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**EDITORS/FACILITATORS:**

- Marya Burke
- Brady Collins
- Brian Dolinar
- davep
- Belden Fields
- Bob Illyes
- Paul Mueth
- Carly Nix
- Neil Parthun
- Niloofar Shambayati

**The Public i**

Urbana-Champaign IMC  
202 South Broadway  
Urbana, IL, 61801  
217-344-8820  
www.ucimc.org



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Published by the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center November 2009  
V9, #9

**10 Years Since the "Battle of Seattle,"  
And 10 Years of UCIMC**



**The Legacy of the "Battle of Seattle"**  
David Johnson  
Page 1



**Make More Local Radio**  
Danielle Chynoweth  
Page 3



**The GEO Wins!!**  
Rich Potter  
Page 5



**UCIMC: 10 Years of Independent Media**  
Brian Dolinar  
Page 10

## The Legacy Of The 1999 WTO "Battle Of Seattle" On Champaign-Urbana

By David Johnson



During the late summer and early fall of 1999, I saw a multitude of e-mails and postings on the relatively new internet, from numerous citizens' organizations and individuals, indicating their plans to go to Seattle in November to protest the WTO (World Trade Organization) meeting. I had a feeling that the upcoming protest in Seattle was going to be monumental.

As Vice-President and Political Director of the AFL-CIO of Champaign County at the time, I had been initiating and encouraging discussion within the labor movement for several years about the adverse effects of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the 'new world order' of anti-worker corporate globalization. At our October 1999 monthly meeting, I invited three local anti-globalization activists from the School For Designing a Society, who talked about the need to assemble as many people as possible in Seattle the following month in order to confront and disrupt the meeting of the WTO. The delegates of the Champaign County AFL-CIO, representing dozens of local unions, voted unanimously to donate \$600.00 in travel money to the three activists.



Demonstrators and security forces face-off in Seattle

Within a few weeks, four individual local unions (Graduate Employees Organization, AFSCME, Carpenters, and the Urbana Firefighters) also donated money to enable other local activists to travel to Seattle.

A total of 16 Champaign-Urbana residents traveled to Seattle, including local musician Paul Kotheimer, former (future at the time) Urbana City Councilwoman Danielle Chynoweth, and Peter Miller (co-founder of the WEFT community radio's program, The Illinois Labor Hour). Two of our local people, Kathy McCrady and Laura Anderson, were arrested in Seattle for the "crime" of wearing turtle costumes.

The convergence of angry citizens from all over the world upon the WTO meeting in Seattle that November caught the Seattle police off guard. They did not expect the vast numbers of people who assembled. When the Seattle riot police surrounded hundreds of protesters who sat down in the street and blocked the entrance to the WTO meeting, an additional wave of protesters numbering in the thousands surrounded the police, and by doing so, shut down the entire area of the WTO meeting, encompassing many city blocks.

Although the element of surprise and the disruption of the WTO meeting was a success, problems emerged dur-

ing the week-long "Battle of Seattle" In addition to the brutal police response to non-violent protesters was the additional problem of corporate media coverage. All week long in Seattle, the corporate media only showed images of protesters clashing with police. None of the issues and reasons of why so many people from around the world had come to Seattle to protest were shown, nor the pervasive police brutality, and not one anti-globalization activist was interviewed.

Out of this frustration with the corporate media's iron curtain of disinformation was born the worldwide Indymedia Network. Spaces in storefronts, homes and offices were hastily arranged while the Battle of Seattle was waging. Citizen activists took hundreds of hours of video footage that was taken to the Indy Media locations, and uploaded to the world wide web for the citizens of the world to see the truth.

Before, during, and after the WTO Battle of Seattle, the Champaign-Urbana *News Gazette* newspaper surprisingly had several news stories about the local connection with the WTO protest in Seattle from the local Unions giving money to activists for travel expenses, the reason why many local people were going to the protest and later a story about the two local people arrested in Seattle. After returning, local television station WICD also used some film footage taken in Seattle by local activists.

The energy and urgency of the Battle of Seattle and the determination it inspired to inform the general public about the evils of the WTO and the world corporate system it represented, motivated local activists to put into practice the slogan, "think globally, act locally."

Upon returning from Seattle, many Champaign-Urbana residents began to plan the establishment of a local Indymedia outlet in C-U. Eight months later, in July of 2000, these same activists promoted the idea of continuing the message and imagery of the WTO protests in the upcoming Champaign County 4th of July Parade. Hundreds of C-U residents, environmentalists, union members, and other concerned citizens organized. Rank and file union members of the Building Trades along with artists of the School for Designing a Society built floats. On the day of the 4th of July Parade, our anti-WTO globalization procession was the largest in the parade, stretching for several city blocks. One of the floats in the parade had a large paper mache statue of the capitalist character from the board game Monopoly, holding his suit coat closed with diamond rings upon his fingers. A sign on the float read, "behold the effects of globalization." At intervals, marchers pulled on



Security forces fire rubber bullets into crowd at close range



Protesters shut-down the city

ropes that opened the capitalist's coat to reveal a cage with two young live girls, wearing dirty and tattered clothing working with sewing machines.

Two months later in September, an Indymedia outlet was officially established in Urbana, The Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center (UCIMC), which eventually moved into a storefront location at 218 W. Main St. in downtown Urbana. This was made possible by the donations of time and money of hundreds of people and several local organizations like the School for Designing a Society, the Socialist Forum, and local labor unions.

One of the first local news stories by the newly established IMC was my trial at the Champaign County AFL-CIO. Charges of "misconduct," were filed against me for making a public statement to *News-Gazette* reporter Phil Bloomer at the open house of the local Prairie Greens in which I stated a personal opinion with a disclaimer that Al Gore and the Democratic Party had betrayed the labor movement by supporting NAFTA and other corporate trade agreements that had caused the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs, and for that reason I was supporting Green Party candidate Ralph Nader for President of the United States.

Because of the IMC's coverage of my story and its posting internationally on the Indymedia network, the national AFL-CIO in Washington D.C. received thousands of e-mails from individuals across the country and even from other countries, expressing their support in my defense. As a result, the national AFL-CIO sent a staff person from Chicago to Champaign for my trial. When he arrived, he was greeted by close to a hundred of my supporters and a camera crew. This was also made possible by the IMC.

Thanks to this public pressure, the national AFL-CIO prevented the local AFL-CIO from impeaching me from my position as vice president and my expulsion as a delegate. A victory for free speech!

The fight against corporate globalization and the denial of civil liberties is far from won. But on this 10th anniversary of the WTO Battle of Seattle protest, we have as a result a local tool to use in that fight, an essential resource for community culture, and a living legacy, manifested in the Urbana-Champaign IMC.

# Courthouse Rally in Kiwane Carrington Case: "Felonies Ain't Favors! Plea Bargains Ain't Either!"

By Brian Dolinar



About 25 people, including several youth and their parents, showed up at the Champaign County courthouse on November 12, 2009 for a juvenile hearing of the other 15-year old involved in the police shooting of Kiwane Carrington. Police had originally responded to a burglary on October 9, but after it was discovered that one of the two youth lived at the house, charges of felony resisting arrest were leveled against the surviving boy. Following the hearing, supporters and family members assembled in front of the courthouse for a rally.

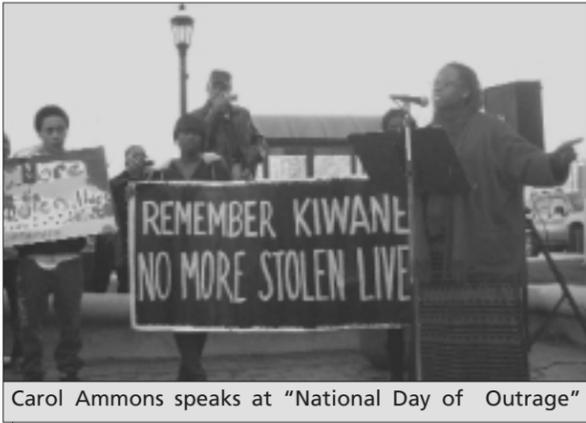
Before the hearing, State's Attorney Julia Rietz was seen outside her office talking with Ed Piraino, known as a local "plea doctor" who had been appointed by the court to handle the case. When inside the courtroom, Rietz appeared personally and Piraino was present for the defense but not for long. Local attorney Alfred Ivy, who ran against Rietz in the 2008 democratic primary for State's Attorney office, entered a substitution of counsel and will be taking over the case.

But before exiting, Piraino made a statement for the record. After talking, he and the State's Attorney had come up with what he called "an agreement in principle." If the boy would attend Lincoln's Challenge, a military school in Rantoul, the charges would be dropped.

The option of attending a military school in which her son would be taken away from her was unacceptable to Laura Manning, the boy's mother. She apparently did not believe that the courts have the best interest of her or her son at heart. Of course, there is a long history of the court system taking children away from poor families and families of color.

At Lincoln's Challenge, a program sponsored by the Illinois National Guard, children are enrolled for a period of five and one-half months during which parents are only allowed to visit once every two weeks. Approximately half of the students are African American. Focused almost entirely on discipline, it is questionable whether students learn anything at the school and their chances of re-offending are high.

Aaron Ammons, co-founder of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice, had a different explanation of the proposed plea bargain. He said, "Citizens organizing to put pressure on public officials has an impact, specifically in the case of



Carol Ammons speaks at "National Day of Outrage"

this teen, organizing to demonstrate, march, and speak out is impacting this case."

Discovery materials were turned over to attorney Ivy who asked for a continuance to review the documents. A status hearing was set for **January 19, 2010 at 2PM in Courtroom C.**

After the hearing, supporters organized a rally outside the courthouse. They held posters that were made by youth the previous day at the Independent Media Center. They pinned buttons to their clothes reading "S.W.A.G.," which stands for Students With A Goal, an idea the youth came up with themselves. Gathering outside the second-story window of the State's Attorney's office, they chanted, "Felonies Ain't Favors! Plea Bargains Ain't Either!"

Those who would like to contact State's Attorney Julia Rietz and ask that the charges be dropped can call 384-3733 or email her at [jrietz@co.champaign.il.us](mailto:jrietz@co.champaign.il.us)

*The National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project utilizes news media reports of police misconduct to generate statistical information in an effort to approximate how prevalent police misconduct may be in the United States.*

## PROJECTED COMPARISONS

By projecting this month's NPMSRP totals out to one year, the following comparisons can be made between the reported police misconduct allegation rate and the reported

The Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center will host "Kiwane's Future," an art exhibit by local community members, youth, and artists honoring Kiwane Carrington (1995-2009). The exhibit will open Saturday, December 12th, from 7-9PM with open mic, improv theater and Speak Out. Your participation and contributions are welcome: contact the IMC in the historic downtown Urbana post office building located at 202 S. Broadway Ave at Elm Street, Urbana, by the north exit from Lincoln Square Mall, [imc@ucimc.org](mailto:imc@ucimc.org) or 344-8820.

2008 general crime rate\* as published by the FBI and DOJ for 2008 (\*please note that both the NPMSRP police misconduct rates and the FBI/DOJ UCR general crime rate statistics are reported incidents, not convictions):

## VIOLENT CRIME:

(all assault, excessive force, forcible rape, murder, and domestic assault allegations)

- 1 out of every 268 (372.5 per 100k) police officers will be accused of a violent crime.
- 1 out of every 220 (454.5 per 100k) citizens will be accused of a violent crime.

## HOMICIDE

(all non-negligent manslaughter, murder, and homicide allegations)

- 1 out of every 2,374 (42.1 per 100k) police officers will be accused of homicide
- 1 out of every 18,518 (5.4 per 100k) citizens will be accused of homicide

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

(all sexual assault, coercive sexual battery, and rape allegations but not including consensual sexual misconduct, exposure, solicitation, or child pornography)

- 1 out of every 846 (118.2 per 100k) police officers will be accused of sexual assault.
- 1 out of every 3,413 (29.3 per 100k) citizens will be accused of sexual assault.

# "Nae Tae" G20 in St. Andrews Scotland

From Indymedia Scotland

The poor progress made by the G20 in St. Andrews, echoes a week of negotiations in UN climate talks in Barcelona where Industrialised World Intransigence on CO2 emission Targets has probably doomed signing a legally binding treaty at the crucial UN climate conference - COP15—in Copenhagen in December.

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland said: "The G20 Finance Ministers meeting turned out to be a mostly irrelevant sideshow on the way to the talks in Copenhagen in a months' time. Failure to come to agreement here is a major disappointment. Given that these are the people who run the biggest economies in the world it seems unlikely that they will manage to devote any serious time to the issue of climate finance before the start of the Copenhagen meeting."

On the streets of St Andrews 3rd year International Relations student Oliver Kearns said "The G20's plan to put the IMF at the centre of an economic recovery plan is beyond a joke. It is precisely the structural adjustment programmes of raised interest rates and cuts to public spending imposed

by the IMF that have made so many countries suffer during downturns; that's why Western countries follow the exact opposite policies when they get into trouble, as the nationalisation of banks demonstrates,"

There were 5 arrests at an anti-G20 roadblock on November 7, with activists used locking arm tubes (lockboxes, lockon tubes) to form a circle in the middle of the road, blocking both lanes of traffic.

The G20 is made up of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US, and the European Union, with officials from Central Banks and the World Bank and IMF also attending.

It has become routine to issue a communique at the end of G20 meetings showing what decisions and progress has been made, but clearly very little progress was made at this meeting as shown by the generalised statements and lack of a detailed package.

U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown pushed for a levy - a Tobin Tax or transac-



tions tax - to prevent excessive risk taking and fund future bank rescues, with support from France, but the proposal was strongly opposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Canada. (See

Bloomberg: Geithner, Brown Split on Tobin Tax at G-20 Meeting)

Many emerging countries question whether climate change should be a priority topic of discussion at the G20, with some believing the G20 is not the right forum. A split between industrialised countries and developing countries is evident on sharing the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avert the worst impacts of droughts, wildfires, species extinctions and rising sea levels.

According to WWF Scotland, the G20 Finance Ministers were asked to look at the financing required to make a new global deal at Copenhagen work. WWF's summary of progress was detailed in their press release:

- the G20 acknowledged the need to increase significantly and urgently the scale of funding but failed to make any reference to the sums required, estimated to be around \$160bn a year of public financing
- the G20 failed to agree on new sources of funding for a climate deal,

Continued on page 7



# Make More Local Radio!

By Danielle Chynoweth



For the Huffington Post, revised for the Public i by Danielle Chynoweth of the Prometheus Radio Project, and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center.

There is a new sound on the radio. Listen past the endless drone of manufactured music and centralized news feeds, and you might already hear it. It started with the murmur of a few hundred community radio stations, broadcasting with the wattage of a light bulb via rooftop antennas. Now this sound is about to grow.

After nine years of nationwide grassroots organizing, Congress is finally ready to move on the *Local Community Radio Act* ([www.expandlpfm.org](http://www.expandlpfm.org)), which will greatly expand the number of low power FM stations in the United States. This popular, bipartisan legislation is on the fast track to becoming law, with votes before the House and Senate just around the corner.

In response to massive media consolidation, radio advocates pressured the Federal Communications Commission to create the low power FM (LPFM) service in 2000. LPFMs are smaller stations that fit between larger ones on the dial. They are local, non-commercial, and inexpensive to build and operate, making them accessible to just about anyone.



The WRFU anniversary at UCIMC

Predictably, Clear Channel and other big broadcasters cried wolf about “signal interference.” So Congress put the smackdown on low power radio, restricting LPFMs to rural areas and denying licenses to hundreds of applicants. It was then proven by a \$2.2 million taxpayer funded study ([prometheusradio.org/images/documents/mitre.facts.are.in.2009.pdf](http://prometheusradio.org/images/documents/mitre.facts.are.in.2009.pdf)) that low power stations create no significant interference to the signals of full power stations.

But it isn't signal interference the media moguls are really worried about. LPFMs are competition. They sit on valuable spectrum real estate that incumbent broadcasters could use to repeat their signals over ever-larger areas. And LPFMs put mainstream media to shame, reflecting and responding to the needs of their communities and highlighting local voices and local perspectives. So broadcasters threw their weight around Capitol Hill and managed to sink the *Local Community Radio Act* in two previous legislative sessions.

Re-introduced in 2009 by Reps. Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Lee Terry (R-NE) and Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and John McCain (R-AZ), the *Local Community Radio Act* ([www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h1147/show](http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h1147/show)) is on the

## WRFU Birthday

The weekend of November 13th, 2009, U-C radio lovers united in celebration of the fourth anniversary of Radio Free Urbana, 104.5, Urbana's low-power community radio station broadcasting from the Independent Media Center. Tune in to WRFU to hear a mix of progressive public affairs and music programs, powered by the people, not corporations. For a full schedule, or to learn more, visit [www.wrfu.net](http://www.wrfu.net).

move. The bill recently sailed through the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Technology and the Internet.

The bill has even gained the support of its former skeptics in Congress, including Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), a former broadcaster, and Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL), who was a lead co-sponsor of the bill that originally restricted low power radio in 2000. Longtime LPFM supporter Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) helped pass the bill out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on October 15th with a unanimous voice vote. And on November 19th, it passed unanimously by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Co-sponsor Rep. Anna Eschoo (D-CA) summed it up: “All I can say is, it's about time... It was absurd and ridiculous that broadcasters went to such great lengths to block the public from having some small measure of access to the airwaves, and disgraceful that we had to spend more than two million dollars to prove what the FCC already had shown—that LPFM would not interfere with full power stations.”

With hundreds more local, independent radio stations, imagine how much better prepared our country would be to discuss complex issues, like health care and immigration. We could broaden the dialogue past the corporate talk show echo chamber. Local musicians ([futureofmusic.org/issues/radio/low-power-fm-lpfm](http://futureofmusic.org/issues/radio/low-power-fm-lpfm)) could sidestep industry gatekeepers to share emerging music. And local democracies would be revitalized by public awareness and debate over local issues.

A look at existing LPFM stations gives us a glimpse of what is possible. Run by community groups, schools, churches, and local governments, many LPFMs operate as community pillars. They broadcast local news and events and provide essential information during emergencies ([www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/blog/2007/08/\\_lowpower\\_fm\\_radio\\_share\\_it\\_wi.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/blog/2007/08/_lowpower_fm_radio_share_it_wi.html)).

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf, low power radio was the only source of emergency information in a number of counties. Residents in East Texas tuned battery-operated radios to KZQX while they waited a week for power to be restored. At 100 watts, KZQX easily ran on a small generator. Low Power radio brought information to Katrina evacuees in the Houston Astrodome. ([www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4846595](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4846595)) In Florida, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers built Radio Consciencia ([www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/nov/17/radio\\_consciencia/?neapolitan](http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/nov/17/radio_consciencia/?neapolitan)), a powerful tool in forcing McDonalds and Taco Bell to ensure better wages and safer working conditions. During hurricane season, Radio Consciencia broadcasts emergency alerts in Spanish and Mayan languages spoken by farm workers.

When it's not busy saving lives, local radio supports the survival of arts, culture, and even ecosystems. In Louisiana, KOCZ ([www.kocz.org](http://www.kocz.org)) keeps the region's heritage of zydeco music on the airwaves. Low power station KCUW ([www.kcuwradio.org](http://www.kcuwradio.org)) run by the Umatilla Tribe in Oregon, offers live coverage of cultural events on the reservation. And low power WRYR ([www.wryr.org](http://www.wryr.org)) covers the environmental impacts of development on the Chesapeake Bay.

If the *Local Community Radio Act* passes, urban neighborhoods will finally have access to community-based-stations. Low power radio's 3-to-5 mile range could reach a significant number of listeners in dense urban areas. In North Central Chicago, the Chicago Independent Radio Project ([www.chicagoindieradio.org](http://www.chicagoindieradio.org)) hopes to create the city's first independent music and arts station. In Minneapolis, the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, one of the many groups denied a license in 2000, wants to connect the Hmong community through radio broadcast.

For blogosphere readers who think broadcast is dead in the age of Internet, think again. Radio is still the most accessible medium out there—it does not require expensive equipment, literacy, or a broadband connection. And local radio can mesh with digital age technology in creative ways. For example, radio antennas are well positioned as neighborhood wi-fi hubs. Internet makes mobile radio studios possible. Web 2.0 spaces allow for collaborative radio pro-

The *Telecommunications Act of 1996* ushered in one of the biggest surges of media consolidation in U.S. history. Women and minority-owned radio stations were gobbled up by media giants, investigative journalism was deemed too expensive and was dispensed with, and radio stations were transformed into automatons piping the same love song propaganda and sensational news into every community.

But people fought back. Radio pirates took to the airwaves in unprecedented droves in the 1990s. Indy-media spread from the Zapatista movement and Global South to the United States when the first Independent Media Center in 1999 broke the real story about the cause of the protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle. After radio pirates in Philadelphia were shut down for broadcasting without a license on public airwaves to which they had no other access to, they decided to bust open the Federal Communications Commission and let everyone in. They marched on this obscure regulatory body, which was not accustomed to being the center of attention, building a spectacular puppet of the FCC chairman being controlled by corporate media. They got the FCC's attention, and worked with them to invent a new kind of hyper local radio: Low Power Radio (LPFM) that burns at the wattage of a light bulb and reaches about 5 miles.

It was around this time that a fuzzy-faced guy with thick glasses showed up in Champaign-Urbana in a broken down car and sat around a table with a bunch of us to talk about starting a radio station. He called himself Pete Tridish, his pirate name, and showed us how to fill out complicated FCC forms to apply for a license. We did, and after many years, and some battles in Washington, we got a license to broadcast Radio Free Urbana (WRFU). While waiting on the snails pace of the FCC, we started the Independent Media Center in a living room, moved to Main Street, and were contemplating buying the post office building as a place to expand our media production and performance venue, and to locate WRFU. We did, and teamed up with Pete Tridish and his band of merry ex-pirates at Prometheus Radio Project to hold a “radio barnraising” - building our station rapid fire in a weekend while training the next generation of radio activists.

We were one of the lucky ones. After LPFM was created, Congress moved to restrict it to rural areas—and places that pass for rural like Champaign-Urbana—knocking out the ability to have LPFM in larger cities. While we have been growing our station, Prometheus Radio and allies have been fighting in Congress to overturn this restriction, and victory is now on the horizon. In June, I joined the Prometheus Radio staff and I wrote this piece for the Huffington Post that tells more of the story—Danielle

duction, overcoming constraints of time and space.

As local governments build new broadband networks, radio stations are natural candidates to grow into community media centers, where residents can learn to become media producers as well as informed consumers.

With so many success stories, more low power radio is a bipartisan no-brainer—it is wildly popular, non-controversial, and costs taxpayers nothing. It would provide communities an outlet for local voices and local talent. The only obstacle left is making the bill a priority during a busy Congressional session.

Take action on transforming our media. Contact your legislator to support the *Local Community Radio Act*: [www.expandlpfm.org](http://www.expandlpfm.org).

Danielle Chynoweth works with the Prometheus Radio Project ([www.prometheusradio.org](http://www.prometheusradio.org)), a Philadelphia based non-profit organization that builds, supports, and advocates for participatory radio as a tool for social justice organizing and community expression.



## Livening Up the Airwaves

By Joel Gillespie, originally published in Smile Politely, smilepolitely.com

Carly Nix is passionate about community radio, and her enthusiasm shines through to anyone interacting with her. Nix, a Decatur native who graduated this past spring from Boston University with a B.A. in religion, is the AmeriCorps News Media Coordinator at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center. She's tasked with helping the volunteers that run both WRFU-FM and the *Public i* accomplish their goals.



Americorps volunteer Carly Nix

### ALREADY A RADIO VETERAN

Nix decided early on that she wanted to work in radio, and she did anything she could to get experience. "I was really involved with my student radio station, and I volunteered at three or four radio stations in Boston throughout my college career, and worked at a radio station, she noted. "So by the time I made it to the IMC, I think I'd worked at six different radio stations — maybe seven." She did internships at WILL in Champaign-Urbana and WBEZ in Chicago, working on the Third Coast International Audio Festival there.

All of these unpaid jobs are part of paying your dues to break into a competitive field. "[In] public and community radio, you have to volunteer a lot and do internships

before you can actually get anywhere," Nix continued. "After I graduated from college, I was doing all this reading about how to break into the field, and everyone was basically saying don't go to grad school, just volunteer and intern at radio stations, and eventually you'll get paid. That's what I did, and it worked out." Now she's making the not-so-big bucks as an AmeriCorps staffer.

### RADIO AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE

Nix is excited to work for WRFU. She said, "This is the first station that I've worked at that's really progressively-minded and really community-minded." Soon after she started her position, she saw the Indymedia movement in action in the IMC's coverage of the death of Kiwane Carrington. The IMC quickly organized a press conference featuring Carrington's family and friends, as well as local community leaders, and Nix assisted with the proceedings, posting audio of the press conference on the IMC's website. Fellow AmeriCorps Brian Duggan recorded the event on video.

She recalled, "That's when I really started to understand why the Indymedia movement is so powerful, and what it has to offer to the community. We made the mainstream media come to us and listen to this story and report on it. We also covered it and had the whole thing online and on the radio for people to listen to or to watch. These are all these things that were said, so that if you weren't there, you can digest it yourself and see what you think about it."

The *Public i*'s Brian Dolinar agreed, referring to the "crash course" in independent media that the Carrington press conference contained. Dolinar said, "While the mainstream media ran their sound-bites, at the IMC web site and on the radio we had the press conference in its entirety. This was one of the best examples of Indymedia at work, and made possible by the assistance Carly provided."

Nix cited that coverage as an example of the void that the IMC fills in the community. "NPR used to cover a lot of things more in-depth like that," she contended. "They haven't been able to do that as much, for some reason. I don't know if it has to do with funding, or it has to do with the burden of having an increased audience or what. They

used to cover whole congressional hearings and stuff, and they just don't do that anymore. They have it on some sort of alternate web stream, but it's not going to be on the radio and it's not going to be in the #1 program."

She has high hopes for the coming year at WRFU. "I'm really liking it, and I'm really looking forward to making the station stronger, and getting more people on the radio this year," Nix said. "We have a ton of free time on our schedule right now, so I'm looking forward to reaching out to different community groups and trying to get some more community-minded programming on the air. One of our taglines is "Community radio, by and for the people," but we need to re-connect with the people, so that's what I'm trying to do this year."

Nix continued, "I think it's really important for the community to listen and pay attention to what's going on right now in our community. To just sit back and not think about it, I don't think that's the answer."

## Celebrate 10 Years of Indymedia at UCIMC

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indymedia movement and the founding of the UCIMC.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating 10 years of the Indymedia movement and kicking off the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the UCIMC's existence. Come help us celebrate the victories and remember the struggles of the past 10 years.

### 2-5PM: FREE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH MEDIA WORKSHOPS:

**Improv with Zoo Improv (2-3PM):** Learn the techniques of improvisational acting with the Zoo Improv troupe.

**Radio Broadcast:** Radio's not just for mainstream music and corporate news—come learn to broadcast your favorite music, share your point of view and make awesome audio!

**Zine Making:** Making your own magazine is easier than you think. The Radical Librarians will show you how.

**Learn Live Video:** Home video isn't just for your birthday party! Learn how to capture live footage to report on your community and advocate for change!

**Running Sound for Concerts:** Behind every good musician there's a better sound technician. Learn this valuable skill and be the most talented fan at the concert.

**Intro to Books To Prisoners:** Books to Prisoners volunteers have shipped over 40,000 books to inmates in Illinois. Find out what why their work is important to 2.3 million Americans.

**Painting Paint:** Paper, and a plastic utensil... learn to make a masterpiece with just the basics. Cameroonian painter and anthropologist Betsam Benjamin will show you how.

**Open Source Software:** Linux Install Fest—why spend hundreds on software when you can build your own? Linux is a free, open source operating system preferred by IndyMedia activists everywhere.

### 5PM PANEL ON THE INDY MEDIA MOVEMENT:

At 5PM, you're invited to a panel discussion with founding members and supporters of the Independent Media Movement, from 1999–present. Get a historical perspective on the Indymedia Movement and brainstorm for the future with IndyMedia activists, including: Marty Conlisk from Labor Beat Productions in Chicago, Danielle Chynoweth and Petrie Dish from Prometheus Radio Project, Amy Dalton from IndyMedia.US, along with local activists & regional IMC members and supporters

At 8pm, celebrate 10 years of solidarity—we'll have live music, a DJ, food, drink, and good company. For more information, please email Nicole(at)UCIMC.org

## Cranksgiving Tops Last Year

By Joel Gillespie

Posted in CULTURE to I've Got A Bike, You Can Ride It If You Like on Friday, November 20, 2009

Last Saturday, the second annual Chambana Cranksgiving collected 888 pounds of food for Eastern Illinois Food Bank. 34 riders (and several others who didn't participate in the event, but donated food) crisscrossed Champaign and Urbana, visiting local grocery stores and purchasing non-perishable food items.

The weather and amount of food collected were far superior to last year's event, even if competing with a home Illinois football game meant a small decline in attendance. Sunshine and highs in the 60s meant that those that came out had about as pleasant riding conditions as you could ask for on a mid-November day.

"When we first started to plan this year's Cranksgiving, we were a bit disheartened to hear the calculation from The Eastern Illinois Foodbank that estimates that local hungry families' need for food has increased 30 percent from last year," said event organizers Luke Thompson and Pieta Horvath Thompson. "However, our cyclists, sponsors, and donors certainly stepped up to the challenge, and hauled 888 pounds of nonperishable food across the finish line—more than 30 percent above last year's total of 613 pounds."

Riders traveled to supermarkets in three zones of Champaign-Urbana, traveling an average of 15 miles total, and picking up different courses of a Thanksgiving meal, from corn to boxed potatoes, canned turkey to cranberry sauce. Participants were awarded prizes provided by the event's sponsors based on their point total, which was cal-

culated through a combination of how many food items they collected, plus bonuses for things like time and accumulating an entire Thanksgiving spread.

Local sponsors this year included Common Ground Food Co-op, Strawberry Fields, Schnucks, Pekara, Sandella's Flatbread Cafe, Noodles, The Pita Pit, El Duke Degreaser, and That's Rentertainment; more national sponsors included Wald, Burro Bags, Urban Velo, and Yanco Pads.

Cranksgiving food drives happen around this time of year in cities like Des Moines, New York City, Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Omaha, benefiting social service organizations in those communities.

Thanks to Charlie Smyth for providing the photos.



Cranksgiving collection at UCIMC



## GEO Wins!!

By Rich Potter



On Monday, November 16th my union - the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO), IFT/AFT local 6300, AFL-CIO, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - began an open-ended strike over the University administration's refusal to sufficiently protect graduate tuition waivers. Over 1,000 union members and allies walked the picket lines beneath a cold, bone-chilling rain on the first day of the work stoppage. On Tuesday morning, with hundreds back out on the picket lines, both sides returned to the bargaining room, where the administration quickly capitulated. After signing a tentative agreement that included protection for all tuition waivers, the GEO declared victory and called down the picket lines. At a general membership meeting later that night, over 450



GEO rally in front of Swanlund Administration building

members unanimously recommended that the GEO strike committee officially suspend the strike.

During the final pre-strike negotiation session, on Saturday the 14th, the administration was only willing to guarantee in-state tuition waivers. For the vast majority of graduate employees, who are out-of-state students, the loss of a tuition waiver would effectively force them to drop out of their program of study. Graduate education would become even more inaccessible to working and middle class persons than it already is. Additionally, any department barred from granting out-of-state waivers would be unable to attract the most talented and committed students. The reputation of those departments, along with the quality of their undergraduate education, would plummet. Some would disappear entirely.

Why would the administration even consider taking such a risk? For decades, state funding for public higher education has been diminishing. Instead of advocating on behalf of students, administrators have responded by raising tuition, cutting costs according to corporate models of management, and seeking outside, often private, revenue. Research programs have been reoriented toward the generation of revenues, as opposed to knowledge and wisdom. Now, instead of responding to budget restrictions by cutting administrative costs, administrators are seeking new ways to cut down on costs related to the University's core mission of academic instruction. Last year they proposed stripping tuition waivers for all teaching assistants (TAs) with 25% FTE appointments. This year the Department of Chemistry took back the waivers it had promised

to undergraduate TAs. Given this history, the GEO was fearful that the administration would come after our out-of-state tuition waivers next.

We knew the first day of the strike had to be big. Maximum disruption. We'd been planning for months, but nobody knew how it was really going to look. The kickoff rally was at 7:45am on the Main Quad, and despite the cold rain, the crowd was big, at least 500 people. Some thought it was more like 700. Our drum corps was out in full force. They'd just gotten a couple of big bass drums, and you could feel the beat in your gut. Kerry Pimblott, our lead negotiator, addressed the crowd with her English accent. I'd often reflected on the irony of a Brit leading a campaign in support of an accessible US public higher education system, but then again, the Brits know a spot more about universal access to education than we do. Kerry is as committed as they come, and she was in form on Monday morning, inciting the membership to "shut this University down."

By 8am we were on the picket lines. Draped in ponchos, we encircled four of the big buildings on the Main Quad. This is the heart of the University, and it's where we have the most organizing strength. Later in the morning, the administration was saying that the disruption was minimal. But we knew the truth. Hundreds of class sessions were suspended. The entire English Building was deserted, except for one class in the morning. But that was a supportive professor who wanted his students to experience a real live labor strike. So he had them cross the picket line and then discuss their emotions and the issues.

Our own emotions were running high, but we all knew that if things dragged on beyond a few days, we were going to have to work hard to keep up the momentum. Many of our picketers stayed out the entire first day, and they were exhausted. In an effort to lift their spirits and end the first day with a bang, the strike committee decided to unite the various picket lines and march on the Swanlund administration building. As a member of the communications committee, I was asked to lead the march and address the crowd. I told them what they already knew, that despite the administration's claims, it could never be business as usual on our public, land-grant campus so long as tuition waivers are under threat. They roared their agreement, and then the drum corp took over. We chanted, and we danced. As one member aptly put it, this is not your grandfather's union.

Later that night the bargaining team called me in to discuss our press strategy. They told me they had a surprise. On Monday, the interim provost/chancellor, Robert Easter,



The GEO Noise Brigade leads the march



GEO gathers on the quad

had sent an email to the entire campus community stating, in essence, that the GEO was striking over a non-issue. According to the email, tuition waiver practice was not going to be changed. This was not, of course, what we had heard in the negotiation room just two days before, but it gave us all the leverage we needed. The bargaining team had taken Easter's email language, some of it verbatim, and written it into the proposal they would present during Tuesday's bargaining session. It was a brilliant plan. If the administration wouldn't accept their own language, then we would expose their hypocrisy in the press. That would be the job of the communications committee.



Guarantee the PRACTICE

Though we were looking forward to having such a clear advantage, we were even happier the next day to find out that the administration had realized their predicament. They spent over an hour looking at our proposal, but they must have seen no way out. Our gambit had worked. Once again we gathered the various picket lines for a march, but this time it was more of a victory lap. From the center of the main Quad we marched across the grass, directly toward the steps of Foelinger Hall. We were a phalanx of pulsing, drum beating solidarity. "Who are we?" a few of us called. The response was a united roar, "G-E-O!" Once assembled on the steps, with the press out in force, I had the great pleasure of announcing our victory to the members and allies who had done so much work to earn it. The response was jubilant, euphoric, crazed. clapping

*Continued on page 7*

### PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Sunday, December 6, 6-8 PM, Independent Media Center, 202 South Broadway, Urbana

The Peoples's Community Potluck is a food-sharing communal gathering to discuss the economic and social problems in our community. The intention is to harness the talents and resources of local organizations and individuals to improve the conditions of working people, unemployed people, poverty-stricken people, and those who are physically or mentally unable to care for themselves. Given the sorry state of the economy and government economic policy over the past 8 years, that has been most concerned with the well-being of the very wealthy, organizations and individuals at the grass-roots level are going to have to use social conscience and talents to find ways of supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We cannot just rely on the new administration to turn things around. We envision a new stimulus for coordinated action and communication for a democratic, egalitarian political-economy.



## Striving For Social Change

By Irwing Gama



In need of completing a senior workshop before graduation in May, I was drawn to a class titled Action Research Seminar (FAA 391), taught by Abbilyn Harmon. The fact that the course title contained both action and research left me very intrigued and prompted me to look further into what this class entailed. I was curious to see how the class would incorporate these two elements. The goal of the class was stated to be educating students on the notion of social change, more specifically, why social change is needed and different methods of implementing social change. In an effort to tie these broader concepts to a more local and identifiable issue, our class focused on the problem of homelessness within the Urbana-Champaign area.



Mapping CU's homeless shelters and resources

So what exactly is social change and how can one go about creating social change? Over the span of the course, our class conjured up multiple responses to these questions in connection with the issue of homelessness in Urbana-Champaign. We felt that social change consisted of actions taken by individuals in an effort to combat the status quo of a social issue. Our class also explored a variety of methods through which any individual could partake in social change. These strategies, among others, included participatory action research, direct action organizing, independent

media publications, and artwork aimed specifically at promoting the awareness of societal injustices.

Nearing the end of the course now, we have been given an opportunity to utilize the knowledge gained and implement our own form of social change through a community project of our choice. The scope of my project is quite basic but is geared at providing the homeless population with a resource that can be utilized indefinitely. My community project consists of compiling a list of locations, both public and private, that may be utilized by anyone seeking immediate shelter. This will include places like hospital waiting rooms and train stations. My goal is to include locations that are less known about among the homeless population in Urbana-Champaign. I plan on compiling this information in the form of a brochure with a series of maps designating where these different emergency shelter areas are located, so that anyone experiencing homelessness can reference them. Within this pamphlet I also hope to include different tactics/strategies that are useful when seeking refuge in such locations, pertaining more specifically to the public locales. To include as many locations as possible on the map, I will be working in conjunction with those most affected, including individuals at homeless shelters such as the Times Center and residents of Safe Haven.

The overarching goal of my project simple, is that I want to provide something to the homeless population that can be effectively utilized. Every time someone looks at the brochure and finds somewhere to go where they will be safe from freezing or scorching weather conditions, I know that I have helped in some way. I feel that using my technical skills to formulate a resource guide is the best manner in which I can help to create social change. In the future, I hope to implement greater changes through urban and spatial design to help prevent social inequalities.

A great majority of students in Champaign-Urbana tend to stereotype homeless individuals with those they see on Green Street. However, the pan handlers that they associate with the homeless issue are only a mere fraction of the entire population and are certainly not a clear depiction of the entire community. My hopes are that more students are made aware of classes such as this one and are given an opportunity create a form of social change of their own.

### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

By Abbilyn Harmon

This semester, I conducted a course, Fine and Applied Arts 391: Making Change Through Homelessness Research (FAA 391), to upper-level undergraduate students. Over the course of the semester, students had the opportunity to engage a number of different social change projects, each time examining the projects in light of what they were learning about social change and how they themselves were grappling with what social change means to them. At the same time, students had the opportunity to meet and get to know members of Safe Haven, a self-governing community of unhoused individuals here in Champaign-Urbana.

As an activist, graduate student and instructor, I believe that we must engage these talented, yet largely disconnected students at UIUC. The split between the university and the community is large, but it can be overcome through providing opportunities for students and community members to learn from one another and engage in mutually agreed-upon social action. The classroom is an ideal place to begin to understand social change but only if all involved are willing to leave the classroom and dare to put their beliefs into action. As this last month winds down, these students are doing just that—they are literally taking their projects to the streets to engage homelessness in creative ways that challenge common stereotypes about people experiencing homelessness and that challenge their own preconceived notions.

What follows is a collaboration between FAA 391 and the Public i to publish the student projects for a public audience. Included are brief accounts of the journey these students have taken to figure out what social change means to them and descriptions of the projects meant to exact change through engaging the Champaign-Urbana community. I hope that you too can appreciate these students for what I see them as—the next generation of people who dare to foster positive change and growth in our community.

## Discovering My Community

By Emily Floess



I have lived in Urbana since I was six years old. However, I never understood the homeless situation in Urbana-Champaign. My journey began with my decision to spend this past summer volunteering locally in my hometown. Although I had done service trips across the US, I had never taken the time to volunteer in my own community. One day while volunteering at the Catholic Worker House, I spoke with a woman who told me that the Catholic Worker House, Center for Women in Transition, and a Women's Place were all full, so she was sleeping on the streets, while waiting for one of these three shelters to open up. This surprised me. I had always assumed the wealth and influence of the University of Illinois would enable there to be enough shelters in Urbana-Champaign.

This semester, I took a course taught by Abby Harmon, FAA 391, in which we learned about the homeless situation in Urbana-Champaign, as well as how to go about taking social action. During one of our classes, we had a group of Safe Haven community members come in and speak with us. Some of the issues we discussed included what it is like to be homeless on the UIUC campus, barriers to finding shelter, jobs, housing, how they lost their homes or jobs, and their interactions with community members.

The Safe Haven members talked about how if they walk on to campus property, they immediately get kicked off. Due to the increasing number of 'No Trespassing' signs, police make homeless people move from place to place. It

was brought up that over the past winter, two people died of exposure. The Safe Haven members mentioned the need for being able to socialize with other community members, as opposed to just being viewed as 'homeless.'

This conversation showed me the importance of having an open dialogue. While volunteering at Catholic Worker House, I had interacted with Safe Haven community members. However, in that situation, I was perceived as a volunteer with a certain agenda. I learned so much more through having an open, frank conversation with members of Safe Haven.

After this conversation, I realized not only how little do UIUC students know of the poverty and homelessness in Urbana-Champaign, but also often how apathetic they are. Due to policies such as the police kicking homeless people off of the campus, many students are unaware of there even being poverty or homelessness in Urbana-Champaign.

As a result, for my final project for FAA 391, I will be working with one of my classmates, Vicky Brown, to hold an open forum between Safe Haven community members and University of Illinois students. This would be a way for University of Illinois students to become more aware of their community and hear firsthand accounts of what it is like to be homeless on this campus. This would give Safe Haven members a chance to share their experiences and perspectives with the campus community as well as to ask University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students' questions. The social change we hope to bring about through this forum is to increase awareness and interaction between two different

groups of community members. The long-term goal of this project is increased awareness on the part of University of Illinois students of the Urbana-Champaign community. Hopefully this increased awareness not only will show them in what areas social change needs to be done, but will also encourages them to go out and make social change.

### Open Forum Between Safe Haven Members and University of Illinois Students

To be held on Wednesday, December 9, 7-9PM at the University YMCA Wahl Room, 1001 South Wright Street Champaign. Transportation can be provided. Please RSVP to Emily Floess: floess(at)illinois.edu, or 722-2556.

Refreshments will be served.

This is an opportunity to connect with different community members in Urbana-Champaign. Safe Haven is a progressive homeless community looking to find alternative solutions to homelessness. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss ways to improve the life of those in poverty.



## Report Back From Inside the Occupation of Campbell Hall, UCLA

By (A) Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009. From Indybay IMC

LOS ANGELES 11/21—Just after midnight in the early hours of Thursday November 19th a group of about 30 students seized Campbell Hall on the UCLA campus and began their occupation of the building. The building was renamed Carter Higgins Hall in honor of the two black liberation activists who were assassinated by the FBI on the UCLA campus during the sixties. The takeover was in response to the current budget crisis and to quote from the students' statement, "reaches beyond the Regents, beyond the criminal budget cuts in Sacramento, beyond the economic crisis, to the very foundations of our society".

The takeover was peaceful and without any police

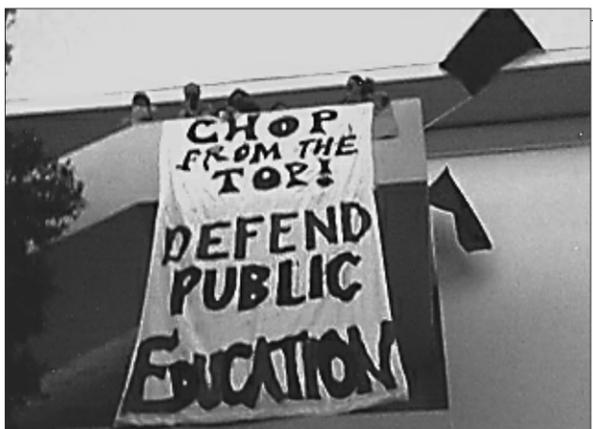
intervention. All entrances were quickly secured and the students were able to hold the building for the next eighteen hours. During the occupation one entrance at the top of the stairs on the third floor was opened at times to admit supporters and reporters deemed friendly.

This Indymedia reporter was granted access on the condition of no photographs or video inside the building. Audio interviews with students were allowed. Inside the hall a diverse group of students were to be found, some sleeping, some gathered in discussions, others simply sharing food and enjoying each others company.

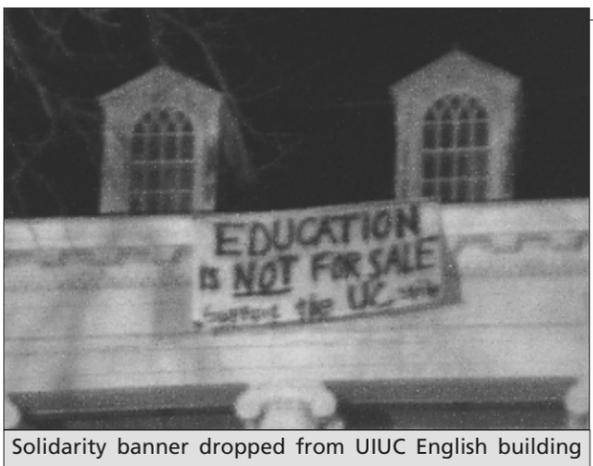
The students had declared the occupation to be a leaderless action and no spokesperson or media relations per-

son had been designated. Those guarding the door told me that I was free to talk anyone who chose to speak with me. (Edited mp3 files from these interviews to follow in a separate article.)

The occupation ended Thursday evening when students by their own decision peacefully left the building in response to fire and life safety issues raised by the fire marshal. There were no arrests or conflicts with police during the de-occupation.



Black flags and angry students occupy Campbell Hall



Solidarity banner dropped from UIUC English building



Occupy everything!! Could UIUC be next?

### Statement in Support of UC Mobilization

Here is a statement in support of mobilization at UC, started by Peter Hallward (Middlesex University, London), which is currently gathering signatures:

*We the undersigned declare our solidarity with University of California students, workers and staff as they defend, in the face of powerful and aggressive intimidation, the fundamental principles upon which a truly inclusive and egalitarian public-sector education system depends. We affirm their determination to confront university administrators who seem willing to exploit the current financial crisis to introduce disastrous and reactionary 'reforms' (fee-increases, lay-offs, salary cuts) to the UC system. We support their readiness to take direct action in order to block these changes. We recognise that in times of crisis, only assertive collective action – walkouts, boycotts, strikes, occupations... – offers any meaningful prospect of democratic participation. We deplore the recent militarization of the UC campuses, and call on the UC administration to acknowledge rather than discourage the resolution of their students to struggle, against the imperatives of privatization, to protect the future of their university.*

## GEO Wins!!

Continued from page 6

and shouting. Dancing and hugging, ensued, smiles all around.

Then I passed the mic to Kerry, who—despite the many leadership roles in our organization and her own humble protests—is clearly our leader of leaders. She'd shown the greatest foresight, putting together a strike working group back in September. The hard work had paid off

now, and Kerry deserved to stand in the center for a moment. There was a long list of thanks, and a few tears. You could almost see her shoulders loosening up as the weight was lifted off of them.

We'd scored a victory, for ourselves, for the University, for organized labor, and for public higher education across the nation and around the world. We hope our stand

will motivate our sisters and brothers in the GEO at the University of Chicago who remain in negotiations with their administration. We also stand in solidarity with students and workers in California, who continue to organize in opposition to catastrophic funding cuts and tuition hikes. The fight is far from over. I'm on vacation now, but Kerry just sent me a text message:

"When u come back i want to talk with u about the next sites of struggle." It's a conversation I'll be happy to have.

For more information on the GEO strike, visit [uigeo.org](http://uigeo.org). To see video of the pickets and rallies mentioned above, go to [iresist.org](http://iresist.org).

## "Nae Tae" G20 in St. Andrews Scotland

Continued from page 2

- such as auctioning emissions credits and levies on aviation and shipping
- the G20 agreed some principals on a mechanism to administer and distribute these funds but failed to turn these into concrete proposals
- despite last weeks pledge from Europe there is no new money on the table to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to a changing climate, around \$10bn a year is needed.

In a World News Australia report Oxfams senior policy adviser Max Lawson said: "The G20 has once again failed to live up to its rhetoric on climate change. As the clock ticks towards Copenhagen, the hundreds of millions of people around the world who are already suffering as a result of climate change cannot afford to wait any longer for a deal."

Dr Richard Dixon said "This is a group that can throw money at collapsing banks but cannot find adequate figures for the far

worse challenge to the global economy of a collapsing climate system. Talk of a financial transaction tax has the potential to raise hundreds of billions in new funding every year, but turned out to be a red herring without solid political support."

"If we are to keep the planet below the danger threshold of a 2°C temperature rise, the rich nations of the world are going to have to help developing countries follow a low-carbon development path and

help them cope with the impacts of current and future climate change. We wanted to see solid proposals on how the money would be raised, managed and distributed and an indication of how soon the countries most vulnerable to climate change will receive assistance. The G20 has failed to deliver and the real work will now have to be done at Copenhagen." he said.



# "Students For Justice In Palestine" Question Israeli Studies

By David Green



On a visit to Israel in 2007, then Chancellor Richard Herman expressed his opposition to a boycott of Israeli academics supported by Great Britain's University and College Union.

Herman stated that "Scholarship and research must remain fluid and borderless, unconstrained by geopolitical boundaries and ideological disagreements. We value our deep and meaningful connections with all nations, including Israel. Our Israel Studies Project brings Israeli academics to campus, along with journalists and writers. The program promotes and supports the academic study of Jewish culture and society in the spirit of free and open inquiry."

Referring to the British boycott, Herman concluded: "The irony is hardly lost on me."

Indeed there is much irony not to be lost in considering the Israel Studies Project on our campus, sponsored by the Program for Jewish Culture and Society, in the light of free inquiry and the values of scholarship.

The ISP is funded by Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and integral part of the Israel Lobby. Given these financial strings, its spirit of inquiry has in practice been severely limited. It has invited only Israeli Jews, excluding Palestinian citizens of Israel. Invitees never seriously dissent from Israeli government policies, as do many uninvited but distinguished Israeli Jewish critics of their own government. The function of Israel Studies on our campus can be briefly summarized: The promotion of Israeli policies (as well as American support for those policies) and the sanitization of Israeli culture.

Fittingly in regard to both of these functions, Israeli writer and political talk show host Irit Linur spoke on

November 17th at Levis Faculty Center on "Making TV Drama in Israel."

Linur has a well-known political reputation in Israel. In 2002, Linur used her radio program to call for a boycott of Israel's Ha'aretz newspaper "until it fires (dissident) journalists Amira Hass and Gideon Levy." Hass and Levy are the most courageous and incisive Jewish Israeli journalistic critics of Israel's policies, and it is therefore inconceivable that either would receive an invitation from the Israel Studies Project, as did the boycott-proposing Ms. Linur.

Earlier this year, after the organization "Breaking the Silence" published soldier testimonies about IDF conduct in Gaza, Linur said on her show, "They're garbage. It's not worth wasting punches on weaklings and cowards like "Breaking the Silence."

The Israeli Director of the New Israel Fund responded: "Irit Linur is a dangerous person. She behaves on her program like a quick-thinking intellectual to give the impression of intellectual integrity. She gives violence an aesthetic wrapping." In 2006, during the Lebanon war, Keshev, the Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel, accused her of "racist messages and comments, which often turn into an all-out incitement, urging the killing of innocent civilians."

Linur's talk on November 17th was an impromptu series of anecdotes regarding the production of TV drama. She is charming, and with members of the local Israeli community present, there was plenty of inside humor. Yet for most of the audience, it was a tedious event with nothing remotely resembling an academic or scholarly point. I can't imagine a presentation less worthy of this school's alleged reputation.

Prior to the presentation, the leader of Students for Justice in Palestine, Shadia Salem, distributed a flier based on Keshev's extensive documentation of Linur's incitements to

violence. A *Daily Illini* reporter, to her credit, emphasized these complaints in her (11/18) story; she was likely at a loss to relate a coherent or meaningful account of the talk itself. The Director and Assistant Director of the ISP expressed to the reporter their obliviousness to Linur's political background, as well as to the existence of the SJP on campus. Nevertheless, it's important that the political subtext of the ISP was emphasized in media coverage; kudos to SJP.

In sharp contrast, one week earlier the distinguished Israeli historian Ilan Pappé spoke to a packed hall of 250-300 at I.S.U. in Normal on "Palestine: The Historical Lessons for Our Time."

In 45 minutes, Pappé summarized what has been his life's work, research into the Zionist movement's and Israel's colonization of Palestine, resulting in the expulsion of the Palestinian people, ongoing. Pappé's "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" is a seminal work. But as a dissident, he lives and works in the United Kingdom rather than Israel, where severe pressure is placed on academics who challenge Israel's policies. The ironies mount.

It's not by accident that Pappé appeared in Normal rather than Urbana; there are structural realities regarding the treatment of the Palestinian issue both on the U of I campus and in the broader community. These were visible, for example, in the vehement protest by some members of the Jewish community in response to the Station Theater production of "My Name is Rachel Corrie."

Nevertheless, the Linur event indicates that even for the ISP, pro-Israel rhetoric/propaganda is perhaps no longer acceptable in official venues. It is to be hoped that before long, serious consideration of the truth will be.

# Unforgivable Blackness: The Lingering Legacy of Jack Johnson

By Neil Parthun

*"The reason Jack Johnson was so beset by his own country, a country ironically which had only recently reaffirmed that all men were created equal, was because of his Unforgivable Blackness."*

—W.E.B. DuBois

Jack Johnson was an African American boxer during the early 1900s. Johnson was overtly proud of his abilities and his heritage, refusing to acquiesce to the deep-seated racism in American society. His illustrious career was consistently hampered by overt racial discrimination including a criminal charge that is still on his record—being guilty of bringing a white woman, across state lines for "immoral purposes."

Professor Gerald Early wrote about the era in which Johnson boxed: "By the turn of the century, institutionalized racism had shut blacks out of baseball. They were forced out of jockeying for the same reason, indeed, virtually all sports. Blacks were largely confined to professional boxing." However, boxing matches were also utilized to reinforce the culture of discrimination. Often, promoters had African American boxers fight one another to the applause of the crowd. In cases where an African American boxer fought a white fighter, promoters did their best to ensure either a victory for the white or a draw if the African American was on the verge of winning.

In February 1903, Jack Johnson won the World Colored Heavyweight Championship. After Johnson's victory, the white World Heavyweight Champion—James Jeffries—refused multiple opportunities to fight Johnson. Jeffries continued to duck Johnson and retired in 1905. New champion, Tommy Burns, agreed to a match against Jack Johnson in Australia in December, 1908. Burns only agreed to the fight after months of Jack Johnson publicly

taunting Burns to step into the ring. Johnson dominated the entire match while openly mocking Burns' crew and holding Burns up to continue throwing punches when he was about to fall to the mat. After Johnson's decisive victory, a vicious animosity from whites ran so deep that the white public began searching for, as author Jack London quipped, a "Great White Hope" to defeat Johnson and reclaim the heavyweight boxing title. In the succeeding title defense matches, Johnson's opponents were all billed as "great white hopes" and he defeated every last one of them. Whites were infuriated further when he had relationships with white women and ultimately married one. At this time, miscegenation was both illegal and deadly.

Johnson was unapologetic in response to the conflict surrounding him. In a classic example, when being hassled by police for a \$50 speeding ticket, Johnson handed the officer a \$100 bill and told the cop to keep the change, as he would be returning later at the same speed. Due to this assertive and bold attitude, James Jeffries, who had previously ducked Johnson's challenges came out of retirement in 1910. Jeffries stated "I am going into this fight for the sole purpose of proving that a white man is better than a Negro." In response, Johnson was quoted in the newspapers saying, "I honestly believe that in pugilism I am Jeffries' master, and it is my purpose to demonstrate this in the most decisive way possible... The tap of the gong will be music to me." Johnson's declaration of being Jeffries' master, at a time when people who had been slaves and masters still lived in the US, only added more fuel to the focal point of race and politics within "The Fight of the Century." As David Remnick wrote in *King of the World*, the ringside band played a song called, "All coons look alike to me," and crowds of whites chanted, "kill the nigger." Johnson destroyed Jeffries and toyed with him for the

entirety of the match. The race riots that followed rocked several major metropolitan cities. Celebrations of African Americans were met with violent outbursts from white mobs with over 150 blacks killed. As film footage of the fight was distributed, Congress banned prizefight films from 1912 until 1940. Congress even debated banning boxing itself.

Johnson's open defiance to and rejection of the second-class citizenship afforded African Americans in society led to his criminal prosecution. In 1912, Johnson was convicted under the Mann Act on charges that he had taken a white woman across state lines for immoral purposes. The white woman in question was his wife. He fled to Europe but ultimately served a year and a day in Leavenworth for the supposed crime.

This summer, both the Senate and the House passed resolutions urging President Obama to posthumously pardon Jack Johnson. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. Peter King (R-NY) sent a letter to President Obama to request action on Johnson's pardon on October 16. The letter stated, "regrettably, we have not received a response from you or any member of your administration... [We hope the White House will] right this wrong and erase an act of racism that sent an American citizen to prison." In a so-called 'post racial society' rife with institutional racism, the posthumous pardon of Jack Johnson would be a positive action to combat racism and might provide an impetus to have a legitimate discussion about the continuing realities of institutional racism, privilege and discrimination. With the current attacks, it is important to remember the lesson of Johnson: he stood tall and fought back.



# Chinese Profs Respond to the *Public i* on Their Government's Response to Violence in Xinjiang

In the August 2009 issue of the *Public i*, we published an article that was very critical of the Chinese government's treatment of the Uygur (or Uighur, as it is usually spelled in the U.S.) minority. This article was read by the Freeman Scholars here at the U of I. These are Chinese scholars who spend an academic year here doing research. They took great exception to the article which, in their mind, was inaccurate and biased against the Chinese government, and favorable toward the Uygur's who rose up against the Chinese Government's control over Xinjiang in Western China. Many majority Han people living there were killed and injured in the violence. We thus offered the Freeman Fellows space in the paper to respond. Here are the responses of three of them, all majority Han Chinese:



## **WEI XIAO, PROFESSOR OF LAW, XIAMEN UNIVERSITY:**

The conflict is essentially not between the Hans and the Uighur people, but rather between a small part of the Uighur people who scheme the separation from the central government and all the other people

of the People's Republic of China (PRC) who are against that and want to maintain the integrity of the PRC. It deserves attention that those who support the so-called independence activities are extremely small in number in comparison with the Uighur population, and most of Uighur people live peacefully and friendly with the Hans. As it is well-known, almost all the countries in the world will stoutly sustain their integrity. In the past, it was not allowed that the Southern states got divorced from America. There is no reason for China to be an exception.

In order to realize their political objectives and obtain more support from organizations abroad, which intend to split, obstruct and suppress China, the Uighur rioters adopted the way of attacking the innocent people in the streets, not only the Hans, but also the Uighur and other ethnic minorities. It is no doubt unlawful and shall be punished according to law in every country all over the world. The Uighur rioters' behavior is for sure terrorist and just the same as Bin Laden's.

Chinese culture is a complex of all the cultures of the Hans and the minorities, and Uighur culture is of course an important integral part of it. Therefore the development and prosperity of Uighur culture is an indispensable part of that of Chinese culture. What the Chinese government does is to promote and support the development of Uighur culture, just like it does to the cultures of the other minorities. In fact, the Chinese government has done a great deal to advance the Uighur culture's development, including providing budgets, setting up institutions, constructing buildings and holding events, and the Hans have made great contributions to it. Facts speak louder than words.

The saying that the Chinese government and the Hans destroy and suppress Uighur culture is totally nonsense.



## **JING JIANG, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT FUDAN UNIVERSITY:**

The riots taking place in the past several months in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were undoubtedly plotted by Uygur separatists outside the country to split the unity of different ethnic groups in the region. The rioters just attempted to sow seeds of animosity between the Uygur and the Han Chinese, which they expected would carry forward their conspiracy of separating Xinjiang from China. The author of the *Public i* article ignored or even twisted the facts of the Chinese governments' efforts to restore order in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. The suggestion or description of this response to the riots as a kind of genocide in Western reports is an irresponsible and groundless accusation. The description of the riots in Xinjiang as "a kind of genocide" in some reports is an irresponsible and groundless accusation. The reporters apparently ignored or even twisted the facts that the Chinese government has done its best to restore order in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. The harmony of different ethnic groups has been the top priority of both the central and local governments for many years. This can be evidenced by various preferential policies of the central government for ethnic minority groups. It is quite common in the increasingly globalized world for people from different ethnic groups to live together in the same land. So it is insensitive and ridiculous to interpret the co-inhabitation of the Uygur and Han Chinese in Xinjiang as the Han people's assimilation of the Uygur ethnic group.



## **KAIYUN JI, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY:**

Xinjiang is a region where at least 13 ethnic groups have lived together since ancient times. They are entitled to live peacefully and happily in this region.

That is to say, Xinjiang has been a place of multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-lingual co-existence and mutual influence. The history of Xinjiang is created by the Chinese people of all nationalities. A small number of separatists shouted the slogans "Let's get the Han Chinese out of Xinjiang", and "Xinjiang is an Uygur state" This is totally distorting historical facts and realities. In fact, the Uygurs' ancestors are from the northern part of Baikal Lake in the Mongolian plateau. Xinjiang became a part of the central dynasty's territory of China well before the Uygurs migrated there.

In a number of policy areas, the Chinese government has given preferential treatment of minorities for 60 years. Chinese minorities get preferential treatment in entrance examinations and enrollments in higher educational institutions, employment, and family planning. Uygur people in Xinjiang occupy powerful positions at all levels of government. Hans envy the Uygurs. Han Chinese even are willing to pretend to minorities to get the preferential treatment, but have not seen Uygurs wanting to pass as Hans.

In reality, the mainstream relationship between the Uygur and Han-Chinese can be characterized as one of solidarity and friendly cooperation, something like relationship between brothers and sisters in one family. I had a Uygur girl undergraduate. She was studying in the history department in the Southwest University. I invited her to eat Islamic meals with me, and she gave my daughter a flute as a birthday gift. I guided her to the completion of her dissertation for a bachelor's degree in history. After graduation she began working as a history teacher in a secondary school in Beibei District, Chongqing. She has married a local businessman. They bought a new house and live a happy life. I have a graduate student who is 32-years old, a teacher in Hotan Normal College, Xinjiang. Two years ago, the Chinese nation paid for his studies in Switzerland. Last year he enrolled as a graduate student in Southwest University in China. Even though his scores were lower than those of the Han Chinese, we allowed him to enter and to study the economic history of Xinjiang Uygur, with particular emphasis on the current agricultural economy of the Uygurs. I respect his religious beliefs and customs. We often go to Islamic restaurants, walk together, discuss academic issues, and exchange ideas without any obstacles.

I also saw on Central China Television that an elderly Uygur couple in Xinjiang has adopted a non-Uygur baby girl who was abandoned by birth parents. The baby girl was suffering from various diseases. The elderly Uygur couple was very poor, but they overcome difficulties, sought medicine and doctors everywhere, and finally cured her diseases. Now they are supporting her as she grows up. Through the media reports, this story made many people teary-eyed, including me. We can see that people of all nationalities in Xinjiang take care mutual care of each other. The ethnic relations are basically harmonious.

A few terrorists and separatists create trouble and attempt to destroy the harmony and unity of ethnic relations, and to endanger the peaceful lives of people. They are not only the enemies of the Han people, but also the enemies of the Uygur people. They are the enemies of the Chinese nation and of peace-loving people in the world. No country will allow criminals to kill innocent citizens and burn houses as they like. China is determined to safeguard national unity and solidarity between ethnic groups, which is in line with humanism. The international community should understand and support China's good intentions.

## **The Show with Ray Morales, WRFU 104.5, Friday nights at 10 p.m.**

Tune in to *The Show* for brand new episodes coming in December and Spring 2010 on Mondays at 11PM on UPTV Channel 6 and Wednesdays on UI Channel 7 at 11pm. There will be monologues, conversations and live performances with local scholars from across the community.

There will episodes featuring unreleased footage of speeches, performances and activism from meetings of the Council of Deans, UIUC Student Senate, the 1992 Protest and much much more. Tune in and be surprised.

As always, tune in Friday nights at 10PM on 104.5 FM for the latest in Politics & Bullspit.

To request to appear on the air, to be in the audience or to send feedback, contact [wrfu@comcast.net](mailto:wrfu@comcast.net) or visit: [myspace.com/theshow1045](http://myspace.com/theshow1045)



## **Amasong's Winter Concert "Elements"**

Saturday, December 5, 8:00PM  
Sunday, December 6, 4:30PM  
McKinley Presbyterian Church  
809 S. Fifth St., Champaign

Suggested Donation \$10-\$20

(more if you can,  
less if you can't)



# UC-IMC Celebrates 10 Years of Independent Media

By Brian Dolinar



Anti-Globalization protesters clog the streets of Seattle

## NOVEMBER 30, 1999 (N30): WTO PROTESTS IN SEATTLE

The “Battle in Seattle” took place when the World Trade Organization was targeted for protests by a wide range of organizations that included labor unions, anarchists, environmentalists, peace activists, and representatives from around the world. The goal was to shut down the meetings of the organization and indeed the first day's events were delayed after several direct actions were staged. Police cracked down heavily, firing rubber bullets, setting off stun grenades, and using excessive amounts of tear gas and pepper spray on protesters. More than 600 people were arrested. When a wave of negative reports in local and national media blamed the unrest on anarchists, the activists on the ground used a relatively new tool, the World Wide Web, to present a different picture. This was before the widespread use of blogs, although many were inspired by the use of the web by the Zapatistas in Mexico. A collective of media makers joined together in Seattle to form the first Independent Media Center that presented live video footage, audio, photographs, and first-hand accounts of police violence directed against the crowd. Among them was a group of 18 from Urbana-Champaign whose trip was sponsored by four local unions. They were inspired to return home and found our own UC-IMC.

## APRIL 16-17, 2000 (A16): WORLD BANK AND IMF PROTESTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Following on the heels of Seattle, the meeting in Washington, D.C. of two other global institutions, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), was disrupted by mass protests. Again, the mainstream media exaggerated the violence of the protesters and downplayed the high levels of police repression. The reasons for the demonstrations—opposition to free trade and large debts that kept many countries beholden to the IMF and World Bank—went largely unreported. Several activists from Urbana-Champaign travelled to be there and helped to launch the website for DC-IMC.

## AUGUST 2000: DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES

During the 2000 presidential election between Al Gore and George W. Bush, the Democratic National Convention was held in Los Angeles. On August 15, the first night of events at the Staples Center, the LAPD shut down the LA-IMC, established for the convention. On Tuesday, August 16, after a performance by Rage Against the Machine, a group of anarchists scaled the fence surrounding a designated “free speech zone” and waved a black flag. Police fired rubber bullets into the crowd, hitting protesters, reporters, and legal observers.

## SEPT. 24, 2000: URBANA-CHAMPAIGN INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER FOUNDED

Activists who had attended events in Seattle and Washington, D.C. returned to Urbana-Champaign to establish their own Independent Media Center.

## APRIL 20, 2001 (A20): “CARNIVAL AGAINST CAPITAL” AT SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN QUEBEC CITY

Representatives from UC-IMC went to Quebec City to docu-

ment events, interview protesters, and participate in the “Carnival Against Capital. The rally was to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement being discussed.

## JULY 2001: PROTEST AT G8 SUMMIT IN GENOA, ITALY

More than a quarter of a million people met to protest the “Group of Eight” in what was one of the largest modern protests in Western Europe. Their attempt was to disrupt talks among the eight wealthiest nations of the world as they were meeting in Genoa, Italy. Kept out of a heavily militarized “Red Zone,” protesters set fire to cars on the main route to the meetings. Some 300 protesters were arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy to commit destruction. On July 20, 23-year-old Carlos Giuliani was shot at point blank in the head by a police officer who then ran over him twice in a police Land Rover. Giuliani died shortly thereafter. Police conducted a raid on a convergence center that had



Carlos Giuliani murdered by Italian security forces

been set up and destroyed the offices of IMC-Italy.

## AUGUST 2001: FIRST ISSUE OF THE PUBLIC I NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED

The first issue of the Public i, free monthly newspaper of the UC-IMC, came out. It was released just weeks before September 11 and included a two-page supplement about the G8 protests.

## SEPT. 11, 2001

On this historic date, 19 men hijacked four airplanes and ran two of them into the World Trade Center in New York. In the widespread panic that followed 9-11, there was a mass roundup of 1,000 people within the United States who had ties to the Middle East. The Bush administration used this event to justify a “War on Terror” and launch invasions into Afghanistan and Iraq.

## FEBRUARY 15, 2003 (F15): MILLIONS RALLY AROUND THE WORLD AGAINST IMMINENT WAR ON IRAQ

In the largest anti-war protest in history, deemed “F-15,” millions rallied around the world to halt Bush's plans for a war against Iraq. Despite the protests, Bush invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003.

## NOVEMBER 20, 2003: MIAMI PROTEST AGAINST FTAA

At another round of talks to discuss the Free Trade Area of the Americas, protests were organized. Local UC-IMC activists went to Miami to set up an Independent Media Center there. After negotiations broke down between officials, a second day of talks was called off.

## SEPTEMBER 2004: RNC IN NYC

With September 11 still fresh in the minds of Americans, the 2004 Republican National Convention in which George W. Bush was running for re-election was held in New York City. At a Critical Mass bike ride, an NYPD cop was caught on video tape attacking a bicyclist. Throughout the week of the events, 1,800 people were arrested and placed in Pier 57, a contaminated old building purchased by the NYPD which became known as “Guantanamo on the Hudson.” Among them were five activists from Champaign-Urbana.

## MAY 5, 2005: OLD POST OFFICE IN DOWNTOWN URBANA BECOMES NEW HOME OF UC-IMC

## NOVEMBER 14, 2005: WRFU 104.5 GOES ON THE AIR

After a weekend “barnraising” with Prometheus Radio, WRFU 104.5, Radio Free Urbana, a low-power radio station, broadcasted for the first time.

## OCTOBER 27, 2006: BRAD WILL OF NY-IMC SHOT DEAD IN OAXACA, MEXICO

An annual May Day rally was held by the teachers union in Oaxaca, Mexico in 2006 and for the first time “Radio Planton” went on the air. On July 14, the protesters were met with police violence. Thousands poured into the streets in support of the teachers and occupied the downtown plaza. The police escalated their repression and armed gunmen roamed the streets at night killing and brutalizing protesters. The people responded by setting up barricades closing off the city. At one of the barricades, New York IMC videographer Brad Will was shot and killed. His murderers remain at large to this day.

## SEPTEMBER 2008: RNC IN ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS

Republican National Convention held and Twin Cities IMC founded to cover events. A total of 800 protesters were arrested. Among them was a group that became known as the “RNC 8,” members of the RNC Welcoming Committee that were charged under Minnesota terrorism laws. Those of the I-Witness video crew had their house raided. In total, some 40 journalists were arrested, including Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now*.

## Get Involved with the Public i

You don't need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The *Public i* is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), or to contact one of the editors.

## Indymedia.us and EFF Successfully Fight Back Against Bogus FBI Subpoena

Fri Nov 13—Indymedia.us Fights Off Bogus FBI Subpoena and Gag Order

Indymedia.us and EFF Successfully Fight Back Against Bogus FBI Subpoena A police fishing expedition has been fought successfully over the course of the past year by one of the Indymedia.us system administrators and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), largely in secret due to dodgy gag orders -- which actually didn't have any real legal standing to begin with. Earlier this year, U.S. attorneys issued a federal grand jury subpoena to Indymedia.us sysadmin Kristina Clair demanding “all IP traffic to and from www.indymedia.us” for a particular date, potentially identifying every person who visited any news story on the Indymedia site. EFF argued that the overly broad demand for Internet records not only violated federal privacy law but also violated Clair's First Amendment rights, by ordering her not to disclose the existence of the subpoena without a U.S. attorney's permission.

For a more extensive coverage see: [www.eff.org/wp/anatomy-bogus-subpoena-indymedia](http://www.eff.org/wp/anatomy-bogus-subpoena-indymedia)



## Injustices Observed First-hand

By Jamie and Gary Storm

Jamie and Gary Storm are residents of Urbana.

On November 6, 2009, we returned from a ten-day visit to Palestine and Israel. Our trip was organized by John Setterlund, a retired campus minister from Urbana who had recently spent two years working at a Lutheran complex in Beit Jala, a small Palestinian city adjacent to Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Our purpose for making the trip was to visit the sites and experience the culture of this region which is of major significance to millions of Jews, Christians and Muslims. We went to see with our own eyes how the practices of the State of Israel affect the lives of the people of Palestine.

We encountered the Israeli Separation Wall and armed checkpoints throughout our travels. Many in the United States do not realize that the Wall does not follow the internationally recognized boundary between Israel and the West Bank but that it exists largely within Palestinian territory. It prevents the free movement of Palestinian residents to and from their jobs, health care centers, and schools. It separates members of families from one another and owners from agricultural land or businesses on which they depend for income. It denies Palestinians access to water for drinking and irrigation.

U.S. passports are the credentials that allowed us to cross the checkpoints. Palestinian residents told us that it is common practice for Israel to answer a family's request for crossing papers by denying the request to at least one of the family members. Our group attended the special Reformation Day service at the packed large Lutheran church in Jerusalem. The Bishop delivered the sermon; many international guest clergy were present. Although the program stated there would be special music by the Beit Sahour Lutheran School Choir they weren't there. It was announced that not all the children were issued travel permission.

Many of our excursions from Beit Jala began with our boarding an Arab tour bus, greeting our Palestinian driver and riding through Bethlehem to a check point in the forty-foot high Separation Wall. The check points are guarded by young Israeli soldiers armed with automatic weapons. Vehicles queue up at the checkpoints and wait for unpredictable amounts of time, which are affected by both the volume of traffic and the actions of the soldiers. It's impossible to know what time to leave Beit Jala for a scheduled appointment in Jerusalem because the six-mile drive can take minutes or hours. The soldiers' inspections of vehicles and passengers appear to be capricious rather than standard. At times our tour bus was waved through after a brief exchange through the window between our driver and a soldier. Other times, after a longer exchange between the driver and a guard, an armed soldier or two entered our bus and demanded a display of our passports. We saw people ordered out of their vehicles, their persons and automobiles searched by armed guards. Checkpoints can be closed without notice.

One evening, approaching the Bethlehem checkpoint, which we routinely used to return home, we found our way blocked. We later learned that access to Bethlehem through that gate had been blocked to accommodate attendees at an Israeli festival. On our way to Jerusalem the next day, our driver, having been told the festival was a two-day affair, drove us to the checkpoint to which we had been diverted the previous night. Our bus wasn't allowed through and we were sent to the gate that had been closed the night before. We were told this nuisance behavior is common.

City buses run between Beit Jala and Jerusalem. The day we took the public bus, an armed soldier entered the



Jamie and Gary with Palestinian boys in an olive grove

bus at the Bethlehem checkpoint, walked down the aisle and ordered all the women who wore head coverings and one man with very dark skin to leave the vehicle. The bus waited while they were questioned and inspected. All were eventually allowed to reboard but it was a humiliating and time-wasting experience.

We heard stories of university students routinely hassled on the way to class and of arrests and the long-term detention of some without charges. After the last three elected presidents of the student body at Birzeit University, near Ramallah, were arrested and detained, the students decided to no longer elect anyone to this position. At both Birzeit and Bethlehem Universities, enrollment has declined because students have been unable to get permission to cross checkpoints. Fewer males are seeking college degrees because of the need for young men to take what employment they can to help support their families.

Another device that the Israeli government uses to inconvenience and frustrate Palestinians is to build and maintain roads in the West Bank for use by Israeli citizens only. These new highways connect centers of commerce in Israel to Israeli colonial settlements established on prime land seized from Palestinians in the West Bank. Palestinians must travel routes that are often circuitous and on

roads that are poorly maintained. We were told that where an Israeli and a Palestinian road intersect, vehicles on the Israeli road always have the right of way while the Palestinian vehicles are forced to wait.

We saw the stumps of ancient olive groves in the West Bank that had been cut down to make room for the development of Israeli plantations and settlements. We passed by settlement after settlement, established and under construction, as we traveled throughout Palestine. From our 'home' in Beit Jala we could see one of these settlements, just beyond the separation wall, built on land that had not long ago been part of Beit Jala.

Home for the 18 members of our group, the majority from Urbana-Champaign, is called Abrahams Herberge. It had been built not only as a welcoming guest house but also as a meeting place that could serve as an ecumenical link for peace in the Holy Land. It is one of three parts of the Lutheran complex where John Setterlund had stayed. He had lived and worked primarily at the Boys Home, a boarding home that serves about forty Arab Christian and Muslim boys aged 5-18 years. The third part of the complex is a church which serves a local congregation.

Treasured experiences were meeting Palestinians in Beit Jala who shared their stories and demonstrated humanity despite repression. Some of our new friends are:

Mohammad, the manager of Abrahams Herberge, who grew up in the Boys Home from age 5, escorted us to nearby Deheishe Camp populated by 12,000 Muslim refugees waiting to return to villages from which they had fled during the 1948 war. Poverty and 70% unemployment determine daily life for the residents. We visited Abraham's Tent, a project of Abrahams Herberge that provides after-school activities and a daily hot meal for hungry children. Mohammad said other refugee camps in the area were asking for similar programs.

Jadallah, Lutheran pastor/peace activist who creates opportunities for ecumenical engagement, introduced our group to the Muslim sheik who has responsibilities for 5 million worshippers in the region.

Hannalore, the music teacher/pastor's wife /emigre to Palestine, directed a children's performance for us that included Arab dancing, singing and a reconciliation play featuring Isaac and Ishmael. We joined the boys from the Home at the annual olive harvest in her garden. She said she coped with the repressive treatment by staying busy.

Haifa, professor/mother/daughter, who met with us to talk about life in Beit Jala, described some of the challenges that restricted movements create for faculty, students and families. Despite her accomplishments, she says it's hard not to feel inferior in the face of demeaning treatment.

Ahab, Laith, and their fellow Boys Home residents mixed English, Arabic, gestures and exuberance to welcome us, tease us and show us that they are Palestine's future.

Please listen to the stories of the Palestinian people. Work for peace and justice in the region.

### The Four Elements: "Open your mind, expand your world."

A community art show sponsored by Safe Haven residents with assistance by students in FAA 391 and artist-activist group U&I Collab.

In an effort to reconsider the social constructions of both an art space and the terminology of "community", students from the University of Illinois and Safe Haven community members are working together to sponsor a "deconstructed" art show at the Independent Media Center on December 4th from 6-9 pm. The show will also encompass a community potluck.

Art is being sought to display. As a "community" art show, submission of any art form is encouraged. These forms include music, poetry, performance, new media, installation, and the more traditional media of painting and sculpture. Review of submitted art will be handled by Safe Haven. Art carrying an activist message or a reflection on personal ideals will be strongly considered.

Submissions must be made by November 20th at Noon.

For questions email edenis2@illinois.edu or call 618.527.6514. In-person submissions can be made at the East St. Louis Action Research Project office: 326 Noble Hall, MC-549, 1209 South Fourth Street; Champaign. Also, if you are interested in volunteering your time as part of the community organizing this show, please be sure to contact us.

### Closing Exhibit for Prof. Edgar Heap of Birds' Beyond

*The Chief Installation* (panels on Nevada St., UIUC campus) Featuring work from local campus and community members in response to the installation and the panels themselves at the University Y.

When: Thursday, December 3rd from 2pm-5pm and Friday, December 4th from 9am-5pm

Where: YWCA/YMCA Lazter Hall, (1001 South Wright Street, Champaign, IL 61820-6285 —Behind Lincoln Hall)

Come join us for a celebration of Prof. Heap of Birds' work and to address, as a community, the impact of the Beyond the Chief Installation and the campus climate.

Co-sponsored by: Native American House, Women's Resources Center, Asian American Cultural Center, American Indian Studies Asian American Studies, and the YMCA.