

# **WRCR ISSUES/PROGRAMS**

## **Q-2 2023**

WRCR's regularly scheduled weekly and monthly public interest, community service programs all continued to be aired on the same schedule as in the previous months and years.

They covered variety of issues, such as:

- Organ donation (1 hour show every Wednesday),
- Health care (1 hour show every month hosted by different specialty doctors from our local hospitals),
- Mental health (monthly show hosted by Rockland Behavioral Health Response Team),
- Audiology and hearing loss (monthly 1 hour show hosted by Hudson Valley Audiology)
- Veteran Issues - "Thank you for Your Service" this monthly 1-hour program is our newest addition to the line up, hosted by a local veteran advocate (NEW PROGRAM)
- "Senior Moment" a monthly 1-hour show (hosted by a major local law firm and focusing on legal issues facing seniors), to name a few.

All Town Supervisors, County Executive, our State Senator and newly elected Congressman, Mike Lawler continued with their regularly scheduled interactive Q&A segments, keeping WRCR listeners updated on happenings in their local City Hall, State Capital, Albany and Washington, DC.

This quarter we focus on our special environmentally oriented program - "Tough Times With Lou Young" - a weekly 2-hour program devoted to critical environmental issues and climate change. The program is hosted by 8 time Emmy Award winning legendary veteran TV news anchor and reporter on WCBS-TV, WNBC-TV and WABC-TV in New

York City, Lou Young. Here is a synopsis of just a sample of a few of Lou's weekly 2-hour programs. They air every Saturday from 1-3 PM exclusively on WRRCR.

Program Synopsis for TT #42

TOUGH TIMES WITH LOU YOUNG  
A SERIES OF UNNATURAL NATURAL DISASTERS: CALIFORNIA AS  
CANARY-IN-A-COAL-MINE

We begin our broadcast in a snowed-in cabin up in northern California. Geologist Dr. Jeff Tolhurst opines on all he's experienced: the wildfires, the punishing drought, the atmospheric rivers of rain, and the epic blizzards. California has seen each of these events before, but never all at once, at least not in human memory. Tolhurst wonders about the future and how much worse it can get before the west coast becomes more of a repellent than attraction. He's joined by TV executive Michael Horowitz from his home in Sherman Oaks, a suburb of Los Angeles where the climate-change disasters take on a slightly different texture, equally ominous: a desert under deluge. Is that the LA River or a Disney flume ride on steroids? Once again this week the two hours fly by and include musical interludes from Warren Zevon, Fantastic Negrito, Judy Collins, Neal Young, and Randy Newman. We hear from Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping and some fascinating news items that cover, protest, extinction and penis size (Yes, you read that correctly!). Host Lou Young, Co-host George Potanovic, and producer Will Hennessey invite you to this advance glimpse of a possible apocalypse. Enjoy!

Tough Times #48      5/6/23

Saving the River/Saving the Planet

This two hour show was recorded in tandem with a Rally to Save the (Hudson) River near the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant which is being decommissioned in Buchanan, NY. Lou Young and Will Hennessey welcome studio guest Susan Shapiro from the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition while Activist George Potanovic reports live from the rally. Much of the discussion revolves around the plan by the

company charged with decommissioning the nuke, Holtec Inc, from releasing a million gallons of wastewater contaminated with radioactive tritium. Beyond the immediate wastewater concerns there's also the question about the huge amount of radioactive "spent" fuel stored at the site and what to do with the property if and when it ever deemed safe to use for another purpose. As we ponder those questions the very nature of nuclear energy and it's frightening appearance in the public consciousness comes into play: Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping report from a march through indigenous lands in Utah that were used for atomic weapons testing last century. You'll also hear about "the most bombed place on Earthy," listen to the sound and description of the USSR's massive "Tsar Bomba" as it was tested in 1961. All that, and some outstanding music, some if it contemporary, but other works from the very dawn of the nuclear age. Country musicians from Georgia and Alabama worried in tune and lyric about the power we have unlocked. Tough times indeed.

Tough Times #49 5/13/23

Problems that won't go away.....Indian Point, Migration, and Trump. Host Lou Young and Producer Will Hennessey welcome Michele Lee, Assemblyman Chris Eachus, and a procession of listener callers for two hours of discussion about radioactive water, spent nuclear fuel, nearby schools in danger, and the seductive allure of technology. Rev Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping conduct Earth Church services from Manhattan's Lower East Side. We also examine the migration influx from our southern border, through NYC and into its norther suburbs. And Lou asks the question if Donald Trump smelled politically dead during his recent town hall on CNN. Additional Music from Donald Fagan and The Byrds. The time flies!

## Tough Times #49

Dealing with the downside: This two hour episode features a discussion about the NRC's licensing of an interim storage site for nuclear waste in Lea County, New Mexico for Holtec International, the firm that is decommissioning the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant at Buchanan, NY.

Since all the fuel ever used at the site since the 1970's is still stored on site we wanted to know what the prospects are for moving it out. Patrick Brennan from Southwest Public Policy Institute, a major proponent of the New Mexico storage site, explained how it would work and how the matter is being debated in NM. Local Callers weighed in, at least one suggesting we should keep the spent fuel on site in NY. Others wondered if it could be moved safely.

We also heard from Susan Fulgaris from Stoney Point Action Committee for the Environment about the Champlain Hudson Power Express, a huge power cable that will connect Queens NY with massive hydroelectric projects in Canada. She is concerned that plans to run the cable through Rockland County could be disruptive.

We had a panel of listeners react to an eclectic and fascinating series of items in News From the Natural World with Savitri D.

The show includes a full episode from Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping (Eco-Riot Radio) and a recent recanting of a report that homeless veterans were displaced by arriving asylum seekers at a local hotel: a fake news blip we honored with a rendition of "Whatever it is I'm Against it" From Groucho Marx recorded in 1932. Fake news, it turns out, isn't new.

## Tough Times #52 for 6/17/23

### **Ending New York's Political "Hide-and-Seek"**

A bill headed to Governor Kathy Hochul's desk will end New York's practice of electing county and town officials in low-turnout off-year elections and move voting for ALL those jurisdictions to even numbered years, the so-called "federal schedule." Our guest NY State Senator James Skoufis of Orange county is primary co-sponsor of the bill and our primary guest on **Tough Times with Lou Young** this week. The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Investigations and government Operations explains that many politicians and party

bosses depend on low-turnout, often uncontested elections to hang on to power. This bill has been introduced for years BUT THIS YEAR IT PASSED and now it is up to the Governor to sign. Lou and Will Hennessey examine this basic election reform with Senator Skoufis as well upcoming environmental initiatives and the decommissioning of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. The show also features a stirring "sermon" from Reverend Billy about "opening up a discussion with the Earth," a special edition of News From The Natural World and a cool recording from "Sway" recording at the Corning Glass Festival a couple of years back... Lou is the lead singer on this cover of AC/DC's "Dirty Deeds." In the last half hour we also listen to songs Lou is learning the lyrics to as the band prepares to play at New Rochelle's Summer Concert series. Fun stuff mixed in the with serious. 2 hours zip by. Join us!