

Issues Programs List
WECI 91.5 Radio Station
January 1- March 31, 2024
Placed in Public File April 9, 2024

Section I: Issues

WECI has identified the following issues as significant and relevant to the local communities and listening audience:

COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Climate/Environmental Issues

Economics

Education

Politics

Social Justice

Israel and Palestine War

Section II: Responsive Programming

COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Thursday, February 1, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! “Legacy”: Dr. Uché Blackstock on How Racism Shapes Healthcare in America

On the first day of Black History Month, we take a look at how racism shapes healthcare in America. We speak with Dr. Uché Blackstock about her new book, *Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine*. The instant New York Times best-selling book tells her family’s story through multiple generations of Black women physicians while revealing the history of racism that created today’s disparities in medical training and treatment in America. “I use my mother’s story and my story to really emphasize how deeply embedded systemic racism is in our country, in the past and in the present,” says Blackstock. “There is nothing biologically wrong with Black people ... but there is something very wrong with the social institutions, not just healthcare, within our country that are deeply embedded with bias and racism.”

Monday, March 4, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! “Enraging”: Meet Abbey Crain, IVF Patient in Midst of Treatment Derailed by Alabama High Court

Reproductive health and medical groups are asking the Alabama Supreme Court to rehear the case in which the justices ruled frozen embryos should be considered children. The decision sent shockwaves through the world of reproductive medicine regarding potential effects on access to in vitro fertilization and other fertility treatments. We speak with Abbey Crain, a journalist and

artist who had been undergoing IVF treatments for nearly two years when the court made its ruling. She says her clinic has paused fertility treatments after the decision.

Sunday, February 18, 11AM. Duration, 59 minutes.

Commonwealth Club

The Sugar "Fix": The Addiction and the Treatment

Dr. Nicole Avena, Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (New York City); Visiting Professor of Health Psychology, Princeton University; Author, *Sugar Less*, Dr. Robert H. Lustig, M.D., M.S.L., Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Endocrinology, and Member of the Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF; Author, *Metabolical*, in conversation with Patty James, Chief Innovation Officer, Foogal; Co-chair, Nutrition, Food & Wellness Member-led Forum, Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California—Moderator

Climate/Environmental Issues

Tuesday, January 30, 3pm. Duration, 50 minutes.

Democracy Now! "We're Dying Here": Human Rights Watch on the Fight for Life in Louisiana's Fossil Fuel Cancer Alley

A damning new Human Rights Watch report documents the devastating human toll of fossil fuel projects in Louisiana's Cancer Alley, an 85-mile corridor stretching from Baton Rouge to New Orleans that is filled with fossil fuel and petrochemical plants. Human Rights Watch found newborns living in Cancer Alley experience low birth weights at more than three times the national average. Residents of the predominantly Black communities in the area report a range of other health problems, as well, including respiratory illness, cognitive issues and cancer. "Louisiana citizens are exposed to the worst toxic pollution of any people across the United States," says the report's author, journalist Antonia Juhasz, who outlines recommendations for better regulation and enforcement to reduce the harms while pushing for a phase-out of the industry in the long term.

Economics

Tuesday, January 9, 3pm. Duration, 30 minutes.

Democracy Now! Profit Over Safety: Boeing Supplier Ignored Safety Warnings Before Jet Door Blowout, The Lever Reports

Less than a month before a door plug on a Boeing aircraft blew off midflight, employees at Spirit AeroSystems, a subcontractor for Boeing, had tried to warn corporate officials about serious safety problems with parts for 737 MAX jets. But those warnings went unheeded, and the employees were told to falsify records, according to a new investigation by *The Lever* on a federal complaint filed by workers at Spirit. "In some cases, workers were retaliated against for

trying to raise those alarms,” says journalist David Sirota. “These workers in this federal complaint are alleging essentially a culture of defects, a culture of fraud, a culture of retaliation.”

Saturday, January 13, 3pm. Duration, 59 minutes.

Commonwealth Club

Arlan Hamilton: Getting Your First Million

Arlan Hamilton, Founder and Managing Partner, Backstage Capital; Author, *Your First Million* in conversation with Michelle Meow, Producer and Host, "The Michelle Meow Show," KBCW TV and Podcast; Member, Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California Board of Governors—Co-host.

Sunday, January 28, 11AM. Duration, 59.

Commonwealth Club

For Richer, Not Poorer: Richard Kahlenberg on How NIMBYISM Hurts the Working Class

Richard Kahlenberg, Author, *Excluded: How Snob Zoning, NIMBYISM, and Class Bias Build the Walls We Don't See*, in conversation with Erin Baldassari, Housing Affordability Correspondent, KQED; Host, “Sold Out” Podcast.

Education

Monday, January 15, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! MLK Day Special: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in His Own Words.

Today is the federal holiday that honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was born January 15, 1929. He was assassinated April 4, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. He was just 39 years old. While Dr. King is primarily remembered as a civil rights leader, he also championed the cause of the poor and organized the Poor People's Campaign to address issues of economic justice. Dr. King was also a fierce critic of U.S. foreign policy and the Vietnam War. We play his “Beyond Vietnam” speech, which he delivered at New York City's Riverside Church on April 4, 1967, as well as his last speech, “I've Been to the Mountaintop,” that he gave on April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated.

Tuesday, March 19, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! “Unseen”: *New Film Profiles a Blind, Undocumented Social Work Student, Humanizing Disabled Migrants*

As presidential front-runners Donald Trump and Joe Biden scapegoat and attack immigrants on the campaign trail, stoking racist and xenophobic fears for votes, we speak to the director of a groundbreaking new film, *unseen*, that aims to reframe the narrative. Using experimental cinematography to promote accessibility for blind and low-vision audiences, *unseen* follows Pedro, who is blind and undocumented, as he works toward a degree in social work. Director Set Hernandez, himself an undocumented immigrant and a co-founder of the Undocumented

Filmmakers Collective, discusses the film's uplifting of the "undocumented and disabled perspective," in opposition to political narratives that exclude and dehumanize immigrant communities.

Saturday, March 9, 3pm. Duration, 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Kara Swisher With Reid Hoffman: Silicon Valley's Burn Book

Kara Swisher Host, "On With Kara Swisher"; Host, "Pivot" podcast; Author, *Burn Book: A Tech Love Story*; In Conversation with Reid Hoffman Partner, Greylock; Founder, LinkedIn.

Politics

Monday, January 22, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! "American Fascism": Historian Rick Perlstein on Trump's Grip on the GOP & Chances of a Second Jan. 6

Democracy Now looks at the state of the Republican Party after Republican Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's announcement Sunday that he has suspended his presidential campaign and endorsed Donald Trump to be the Republican Party's 2024 nominee, making it a two-person race between Trump and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. With the pivotal New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, we speak with author Rick Perlstein, a historian of the modern conservative movement, who describes Trump's iron grip on the Republican Party as "American fascism." He says regardless of how many votes Trump gets, the real question is how his extremist supporters will respond.

Thursday, February 8, 3pm. Duration, 49 minutes.

Democracy Now! Senegal's "Unraveling": President's Delay of Election Is Latest in String of Anti-Democratic Actions

Senegal is in the midst of its worst political upheaval in decades after the president postponed this month's election. More than 200 opposition politicians and protesters have been arrested, and the government has shut down some internet access, amid what the decision's opponents are describing as a coup. "This is just the latest step in a string of human rights abuses," says Amnesty International researcher Ousmane Diallo, who says Sall's latest anti-democratic move is characteristic of an increasingly repressive regime. We also hear from former Prime Minister Aminata Touré, who broke from Sall's political coalition in 2022 after accusing him of anti-democratic actions. Touré, now a leading opposition figure, was arrested Sunday at a protest.

Thursday, February 29, 3pm. Duration, 40 minutes.

Sen. Merkley: McConnell Paralyzed the Senate & Turned Supreme Court into “Far-Right Legislature”

As Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell announces he will step down as the Senate’s Republican leader after 17 years — the longest term in Senate history — we speak with Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who says, “McConnell’s legacy has been one of obstruction.” He describes McConnell’s “aggressive” use of the filibuster, the topic of Merkley’s new book, *Filibustered!: How to Fix the Broken Senate and Save America*, as having “broken the cycle in which government can function.” Merkley also discusses Republican manipulation of judicial appointments and the cloture motion in pushing the legislature further right.

Sunday, March 10, 11AM. Duration, 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Ambassador of Cuba, Lianys Torres Rivera, on Embargo and Engagement

Ambassador Lianys Torres Rivera, Chargé D’Affairs, Embassy of Cuba in United States, in conversation with Mike Cerre, Special Correspondent, "PBS Newshour"—Moderator.

Social Justice

Wednesday, February 14, 3pm. Duration, 40 minutes.

Democracy Now! “Dead-End Strategy”: GOP Impeaches Mayorkas as Democrats Push Hard-Line Border & Immigration Policy

For the first time ever, the House has voted to impeach a Cabinet member. After failing on its first try last week, the Republican-led House voted Tuesday to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas over the Biden administration’s handling of the U.S.-Mexico border. This comes as Congress continues to debate packaging hard-line immigration measures with foreign military aid. “The sad reality is that the politics of immigration policy have really taken over in Congress,” says law professor César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández, who discusses the Democrats’ “dead-end strategy” of trying to “out-tough the Republican Party when it comes to immigration policy.” He also discusses his new book, *Welcome the Wretched: In Defense of the “Criminal Alien”*, which makes the case for not deporting undocumented immigrants even if they commit a crime.

Tuesday, February 27, 3pm, Duration, 42 minutes.

Democracy Now! Should U.S. Send More Weapons to Ukraine? A Debate on Funding & Ways to End Two-Year-Old War

It has been two years since Russia invaded Ukraine, sparking a brutal war in which tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians have died. With Ukraine running low on both weapons and new recruits, and with more U.S. funding stalled in Congress, we host a discussion on the future of the conflict with peace activist Medea Benjamin of CodePink and Oberlin professor Stephen

Crowley, an expert on Russian and Eastern European politics. While both agree on the need to end the war, Crowley says the \$60 billion U.S. funding package should be passed in order to give Ukraine a stronger negotiating position. “The only reason to fund Ukraine right now is to get both sides to the negotiating table to end this war,” he says. Benjamin, however, says more funding will inevitably be used to continue the fighting.

Monday, March 25, 3pm. Duration, 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! World Ignores Sudan Hunger Crisis; 230,000 Children and Mothers Could Die in Coming Months

Sudan is on track to become the world’s worst hunger crisis, according to the United Nations. For over a year, fighting between the Sudanese military and the rival Rapid Support Forces has disrupted the country, displacing over 8 million people who experience extreme hunger in the areas with the most intense fighting. The increasing demand comes as the U.N.’s appeal for \$2.7 billion for Sudan is less than 5% funded. Funding is also drying up in Chad, where some 1.2 million Sudanese have taken refuge.

Saturday, February 10, 3pm. Duration 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Collaborative Strategies in Fighting Human Trafficking and Supporting the Survivors

Antonia Lavine, Director, San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and 24/7 Bay Area Hotline for Survivors and Community, in conversation with Patrick O’Reilly
Chair, Psychology Member-led Forum, Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California.

Israel and Palestine War

Tuesday, January 2, 3pm. Duration, 43 minutes.

Democracy Now! South Africa Files Case Against Israel at International Court of Justice over “Genocidal” War on Gaza

South Africa has filed a case at the main judicial body for the United Nations, the International Court of Justice in The Hague, accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. “I believe South Africa will win an order against Israel to cease and desist from committing all acts of genocide against the Palestinians,” says Francis Boyle, an international human rights lawyer who won two requests at the ICJ under the Genocide Convention of 1948 for provisional protection on behalf of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina against Yugoslavia. Boyle says Israel has a history of listening to the United States’ orders to stop its assaults on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Thursday, March 7, 3pm. Duration, 50 minutes.

Democracy Now! Biden Admin Quietly Approves 100+ Arms Sales to Israel While Claiming Concern for Civilians in Gaza

While the Biden administration has been publicly voicing reservations over the mounting death toll in Gaza, a *Washington Post* investigation revealed the administration has quietly approved and delivered more than 100 separate weapons sales to Israel over the last five months, amounting to thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker busters and other lethal aid. Only two approved foreign military sales to Israel have been made public since the launch of Israel's assault on October 7, which the Biden administration approved using emergency authority to bypass Congress.

Friday, March 29, 3pm. Duration, 30 minutes.

Democracy Now! Protesters Disrupt Record \$25 Million Biden Fundraiser in NYC as Thousands March Against Gaza War

Pro-Palestine protesters disrupted the largest one-night fundraiser in presidential campaign history on Thursday. The event at Radio City Music Hall in New York City included numerous celebrities and featured President Biden alongside former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, raising a record \$25 million for Biden's reelection campaign. The main event was an onstage conversation with the three U.S. presidents moderated by late-night talk show host Stephen Colbert, but people began disrupting it just 10 minutes into their conversation, as Biden was talking, with protesters calling on the president to stop arming Israel and to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza.