by the city of Kaoshiung, Simon explained why the decision was made to hold the festival. He explained that with the recent economic downturn, the traditional May Day Labor march seemed inappropriate.

The film festival represents a strategy to celebrate May Day differently—with political education through film rather than demonstrations, as in the past. A local activist filmmaker named A-kai proposed the idea of having an activist film festival. Kaohsiung's mayor, a member of the DPP, the party that had defeated the 50 year rule of the Kuomintang Party, was interested in supporting labor's events. A Labor Film Festival was born!

Simon and the Labor Arts Cultural Foundation teamed up to create a series of promotional items around the festival theme of work and workers. A beautiful silkscreen of a construction workers—including a woman construction worker of which there are many in Taiwan—was created for tee shirts and a festival poster.

Another poster was created from stills of the many films that were selected, and these stills also appeared on the colorful program and the tickets for each event. Key chains with native flowers were also created to be given to participants, and a woven cell phone holder was commissioned from a village of indigenous people who had fallen on hard times since the earthquake—and who were producing handicrafts for sale.

One of the main themes of the festival was a focus on globalization and the consequences of privatization, since Taiwan is in the throes of conflicts around these issues. Films from Japan, Britain, the United States as well as local films were screened, and filmmakers, actors and activists came to introduce their work, answer questions, and engage in a panel where the issues were discussed together with labor academics, and a producer from Taiwan's public broadcast network. Two of the leading films were "Be More Human, Kokuro's 15 Year Struggle", a film by Akira Matsubara, and the "Navigators" by Ken Loach. [Matsubara provided footage of Japanese dockers supporting Liverpool dockers for UPPNET's 1997 video "All for One".—*Ed.*]

Both were about the privatization of the rail industry. When the Japanese privatized the railroad in that country, over 10,000 people were laid off, two hundred of them who committed suicide afterwards. Hideki Otani, the leader of the unemployed rail workers came to Kaohsiung along with the filmmaker, and they both spoke eloquently about the situation of the workers. Steve Huison, an actor in *The Navigators*, talked about the increased accident rate on the railroads since privatization, as well as the problems occurring from public utilities including water falling into private hands. My own film, "Hammering It Out", dealt primarily with questions of equality in the workplace, as well as issues of safety, training, sanitation, sexual harassment and homophobia.

Many of the screenings were well-attended. They were held in a popular mall on a main street in a movie theater that had been rented for the occasion. Students, activists, cultural and government officials and workers attended the screenings, and the audience was enthusiastic and came up with great questions and comments.

It would have been interesting to see whether there was a

space that workers used where the screenings might have also been held, but it wasn't clear to me that there were any actual union halls available, or any other popular spaces that workers used. It was great to be part of the festival, and to participate in the panel. Like the other non-Chinese speaking visitors, I was assigned a personal interpreter so that I was fully part of all the proceedings, and learned what was on the mind of the other filmmakers, the labor leaders, and the audience.

We not only were put up in a nice hotel, and fed at local restaurants, but we were also educated about the issues of privatization by meeting the local Labor Commissioner and visiting an oil refinery that was about to be privatized. We even stopped by the union hall where we saw the flags that the workers were going to use the following month to protest privatization.

Any of our concerns were met with immediate interest. One of the staff members from the festival—of which there were many, along with great volunteers—took me to several construction sites to meet and film women workers. We also visited a nearby village, Meinung, that had successfully defeated a government plan to build a dam that may have threatened the village and their way of life. Representatives from the MPA, the Meinung People's Association, took us to the dam site and showed us the butterfly temple that activists had erected there to publicize the way local people had reflected not only on how to resist dam construction, but also on how to practice more ecological methods of farming.

They took us to Sun Ya-Tsen University, where we talked with students and faculty, and visited Chiang-Kai Shek's former summer villa which is now part of the university grounds. We also had fun strolling through and eating at the famous Taiwanese night markets with our interpreters, and a number of the journalists who came by to cover the event. The last night, the City's Labor Secretary took us out for dinner at a local seafood restaurant located on an island we reached by ferry. Everything was fresh, and delicious, without the fanfare or formality of a fancy high-priced establishment. I personally learned a lot from this experience, met some great people, and had a terrific time. Kaohsiung is a great model for other cities to follow on how to popularize labor issues.

[Vivian Price is a Lecturer, UC Irvine, UCLA, CSULB, and member of the IBEW]



Director of Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions Hsu-Chung Chang and Vivian Price in front of the billboard for the festival.

Korea (continued from p. 8)

from the 1987 mass struggle. It has a strong tradition of democracy, progressive politics and use of technologies by activists and rank-and-filers. Because of these geographical, technological and political aspects, there have been unique activities and struggle for the past few years in all the areas of media, including TV, Internet, broadband, etc.

4,000 power plant workers' tactical struggle against privatization

The struggle of 4,000 electricity workers started early this year, and was initiated by the government's plan to privatize the electricity industry. The strike began on 2/25, when electrical workers walked out, along with rail and gas



Scene from the author's video "Record of Repression" on history of recent labor struggles in South Korea.

workers. The latter groups soon returned to work, but the electrical workers continued their fight, employing entirely new strike tactics in the process. Rather than defending a picket line en masse, and waiting for the inevitable violent confrontation with the police, workers chose to maintain solidarity by dividing into groups of about 10. The morale was high among the workers, but there were two basic problems: accommodation and communication. Accommodation was solved with the voluntary support by members of other unions and activists, and citizens. And as for communication, there were creative uses of the media for struggle and democratic discourse.

- **Cellular phone as primary urgent and instant message delivery tool:** For example, they occasionally held a mass meeting and the location was announced by the cellular phone text service. But they were used collectively, not personally. After some discussion, a rule was made that one member of each group carried the cellular phones because a lot of calls were coming from the companies.
- **Web site as their collective information sharing tool:** Solidarity was maintained through a web site that shared news and developed strategy. Also web sites for wives, sons and daughters of the workers were established which became tools for political empowerment of the families. In reality, these families organized themselves as independent groups to support the struggle and make their own voices heard.
- **Getting the message out = Outreach.** At the same time, some organizations, including Labor News Production, Jinbo Net, Nodong Net, workers video collective, etc. organized an urgent task force supporting the struggle which provided (almost) daily video newsreel webcasting on meetings, coverage of small groups' situation.

As these tactics were very successful, the police tried to stop the communication. One of their tactics was to try to shut down their web site. The independent network JinBo Net officially denounced this action and refused not only to shut down but also to provide any related information to the police. Finally, it was impossible for them to stop because Jinbo Net which hosted these web sites already provided the services to most of the social movement organizations. An attack on JinboNet would have caused a serious struggle between the government and whole civil society. We find some lessons and challenges from this case:

1. This kind of use of the media was possible thanks to Jinbo Net, which is an independent, broad network, and also thanks to different types of organizations and the tradition of their joint activities (like temporary IMC) including Workers video collective, Nodong Net, Labor News production.
2. KCTU's support for not only running the web but also providing the tactics and tools as a consulting agency for workers. Also the strong tradition of democracy in the labor movement lead to the resignation of all the leadership after their tactical misleading of this struggle when the strike was over during May, and this is the origin of the power of labor movement in Korea.
3. Broadband was not only available to activist and rank-and-file workers, it was put to use. For example, the KCTU representative meeting which decided on the general strike was live-broadcast by workers video collective through broadband so that all the rank and files have access to all the discussions.

"Progressive" Public space—Lessons from establishing local media centers as public service centers while maintaining activists' independent control (2002)

Public access in Korea

The campaign for public access in Korea began as an idea advocated by some activists and professors who were inspired by examples of public access in other countries. When Kim Dae Jung took power in 1999, it opened up more opportunities for liberal ideas that had not been tolerated in previous governments. That same year the Broadcasting Law passed in South Korea. Like the US Telecommunications Act of 1996, it was essentially a neo-liberal gift to telecommunication conglomerates with a few crumbs thrown to media activists. One of these crumbs referred to public access. It had two parts:

KBS (one of the national public broadcast channels) had to run programming produced by viewers (literally: viewer production participation programs). Very few details were specified in the legislation. The Ministry of Culture was given the responsibility for turning this vague concept into reality. The Ministry, rather arbitrarily, decided that 100 minutes per month was adequate. KBS immediately concurred, adding that they would be happy to allow 50 minutes on their radio station and 50 minutes on their television station. At this point, several media activists, who saw where this was heading, decided to take action. They formed the Coalition for Viewer Participation and argued that all the time must be on television and it should be more than 100 minutes per month. Eventually a compromise was reached in which KBS agreed to program 30 minutes per week of television programming called *Open Channel*.

The decision to choose the programming was left to a

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subcommittee with some activist representation, but with a majority of more conservative KBS types.

Although the subcommittee doesn't sound great, and 30 minutes per week isn't much, it is still amazing to consider that this is major broadcast television for 45 million South Korean viewers and the 30 minutes are scheduled during prime time Saturday evening.

Another remarkable aspect is that you can apply to the subcommittee before you produce your tape. If accepted, you are awarded \$3-4,000. If your tape, after being produced, is accepted to be shown, you receive an additional \$3-4,000. After years of wrangling over these details, the first show was broadcast May last year. Through partnerships between independent documentary producers and social movement organizations, some progressive programs have been made on various issues such as farmers', women's, environmental issues. Two controversial programs were rejected and caused demonstrations. One of them was finally aired but another program, called *Rip It Off* about the ID card system, is still being debated.

The second aspect of the legislation concerned cable and satellite operators. Even more vaguely worded, this part of the law states that cable and satellite operators must broadcast viewer-produced programs if there is demand and there is no special reason (?) to refuse it. The Korean Broadcasting Commission (like the FCC) was given responsibility for making sense out of this portion of the law. Rather than improving it, they seemed to have made it worse, deciding that cable and satellite operators can edit programs before showing them (provided they discuss the changes with the producers and they do not alter the basic meaning of the program). In addition, they can refuse tapes with "illegal" content. In Korea, illegal content can mean a lot of things—including saying anything positive about North Korea. This aspect of the law has not had any test cases yet and still seems to need some work.

But, as a whole, this introduction of access structure is of great importance because the law has compulsory articles on public access structure for almost every broadcasting system and creates a basis for all media activists advocating media democracy and participatory communication as essential parts of the media systems, although the obstacles and tasks remains unsolved. For example, this provided the political and philosophical basis for the formation of local media centers, as follows.

MediACT

MediACT is the government-funded local video and film public service center with the indy control by film and video activists first of its kind. [www.mediact.org—Korean only]

In Seoul, independent film and videomakers Association (KIFV) established Media Access Center called MediACT which will promote independent film and videomaking and public access activities, with a subsidy from Korean Film Commission (KFC: film policy authority). The inauguration ceremony was held last May. MediACT will be a base camp, supporting video activism and public access with training programs, rental services, and research with an initial budget of \$2 million and a half million for the first fiscal year. With this progress in Seoul, now there are several committees for establishing the media center, comprised of important NGOs and videomaking organizations throughout the country.

This media center project was possible for several reasons. Although the overall policy of the government is Neoliberal and caused a lot of social problems and struggle by the people, the media policy on the independent video and public access became more favorable to activists. One reason was democratic change of the policy of institutions like KFC where the majority of the board support the idea of creating a public media sphere which didn't exist before. Another reason is official recognition of public access and independent video and filmmaking on the policy and legislative level. And most of all, the media activists' long years of struggle, lobby and advocacy was crucial to whole policy change.

The strategic significance of this media center lies in the participatory communication infrastructure which supports media activism and networking of community and indy producers on the local level funded by public funding. In particular, MediACT's important role is to support other regions' media center advocacy and provide the tools and space for the activists in Seoul, the center of the political struggle, not as a big organization, but as a strong and well-funded catalyst.

Some of the next challenges:

- The legislation of the new law which will compel government authorities and local government help founding the media centers;
- The tactical approach for this media center is to train the people to use the videos as a tool and a from-the-bottom-up push upon authorities to help civil society organizations and video activists (policy lobbying);
- From these activities of initiating the media centers, there should be discussion on local media strategy and tactics of civil society organizations.

Brief conclusion

The current situation implies the following significant points.

1. As the media becomes the key area of society and social movement (or to make this happen in the social movement itself), the strategic approach to media activism is vital. The media is not only a crucial arena itself but also a critical tool for strengthening the social movement.
2. The main issue is how we can have our own media which is independent from the corporate and governmental control, but have strong commitment to the progressive social movement, fully utilizing the strength of new media while critically analyzing the issues raised by new technologies.
3. At the same time, based on the above indymedia structure, the public sphere—such as media center and public access—must be fought for and established, as they eventually help indymedia structure.
4. The globalization of the movement can only be possible with the effective media communication.

With these points in mind, Korean media activism has progressed for the past 20 years, and recently significant changes have occurred in various areas of strong social movements, creative use of the media in those movements, high level of technological tools, and rapid change of policy and public sphere.

With actual cooperation and information sharing with the activists in other countries, we hope we can prepare another stage of the movement which will make another world more visible.

Report from WINS

By Frank Emspak, WINS Executive Editor and Producer

The Workers Independent News Services faces three challenges. First we need to increase the number commercial and non commercial stations who subscribe to WINS. Second, WINS needs the help of the UPPNET community to get news from working people and communities. Third, WINS needs to become more financially stable.

WINS has had some modest success in all three areas. Free Speech Radio News takes some of the WINS headlines and features. In addition there are about two dozen stations that are either subscribing to WINS or considering it. Some of these are commercial stations. Moreover several affiliates of the i.e. America radio network are using WINS material. If anyone in the UPPNET community can help WINS get on a commercial station or their local community or NPR affiliate- this is the time to do it. A first step would be to ask your labor council or local union to call a station and ask them to play WINS. The station can access WINS at www.laborradio.org. Or if a station is interested WINS can take it from there. Have them call us at 608-262-0680.

News from the rank and file. UPPNET members are uniquely placed to help WINS enable workers and community activists to speak for themselves. WINS needs your assistance to reach down into communities and unions to the level where activity is taking place. Either via direct interviews or through the use of cooperating reporters WINS can work with organizations almost anywhere in the country.

Finances By the end of this calendar year WINS wants to fund the equivalent of one full time producer via subscriptions from radio stations. In order to do that we need to get subscriptions from at least fifty stations per week. With everyone's help this number is achievable.

Thanks to the support from the UPPNET family WINS is slowly making progress. Info: femspak@igc.org.

Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) to Hold Symposium on "Corporate Control of the Media"

Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Congressman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will hold a symposium on "Corporate Control of the Media" in Washington, DC, featuring three of the country's leading experts on the issue. Robert McChesney, author of "Rich Media, Poor Democracy," John Nichols, co-author of "It's the Media, Stupid" and The Nation magazine's Washington correspondent and Linda Foley, president of the Newspaper Guild, will join the Congressmen at a symposium on Thursday, July 11th, 3:30 p.m. in the U.S. Capitol room HC-9.

Congressmen Sanders and Brown are holding the symposium to discuss the issue of growing corporate control over the media, especially the increasing degree to which a small number of huge corporations decide what the American people see, hear and read. What: Symposium—Sanders, Brown and National Media Experts to Discuss Corporate Control of the Media

Where: U.S. Capitol- HC-9

When: Thursday, July 11 2002 3:30 p.m.

Contact: Joel Barkin, (202) 225-4115

R2K Acid Reflux: Chicago IMC reporter released from jail, but Republican Convention legal fiasco continues

By Chris Geovanis • hammerhard@aol.com

MADISON, WI, June 21—Chicago Indymedia reporter Chris Kaihatsu was finally released from the custody of the Dane County Sheriff's office in Madison, Wisconsin four days after he was arrested while covering a Sunday protest in Madison at the U.S. Mayors' Conference on behalf of the Madison and Chicago Independent Media Centers. Kaihatsu is also a reporter for Labor Beat, a Chicago-based labor news agency.

Kaihatsu was held in custody an extra three days while Madison law enforcement sought to determine if the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office wished to follow up

*Independent Media
Center reporter
Chris Kaihatsu on
the job at the recent
Mayors Conference
in Madison, WI,
moments before he
was yanked away
by the police.*



on extraditing Kaihatsu for an outstanding bench warrant on felony charges stemming from the R2K protests at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia in August 2000.

Therein lies the rub, and the makings of a Kafkaesque legal fiasco. While the Philadelphia DA notified Madison law enforcement officials on Thursday that they had declined to extradite Kaihatsu on the outstanding bench warrant, the reporter was stunned and disappointed to find out that an array of bogus—and serious—felony charges stemming from R2K continue to haunt him.

Kaihatsu's Philadelphia-based attorney Scott Griffith has characterized the lingering charges against Kaihatsu as "nonsense." Kaihatsu was among more than 400 people arrested during the R2K protests in what civil liberties advocates have characterized as a naked effort by the Philadelphia police to suppress lawful dissent and core constitutional rights. Protesters have filed an array of civil suits against law enforcement and government agencies in the wake of R2K, for charges ranging from wrongful arrest to illegal confiscation of lawful materials in a series of raids and arrests on puppet-making and organizing sites during the Republican Convention.

Kaihatsu, who was credentialed with the Chicago IMC when he was arrested in Philly, lost video footage and a video camera to law enforcement in the wake of his Philly

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IMC Reporter Kaihatsu Arrest *Continued from p. 5*

arrest. In addition, he received notice by mail in Chicago on the day he was scheduled to appear in court in Philly to answer R2K charges.

“I immediately contacted the R2K legal collective,” says Kaihatsu. “They advised me later that the felonies the Philly DA was alleging I had committed had subsequently been reduced to charges that do not even have the status of misdemeanors, and when the legal collective researched to see when my court call would occur, I was told my name did not even appear on the court docket in Philadelphia.”

But according to the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, Kaihatsu was scheduled to appear in court in January 2001 to face felony charges for aggravated assault, conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, scattering rubbish, simple assault, reckless endangerment, obstruction, resisting arrest, creating a public nuisance and disorderly conduct. Curiously, Philadelphia court computer records also list another warrant on virtually identical charges the cops allege were committed by Kaihatsu on the same day as the charges cited in the outstanding warrant—but the court’s computer system shows that those charges were dismissed.

The vast majority of charges against R2K defendants have been thrown out by the courts, or defendants have won their cases, and civil liberties activists have charged that the Philly DA’s aggressive prosecution of wrongfully arrested protesters effectively constitutes further harassment of people who sought to lawfully express dissent during R2K.

“I feel that it’s extremely inappropriate for these arrests to be targeting activists who are expressing their first amendment right to assemble and petition to express themselves—or for these arrests to target clearly credentialed and identified members of the alternative media like myself who sought to cover these protests,” says Kaihatsu of his arrest in Philly. “If you have scores of armed officers who are trained to use violence, it seems clear that they’re more likely to be on a hair trigger and use force, and we certainly saw that in Philly in the raid on the puppet warehouse and in police attacks on protesters who were simply trying to express dissent at R2K.”

He’s also disturbed by the Madison police department’s willingness to follow in the tradition of the Philly cops. “I was covering the first arrest of a protester at the US Mayor’s Conference last Sunday, and I was clearly credentialed and clearly writing in my reporter’s notebook, along with perhaps a dozen other reporters and corporate press camera crews very near me,” he says. “That arrest was important news, and I was prevented from covering it for the alternative news projects that credentialed me to do so, and that is unconscionable. I didn’t see Madison or Wisconsin State police snatching corporate press camera crews or reporters or snatching press credentials from the corporate press the way they did to me. And after the arrest of that first person last Sunday, law enforcement immediately called in a squadron of state riot police, who wore no badges, no name tags, no badge numbers, and who rather displayed an overwhelming and intimidating show of force that targeted protesters who were there simply there to voice their criticisms of the way taxpayer dollars are being used.”

The Dane County prosecutor’s office sent a student intern to represent them at Kaihatsu’s bond hearing on Monday, and offered to let him go for time served—pending, of course, a response from the Philly DA’s office on his

outstanding warrant. Kaihatsu chose instead to plead not guilty to charges of disorderly conduct in the Madison incident. He is scheduled to appear in Dane County court on August 8.

Alternative media outlets have often been criticized for their bias or lack of thorough reporting, although in Kaihatsu’s case, it would seem those charges could be more credibly leveled against local corporate press outlets. Kaihatsu was wrongly identified by reporters for both the Wisconsin State Journal and the Madison Capital Times as a ‘protester’ rather than a reporter after his arrest last Sunday. Curiously, neither corporate newspaper made an effort to contact Kaihatsu, his legal counsel or his credentialing news agencies, although both IMC representatives and his local attorney, David Karpe, were in court when he was arraigned in Madison on Monday, where the Capital Times reporter appears to have gathered much of his ‘evidence’. The Capital Times did subsequently print a correction which appeared in the print version of their newspaper—but not on their website – buried among a page of ads.

New Video

Labor’s Voices Against the War



Dorothee Benz, CWA 1180 New York City, from “Labor’s Voices Against the War”

“Labor Beat has done the labor and peace movements and working people generally a great service by producing *Labor’s Voices Against the War*. The workers presented in this important half hour video echo the private thoughts and concerns of many people of good conscience. Labor Beat has given a public voice to these still too private convictions. Hopefully in doing so, this video will encourage a growing number to speak out, to challenge the course set for us by Bush and his right-wing colleagues.”— Michael Eisenscher, Co-Coordinator Labor Committee for Peace & Justice SF Bay Region

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

Media Strategy for Social Change: Recent Korean Experiences

By Myoungjoon Kim, UPPNET international observer

Two recent cases represent our strategy and challenges made by the new situation in the social movement, rapid technological changes, and trials and errors of media activists working from the grassroots level to national policy level.

The first subject is related to labor media activism. The second subject can be referred to as new experiments in the public media sphere, with additional information on the public access TV structure in Korea.

First, let me briefly describe the the context and historical background of Korean media activism.

South Korea is a small country of 45 million people.

You can go everywhere within 5 hours by car, except for a few islands. Its small size results in cost-effectiveness for installing broadband, blurred boundaries between local issues and national issues, etc. Also, due to the recent rapid growth of the economy and also due to the government policy of trying to overcome the economic crisis, Korea became highly developed technologically both in industry and activism. For example, most of the workers of KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions) have access not only to the Internet but also broadband. (The level of broadband penetration is the highest in the world; estimated users are now 8 million and will reach more than 10 million at the end of this year.) And there are strong social movements: trade unions, NGOs and human rights movement, etc. The strongest one is the trade union movement, which started

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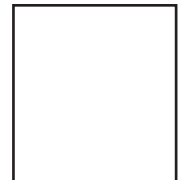
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Promoting production and use of tv and radio shows pertinent to the cause of organized labor and working people

UPPNET Statement

A National Labor Media Strategy



Labor media activists interview member of HERE Local 1 in Chicago during the recent dramatic contract negotiations. [L to R] Will Spain (HERE Local 1 member), Chris Kaihatsu (Chicago IMC), Al Harris Stein (Labor Beat), Martin Conlisk (Labor Beat).

By Howard Kling, UPPNET President

“Labor can't organize in an ideological vacuum. It must find a way to alter the consciousness of the general public.”
(The Nation)

UPPNET would like to begin a dialogue that would put together the pieces of a comprehensive national labor media strategy that encompasses all forms of communications from print to television, video, film, radio and the Web. We think such a strategy should encourage sustained media initiatives aimed at broad audiences of workers and the general public side by side with the wide variety of local and national labor communications vehicles the movement already enjoys.

We also think it would place the very necessary work of public relations and dealing with the corporate media in perspective as one tool, not the only tool. There are deep anti-worker values embedded and promoted by our media that are so part of our cultural existence that they appear as common sense. These values need to be confronted by viable alternatives if we are going to be able to turn labor's

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Friends of WLWU Forms As Chicago's NPR Outlet Prepares To Take Over Loyola's WLWU-FM

By Wayne Heimbach, Labor Express Producer

Labor Express is joining other community and student producers at WLWU, Loyola University Chicago, in setting up a Friends of WLWU organization to try to protect the variety of programming now on the station.

Loyola University is now in the final stages of negotiating an operating agreement with Chicago's NPR outlet, WBEZ, to take over management of WLWU. An ad hoc Friends of WLWU earlier came together to both oppose the WBEZ takeover and to provide itself as an alternate to managing the station.

Over the period of a couple of months this perspective changed to one giving cautious support to the WBEZ agreement. This happened for two reasons. Firstly, WBEZ President, Torey Malatia, met on numerous occasions with community producers and promised not to touch the existing programming. Malatia acknowledged that the station had developed a hard won reputation for innovative programming over the past eight years and there was no reason to change it.

He also agreed to keep the two full-time station staff who had built the station into one with city-wide recognition. Malatia originally said he could not keep the staff since FCC regulations required a nation-wide search.

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UPPNET News in PDF format

Web site addresses in the text (shown in brown type) are hot-linked directly to url's through your Internet browser.

Battle over Comcast Buyout of ATT Cable Focuses on Service, Spying And Union-Busting

By Steve Zeltzer, Labor Video Project, Lvpsf@labornet.org

The ongoing monopolization of cable systems escalated when Comcast Cable based in Philadelphia bought out ATT Cable around the country. The monopolization of the cable systems threatens the rights of local communities and other internet providers from getting space. Comcast if the buy-out is agreed on will control 22 million people who have cable tv.

Under federal law, communities have the right to approve a take-over by a new franchise operator and many communities around the country including LA, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco are demanding new conditions for any take-over.

The Boston and Chicago city councils have passed resolutions requiring Comcast to agree to negotiate a union contract when a union gets over 50% of the authorization cards signed in a property. Many ATT properties like those in San Francisco are non-union and these union-busting companies have sought to exclude any unionization [\[click link here\]](#).

The Labor Video Project and the Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco have demanded that workers have unfettered right to organize. While the CWA is backing the merger nationally, it is still critical that the CWA and all unions fight for full unionization and demand that all Comcast properties provide proper funding for community access. We need to also develop a campaign as part of this struggle for a 24 hour labor cable channel on the cable systems.

In San Francisco where the contract expires in 2005 with the cable operator, we and a number of supervisors including Jake McGoldrick and Chris Daly have also called for the municipalization of the cable system by the city. At present, cable operators limit the choice of channels based on whether they have investments in that channel. For this reason the Sundance Channel which many in San Francisco would want is not available.

Another issue raised by the the LVP and the PPNSF is the danger of spying on internet users by Comcast and other cable operators. Comcast is being sued in Federal Court for spying on subscribers who are also internet users.

Comcast is interested in using the information for marketing to their subscribers but it also obviously has dangers of illegal surveillance and spying. Comcast has also opposed community access in Philadelphia where it is being based and is being sued for discrimination against political groups as well as others who want low cost access.

Labor media activists and the trade union movement as a whole must begin the national campaign for public control of the cable systems with proper funding of community access channels. In addition, millions of cable subscribers are faced with mounting bills while there is a major deterioration in services. In fact, at the hearing in San Francisco, it was reported the Comcast received even more complaints than ATT for service problems.

Report from WINS

By Frank Emspak



WINS—the Workers Independent News Service—keeps on growing. A number of unions have placed WINS on their websites. Stations are subscribing to WINS directly, and slowly but surely the number is increasing. Likewise the amount of material WINS provides to free speech radio news is increasing. As of this writing the i.e. America network has 21 commercial affiliates that use WINS material daily.

Today (September 11) i.e. America preempted their regular top of the hour news cast and substituted WINS programming on 9/11/.

WINS is working hard to find sources of support and to expand our offerings. In particular we are working to develop a Spanish language edition. WINS is also discussing affiliate arrangements with some stations. In this case stations would supply WINS with features and WINS in turn would produce a 30 minute weekend edition combining the features provided by affiliate stations.

However, costs continue to outrun income. We need support from the labor movement to continue past the end of this calendar year. We have had significant success so far. We expect continued support to be forthcoming.

Visit the WINS website at www.laborradio.org

Heartland Labor Forum Programs

Thursdays - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm KKFI 90.1 FM

Sept. 19—Songs from The Boss and a Steelworker: Bruce Springsteen and Mike Stout, Underwritten by IBT 955

Sept. 26—Speak out on Corporate Greed—Live from KCK Com. College and The Mobilization Against the IMF & World Bank, Underwritten by the Roofers Local 20

October 3—State of the Economy, Underwritten by Millwrights 1529

October 10—Living Wage Coming to a Town Near You and Ashcroft's TIPS program, Underwritten by IBEW 814

October 17—Election 2002 Candidate Forum, Underwritten by IBEW Local 53

October 24—How To Cure Nursing Home Staff Infections: Organize, Underwritten by American PWUG

October 31—A Halloween Horror Story: The Wal-Martian Chronicles, Underwritten by the AFGE 1336

Produced by volunteers from Kansas City unions and sponsored by The Institute for Labor Studies. Info call (816) 235-1470 or ancelj@umkc.edu. www.umkc.edu/labor-ed

At the same time, the large increases in monthly bills are forcing more and more working people off cable even though they increasingly need cable to get news and information. In San Bruno, California where the cable system is owned by the city the monthly cost is \$14.00 while in San Francisco, basic service is now nearly \$40.00.

The right of working people to have high speed access and other internet services is now part and parcel of the fight to municipalize the cable companies and end the corporate media monopolies.

fortunes around. It really is time to diversify and broaden the arena of labor media and communications beyond a public relations concentration.

In our view, a comprehensive labor media strategy would look for forms that increase worker participation and identification. It should encourage both localized and national communications vehicles and take advantage of existing structures to leverage resources and create ownership.

...a comprehensive labor media strategy would look for forms that increase worker participation and identification.

It should encourage free speech, genuine voices, free access, open debate, independence, ethical practices and democratic principles. It should advocate and encourage workers, locals and other union organizations to create and use their own media and find their own solutions. It should educate and mobilize and agitate for an appreciation and embrace of media alternatives at all levels of the labor movement. It should explore and deepen the mass media critiques inaugurated by labor in the 80's and join with the broader public to oppose the corporate media agenda.

Some will argue that there is no money for such a strategy. Money is important and an issue, but it should not be an obstacle. When your roof leaks and you don't have the money to fix it, you still have to figure out how to make it sound or watch as your whole house slowly crumbles to the ground. The analogy is rather apt. Most of all, labor needs the will and resolve to address the media crisis creatively and effectively.

The production of alternative labor media including videos by working people is being done very successfully in Korea. Korean workers have far fewer resources than US workers but they have understood that they cannot rely on the corporate media to tell their story. They train the rank and file to make media and train them so they can use it as a tool to educate and fight their struggles. If they can do it, we can do it.

So here are a few ideas. We don't propose to have all the answers and encourage many more folks to help think this through.

Labor Print Media

A comprehensive national labor media strategy would encourage and support the thousands of local union newspapers, journals and newsletters and advocate for more. Clearly the main purpose of these publications—to strengthen the local union, promote its interests and agenda, and serve and educate its members directly—would not be changed. Such a strategy also might advocate for:

1. Increased information sharing and educational and skills upgrade opportunities through the proliferation of union press associations and an increased role for the International Labor Communications Association.

2. More open, independent and democratic editorial styles that would allow individual union members and workers to see themselves better reflected in the pages of the paper and discourage the use of trade union papers as mere vehicles for officer re-election.
3. Communities of interest in local areas with other alternative journals and papers, weeklies, neighborhood papers and foreign language and ethnic publications.

Local and Regional

The AFL-CIO could establish regional labor media centers, reminiscent of the Independent Media Centers made famous in Seattle, for electronic media training and production in video, television, radio, and web-based communications. Such centers could promote and improve on existing labor media models for:

1. cable access labor television shows;
2. community labor radio programs;
3. web-based labor news services;
4. creating issue oriented and organizing support videos for locals;
5. cooperation with broadcast unions for advice, membership, problem solving and craft integrity.

National Initiatives

Based on the success of such regional Centers, organized labor could seriously explore models for national mass labor media like:

1. A national daily labor internet news service;
2. A national labor newspaper;
3. National labor television programs;
4. One or more national labor (or progressive coalition) cable television channels;
5. National radio initiatives like the Workers Independent News Service (WINS) [*see Report from WINS on page 2 -Ed.*]. WINS uses web-based distribution coupled with local placement of programming to reach thousands of workers each day;
6. Building relationships with progressive video and film artists, documentary filmmakers and other entertainment and media professionals who are interested in labor and working class issues.

Analysis and Action Around Media Democracy

1. Renewed analysis of and opposition to the corporate news perspective.
2. Analysis, strategies and activity to deal with the current attack on communication rights over the internet, TV and radio. A national campaign to oppose media monopolization and the threat to democracy could be lead by organized labor and could include labor/community hearings in every region of the country.
3. It is an outrage that there is no regular labor programming on WNET, PBS and NPR. Labor can and should take on this issue. How about labor protests at all PBS/NPR stations every Labor Day until we get regular labor programming?
4. Build labor opposition to the privatization and commercialization of the internet and join with other trade unionists at the United Nations Conference on Telecommunication for a labor rights campaign in telecom.

An Invitation to Our International Readers

UPPNET News reprints excerpts from an article by Maurice Lamoine appearing in the English edition of *Le Monde Diplomatique* in August. Although the article is interesting on its own, by reprinting it UPPNET News means to invite our international readers to contribute reports and commentary on labor media in a global context, and in their own countries. Please email all material to: lduncan@igc.org

How Hate Media Incited The Coup Against The President

Venezuela's press power

Never even in Latin American history has the media been so directly involved in a political coup. Venezuela's 'hate media' controls 95% of the airwaves and has a near monopoly over newsprint, and it played a major part in the failed attempt to overthrow the president, Hugo Chávez, in April. Although tensions in the country could easily spill into civil war, the media is still directly encouraging dissident elements to overthrow the democratically elected president - if necessary by force.

"We had a deadly weapon: the media. And now that I have the opportunity, let me congratulate you." In Caracas, on 11 April 2002, just a few hours before the temporary overthrow of Venezuela's president, Hugo Chávez, Vice-Admiral Victor Ramírez Pérez congratulated journalist Ibéyiste Pacheco live on Venevision television. Twenty minutes earlier, when Pacheco had begun to interview a group of rebel officers, she could not resist admitting, conspiratorially, that she had long had a special relationship with them.

At the same time, in a live interview from Madrid, another journalist, Patricia Poleo, also seemed well informed about the likely future development of "spontaneous events". She announced on the Spanish channel TVE: "I believe the next president is going to be Pedro Carmona." Chávez, holed up in the presidential palace, was still refusing to step down.

After Chávez came to power in 1998, the five main privately owned channels—Venevisión, Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV), Globovisión and CMT—and nine of the 10 major national newspapers...have taken over the role of the traditional political parties, which were damaged by the president's electoral victories. Their monopoly on information has put them in a strong position. They give the opposition support, only rarely reporting government statements and never mentioning its large majority, despite that majority's confirmation at the ballot box. They have always described the working class districts as a red zone inhabited by dangerous classes of ignorant people and delinquents. No doubt considering them unphotogenic, they ignore working class leaders and organizations.

Their investigations, interviews and commentaries all pursue the same objective: to undermine the legitimacy of the government and to destroy the president's popular support...It makes mistakes, and the civilian and military personnel who surround it are tainted by corruption. But the government was democratically elected and still has the backing of the majority. It can also be credited with successes, nationally and internationally.



Venezuelan National Guard in the foreground, anti-coup protesters supporting President Chavez in the distance.

...On 21 March El Nacional ran the headline: "Hugo Chávez admits to being the head of a criminal network." Next day Tal Cual referred to "the feeling of nausea provoked by the aggressive words he uses to try to frighten Venezuelans". The president was insulted, compared with Idi Amin, Mussolini or Hitler, called a fascist, dictator or tyrant, and subjected to a spate of attacks. In any other country actions would have been brought for libel.

...Chávez responded to this media bombardment, sometimes using strong language, especially during his weekly broadcast *Aló presidente!* on the only state-controlled television channel. But his regime in no way resembles a dictatorship, and his diatribes have not been followed by measures to control the flow of information. Since Chávez took office, not a single journalist has been imprisoned, and the government has not shut down any media. Yet it is accused of "flouting freedom of information" and of "attacking social communicators".

"Tell the truth"

On 7 January a group of the president's supporters besieged the offices of El Nacional chanting hostile slogans. Shouting "tell the truth!", they hurled objects at the building. The number of attacks on journalists is increasing, according to Carlos Correa, general coordinator of Provea, an organization for the defense of human rights, and they are being criminalized. "Although there have been no deaths, the situation is serious. Since the media bosses decided to oppose Chávez politically, it is no longer possible to have a reasonable discussion about the country's problems. But to claim there is no freedom of expression is outrageous."

...Led by men of influence and top journalists, the media is taking over from other players in the process of destabilization: Pedro Carmona's employers' association (Fedecámaras), Carlos Ortega's Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, dissident members of the military, the technocrats of the national oil company (PDVSA) and a few discreet US officials. United in the Venezuelan Press Bloc (BPV), the media finally showed its hand when it joined in the first general strike on 10 December 2001.

Scaremongers

"Free" opinions published in print—"Time for a change of government" or "Time to overthrow this government"—were reinforced by dubious manipulation of the broadcast media. On 5 April two TV presenters gave their own commentary on a strike of petrol stations that was linked to the

Coup in Venezuela and the Media *Continued from p. 4*

PDVSA conflict: “Have you remembered to fill up? Hurry, because tomorrow there won’t be a drop left in the country.” By encouraging motorists to rush out to buy petrol, they provoked unnecessary chaos, though the strike was only partial and the stations were still receiving supplies.

On 7 April Ortega and Carmona announced that there was to be a general strike. The editor of *El Nacional*, Miguel Enrique Otero, stood shoulder to shoulder with them and spoke on behalf of the press: “We are all involved in this struggle in defense of the right to information.” Two days later the BPV, which had just been visited by the new US ambassador, Charles Shapiro, decided to back the strike. From then on the television companies broadcast live from the headquarters of the PDVSA-Chuao, the designated assembly point for opposition demonstrations.

“Take to the streets” thundered *El Nacional* on 10 April (in an unattributed editorial). “Ni un paso atrás! (not one step backwards)” responded the hoardings on *Globovisión*. Another TV company broadcast: “Venezuelans, take to the streets on Thursday 11 April at 10am. Bring your flags. For freedom and democracy. Venezuela will not surrender. No one will defeat us.” The call to overthrow the head of state became so obvious that the government applied Article 192 of the telecommunications law. More than 30 times—for all television and radio channels—it requisitioned 15-20 minutes’ air time to broadcast its views. But the broadcasters divided the screen in two and continued to urge rebellion.

On 11 April military and civilian press conferences calling for the president’s resignation marked the next phase. On *RCTV*, Ortega called on the opposition to march on Miraflores (the presidential palace). At about 4pm, when the scale of the conspiracy was apparent, the authorities gave the order to block the frequencies used by the private channels. *Globovisión*, *CMT* and *Televen* went off air for a few moments before resuming their broadcasts using satellite or cable. All screens broadcast an image that had been edited to show armed counter-demonstrators firing on “the crowd of peaceful demonstrators”. As a result the Bolivarian Circles, the social organization of Chávez supporters, were blamed for deaths and injuries.

The conspirators, including Carmona, met at the offices of *Venevisión*. They stayed until 2 am to prepare “the next stage”, along with Rafael Poleo (owner of *El Nuevo País*) and Gustavo Cisneros, a key figure in the coup. Cisneros, a multimillionaire of Cuban origin and the owner of *Venevisión*, runs a media empire—*Organización Diego Cisneros*. It has 70 outlets in 39 countries. Cisneros is a friend of George Bush senior: they play golf together and in 2001 the former US president holidayed in Cisneros’s Venezuelan property. Both are keen on the privatization of the PDVSA. Otto Reich, US assistant secretary of state for Interamerican affairs, admits to having spoken with Cisneros that night.

At 4 am on 12 April, to avoid bloodshed, Chávez allowed himself to be arrested and taken to the distant island of Orchila. Without presenting any document signed by Chávez to confirm the news, the media chorused his “resignation”. The boss of the bosses, Carmona, proclaimed himself president and dissolved all of the constituent,

legitimate and democratic bodies. *Venezolana de Televisión*, the only means of communication available to the government, was the first broadcaster forced to shut down when Carmona took power.

Ready for the coup

The press greeted the coup (though they censored any use of that word) with undisguised enthusiasm. And for good reason. Interviewing Admiral Carlos Molina Tamayo and Victor Manuel García, director of statistical institute *Ceca*, at 6.45am, presenter Napoleón Bravo boasted that he had allowed his own house to be used to record a call to rebellion by General González González. García described his role at the dissident military centre of operations at Fort Tiuna: “We were short of communications facilities, and I have to thank the press for their solidarity and cooperation in helping us to establish communications with the outside world and pass on the instructions that General González González gave me.”

...The desire for revenge provoked repression. The interior minister, Ramón Rodríguez Chacín, and a member of parliament, Tarek William Saab, were arrested, and heckled and manhandled by a crowd. *RCTV* triggered a manhunt by publishing a list of the most wanted individuals and broadcast violent searches live, aping the hectic pace of US news broadcasts. The live broadcast on all channels of attorney general Isias Rodríguez’s press conference was suddenly taken off air after only five minutes when he talked about the excesses of the “provisional government” and condemned the “coup”.

On 13 April the Chávez supporters were unleashed, and officers loyal to him retook control. But the only way Venezuelans could get information was through CNN broadcasts in Spanish—available only on cable, or on the internet sites of the Madrid daily *El País* and the BBC in London. Announcing the rebellion by the 42nd parachute division in Maracay, CNN expressed amazement that the press were saying nothing. The freedom of information that had been clamored for had been replaced by silence. Screens were filled with action films, cookery programmes, cartoons and baseball games from the major US leagues, interspersed only with repeats of General Lucas Rincón’s announcement of the “resignation” of Chávez.

Thousands logged on to the internet and got on their mobile phones, but only the alternative press was able to beat the blackout. Popular newspapers, television and radio began life in the poor districts, and were an important source of communication and information. Short on experience, they were the first targets of the “democratic transition”. According to Thierry Deronne, the presenter of *Teletambores*, Chávez had never asked them to broadcast his speeches.

...It was 20 hours before the state channel *Venezolana de Televisión* came back on the air with the help of militants from the community media and from soldiers from the presidential guard. The silence was broken and Venezuelans then found out that the situation was changing. Except for *Últimas Noticias*, no newspaper was published next day to announce the president’s return. The private television channels broadcast no bulletins. *Globovisión* alone rebroadcast the information that had been transmitted by the international agencies.

ILWU Videos *Continued from p. 8*

good, building past the issues and bravado of what they will do if the troops are called out, to an emotional finish. This generation of Longshoremen have not really been tested in a contract strike, but since they tend to pass their union card down from father to son, many of them have been raised on stories of the docks and the big battles of yesteryear. They know full well that now it is their turn, and that how they do will go down in family history, just like their fathers and grandfathers actions are the legends they grew up on. Meanwhile Bush seems to want to make the ILWU the PATCO of this era (Pres. Reagan fired the air traffic controllers, brought in the military to land the planes, and broke the strike. Later the white house bragged that it was a lesson for all government workers.)

3. Labor Reclaims "This Land" 3 min 26 sec. Another music video, with an updated version of Woody Guthrie's song. In this version there are a couple WTO verses. B-roll for that part of the song is WTO stills, while the rest of the song relies on shots of the Longshore march. The piece finishes off with a call to show Bush the door.

This is powerful, proud, working class stuff, that also celebrates the unity that has been forged with groups like Rainforest Action, Teamsters & Turtles etc, and worth it to see the President of the Labor Council sing really strong militant, dare we say revolutionary songs.

Since this doesn't add up to a full 1 hour show, we featured an additional piece on Iraq to bring the entire tape to 57 minutes, 15 seconds, including our normal intro and credits, which could be replaced with your local intro to make a very good, timely one hour show.

Tapes are \$10, either VHS or SVHS, postpaid. Those groups and individuals who normally trade their stuff for ours will get one free as part of our normal trading stock. If you have sent something to us lately, look for it in the mail. Other folks can send us the dough, or start trading material, which we are always looking for to use on our show, or in our video quarterly "The Leader."

miniDV tapes available by special arrangement.

To order tapes, make check out to "PepperSpray" and mail to: PepperSpray Productions, PO Box 20626, Seattle, WA 98102 • Info: randyro@attbi.com



photo: PepperSpray

Scene from PepperSpray's "Battle Lines On the Dock". Rally footage, speeches, and interviews of big solidarity action for Seattle ILWU protesting Bush's threats of union busting.

JOIN UPPNET

UPPNET Union Producers and Programmers NETWORK
Established in 1989 to Promote Pro-Labor TV, Video, Radio,
Film and Internet Production and Programming

The Union Producers and Programmers Network (UPPNET) is a national and international network of labor media activists, creators, producers and programmers. UPPNET was established in 1989 to promote and expand the production and use of television, radio, video, film and emerging media technologies by working people, union activists, and organized labor as a whole. As computers and the Internet began transforming communications, UPPNET became a leading advocate for their use by the labor movement.

Through its various activities, UPPNET works to establish and promote the general distribution and circulation of media programming pertinent to the cause of organized labor and all working people. UPPNET has often been in the forefront of initiatives addressing mainstream media bias against labor and the general disregard for and cultural insult of working people. Against a backdrop of antidemocratic media concentration in the hands of massive multi-national corporate conglomerates, UPPNET works to promote fair and democratic use and access to the media by labor and other constituencies.

As an organization and as individuals working in our communities, UPPNET continues to build viable alternatives to the mainstream media that provide a meaningful voice and effective free speech to workers and people generally. The success of that endeavor rests on grass-roots initiative, the growth of local and regional labor media production of all types, the extent of UPPNET's network, and the realization of long-term national and international goals for cooperation, production, distribution and activism.

Please join us. Annual dues are \$30, which includes a year's subscription to the newsletter. You can also subscribe to UPPNET News only by paying \$15. Help labor's story break out! Join today. You may fill out the membership/sub form on the last page of this newsletter. For more information, contact Howard Kling, UPPNET President, at: hkling@csom.umn.edu

ILWU's Clarence Thomas Speech at 9/14 Rally in SF Streamed

by Dan Mattson Sept 15, 2002, handyman@california.com

Several thousand gathered to stop the war against Iraq before this streamed video begins (06:30).

This is a bit shakey because a long the way I went off to get some footage of the one pro-war agitator at the rally. He had earlier been parading back and forth right in front of the stage and the cops moved him out there. Because the demo had a permit he had to keep to the sidelines. Even so, he caused enough disruption that a demonstrator was arrested on assault charges.

<http://sf.indymedia.org/uploads/lt9140201-01.ram>

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

Fighting Back, Ralph Kessler, Berkeley, CA, 510-845-9285, KUSF 90.3 FM
David Bacon on Labor, David Bacon, Berkeley, CA, 510-549-0291, KPSS 94.1 FM
Labor Line, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-641-4440, SFLR 93.7 FM,
Working LA, Henry Walton, Panorama City, CA, 818-894-4079, KPFF 90.7 FM
Talking Union, Larry Dorman, Rock Hill, CT, 880-571-6191, WATR 1320 AM
Labor Express, Wayne Heimbach, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, WLWU 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Peter Miller, Champaign, IL, 217-337-5174, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFJ 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248,
CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
The Price Paid, Gene Lawhorn, Portland, OR, 503-282-9541, KB00 90.7FM
726 Express, Stewart Ransom, New York, NY, 718-761-6681, Staten Is. Cable
Rank-And-File, Larry Maglio, New York, NY, N.A., Staten Is. Cable

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

WLWU Continued from p. 1

When questioned by the Labor Express producer, he agreed to check into the requirements and eventually changed his mind on this issue.

Secondly, Loyola University made it known that it had no interest in talking to a "Friends of WLWU" group that had no track record and no financial backing. It was also widely known that Loyola was in contact with two other possible managers of the station —both out of town and neither interested in local programming.

The Friends of WLWU group came out of this discussion on protecting WLWU programming. It is also aware of the dangers of independent and non-profit radio following in the consolidation footsteps of its for-profit brethren. Both of these concerns—production on WLWU and the more general development of community radio in Chicago—are part of its mandate. Labor Express' hope, obviously, is that WLWU will continue to be the home of Chicago's only regular program on labor issues.

PDFs of previous UPPNET News are posted at
www.findourinfo.com/3/uppnetnl.htm

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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 having jurisdiction in the area.

www.mtn.org/les/

Building Bridges Radio Shows This Last Month

"Building Bridges: Your Community, Labor Report" is produced & hosted by Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash over WBAI, 99.5 FM, Mondays at 8 pm EST in New York City, and Rebroadcast Wednesdays at 8 pm EST on WBAI in Exile www.wbix.org

Archived Building Brides programs can be heard at www.buildingbridgesonline.org

- The case of Arundhati Roy and power politics: the struggle against the Narmada Dams in India with Arundhati Roy
- Changing realities: the Mexican worker in New York and beyond
- Praise won't pay the rent: NYC workers post-911
- Three years into civilian rule in Nigeria: is there a deepening crisis and can Nigeria stand up to global capital?
- Labor Day special
- The transformation of community legal services to a corporate-style bureaucracy
- There's a war on the workers

Three Videos on ILWU from PepperSpray

By Randy Rowland, PepperSpray/Seattle IMC

PepperSpray has just finished 3 closely related videos regarding the Longshoremen's Union (ILWU) contract struggle. President Bush threatened to use federal troops on the docks and spurred quite a reaction. The videos were made for our cable access show here in the Seattle area.

One of the fascinating things is how the Longshoremen, at least at the Seattle rally which forms the backbone of these videos, have embraced the WTO struggle, and modern movement tactics. They even had a big puppet of a capitalist at the rally.

The pieces are as follows:

1. Woodstock on the Dock (3 min, 43sec). This is a music video of sorts, featuring a longshoreman from the Tacoma Labor Council, who is also the president of the Tacoma Labor Council, with guitar, singing the Wobbly song "Dump the Bosses Off Your Back," which slides into a "this is what democracy looks like" ditty. B-roll features the big puppet, marching workers and community members.

2. Battle Lines On the Dock 38 min 17sec. This is the rally footage, presenting the longshore case through speeches and interviews cut together, with the Anti-Fascist Marching Band thrown in. B-roll is marching workers, motorcycles, and a great collection of t-shirts. Speeches are edited to keep the concentrate the good stuff, and it is

continued on page 6

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