

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (July-December, 2013)

Episode 451 (December 28 - January 3)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

The Southern Willamette Bean and Grain Project is exploring bean, grain, and edible seed varieties which can be added to those already grown in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Oregon Tilth co-founder and farmer Harry MacCormack shares wisdom and stories about farms transitioning from chemical to organic farming. His book "The Transition Document: Toward a Biologically Resilient Agriculture" is a compendium of organic practices, like using compost tea to feed soil micro-organisms. Dan Armstrong, the author of "Prairie Fire," notes that the project aims to increase the diversity of staple crops and add resilience to the regional food system.

Segment 2 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"

A 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.

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.

Episode 450 (December 21-27)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Tour a closed-loop water system where one critter's wastes become another's food. Inside a steamy greenhouse, Jeremy Roth of Aprovecho Center's Aquaculture Project shows us fish tanks containing tilapia just like you might order in a restaurant. Water from the tanks is pumped through troughs where pond plants take in the nutrients from the fish. Plant material is then returned to feed the fish in their tanks. The nutrient-rich water is also diverted to nourish veggies like chard, tomatoes, and water chestnuts rooted in a shallow gravel bar. In this cycle, aquaponics yields generous quantities of high quality protein from a very small footprint.

Segment 2 -- "An Evening with Amy Goodman"

Last year, Amy Goodman spoke to a capacity crowd of about 500 people at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento. She discussed the winds of change blowing across the globe, from Tahrir in Egypt to the Occupy Movement throughout the United States. Amy Goodman is a progressive broadcast journalist, syndicated columnist, investigative reporter and author. She is the principal host of Democracy Now!, an independent global news program broadcast daily on radio, television and the Internet. After graduating from Harvard in 1984 with a degree in anthropology, she spent 10 years as producer of the evening news show at WBAI, Pacifica Radio's station in New York City. Democracy Now!, which began in 1996, now airs on more than 225 stations across North America. Goodman has received dozens of awards for her work, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the George Polk Award.

Segment 3 -- "A Buffalo's Trail of Tears"

A short video about the annual hazing of the last wild and free buffalo, by the Buffalo Field Campaign.

Episode 449 (December 14-20)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Wanting to demonstrate that "cities can be less impactful on the planet," natural builder Lydia Doleman bought and remodeled a Portland house to demonstrate her values. Composting toilets reduce water usage while feeding the soil. Growing food shortens dependencies. Building materials were recycled and/or less toxic. She revised the floor plan to create spaces which encourage shared living rather than separate spaces.

Segment 2 -- "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.

Segment 3 -- "Returning Fire"

Video games like "Modern Warfare", "America's Army", "Medal of Honor" and "Battlefield" are part of an exploding market of war games whose revenues now far outpace even the biggest Hollywood blockbusters. The sophistication of these games is undeniable, offering users a stunningly realistic experience of ground combat and a glimpse into the increasingly virtual world of long-distance, push-button warfare. Far less clear, though, is what these games are doing to users, our political culture, and our capacity to empathize with people directly affected by the actual trauma of war. For the culture-jamming activists featured in this film, these uncertainties were a call to action. In three separate vignettes, we see how Anne-Marie Schleiner, Wafaa Bilal, and Joseph Delappe moved dissent from the streets to our screens, infiltrating war games in an attempt to break the hypnotic spell of "militainment." Their work forces all of us -- gamers and non-gamers alike -- to think critically about what it means when the clinical tools of real-world killing become forms of consumer play.

Episode 448 (December 7-13)

Segment 1 -- "Desensitization and Acceleration"

An examination of how heavy exposure to media violence normalizes violence, numbing some people to real-world violence as it whets the appetite in others for ever-higher doses.

Segment 2 -- "PSR 2013 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 April 28, 2013 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from entries submitted by greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, a position statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics in April 2000: "Firearm regulations, to include bans of handguns and assault weapons, are the most effective way to reduce firearm-related injuries." After the finalists read their essays, the authors of the top three essays earned \$3,000, \$2,500 and \$2,000 scholarships, and the other seven each earned a \$1,000 scholarship.

Segment 3 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

The 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 447 (November 30 - December 6)

Segment 1 -- "I Am Not A Prop"

An inspiring speech by 12 year old Madison Kimrey kicks off this video, which asks the Question, "What's up with Voter ID laws?"

Segment 2 -- "An Evening With Chris Hedges"

Chris Hedges, former Foreign Correspondent for the New York Times and currently a columnist for Truthdig.com, gave a moving presentation to a capacity audience on November 1, 2013 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento, recorded by a Media Edge video production team. Hedges was part of the team of reporters at The New York Times awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for the paper's coverage of global terrorism. He also received the Amnesty International Global Award for Human Rights Journalism in 2002. The Los Angeles Press Club honored Hedges' original columns in Truthdig by naming the author the Online Journalist of the Year in 2009 and again in 2011. The LAPC also granted him the Best Online Column award in 2010 for his Truthdig essay "One Day We'll All Be Terrorists."

Segment 3 -- "What the Economic Crisis Really Means - and What We Can Do About It"

This animation sums up the key challenges facing our global society of credit crisis and resource scarcity and describes a path we can take to a happier life, now and in the future.

Episode 446 (November 23-29)

Segment 1 -- "Media as Storytellers"

George Gerbner explores the significance of commercial media eclipsing religion and art as the great storyteller of our time.

Segment 2 -- "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.

Episode 445 (November 16-22)

Segment 1 -- "The Humor Times Presents Will Durst"

Media Edge presents excerpts from political comedian Will Durst's new one-man show -- "BoomeRaging: From LSD to OMG" -- recorded at the 24th Street Theatre in Sacramento on August 23, 2013. According to Durst, the show is about the travails of being "chronologically gifted," or "what happens when acid flashbacks meet dementia."

Segment 2 -- "Death and Taxes"

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, is a national treasure being squandered by greed. In this visually rich documentary, Ed Begley, Jr. narrates the story of the battle being fought by the people of the Delta to protect the region they love and encourage saner water policies for all of the people of California.

Segment 3 -- "When Abortion Was Illegal"

This Academy Award-nominated film features compelling first person accounts which reveal the physical, legal, and emotional consequences during the era when abortion was a criminal act.

Segment 4 -- "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 444 (November 9-15)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Restoration forester Matthew Hall has a vision for the Aprovecho woods: a managed ancient forest. Weaker trees are made into products while the larger trees stay in the forest forever. He retains nature's changes (like storm-dropped trees). He recruits snags. Tops snapped off of larger trees stay on the forest floor "to create a bank account of large woody debris." He's managing not just for the trees, but for the other communities who live here — soil, bugs, birds, and humans.

Segment 2 -- "Death and Taxes"

Twenty-eight people offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money. This tightly paced film introduces viewers to war tax refusal and redirecting tax dollars to peace, with music by Sharon Jones and the DapKings, Antibalas, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and First Strike Theatre's version of "Don't Pay Taxes" by Charlie King.

Segment 3 -- "Grounds for Resistance"

This documentary film is about Coffee Strong, a coffee shop located outside the gates of the U.S. Army base Fort Lewis in Washington: its importance for its most active members, active duty soldiers and their families, veterans of recent and past conflicts, and regional and national political movements. At the center of the film are the men and women whose experiences in the military and war compel them to commit themselves to help others who are serving or have served in the past. Each individual featured in the film exists within a nuanced tangle of conflicting emotions tied to pride, dedication to service, friendship, anger, disillusionment, sadness, and guilt. The film examines each one's stories from their decisions to join the military, their experiences of war, and their motivations for devoting themselves to Coffee Strong. It explores how their relationships with one another and their activist efforts to make a more peaceful and just world help them cope with their own experiences.

Segment 4 -- "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 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.

Episode 443 (November 2-8)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

In the Wallingford neighborhood of Seattle, Coordinator Rachel Duboff and Kathleen Crompt of the Community Kitchens Northwest steering committee tell about people learning new ways to eat and cook healthily, share resources, and collaborate while building community. The city boasts about a dozen neighborhood community kitchens, each with a unique flavor suited to its members. Create your own: they offer inspiring stories, tips and logistics to get you started.

Segment 2 -- "This Land Is Our Land"

For more than three decades, transnational corporations have been busy buying up what used to be known as the commons -- everything from our forests and our oceans to our broadcast airwaves and our most important intellectual and cultural works. In "This Land is Our Land," acclaimed author David Bollier, a leading figure in the global movement to reclaim the commons, bucks the rising tide of anti-government extremism and free market ideology to show how commercial interests are undermining our collective interests. Placing the commons squarely within the American tradition of community engagement and the free exchange of ideas and information, Bollier shows how a bold new international movement steeped in democratic principles is trying to reclaim our common wealth by modeling practical alternatives to the restrictive monopoly powers of corporate elites.

Segment 3 -- "Catastrophic Pentagon Cuts? Not Really...."

A short video that illustrates the fact that after a \$1 trillion cut over the next 10 years, the end of two wars, and accounting for inflation, we'd still spend more on the Pentagon than we did during most of Vietnam and the Cold War, and much more than we spend on education.

Segment 4 -- "The Race For What's Left"

Renowned energy expert Michael T. Klare provides an invaluable account of the new and increasingly dangerous competition for the world's dwindling resources.

Episode 442 (October 26 – November 1)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

This two-part episode features Nash Huber, a farmer who is famous for his delicious carrots — crunchy, sweet and alive. He started farming in Washington state's northeast Olympic Peninsula by cultivating backyard gardens and many relationships. His team grows over 100 varieties of vegetables, fruits, grains, seeds and pork all year round. When suburban sprawl started eating up nearby farmland, Nash dedicated himself to growing a stable base of land for farming. He partnered with PCC Farmland Trust to buy and protect farmland in his region. He was designated Steward of the Year 2008 by the American Farmland Trust.

Segment 2 -- "SHADA"

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

Segment 3 -- "The Next American Revolution"

An illustrated presentation of distinguished historian and political economist Gar Alperovitz, who shows how bottom-up strategies can check corporate power, democratize wealth, and empower communities.

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 441 (October 19-25)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Mike Hatfield says the magic of a rocket stove is getting the heat into what you're trying to heat. His tour of a rocket stove reflects designs perfected for decades at Aprovecho Research Center in rural Oregon. They also test and suggest improvements to stoves from developing countries, aiming to reduce smoke to help children's respiratory health. Fred Colgan shows specialized stove parts and assembly jigs he ships to developing countries, where local people construct rocket stoves from mostly local materials. Appropriate technology at its best!

Segment 2 -- "Visions of Abolition"

This documentary is designed to expand knowledge about the history of the prison-industrial complex and the prison abolition movement in the United States.

Episode 440 (October 12-18)

Segment 1 -- "The Story of Change"

This short video urges viewers to put down their credit cards and start exercising their citizen muscles to build a more sustainable, just and fulfilling world.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Citizens United vs. FEC"

An exploration of the inordinate power that corporations exercise in our democracy.

Segment 3 -- "The Story of Electronics"

The high-tech revolution's collateral damage: 25 million tons of e-waste and counting, poisoned workers and a public left holding the bill. Host Annie Leonard takes viewers from the mines and factories where our gadgets begin to the horrific backyard recycling shops in China where many end up. The film concludes with a call for a green 'race to the top' where designers compete to make long-lasting, toxic-free products that are fully and easily recyclable.

Segment 4 -- "The Story of Broke"

The United States isn't broke; we're the richest country on the planet and a country in which the richest among us are doing exceptionally well. But the truth is, our economy is broken, producing more pollution, greenhouse gasses and garbage than any other country. In these and so many other ways, it just isn't working. But rather than invest in something better, we continue to keep this 'dinosaur economy' on life support with hundreds of billions of dollars of our tax money. The Story of Broke calls for a shift in government spending toward investments in clean, green solutions -- renewable energy, safer chemicals and materials, zero waste and more -- that can deliver jobs AND a healthier environment. It's time to rebuild the American Dream; but this time, let's build it better.

Segment 5 -- "Dakota 38"

In the spring of 2005, Jim Miller, a Native spiritual leader and Vietnam veteran, found himself in a dream riding on horseback across the great plains of South Dakota. Just before he awoke, he arrived at a riverbank in Minnesota and saw 38 of his Dakota ancestors hanged. At the time, Jim knew nothing of the largest mass execution in United States history, ordered by Abraham Lincoln on December 26, 1862. "When you have dreams, you know when they come from the creator... As any recovered alcoholic, I made believe that I didn't get it. I tried to put it out of my mind, yet it's one of those dreams that bothers you night and day." Four years later, embracing the message of the dream, Jim and a group of riders retrace the 330-mile route of his dream on horseback from Lower Brule, South Dakota to Mankato, Minnesota to arrive at the hanging site on the anniversary of the execution. "We can't blame the wasichus anymore. We're doing it to ourselves. We're selling drugs. We're killing our own people. That's what this ride is about, is healing." This is the story of their journey--the blizzards they endure, the Native and Non-Native communities that house and feed them along the way, and the dark history they are beginning to wipe away.

Episode 439 (October 5-11)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Activist and author Derrick Jensen asserts that industrial civilization is murdering the planet and it must be stopped. We need to decolonize our hearts and minds. As soon as our allegiance is to the real world and not industrial capitalism, things become more clear.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Cosmetics"

An examination of the pervasive use of toxic chemicals in our everyday personal care products, from lipstick to baby shampoo. This film by The Story of Stuff Project reveals the implications for consumer and worker health and the environment, and outlines ways we can move the industry away from hazardous chemicals and towards safer alternatives.

Segment 3 -- "Daniel Ellsberg, PhD"

Daniel Ellsberg is a former United States military analyst who, while employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War, to The New York Times and other newspapers. Ellsberg spoke in Sacramento on September 9, 2011 about secrets, lies and ethics from the Viet Nam era through today's WikiLeaks publications. His presentation was recorded by Media Edge.

Episode 438 (September 28 - October 4)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Morris Dees"

Morris Dees, co-founder & Chief Trial Counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, spoke to a capacity audience on September 6, 2013 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento. After launching a law practice in Montgomery, Alabama in 1960, Dees won a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases that helped integrate government and public institutions. Known for his innovative lawsuits that crippled some of America's most notorious white supremacist hate groups, he has received numerous awards, including Trial Lawyer of the Year from Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association and The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Natural builder Chris Foraker gives a tour of work-in-progress at Aprovecho Center, Oregon. The structure's clay, straw, sand, and wood come primarily from their own land. Much of the work was done by amateurs using techniques that don't take industrial levels of technology. Aprovecho builders pioneered using small diameter flat-sided poles to replace dimensional lumber — a technique accepted into the local building code. Chris dreams of reintroducing "regional vernacular architectures." This building beautifully expresses that dream.

Segment 3 -- "The Story of Bottled Water"

The story of manufactured demand -- how you get Americans to buy more than half a billion bottles of water every week when it already flows from the tap. This film explores the bottled water industry's attacks on tap water and its use of seductive, environmental-themed advertising to cover up the mountains of plastic waste it produces.

Segment 4 -- "The Humor Times Presents Will Durst"

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Episode 437 (September 21-27)

Segment 1 -- "The Story of Stuff"

With over 12 million on-line views, "The Story of Stuff" -- an animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods -- is one of the most widely viewed environmental-themed short films of all time. Since its release in December 2007, The Story of Stuff has been shown in thousands of schools, houses of worship, community events and businesses around the world.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Cap & Trade"

A fast-paced, fact-filled look at the leading climate solution being discussed on Capitol Hill. Host Annie Leonard introduces the energy traders and Wall Street financiers at the heart of this scheme and reveals the "devils in the details" in current cap and trade proposals: free permits to big polluters, fake offsets and distraction from what's really required to tackle the climate crisis. If you've heard about Cap & Trade, but aren't sure how it works (or who benefits), this is the movie for you.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

Picture a sofa perched on a bicycle for its move across town. That's how Portlanders Joel and Barb Grover transport items too big or awkward for a car. More and more folks in bicycle-friendly terrain are using cargo bikes for their in-town transportation needs -- carrying kids, groceries, purchases and goods for market. Creative cycle design is thriving, as Joel shows in numerous cargo cycle models, and local builder Joseph Ahearne shows with his Cycle Truck. Take a test spin with Janaia, who is having too much fun in a box-fronted tricycle and learning how to steer a "long tail."

Segment 4 -- "From Danger to Dignity"

After more than a century of back-alley tragedies, a national movement to decriminalize abortion took root. FROM DANGER to DIGNITY combines rare archival footage with present-day interviews to weave together two parallel stories: the evolution of underground networks to help women find safe abortions outside the law and the intensive efforts of activists and legislators who broke the silence and changed the laws.

Episode 436 (September 14-20)

Segment 1 -- "Over Troubled Waters"

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, is a national treasure being squandered by greed. In this visually rich documentary, Ed Begley, Jr. narrates the story of the battle being fought by the people of the Delta to protect the region they love and encourage saner water policies for all of the people of California.

Segment 2 -- "The United States of ALEC"

Bill Moyers' report on the most influential corporate-funded political force most of America has never heard of -- ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. A national consortium of state politicians and powerful corporations, ALEC presents itself as a "nonpartisan public-private partnership". But behind that mantra lies a vast network of corporate lobbying and political action aimed to increase corporate profits at public expense without public knowledge.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

Janaia's the guest this time! She tells host Ivey Cone: "This is not a problem. A problem can be solved. This is a predicament. We can't solve our way out of this one, with technology or any other mythic fix. It's something we have to live with." She sees multiple collapses happening simultaneously: the American empire, industrial civilization, and planetary ecosystems – especially rapidly accelerating climate change. After sharing a few ideas on how we might respond personally, she closes with heartfelt tips from the author of "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

Episode 435 (September 7-13)

Segment 1 -- "Tax Dollars at War"

An excellent animated video, based on a radio interview about US military spending as a proportion of our national budget.

Segment 2 -- "From a Silk Cocoon"

This film tells Dr. Satsuki Ina's family's story of the tragic outcome resulting from the wartime hysteria and racial profiling that occurred during WW II in the name of "military necessity." The film is followed by a panel and Q & A that includes Dr. Ina, Harry Wang, MD (President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Chapter) and Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of the Council on Islamic Relations. "From a Silk Cocoon" received a Northern California Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Historical/Cultural Programming.

Segment 3 -- "Yes We Can, Can"

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

Episode 434 (August 31 - September 6)

Segment 1 -- "Health Care as a Human Right in Occupied Palestine"

At an event in Sacramento on October 30, Dr. Ruchama Marton, founder of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and 2010 winner of the Right Livelihood Award, and Dr. Allam Jarrar of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society described the current state of health care in the West Bank. They also discussed the challenges in providing comprehensive health services in light of the military occupation. The event was sponsored by PSR/Sacramento and Jewish Voice for Peace/Sacramento, and endorsed by Sacramento Area Peace Action.

Segment 2 -- "COINTELPRO 101"

This film exposes illegal surveillance, disruption, removal, and other extreme tactics used by the US government in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. COINTELPRO refers to the official FBI COunter INTELigence PROgram carried out to surveil, imprison, and eliminate leaders of social justice movements and to disrupt, divide, and destroy the movements as well. Through interviews with activists who experienced these abuses first-hand and with rare historical footage, the film provides an educational introduction to a period of intense repression and draws relevant lessons for the present and future.

Episode 433 (August 24-30)

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 -- "Big Bucks, Big Pharma"

This video pulls back the curtain on the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry to expose the insidious ways that illness is used, manipulated, and in some instances created, for capital gain. Focusing on the industry's marketing practices, media scholars and health professionals help viewers understand the ways in which direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising glamorizes and normalizes the use of prescription medication, and works in tandem with promotion to doctors. Combined, these industry practices shape how both patients and doctors understand and relate to disease and treatment. Ultimately, "Big Bucks, Big Pharma" challenges us to ask important questions about the consequences of relying on a for-profit industry for our health and well-being.

Segment 3 -- "When Elk Fly"

The price our wildlife pay for the sake of cattle and the diseases they brought here from Europe.

Episode 432 (August 17-23)

Segment 1 -- "A Buffalo's Trail of Tears"

A short video about the annual hazing of the last wild and free buffalo, by the Buffalo Field Campaign.

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

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Segment 3 -- "Eyewitness Gaza"

The aim of this movie is to show an accurate view of current life in Gaza, with necessary historical and political context to help an audience understand the unique position Gazans are in: under siege, trapped, constantly threatened by attacks from Israel and their own political factions, with little awareness or concern by a larger world. The central theme is youth, from infancy to young adulthood. How do people survive siege while marginalized by the world community? We explore this question in the context of the Arab Spring—the uprisings beginning in Tunisia in late 2010, including events in Palestine such as the Gaza Youth Break Out movement and recent manifestations of violent and nonviolent transformation. One central image or story is that of the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) very successful youth program, Popular Achievement.

Episode 431 (August 10-16)

Segment 1 -- "The Story of Citizens United vs. FEC"

An exploration of the inordinate power that corporations exercise in our democracy.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Electronics"

The high-tech revolution's collateral damage: 25 million tons of e-waste and counting, poisoned workers and a public left holding the bill. Host Annie Leonard takes viewers from the mines and factories where our gadgets begin to the horrific backyard recycling shops in China where many end up. The film concludes with a call for a green 'race to the top' where designers compete to make long-lasting, toxic-free products that are fully and easily recyclable.

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Segment 4 -- "Dakota 38"

In the spring of 2005, Jim Miller, a Native spiritual leader and Vietnam veteran, found himself in a dream riding on horseback across the great plains of South Dakota. Just before he awoke, he arrived at a riverbank in Minnesota and saw 38 of his Dakota ancestors hanged. At the time, Jim knew nothing of the largest mass execution in United States history, ordered by Abraham Lincoln on December 26, 1862. "When you have dreams, you know when they come from the creator... As any recovered alcoholic, I made believe that I didn't get it. I tried to put it out of my mind, yet it's one of those dreams that bothers you night and day." Four years later, embracing the message of the dream, Jim and a group of riders retrace the 330-mile route of his dream on horseback from Lower Brule, South Dakota to Mankato, Minnesota to arrive at the hanging site on the anniversary of the execution. "We can't blame the wasichus anymore. We're doing it to ourselves. We're selling drugs. We're killing our own people. That's what this ride is about, is healing." This is the story of their journey- the blizzards they endure, the Native and Non-Native communities that house and feed them along the way, and the dark history they are beginning to wipe away.

Segment 5 -- "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.

Episode 430 (August 3-9)

Segment 1 -- "The Story of Change"

This short video urges viewers to put down their credit cards and start exercising their citizen muscles to build a more sustainable, just and fulfilling world.

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 -- "Generation M"

Despite the achievements of the women's movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. In this important documentary, Thomas Keith, professor of philosophy at California State University-Long Beach, looks specifically at misogyny and sexism in mainstream American media, exploring how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

Episode 429 (July 27 - August 2)

Segment 1 -- "The Story of Cap & Trade"

A fast-paced, fact-filled look at the leading climate solution being discussed on Capitol Hill. Host Annie Leonard introduces the energy traders and Wall Street financiers at the heart of this scheme and reveals the "devils in the details" in current cap and trade proposals: free permits to big polluters, fake offsets and distraction from what's really required to tackle the climate crisis. If you've heard about Cap & Trade, but aren't sure how it works (or who benefits), this is the movie for you.

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An examination of the pervasive use of toxic chemicals in our everyday personal care products, from lipstick to baby shampoo. This film by The Story of Stuff Project reveals the implications for consumer and worker health and the environment, and outlines ways we can move the industry away from hazardous chemicals and towards safer alternatives.

Segment 4 -- "PSR 2013 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 April 28, 2013 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from entries submitted by greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, a position statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics in April 2000: "Firearm regulations, to include bans of handguns and assault weapons, are the most effective way to reduce firearm-related injuries." After the finalists read their essays, the authors of the top three essays earned \$3,000, \$2,500 and \$2,000 scholarships, and the other seven each earned a \$1,000 scholarship.

Episode 428 (July 20-26)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "The Fragile Promise of Choice"

Through vignettes from cities and rural areas around the country, this documentary examines how restrictive legislation, in an atmosphere of harassment and violence, affects the lives of abortion providers and the women who seek their services. The film features interviews with community doctors, women seeking services, clinic directors, clergy, and counselors. Their stories illustrate the increasing number of situations in which legal does not necessarily mean accessible.

Segment 3 -- "An Evening With Naomi Tutu"

Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, spoke in Sacramento in March 2012 at an event recorded by Media Edge. Tutu was educated in Swaziland, the US and England, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the US. She has served as a development consultant in West Africa and a program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. She has also taught at the Universities of Hartford and Connecticut and Brevard College. The challenges of growing black and female in apartheid South Africa has led to her present avocation as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught how much we all lose when any of us is judged purely on physical attributes. During her Sacramento appearance, she blended her passion for human dignity with humor and personal stories.

Episode 427 (July 13-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Part 1: We live in a culture that wants only the upbeat response, the story with the happy ending. We marginalize people who express anger or grief about the impossible predicament we're in — societal and ecological collapse. Clinical psychologist Kathy "Peak Shrink" McMahon, uses empathy and humor to encourage people to really feel their emotions about having their worldview shattered. She responds to the myth that technology will save us, explains why politicians won't talk about the predicament, and supports people to see what's going on in spite of the cultural denial.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Part 2: "If you really grasp the idea that this is not suddenly going to turn around, in six months or a year, you begin to look at your life very differently," says Dr. Kathy McMahon, clinical psychologist and self-named "Peak Shrink." Despite government silence, she declares, the US is in a Great Depression. Collapse is happening now, not in the future. She empowers people to face reality. When they do, she finds they are freed to take appropriate action for themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. And therein lies her hope for the uncertainties looming ahead.

Segment 3 -- "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.

Episode 426 (July 6-12)

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE STONEY

George Stoney passed away on July 12, 2012 at the age of 96. He was a prolific documentary filmmaker (including the Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary "We Shall Overcome", "All My Babies", "The Uprising of '34" and "The Weavers: Wasn't that a Time"), educator, and "the father of public access TV." This week's episode of Media Edge marks the first anniversary of his passing, and is devoted to his life and never-ending support of community media.

Segment 1 -- "George Stoney: A Life in Film"

An excellent overview of the many achievements of George Stoney.

Segment 2 -- "Amy Goodman Interviews George Stoney"

On September 30, 2005, Amy Goodman interviewed George Stoney about the public access television movement on "Democracy Now!"

Segment 3 -- "Everyone's Channel"

This 1990 video documents the history of U.S. community television and public access TV, using rare video clips from across the nation. Combining unique archival footage from the early days of cable, rediscovered footage from the late 1960s, and interviews with access pioneers, it provides an illuminating overview of the people (especially George Stoney), ideas, and technological developments that helped make cable access a reality, and stresses the continuing need to see it as a vital necessity and right. From the birth of the video revolution, inspired by the marketing of portable TV equipment, to the first access channels in New York City and beyond, "Everyone's Channel" portrays the evolution of an idea that refuses to die.

Segment 4 -- "George Stoney"

An intimate and touching portrait of George Stoney at the age of 93.

Segment 5 -- "The Uprising of '34"

An excerpt from George Stoney's startling documentary, which tells the story of the General Strike of 1934, a massive but little-known strike by hundreds of thousands of Southern cotton mill workers.

Segment 6 -- "George Stoney: A Happy Collaborator"

An excerpt from a work-in-progress profile of George Stoney and his strong support of organ donation.