

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January - June, 2008)

Episode #164 (June 29-30)

Segment 1 -- "2008 Scholarship Essay Awards Event"

The fourth annual High School Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 4 at the Sacramento State Alumni Center. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 114 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, "War is a racket...in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives," by Marine Corps Medal of Honor Winner, Major General Smedley Butler. The student authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships.

Segment 2 -- "Empty Streets"

A film shot in Sacramento, Lodi, and Modesto by Paul Booth, a local independent film producer. "Empty Streets" tells the story of a soldier who returns from war and loses himself more and more each night that passes. Consumed by drugs and alcohol, insomnia, nightmares, and homelessness, he wanders the streets at night -- because that's when he's safe. "Empty Streets" is based on events in the life of a Marine veteran who served six years in the military. When he returned home, he had to come to terms with the transition back into society after war.

Segment 3 -- "Documentary Film Course - March 2006"

Ahmed Kamal documents the lives of his fellow students at the Independent Film & Television College in Baghdad as they try to get into classes, find the subjects for the films they want to make and deal with the difficulties of trying to film in Iraq at the moment. In the end the college has to close down when two people are abducted from the building and an explosion in the street below shatters all its windows.

Segment 4 -- "Iraq Body Count Exhibit"

The Iraq Body Count Exhibit was displayed in Sacramento from May 21-27. The purpose of this traveling exhibit is to raise awareness of the human cost of the Iraq War. The Exhibit is non-political, as the numbers speak for themselves.

Episode #163 (June 22-23)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Plug-in Hybrids Power the Grid: Professor Andy Frank, Director of the UC Davis Hybrid Vehicle Research Center has a plan to power more than just our cars. In his vision, plug-in hybrid vehicles can be used as mobile batteries, contributing solar power to the grid, and helping to "load balance" the demand. Roofs built over our parking lots contain solar panels that charge the cars' batteries in daytime. At home, the same batteries can help power a house, or feed energy back to the grid. The result: fewer power plants.

Segment 2 -- "David Korten: The Great Turning"

Author David Korten, a leader in the global resistance against corporate globalization, inspired a Sonoma, California audience with a presentation based on his book, "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community"-- a powerful framework for understanding the critical choices before us.

Segment 3 -- "5th Year Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq"

On March 19, 2008, people gathered all across America and around the world to protest the US occupation of Iraq. This video covers a local street corner demonstration, one of many events that occurred in Sacramento on this day, the 5th Year Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq.

Episode #162 (June 15-16)

Segment 1 -- "Iraq Body Count Exhibit"

The Iraq Body Count Exhibit was displayed in Sacramento from May 21-27. The purpose of this traveling exhibit is to raise awareness of the human cost of the Iraq War. The Exhibit is non-political, as the numbers speak for themselves.

Segment 2 -- "Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan"

The initial session of the March 14, 2008 event sponsored by the Iraq Veterans Against the War. Entitled "Rules of Engagement", this panel features brave US veterans who have come forward to speak out about what they saw during their time in Iraq and Afghanistan. They tell about the killing and injuring of innocent civilians and unarmed combatants, as well as the destruction of property, infrastructure and natural resources of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Segment 3 -- "John, He Is"

Inspired by the interest in and popularity of "Yes, We Can", a YouTube video about Barack Obama, this YouTube video lampoons the words of John McCain.

Episode #161 (June 8-9)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Energy Independence - America's Road Not Taken.

Energy researcher Glenn Rambah's charts show how America budgeted for energy independence following the OPEC embargo in 1973. Then the Reagan administration switched to having "the market" create research incentives, so federal funding declined severely. He says we've lost 30 years, are spending in the wrong places, and need to get back to serious research in energy development.

Segment 2 -- "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors"

This film offers a sobering critique of our perceived recent history, of our present global circumstances, and our shared future in light of imminent, under-reported and mis-represented energy production constraints. Through a series of candid, informed and articulate interviews, "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors" argues that the bizarre events surrounding the 9/11 attacks, and the equally bizarre prosecution of the so-called "war on terror", can be more credibly understood in the wider context of an imminent and critical divergence between available global oil supply and global oil demand.

Segment 3 -- "Dr. Nabil"

A gentle and committed surgeon, with literary talents, works at a small understaffed Baghdad hospital, which suffers from lack of equipment and medicines. While many other doctors have been killed or have fled the country in fear of their lives, Dr. Nabil has decided to stay. He worries, though, about the effect that the atmosphere of violence and brutality is having on his young son.

Segment 4 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.

Segment 5 -- "Hiwar"

For years a group of Iraqi artists and writers had wanted to establish a cultural centre in Baghdad. After 8 years of devastating war with Iran, the Gulf War of 1991 and the ongoing sanctions, it was clear that there was no point in waiting for peace. So the Hiwar centre was opened in an old house in 1992 and is now being re-built.

Episode #160 (June 1-2)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Jim Hightower"

On April 11, best-selling author and national radio commentator Jim Hightower delighted and inspired a huge audience in Sacramento at the Coloma Community Center. He encouraged people to break away from conventional wisdom and live their progressive values. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "Leaving"

Threatened with kidnap and facing escalating and horrific violence in their neighborhood, a Mandaean family from Baghdad reaches the difficult decision to leave their home of more than 30 years and go to live in Damascus. The film documents the painful process of selling all their goods and dividing up their house so it can be rented out and finally it records their dangerous road trip to the Syrian border and their arrival to their new, temporary home.

Segment 3 -- "Let the Show Begin"

This film documents a 5 day international short film festival held in Baghdad in extremely difficult circumstances in September 2005. The young organizers of the event are determined to do something constructive and to assert a sense of creativity in a situation where daily violence traumatizes and paralyzes people.

Episode #159 (May 25-26)

Segment 1 -- "A New Moment: The Drive for a Nuclear-Free World"

Joseph Cirincione, Senior Fellow and Director for Nuclear Policy at Center for American Progress, was the keynote speaker at the 4th Annual Dinner of the Physicians for Social Responsibility (Sacramento) on October 28. One of America's best known weapons experts, Mr. Cirincione is author of "Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons."

Segment 2 -- "Omar Is My Friend"

A student at Baghdad University works as a taxi driver to support his wife and four daughters. As he negotiates his clapped out taxi around checkpoints, tanks and traffic jams, he talks about work, lack of petrol, electricity, having daughters in a male-dominated society, his personal aspirations and those of his society.

Segment 3 -- "Yeah, My Moms Wear Comfortable Shoes"

Four individuals describe what it was like to grow up in a home with a lesbian mom and her partner.

Episode #158 (May 18-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Suburban Permaculture with Janet Barocco and Richard Heinberg. Tour Janet and Richard's quarter acre for an example of what's possible in suburbia. Their front yard of edible plants also provides habitat for birds and insects. The backyard radiates out from an herb and kitchen garden to vegetable beds and containers; 25 fruit and nut trees; and a restful Zen garden. Near a future pond is a "three sisters" spiral of corn, beans and squashes. Check out their rainwater catchment barrels system, solar ovens, grid-tied photovoltaics with backup batteries, a low-energy house, solar-heated garden room, and a comfortable "summer palace" of natural & salvaged materials.

Segment 2 -- "The Healthcare Solution: California OneCare"

The solution to the health care crisis in California is Senate Bill 840, which would provide comprehensive healthcare coverage for all...for life...for less. This film explains how it works.

Segment 3 -- "Peace Vigil"

On March 19, 2008, people gathered all across America and around the world to protest the US occupation of Iraq. This Peace Vigil was one of the many events that occurred in Sacramento on the day marking the 5th year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Segment 4 -- "Baghdad Days"

Hiba Bassem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the war, to finish her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, deals with family problems and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own. This film won a New Horizon silver award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha (2006) and a golden award at the Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (2006).

Segment 5 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Director Emad Ali had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. As he was leaving he was attacked, his camera stolen and he was shot in the legs and chest, and his own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shabandar Cafe and Mutanabbi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

Episode #157 (May 11-12)

Segment 1 -- "Green for All -- An Evening with Van Jones"

In a personal and deeply inspiring talk to an audience in Grass Valley, Van Jones lays out his vision of "Green For All" in which the emerging economy of energy conservation and renewables also includes "green collar" jobs, especially for the economically disadvantaged. He regales us with stories of his hard-earned admission to Yale Law School, where his passion to work for social justice was ignited, and a pivotal meeting with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Segment 2 -- "Destruction of the Global Environment"

The Bush administration has denied and distorted scientific consensus and findings on global warming and obstructed international efforts to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases. It has done this with full knowledge of the catastrophic effects of global warming and the disproportionate U.S. share of world greenhouse gas emissions, the leading cause of global warming. Expert testimony in this video describes the effects of global warming on indigenous peoples.

Segment 3 -- "The War Conspiracy"

The CIA suppression of Peter Dale Scott. What was it about Peter Dale Scott's 1971 book "The War Conspiracy" that scared the CIA so much, they blocked its release?

Episode #156 (May 4-5)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Jim Hightower"

On April 11, best-selling author and national radio commentator Jim Hightower delighted and inspired a huge audience in Sacramento at the Coloma Community Center. He encouraged people to break away from conventional wisdom and live their progressive values. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Jason Bradford and Brian Weller, co-founders of Willits Economic Localization (WELL), discuss their group's approach to educating and enrolling their townfolk about declining oil and the imperative to reduce dependencies on imported energy, food, and other goods. They view their group as a mid-WIFE: a Watchdog, Incubator, Facilitator and Educator.

Segment 3 -- "The Most Dangerous Game"

The truth behind Nazis and U.S. psy-ops. The secret history of the CIA's mind control programs: from the covert importation of Nazi scientists to illegal brainwashing experiments on unsuspecting patients.

Episode #155 (April 27-28)

Segment 1 -- "Corporate Pillaging and Military Contractors"

This third segment of our coverage of the "Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan" hearings that were held last month includes a panel of war veterans with journalists Jeremy Scahill and Antonia Juhasz. The speakers examined the US government's use of private contractors to replace soldiers in military operations. Testimony included the role of corporations in the management of the occupations, and instances of waste, fraud and abuse involving these corporations. The panel also examined the implications of US tax dollars supporting private security forces, which are not bound by the rules of engagement.

Segment 2 -- "It Takes a Village"

After being devastated by a cyclone in 1991, the community of Chakaria in Bangladesh tries a new approach to community health care.

Episode #154 (April 20-21)

Segment 1 -- "Empty Streets"

The television premiere of a film shot in Sacramento, Lodi, and Modesto by Paul Booth, a local independent film producer. "Empty Streets" tells the story of a soldier who returns from war and loses himself more and more each night that passes. Consumed by drugs and alcohol, insomnia, nightmares, and homelessness, he wanders the streets at night -- because that's when he's safe. "Empty Streets" is based on events in the life of a Marine veteran who served six years in the military. When he returned home, he had to come to terms with the transition back into society after war.

Segment 2 -- "David Korten: The Great Turning"

Author David Korten, a leader in the global resistance against corporate globalization, inspired a Sonoma, California audience with a presentation based on his book, "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community" -- a powerful framework for understanding the critical choices before us.

Segment 3 -- "Beef Recall: The Inside Scoop on the Largest Beef Recall in US History"

In response to the undercover work of the Humane Society, exposing inhumane and unsafe slaughterhouse practices, the USDA recalled 143 million pounds of beef from a Chino, California slaughterhouse. Executive Vice President of the Humane Society, Wayne Pacelle, talks about his investigation at a Durston for Congress campaign event. After Mr. Pacelle's talk, Dr. Bill Durston spoke about his vision for working toward a healthier future for all living species.

Episode #153 (April 13-14)

Segment 1 -- "Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan"

Part Two of a session entitled "Rules of Engagement", at the March 14, 2008 event sponsored by the Iraq Veterans Against the War. This panel features another large group of US veterans who have come forward to speak out about what they saw during their time in Iraq and Afghanistan. They tell about the killing and injuring of innocent civilians and unarmed combatants, as well as the destruction of property, infrastructure and natural resources of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Segment 2 -- "Before He Invades"

A provocative music video that blends original lyrics about the urgent need to change US foreign policy (and impeach George W) with images of local protest events, set to the tune of Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats."

Episode #152 (April 6-7)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Els Cooperrider is an energetic lady. She co-founded the Mendocino Organic Network, which began an organic peer-certification service for local growers. Their Mendocino Renegade label means products are "beyond organic" and local. She also led Mendocino to become the first U.S. county to be GMO-free -- genetically-modified organisms cannot be grown there. Her eatery, Ukiah Brewing Co. & Restaurant, is America's first certified organic brew pub, and serves seasonal local ingredients.

Segment 2 -- "5th Year Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq"

On March 19, 2008, people gathered all across America and around the world to protest the US occupation of Iraq. This video covers a local street corner demonstration, one of many events that occurred in Sacramento on this day, the 5th Year Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq.

Segment 3 -- "Stephen Breyer: In Conversation"

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer discusses the inner workings of the Supreme Court with Jeffrey Rosen, Professor of Law and Legal Correspondent for the New Republic magazine. Recorded in Washington, DC on February 21, 2008 by Media Edge producer Steve Kolb, now based there.

Segment 4 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Episode #151 (March 30-31)

"Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan"

This episode of "Media Edge" is devoted entirely to the initial session of this important event, sponsored by the Iraq Veterans Against the War. Entitled "Rules of Engagement", this panel features brave US veterans who have come forward to speak out about what they saw during their time in Iraq and Afghanistan. They tell about the killing and injuring of innocent civilians and unarmed combatants, as well as the destruction of property, infrastructure and natural resources of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Episode #150 (March 23-24)

Segment 1: "Peak Moment"

Community Car Share Hits the Road.

Lorraine Wilde's non-profit Community Car Share organization in Bellingham, Washington received startup help from many quarters. Established car-sharing organizations mentored her, individuals offered low-interest private loans, a state grant enabled them to purchase a hybrid, and the city provided a fixed parking place by the bus station. Learn how she did it, then set one up in your community!

Segment 2: "The Folly of Attacking Iran"

Stephen Kinzer, longtime New York Times correspondent and author of the book "All the Shah's Men," makes the case for real diplomacy with Iran. Kinzer's Sacramento appearance on February 10 was part of a nationwide tour coinciding with a new publication of his book with a new foreword, "The Folly of Attacking Iran." Media Edge producer Michael Stavros was there to record his stimulating presentation.

Segment 3: "Native Education"

35 years after its inception, the students of California's only tribal college (located in Yolo County) are faced with the reality of losing their school. This 2005 film explores the recent situation at D-Q University.

Segment 4: "Entering the Booth"

From Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento" Film Festival: Walk in Midtown and you are surrounded by stories in need of telling -- let's listen. The spirit of neighborhood camaraderie is captured in this film, a project of Sac City College faculty member Travis Silcox and students.

Segment 5: "Yes, We Can"

With over 10,000,000 views to date on YouTube, this song and video by Will.i.am of The Black Eyed Peas was inspired by Barack Obama's "Yes, We Can" concession speech after the New Hampshire primary.

Episode #149 (March 16-17)

Segment 1: "Eyes Wide Open"

Sacramento videographer Steve Kolb's multi-award-winning video about the "Eyes Wide Open" tribute to the soldiers and civilians killed in Iraq. This traveling exhibit stopped in Sacramento on March 29-31, 2005. Since then, nearly 2,500 more US soldiers have died in Iraq, and unknown hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

Segment 2: "Winter Soldier: Iran and Afghanistan"

Produced by Iraq Veterans Against the War, this video is a preview of the group's March 13-16 event in Washington, DC that brought together veterans from across the country to present eyewitness accounts of their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan - and present video and photographic evidence.

Segment 3: "A Private Says No"

The story of a soldier who returned from Iraq and deserted to Canada with his wife and four children, claiming refugee status.

Segment 4: "Wars of Aggression"

This video details the Bush Administration's violations of international law, the Geneva Conventions, and the Nuremberg principles. It features testimony by Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector; Amy Bartholomew, Carleton University professor of law; independent journalist Dahr Jamail; Jeremy Scahill, writer for The Nation and former correspondent for Democracy Now!; Camilo Mejia, Iraq vet and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War; David Swanson, organizer of Camp Democracy; and Dr. Thomas Fasy, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

Segment 5: "Dissent: Voices of Conscience"

Colonel Ann Wright was one of dozens of government insiders and active-duty military personnel during the build up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq who leaked documents, spoke out, resigned, or refused to deploy to protest government actions they felt were illegal. Wright resigned from the State Department over disagreements with the Bush Administration on several issues, including the war and curtailing civil liberties. She spoke at Sac State on October 17, 2007. A Media Edge crew was there to record it.

Episode #148 (March 9-10)

Segment 1: "Yes, We Can"

With over 10,000,000 views to date on YouTube, this song and video by Will.i.am of The Black Eyed Peas was inspired by Barack Obama's "Yes, We Can" concession speech after the New Hampshire primary.

Segment 2: "John.He.Is"

Inspired by the interest in and popularity of "Yes, We Can", this YouTube video lampoons the words of John McCain.

Segment 3: "What Mainstream Media Don't Tell Us About Iran, Iraq and U.S. Foreign Policy"

On January 16, 2008, the Teach Peace Foundation hosted this event that featured dynamic presentations by Scott Ritter, a former UN weapons inspector in Iraq, and Jeff Cohen, founder of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR). Recorded by a Media Edge crew at the JFK High School in Sacramento.

Segment 4: "Beef Recall: The Inside Scoop on the Largest Beef Recall in US History"

In response to the undercover work of the Humane Society, exposing inhumane and unsafe slaughter house practices, the USDA recalled 143 million pounds of beef from a Chino, California slaughterhouse. Executive Vice President of the Humane Society, Wayne Pacelle, talks about his investigation at a Durston for Congress campaign event. After Mr. Pacelle's talk, Dr. Bill Durston spoke about his vision for working toward a healthier future for all living species.

Segment 5: "Birth at the Checkpoint"

The humanitarian crisis of pregnant Palestinian women's experiences.

Episode #147 (March 2-3)

Segment 1: "Peak Moment"

Affordable Homes Forever - OPAL Community Land Trust.

This land trust is creating permanently affordable homes amidst increasingly- expensive real estate on beautiful Orcas Island, Washington. Co-founder Michael Sky explains how they provide 99-year leases on the homes built on land trust property. Restrictions limiting the resale value allow owners to sell at a reasonable profit while keeping the homes affordable forever.

Segment 2: "Leaving Out the Inner City"

What different neighborhoods are like, how they got the way they are, and what we can do to create equality.

Segment 3: "Climate Change: Despair and Empowerment Roadshow"

On September 6, 2007, the "Climate Change: Despair and Empowerment Roadshow" stopped in Sacramento at the Trinity Cathedral. Sponsored by Therapists for Social Responsibility and a long list of other Sacramento progressive organizations, the Roadshow featured compelling multimedia presentations by Kelly Tudhope of the Rainforest Information Centre and Pat Rasmussen of the World Temperate Forest Rainforest Network. Also making an appearance (on video) was Al Gore. In addition to describing the climate challenges we face, useful examples of what we all can do to minimize our "carbon footprint" were offered by Kelly, Pat and many audience members. The recording of this event was produced for Media Edge by Randy VanDalsen.

Episode #146 (February 24-25)

Segment 1: "The Folly of Attacking Iran"

Stephen Kinzer, longtime New York Times correspondent and author of the book "All the Shah's Men," makes the case for real diplomacy with Iran. Kinzer's Sacramento appearance on February 10 was part of a nationwide tour coinciding with a new publication of his book with a new foreword, "The Folly of Attacking Iran." Media Edge producer Michael Stavros was there to capture his stimulating presentation.

Segment 2: "Focus on the Middle East"

CSU-Sacramento Sociology professor Ayad Al Qazazz talks with Colonel Ann Wright, who resigned from the State Department over her disagreements with the Bush Administration on several issues, including the U.S. invasion of Iraq and curtailing civil liberties.

Segment 3: "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner. Video created by Michael Stavros.

Episode #145 (February 17-18)

Segment 1: "Peak Moment"

Making Way for Bikes.

City Councilor Scott Walker of Port Townsend, Washington is working to build a walkable, bikeable community where the car is not essential. As a result, the town has designated many undeveloped streets and "connectors" as non-motorized routes. He says, "Build safe, convenient facilities for walking and biking, and they sprout people." Watch Janaia test ride Scott's electric bike, which "flattens the town" as if there were no hills.

Segment 2: "Entering the Booth"

From Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento" Film Festival: Walk in Midtown and you are surrounded by stories in need of telling -- let's listen. The spirit of neighborhood camaraderie is captured in this film, a project of Sac City College faculty member Travis Silcox and students.

Segment 3: "A True American Patriot: Happy Birthday, Jeanie Keltner"

On January 15, 2008, over 100 Sacramento area activists gathered to celebrate the 70th birthday of local progressive icon Jeanie Keltner. A highlight of the evening was this short video about Jeanie's life, work and art. The video also includes some fun & "embarrassing" photos of Jeanie that were taken years ago.....

Segment 4: "Voices of Patriots"

Dedicated career military professionals address key issues surrounding U.S. war policy in Iraq.

Segment 5: "Before He Invades"

A provocative music video that blends original lyrics about the urgent need to change US foreign policy (and impeach George W) with images of local protest events, set to the tune of Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats."

Segment 6: "Outlawed"

The harrowing stories of Khaled El-Masri and Binyam Mohamed, two survivors of extraordinary rendition, secret detention, and torture by the U.S. government.

Segment 7: "The School of the Americas"

A "music video" by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, about the notorious US military academy at Fort Benning, Georgia and a major protest there in 2005. Graduates of this school have perpetrated many of the worst human rights violations in recent Latin American history.

Episode #144 (February 10-11)

Segment 1: "Peak Moment"

How Much Food Can I Grow Around My House? In summer 2006 Judy Alexander embarked on an experiment to see how much food she could grow, and how many neighbors could benefit, from the garden around her house. Check out her homegrown rainwater collection and irrigation system - watering her 60+ edible crops. Meet the bees, the chickens and the worms. And catch her joy in producing so much food for so little effort.

Segment 2: "Attacks on Global AIDS Programs"

An indictment of the Bush administration's misguided, "faith-based" policies and the impact that they have had throughout the world, including: (1) an imposition of an abstinence-only HIV prevention program, (2) a gag-rule on abortion counseling or services on clinics receiving US aid, (3) attempts to suppress medical research studies in HIV prevention when it conflicts with the ideology of the Christian Right, and (4) coercing countries into agreements that severely restrict the manufacture and supply of generic drugs, the only affordable option for most HIV positive people in the Third World.

Segment 3: "These Streets Are Watching"

This film takes a fresh look at police accountability through the eyes of three communities; Denver, Cincinnati and Berkeley. Independent filmmaker Jacob Crawford weaves three cities' responses to police brutality into a single tale of community empowerment and direct action. With an amazing collection of footage that portrays police conduct and misconduct, the film conveys basic legal concepts that can provide practical help to groups and individuals seeking a clearer understanding of their rights when dealing with police. The film is divided into sections that explain our basic rights, tactics for documenting police activity and ideas for further action and organizing.

Segment 4: "Crack the CIA"

Connecting the dots between drug traffic and the CIA. Did the CIA bring drugs into the inner city? An explosive look at a story that won't go away. This short film was the Winner of the 2002 Sundance Online Film Festival.

Episode #143 (February 3-4)

Segment 1: "What Mainstream Media Don't Tell Us About Iran, Iraq and U.S. Foreign Policy"

On January 16, 2008, the Teach Peace Foundation hosted this event that featured dynamic presentations by Scott Ritter, a former UN weapons inspector in Iraq, and Jeff Cohen, founder of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR). Recorded by a Media Edge crew at the JFK High School in Sacramento.

Segment 2: "Elizabeth Kucinich"

Media Edge producer Michael Stavros recorded this exclusive interview with Elizabeth Kucinich, wife of presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, during her visit to Sacramento on January 19, 2008. (Unfortunately, Kucinich announced his withdrawal from the campaign the following week.)

Episode #142 (January 27-28)

Segment #1: "A True American Patriot -- Happy Birthday, Jeanie Keltner!"

On January 15, 2008, over 100 Sacramento area activists gathered to celebrate the 70th birthday of local progressive icon Jeanie Keltner. A highlight of the evening was this short video by Michael Stavros about Jeanie's life, work and art.

Segment #2: "Getting Out"

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program has had on former prisoners trying to reestablish their lives. Filmed inside the walls of the notorious "Sing Sing" prison in New York, this video documents the 15-year incarceration and subsequent release of two inmates. It also highlights the difficulties many former prisoners experience trying to reestablish life outside of prison walls.

Segment #3: "The Children of Ibdaa - To Create Something Out of Nothing"

The lives of several adolescents in a Palestinian children's dance troupe from a West Bank refugee camp. They use their performance to express the history, struggle, and aspirations of their people.

Segment #4: "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Segment #5: "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner. Video created by Michael Stavros.

Episode #141 (January 20-21)

Segment #1: "Peak Moment"

Practical Tools to Grow an Intentional Community. Communities Magazine editor Diana Leafe Christian concisely spells out what the successful 10 percent of intentional communities do: common vision and purpose, fair participatory decision-making, clear agreements in writing, good balance of right and left-brain knowledge, methods of staying accountable to agreements, criteria for new members, good communication and processing skills. She also discusses peak oil effects on the wider community.

Segment #2: "Dissent: Voices of Conscience"

Colonel Ann Wright was one of dozens of government insiders and active-duty military personnel during the build up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq who leaked documents, spoke out, resigned, or refused to deploy to protest government actions they felt were illegal. Wright resigned from the State Department over disagreements with the Bush Administration on several issues, including the war and curtailing civil liberties. She spoke at Sac State on October 17, 2007, and a Media Edge crew was there to record it.

Segment #3: "Como Angeles"

A film produced in Cuba to show the effect of the free medical training given at the Latin American Medical School in Havana. With a short introduction by Cedric Edwards MD, the first American graduate of the program, this film follows students during their sixth year of study, a year filled with practical experience both in Cuba and in their home countries. In Spanish with English subtitles added by Mary Brassell of Media Edge.

Segment #4: "Countdown"

Ralph Nader's blistering critique of the news media and the current state of American politics.

Episode #140 (January 13-14)

Segment #1: "Peak Moment"

No-Nonsense Look at Climate Change and Petrocollapse.

Former energy analyst Jan Lundgren opens by singing "Have A Global Warming Day" and closes with "The Depaver's Song." In between is an unabashed look at climate distortion, peak oil, and declining ecosystems, all bringing a necessary collapse of our "pigging out" economy. He envisions a future with radically curtailed energy use, and people coming together to find local solutions.

Segment #2: "William Rodriguez, National Hero: What Really Happened on 9/11?"

William Rodriguez is a former janitor who was at the North Tower of the World Trade Center during the 9/11 attacks, and who helped several people to safety. Mr. Rodriguez has since become involved with the 9/11 Truth Movement, and alleges governmental involvement and coverup during the attacks. This video includes his gut-wrenching presentation in Los Angeles, and is not to be missed by those who want to know what really happened on 9/11 from a survivor who had the World Trade Center collapse around him.

Segment #3: "The Response of the Bush Administration to Hurricane Katrina: Before, During and After"

The record is very clear -- The Bush administration demonstrated a gross and wanton indifference to human life that caused thousands of Gulf cost residents to die and suffer needlessly. The suffering continues, systemically causing continuous grievous injuries due to displacement and related issues. This video features testimony about this national tragedy by an impressive array of witnesses and experts.

Segment #4: "The World's Most Dangerous Game"

The truth behind Nazis and U.S. psy-ops. The secret history of the CIA's mind control programs: from the covert importation of Nazi scientists to illegal brainwashing experiments on unsuspecting patients.

Episode #139 (January 6-7)

Segment #1: "Helen Thomas Interviews 'George W. Bush' "

Legendary journalist Helen Thomas grills the US "President" during a "press conference" on January 13, 2007 at the National Conference for Media Reform.

Segment #2: "The Fourth World War"

While our airwaves are crowded with talk of a new world war, narrated by generals and filmed from the noses of bombs, the human story of global conflict remains untold. "The Fourth World War" brings together the images and voices of the war on the ground. It is a story of a war without end and of those who resist, produced through a global network of independent media and activist groups.

Segment #3: "It Takes A Village"

After being devastated by a cyclone in 1991, the community of Chakaria in Bangladesh tries a new approach to community health care.