

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (January-June, 2013)

Episode 425 (June 29 - July 5)

Segment 1 -- "Getting Out"

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program 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. This documentary was created by David Bagnall and George Stoney. Known as “the father of public access TV” by video activists across the US, Stoney passed away on July 12, 2012 at the age of 96. He is also known for his other documentaries, including the Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary "We Shall Overcome", "All My Babies" in 1953 (which was recently inducted into the National Film Registry), "The Uprising of '34" and "The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time."

Segment 2 -- "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.

Segment 3 -- "Seeds of Freedom"

This film, narrated by Jeremy Irons, details how seeds, which have been the heart of traditional farming and natural biodiversity since the beginning of agriculture, are being transformed into an expensive, patented commodity used to monopolize the global food system.

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.

Episode 424 (June 22-28)

Segment 1 -- "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.

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.

Segment 3 -- "The Poetry of Listening"

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

Episode 423 (June 15-21)

Segment 1 -- "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 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 -- "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 422 (June 8-14)

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 -- "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 -- "An Evening with Rabbi Michael Lerner"

Founder of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, Rabbi Michael Lerner spoke in Sacramento in February 2012 at an event recorded by Media Edge. In his latest book, "Embracing Israel/Palestine", Lerner describes his views about building peace between Israel and Palestine, which he discusses at length during this presentation. Lerner is a political activist, the editor of Tikkun, a progressive Jewish interfaith magazine based in Berkeley, California, and the rabbi of Beyt Tikkun Synagogue of San Francisco. Lerner was a leader in the Berkeley student movement and the Free Speech Movement, chair of the Free Student Union, and chair from 1966-1968 of the Berkeley chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society. In 2003, the San Diego Jewish Journal described Lerner as "the most controversial Jew in America," writing that "He is relentlessly critical of Israel. He eulogizes Rachel Corrie. And he's done more for peace than any conservative we know."

Episode 421 (June 1-7)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "Peak Moment"

How do you turn wishful thinking into goals and concrete steps to achieve them? Alan Seid shares insights for "visioning and manifesting" that have helped him and others. It starts with imagining, Alan says, and thinking "outside the box." Then you set up structures and steps to get you there. He used the book "What Color is Your Parachute?" to develop a "flower diagram" to guide his search for a piece of land. "Creating Your Future: A guide to long range visioning" helped create structures and specific tasks. "Your Money or Your Life" focused his life energy (money and time) to align with his values. The best advice he's ever gotten? "Dream Big and Go for It!"

Episode 420 (May 25-31)

Segment 1 -- "Not Just a Game"

We've been told again and again that sports and politics don't mix, that games are just games and athletes should just "shut up and play." But according to Nation magazine sports editor Dave Zirin, this notion is just flat-out wrong. In Not Just a Game, the powerful documentary based on his bestselling book "The People's History of Sports in the United States," Zirin argues that far from providing merely escapist entertainment, American sports have long been at the center of some of the major political debates and struggles of our time. In a fascinating tour of the good, the bad, and the ugly of American sports culture, Zirin first traces how American sports have glamorized militarism, racism, sexism, and homophobia, then excavates a largely forgotten history of rebel athletes who stood up to power and fought for social justice beyond the field of play. The result is as deeply moving as it is exhilarating: nothing less than an alternative history of political struggle in the United States as seen through the games its people have played.

Segments 2 & 3 -- "Peak Moment"

Columbia Ecovillage (part 1) – From Apartments to Community: What if you could turn an apartment complex into a houseful of friends? Joe and Pam Leitch did. They purchased the apartments adjoining their farmhouse in metropolitan Portland, with the vision of creating an intentional community. While retrofitting the apartments to modernize and increase energy efficiency, they met weekly with prospective members to discuss visions and values. As Pam notes, "By the time we moved in, we were bonded.... Nobody moved in as a stranger."

Columbia Ecovillage (part 2) – From Apartments to Community: What's it like, living in an urban ecovillage? Barbara Ford finds that this size community enables people to contribute while doing what they love. Dennis Karas and his wife had to adjust to noise levels with more children around, but enjoy having many friends with shared values. All community members are trained in consensus decision making and conflict resolution, and work on teams for the common good. Noting the contrast with so many breakdowns in our culture, Lisa Weasel values people coming together and working across differences, while downscaling and being sensitive to the environment.

Episode 419 (May 18-24)

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 -- "Peak Moment"

The Eco-Sense House is alive! Its curving cob walls embrace Ann and Gord Baird's three-generation family. A living roof offers summer cooling and filters winter rains stored for garden water. The composting toilet provides rich soil for the veggie gardens, which supply much of the family's food. This "net zero energy" house uses the sun for electricity, hot water, and warm floors. Tour this small-footprint house, designed as part of the ecosystem surrounding it.

Episode 418 (May 11-17)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Amy Goodman"

On January 13, 2012, 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 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.

Episode 417 (May 4-10)

PEAK MOMENT

The "Peak Moment" series has been shown regularly on "Media Edge" since 2006. Tonight, we present four new episodes of the "Peak Moment series.

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"The external growth of a budding economy is over. The focus on growth now needs to be on the inner world." Carolyn Baker's "Navigating the Coming Chaos" is a toolkit to prepare emotionally and spiritually for the collapse of industrial civilization now underway. First build an "internal bunker," she suggests, to begin healing the fear, grief and despair that immobilize many people in our "culture of numbness." From that foundation, she invites us to look at who our allies are —people, places, possessions. Carolyn observes that many people experience a level of joy by doing this work.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

"Changing times calls for changing lifestyles." says Brian Kerkvliet. "So [we've] put more energy into the land... The more you get your fingers in the soil, the more endorphins rush through your head. You get excited by all of that." Using permaculture and biodynamic practices, Brian's family is endlessly experimenting and innovating to find what works. His wife Alexandra and daughter Rosalie introduce us to the goats, pigs, and cows who are essential players in their farm's web of life. Don't miss the outdoor shower with water heated by microbes in the compost pile!

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

Join the kids at Farm Camp! You'll watch them care for turkeys and rabbits, listen to a harvest season story, and cook up applesauce. Campers have fun growing and preparing food and, best of all, eating the results. They raise veggies from seed to harvest and take field trips, like the Camp Pizza kids who visit a cheese maker. It all started because founder Laura Plaut wanted her son to have joyful food experiences. "We do [this] because it feels good. It makes us happy, takes care of the planet, [and] takes care of communities."

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Take a whirlwind tour of Free Geek, powered almost entirely by volunteers. Free Geek keeps electronic stuff out of the landfill while refurbishing computers. "Volunteer for 24 hours, and you get a free computer, a class on how to use it, and a year of free tech support," says Reuse Coordinator Alison Briggs. Her tour starts with volunteers receiving used equipment donations at the front door. After initial testing, stuff gets deconstructed. Recyclable materials are separated out. Computers are refurbished in a Build Room — even laptops. Finished computers go to volunteers, non-profits, and Free Geek's thrift shop. They're living up to their byline: "connecting our community one computer at a time."

Episode 416 (April 27 - May 3)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"If peak oil occurs, it will dominate most everything else that we do, because energy drives everything." Financial consultant Jim Hansen's peak oil filter doesn't just guide investment decisions for his client portfolios. He applies it to his personal lifestyle (you may be surprised to learn what car he drives). He's also concerned about community impacts when fuel prices are higher, like centralized hospitals dependent on people driving to them, rather than many smaller localized facilities. Jim makes an important point: "If I get it right but my community gets it wrong, it could overwhelm everything I've done personally."

Segment 2 -- "First Lesson in Peace"

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

Segment 3 -- "SHADA"

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

Segment 4 -- "Legacy of Torture: The War Against The Black Liberation Movement"

This video documents the torture of activists John Bowman, Hank Jones and Harold Taylor by New Orleans police in 1973, and the assassinations, police brutality, and abuse suffered by the Black community during the 1960s and 1970s.

Episode 415 (April 20-26)

SHOCKING AND AWFUL MARATHON -- PART THREE:

Segment 1 -- "Empire and Oil"

In 1948 the U.S. State Department called the oil of the Middle East the "greatest strategic prize in history." Oil is the blood of industrial society. If the main product of the Middle East were tangerines and dates, there is zero likelihood that the configuration of the region or the invasions by European and American empires that have plagued it's modern history would have ever happened. Empire and Oil documents the history of Iraq, the scramble for oil, and reveals the real motivation of the Iraq War: to control the oil of the region, not for American SUV's, but to secure leverage over it's current and future imperial rivals.

Segment 2 -- "Channels of War -- The Media is the Military"

A thoroughgoing analysis of the role of corporate media is leading the people of the United States into war, in this case, the Iraq War. Media analyst Robin Andersen deconstructs the role of embedded reporters, including network anchors Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw, who treated the war like a reality show. Steve Rendell of Fair and others reveal the links between the corporations that own the media and the war manufacturers. The program provides a valuable example of critical thinking that exposes the mechanisms of what Noam Chomsky called manufacturing consent. Despotism or Democracy? As one media critic asked: How would the corporate media's coverage of the Iraq war been different if it was state owned?

Segment 3 -- "Resistance at Home"

This episode focuses on the millions of Americans who have said, NO! to the invasion and occupation of Iraq and the larger Bush agenda of clampdowns on free speech, increased spying on citizens and the elimination of civil liberties. Segments include, Scenes From An Endless War, The Bloody War in DC, War Pigs, The Bush War Is Coming, Bush To Hitler, Labor Against the War and The Culture of Resistance.

Segment 4 -- "Baghdad"

Italian filmmaker Dario Bellini has created a haunting collage of visual images that shows the human face of war: the Iraqi men and women and children who have been the victims of the U.S. invasion and occupation. The absurdly unequal contest inaccurately called a "war", the blind destruction of so much, the sorrow and pain, the tragedy and hope in the eyes of so many people.

Segment 5 -- "Tax Dollars at War"

To complete the Media Edge 3-week series to mark the 10th anniversary of the second US invasion of Iraq, we present this excellent animated video, based on a radio interview about US military spending as a proportion of our national budget.

Episode 414 (April 13-19)

SHOCKING AND AWFUL MARATHON -- PART TWO:

Segment 1 -- "Dance of Death"

Dance of Death examines the relationship between U.S. soldier-occupiers and the Iraqi people. What impact has this interaction had on the soldiers, what hopes or resentments has it fueled in the people of Iraq? Army recruitment films speak of "An Army of One." But it's not like the ads on MTV. Men and women may ship out as units, but they come home alone. Wives, husbands and parents speak about the impact on families of physically and mentally damaged loved ones, the despair of "stop-loss" forced extension of duty. And what's the class and ethnic background of the military? How many non-citizens have been recruited with the promise of citizenship? (Three years after this video was made, Iraq Veterans Against the War organized Winter Soldier II: Iraq and Afghanistan - Eyewitness Accounts of the Occupations.. Over 200 vets attended, more than 50 testified, confirming in great detail the reality that Dance of Death describes.)

Segment 2 -- "Erasing Memory -- The Cultural Destruction of Iraq"

This heartbreaking and enraging program begins with Robert Fisk's eyewitness account of the looting of Baghdad's museums and libraries, while the U.S. military watched, ordered by their high command only to protect the Ministry of Oil. Elsa First's beautiful lamenting poems of the plunder and the loss give emotional magnitude to the crime. Archeologist David Gimbel describes the vast pillage of archaeological sites so severe that "no archaeologist could deal with it psychologically." ("When we go back and look at this situation we will find there were attempts to wipe out culture...In reality the occupation is a military and a cultural occupation." -- Iraqi writer and painter Mooald Dawood Al-Bassam)

Segment 3 -- "Globalization At Gunpoint"

The military occupation of Iraq has enabled the U.S. to enforce privatization of the Iraqi economy, in effect, selling off Iraq's assets to foreign investors. A look at the challenges to privatization.

Segment 4 -- "The World Says NO to War"

Documents the massive protests of tens of millions of people throughout the world in opposition to the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Sounds and images from 16 countries show passionate and creative reactions to militarism and occupation.

Segment 5 -- "Eyes Wide Open"

As part of the Media Edge 3-week series to mark the 10th anniversary of the second US invasion of Iraq, we present an encore presentation of "Eyes Wide Open", Media Edge producer 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.

Episode 413 (April 6-12)

SHOCKING AND AWFUL MARATHON -- PART ONE:

10 years after the second US invasion of Iraq, the Deep Dish TV series "Shocking and Awful: A Grassroots Response to War and Occupation" remains the most comprehensive and powerful analysis of the war and opposition that arose in the US and around the world. To mark the 8th anniversary since the first "Media Edge" telecast on April 3, 2005, we present this entire 12-part series during the next three weeks, with each Media Edge episode featuring four of the "Shocking and Awful" series programs:

Segment 1 -- "The Real Face of Occupation"

Abu Ghraib was no exception or the actions of "a few bad apples". All the tragedies and dehumanization depicted in this film made in 2005 have only intensified in subsequent years. What is life like under occupation? On-the-ground footage shows the humiliation and dehumanization inevitable in a colonial occupation.

Segment 2 -- "Standing with the Women of Iraq"

What has the U.S. invasion and occupation meant for the women of Iraq? Young women by the tens of thousands have been forced to leave school, women must try to keep their families safe and secure with marauding U.S. contractors and soldiers prowling the streets, rival sectarian forces fighting for power, sporadic electricity and fresh water, few jobs and the fear of their husbands, brothers, sons or daughters snatched away to Abu Gharib or some other U.S. prison. Yet there has been fierce and consistent women's resistance to the occupation and support from women's groups in the U.S. and across the world.

Segment 3 -- "National Insecurities"

In the wake of 911, the U.S. government launched a 21st century pogrom against Arabs and Muslims in the U.S., inflaming racial and religious hatreds and fears. Violence against immigrants, especially Arabs, imprisonment without trial, especially for Muslims became shockingly common occurrences in the United States. Jason da Silva's film tracks the heavy hand of the state as it disrupted the lives of so many ordinary people in launching of the Bush administration's "War on Terror." Comparisons are made to the Chinese Exclusion Act of the late 19th century and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Segment 4 -- "The Art of Resistance"

The growing impact of artists and cultural performances that have invigorated and enlivened resistance to America's imperial war on Iraq. Picasso responded to the fascist takeover of Spain in the 1930s with his famous painting Guernica. Artists today are responding to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and domestic repression with music, murals, street performance, comedy, cartoon animations and giant puppets. ("Part of what I really found really wonderful about the demonstration was that so many people who are not artists, who don't make things in their daily life, thousands and thousands of them took a piece of cardboard off a box...there were so many wonderful signs of every kind in words, images. Some were funny, some were very cynical, but they were really full of life, they were real outpourings." Artist Mary Frank in The Art of Resistance)

Episode 412 (March 30-April 5)

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 -- "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 411 (March 23-29)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Dignity Village -- A Community By and For the Homeless (part 1). "Anybody can come through our gates 8 am-10 pm and use all of our facilities. We have hot showers, a telephone, free computers internet-ready, our commons, offices, [and a free store of donated items.] Anybody has access to this." Tour guide Jon Hawkes highlights this community's generosity to the larger community: its residents well understand what homeless people need. Visit their greenhouse, gardens, houses, and business enterprises — all built with ingenuity on a city-owned site.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Dignity Village -- A Community By and For the Homeless (part 2). "No violence. No theft. No drugs or alcohol. No constant disruptive behavior. Everyone must contribute to the village." While finishing our tour, Jon Hawkes lays out the five agreements residents must abide by, all forged by real-world experience. What would it be like if our entire society followed these rules? Celebrating its tenth anniversary, Dignity Village is an organically evolving, self-organizing intentional community — and a model for others.

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 -- "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.

Episode 410 (March 16-22)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "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 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 -- "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 petroleum, electricity, having daughters in a male-dominated society, his personal aspirations and those of his society.

Episode 409 (March 9-15)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Jump on that bike and power up the blender for your morning smoothie! Matthew Corson-Finnerty shows several machines he has developed while at Aprovecho Center in Oregon. Watch us pedal power an electricity generator, a grain mill, a blender, and a straw-chopper. Matthew notes there's "considerable difference between the power that one person can generate, and [what's] generated by a fossil fuel engine or a coal-fired plant to provide electricity." After watching these machines, what do you think?

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.

Segment 4 -- "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 408 (March 2-8)

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

At an event in Sacramento on October 30, 2012 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 -- "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.

Episode 407 (February 23-March 1)

Segment 1 -- " 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 2 -- " 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.

Segment 3 -- " 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.

Episode 406 (February 16-22)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

When author Cecile Andrews asked herself, "What matters?" the answer popped up: "Having time to do the things you want to do." She simplified her life, quit her full-time job, and started simplicity circles to support others in savoring life. Now she has expanded into neighborhood stop-and-chats and a Gross National Happiness movement. Her latest book advocates broadening the joy in our lives — Less is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, A Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness.

Segment 2 -- "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.

Segment 3 -- "Seeds of Freedom"

This film, narrated by Jeremy Irons, details how seeds, which have been the heart of traditional farming and natural biodiversity since the beginning of agriculture, are being transformed into an expensive, patented commodity used to monopolize the global food system.

Segment 4 -- "Make a Better World"

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

Episode 405 (February 9-15)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Sharing really is going to save the world!" declares Janelle Orsi, author of "The Sharing Solution," noting that it's fun, doesn't require special skills -- and we can start now. She and Jennifer Kassan co-founded the Sustainable Economies Law Center to help people formalize collaborative structures like producer cooperatives, cohousing developments and tool lending libraries. They're working to reduce the hurdles to investing in locally-owned and locally-controlled enterprises.

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.

Segment 3 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old center 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 404 (February 2-8)

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 403 (January 26 - February 1)

Segment 1 -- "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.

Segment 2 -- "PSR 2012 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

The 2012 Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on April 29, 2012 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, based on the words of the 20th century U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, "We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both." 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 402 (January 19-25)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Amy Goodman"

On January 13, 2012, 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 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.

Episode 401 (January 12-18)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "A Community Debate -- Achieving a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine: Is the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Campaign a Help or Hindrance?"

Recorded in Davis, California by a Media Edge crew, this debate was sponsored by the Davis Peace Coalition and features:

- (1) Omar Barghouti, an independent Palestinian researcher, commentator, human rights activist, founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and of the Palestinian Civil Society Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Barghouti holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University, NY.
- (2) Zeev Maoz, a UC Davis professor of political science, and director of the International Relations Program. Maoz is a scholar of Middle East politics and an expert on the Israeli security establishment. He serves as a distinguished fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, and is a past director of academic programs at Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa and the Israeli Defense Forces' National Defense College.

Episode 400 (January 5-11)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "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 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.

Segment 4 -- "When Elk Fly"

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