

Community Issues Programming for July 1 - September 30, 2018

WCLH has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community this quarter. Following each issue is a list of programs aired addressing that issue.

Issue: On-Line Privacy: Recent revelations about the extent of data mining done by websites such as *Facebook* have many calling for new regulations.

Democracy Now! "A Threat to Global Democracy: How Facebook & Surveillance Capitalism Empower Authoritarianism". "Black Elevation." "Mindful Being." "Resisters." "Aztlán Warriors." Those are the names of some of the accounts removed from Facebook and Instagram Tuesday after Facebook uncovered a plot to covertly influence the midterm elections. The tech giant said 32 fake accounts and Facebook pages were involved in "coordinated inauthentic behavior." This announcement comes just days after the company suffered the biggest loss in stock market history: about \$119 billion in a single day. This is just the latest in a string of controversies surrounding Facebook's unprecedented influence on democracy in the United States and around the world, from its pivotal role in an explosion of hate speech inciting violence against Rohingya Muslims in Burma to its use by leaders such as Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte in suppressing dissent. Facebook has 2.2 billion users worldwide, and that number is growing. We speak with Siva Vaidyanathan, author of "Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy." He is a professor of media studies and director of the Center for Media and Citizenship at the University of Virginia. Airdate 1 August 2018 8:10 AM. Length 49 minutes.

Issue: Sexual Abuse by Clergy: Recent revelations about the sexual abuse of children by the Catholic Church.

Democracy Now! "Catholic Church Cover-up: 300 Priests Sexually Abused 1,000 Children in Pennsylvania". In Pennsylvania, a grand jury report has revealed that more than 300 Catholic priests sexually abused 1,000 children, and possibly thousands more, over seven decades, and that church leadership covered up the abuse. On Tuesday, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro described harrowing accounts of priests raping young girls and boys, including one priest who raped a young girl in the hospital after she had her tonsils out. Another priest impregnated a young girl and then arranged for her to have an abortion. The report reveals that the church orchestrated a massive, systematic cover-up to conceal the abuse, including lying to the community about why a priest was removed from a parish, transferring predator priests rather than firing them, and locking abuse complaints away in what the church called a "secret archive." Airdate 16 August 2018. 8:12 AM Length 10 minutes.

Democracy Now! "'This Church Is a Criminal Enterprise': Former Priest & Survivor Speak Out on PA Catholic Sex Abuse". A shocking new Pennsylvania grand jury report has revealed that more than 300 Catholic priests sexually abused 1,000 children, and possibly thousands more, over a span of seven decades. The church leadership covered up the abuse, lying to communities, transferring predator priests rather than firing them, and locking abuse complaints away in what the church called a "secret archive." For more, we speak with Shaun Dougherty, a survivor of sexual abuse by a Pennsylvania priest. His story was included in Tuesday's grand jury report. He was molested by a priest from the Altoona-Johnstown diocese in Pennsylvania for three years, starting when he was 10 years old. George Koharchick, the priest responsible, has been defrocked. Even though the FBI determined he was a child predator, Koharchick cannot be tried as such because of an expired statute of limitations. We also speak with Bob Hoatson, a former Catholic priest and the co-founder and president of Road to Recovery,

which assists victims of sexual abuse.

Airdate 16 August 2018 8:22 AM Length 24 minutes.

Democracy Now! " Sister Simone Campbell: Catholic Sex Abuse Stems from “Monarchy” & Exclusion of Women from Power". For the first time in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope has addressed a letter to the entire population of 1.2 billion Catholics on the topic of sex abuse by clergy. In the scathing 2,000-word letter, Pope Francis wrote, “We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them.” Last week in Pennsylvania, a grand jury report revealed how more than 300 Catholic priests sexually abused 1,000 children, and possibly thousands more, over seven decades and that the church leadership covered up the abuse. More than 1,000 Catholic theologians, educators and parishioners have called on all Catholic bishops to resign. We speak with Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK, an advocacy group for Catholic social justice which organizes the Nuns on the Bus campaign. She’s the author of “A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community.”

Airdate 21 August 2018 8:11 AM Length 21 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Pope Asks Forgiveness for Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal as New Letter Says He Knew, But Failed to Act". Pope Francis marked the first papal visit to Ireland in 39 years by acknowledging the failure by church authorities to address child abuse crimes by the clergy. But Sunday, Pope Francis faced a new bombshell accusation from a former top-ranking Vatican official who called on him to resign, releasing a 7,000-word letter claiming the pope knew about allegations of sex abuse by high-ranking Cardinal Theodore McCarrick years before they became public, and failed to punish him. McCarrick faces allegations that he coerced men training to become priests into sexual relationships and abused a teenage altar boy. Pope Francis has refused to comment on the accusations. In Dublin, we speak with Peter Isely, a survivor of childhood sexual assault by a Wisconsin priest, and a founding member of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. We also speak with Thomas Doyle, a former priest and longtime supporter of justice and compassion for clergy sex abuse victims. They’re both part of the organization Ending Clergy Abuse.

Airdate 27 August 2018 8:45 AM Length 15 minutes

Issue: Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting: *Our community is concerned about media bias and censorship.*

CounterSpin Wayne Au on Gates’ Education Failure, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard on Criminalizing Protest. new report finds a big Bill Gates–backed education initiative is a bust.

Airdate 7 July 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin Jacinta Gonzalez on Immigration Rights, Jocelyn McCalla on Haiti Uprising. While outrage at family separation at the Mexican border is a fine starting point for a movement for change, it cannot be its end. We talk this week about bigger, positive visions on immigration

Airdate 14 July 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Andrew Purlang on Disability and the Election" People with disabilities are “severely underrepresented in elected office,” which goes a way toward explaining why—in 2018—disabled people’s full inclusion in all aspects of social life is still largely framed as a matter of “accommodation” rather than rights.

Airdate 21 July 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin Maha Hilal on Islamophobia, Brett Hartl on Endangered Species. Like all discrimination,

Islamophobia is political and personal, individual and institutional, subtle and not at all subtle. Also on the show: If you search “endangered species” online, you will find many beautiful photographs of foxes and leopards and bears. If the Trump White House has its way, pictures may be all that you can see. We spoke with Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity, about current assaults on the Endangered Species Act.

Airdate 28 July 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin Trita Parsi on Trump’s Iran Threat, Dermot Murphy on Local News Cuts It is hard to say precisely how a press corps should report on a president’s all-caps threat to another country’s president about their “DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH”—there are a lot of ways to go. But in addressing Donald Trump’s virulent threats to the president of Iran, media have, minimally, the responsibility to separate accusation from reality, and then, one would hope, to talk openly about how to resist the degeneration of diplomacy, and the rise of almost hysterically bellicose language that seems like greasing the tracks toward war. We’ll talk about the current state of US/Iran relations with Trita Parsi, founder and president of the National Iranian American Council Also on the show: Local newspapers have been facing death by a thousand cuts for decades now. Each time another venerable daily shuts its doors or, as in the case of the New York Daily News, fires half its editorial staff after a one-minute meeting, there is a spate of stories wondering what the loss means—and often leaving the impression that it’s a matter of feeling: Did you like the paper? Do you feel guilty because you stopped buying it? New research takes a very hard-headed look at some of the costs involved when a community loses a local paper. Dermot Murphy is assistant professor of finance at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He’ll join us to talk about the paper, *Financing Dies in Darkness?*

Airdate 4 August 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes

CounterSpin "Media Econ 101" When the New York Times wants to write about the plights and travails of low-wage workers, they can tug a heartstring with the best of them. When it comes to reporting about “the economy”—serious, fact-based stuff, not “human interest”—we get things like the piece the paper ran in late July, with the lead on how “analysts expect the strong economy and Trump administration’s tax cuts to lead to another batch of knockout earnings reports.” One blot on the landscape: “wage growth.” “Rising labor costs can cut into profits, muting the impact of a robust economy,” the Times warns, citing a trucking firm where “driver pay and retention costs” were described as “outlays that nibbled away at the benefits of higher prices and booming volumes.”

Like the “health of the economy” being somehow severed from the livelihood of most people, there are certain economic ideas and values that corporate media either leave unchallenged or aggressively promote.

The same media that largely ignore the sub-minimum wage rarely question the overall belief in social mobility, and in particular the idea that if you can only get a “good job,” US society is set up to guarantee economic success. We disrupted that vision last year with researcher Detric Asante-Muhammad, talking about a new report on the racial wealth divide.

Finally, the big myth: that the way the US economy is organized is the best or maybe the only way a democratic society can do things—that harms like inequality shadow it, but don’t define it. Economist Richard Wolff took that on in a conversation earlier this year.

Airdate 11 August 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Alternative Visions Revisited" We think all of our interviews are special, but there are some that, for one reason or another, seem to strike a chord in listeners—maybe because they engage questions that aren’t often engaged, or encourage alternative visions. In any event, we’re happy for it, and we’re going to revisit three of those conversations on this week’s show.

We'll hear from writer and organizer Josmar Trujillo about media hyping of "gang violence," and its destructive impact on community.

Megan Hustings is director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. We asked her about the criminalization of feeding homeless people as part of a campaign of erasure.

And finally, you might think you can't fix your cellphone because you don't have the know-how, not because you don't have the right. We learned about that from Kyle Wiens, advocate of the Right to Repair.

Airdate 18 August 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Karl Grossman on Space Force, Evan Greer on Net Neutrality Cyber Fraud" A popular internet meme says, "I have a question about Space Force; when is Flint getting clean water?" But while social media reflect complaints that the Trump administration's plans to "address space as a developing war-fighting domain," as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has it, will mean still more resources channeled away from social programs to Warmongering, Inc., that line of questioning has so far had little place in corporate media coverage.

We'll talk about the prospect of war in space with longtime FAIR associate Karl Grossman, journalism professor at State University of New York/College at Old Westbury, and author of the books *Weapons in Space* and *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet*, among others. Space warfare is far from the only issue on which a vastly more multi-sourced and incisive conversation is happening outside establishment media than within it; and that's a key reason majorities of people say they support net neutrality—the rules that aim to keep the internet more of a commons than another corporate-curated arena. But the federal agency meant to listen to and represent the public is so anti-interested in doing so that they will sabotage their own processes to avoid it. We'll catch up on this latest outrage, and the bigger net neutrality fight, with Evan Greer, deputy director of Fight for the Future.

Airdate 25 August 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "John Powers on Voting Rights, Karen Dolan on School Safety" Corporate media cover electoral politics—a lot. Yet the questions that guide that coverage don't seem to change much: Who's leading in polls (before anyone's learned much about the candidates' ideas), who said what awful thing about their opponent, who's raised more money from rich people? That's not the same as covering the electoral process: Do elections represent the public will? Does everyone who wants to vote get to? How can we ensure that our voting process reflects the principles of democracy that are so insistently invoked? There are few questions more critical right now. We'll talk about them with John Powers, counsel in the Voting Rights Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Also on the show: When you think "school safety," you may think about the Parkland shooting or Sandy Hook or Columbine; certainly, that would be the media context in which the phrase occurs. But policies and practices based on that definition of safety end up making kids—particularly kids who are black and brown, or female or LGBTQ or disabled—less protected and less secure in school. A new report from the Institute for Policy Studies, *Students Under Siege*, outlines how that happens, and how alternative definitions of "safety" lead to better outcomes for kids, their families—and schools. We'll speak to the report's co-author, Karen Dolan. She's director of the Criminalization of Race and Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Airdate 1 September 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Shireen Al-Adeimi on Yemen Crisis, Alyssa Peterson on Campus Assault Rules" Now in its third year, the war in Yemen, and the resulting casualties, starvation, illness and displacement, have been declared by the UN the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Images—like those from August of Yemeni schoolchildren on a field trip killed by bombs employed by the Saudi-led coalition, but made and sold by the US—have touched many Americans' hearts; but what's the bridge from concern to change? We talk about the crisis in Yemen and the US responsibility with Shireen Al-Adeimi, assistant professor of education at Michigan State University. Al-Adeimi's recent article with Sarah Lazare, "Trump Quietly Overrides What Little Civilian Protections Remain in Yemen War," appeared in *In These Times*.

Also on the show: Elite media reported Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's claim that her rewrite of rules on rape, assault and harassment in schools was about fairness to all parties ("not just students who survived assault, but those wrongly accused of assault," as the *Washington Post* had it). And media, a few anyway, reported the fact that assault survivors groups protested outside DeVos's event announcing the new rules, to which they were not invited. Largely off the page: the questions the latter fact raises about the first one. Alyssa Peterson is advocacy and policy coordinator with the group Know Your IX (as in Title IX); she joins us to help fill in that gap.

Airdate 8 September 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Richard Kim on Brett Kavanaugh, Jamil Dakwar on John Bolton" The elite media takeaway on the nomination to the Supreme Court of arch-conservative Brett Kavanaugh—despite allegations of perjury, and an unprecedented lack of access to his work—would seem to be reflected by CNN, which ran two items on the same day: a poll showing more Americans oppose Kavanaugh's confirmation than support it, and an analysis that took his confirmation as a given. "Americans don't want it, but it's happening anyway; next!" seems to be corporate media's approach to many things these days. Others take democratic dysfunction less sanguinely. We speak with Richard Kim, executive editor of *The Nation* magazine, about that.

Also on the show: In 1994, John Bolton declared: "There is no United Nations. There is an international community that occasionally can be led by the only real power left in the world, and that's the United States, when it suits our interest, and when we can get others to go along." Bolton is now national security advisor under a president who shares his ideas that international bodies only exist to the extent that the US finds them useful. You can call that straight talk, but then you also have to care what impact it has when a country declares its sovereignty to be the only sovereignty that matters on the planet. Bolton's target of the moment is the International Criminal Court. We talk about what his most recent threats against the ICC mean with Jamil Dakwar, director of the human rights program at the ACLU.

Airdate 15 September 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Dean Baker on Bank Bailout, Nathan Schneider on the Next Economy" Hundreds of thousands of people lost homes or jobs or savings in the financial meltdown of 2008, but those casualties were not a big part of media's "10 years later" stories. Those foreground the personal reminiscences of policymakers like former Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke, who suggest that they did what had to be done, but maybe didn't sell it properly to the public. We'll discuss how things could've gone differently with Dean Baker, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research. His column "The Bank Bailout of 2008 Was Unnecessary" appeared recently in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Airdate 22 September 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.

CounterSpin "Hannah Hetzer on New War on Drugs, John Conroy & Jamie Kalven on Chicago Police Violence" Listeners may know that Donald Trump's big speech at the United Nations General Assembly was met with laughter. But another funny-not-funny event that took place was largely overlooked. At a sort of glorified photo op, Trump announced a new plan for the "world drug problem" that reflects a return to inhumane and disproven approaches. We'll hear from Drug Policy Alliance's senior international policy manager, Hannah Hetzer, about what's going on.

Also on the show: Former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke is standing trial for first-degree murder for the 2014 killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison. Former Chicago police commander Jon Burge died September 19; he was only convicted in civil suits, despite being responsible for years of systemic torture, coerced confessions and violence visited on black communities. Van Dyke and Burge may be outliers, but coverage that treats them as rogues, without interrogating the system that allows and abets their behavior, is part of the problem. *CounterSpin* talked about Burge's reign of terror with former Chicago Reader reporter John Conroy, and we talked with reporter and activist Jamie Kalven about Van Dyke's murder of McDonald. We'll hear part of both those conversations today.

Airdate 29 September 2018 8:30 AM Length 29 minutes.