

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

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

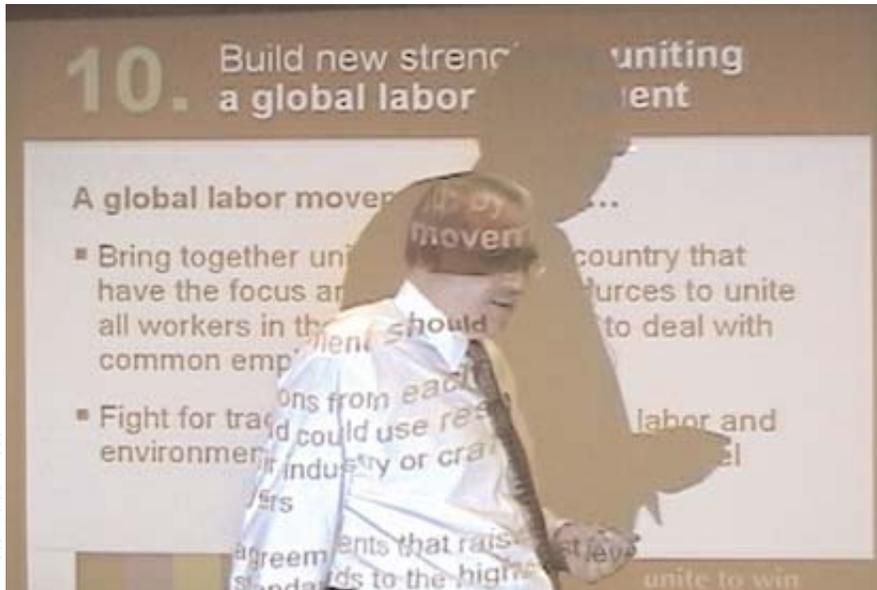


Photo: Labor Beat

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

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

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

Chicago Meeting Discusses SEIU Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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One click on name of article takes you there.

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Photo: Labor Beat



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

got it. How many read it?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo: CAN TV



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

IAM Supports Creating Labor TV Channel

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

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

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

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

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

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

Labor Beat's comment on Tom Balanoff's answer

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

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

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

Proposals for Future of Labor Movement: Resolution on Labor Media

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION ON LABOR MEDIA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ILCA 50th Anniversary Convention

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

Labor Notes enters media discussion

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

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

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

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

Report on WIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Martin Conlisk/Labor Beat

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Dahr Jamail

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



Demonstrators in December, 2003 against illegal detentions.



Soldiers harassing demonstrators.

Media Held Guilty of Deception

Dahr Jamail, Inter Press Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Iraq's FWCUI Needs Media Equipment

mics and video cameras for media center, more

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US & Canadian Labor Broadcast Programs*

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

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

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

Fighting Wal-Martization

New Video By The Labor Video Project

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

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

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

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UPPNET OBJECTIVES:

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

www.uppnet.org

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

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

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

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Crucial year for media activists in San Francisco

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

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

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

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

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

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

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