

As unions join anti-war ranks, labor media covers the story

Labor radio, tv and internet have responded strongly to the intensifying repressive climate being created by the Bush government, as have other independent media movements. While not losing focus on labor's domestic social and economic justice battles, labor media has covered the labor-against-the-war story in many communities across the country.

In Kansas City, Heartland Labor Forum broadcast on KKFI-FM a segment called "War with Iraq: Follow the Money", which was underwritten by a UAW local. New York City's Building Bridges, on WBAI-FM, aired "Iraq: The Struggle for Oil!" with James A. Paul of the Global Policy Forum. And labor video shows on cable-tv (and internet) have been busy producing a number of shows about labor opposing the war and labor participation in the huge protests in Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

The Chicago founding conference of the new national organization, U.S. Labor Against the War, as well as actions in Vancouver and NYC were also covered. [See more details about these productions on pages 2 and 6 in this issue.]



photo: Labor Video Project

Teachers union members from Los Angeles march at the huge Jan. 18 anti-war protest in San Francisco. This event was covered by both Labor Video Project and Bright Path Video.

UPPNET Statement

UPPNET challenges Patriot Act and other repressive legislation

The Union Producers and Programmers Network believes that the Patriot Act, The Homeland Security Act, and other recent legislation is a direct and real threat to all labor and democratic rights. It allows for racial profiling, unlimited spying rights and repressive anti-labor laws that take away the right to legal representation. For labor producers and programmers, our rights are also threatened. The use of the "preemptive" declaration of war to suppress free speech is a very real threat.

Already using the threat of terrorism, the US government is seeking to eliminate the Freedom of Information Act and will make it a crime to report corruption within the US government. It will also allow corporations to classify information about their potentially illegal actions including violation of environmental laws security secrets. This will prevent the press and UPPNET members from exposing the role of these corporate criminals.

We believe that the labor movement must organize now to repeal the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act as threats to all democratic and labor rights. UPPNET joins the many cities and towns as well as labor organizations including the California Federation of Teachers, the California AFL-CIO and others in calling for repeal of the Patriot and Homeland Security Acts. We also call on the labor movement to organize now against all such repressive legislation which threatens our democratic and labor rights.

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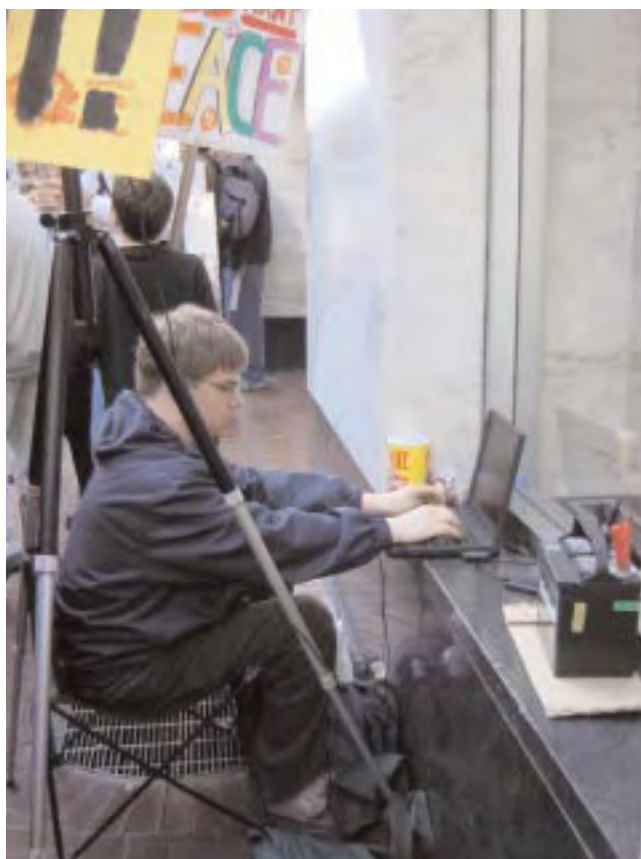


Photo: Mark ironorchid.com

Cory on webcam 2 at Starbucks

Using new “wi-fi” technology

How brightpathvideo.com used 802.11 wireless “hotspots”

By John Parulis, webmaster parulis@pacbell.net

To Live Webcast The Jan 18 Peace March In San Francisco I had no idea that setting up “live webcams” during the January 18th peace march in San Francisco would receive about 603,000 hits. The idea to try this sprang from a desire to show the world, and more importantly, the mainstream press, that many thousands of diverse groups of people attend these marches. I, like many others who attended the October 26th peace march in San Francisco, were disappointed to see crowd estimates from the SF police and the press, far below the nearly 100,000 that many observed there. Even the New York Times had to print a retraction of an earlier grossly underestimated crowd estimate for the October march in Washington, DC.

People love to watch webcams. To capture the constant stream of thousands of people marching in “real time” was our goal. To accomplish this, we decided on using popular webcam technology, and the growing availability of wireless cafe “hot spots” along the parade route.

Here’s how it works. To start with, we downloaded a good piece of software from Webcam32 Their site contains all the info you need on webcams and how to set them up. A little HTML knowledge will be helpful.

The cams themselves are the garden variety webcams you can purchase for under \$40 bucks online or in places like CompUSA.

We used laptops with wireless network pci cards installed...this is the famous “wi-fi” connectivity everyone is talking about these days. We logged onto 802.11hotspots.com for a detailed directory of “hot spot” cafes and locales around the country. We found at least six or seven of these places on the entire length of the parade route on Market St. in San Francisco. These hot spot cafes charge a small amount for using the connection, which is usually dsl or faster.

The week before the march, Gabe and I walked up and down Market St. testing the wi-fi connections and looking for the best camera locations. On January 18th, setting up our webcams was then as easy as can be.

Once we secured an internet connection, we then enabled the webcams and started uploading pictures to the brightpathvideo server and to indymedia. We put out a message on our site that anyone was free to use the images on their sites, so as to increase the exposure of this event. Because the wi-fi signal travels at least 300 feet, we were able to set up one of the cameras outside on the sidewalk, to get better shots. A 164 amp tractor battery, with a dc laptop power converter, powered the sidewalk laptop all day.

Key to getting the word out about these cameras, was a week’s worth of emailing webmasters from the international indymedia system, as well as many other peace activist groups and webcam lists.

As people passed our cameras, many expressed a keen interest in what we were doing, and some even volunteered their time helping us for a few hours. The most important help came from a cast of young volunteers, my son Gabe, Eli Mendez, Kena Hazelwood, and Cory Sturdevant.

For the next peace march, on February 16th, we plan to do more of the same and perhaps add another webcam with an overhead position. Additional thanks go to the web team at sf.indymedia.org

[and visit brightpathvideo.com – Ed.]

205,000 hits

National labor meet against Taft-Hartley video stream

Video streaming clips from the workshops have been added to the labor site that covered a conference in San Francisco against the Taft-Hartley Act and Union Busting. Labor activists from ILWU, and others from around the globe, met to share insights and strategies designed to overturn one of the most repressive anti-labor laws ever crafted by Congress.

Also the short documentary “Battle On The Docks” has now been added to the site and over 205,000 hits on the site since December 16,2002

The streaming site is:

www.brightpathvideo.com/Labor_Video.htm

Important Stanford Conference on Access

On April 5, 2003 a one day conference will be held on ACCESS: Broadband and the Digital Future Who is in control?

The conference which is endorsed by a number of unions as well as community access tv producers and programmers will focus on the monopolization of the media and how independent media can fight back.

Some of the topics covered in the workshops will include:

- Cable Internet access and regulation
- Workers' rights in the new technology industries
- Labor video and a labor channel
- Privatization of telecommunications
- The "digital divide"
- Public access cable and interconnect channels
- Threats to peer-to-peer file sharing
- Privacy, spying, and censorship
- Wireless networks and micro-radio
- Municipalization of broadband infrastructure and cable tv
- Defending access to alternative media/
Micro-broadcasting
- Global Internet governance (ICANN, the WSIS, etc.)

There will also be a competition for the best videos of Northern California community access producers. They will be screened and also streamed on the web.

This Conference has been endorsed by Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco (PPNSF), NALC 214, Laney Labor College, CWA 9415, CWA 9423, Labor Video Project, LaborTech, Good News Show, Pastor & Ministers; Conference of SF and Adjacent Cities, CNS Presents, Union Producers & Programmers Network (UPP-NET), Media Alliance

Co-Convenors: Steve Zeltzer, LaborNet & LaborTech (lvpsf@labornet.org); Carl Bryant, NALC Local 214 and TV214 (carlvtv214@aol.com); Todd Davies, Stanford University and LaborTech (tdavies@csl.stanford.edu); Art McGee, Black Radical Congress (amcgee@freeshell.org); Mic, Indymedia (mic@velocipede.org)

International competition for labor video shorts

The 10th Annual International Working Class Film and Video Festival is launching an international competition for the best 3 minute labor videos.

The video should illuminate the issues facing working people and the unemployed.

If submitted from outside the US it must either contain captions or an English narration. It will be accepted in PAL or NTSC. The winner of this jury award will receive \$100.00 and it will be honored at the International Working Class Film & Video Festival in San Francisco from July 5-July 31.

Producers of the 3 minute videos chosen will also have 3 minutes to talk about their videos at the festival screenings.

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

Please send the 3 minute labor video to: LaborFest/
International Working Class Film & Video Festival
P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142

U.S. military control of major media

FAIR—The Federation of American Scientists has pointed to a startling revelation by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld that mainstream media have missed: In remarks during a recent press briefing, Rumsfeld suggested that though the controversial Office of Strategic Influence no longer exists in name, its programs are still being carried out.

The OSI came under scrutiny last February, when the New York Times reported that the new Pentagon group was "developing plans to provide news items, possibly even false ones, to foreign media organizations." The news was met with outrage, and within a week the Pentagon had closed down the OSI, saying that negative attention had damaged the office's reputation so much "that it could not operate effectively."

The plan was troubling for many reasons: It was profoundly undemocratic; it would have put journalists' lives at risk by involving them in Pentagon disinformation; and it's almost certain that any large-scale disinformation campaign directed at the foreign press would have led, sooner or later, to a falsified story being picked up by U.S. media. At the time, Rumsfeld claimed that he had "never even seen the charter for the office" but Thomas Timmes, the OSI's assistant for operations, said that Rumsfeld had been briefed on its goals "at least twice" and had "given his general support."

Now, in remarks made at a November 18 media briefing, Rumsfeld has suggested that though the exposure of OS's plans forced the Pentagon to close the office, they certainly haven't given up on its work. According to a transcript on the Department of Defense website, Rumsfeld told reporters: "And then there was the Office of Strategic Influence. You may recall that. And 'oh my goodness gracious isn't that terrible, Henny Penny the sky is going to fall.' I went down that next day and said fine, if you want to savage this thing fine I'll give you the corpse. There's the name. You can have the name, but I'm gonna keep doing every single thing that needs to be done and I have."

A search of the Nexis database indicates that no major U.S. media outlets—no national broadcast television news shows, no major U.S. newspapers, no wire services or major magazines—have reported Rumsfeld's remarks.

Rumsfeld's comments seem all the more alarming in light of analysis presented by William Arkin in a recent Los Angeles Times opinion column, in which he argues that Rumsfeld is redesigning the U.S. military to make "information warfare" central to its functions. This new policy, says Arkin, increasingly "blurs or even erases the boundaries between factual information and news, on the one hand, and public relations, propaganda and psychological warfare, on the other." Arkin adds that "while the policy ostensibly targets foreign enemies, its most likely victim will be the American electorate."

FAIR: www.fair.org

Haskell Wexler:



photo: Alan Harris Stein

“We could be making labor films”

A living treasure in the history of American documentary, Haskell Wexler is best known for his 1968 breakthrough film “Medium Cool,” shot in Chicago and using the ‘68 Convention as a dramatic backdrop. Here is an excerpt of an exclusive interview conducted by Labor Beat’s Alan Harris Stein from a work in progress.

Alan Harris Stein: Returning to WCFL [Chicago’s labor radio station during first part of 20th Century] can you talk about those days of labor radio?

Haskell Wexler: Growing up in Chicago I was very media conscious. It was called WCFL. Now you can turn on any radio or tv set in the country today and you will not know anything about labor, but you can get the stock quotes of the smallest corporation anywhere and you’re supposed to feel elation when the stock goes up and depression when it goes down. Somehow, it’s sort of like a blood pressure thing. We should cheer when a corporation is indicating more profits or has the potential for being more prof-

itable. The fact that they laid off 10,000 workers is not of any importance. But there is no voice of labor.

I think that labor has been very backward in using the media and bringing their story to the people.

AHS: There has been concern voiced for a national labor television, whether that’s a station or a controlled Labor Channel like the History Channel, why hasn’t something like that coalesced with filmmakers and maybe some of the new wave type of documentarists?

HW: Well, strangely enough, I’m Vice President of Local 600 of IATSE, which is a media local. We have quite a few unemployed workers many of them very talented. There’s no reason that, for a modest amount of money, we could be making labor films, even pro-labor commercials, but it seems that contemporary modern labor forgets whom they’re supposed to represent and they represent corporate labor and the entity of the organization itself rather than working stiffs.

Comcast refuses anti-war ads during State of Union

By JOHN CURRAN, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - An anti-war group accused the nation’s biggest cable company on Tuesday of refusing to air TV ads opposing a U.S. war with Iraq.

Peace Action Education Fund spent \$5,000 for air time for six 30-second ads to be aired by Philadelphia-based Comcast Corp. beginning Tuesday night. The ads were to be broadcast over CNN in the Washington, D.C., area. They were bought to coincide with President Bush’s State of the Union speech, in which Bush was expected to reiterate his case for war. But Comcast’s legal department notified the group Tuesday morning that the ads would not air, saying they were unsubstantiated. “Comcast runs advertisements from many sources representing a wide range of viewpoints, pro and con, on numerous issues of importance to the public,” Comcast spokesman Mitchell Schmale said. “However, we must decline to run any spot that fails to substantiate certain claims or charges. In our view, this spot raises such questions.”

The ads show citizens expressing their opposition to war with Iraq and were to run twice on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. The idea was to reach Congress members, Cabinet members and other Washington, D.C., decision makers, according to the Rev. Robert Moore, executive director of the 2,000-member peace group, which is based in Princeton.

“This is an outrageous infringement on our First Amendment rights, in the center of our democracy, Washington, D.C.,” Moore said. “Obviously, the president and the administration are ratcheting up their advocacy for war, culminating with the state of the union address. We thought it was a good time to ratchet up our opposition. If people are going to see his message, there’s no reason they shouldn’t see ours, too,” said Moore, a United Church of Christ minister.

50th Anniversary of *Salt of the Earth* Conference, Santa Fe, Feb/Mar '03

Fogelson Library at the College of Santa Fe is proud to announce a major conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the filming of that uniquely New Mexican movie, *Salt of the Earth*.

The conference will take place from February 27 to March 1, 2003 on the campus of the College.

The principle themes are workers’ rights and freedom of expression. Several other sub-themes include ethnicity, women in the labor movement, and the ravages of McCarthyism will also be explored.

Some of the participants will include:

Continued on page 7

The FCC/media deregulation debate heats up

Media concentration is a totalitarian tool

By Molly Ivins, Boulder Daily Camera Fri Jan 31 '03

AUSTIN, Texas — Now here's a dandy example of the kind of thing that never makes it to the front page or the top of the news broadcast, but that affects absolutely everyone. The Federal Communications Commission, led by Michael ("my religion is the market") Powell, is fixing to remove the last remaining barriers against concentration of media.

This means one company can own all the radio stations, television stations, newspapers and cable systems in any given area.

Presently, 10 companies own over 90 percent of the media outlets. Bill Kovach of the Committee of Concerned Journalists and Tom Rosenstiel of the Project for Excellence in Journalism say these are the most sweeping changes in the rules that govern ownership of American media since the 1940s. The ownership rules were put in place after we had seen how totalitarian governments use domination of the media to goad their countries into war.

We already know what happens when the free-market zealots remove restrictions on ownership. In 1996, the FCC eliminated its rules on radio ownership. Conglomerates now own hundreds of stations around the country. One company, Clear Channel, owns more than 1,200 stations, and there are 30 percent fewer station owners than there were before 1996. The result is less local news and local programming, since the formats are programmed at headquarters. Clear Channel owns as many as six or seven stations in a market, broadcasting generic country, generic pop, generic oldies, etc.

The fearless investigative television journalism we have all come to expect (an hour-long special on Michael Jackson's face in the works) will not be improved by this move. The FCC is doing this in an almost covert way. FCC Commissioner Michael Copps reports that only under pressure did the commission agree to hold one lone public hearing on it, in Richmond, Va.

A coalition of consumer and media advocacy groups presented a 140-page filing that shows joint ownership of newspaper and broadcast outlets fails to meet the constitutional requirement, set out by the Supreme Court in 1945, that "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the people."

In 1987, FCC commissioners appointed by Ronald Reagan repealed the Fairness Doctrine, and that has already had a stunning effect on political debate in this country. That same year, Congress put the Fairness Doctrine into law, but Reagan vetoed it with this memorable rationalization, "The Fairness Doctrine is inconsistent with the tradition of independent journalism." The Fairness Doctrine had been upheld by the Supreme Court in a 1969 decision that viewed the airwaves as a "public trust" and said fairness required the public trust to accurately reflect opposing views. In a 1986

decision, the D.C. Federal Court of Appeals in a 2-to-1 decision upheld a new FCC rule refusing to apply the Fairness Doctrine to television text. The two prevailing judges were Antonin Scalia and Robert Bork.

Edward Monks, a lawyer in Eugene, Ore., did a report for the newspaper there last year on the prevalence of right-wing hosts on radio talk shows. "The spectrum of opinion on national political commercial talk radio shows ranges from extreme right wing to very extreme right wing — there is virtually nothing else." Monks notes the irony that many of these right-wing hosts spend much of their time complaining about "the liberal media."

On the two Eugene talk stations, Monks found: "There are 80 hours per week, more than 4,000 hours per year, programmed for Republican and conservative talk shows, without a single second programmed for a Democratic or liberal perspective . . . Political opinions expressed on talk radio are approaching the level of uniformity that would normally be achieved only in a totalitarian society. There is nothing fair balanced or democratic about it."

To point out the obvious, broadcasters and their national advertisers have a clear stake in promoting the views of those who advocate lower taxes on the rich and on big corporations. What is so perfectly loony about the FCC's proposal to unleash yet another round of media concentration is that it is being done in the name of "the free market."

Is the free market not supposed to encourage competition rather than lead to its disappearance? The U.S. now ranks 17th, below Costa Rica and Slovenia, on the worldwide index of press freedom established by the Reporters Without Borders.



A newspaper ad organized by Media Tank.

http://www.mediatank.org/FCC_ad.html

info@media tank.org

New videos cover labor's opposition to looming war against Iraq

"U.S. Labor Against the War founding meeting"



U.S.L.A.W. delegates discuss the founding statement of the new national organization.

Labor Beat has produced a new video on a big labor anti-war weekend in Chicago. On Jan. 10, a public meeting was packed at Teamster 705 to hear union activists and veterans attack Bush's war drive.

The following day, at an invitation-only meeting, delegates from union locals from around the country met to hammer out an anti-war resolution which is a watershed statement forming U.S. Labor Against the War. Attending were union officers, officials and activists from organizations representing more than 2 million members. Interviewed are Gene Bruskin (labor leader from Wash. D.C. area, one of the key organizers of the meeting), Michael Letwin (N.Y.C. Labor Against the War), Gerry Zero, Sec. Treas. Teamsters 705 (which hosted the meeting), and other delegates.

JoAnn Wypijewski, writing for Counterpunch, noted about the USLAW meeting, "The term 'historic', used throughout the day, was not misplaced...Something profoundly different is happening now, and while it's unclear how broad labor opposition will become, its very existence, now given national expression, represents the deepest crack in the supposed consensus for war."

The public meeting the night before featured Trent Willis (Pres. ILWU Local 10), Brenda Stokely (NYCLAW), Linda Byrd (Rec. Sec. IBT 738), Bill Davis (former national coordinator Vietnam Veterans Against the War).

To order the video "U.S. Labor Against the War", send a check for \$20 to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. More info: lduncan@igc.org



Gene Bruskin, a labor leader from Washington DC and one of the meeting's organizers, talks about how the U.S. Labor Against the War founding conference came about.

"Labor Against The War on Iraq"

Labor On The Job has just finished editing a new powerful video on the labor protests against the war on the Iraq. From San Francisco to Washington DC on January 18, 2003 workers came out to protest the war not only on Iraq but on US working people. From teachers and nurses to transit workers and long-shoremen, these trade unionists are making clear that they want no part of this war. Includes footage of labor speakers in Washington, DC and San Francisco as well as many interviews.

This 26 minute video also includes the powerful music of labor rocker Mike Stout and his song "Throw The Bums Out". \$20.00

Send to: Labor Video Project, P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142. lvpsf@labornet.org (415)282-1908

Vancouver, January 18 Anti-War March

Highlights from the January 18 Vancouver component of the International Day of Action to say No to War on Iraq and for Peace and Justice in the middle east.

Over 10,000 turned out to march through downtown Vancouver, to a rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Webcast includes interviews of marchers by Libby Davies, Vancouver East Member of Parliament (NDP). Davies was also one of the speakers at the rally. BROADBAND video online. www.workingtv.com/peaceraally.html



"Labor Against War"

Labor leaders voice opposition to the proposed war on Iraq. They explain why and how to oppose war. These arguments weave a web of opposition to a threat to destroy working people, unions and freedom in the United States and Middle East. 28 minutes 22 seconds. To order a copy contact Eric Hiltner: akaphrates@hotmail.com.

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, WLWV 88.7 FM
Labor Beat, Larry Duncan, Chicago, IL, 312-226-3330, Chan. 19, cable tv
Illinois Labor Hour, Peter Miller, Champaign, IL, 217-337-5174, WEFT 90.1 FM
AFSCME On-Line, Dan Hart, Dorchester, MA, 617-266-3496, cable-tv
Heartland Labor Forum, Judy Ancel, Kansas City, MO, 816-235-1470, KKFI 90.1 FM
Minnesota at Work, Howard Kling, Minneapolis, MN, 612-624-5020, MCN Cable
Building Bridges, Ken Nash, New York, NY, 212-815-1699, WBAI 99.5 FM
Communique, Bill Henning, New York, NY, 212-228-6565, WNYE 91.5 FM
It's Your City, It's Our Job, Pat Passanilin, New York, NY, 212-815-1535, WNYE 91.5 FM
America's Work Force, Jerrod Sorkey, Eastlake, OH, 440-975-4262, WERE 1300 AM
Boiling Point, Michael Wood, Cincinnati, OH, 513-961-4348, WAIF 88.3 FM
Talking Union, John Lavin, Norristown, PA, 610-660-3372, WHAT 1340 AM
Labor on the Job, Steve Zeltzer, San Fran., CA, 415-282-1908, BUT Ch. 29 cable
Rhode Island Labor Vision, Chuck Schwartz, Cranston, RI, 401-463-9900, Ch. 14, cable-tv
Solidarity, John Speier, Kalamazoo, MI, 616-375-4638, Cable Access
Talkin' Union Labor, Rick Levy, Austin, TX, 512-477-6195 internet radio
Which Side Are You On?, Hal Leyshon, Middlesex, VT, 802-223-4172, radio
Radio Labor Journal, Bil Borders, Everett, WA, 425-921-3454, KSER 90.7 FM
Labor Radio News, Frank Emspak, Madison, WI, 608-262-2111, WORT 89.9 FM
LaborVision, John Webb, St. Louis, MO, 314-962-4163, DHTV,
Labor at the Crossroads, Simin Farkhondeh, New York, NY, 212-966-4248,
CUNY-TV cable, ext. 216
OPEU Productions, Wes Brain, Ashland, OR, 541-482-6988, cable-tv
Labor Link TV, Fred Lonidier, La Jolla, CA, 619-552-0740, cable-tv,
First Tuesday, Leo Canty, Connecticut, 860-257-9782, cable-tv,
Letter Carriers, Carl Bryant, San Fran., CA, 415-885-0375, Today TV 214, cable-tv,
Springfield Labor Beat, Jim Hade, Springfield, IL, 217-787-7837, cable-tv
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
Labor on the Line, David King, Portland, OR

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

Salt of the Earth *Continued from p. 4*

Strikers and film participants: Virginia Chacon, Lorenzo Torrez and Clinton Jencks and several others.

Scholars: Ellen Schrecker (author of *Many are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*), James Lorence (author of *The Suppression of Salt of the Earth*), Paul Buhle, (author of *Radical Hollywood*), Zaragosa Vargas (author of *Proletarians of the North*) and many others.

- Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers
- Victor Navasky, editor of the *Nation* and author of *Naming Names*
- Amy Goodman, anchorperson for *Democracy Now*
- Norma Barzman, a blacklisted screenwriter
- Michael Apted—director of *A Coal Miner's Daughter*
- Peter Coyote, actor and activist
- David Riker who is directing a sequel to *Salt*.

Concurrent events will include a display of the Academy of Motion Pictures exhibit, *The Red and Blacklist* which is history of blacklisted screenwriters and the restoration of their credits; And a film festival emphasizing labor and political films. For complete information and registration materials, please visit our web- page: www.salt.csf.edu

UPPNET National Executive Board

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

Vice Presidents:

Judy Ancel, producer *Heartland Labor Forum* Kansas City, MO, AnceJ@umkc.edu
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Myoung Joon Kim, participating international observer, Seoul, Korea, LNP89@chollan.net

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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/

WorkWeek needs video segments

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

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

UPPNET News now on microfilm at Wis. State Historical Society

UPPNET News is proud to announce that it is being archived on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The Society has one of the largest collection of labor union serials in the country. For more information, contact:

James P. Danky (jpdanky@whs.wisc.edu)

Newspapers and Periodicals Librarian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State St.
Madison, WI 53706

New labor cable-tv show hits Portland, Oregon

By Dave King landd@igc.org

I have taken the plunge and signed up for a new cable-tv series called "Labor On the Line". It will have a regular schedule: Second and Fourth Saturday at 7:30 pm and the following Monday and Thursday at 9:00 pm. Half hour show.

The down side of a series is that each program only runs three times instead of six for individual programs. The up side is the regularity of the schedule. So, hopefully a regular following could develop.

Starting Sat., 1/11: "Chief Kroker must Go" is the rally and press conference of the most "respectable"

leadership in the Latino community demanding Kroker's firing. Some surprising speeches. On Sat., 1/25 "Zoned for Slavery" is the video of the National Labor Committee that helped kick off the movement against sweatshops. You may want to copy it to show to your slow-to-get-it friends and co workers.

I'll be taping Prof Ed Beechert's "Globalization, Labor and the Race to the Bottom", a four part series of lectures at the machinists hall starting Mon., 1/13.

I'm still looking for partners/helpers in the fairly pleasant and interesting work of producing "Labor on the Line". Look at what is happening in Venezuela. We really need our own media and culture if we're going to win. Hugo Chavez was elected president of that country and he *still* can't get the media to report the truth about his program because the bosses own the media.

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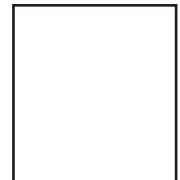
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Stanford Access Conference faces up to monopolization threats

By Steve Zeltzer

STANFORD, CA—More than 60 labor, community media and internet activists met on April 5, 2003 to discuss the growing threat to democratic rights on cable, the internet and other telecom areas.

The conference began with some concrete experiences of communication rights activists. Peter B. Collins, representing the national executive board of AFTRA, reported that the growing monopolization of radio and television threatens all democratic voices. He reported that he himself was fired from San Francisco radio station KNBR after publicly supporting Teamsters who were seeking to keep their union after Safeway moved to the Sacramento valley. KNBR is now owned by Clear Channel.

Another speaker, fired Intel worker Ken Hamidi [photo page 5] reported on how his fight to protect his right to send email to Intel workers was a right for all working people and especially unions who want to organize in the tech industry. Hamidi in his powerful speech explained how Intel's effort to silence him had backfired. Now using www.faceintel.com and other support, including the AFL-CIO, he is taking on Intel and the national Chamber of Commerce over the right to communicate.

Hamidi's case is now before the California Supreme Court and will set law for communication rights all over the world. The last speaker on the main panel, Marc Cooper of the National Federation of Consumers, explained how the new FCC rules will further destroy alternative points of view and eliminate the right of many communities to even have any local programming.

Many workshops held were very lively, from debating the use of free software to open software to the battle to

Continued on page 5

YOU WRITE WHAT
YOU'RE TOLD!



Upsurge of media activism challenges Iraq war propaganda

By UPPNET News Editor Larry Duncan

The concentration of corporate and Pentagon media muscle for selling the Iraq war was monumental, and rivaled any other propaganda juggernauts that history could offer. If a single instance had to be selected that exemplifies the craven servility of the 'civilian' networks, it was their unanimously agreeing to describe the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq with the Pentagon's Orwellian public relations slogan "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

On the positive side, however, the military's putsch of the U.S. information environment was met with a significant upsurge of anti-media activism within the peace movement. While nearly every anti-war rally from San Francisco to Washington D.C. had a speaker who referred to the network's subservience to Bush's propaganda needs, there was also a remarkable blossoming of many media activists organizations and web sites.

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The Media, the War and Our Right to Know

By Danny Schechter, MediaChannel.org, May 1, 2003

By now, we all realize that there is a high powered media campaign aimed at promoting the war on Iraq and shaping the views of the American people, relying on a media-savvy political strategy to sell the administration's priorities and policies.

There is an intimate link between the media, the war, and the Bush administration that even many activists are unaware of.

Few administrations in history have been as adept at using polling, focus groups, "perception managers," spinners, and I.O. or "information operations" specialists to sell slogans to further a "patriotically correct" climate. Orchestrating media coverage is one of their most well-honed skills, and they are aided and abetted by professional PR firms, corporate consultants, and media outlets.

Our Republican Guard relies on Murdoch-owned media assets like the Fox News Channel, supportive newspapers, aggressive talk radio hosts, conservative columnists, and an arsenal of on-air pundits adept at polarizing opinion and devaluing independent journalism.

They benefit from a media environment shaped by a wave of media consolidation that has seen the number of companies controlling our media drop from fifty to between five and seven in just ten years. Then there is the merger of news biz and show biz. Entertainment-oriented reality shows help depoliticize viewers while sensation-driven cable news limits analytical journalism and in-depth issue-oriented coverage.

Is it any wonder that most Americans admit to being uninformed about many of the key issues we confront? Is it surprising that many blindly follow feel-good slogans or appeals to national unity and conformity? This media problem is at the heart of all the issues that we face. And it is getting worse, not better.

If we want to save our democracy, we have to press the media to do its constitutionally protected job as a watchdog on people in power. We must insist that all views be given access, and that concerns of critics of this administration be heard and debated.

We live in a climate where even journalists are being intimidated for stepping out of line. In Iraq, the hotel assigned to journalists was fired on by soldiers, who killed two media workers. In the U.S., Pulitzer Prize winner Seymour Hersh was baited as a "media terrorist" by Pentagon advisor Richard Perle. Hundreds of journalists were "embedded" to sanitize war coverage. Independent journalists were harassed or ignored. Antiwar commercials have been suppressed and censored, while conservative talking-heads outnumber all others by several hundred percent.

Last week MSNBC's Ashleigh Banfield spoke at a college about the coverage of the Iraq war. She was honest and critical. "There were horrors that were completely left out of this war. So was this journalism? Or was this coverage?" she asked. "As a journalist, I have been ostracized just from going on television and saying, 'Here's what the

Continued on page 4

Upsurge of media activism *Continued from p. 1*

The size and breadth of the fresh wave of alternative media activism in the U.S., and globally, means for those of us who produce labor media that we must redouble our efforts, and recognize that we have new allies.

The labor movement itself must be affected by this media activism. In addition to official union participation in the anti-war demonstrations (such as through USLAW) many workers and trade union members participated informally as individuals. Unions in the U.S. must now hear renewed clamor, via their memberships, for directly and practically challenge the corporate media monster.

In this issue of UPPNET News, we list below only a sampling of such organizations, while acknowledging that there are no doubt many more that we haven't heard of. [We'll ask our readers to please tell us about the one's we've missed.]

www.MediaWar.info

As bombs start to fall and the corporate media propaganda machine kicks into overdrive, we launch a counter strike. Information is our weapon. • Censored News • An Independent Media News Portal. • Let the Media War begin

www.MediaWar.info/censorednews.htm

Boycott the News

We are seeking advice and support for TV Boycott's "Boycott the News" campaign. The campaign is an indirect boycott targeting the advertisers who sponsor biased and censored news coverage on the networks...We are planning to give extra weight to advertising on stations wholly owned by GE, Disney, Viacom, and NewsCorp. There are 71 stations throughout the country.

We are seeking the support of individuals and organizations for our efforts. Please take the time to check out the National Action at www.tvboycott.org

Media reform

www.mediareform.net/

Chicago Media Action

Chicago Media Action is a Chicago-area activist group organizing to challenge the corporations which control our mass media. Email: cma@chicagomediaaction.org.

www.chicagomediaaction.org/

APC opposes actions against Al Jazeera Web site

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC), an international network of civil society organizations, has come out in opposition to recent attempts to curtail the online presence of Arabic-language news service Al Jazeera. "The Internet must be allowed to freely perform its unique and vital role as a promoter of 'freedom of expression' and content diversity, especially in times of conflict," APC said in a statement released today.

APC noted that online freedom of expression was consistent with the UN International Covenant on Civil and

Continued on page 3

Videos Cover Labor Against the War

Shots on the Docks

The Labor Video Project's latest documentary on the police violence against peaceful protesters and longshoremen outside of The Port of Oakland Shipping Zone on April 7, 2003. Streamed at:

www.brightpathvideo.com/Labor_Video.htm

To order, contact: lvpsf@igc.org

Labor and the New Imperialism

From Labor Beat, video covers Chicago area union representatives discussing the the Iraq invasion and its effects on unions, workers, and workers-as-soldiers and veterans.

Highlights from recent Chicago Labor Against the War forum. Also includes excerpts of speech by Bill Davis, Chicago Labor Against the War and former national coordinator VVAW, at March 21 anti-war rally in Chicago's Loop. To order, send \$20 to Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607. Info: mail@laborbeat.org



Chicago Labor Against the War Forum. [L to R] Barry Romo, former National Coordinator VVAW; Barry Romo, former Nat. Coordinator VVAW; Katie Jordan, Chicago CLUW; Cynthia Rodriguez, V.P. SEIU 73; Pat Cronin, Cent. Dist. Mgr. UNITE.

APC on attack on Al Jazeera *Continued from p. 2*

Political Rights, which states that the right to freedom of opinion and expression — including the right to seek, receive and impart information — is a recognized human right and must be protected. Al Jazeera, which last week launched its English-language online service (<http://english.aljazeera.net>), has been the victim of repeated denial-of-service attacks, domain name hijackings and other malicious hacks.

“The computer hacks, online vandalism and the canceling of Al-Jazeera’s web hosting contract all interfere with the UN declared right to ‘receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,’” APC said. The Association for Progressive Communications web site:

www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=1084

Working TV Back on TV

by Julius Fisher *working TV*

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA—**We’re Back!** working TV is back on broadcast television today for the first time in 20 months.

Shaw TV will broadcast regular weekly half-hour *working TV* shows, primarily “podium” programs (various speakers taped at public events, with minimal editing).

These will air Mondays at 10:30 pm and Sundays at 6:30 am. The first program features Scottish health care worker and union activist Carolyn Leckie, taped January 16, 2003 at St. Pauls Hospital, speaking to local hospital workers on fighting back against privatization.

THANK YOU: working TV extends our gratitude to Sid Tan and to ICTV, (www.vcn.bc.ca/ictv/1pages/welcome.htm) the Independent Community Television co-operative, for their relentless lobbying of CRTC officials and anyone else who would listen.

It seems CRTC officials finally came to the realization that Sid Tan was not going away. The government regulator then pressured Shaw TV—which coincidentally has a license renewal hearing coming up soon—to give at least some of the community channel back to the community. Thank you Sid! Thank you to Carmel Salerno and George Lacny at Shaw TV for the gracious and constructive manner in which they have accepted these changes. And thanks to all of you who phoned or wrote letters to help make this campaign a success. Perseverance furthers.

More info: www.workingtv.com

AFL-CIO statement on media monopolies

Titled “Media Monopolies: A Threat to American Democracy” the AFL-CIO issued in February a statement which reinforced the national movement opposed to pending FCC deregulations.

The lengthy statement, not quoted in its entirety here, concludes:

“Accordingly, the AFL-CIO urges the FCC to: Retain the Newspaper-Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule because of its indispensable role in promoting diversity and competition in local news and information; Maintain the remaining Local Television and Radio Ownership Rules to ensure the continued existence of independent local television news operations, a public resource so critical to public discourse in our democratic society; Safeguard the remaining Local Radio Ownership Limits in order to avoid further deterioration in the radio industry arising from deregulation—diminution in the diversity of music available in local markets, damage to the quality of radio programming nationwide and creation of a market burdened by anti-competitive practices; Institute rules to insure that a reasonable level of prime-time programming is created by truly independent producers so there is real source diversity that will increase the choices available to the viewing public; Uphold the dual network rule to protect against the erosion of local news and revitalize and encourage innovation in entertainment programming.”

leaders of Hizbollah, a radical Moslem group, are telling me about what is needed to bring peace to Israel,” she said.” And, ‘Here’s what the Lebanese are saying.’ Like it or lump it, don’t shoot the messenger, but tha’s what they do.”

The “they” undoubtedly were her bosses at the GE— and Microsoft-owned channel, the same men who fired top-rated talk show host Phil Donahue and then used the war to try and out-fox Fox’s jingoism with promos proclaiming “God Bless America.”

They quickly sought to silence Banfield. “NBC News president Neal Shapiro has taken correspondent Ashleigh Banfield to the woodshed for a speech in which she criticized the networks for portraying the Iraqi war as ‘glorious and wonderful,’” reported the Hollywood Reporter. An official NBC spokesperson later told the press, “She and we both agreed that she didn’t intend to demean the work of her colleagues, and she will choose her words more carefully in the future.”

It was the kind of patronizing statement you would expect in Pravda or Baghdad’s old Ministry of misinformation. In Saddam’s Iraq, she would have been done for. Let’s see what happens at NBC. Already, Rush Limbaugh is calling on her to move to Al Jazeera. Michael Savage, the new rightwing host on MSNBC who replaced Donahue, has branded his own colleague a “slut” . . . on the air!

Even mainstream media monitor Howard Kurtz is now looking back on the war coverage in anguish. “Despite the investment of tens of millions of dollars and deployment of hundreds of journalists, the collective picture they produced was often blurry,” he wrote in his column. He raises a number of questions: “Were readers and viewers well-served or deluged with confusing information? And what does all of this portend for coverage of future wars?”

There are other questions that need asking. What is the connection between the war and pro-Bush coverage we have been seeing, and the upcoming June 2 FCC decision that is expected to relax broadcast regulations? Is it unthinkable to suggest that big media companies, (who stand to make windfall profits once Colin Powell’s son, FCC chief Michael Powell, engineers rules that permit more media mergers and concentration) might want to appease and please an administration that often bullies its opponents?

According to experts cited by the Los Angeles Times, if the media moguls get what they want, only a dozen or so companies will own most U.S. stations, giving them even more control over the marketplace of ideas than they already have. Jeff Chester of the Center for Digital Democracy [www.democraticmedia.org/] explains, “The ownership rules on the FCC chopping block have been developed over the last 50 years. They have been an important safeguard ensuring the public’s basic First Amendment rights. The rationale for these policies is that they help provide for a diverse media marketplace of ideas, essential for a democracy. They have not been perfect. But the rules have helped constrain the power of the corporate media giants.”

The FCC is, in effect, holding out the possibility of freeing the networks from restrictions on owning more stations. At a time when the industry is hurting financially, big bucks are once again being dangled in front of media moguls. No wonder none will challenge the government on the current

war effort. Would you be surprised if the conservative news service gave its award for best Iraq war coverage of the war to Dan Rather instead of Fox because of Geraldo’s antics? This is the same CBS that was once admired for the reporting of Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite.

Powell makes the connection between the war and his agenda. He says that bigger media companies are needed more than ever because only they can cover the war the way the Iraq war was covered. Need he say any more?

At first glance, the relationship between media concentration and what we see on TV seems tenuous. But is it? The cutbacks in coverage of world news that left so many American uninformed and unprepared for what happened on 9/11 took place amidst this greatest wave of media consolidation in history. It has already had an effect.

And yes, it can get worse, unless and until Americans of conscience who care about their country make the media issue their own.

“News Dissector” Danny Schechter writes a daily column on news coverage for mediachannel.org. He is the author of the just published “Media Wars: News at a Time of Terror,” (Rowman & Littlefield) and offers a free download of a “companion soundtrack” to the book.

Chicago City Council Tells FCC To Support Public Interest

CHICAGO, May 8, 2003—Chicago City Council sent a signal to the FCC—support the public interest, oppose further media consolidation.

At the Wednesday, May 7, 2003 City Council meeting, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution 50-0 calling on the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) to “protect the public’s right to diversity in media content, ownership and employment” by prohibiting further media consolidation. The resolution cautions that media consolidation results in lost jobs, reduced diversity in programming and ownership, and less commitment to the local community.

The FCC is currently reviewing six of its remaining controls regulating the radio, television and print media industries with an eye toward eliminating them. A decision is expected in June of 2003.

Resolution sponsor, 50th Ward Alderman Bernard Stone said “We want people involved in ownership who have our interests at heart.” The resolution pointed out that “unchecked media consolidation benefits a small number of corporate interests at the expense of the public interest.” 16 Chicago Aldermen joined Alderman Stone as signers of the resolution.

For more information, contact agomez@cantv.org

Tell Congress and the FCC to fight media deregulation at:

www.moveon.org/stopthefcc/?id=1344-1873351-ufBfdekT52Iz5FY29_czqA



Fired Intel worker Ken Hamidi who spoke at the Stanford Access Conference.

defend community access from its corporatization by the use of lotteries and rules hindering productions.

UPPNET member and labor video producer Wes Brain also reported on his arrest in Oregon and the campaign to defend not only democratic rights in general but the rights of journalists. A statement was passed in his support and he collected a petition of most of the participants.

An important workshop that included representatives of AFTRA, IATSE and the CWA discussed how media mergers are directly impacting their members, from the fight over unionization at the DISH satellite channel to the effort to organize television workers at the new GE-NBC affiliate Channel 11 in San Jose. In nearly every case, the monopolization has made it even more difficult to organize and defend democratic rights on the job. The need for union organizers to also link up with consumer and democratic media activists was discussed.

An important workshop was also held on the significance of Wi-Fi technology and how this could be used by unions to broadcast their rallies and campaigns live on the internet. LaborTech supporter John Parulis and others discussed how they are using Wi-Fi to get labor and anti-war issues out not only in the US but internationally. His Wi-Fi broadcast of the February San Francisco mass anti-war demonstration received over 600,000 hits in one day (www.brightpathvideo.com). The growing use of these tools can help labor and other community media people spread their messages.

A report was also made on the need to participate in the World Summit On Information Society (WSIS) which will be taking place in December in Geneva. Proposals were discussed on how to organize labor to intervene in this summit and develop a labor media/telecommunications bill of rights.

Also ICCAN board member Karl Auerbach participated in a workshop on the need to democratize the governance of the Internet and that this was being threatened by privatization. Computer students from Stanford University and technologists from Silicon Valley were excited that not only were they learning about new issues of technology but they were meeting people who were putting them into use in their struggles.

The conference also had music by labor singer Larry Shaw and a number of videos were shown. This conference was also a prelude to the upcoming LaborTech/Access conference which will be held on April 2-4 at Stanford University. More information will be provided at www.labortech.org in the coming months. Also a list of issues that participants supported was also discussed and passed. Also a list serve was established to begin a discussion on many of these issues.

(A) Proposals/ideas voiced by participants:

Maintain a listserv for the Access conference and expand it (IMPLEMENTED); Give students course credit to attend; More systematic outreach; Regional public access interconnects—work for Work on language to build interconnect as part of renewal/transfer process; Look at experience of public broadcast stations in trying to interconnect, contact CPB; Pass through interconnect to producers, not just administrators, National labor TV and radio channels; Support, expand, join UPPNET, Free Speech TV, WINS Stream content from this conference (implemented at brightpathvideo.com); Send http links to mig@linefeed.org; Editing and content integrity—rights of usage set forth structure for interconnect; Build an archive; Organize around events like 9th Circuit lawsuit hearings, license renewals for stations; Publicize the proposals from this conference; Create coalition to broaden support for goals of conference; Have Labor Tech 2004 at Stanford in April; Create a computer hardware collective for both production and recycling of hardware; Involve regional/national cable producers network—approach NATOA use sf.indymedia.org/features/labor; Defend micro-radio; Put this info on the web (watch www.labortech.org in the future).

(B) Consensus of those present:

Support Wes Brain's statement and his judicial struggle in Oregon to protest his arrest; Protest hacking of Al Jazeera's web site; Protest removal of *SF Chronicle* reporter Henry Norr; Support revocation of license for cable corps that habitually break labor laws; Protest firing of Peter Arnett from MSNBC; Support Feingold's radio concert promotion act; Support streaming of all community access cable channels; Support public access's use of DVD technology; Protest use of lotteries for determining public access programming; Support having fully elected boards for all public access stations; Support televising or otherwise broadcasting public access board meetings

Waukesha Engines Strike video

500 union machinists are in 5th week of strike at the suburban Milwaukee engine plant. Strikebreakers now cross picket lines twice each day, keeping the plant running at limited capacity as union machinists remain steadfastly opposed to their company's call for wage and benefit concessions. Video (3 min, 18 sec) by John Hamilton.

Stream the story in real audio:

www.laborradio.org/audio/features/realaudio/winsfeat052203.ram

Download the story in broadcast-quality MP3 audio:

www.laborradio.org/audio/features/mp3/winsfeat052203.mp3

Turned on to Worker Radio

By Tula Connell

Flip the radio dials during morning drive time in Cleveland and chances are the airwaves sound something like this:

"It was Congress that almost overnight gave the airlines a \$15 billion bailout and completely ignored the workers. Completely."

In an invigorating counter to the Rush Limbaughs and Sean Hannitys, Ed "Flash" Ferenc's daily, hour-long "America's Workforce" program challenges standard radio fare through its explicit role as (according to its own promotional identification) "one hour of worker power."

Launched in the mid-1990s, "America's Workforce" is among fewer than two dozen such programs on the air across the country. While securing funding and maintaining staffing commitment are significant hurdles for union activists seeking support for radio shows that focus on worker issues, one of the biggest obstacles is access to the airwaves. Changes to current media ownership rules now under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission not only would make it harder for grassroots radio programs to take seed, but likely would lead to an unprecedented consolidation of television, newspaper and radio ownership.

With a potential listenership extending to five counties around the greater Cleveland area, including 175,000 union members, "America's Workforce" on WERE AM is the highest-rated program of the station's owner, Radio One.

"We've broken a lot of stories papers have picked up on. Editors listen to our program," says Bud McTaggart, the show's co-producer. McTaggart, a longtime typographical union member, worked closely with the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federation of Labor in launching the show, which features interviews with union leaders and local and state lawmakers, as well as information on local strike actions and interactive call-ins. Professional radio personality Ferenc, a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, is among an all-union staff, including AFTRA members who cut the commercials.

The type of programming listeners are exposed to can make a big difference in public attitudes and, ultimately, voting behavior. David Barker, a political science professor at the University of Pittsburgh, has studied the impact of radio talk shows, particularly those of the ultraconservative Limbaugh. "I found that listening to Limbaugh mobilizes conservative listeners to action—the more they listen, the more they vote, contribute, work for a campaign, try to persuade others, put bumper stickers on their cars, etc.," says Barker. "So the Limbaugh influence becomes both direct, to his listeners, and indirect, through his listeners."

In Kentucky, the state federation spearheaded what has become a three-hour, worker-focused morning drive-time talk show in Louisville. Featuring former Rep. Mike Ward (D-Ky.), the show has included discussions with workers seeking to join a union and Mexican maquiladora workers. Kentucky State AFL-CIO President Bill Londrigan says the Kentucky union movement recognized that to be effective, "we had to have some access to the mass media."

"Lacking the outlet on the radio, our message goes to waste," says Londrigan. "We were able to open up the airwaves to our perspective."

If the Cleveland and Louisville programs are radio

rarities, so are their locations on the AM dial: Both shows are produced on commercial stations.

"Community radio is looked to as the place to get labor news," says Frank Emspak, who last year launched the Workers Independent News Service (WINS). In creating WINS, a subscriber-based package of worker-oriented news, Emspak says he is "trying hard for people to see WINS as news formatted to fit into commercial systems. The more pressure on local radio stations to include daily programming like WINS, the more robust it will be."

Accessing airwaves

Electrical Workers member Ron Gonyea never planned on becoming a Houston radio talk show host. Like millions of Americans, Gonyea wanted to hear a point of view not reflected in the choice of local radio stations—one that illustrates concerns of working people.

A few years ago, Gonyea, who describes himself as basically an activist—"I search for rallies and picket lines to go on," he says—joined rallies in support of Pacifica radio network employees. The workers were engaged in a bitter fight with management for direction of the progressive, nationwide radio network, and Gonyea's support of the KPFT employees caught their attention.

"KPFT didn't see union members as activists until I started going to their rallies," says Gonyea. While joining with Pacifica supporters, Gonyea encouraged them to launch a local radio program. After the workers won their struggle, the local station talked with Harris County Central Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Richard Shaw and offered Gonyea his own labor show. "They told me, 'if you don't do it, it isn't going to happen.'" Together with Teamsters member Tim Pagel, Gonyea produces and hosts the weekly Friday evening "Voices at Work" program that now extends into Galveston.

But if unions hadn't reached out to the community, the show never would have materialized.

Union members "have to get involved with other groups, social justice groups. First help them with something, then it's a whole lot easier" to seek their support, says Gonyea.

Getting on the air is only the first step. A longer struggle involves staying on. Longtime labor journalist and photographer David Bacon, who has hosted "Labor and the Global Economy" for seven years on Pacifica's KPFA station in San Francisco, makes a point of ensuring union leaders reinforce community support for a worker-focused program.

"In any kind of labor show, you're never really secure," says Bacon. "Having labor people talk to radio people for support once you're on the air" is essential, he says. In the Bay Area, union leaders "are prepared to fight for the show and will go to bat for it."

The fight for funding

Whether their shows are on commercial or community radio, producers face a constant fight for funding.

"The mistake I think people make when people do something like this is thinking that unions have enough money to carry it," says McTaggart. "Unions have many demands, and you actually get a better audience if it's not carried alone by unions."

Cleveland's "America's Workforce" relied on the union-friendly BMA Media Group to underwrite the show for the

Continued on p. 7

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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

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

Turned on to worker radio *Continued from p. 6*

first year, until it brought in enough on its own to pay for the airtime and host's salary. Now the show receives approximately 50 percent of its funding from unions, while getting key advertising dollars from corporate sponsors. McTaggart says the program has a waiting list for national advertisers.

For community radio shows, station fundraisers reflect local support. Although staffing costs typically are not an issue—most staff members are volunteers—it's clear that the amount a worker-based program raises during funding appeals can determine a show's longevity.

"Station managers or whoever the ultimate decision maker is have to be convinced there's an audience out there," says Paul Krell, UAW public affairs director. The UAW's i.e. America Radio

Network produces pro-working family radio programming marketed to radio stations nationwide and is streamed live on www.ieamericanradio.com. Show hosts Juline Jordan, Mike Malloy and others also appear as guests on national television, including CNN and MSNBC.

"I have the support of most of the unions in Houston," says Gonyea. "The show is a bridge between groups, unions and others."

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UPPNET National Executive Board

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Vice Presidents:

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Carl Bryant, producer *Letter Carriers Today* TV 214, San Francisco, carltv214@aol.com

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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/

WorkWeek needs video segments

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

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

**LaborFest 10th
Anniversary Celebration
"A War On All Fronts"
For Information on LaborFest
2003 Schedule, Go To
www.laborfest.net**

Turned on to worker radio *Continued from p. 7*

In its first fundraising drive, "Voices at Work" broke the record for the amount raised by a new local show.

All about workers

During the 10-day West Coast lockout of International Longshore and Warehouse Union members last fall, Bacon took his cell phone to the docks to interview workers for day-to-day updates. "We want to show what's happening to people where they live," Bacon says. "That's what's so exciting about radio—you have the ability to do something that's immediate."

"We really do try to put the voice of working people on the air," says Judy Ancel, who has coordinated the weekly "Heartland Labor Forum" radio show in Kansas City, Kan., since 1989.

The forum is co-sponsored by the University of Missouri's Institute for Labor Studies and Longview Community College.

In the end, union-backed radio programming reflects the union movement's singular mission:

"We're about helping people find their voice," says Bacon. "That's what unions are about—helping people find a voice at work."

www.aflcio.org/aboutaflcio/magazine/0503_radio.cfm

For UPPNET News back Issues:

www.laborbeat.org/3/uppnetnl.htm

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

- ☐ **Yes. Subscribe me to one year of UPPNET News (a quarterly) for \$15.**
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Fill out the following form, and mail to address below:

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Phone no: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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Wal-Mart tries to silence union radio spots

A battle in St. Louis over whether Wal-Mart can bully local stations into not airing a union radio spot is a grim warning. And the national political fight over whether the FCC can deregulate the media is another alarm bell. The working class must plan how it can gain control of the radio and tv environment. In this issue:

- UFCW's Statement
- UFCW's 2nd radio spot
- Editorial of *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

UFCW Statement

UFCW 655 airs second Wal-Mart exposé spot; focuses on gag attempt

August 27, 2003—St. Louis' United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 has launched the second phase of its campaign to shed the disturbing light of truth on the anti-people policies of Wal-Mart with a second radio spot being aired on four local radio stations, Local 655 President Robert Kelley announced today.

A third phase of the union's campaign will begin within the next two weeks. Two weeks ago, retail Goliath Wal-Mart's legal firm wrote all the radio stations demanding that Local 655's spot be banned from the air. Local 655 defended its ads as appropriate and accurate.

This week, the union launched a second 60-sec. radio ad which focuses on Wal-Mart's attempt to stifle free speech, asking the critical question: "Doesn't Wal-Mart need to improve employee benefits instead of trying to shut down discussion of them? Shouldn't this make us all think: How low did they go to offer us that low price? And how low are we willing to go to get it?"

The ad continues to point out that over a half-million

Continued on page 2



An editorial cartoon from the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reflects community alarm at Wal-Mart's bid to force local radio stations to stop airing a UFCW public service announcement. Read the *Post-Dispatch* editorial on p. 2.

UPPNET Editorial

Labor must get serious about a media strategy

By Howard Kling, UPPNET President

Labor has got to think more clearly about media and communications and come up with better means and a better strategy for fighting in the arena of ideas and images.

The need for such a strategy has been present and unmet for so long that the situation is desperate. The well-planned, well-funded and incredibly successful right-wing media juggernaut has now been nearly institutionalized within the accelerating and dangerous conglomeration of the mainstream media in the hands of fewer giant corporations.

What there was of democratic communications within our culture now largely resides in the imperfect and limited world of the Internet and the small but significant alternative press. Labor must develop a comprehensive, progressive and deliberate media and communications strategy to match this alarming development. To do this labor will need to challenge the corporate media politically while at the same

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<i>UPPNET Editorial: labor must get serious about a media strategy</i>	1
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Wal-Mart employees do not have the company's health insurance, despite the fact that last year it earned an estimated \$7 BILLION in profits.

Notes the ad: "Seems Wal-Mart, the world's largest corporation, with estimated annual profits of seven billion dollars, doesn't want local radio listeners to know how few of its rank-and-file employees Wal-Mart insures or that those that do, pay a lot more than an average American employee pays."

Check Out walmartwatch.com

The ad urges listeners to get more information about Wal-Mart by going on line to walmartwatch.com. Wal-Mart claims that over 90 percent of its employees have health care but in their Form 5500 required by law, it admits that only 46 percent of all their employees participate in the company's plan. That includes supervisors, managers and anyone who might have single item coverage like eyeglasses or dental.

In a surprising revelation, Wal-Mart admitted that the balance must depend on government-sponsored programs like Medicare (Editor's note: our tax dollars are subsidizing Wal-Mart!), COBRA (which the employee pays full premiums to continue their former employer's health plan for at least 18 months) or their working spouse or parents to get health coverage, that Wal-Mart does not provide for them. What Wal-Mart is bragging about, indirectly, is that it is shifting its costs of health insurance to others, feeding their own profit bottom line, and providing Wal-Mart with an unfair, if not unethical, advantage over its competitors, Kelley stressed.

In St. Louis, the local food chains provide a progressive health benefit package that has been negotiated by UFCW Local 655. Local 655 represents over 15,000 members working in the 46 counties throughout the eastern half of Missouri. Local 655's members are employed in food stores (its largest single division), the professional nurses at St. John's Mercy Medical Center (the first hospital in Missouri to be organized), shoe manufacturing, packinghouses, and a number of miscellaneous plants. The union negotiates more than 100 contracts. For More info: 314-535-4900.

THE TEXT OF WAL-MART SPOT (No. 2)

Do your teenagers ever get angry when you bust them for doing something they shouldn't have? Now it seems even giant corporations can become very upset when someone tells on them. On August 14, the Post-Dispatch ran a front page story about Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart demands that five St. Louis radio stations stop running a commercial reporting at least 600,000 Wal-Mart employees don't have health insurance. Seems Wal-Mart, the world's largest corporation, with estimated annual profits of seven billion dollars, doesn't want local radio listeners to know how few of its employees have health insurance or that those that do pay a lot more than an average American employee pays. Doesn't Wal-Mart need to improve employee benefits instead of trying to shut down discussion of them? Shouldn't this make us all think: How low did they go to offer us that low price? And how low are we willing to go to get it? For the truth about Wal-Mart, click on walmartwatch.com. United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 655, thanks you for listening.

Wal-Mart muzzling critics

WAL-MART'S EMPLOYMENT practices are a legitimate matter for public debate, as much as Wal-Mart may wish otherwise. That's why it's wrong in its attempt to bully St. Louis radio stations into dropping ads sponsored by a union critical of the retail colossus.

Wal-Mart, which likes to wrap itself in the flag, should have more appreciation for a certain bedrock American value: free speech.

Wal-Mart is the biggest retailer in America. It employs nearly a million people. When the great ship Wal-Mart sails into town, smaller competitors are often swamped in its wake. Some sink forever.

Wal-Mart is also firmly anti-union. It has fought off organizing efforts from coast to coast, prompting allegations that it intimidates and fires pro-union employees. In lawsuits filed in dozens of states, Wal-Mart is also accused of denying workers overtime pay. Last December, an Oregon jury found Wal-Mart liable.

All that makes Wal-Mart's behavior a matter of broad public concern.

Frustrated in their organizing efforts, unions are trying to give Wal-Mart a black eye through bad PR. The United Food and Commercial Workers Union in St. Louis bought radio ads saying, among other things, that only a third of Wal-Mart workers have health insurance.

That's not true, Wal-Mart says. It claims that half its workers are insured through the company, and many others get health coverage elsewhere. A company lawyer wrote the stations a letter demanding that the ads be stopped. The unstated implication, of course, is that a costly lawsuit will follow unless the stations kowtow.

Let's draw a distinction here. The union isn't selling used cars or a pill to make you look like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Rather, the union is advocating a position on a matter of public concern. Free and open debate is in the public interest, and the debate needs some breathing room. Free speech should be protected, even if there are conflicting versions of the truth being aired.

The legal situation is a bit murky. Sandy Davidson, who teaches communications law at the University of Missouri, says that the station is taking a risk if it continues to run the ad after being told it is inaccurate. It could be sued for repeating a libel. Obviously, a radio station doesn't have an easy way to determine how many Wal-Mart workers really have health insurance.

Other lawyers think the station is on safer legal ground. But is a station manager, who knows the name of the game is pleasing advertisers, going to take the chance? Can a company that wants to knock its opponent off the radio merely have its lawyer write an ominous letter?

That's not right. Radio stations already enjoy broad protection for ads sponsored by federal political candidates. We should expand that protection to ads on all public issues. If statements are libelous, the victims should sue the people that sponsored the ad.

It shouldn't be easy to shut people up.

Visit Wal-Mart workers radio: www.walmartworkerslv.com

National labor radio news

WINS: going strong

By Frank Emspak

WINS, The Workers Independent News Service, is a political education and a media project. WINS understands that its job is to provide working people with accurate information about our society. WINS believes that once people have access to reliable information about the world in which we live, working people will act in their own best interests.

Labor Day marks the beginning of the political season in the United States. It is more critical than ever that the voices of working people find expression on the air waves.

To that end WINS is pursuing two strategies simultaneously. WINS is expanding its presence on the airwaves via the aggressive use of radio brokers in various parts of the country. Their job—so far with some success—is to identify stations that will carry WINS—and then organize sponsorship for the WINS news. Unions, progressive individuals and union companies are welcome to be sponsors.

Meanwhile WINS has developed an extensive subscription service for locals, labor councils and union members. WINS material is now available to every union newsletter editor in the country.

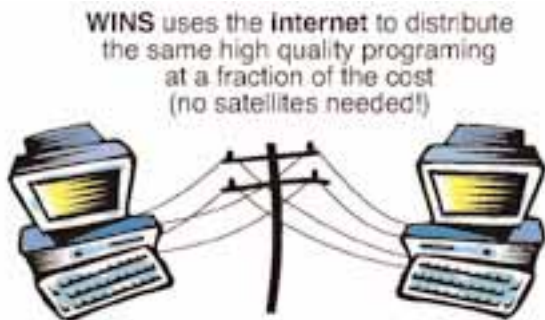
The WINS monthly subscription for a local union is only \$10.00 mo. But we know that audio and print is not enough. WINS has recently joined with cartoonist Mike Konopacki to bring a bit more life to our material. A cartoon—especially one by Mike Konopacki—speaks thousand words. Subscribers to WINS will also get two cartoons per month for use in their newsletters AND two cartoons formatted for web site usage.

Thus any union with a web site can be assured of daily updates—after all WINS does news every work day—as well as two cartoons a month.

WINS is expanding, but WINS needs you to subscribe or contribute. Contributions can be made to WINS, c/o The Wisconsin Community Fund 1202 Williamson St, Madison WI 53703. They are tax deductible. For more information call Frank Emspak Executive Producer and Editor-WINS 608-262-0680.

NOTE WINS will be present at Labor Notes September 12-15 in Detroit, and in Chicago at the Labor Media Conference October 18 and 19 and at the Media Reform Conference in Madison- November 7-9.

Visit: www.laborradio.org



art: Mike Konopacki

WINS has recently produced a brochure that literally draws a picture on how the service works. And the drawings are created by renowned labor cartoonist Mike Konopacki. Contact WINS for copies.

April 2-4 at Stanford University California

LaborTech/Access 2004

Labor Media and Broadband Access In The Battles for Working People

Mark your calendars for the most important international labor media & technology conference in the world. Labor videographers, web masters and media activists from throughout the world will be coming to Stanford to learn about, discuss, and debate new communication technology and how we can use these tools in the struggle to defend labor and promote justice here and around the world.

We will also have a labor/justice video screening and workshops on building a labor TV show; using the web to organize locally, regionally and internationally; and confronting threats to Internet and media access in the US and worldwide. The conference will be taking place in the midst of the greatest meltdown of technology workers in recent history.

In the Bay Area, tens of thousands of technology workers have been terminated and their jobs are now being contracted out around the world to lower paid workers. Part of the conference will discuss how these workers can organize and defend their jobs, from IBM to Intel and MS. We will also have with us Ken Hamidi <www.faceintel.com> who won the historic legal fight for the right to send email to the workers at INTEL. The struggle to defend democratic rights on the internet is critical if labor is going to be able to use these tools to organize and break the corporate information blockade. The important struggle against the FCC has shown that a broad and powerful movement for media democracy can be built.

Labor is now using labor media from radio, video and the Internet to get the message out—from Wal-Mart workers radio at www.walmartworkerslv.com to www.laborradio.org and www.techsunited.org labor TV shows from throughout the country.

We will also learn about the important labor media developments in Korea. Hundreds of trade unionist are now shooting and editing their labor videos and streaming them on the web in Korea. They are also using the internet for mass communication and a democratic debate within the labor movement.

The use of digital technology and telecommunication for labor power and information is now at hand. A delegation of Korean trade union communicators will be participating in the conference as well as labor media activists from other countries.

Please let us know if you are able to make it. The deadline for presentation proposals is January 1, 2004.

Registration

Discounted early registration is \$150.00 (regular is \$175). Please make check payable to LaborTech at P.O. Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142.

National Conference on Media Reform, Nov. 7-8

The National Conference on Media Reform, covering a broad range of media issues, will be in Madison, WI, Nov. 7-8. Sign up now at: www.mediareform.net/conference

San Francisco Access Producers get shabby treatment at hearing

By Carl Bryant, Treasurer, Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco (PPNSF)

The public access producers in San Francisco are embroiled in a struggle with the corporation that manages the channel, Access San Francisco, Channel 29.

It is a struggle that has caused the producers to meet with the channel's appointed Board of Directors (Community Television Corporation, CTC), the Telecommunications Commission (TCC) and the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services (DTIS). Public access producers have testified month after month before the three entities. Producers have had articles written in the local community newspaper, written letters to the commissions, presenting compelling evidence of all what is wrong with what they are doing, and demonstrated examples of how community access should be managed and is in fact managed in other cities.

The CTC has implemented a time slot lottery. Every 6-12 months producers must re-apply for their time slots in a competitive and antagonistic process.

The CTC Board is self-appointed by the Channel's CEO and the existing board. Producers' demand to have an elected board, as does CAN TV in Chicago for example, has been categorically rejected. Now a mandatory fee-based membership is being imposed, and producers who do not pay will no longer be allowed to air their shows. Fee paying members are not even allowed to vote for the Board of Directors. The effort to bring an equitable resolution is stifled due to the fact that the commissioners producers have looked to for assistance have their own agenda.

The residents of San Francisco would assume that, after they elect a representative, that representative is basically a capable official with basic scruples and ethics as understood by the residents of San Francisco.

The problem comes when the residents, realize that the elected representative has appointed an unscrupulous and unethical Telecommunications Commission. Then they

begin to understand, as has the author of this article, how they were duped.

Now, I am going to tell you about my experiences with the Telecommunication Commission of San Francisco that was appointed by slick politicians, and this is how I got my education in being duped.

In San Francisco the Telecommunication Commissioners: 1. Are appointed not elected; 2. Have their own agenda, which corresponds with their appointer; 3. Belong to their appointer's agenda; 4. Are looking for a political future; 5. Conspire to bring about an end to debate which benefits the commissioners and their appointer.

Commissioners and elected officials should represent the voters who elected them; this is why I was duped. American political ethics is about winning by any means.

I was invited to a DTIS meeting last May 28. First of all, there was a long discussion about why Steve Zeltzer and Kazmi Torii—two access producers whom I'd invited to the meeting with me—couldn't attend. Kazmi and Steve not not allowed to attend, even though the TCC's minutes stated the meeting would include "all interested parties."

The Group, including Brian Wilson (DTIS), Zane Blaney (Channel 29 CEO), Michael Rouan (TCC), William Sanders (City attorney), Lewis Loeven (Executive Director DTIS) and myself, proceeded into the main meeting behind closed doors. At that point we discussed the positions of the Community Television Corporation Board (CTC), The City Attorney of San Francisco, The Telecommunications Commission (TCC), Department of Telecommunications and Information Services (DTIS), and the Producers and programmers Network of San Francisco (PPNSF).

The most important issues at this meeting were: First, the fact that the mandatory membership was agreed upon by the city of SF and the Board of the CTC. Second, the election of Board Members to the CTC Board. Third, e-mails written by Kazmi Torii and myself [Carl Bryant] and the number of the PPNSF. Fourth, whether or not the PPNSF was a non-profit.

On mandatory membership, my understanding was that the city of SF and the CTC, in a grant agreement, decided that there could be a mandatory membership and a dues paying membership also.

I questioned the attorney, Mr. Sanders, concerning this

Continued on p. 5



Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco at a 2002 protest.

San Francisco hearing *Continued from p. 4*

and he explained to me that the agreement between the city of SF and the CTC had approved this and he pointed it out in the agreement between the City of San Francisco and CTC.

I then said to the attorney that it seems that the agreement between the City and the CTC gives the CTC the right to create this membership, and the city attorney agreed.

I also stated to the attorney that, during TCC meetings, it was stated by me and others that we wanted a city-wide membership, not necessarily paid but a membership that residents of SF could participate in, only if the CTC board agreed to that.

Concerning Board Member Elections: The attorney explained to me that the agreement gave CTC the ability to have a perpetual board (a board that continually appoints itself). The attorney agreed with me that that basically is what the city allowed CTC to do.

I then questioned the agreement between the City and the CTC and the attorney pointed out the agreement and section 12L.6 of the Sunshine Ordinance which allows CTC to continue to appoint a Board by the Board which is again a perpetual Board.

I vigorously protested this. I stated to the attorney that this does not allow democracy for the residents of SF in electing a board, because in fact, the residents of SF and producers and programmers do not have the ability to elect a board, unless CTC allows the Board to be elected.

Then Zane Blaney, CEO of CTC, presented two examples of why there should not be an elected Board. One was some small city in the U. S. south and the other was in the City of Chicago. In these examples, CEO of CTC stated that producers who were elected to the Board were only concerned with themselves or their programs, and not with the other producers on community access. Therefore, the boards did not or would not allow producers on those boards or were in the process of changing how those boards were created.

In these two examples I noticed that CEO did not give names nor information to allow the participants in the meeting to check his examples.

I vehemently condemned his examples and stated examples of boards of other community access or public access TV and radio stations that did have elected boards and gave the names of those members who were elected to the boards. They were the City of Chicago and the City of San Francisco.

The participants in the meeting attempted to question my examples of elected members to boards. They said San Francisco's KQED was a public channel and couldn't be compared to community access, which I did not agree with.

I then stated that the boards mentioned were elected and were not perpetual boards like the one Zane wants.

We discussed the elected board and the paid membership for a few minutes longer and then the city attorney had to leave at 4pm because he was off the clock. But the attorney stated he had another meeting.

Then CEO brought up two emails, one from Kazmi Torii and one from myself [Carl Bryant]. The CTC, CEO did not like the email that Kazmi sent out because it called the CEO a liar and the CEO wanted Kazmi to apologize in writing

to him and all those who received the email. He emphatically tried to get me to say that Kazmi would write a retraction, I refused. I told him if you'd allowed Kazmi in to the meeting you could have asked her yourself.

In my email I, stated that the TCC meeting came to a halt because of information of a mandated membership by the CTC. I agreed that I mis-stated the TCC meeting had come to a halt but, in fact, the TCC stated it would investigate the memo put out by CEO of the CTC. I agreed that I would state in an email or in writing that I misinterpreted the TCC.



I explained that when the CEO wrote the memo stating that there will be a mandatory, paid membership by the city of SF, I did not understand nor did the DTIS Mr. Loeven understand that the CTC could make mandatory membership, because this was a part of the agreement between the city of SF and the CTC.

What struck me as very strange was the insistence of CEO of the CTC and Michael Rouan of the TCC to know how many members PPNSF has and whether or not it was non-profit Corporation.

So I explained to the meeting that if they had allowed Kazmi, PPNSF in the meeting they could have gotten the exact number. I also explained that we are working on a not-for-profit status for PPNSF.

Facts are that I was the only Black male in the room of white men in this meeting. Facts are that I was the only member of PPNSF that was allowed to meet with the city of SF attorney, the CTC, the TCC and the DTIS, which meant that there were four organizations against PPNSF, which left me totally intimidated and at points in the meeting I felt this meeting was totally set up to humiliate and degrade me as a viable opponent in this contentious fight between the CTC and the PPNSF and the residents of SF. I truly feel that the democracy and diversity which SF represents to me has been totally undermined.

—Carl Bryant, Treasurer, Producers and Programmers Network of San Francisco; UPPNET Boar Member

time embracing the notion of, and taking responsibility for, being a powerful alternative voice on the local and national media stage.

Don't misunderstand the Internet comment. UPPNET was one of the first organizations to recognize the potential and push the use of the Internet for labor communications and we haven't changed our minds. But at the same time we have advocated and executed the wise use of radio, television and video to tell labor's story, and, further, have welcomed and participated in the moments when computer, print, audio and video came together to open a window on events as happened at the Seattle WTO protest.

We have also spawned and promoted the use of the Internet to deliver a national labor radio service through the WINS project and to deliver daily labor news through Workday Minnesota. Yet despite such successes, despite significant support from some international unions and local and national union staff, and despite the potentials and possibilities to take our small efforts and these fleeting moments to a higher level, labor in general seems not to have noticed and to have become fixated on an ever-narrowing horizon of communications.

The prevailing wisdom, informed by the huge tasks and laudable goals of organizing, political and issue mobilization, is to see the email push, the blast fax, the workplace flyer and the political mailing as the only worthy communications tools. The media side of the current thinking allows an occasional foray into PR with a coordinated radio or television spot campaign or getting play for leaders and activists in the mainstream press around an issue or on Labor Day and so on. There are some who advocate abandoning the rest of the spectrum of media and communications, which, in the case of electronic media is nearly a done deal anyway.

What's new but emerging is the idea of getting rid of labor print media such as national journals, local union newspapers, and central body newspapers like those found in the Midwest. Folks who gravitate to the limited communications position have great reasons on their side, by the way: TV and radio are too expensive and labor intensive, all those public access shows are ugly, nobody listens to community radio, labor print media exists for the vanity of elected officers and nothing more, nobody reads labor newspapers, nobody reads period, postal rates are going up, none of the news-like sources mobilize people directly for the next rally or vote, labor needs to control its message through targeted communication, and so on.

This kind of thinking is attractive to activists because the worth of a flyer is measurable in bodies turned out to a picket or ballots cast in an election. We're not putting that down. As far as I'm concerned, one-on-one contact unmediated by anything but a face and a place is the best form of communications; next is the flyer handed out in person, the phone call, etc. And mobilization, putting people in motion, is of paramount importance.

But we all know that isn't the whole story. The climate of ideas that we organize within, the public framing of issues and the understanding or even awareness of events is therefore being abandoned to the bad guys with barely a whimper of protest. And they don't hesitate to spend millions and millions on the effort so that when a worker goes home and mentions the organizing drive at her workplace, her neighbor or even best friend or husband can scowl dis-

approval. This problem clearly percolates throughout almost any issue worth talking about, but one happy antidote, U.S. labor, has seldom seen itself as being a truly oppositional alternative voice within public discourse. Andy Zipser has pointed out that other labor movements, like Sweden's for instance, embrace a different tradition in which the labor press is a dynamic and respected alternative media source. Unfortunately here in the US, the other side gets it; the conglomerates own it. But we largely ignore it. This really needs to change.

Further, all those approved but very controlled communications vehicles allow almost no room for individual workers to find their own voice, a much touted goal of the new AFL-CIO, for members to be creative, for there to be depth and breadth even in the internal dialogue taking place among union members. In order for us to break into a wave of organizing success people are going to need places where they get ideas, where they learn of events and news, where they argue and challenge and question.

people are going to need places where they get ideas

We propose that labor meet the crisis in media democracy by mapping out a broad media and communications strategy. To do this there should be the kind of lively discussion about media we have found in the area of organizing. In this strategy there is a place for PR and a controlled, targeted message, for all the vehicles of communication currently encouraged and used. But side-by-side, the strategy must also commit to find ways to create or support viable local and national alternative media with more depth and breadth through radio, television and print.

The right has a near monopoly on radio, but despite a few tries, labor and its allies are doing very little, and barely supporting national efforts like WINS <www.laborradio.org> or local radio programs. Some local areas have good access

Continued on p. 7

In our Spring '03 issue we used color poster art but didn't know whom to credit.

The artist is Micah

Wright, author of

Back The Attack:

Remixed War

Propaganda.

One of his posters is show here.

Visit his website:

www.micahwright.com



US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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

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

UPPNET Editorial Continued from p. 6

labor television shows but little is being done to support, help, encourage, promote these shows or showcase them as models or offer constructive criticism with an aim to create better programs. Newspapers and journals already exist that could speak to a larger public if encouraged in the right direction. Labor could emerge as a respected alternative voice in community after community with the right push and encouragement. And other than in a few spots like the Bay Area, the labor movement has unfortunately abandoned its systematic criticism and analysis of mainstream media, including public television and radio.

Given the gravity and meaning of accelerated media conglomeration, the behavior of companies like Clear Channel, the new FCC rules, and the very crisis in our democracy with everything from a stolen election to the Patriot Act and the visions of empire, it is more important than ever that labor take its place in the fight for democratic communications. Of course to fight for it also means to practice it, so we should also take notice when activists in the International Labor Communications Association call for democratizing labor's own media.

UPPNET National Executive Board

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.mtn.org/les/

WorkWeek needs video segments

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

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

Finally, labor needs to reach out to other alternative and ethnic and community press and organizations like the Independent Press Association for mutual support, information exchange and the sharing of ideas.

It is no longer workable to allow an undemocratic media to be the unchallenged record of ideas and events in our communities. More than ever we need to create our own media and point to the propaganda and lies in theirs. It has now come clearly to that – ours and theirs – but ours is pitifully undeveloped and the scales are unbalanced. Labor still has the numbers and the resources to help correct the imbalance.

Chicago-area Labor Media Conference, Oct. 17-18

A conference with workshops and panel discussion will take place on the weekend of Oct. 17-18 on the need for labor to learn how to produce its own media in radio and tv, and how to utilize independent media avenues to distribute these productions. The two-day event is especially directed to Chicago-area unions and activists. Registrations will be limited.

Oct. 17, Friday—**Panel discussion on the need for labor media production and distribution.** Panelists will be: John Anderson (WINS); Robert Bruno (Chicago Labor Education/Univ. of Ill.); Kari Lyderson (media activist); Fred Glass (labor video producer, author). Panel will be hosted by Margaret Blackshere, President, Illinois AFL-CIO.

Oct. 18, Sat.—**Workshops on radio and video recording and editing, and on using independent media outlets.**

Sponsors to date: Illinois AFL-CIO; SEIU Illinois State Council; AFSCME Council 31; HERE Local 1; IATSE 110; UNITE Chicago and Central States Joint Board; Rockford United Labor; Chicago Access Network Television/CAN TV; Labor Beat/Labor Express; Chicago Labor Ed. Program/Univ. of Illinois Champaign-Urbana; Substance Newspaper; National Writers Union UAW Local 1981/Chicago Chapter; WLUW-FM; Plumbers Union.

For more info: 312-996-2323 • hworthen@uic.edu

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

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

WINS Reporter, Indy Media Among Those Attacked at Miami



Photo: John Hamilton

By John Hamilton, WINS Reporter

John Hamilton is a producer with the Workers Independent News Service. He covered the Miami FTAA protests for WINS, as well as for Pacifica Radio's television and news magazine, Democracy Now!

Thwack! A thump on the back of my neck and an explosion of white powder tells me instantly what's hit me. A split second later, the burning in my lungs confirms it. A pepper ball round—like a paint ball, only filled with something called oleoresin capsicum, or OC. I've already taken one round to the thigh, and I'm quickly learning that no camera or press badge will protect me from the onslaught of "less lethal" weaponry now whizzing through the air around me. But why should it? Everybody left in the streets of downtown Miami is fair game to the advancing phalanx of riot cops now.

With lungs scorched by the OC, I turn to flee down the avenue. Thwack! My girlfriend, Sarah Turner—working as a reporter for Free Speech Radio News—gets it in the arm, this time from a 37 mm rubber bullet that leaves a huge welt for days to come. Thwack! Thwack! My colleague, Jeremy Scahill of the TV/radio program Democracy Now,

Continued on page 2

UPPNET Statement on Miami

The Union Producers and Programmers Network, representing labor media people from throughout the US, strongly condemns the massive police state tactics used against peaceful protesters and marchers in Miami, Florida during the FTAA meetings in November, 2003. The police turned away labor union busses from the rallies and used their power to intimidate and harm those who were opposed to the FTAA agreement.

Not only were labor journalists who were members of UPPNET assaulted by police provocateurs, but hundreds of people were arrested and many were injured as the police fired indiscriminately into the crowd. Embedded plain clothes police created fights and provocations among the marchers and, in many cases, these police agents violently assaulted individuals in the crowds with tasers. These agent provocateurs were also observed by members of the UPPNET Board in taking violent action against uniformed police in order to provoke an attack on the peaceful marchers.

Furthermore, press and media journalists who were not "imbedded" with the police were targeted by the police for harassment and arrest. In fact the mainstream corporate media representatives who were "imbedded" did not cover the attacks in any honest and objective manner but as police and government propagandists, ignoring the blatant examples of police state tactics. Is this a "free press"? What would look different in a police dictatorship? These police tactics were also funded with in excess of \$8 million from the recently passed bill of \$87 billion provided to Iraq supposedly to fight "terrorists".

UPPNET believes that these actions are not isolated instances. In Oakland last April 7, 2003 police shot at peaceful picketers and longshoremen at the port of Oakland in California. Many of the protesters along with ILWU B.A. Jack Heyman were also charged by the police to silence them.

UPPNET supports the call by the USWA for Congressional Hearings on these growing police assaults on

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WINS Reporter attacked *Continued from p. 1*

gets hit twice from behind, while fleeing. The wind changes directions, pushing the tear gas back up the avenue towards the police. Shouts ring out for volunteer street medics.

A brief respite allows me to survey the scene—people hobbled by leg wounds, blood gushing from head gashes. Those brave enough—or foolish enough—to remain on the street in a feeble attempt to exercise their first amendment rights are seeing their defiance begin to crumble. Another charge by the riot cops sends the already fractured crowd scurrying for a way the hell out of downtown Miami. The Intercontinental Hotel, where FTAA talks are being held, now stands many blocks away, an impenetrable fortress whose denizens will never hear the voices of dissent scattered across the streets of Miami.

“Remarkable Restraint”

“The police officers that I saw out there used a tremendous amount of restraint,” Miami police spokesman Delrish Moss told the Miami Herald in the following days. Miami police chief John Timoney displayed, “One of the most impressive displays of leadership that I’ve ever seen in my nineteen years in law enforcement.” The former Philadelphia police chief, whose repressive policing of the Republican National Convention in 2000 is the infamous stuff of legend, drew praise from Miami Mayor Manny Diaz as well. “A model for homeland defense,” the mayor called it.

But not everyone sees the “Miami model” as cause for celebration.

Civil liberties took a “one-two punch” in Miami, said AFL-CIO president John Sweeney. The United Steelworkers of America, which mobilized some two thousand members to the Miami demonstrations, has called for a Congressional investigation into police tactics at the event. The USWA (www.uswa.org) also wants the city to drop charges against many of the more than 250 who were arrested during protests. Steelworker president Leo Gerard wants chief John Timoney fired; “To do less would be to endorse homeland repression in the guise of homeland security,” he said.

That repression took on an edge not seen before at the large-scale demonstrations against corporate-led globalization that have sprung up since protests in Seattle against the WTO four years ago. Plain clothes “snatch squads” roved in and out of demonstrations, using electric taser guns to stun and immobilize arrestees. Huge lines of riot police in body armor systematically drove people from the streets, clanging wooden batons on plastic shields while firing “less lethal” projectiles indiscriminately and without warning. Journalists and demonstrators alike were arrested while trying to comply with police orders to disperse; many were held in plastic handcuffs for ten hours or more. Embedded reporters donned the same body armor worn by police, joining police lines as they controlled “the enemy.” Armored personnel carriers roamed the streets while helicopters whirled overhead, keeping tabs on it all.

If that sounds more like Iraq under occupation than the streets of a major US city, it’s not a coincidence. In Congress’ recent \$87 billion spending package for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars was a bonus for policing FTAA protests in Miami: more than \$8 million to militarize security at the event.

NAFTA on Steroids

If unions of the AFL-CIO are furious over their treatment at the hands of the Miami police, it’s small potatoes compared to their wrath over the advancing agenda of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Called “NAFTA on steroids” by many, the deal would encompass thirty four countries of North and South America, virtually the whole of the Western



Part of AFL-CIO contingent at Miami FTAA protest.

Hemisphere. After ten years of a North American Free Trade Agreement, unions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico alike say their governments should be rolling back past trade deals instead of rolling out new ones.

Jim Buckley is with District Nine of the United Steelworkers of America, which represents workers in the Southern United States. He says the FTAA would accelerate the exodus of manufacturing jobs already seen in the ten years since NAFTA was adopted. “Within the sub-district, I’d say two or three different plants have shut down and moved to Mexico. That’s a direct effect. The indirect effect is that, almost in every set of contract talks that we go and meet with the company, the company either implicitly or explicitly threatens to take the jobs away from the area that we’re negotiating in, and move them away to Mexico and to offshore Asia.”

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UPPNET Statement on Miami *Continued from p. 1*

democratic rights. We also support the USWA call for the firing of the Miami police chief.

We believe that the entire labor movement must begin to mobilize to defend our basic democratic and free speech rights and that this is an issue for all the people of the United States.

We call on all trade unions and their members as well as community activists to raise these issues with their representatives in Congress and to begin to organize against not only these repressive actions but the Patriot Act and other repressive legislation that is being used to emasculate our rights.

We also protest the media censorship of this flagrant violation of democratic rights. The refusal of the mainstream corporate press to seriously cover this scandal is another example of the dangers of monopoly control of the media and its influence in hiding truths from the American people.

Also, we ask that readers please send a copy of your letters of protest to UPPNET so we can put it on our web site. Email to: lduncan@igc.org

Chicago Labor Media Conference A Success

By Helena Worthen, Chicago Labor Education Program

What does it take to get labor's message out? The Labor Media Conference held at CAN TV and Chicago Labor Education Program brought together critics of mainstream media, advocates for a more potent communication strategy from labor, current producers of labor media and those willing to learn the complicated technical skills necessary for producers.

The conference was sponsored by 17 labor organizations. Its purpose was to shake out answers to this complicated question and raise survivors committed to learning the technology necessary to carry out labor media work.

Friday evening, October 17th, was a panel discussion, held at UNITE, with Bob Bruno of the University of Illinois Chicago Labor Education Program, Kari Lydersen of the Washington Post, John Anderson of WINS, and Fred Glass of the California Federation of Teachers. Margaret Blackshere, President of the State of Illinois AFL-CIO, hosted. Panelists critiqued the mainstream media and proposed both technical and strategic cultural alternatives.



Margaret Blackshere, President of Illinois AFL-CIO, gave the opening presentation at the Conference.

Saturday was a full day of hands-on demonstrations for those interested in producing labor media. Instructors Wayne Heimbach, Greg Boozell, Larry Duncan and Laura Hermann took participants through the technical challenges of TV and radio production. Fred Glass also gave a presentation titled "An Organizing Model for Labor Communications."

At the Saturday technical session included members of SEIU Local 1, IBEW 1220, IAMAW 141, TWU and UBC and others.

The audience comments by the Friday panel discussion and the feedback from the Saturday production workshops pointed to a strong interest in seeing labor in the Chicago area dealing with the crisis of its lack of a voice in the electronic media. We encourage the participants in the Conference and union activists who may have wanted to attend to keep in contact with us. (hworthen@uic.edu).

The Labor Media Conference Organizing Committee was: Greg Boozell, CAN TV; Wayne Heimbach, SEIU 73 and Labor Express Laura Hermann, Live from the Heartland WLWU 88.7 FM, LeRoy Jones, SEIU 73; Larry Duncan, Labor Beat (affiliated with IBEW 1220); Helena Worthen, Chicago Labor Education Program.

The presentations at the conference were also cablecast on Chicago's CAN TV, cable Channel 21.

Sponsors of the Labor Media Conference included: AFSCME Council 31, Chicago Access Network Television/CAN TV, Chicago Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, Chicago Labor Education Program (CLEP) UIUC, Chicago Teachers Union Local 1 AFT, Construction Industry Service



Friday's panelist (L to R): Fred Glass, John Anderson, Kari Lydersen, and Bob Bruno.

Corporation (CISCO), Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 1, IATSE Motion Picture Projectionists, IBEW 134, Illinois State Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 705, IAMAW Lodge 141, National Writers Union UAW Local 1981, Plumbers Local 130 United Association, Labor Beat (cable TV series), Labor Express (radio series), Rockford United Labor AFL-CIO, SEIU Illinois State Council, SEIU Local 1, SEIU Local 73, Substance Newspaper, UNITE Central States Joint Board, WLWU 88.7 FM



photo: Thomas Yun

Billy Bragg: "all that money is going to be spent on Fox TV"

While attending the recent National Media Reform Conference in Madison [see p. 6], singer/activist Billy Bragg told Labor Beat reporter Thomas Yun how he thought organized labor should spend money earmarked for corporate media: "The Unions have got a huge war chest for the next election. Sadly, all that money is going to be spent on Fox TV, putting adverts on Fox TV. That is a real disappointment. I'd like to see the unions sponsoring concerts, putting on free festivals, bringing young people in to hear conscious artists and speakers. And showing people that unions aren't just about when things get nasty, unions are about community."

LaborTech 2004 On Track

Plans are moving forward for LaborTech 2004 which will be held at Stanford University. One new aspect of the conference is the development of software that will allow discussion and sharing of documents over the internet. It will be available free to unions and other labor organizations.

We will also be making a call for 3 minute videos from throughout the world for screening at the conference as well as being placed on the LaborTech site. The conference is supported by the San Francisco Labor Council as well as many other unions.

Please contact www.labortech.org for further information or call (415) 282-1908

New Labor Videos



200 delegates attend USLAW Assembly in Chicago last October.

“USLAW National Assembly”

This 29-minute video captures the main thrust of the historic Oct. 24-25 USLAW National Labor Assembly for Peace in Chicago. Highlights of public speeches: Bill Fletcher (TransAfrica Fund), on labor’s moral obligation to know what is happening; Joclyn Williams (Pres. Wash. DC Metro AFL-CIO) on the many reasons labor opposes the war; Iraq labor reports from Clarence Thomas (Past Sec.-Treas. ILWU 10) and David Bacon (labor journalist), members of USLAW delegation to Iraq; Amy Newell (USLAW) and Daniel Gluckstein (International Liaison Committee) on the international campaign; a summation of conference from Nancy Wohlforth (Sec.-Treas. OPEIU).

What did the USLAW National Assembly Represent? Nearly 200 delegates representing one hundred labor organizations. The unions participating represented more than 500,000 workers and were joined by 14 Central Labor Councils, state union organizations and other regional bodies representing additional hundreds of thousands of workers.

To order a VHS copy, specify title “USLAW National Assembly”, and send check for \$20 (includes mailing) to: Labor Beat, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60607.

Info: mail@laborbeat.org • 312-226-3330 • laborbeat.org

Union Solidarity on TV in Portland & Southern Oregon

By Wes Brain

Portland Community Television and Rogue Valley Community Television has available a new video about the labor action at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis Oregon which took place on 9/9/03. It covers the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center workers and allies picket and rally in Corvallis, OR.

Over a year after Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) workers voted to join SEIU Local 49, hospital workers and AFL-CIO union members held a spirited informational picket and rally to help the workers in their effort to gain a stronger voice in patient care, lower turnover rates and affordable health insurance for their own families. Also at the event, Oregon AFL-CIO President Tim Nesbitt led a delegation in to the hospital to deliver over 1000 postcards of support for the workers.

Heartland Labor Forum wins national award

The volunteer producers of The Heartland Labor Forum on Kansas City’s KKFI 90.1FM have won First Place in the 2003 International Labor Communications Association Film and Broadcast Contest.

Heartland Labor Forum’s entry of a program produced on October 31, 2002, “The Wal-Martian Chronicles, A Halloween Horror Story”, won First Award for Long Radio Programs produced by union members/staff.

The show featured interviews with Jim Kabell of the Teamsters union and Jerry Helmick of the United Food and Commercial Workers and with two anonymous Wal-Mart supervisors who testified to Wal-Mart’s systematic violations of labor law. It was produced by Judy Ancel, ILS Director, with technical assistance by Tom Klammer.

The International Labor Communications Association is a professional support organization for labor communicators in North America that serves as an instrument of support for the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labor Conference (CLC). The Heartland Labor Forum airs every Thursday from 6:00-7:00 P.M. on KKFI in the Kansas City area. The show has been on the air since 1989, and has one awards from ILCA two times before. The Heartland Labor Forum is coordinated by The Institute for Labor Studies, a joint program of UMKC and Longview Community College. For more info, contact Judy Ancel, ancelj@umkc.edu

“We picketed and rallied at the hospital today to draw attention to the fact that, as health care workers, we can’t even afford health care for our own families,” said Joe Pusey, a Mental Health Aide at GSRMC. “The hospital wants to raise our health care costs by 28% while only increasing wages by 1%. It will make it impossible for many workers to afford their own health care while at the same time providing it to their patients.”

Approximately 330 health care workers, including Certified Nursing Assistants, Phlebotomists, Surgery Assistants and Physical Therapy Aides, joined with SEIU Local 49 in September 2002 to earn a stronger voice in patient care at the hospital. The employees have been struggling to bargain their first contract with the hospital since last fall. The Oregon AFL-CIO convention took place in Albany, and leaders and union members from the convention joined the GSRMC workers to support their efforts.

“Here at Good Samaritan, we have a highly profitable corporation where the cost of [health care] coverage is so high, and the terms of qualifying for coverage so stringent, that a lot of workers go without care,” said Tim Nesbitt, President of the 170,000 member Oregon AFL-CIO. “We are here to send a message that all workers, including health care workers, deserve affordable health care coverage for themselves and their families.”

Nesbitt led a delegation to the hospital to deliver over 1000 postcards from community members who support the workers to Samaritan CEO Larry Mullins.

For information on getting a copy of the video, contact Wes Brain at: brain@mind.net

The FCC rollback hoax

By Josh Silver, Free Press / *edited for space*

Nov. 27, 2003—During the last two days, powerbrokers in Congress once again went behind closed doors, ignored the public interest, and acted on behalf of giant media conglomerates instead of democracy and the public interest.

Despite the heroic efforts of many members of both the House and Senate—both Democrat and Republican—Congressional leadership and the White House used tricky tactics and trickier legislation to create the illusion of a partial FCC rollback while serving up yet another giveaway to Big Media...

This week Congress put a bogus FCC rollback provision into a giant spending bill that will likely pass as early as December 8th. The only provision of the June 2nd FCC rule changes that was considered during the negotiations was the “national broadcast cap”—the percentage of American TV viewers who may be reached by stations owned by one company. For those of us trying to stop media monopoly, this rule is much less important than the newspaper/TV/radio cross ownership and television duopoly/triopoly rules that were not even on the table in this most recent negotiation.

Rather than roll back the national TV cap to the pre-June 2nd 35% level, Congress changed it to 39% and professes that it will be “permanent.” This is not a randomly selected number. It just so happens that Viacom (owners of CBS) currently owns stations reaching 38.8% of American households, and News Corp (owners of Fox) owns stations reaching 37.8%. Both purposely violated the old legal limit hoping Congress or the FCC would change the rule. Had the 35% limit stuck, they could well have been forced to sell off some stations to come into compliance. With a 39% limit, CBS and Fox can keep their stations while NBC and ABC can substantially expand holdings. Further, the new legislative language allows any company to violate the rules for up to two years without penalty—a loophole that will invite precisely the same kind of chicanery that resulted in Viacom and Fox getting a 4% increase in the broadcast cap to accommodate their illegal acquisitions.

So Congress hears the massive public outcry, addresses a tiny portion of the disastrous FCC decision, and custom tailors it so that it looks like a concession while letting Big Media have their way.

The real story is that in all the fuss over 35%, 39%, or 45%, the far more significant rules have gone through virtually unnoticed. All that holds them back at present is the September decision by a federal court to stay the rules pending a judicial review of their integrity. Failing a heroic judicial victory next year by attorneys with the Media Access Project (MAP) who are challenging the FCC, these rules will be implemented with very little attention from Capitol Hill. We’re hopeful that next year’s court case will be successful, but we are still far from victory...

[For more information: www.mediareform.net]

April 22-25, 2004, St. Louis Conference

The Axis of Empire

The Axis of Empire: Union For Democratic Communications Conference 2004 will be held in St. Louis April 22-25. The conference will bring together proposals artists, activists, and media scholars to ask how we are to understand and intervene in the connections between war, media, and power; the war against terrorism and academic freedom in the University; media conglomeration, the labor movement and democratic communications; and the social and political responsibility of the arts.

Labor Media Panel

Particularly of interest to labor media folks will be the panel, “Labor Media Today: The regional and national scene today, and the challenges of connecting local labor struggles to global solidarity in the midst of war.”

On the panel will be Larry Duncan (co-producer and founder of Labor Beat cable-tv series, board member of UPPNET and of Chicago Media Action); and Judy Ancel, from the Heartland Labor Forum Kansas City, whose “The Wal-Martian Chronicles, A Halloween Horror Story” won First Award for Long Radio Programs produced by union members/staff this year. There will be other panels on community media, the IMC movement and the FCC regulations as well.

Inquiries can be made to Jyotsna Kapur at jkapur@siu.edu, 618.453-1470, fax: 618.453-2264. The UDC For more information, check out: www.udc.org

Labor cable-tv programs on CA Central Coast

Covering labor issues not reported in depth in the media, programming has appeared in Monterey, Carmel, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, on the web, and soon in Marina.

These shows have been produced for SEIU817 (as series within a series called “advocacy groups for social change”). And additional programs were broadcast on channel 24: One for SEIU715, one for South S.F. Bay Labor, one for Hotel & Restaurant workers union, two for Monterey-Santa Cruz Central Labor Council, and others.

Issues covered in these programs were: higher pay for child care, social workers CSI, prize-winning video opposition to eliminating the utility tax in Salinas, with multiple cameras, which provided wages for city workers. Programs have exposed effects of poor worker health benefits at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, which created great management concern!

Other issues dealt with in these programs were health care for county union workers, cuts in county taxes which affected union jobs and reduced services for less fortunate citizens, budget cuts to hospitals and support for a referendum tax to support our county hospital, and two shows about the effect of Iraq war on Labor.

For more information, please email Hebard Olsen: hebard@mbay.net

The National Conference on Media Reform...



photo: Chicago Media Action

Part of the over 1,700 participants in the National Conference on Media Reform in Madison, WI on Nov. 7.

A report from the frontlines

by Dr. Valerie Scatamburlo-D'Annibale, Buzzflash

The National Conference on Media Reform which took place Nov. 7-9, 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin was at once an informative, invigorating, and uplifting experience. The event, made possible by the Free Press which was launched in December 2002 by author and University of Illinois professor Robert W. McChesney and John Nichols (The Nation's Washington correspondent), provided a forum for labor, community, and media activists concerned about media policy in general and, the Federal Communications Commission proposed changes that would allow for even greater media consolidation, in particular.

...Aptly, the animating theme of the conference was "moving from critique to action" with an eye to envisioning what a more democratic media system might look like in the future.

While the unseasonably chilly winds of autumn enveloped Madison, the heat generated by the [1700 -Ed.] participants' energy was undeniable. From the opening remarks delivered to a standing-room only crowd on Friday afternoon to the closing plenaries on Sunday morning, the atmosphere was electric as active citizens (as opposed to passive consumers) expressed their desire to have a media system which is responsive to the needs of the people rather than corporations....

[O]ne particularly memorable event is worth mentioning and sharing. It took place on Saturday night at the Orpheum Theatre on State Street. The keynote speaker was Bill Moyers and the joint, as they say, was jumping. Prior to Moyers' address, a number of others including FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and Senator Russ Feingold took to the stage to remind the crowd that the airwaves belong to the public and should hence serve their interests. Pacifica Radio's Amy Goodman (Democracy Now!) brought the audience to their feet in thunderous applause after saying that never again should 'we the

people' allow the media to so cavalierly beat the drum of an illegal and immoral war. As the audience anticipated Moyers turn at the podium, they were treated to an unexpected surprise visitor brought in to formally introduce the featured speaker. That person was none other than the venerable and ever-feisty Studs Terkel whose appearance literally brought down the proverbial house...

Moyers delivered a speech that was, quite simply, vintage Moyers...a call to action that served to remind us that a viable democracy is ill-served by a media beholden to corporate special interests and the bottom line...

The speaker's roster ended with the always hilarious and irreverent Al Franken who poked fun at the right-wing media and their major spokespersons—Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly. Franken noted Limbaugh's "tough on drug offenders" rhetoric while encouraging the audience to "pray" for Rush during his "rehab." Franken also skewered right-wing blowhard Bill O'Reilly for his hypocrisy on a variety of issues. Franken aptly pointed out that O'Reilly and his ilk want liberals and leftists to "SHUT UP" but in a rousing conclusion to what was an extraordinary night, Franken shouted: "Don't Shut Up . . . Stand Up . . . Stand Up" and Keep Fighting!!!![To] paraphrase Robert McChesney in his written remarks in the conference program, now it is time to "head out" and "raise some hell." This post is intended to motivate people in that direction. Please visit the Free Press website at www.mediareform.net and start raising hell in your own community.

National Conference on the Media Links

Comprehensive A/V library of panels and events:
www.mediareform.net/conf/recordings.php

Selected press clippings:
www.mediareform.net/conf/media.php

Be the Media! Blog (coverage/views from participants):
www.bethemediablog.net

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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

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

New on the List: Portland's Labor Radio

A collective of five hosts produces a weekly show called "Labor Radio" on KBOO-Portland, 90.7 FM, also available on-line at www.kboo.fm. The contact person is Bill Zimmerman, 360-695-6552.

WINS Reporter attacked *Continued from p. 2*

But has the United States' loss been Mexico's gain? Hardly. Between 1993, the year before NAFTA was enacted, and 1998, wages for manufacturing workers in Mexico fell by more than twenty percent. And while NAFTA did translate into a manufacturing boom, jobs in maquiladoras, or "export factories", are little different than the sweatshops outlawed decades ago in the United States.

Martha Ojeda is director of the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras. "For those of us who work in the free trade zones, there is much exploitation and discrimination," she says. "The pay is marginal. We make between forty-five and fifty dollars a week, for a forty-eight hour work week plus mandatory overtime."

With wages that low, how could any textile producer from the United States keep from heading south of the Rio Grande? But Ojeda says the real enticement for employers is

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.mtn.org/les/

WorkWeek needs video segments

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

Steve Zeltzer: lvpsf@labornet.org

Carl Bryant: carltv214@aol.com

a toothless system of Mexican labor and environmental laws.

Across the rest of Latin America, many workers' organizations fear a similar fate under a Free Trade Area of the Americas. They say the FTAA would greatly ease the ability of multinational corporations to shift jobs from one country to another, putting downward pressure on wages as corporations seek the cheapest labor in the hemisphere.

WINS, The Workers Independent News Service

Visit: www.laborradio.org



Labor Movies Screening In Berlin

By Steve Zeltzer, LaborNet/Laborfest

Working class film and video will be hitting the streets of Berlin this coming December. Labor videos from throughout the world will be screened and labor media activists Myoung Joon Kim of Labor News Production from Korea and Karl Fischbacher

of LaborNet Austria will also attend on a panel on labor and the media along with the coordinators of the festival.

The First Berlin International Working Class Film & Video Festival Festival will screen labor videos from Russia, the US, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Argentina, France, Germany and other countries around the world. This is an important step forward in building international labor media activity and solidarity in Europe. The festival is scheduled between December 6, 2003 and December 10, 2003. For more information (how's your German?):

www.globale03.de/main.htm

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

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