

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (January, 2018)

Episode 664 (January 27 - February 2)

Segment 1 -- "The Big Picture: How We Got Into This Mess, And How We to Get Out of It"

Robert Reich looks at the rise of Big Money in politics, the decline of our democracy, and Trump's election.

Segment 2 -- "Sentencing Reform - The Power of Fear"

It's time to end mass incarceration. Locking up more and more people for longer and longer doesn't make us safer.

The U.S. imprisons more people than any other nation. Over 2.3 million adults are currently in U.S. prisons and jails. The incarceration rate in the U.S. has shot up 500% over the past four decades. Yet studies show that locking up more and more people for longer and longer won't make us safer.

Fear-mongering politicians and sensational, stereotyping media coverage has driven bad policies that lock up greater numbers of people. Poor people of color are overwhelmingly and disproportionately targeted.

“Sentencing Reform: - The Power of Fear” is the first film in a new series on sentencing reform. The forthcoming series will highlight the symptoms of mass incarceration and present real, fact-based alternatives.

This episode explores the scope and source of mass incarceration.

Segment 3 -- "The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz"

This feature film follows the story of programming prodigy and information activist Aaron Swartz. From Swartz's help in the development of the basic internet protocol RSS to his co-founding of Reddit, his fingerprints are all over the internet. But it was Swartz's groundbreaking work in social justice and political organizing combined with his aggressive approach to information access that ensnared him in a two-year legal nightmare. It was a battle that ended with the taking of his own life at the age of 26.

Aaron's story touched a nerve with people far beyond the online communities in which he was a celebrity. This film is a personal story about what we lose when we are tone deaf about technology and its relationship to our civil liberties. not just a cybersecurity problem — it's a civil rights problem.

Episode 663 (January 20-26)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Can sanctuary exist in a state that still insists on broken windows policing? Ravi Ragbir and Sara Gozalo of The New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City describe pushing back state pressure and creating real sanctuary, communally, through partnering -- not policing.

Segment 2 -- "Our Treatment of HIV Has Advanced. Why Hasn't the Stigma Changed?"

The treatment of HIV has significantly advanced over the past three decades — why hasn't our perception of people with the disease advanced along with it? After being diagnosed with HIV, Arik Hartmann chose to live transparently, being open about his status, in an effort to educate people.

In this candid, personal talk, he shares what it's like to live with HIV — and calls on us to dismiss our misconceptions about the disease.

Segment 3 -- "Gun Violence In America: A Preventable Epidemic"

On October 22, 2017, Joshua Sugarman, founder and executive director of the Violence Policy center in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker at the Joint Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapters of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Americans Against Gun Violence. Sugarman asserted that the epidemic of Gun Violence in America can and must be solved.

Segment 4 -- "Bring Andres Home"

The lawyer for a Kona coffee farmer who was deported back to Mexico despite being called a “pillar of his community” by a U.S. judge plans to file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals on the grounds that he was legitimately married to a U.S. citizen and should not have been deported.

Episode 662 (January 13-19)

Segment 1 -- "Why Tax Breaks For the Rich Don't Create Jobs"

It's time to end the "trickle-down" myth.

Segment 2 -- "Courage Is Contagious"

When artist Damon Davis went to join the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, after police killed Michael Brown in 2014, he found not only anger but also a sense of love for self and community. His documentary "Whose Streets?" tells the story of the protests from the perspective of the activists who showed up to challenge those who use power to spread fear and hate.

Segment 3 -- "Warrantless Surveillance Ensnares Physics Professor"

Do we want to live in a world where academics fear surveillance and prosecution simply because they communicate with colleagues abroad? The chilling effect on academic collaboration and freedom of expression, both protected by the First Amendment, are clear.

Segment 4 -- "When Heritage Equals Hate -- The Truth About the Confederacy in the United States"

Jeffery Robinson, the ACLU's top racial justice expert, discusses the dark history of Confederate symbols across the country and outlines what we can do to learn from our past and combat systemic racism.

Episode 661 (January 6-12)

Segment 1 -- "One Word Defined 2017: Resist"

In the wake of Donald Trump becoming the U.S. president, people around the world poured into the streets to resist.

Segment 2 -- "40 Strangers, 50 Questions"

As our country becomes increasingly divided, we must acknowledge our many differences, yet understand and embrace that we are all one. We must help one another, and pledge to step out of the boxes of fear and hate, and step into one of empathy, solidarity, and unity.

Segment 3 -- "Bringing Jaguars back to the U.S. Southwest"

Thousands of jaguars used to roam the U.S. Southwest, but over the past two centuries, jaguars have been eliminated from more than half of their range. Defenders of Wildlife wants to do everything we can to bring these elusive, endangered big cats home.

Segment 4 -- "The Story of Cap & Trade"

Meet the energy traders and financiers at the heart of the "Cap & Trade" scheme, which gives free permits to big polluters, provides fake offsets, and distracts from what's really required to tackle the climate crisis.

Segment 5 -- "Google and the World Brain"

The story of the most ambitious project ever conceived on the Internet. In 2002 Google began to scan millions of books in an effort to create a giant global library, containing every book in existence. They had an even greater purpose - to create a higher form of intelligence, something that HG Wells had predicted in his 1937 essay "World Brain". But over half the books Google scanned were in copyright, and authors across the world launched a campaign to stop Google, which climaxed in a New York courtroom in 2011.

This film explores the dreams, dilemmas and dangers of the Internet.

Episode 660 (December 30, 2017 to January 5, 2018)

Segment 1 -- "16 Women and Donald Trump"

16 women have come forward to report being sexually harassed or assaulted by Donald Trump. Seeing their stories together is incredibly powerful, and damning. It's time to hold him to account.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

This show comes from Whitakers, North Carolina and the annual gathering of the Southern Movement Assemblies -- a living experiment in popular democracy and local self-governance. Plantation politics, monopoly capitalism, incarceration instead of peace: a lot of the worst of the American experience has its roots in the US South, but so does much of the best, from slave revolts, to abolition, to organized labor and civil rights. If the country goes as the South goes, what grassroots progressives do here matters.

Segment 3 -- "Say No To Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge"

Members of the native Gwich'in tribe say the refuge is sacred land and should not be drilled for oil. Footage provided by Patagonia.

Segment 4 -- "How to Transform Apocalypse Fatigue into Action on Global Warming"

The biggest obstacle to dealing with climate disruptions lies between your ears, says psychologist and economist Per Espen Stokes. He's spent years studying the defenses we use to avoid thinking about the demise of our planet — and figuring out a new way of talking about global warming that keeps us from shutting down. Step away from the doomsday narratives and learn how to make caring for the earth feel personable, doable and empowering with this fun, informative talk.

Segment 5 -- "War on Whistleblowers: Free Press and the National Security State"

This film highlights four cases where whistleblowers noticed government wrong-doing and took to the media to expose the fraud and abuse. It exposes the surprisingly worsening and threatening reality for whistleblowers and the press. The film includes interviews with whistleblowers Michael DeKort, Thomas Drake, Franz Gayl and Thomas Tamm and award-winning journalists like David Carr, Lucy Dalglish, Glenn Greenwald, Seymour Hersh, Michael Isikoff, Bill Keller, Eric Lipton, Jane Mayer, Dana Priest, Tom Vanden Brook and Sharon Weinberger.