

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (July-August, 2010)

Episode #277 (August 28-30)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

How can you contribute your skills towards meeting real needs now and in the future? Paul and Sarah Edwards, the authors of Home-Based Business for Dummies, focus on the "Elm Street Economy" of locally-owned businesses rather than "Main Street", which we hear so much about, but is comprised mainly of franchises. In the Elm Street Economy, local businesses meet local needs -- for food, shelter, clothing, heating, electricity, healthcare, and other products. Sarah and Paul suggest: Keep your job and pay off your debts, while gaining enduring skills for the future. A large number of today's professions won't be around in five years.

Segment 2 -- "Kiss Your Gas Goodbye"

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

Segment 3 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

Segment 4 -- "SHADA"

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

Episode #276 (August 21-23)

Segment 1 -- "The Gaza Freedom Flotilla: Eyewitness Reports and Smuggled Footage"

On the night of May 30, 2010, the Mavi Marmara, one of the seven ships in a Gaza bound humanitarian aid convoy, was attacked and boarded by the Israeli military. The attack by 4 warships, 2 submarines, 3 helicopters and 30 zodiacs took place on international waters in violation of international law. Eleven passengers from the Mavi Marmara were killed, dozens were wounded, and six hundred were forced to go to Israel where they were jailed. All media equipment was confiscated or destroyed. For days Israel told its version of the event. As flotilla members returned home, eyewitness accounts emerged and Lara Lee from Cultures of Resistance presented her smuggled raw footage to the UN Press Club and later online. These resources contradicted Israeli press releases. Israel then broadcast doctored footage it took from passengers' cameras to fend off an outpouring of criticism from the world community. Clearly an impartial investigation needed to be made, but Israel and the US blocked this. (Media Edge producer Mary Brassell compiled footage from online sources to create this video. Original Lara Lee footage can be found at <http://vimeo.com/12429821>.)

Segment 2 -- "Letters from Beirut"

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

Segment 3 -- "Let the Show Begin"

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

Episode #275 (August 14-16)

Segment 1 -- "The 800-Mile Wall"

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of the new border walls along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the U.S. This powerful 90-minute film is an unflinching look at the failed U.S. border strategy that many believe has caused the death of thousands of migrants and violates fundamental human rights. Since border walls have been built, well over 5,000 migrant bodies have been recovered in U.S. deserts, mountains and canals. Some unofficial reports put the death toll as high as 10,000 men, women and children. As a direct result of U.S. border policy, migrants are forced to cross treacherous deserts and mountains in search of low skill and low paying jobs in the United States.

Segment 2 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

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

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

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

Episode #274 (August 7-9)

Segment 1 -- "PSR 2010 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 2 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 148 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on a Native American saying: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." At this event, nine finalists read their essays. The authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "Outlawed"

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

Episode #273 (July 31-August 2)

Segment 1 -- "Occupation 101"

An award-winning, thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The film presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions. It also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles that stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers.

Segment 2 -- "Hands in Peace"

Hands in Peace builds peace among diverse communities by adapting the ancient Greek Olympics for children. The children celebrate our common humanity and cultural diversity through non-competitive festivals like this one held in Sacramento.

Segment 3 -- "The Poetry of Listening"

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

Episode #272 (July 24-26)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Take a tour, accompanied by curious sheep and geese, of Mark Cooper's self-sufficient small farm. Over several years, he transformed a rundown house and hillsides of berry brambles into pasture and gardens where he produces and preserves most of his family's food. Visit the Goose Grotto in a constructed pond, a heritage fruit tree orchard, logs producing shiitake mushrooms, and a cheap-and-easy container kitchen garden. Mark gives us a close-up view of the solar dehydrator he constructed from salvaged materials - and his tips on food drying. He has husbanded up to fifty animals at a time, including two Tibetan yaks! This farmstead in Rough and Ready (CA) lives up to the town's name - and is a testament to hard work, wide-ranging construction skills, and love.

Segment 2 -- "Dr. Nabil"

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

Segment 3 -- "Behind the Mask"

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

Episode #271 (July 17-19)

Segment 1 -- "The Gaza Freedom Flotilla: Eyewitness Reports and Smuggled Footage"

On the night of May 30, 2010, the Mavi Marmara, one of the seven ships in a Gaza bound humanitarian aid convoy, was attacked and boarded by the Israeli military. The attack by 4 warships, 2 submarines, 3 helicopters and 30 zodiacs took place on international waters in violation of international law. Eleven passengers from the Mavi Marmara were killed, dozens were wounded, and six hundred were forced to go to Israel where they were jailed. All media equipment was confiscated or destroyed. For days Israel told its version of the event. As flotilla members returned home, eyewitness accounts emerged and Lara Lee from Cultures of Resistance presented her smuggled raw footage to the UN Press Club and later online. These resources contradicted Israeli press releases. Israel then broadcast doctored footage it took from passengers' cameras to fend off an outpouring of criticism from the world community. Clearly an impartial investigation needed to be made, but Israel and the US blocked this. (Media Edge producer Mary Brassell compiled footage from online sources to create this video. Original Lara Lee footage can be found at <http://vimeo.com/12429821>.)

Segment 2 -- "Notes on the War"

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

Segment 3 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

The new Sierra Club border film, "Wild Versus Wall," details the unique and diverse natural areas along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and explains how they have been and will be affected by current and planned federal border policy and infrastructure, as well as the danger to our rights and safety imposed by sweeping new powers granted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Episode #270 (July 10-12)

Segment 1 -- "The Angola 3: Black Panthers and the Last Slave Plantation"

The gripping story of Robert King, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, men who have endured solitary confinement longer than any known living prisoner in the United States. Politicized through contact with the Black Panther Party while inside Louisiana's prisons, they formed one of the only prison Panther chapters in history and worked to organize other prisoners into a movement for the right to live like human beings. This feature length movie explores their extraordinary struggle for justice while incarcerated in Angola, a former slave plantation.

Segment 2 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Episode #269 (July 3-5)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Bill Wilson and Wayne Weiseman pour their hearts into their permaculture design courses, changing lives as well as landscapes. In a unique format, students do initial course work online and then attend a one week hands-on course. In this chat along with Sivananda Yoga Farm sponsor Vidya Chaitanya, Wayne discusses principles starting with observing elements like wind, water, sun and topography in a specific property. Bill provides alarming information on "peak soil." Together they note that permaculture's goal is to create small, intensive ecologies, a foodweb where everything is exchanging with everything else.

Segment 2 -- "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"

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

Segment 3 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"

A feature-length documentary about Israel's policy to gain supremacy over the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace.