

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (July-December, 2010)

Episode #294 (December 25-27)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

The last thing "Dr. Doom" Bob Hamlin expected was citizens offering to help his county Emergency Management Department. But when Deborah Stinson from Port Townsend's Local 20/20 came to Bob's office after Hurricane Katrina, they formed a partnership. Citizens are organizing and educating neighborhoods to be more self-reliant in emergencies. And they're at the table with emergency responders in planning for disasters.

Segment 2 -- "Amy Goodman: Breaking the Sound Barrier"

In an especially poignant talk during a visit to Sacramento on November 21, 2009, "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman weaves moving stories about her mother (who passed away in October 2009) with the themes of her new book, "Breaking the Sound Barrier." The video recording of this event was a joint production of Media Edge and Access Sacramento.

Segment 3 -- "Struggle"

This documentary, set primarily in Ohio, examines several conditions that lead to George W. Bush's victory in the 2004 Presidential election. This film places the audience right in the action with a unique "street level" perspective on the struggle to protest publicly or vote democratically in this society.

Episode 293 (December 18-20)

Segment 1 -- "PSR 7th Annual Dinner: Norman Solomon"

Norman Solomon was the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility on November 7, 2010. The title of his presentation was "The Cost of War and the Potential for Peace." An independent journalist, Mr. Solomon has spent much of his life working for peace and social justice and has been described by the Los Angeles Times as "a formidable thinker and activist." He has published extensively in prestigious newspapers and journals in the U.S. and abroad as well as on the internet. His most recent books are "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning us to Death," and "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State". Mr. Solomon is the founder and president of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a national consortium of policy researchers and analysts.

Segment 2 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"

Earlier this year, satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman brought his "viciously funny" show to the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrusts.

Episode #292 (December 11-13)

Segment 1 -- "Focus on the Middle East"

CSU-Sacramento Sociology professor Ayad Al Qazazz talks with Norman Solomon in a one-on-one conversation with the author, journalist, and founder/president of the Institute for Public Accuracy.

Segment 2 -- "Against the Wall"

Shachaf Polakow, an Israeli activist and member of Anarchists Against The Wall, has worked intensively for nearly five years demonstrating and preparing for direct actions in the West Bank against the occupation, the construction of The Wall, and the Israeli "apartheid" policy. Polakow narrated his multi-media presentation about the current situation to a Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 3 -- "Eating Mercifully"

This short film from the Humane Society of the United States explores Christian perspectives on factory farming. A growing number of Christians are changing their diet and consumer purchases because the way animals are treated in factory farms is inconsistent with their beliefs. Some are demanding better treatment of farm animals, while some are simply leaving animals off their plates altogether.

Episode #291 (December 4-6)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Get rid of Wall Street!" says David C. Korten, author of *Agenda for a New Economy* and *The Great Turning*. Wall Street is about phantom wealth -- real wealth is about happy, healthy families, local living economies in balance with Earth's resources, and caring, resilient communities that provide life's basics, like food, shelter, and education. To do that, we must change the rules to reduce the power of corporations, the politicians in their pocket, and a destructive money system.

Segment 2 -- "A Really Inconvenient Truth"

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" woke the world up to the dangers of global warming. But, argues Joel Kovel, while we should be grateful to Gore for sounding the alarm, we also need to go far beyond his reading of the causes of this crisis and of what needs to be done about it.

Segment 3 -- "Hands in Peace"

Hands in Peace builds peace among diverse communities by adapting the ancient Greek Olympics for children. The children celebrate our common humanity and cultural diversity through non-competitive festivals like this one held in Sacramento.

Episode #290 (November 27-29)

Segment 1 -- "Militainment, Inc." (Part 2)

Militainment, Inc. offers a fascinating, disturbing, and timely glimpse into the militarization of American popular culture, examining how U.S. news coverage has come to resemble Hollywood film, video games, and "reality television" in its glamorization of war. Mobilizing an astonishing range of media examples - from news anchors' idolatry of military machinery to the impact of government propaganda on war reporting - the film asks: How has war taken its place in the culture as an entertainment spectacle? And how does presenting war as entertainment affect the ability of citizens to evaluate the necessity and real human costs of military action?

Segment 2 -- "Humanitarian Aid Under Attack"

In May 2010, human rights workers were passengers on an unarmed Freedom Flotilla that was attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. It was attacked by the Israeli Navy. San Francisco Bay Area activist Kathy Sheetz was among the over 600 passengers and crew members on six ships. Nine people were killed and over 50 wounded in the attack. She spoke to a Sacramento audience about her experiences in July, recorded by a Media Edge crew

Episode #289 (November 20-22)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Fences Down! Fostering Community in an Urban Neighborhood" -- Gardens replace driveways, a chicken coop replaces a garage, and personal relationships are deepening. Meet the residents of three adjoining houses, who removed the fences and talk about shared projects (and their one auto!), meals together, ecological living, and treasured conviviality. This idea could transform urban and suburban neighborhood life anywhere.

Segment 2 -- "Fighting For Our Homes"

Eight million people are at risk of losing their homes because Wall Street abandoned responsible lending practices to gain short-term profits. As this Brave New Foundation documentary reveals, the housing crisis is not just a problem for families facing foreclosure - it's a problem for every homeowner in America. As long as foreclosures persist, home values will keep going down, and everyone loses.

Segment 3 -- "Militainment, Inc." (Part 1)

Militainment, Inc. offers a fascinating, disturbing, and timely glimpse into the militarization of American popular culture, examining how U.S. news coverage has come to resemble Hollywood film, video games, and "reality television" in its glamorization of war. Mobilizing an astonishing range of media examples - from news anchors' idolatry of military machinery to the impact of government propaganda on war reporting - the film asks: How has war taken its place in the culture as an entertainment spectacle? And how does presenting war as entertainment affect the ability of citizens to evaluate the necessity and real human costs of military action?

Episode #288 (November 13-15)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Four years ago, Scott McGuire asked "how much food can I grow in my back yard to feed my family?" In this episode, we learn the results, and that food supply is not an individual project -- it takes a community to feed one another. Scott's garden later became a CSA (community-supported agriculture) for eight families. Scott is a co-creative gardener -- he asks the plants where they want to grow. When plants participate in the design of a garden, they build in energy meridians (like acupuncture lines in our bodies) for optimal vitality and health.

Segment 2 -- "The July War"

A powerful look at the 2006 Lebanon War (the July War) and its devastating impact on Lebanon's people, economy, and environment. This film, by Brandon Jourdan and Francesca Caporali, examines the reasons behind the war and its impact on all parties involved.

Segment 3 -- "A Question of Balance"

We often hear of "the destruction on both sides" caused by the 2006 war in Lebanon. Without minimizing the loss of any innocent lives or justifying "collateral damage, is that destruction comparable? The three segments in this program look at the destruction in both Lebanon and Israel.

Episode #287 (November 6-8)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Dave Gardner's upcoming documentary -- "Hooked On Growth" -- looks at modern society and asks, why are we behaving irrationally? There's overwhelming evidence we've reached the limits to growth, yet we continue in our addiction. In searching for a cure, Dave starts with the need to tell different stories and shares examples from several folks he's interviewed. He highlights an amusing segment which depicts a family's impacts remaining in their yard! This "crowd-produced" film will also show activities at the community level which could make a huge positive difference.

Segment 2 -- "The 800 Mile Wall"

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of the new border walls along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the U.S. This powerful 90-minute film is an unflinching look at the failed U.S. border strategy that many believe has caused the death of thousands of migrants and violates fundamental human rights. Since border walls have been built, well over 5,000 migrant bodies have been recovered in U.S. deserts, mountains and canals. Some unofficial reports put the death toll as high as 10,000 men, women and children. As a direct result of U.S. border policy, migrants are forced to cross treacherous deserts and mountains in search of low skill and low paying jobs in the United States.

Episode #286 (October 30-November 1)

Segment 1 -- "Focus on the Middle East"

CSU-Sacramento Sociology professor Ayad Al Qazazz talks with Robert Fisk, in a wide-ranging one-on-one conversation with the author, journalist, and widely-recognized expert on the situation on the ground in the Middle East.

Segment 2 -- "Rethink Afghanistan"

At a time when the United States faces a damaged reputation abroad and an economic catastrophe at home, expanding the war in Afghanistan without debating a comprehensive exit strategy is a serious mistake. This version of "Rethink Afghanistan" is a recently expanded, full-length documentary focusing on the key issues surrounding this war.

Segment 3 -- "SHADA"

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

Episode #285 (October 23-25)

Segment 1 -- "Lies, Misreporting and Catastrophes in the Middle East"

Robert Fisk, the best-selling author and provocative journalist, spoke to a packed auditorium on the campus of Sacramento State University on September 20, 2010. His presentation, followed by an extensive questions-and-answers period with the audience, was recorded in full by a Media Edge crew. This event was sponsored by the CSUS Middle East Cultural Association, Focus on the Middle East, and Sacramento Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "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 Sacramento City College faculty member Travis Silcox and students.

Episode #284 (October 16-18)

Segment 1 -- "The Hollywood Librarian"

Using the context of American movies, this film holds surprises for people who think they know what librarians do. American film contains hundreds of examples of librarians and libraries on screen -- some positive, some negative, some laughable and some dead wrong. Dozens of interviews of real librarians are interwoven with movie clips of cinematic librarians and serve as transitions between the themes of censorship, intellectual freedom, children and librarians, pay equity and funding issues, and the value of reading.

Segment 2 -- "Yes We Can , Can"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blending inspirational images with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Segment 3 -- "Hiwar"

Iraqi artists and writers wanted a cultural centre in Baghdad for years. After the war with Iran, the 1991 Gulf War and ongoing sanctions, they could not wait for peace. So the Hiwar Centre was opened in 1992 and is being rebuilt.

Episode #283 (October 9-11)

Segment 1 -- "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 misrepresented 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 2 -- "First Lesson in Peace"

The Jewish-Arab conflict through the eyes of a six-year-old girl.

Segment 3 -- "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 find themselves.

Episode #282 (October 2-4)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

A look behind the scenes at Peak Moment TV's home base. Janaia Donaldson shows guest host Ivey Cone the solar power system, wood stove for heat (and winter waffles), and super efficient refrigerator. Choosing to reduce their footprint, she and Robyn Mallgren, Peak Moment videographer, don't feel deprived at all. Janaia discusses what led them to leave the Bay Area, what it's like to live on 160 acres of forestland, which they've preserved "in perpetuity" as a wildlife sanctuary, and shows us some of the members of the natural community they live in.

Segment 2 -- "The Mean World Syndrome"

For years, debates have raged among scholars, politicians, and concerned parents about the effects of media violence on viewers. Too often these debates have descended into simplistic battles between those who claim that media messages directly cause violence and those who argue that activists exaggerate the impact of media exposure altogether. The Mean World Syndrome, based on the groundbreaking work of media scholar George Gerbner, urges us to think about media effects in more nuanced ways. Ranging from Hollywood movies and prime-time dramas to reality programming and the local news, the film examines how media violence forms a pervasive cultural environment that cultivates in heavy viewers, especially, a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line political solutions to social problems.

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.

Episode #281 (September 25-27)

Segment 1 -- "Humanitarian Aid Under Attack"

In May 2010, human rights workers were passengers on an unarmed Freedom Flotilla that was attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. It was attacked by the Israeli Navy. San Francisco Bay Area activist Kathy Sheetz was among the over 600 passengers and crewmembers on six ships. Nine people were killed and over 50 wounded in the attack. She spoke to a Sacramento audience about her experiences in July, 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 -- "Solving the Klamath Crisis; Keeping Farms and Fish Alive"

This film documents the struggle of Native Americans, fishermen and environmentalists to save the Klamath salmon.

Episode #280 (September 18-20)

Segment 1 -- "Blood and Oil"

The notion that oil motivates America's military engagements in the Middle East has long been dismissed as nonsense or mere conspiracy theory. Blood and Oil, a documentary based on the critically-acclaimed work of Nation magazine defense correspondent Michael T. Klare, challenges this conventional wisdom to correct the historical record. The film unearths declassified documents and highlights forgotten passages in prominent presidential doctrines to show how concerns about oil have been at the core of American foreign policy for more than 60 years -- rendering our contemporary energy and military policies virtually indistinguishable. In the end, Blood and Oil calls for a radical re-thinking of US energy policy, warning that unless we change direction, we stand to be drawn into one oil war after another as the global hunt for diminishing world petroleum supplies accelerates.

Segment 2 -- "Reel Bad Arabs"

This devastating tour of the American cinematic landscape reveals an astonishing and persistent pattern of slanderous Arab stereotyping. Reel Bad Arabs exposes a long love affair with Arab villainy and buffoonery in American films.

Segment 3 -- "Documentary Film Course"

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. 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.

Episode #279 (September 11-13)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

What kind of life do you want, and what are you willing to do to get it? Keith Farnish, author of "Time's Up! An Uncivilized Solution to a Global Crisis", sees industrial civilization as the most destructive way of living yet devised by humans. And it's over: environmental degradation and depletion tell us it can't continue. The system has myriad ways to make us believe we can't live without it. But Keith believes we can - there are countless ways to move forward into contented, happy, and full lives. We can "disengage" and reconnect with the natural world, ourselves, and others.

Segment 2 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

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.

Segment 4 -- " 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.

Episode #278 (September 4-6)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Jan Spencer didn't stop with a permaculture makeover of his suburban home in Eugene, Oregon. Now he's taking on the neighborhood! As a result, his neighborhood association is teaming up with city programs like Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Response to empower neighbors to work together. They're transforming lawns and abandoned lots into edible gardens, and sharing knowledge about energy efficiency, permaculture, and preparedness. These grass roots endeavors help people feel more secure in their homes, because they're connected with neighbors they can rely on.

Segment 2 -- "33 Days"

This film follows the stories of four people during the 2006 war in Lebanon: A theatre director working with children, an emergency relief worker, a journalist for an underground TV station, and a mother trying to cope with her new-born baby.

Segment 3 -- "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.

Episode #277 (August 28-30)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

How can you contribute your skills towards meeting real needs now and in the future? Paul and Sarah Edwards, the authors of Home-Based Business for Dummies, focus on the "Elm Street Economy" of locally-owned businesses rather than "Main Street", which we hear so much about, but is comprised mainly of franchises. In the Elm Street Economy, local businesses meet local needs -- for food, shelter, clothing, heating, electricity, healthcare, and other products. Sarah and Paul suggest: Keep your job and pay off your debts, while gaining enduring skills for the future. A large number of today's professions won't be around in five years.

Segment 2 -- "Kiss Your Gas Goodbye"

In this illustrated presentation, Richard Heinberg engagingly contrasts the declining supply curves for most energy sources (primarily oil) with accelerating depletion of critical resources like minerals, water and topsoil. Noting previous civilizations' collapse, he lays out possible scenarios for how global industrial civilization will contract. He then details some strategies for the energy transition including relocalization and emergency planning for resilient communities.

Segment 3 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

Segment 4 -- "SHADA"

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

Episode #276 (August 21-23)

Segment 1 -- "The Gaza Freedom Flotilla: Eyewitness Reports and Smuggled Footage"

On the night of May 30, 2010, the Mavi Marmara, one of the seven ships in a Gaza bound humanitarian aid convoy, was attacked and boarded by the Israeli military. The attack by 4 warships, 2 submarines, 3 helicopters and 30 zodiacs took place on international waters in violation of international law. Eleven passengers from the Mavi Marmara were killed, dozens were wounded, and six hundred were forced to go to Israel where they were jailed. All media equipment was confiscated or destroyed. For days Israel told its version of the event. As flotilla members returned home, eyewitness accounts emerged and Lara Lee from Cultures of Resistance presented her smuggled raw footage to the UN Press Club and later online. These resources contradicted Israeli press releases. Israel then broadcast doctored footage it took from passengers' cameras to fend off an outpouring of criticism from the world community. Clearly an impartial investigation needed to be made, but Israel and the US blocked this. (Media Edge producer Mary Brassell compiled footage from online sources to create this video. Original Lara Lee footage can be found at <http://vimeo.com/12429821>.)

Segment 2 -- "Letters from Beirut"

An intimate, personal and powerful telling of the story of the 2006 war in Lebanon. A series of letters written by Hanady Salman - a mother living through the war in Beirut - carve a narrative arc through the intense and haunting images of conflict.

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 #275 (August 14-16)

Segment 1 -- "The 800-Mile Wall"

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of the new border walls along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the U.S. This powerful 90-minute film is an unflinching look at the failed U.S. border strategy that many believe has caused the death of thousands of migrants and violates fundamental human rights. Since border walls have been built, well over 5,000 migrant bodies have been recovered in U.S. deserts, mountains and canals. Some unofficial reports put the death toll as high as 10,000 men, women and children. As a direct result of U.S. border policy, migrants are forced to cross treacherous deserts and mountains in search of low skill and low paying jobs in the United States.

Segment 2 -- "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.

Segment 3 -- "Guerrilla Warfare in the Information Age"

The web's pre-eminent conspiracist Robert Sterling breaks down the nature of info-war.

Episode #274 (August 7-9)

Segment 1 -- "PSR 2010 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 2 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 148 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on a Native American saying: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." At this event, nine finalists read their essays. The authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "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.

Episode #273 (July 31-August 2)

Segment 1 -- "Occupation 101"

An award-winning, thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The film presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions. It also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles that stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers.

Segment 2 -- "Hands in Peace"

Hands in Peace builds peace among diverse communities by adapting the ancient Greek Olympics for children. The children celebrate our common humanity and cultural diversity through non-competitive festivals like this one held in Sacramento.

Segment 3 -- "The Poetry of Listening"

A short documentary featuring Israeli and Palestinian poets and storytellers from Gaza to Tel Aviv.

Episode #272 (July 24-26)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Take a tour, accompanied by curious sheep and geese, of Mark Cooper's self-sufficient small farm. Over several years, he transformed a rundown house and hillsides of berry brambles into pasture and gardens where he produces and preserves most of his family's food. Visit the Goose Grotto in a constructed pond, a heritage fruit tree orchard, logs producing shiitake mushrooms, and a cheap-and-easy container kitchen garden. Mark gives us a close-up view of the solar dehydrator he constructed from salvaged materials - and his tips on food drying. He has husbanded up to fifty animals at a time, including two Tibetan yaks! This farmstead in Rough and Ready (CA) lives up to the town's name - and is a testament to hard work, wide-ranging construction skills, and love.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "Behind the Mask"

A controversial documentary about animal rights activists who break into laboratories and other facilities to provide previously unseen footage of the way animals are used. This film reveals the hearts and souls of men and women who unveil their individual struggles for Animal Liberation, and weaves together the lives of people who face jail, devastation, and even death for their ideals.

Episode #271 (July 17-19)

Segment 1 -- "The Gaza Freedom Flotilla: Eyewitness Reports and Smuggled Footage"

On the night of May 30, 2010, the Mavi Marmara, one of the seven ships in a Gaza bound humanitarian aid convoy, was attacked and boarded by the Israeli military. The attack by 4 warships, 2 submarines, 3 helicopters and 30 zodiacs took place on international waters in violation of international law. Eleven passengers from the Mavi Marmara were killed, dozens were wounded, and six hundred were forced to go to Israel where they were jailed. All media equipment was confiscated or destroyed. For days Israel told its version of the event. As flotilla members returned home, eyewitness accounts emerged and Lara Lee from Cultures of Resistance presented her smuggled raw footage to the UN Press Club and later online. These resources contradicted Israeli press releases. Israel then broadcast doctored footage it took from passengers' cameras to fend off an outpouring of criticism from the world community. Clearly an impartial investigation needed to be made, but Israel and the US blocked this. (Media Edge producer Mary Brassell compiled footage from online sources to create this video. Original Lara Lee footage can be found at <http://vimeo.com/12429821>.)

Segment 2 -- "Notes on the War"

This film, by Rosie Bsheer and Maya Mikdashi for the Deep Dish TV "Nothing is Safe" series, highlights the voices of citizens who were displaced during the 2006 war in Lebanon. It addresses the debates within Lebanese society that were sparked by the conflict, the Lebanese government response to the crisis, the role of Hizbollah and how the U.S. attempted to define the Israeli attack as part of the "war on terrorism."

Segment 3 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

The new Sierra Club border film, "Wild Versus Wall," details the unique and diverse natural areas along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and explains how they have been and will be affected by current and planned federal border policy and infrastructure, as well as the danger to our rights and safety imposed by sweeping new powers granted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Episode #270 (July 10-12)

Segment 1 -- "The Angola 3: Black Panthers and the Last Slave Plantation"

The gripping story of Robert King, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, men who have endured solitary confinement longer than any known living prisoner in the United States. Politicized through contact with the Black Panther Party while inside Louisiana's prisons, they formed one of the only prison Panther chapters in history and worked to organize other prisoners into a movement for the right to live like human beings. This feature length movie explores their extraordinary struggle for justice while incarcerated in Angola, a former slave plantation.

Segment 2 -- "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 #269 (July 3-5)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Bill Wilson and Wayne Weiseman pour their hearts into their permaculture design courses, changing lives as well as landscapes. In a unique format, students do initial course work online and then attend a one week hands-on course. In this chat along with Sivananda Yoga Farm sponsor Vidya Chaitanya, Wayne discusses principles starting with with observing elements like wind, water, sun and topography in a specific property. Bill provides alarming information on "peak soil." Together they note that permaculture's goal is to create small, intensive ecologies, a foodweb where everything is exchanging with everything else.

Segment 2 -- "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"

After Hurricane Katrina, there was a botched evacuation of the Orleans Parish Prison, and racial tension and brutality that divided the population into survivors and looters along lines of race and class.

Segment 3 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"

A feature-length documentary about Israel's policy to gain supremacy over the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace.