

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January - June, 2009)

Episode #216 (June 28-29)

Segment 1 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was recently in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience on May 22, 2009. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "33 Days"

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

Episode #215 (June 21-22)

Segment 1 -- "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.

Segment 2 -- "Leaving Out the Inner City"

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

Segment 3 -- "Kiss Your Gas Goodbye"

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

Segment 4 -- "Make a Better World"

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

Episode #214 (June 14-15)

Segment 1 -- "2009 Scholarship Essay Contest"

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 3 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 144 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, "We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive," by Albert Einstein. At this event, the 10 finalists read their essays. The authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other seven each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "Live From Tent City: The Last 21 Days"

On April 1, 2009, Emmy award-winning filmmaker Costa Mantis moved into Sacramento's "tent city" to live with homeless people there. Now, for the first time, you can hear their stories and understand that - there but for the grace of God go I.

Episode #213 (June 7-8)

Segment 1 -- "Sacramento Tea Party"

Sue Wilson, producer of the documentary "Broadcast Blues," shows how big media, led by Fox TV and Radio, promoted the tax day "Tea Parties."

Segment 2 -- "Empty Streets"

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

Segment 3 -- "The Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization"

With many remaining natural resources on indigenous lands, traditional practices of biodiversity preservation have, ironically, made these lands targets for global corporations. Author Jerry Mander discusses these issues.

Segment 4 -- "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"

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

Episode #212 (May 31 - June 1)

Segment 1 -- "Fighting For Our Homes"

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

Segment 2 -- "Sky Lines"

A documentary by Deborah Whitman about the "chemtrails" of jets that streak across our skies. This video asks questions about the affect that toxins in those "sky lines" have on our health, global warming, etc.

Segment 3 -- "Steadfastness"

Democracy Now! reporter Ana Nogueira traveled to Lebanon during and after the 2006 war. Her reports document Israeli's massive use of cluster bombs, the immense ecological destruction and the war's toll of civilian casualties.

Segment 4 -- "The School of the Americas"

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

Episode #211 (May 24-25)

Segment 1 -- "Against the Wall"

Shachaf Polakow, an Israeli activist and member of Anarchists Against The Wall, has worked intensively for nearly five years demonstrating and preparing for direct actions in the West Bank against the occupation, the construction of The Wall, and the Israeli "apartheid" policy. On February 4, Polakow narrated his multi-media presentation about the current situation to a Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "Rethink Afghanistan"

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

Segment 3 -- "Leaving"

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

Segment 4 -- "Yes, We Can"

With over 20,000,000 views to date on YouTube, this song and video by Will.i.am of The Black Eyed Peas was inspired by Barack Obama's "Yes, We Can" concession speech after the 2008 New Hampshire primary.

Episode #210 (May 17-18)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Corporate Couple Become Permaculture Activists"

Asking "wouldn't it be wonderful if our city could feed itself?" Joe Leitch ponders everybody in Portland planting a chestnut tree. Pam Leitch relates how they both left the corporate world after reading the book "Your Money or Your Life". As educators on sustainability and resource depletion, permaculture and social justice, they soon learned of Peak Oil. Pam initiated bringing a Peak Oil resolution to the Portland City Council, who passed it unanimously in 2006 and set up a citizen task force to make recommendations for city action. See a bit of the permaculture farm Pam and Joe are creating in residential Portland, cultivating fruit trees, vegetables and compost, rainwater catchment, and innovative neighborhood cooperation.

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 -- "Let the Show Begin"

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

Episode #209 (May 10-11)

Segment 1 -- "Standing Up to the Madness"

"Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman and her brother David Goodman have a new best-selling book: "Standing Up to the Madness." On April 17, Amy and David spoke to a large audience in Sacramento about the book and the vital role of community media.

Segment 2 -- "Ten Minutes with Amy Goodman"

During her April 17 visit to Sacramento, "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman was interviewed by Amy Lawrence of Access Sacramento.

Segment 3 -- "Sacramento Tea Party"

Sue Wilson, producer of the documentary "Broadcast Blues," shows how big media, led by Fox TV and Radio, promoted the tax day "Tea Parties."

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

With a beautiful Colorado stream as a backdrop, host Janaia Donaldson talks to Judy Wicks about "Local Living Economies: Protecting What We Love."

Segment 5 -- "Yes We Can, Can"

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

Episode #208 (May 3-4)

Segment 1 -- "August Peace Event"

The 22nd Annual Day of Remembrance and Action commemorated the atomic bomb attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Taped by a Media Edge crew at the Sacramento State Alumni Center on August 9, this event featured Congressional candidate Bill Durston, Grammy Award winner Mary Youngblood, Reverend Bob Oshita of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, and Pamela Vergun, translator and editor of "A Dimly Burning Wick".

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

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

Episode #207 (April 26-27)

Segment 1 -- "Five Ways You Can Reduce the Impact of Climate Change"

UC-Davis Professor Deb Niemeier's keynote address was a highlight at the Fifth Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. This event also included a moving tribute to Dr. Herbert Bauer, and a reading by PSR Essay Contest scholarship winner Margaret Freiwald. Recorded by a Media Edge crew on October 4, 2008.

Segment 2 -- "Notes On the War"

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

Segment 3 -- "The Potentiality of Storming Heaven"

This video documents the Greek revolt in December 2008 through the words and actions of people that took part in it. This struggle opened up new vistas of resistance from Oakland to Latvia.

Episode #206 (April 19-20)

Segment 1 -- "Reaching Out to Our Veterans and Their Families"

Dr. Judith Broder, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, and Zohreh Whitaker, whose son recently returned from Iraq, share their experiences of the effect of war and working with returning veterans and their families. Recorded by a Media Edge crew on June 14, 2008 at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento.

Segment 2 -- "Struggle"

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

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

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

Episode #205 (April 12-13)

Segment 1 -- "6th Anniversary Demonstration"

On March 19, 2009, people gathered across America and around the world to protest the US occupation of Iraq. This street corner demonstration was one of the many events that occurred in Sacramento, California on this day, the sixth anniversary of the invasion.

Segment 2 -- "6th Anniversary Peace Vigil"

An inspiring Peace Vigil took place in Sacramento, California on March 19, 2009, marking the 6th year anniversary of the US led invasion of Iraq. People expressed their thoughts and feelings about the Iraq War through words and song.

Segment 3 -- "The July War"

A powerful look at the 2006 Lebanon War (the July War) and its devastating impact on Lebanon's people, economy, and environment. This film, by Brandon Jourdan and Francesca Caporali, examines the reasons behind the war and its impact on all parties involved. (From the "Nothing is Safe" series by Deep Dish TV.)

Segment 4 -- "Como Ángeles"

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

Episode #204 (April 5-6)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

In his book, *The Long Descent*, John Michael Greer observes that our culture has two primary stories: "Infinite Progress" or "Catastrophe". On the contrary, he sees history as cyclic: civilizations rise and fall. Like others, ours is exhausting its resource base. Cheap energy is over. Decline is here, but the descent will be a long one. It's too late to maintain the status quo by swapping energy sources. How to deal with this predicament? He lays out practical ideas, possibilities, and potentials, including reconnecting with natural and human capacities pushed aside by industrial life?

Segment 2 -- "An Evening with Jim Hightower"

On April 11, 2008, best-selling author and national radio commentator Jim Hightower delighted and inspired a huge audience in Sacramento at the Coloma Community Center. He encouraged people to break away from conventional wisdom and live their progressive values. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 3 -- "Hiwar"

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

Episode #203 (March 29-30)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "SHADA"

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

Segment 3 -- "Make a Better World"

This music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blending inspirational images with the music of Maria Muldaur, was also shown during her recent concert in Sacramento.

Episode #202 (March 22-23)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

What if you could make a call at any time on your cell phone and have a vehicle come to you within minutes, take you to your local destination, and cost about as much as a bus ride? Allen Hancock's notion of demand-responsive transit fills the gap between the private automobile and public transit. Rather than fixed routes and schedules, smaller vehicles guided by intelligent software with GPS circulate to where riders are and want to go. Flexible, efficient, low-cost, it uses existing vehicles and roads. Where's the town that will implement this exciting pilot project?

Segment 2 -- "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors"

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

Segment 3 -- "Letters from Beirut"

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

Episode #201 (March 15-16)

Segment 1 -- "Commemorating the Invasion of Iraq"

On March 19, people will gather across America and around the world to protest the US invasion and ongoing occupation of Iraq. Media Edge replays its coverage of events that occurred in Sacramento last year to commemorate this infamous action, and provides information about activities planned for this year.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

One response to the global crisis that is gaining enthusiastic momentum is the Transition Towns movement. Jennifer Gray, a pioneer in the Transition Initiative in the UK and cofounder of Transition US, describes it as "a community-led response to the twin crises of peak oil and climate change. It's ... positive, pro-active [and] engages the whole community in building resilience into their world." Sharing highlights from *The Transition Handbook* by founder Rob Hopkins, Gray elaborates on a flexible 12-step process to empower community organizers in unleashing the creative genius of their community and building an Energy Descent Action Plan. One innovative aspect is backcasting: envisioning one's community in 20 years, and then designing steps to get from here to there.

Segment 3 -- "Behind the Mask"

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

Episode #200 (March 8-9)

Segment 1 -- "Against the Wall"

Shachaf Polakow, an Israeli activist and member of Anarchists Against The Wall, has worked intensively for nearly five years demonstrating and preparing for direct actions in the West Bank against the occupation, the construction of The Wall, and the Israeli "apartheid" policy. On February 4, Polakow narrated his multi-media presentation about the current situation to a Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "A Question of Balance"

We often hear of "the destruction on both sides" caused by the 2006 war in Lebanon. Without minimizing the loss of any innocent lives or justifying "collateral damage, is that destruction comparable? The three segments in this program look at the destruction in both Lebanon and Israel. (From the "Nothing is Safe" series by Deep Dish TV.)

Segment 3 -- "Meet the Bloggers: Van Jones"

An episode of a series dedicated to news analysis, opinion and progressive issues from the blogosphere, tailored to appeal to political reporters, opinion leaders and a politically-aware audience. Featured guest: Van Jones, founder of Green For All and a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress. He also co-founded Color Of Change, the nation's largest online advocacy group that focuses on African-American issues.

Episode #199 (March 1-2)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Two views of a post-oil future, featuring long-standing peak oil awakeners James Howard Kunstler (author of *The Long Emergency*) and Post Carbon Institute Founder and President, Julian Darley.

Kunstler describes his recent novel *World Made by Hand*, a richly textured life in a post-oil agrarian community where electricity and phone are rarely working, and people must of necessity rely on each other. He compares America's current financial and political fiesta of dishonesty with the 1850s, which preceded the last great U.S. convulsion.

Darley, founder of Post Carbon Institute, is big on sharing: Sharing ideas to quickly inform a public largely unaware of peak oil. Sharing cars as a quick way individuals can get fuel usage down.

Segment 2 -- "Leading to War"

How does a government lead its people to war? How does it communicate to its citizens and to the wider world the reasons and rationale for initiating military conflict? What rhetorical devices and techniques are employed? And how is a nation brought to support the profound decision to wage war against another nation? These are the questions that LEADING TO WAR seeks to explore. This film is comprised entirely of archival news footage without commentary, without voiceover, presented chronologically from President Bush's State of the Union address in January, 2002 (the axis of evil speech), and continuing up to the announcement of formal U.S. military action in Iraq on March 19, 2003.

Segment 3 -- "Dr. Nabil"

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

Episode #198 (February 22-23)

Segment 1 -- "Slacker Uprising"

"Slacker Uprising" traces Michael Moore's 62-city tour of the swing states during the 2004 Presidential election and records the thrilling -- and frightening -- response he received across the country. Part concert tour, part stand-up comedy performance and part rock concert, "Slacker Uprising" is an uplifting and patriotic look at the birth of a new political generation in America -- a generation of young people who would signal a new era that would take place just four years later.

Segment 2 -- "Omar Is My Friend"

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

Episode #197 (February 15-16)

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 -- "The Battle Over Prop 8 Continues"

On November 5, 2008, disappointed Prop 8 opponents held a candlelight vigil in front of the State Capitol in Sacramento. They were met by a small vocal group of Prop 8 proponents. By Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros.

Segment 3 -- "Baghdad Days"

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

Segment 4 -- "Hanan Awwad"

An interview with Palestinian poet and President of the Palestine Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Produced by Eileen McGee from the Media Edge affiliate in Humboldt County, California.

Episode #196 (February 8-9)

Segment 1 -- "Big Box Swindle"

Produced by Eileen McGee from our affiliate in Humboldt County, California, this video features a presentation by author Stacy Mitchell during her visit to Eureka. She discusses her book that illustrates how mega-retailers fuel many of our most pressing problems, and shows how communities and independent businesses are effectively fighting back.

Segment 2 -- "First Lesson in Peace"

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

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

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

Episode #195 (February 1-2)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Energy Investment -- Energy Return.

Independent financial consultant Jim Hansen runs every investment through the "peak oil test". In this presentation from the ASPO-USA 2008 conference, he explores traditional energy investments; opportunities in renewables, rail, and electrifying the transportation system; areas to avoid like airlines and trucking; and what to watch, like electric cars and the unwinding of globalization. Also in this episode, ecologist and professor Charlie Hall looks at energy return on energy invested. Whether it's a cheetah chasing antelope, or humans making ethanol, the energy we get back has to exceed the energy we put in, or the story is over. He compares oil's energy return in the 1930's (1 calorie invested returned 100 calories of energy) with the current situation (1:12) and still declining. Hansen and Hall respond to the final question in the Q&A session at the close of the conference: how do we better harness the intellect, energy and commitment at this conference, and what one thing would you have people ask an elected official to do about peak oil?

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 -- "The Poetry of Listening"

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

Segment 4 -- "In Their Boots: Angie's Story"

In 2001, Army Sergeant Angela Peacock was raped by a fellow soldier. Encouraged by her command not to tell, she held it in. Now back home, she takes control of her PTSD - a result of her sexual trauma and combat stress - and takes her life back.

Episode #194 (January 25-26)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Broadening the Peak Oil Conversation.

Senior energy analyst Robert Hirsch reflects on the immediate liquid fuels problem, and the rebuilding of our entire energy system which will take at least twenty years. He reflects on comments made during the ASPO-USA 2008 conference presentations, noting that he remains optimistic about American response to the daunting challenges ahead. Political science professor Kyle Saunders is the "Professor Goose" behind the Oil Drum website. He champions the need to learn from one another about complex, interdependent topics like the economy, energy, noting that every piece of information we can get can reduce uncertainty. In the Q & A session at the close of ASPO-USA's 2008 conference, presenters respond about the current financial chaos and resource scarcity, how to encourage intelligent political action, the need for a peak oil high-visibility champion, peak oil's relationship to climate change, and suggestions for household energy reduction.

Segment 2 -- "2008 Scholarship Essay Awards Event"

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

Segment 3 -- "Hiwar"

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

Episode #193 (January 18-19)

Segment 1 -- "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 2 -- "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 #192 (January 11-12)

Segment 1 -- "Climate Change: Despair and Empowerment Roadshow"

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

Segment 2 -- "Leaving Out the Inner City"

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

Segment 3 -- "Outlawed"

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

Episode #191 (January 4-5)

Segment 1 -- "Solving the Klamath Crisis; Keeping Farms and Fish Alive"

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

Segment 2 -- "Getting Out"

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program has had on former prisoners trying to reestablish their lives. Filmed inside the walls of the notorious "Sing Sing" prison in New York, this video documents the 15-year incarceration and subsequent release of two inmates. It also highlights the difficulties many former prisoners experience trying to reestablish life outside of prison walls. This documentary was created by David Bagnall and George Stoney. Known as "the father of public access" by video activists across the US, the 91-year-old Stoney is also known for his other documentaries, including "All My Babies" in 1953, which was recently inducted into the National Film Registry.

Segment 3 -- "AB 540"

A short film by Sacramento teacher Travis Silcox, about the challenges facing undocumented students raised in the United States. "AB 540" is the 2002 California law that allows undocumented youths to pay in-state tuition at state colleges if they grew up here and graduated from California high schools.