

**WMBR 88.1 FM**  
**QUARTERLY ISSUES & COMMUNITY ASCERTAINMENT**  
**1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER / January 1 – March 31, 2020**

The following is a list, of issues, the management, of WMBR Radio, has determined to be of significant importance, to the citizens of Cambridge and the Greater Boston Area of Massachusetts. Each issue was treated through the station's most significant issue-responsive programming and community activities, during the reporting period.

**“Radio with a View” - Sunday, 10am – Noon**

**“The WMBR News” – Monday – Friday, 5:30pm – 6:00pm**

**“Bike Talk” – Alternate Wednesdays, 7pm – 8pm**

**“Founder’s Couch” – Alternating Fridays, 7pm – 8pm**

**“What’s Left” – Fridays – 8pm – 9pm**

**BUSINESS**

**PROGRAM:** Founder’s Couch  
**HOST:** Chelsea Watanabe  
**GUEST:** Kat Huang/”Science for Us”owner  
**TOPIC:** Student Entrepreneurship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Aired:** Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

Ms. Huang, an undergrad MIT student and has a non-profit organization, “Science for Us”, which provides science communication workshops and hackathon opportunities, to high schoolers, across the United States. She talked about the growing importance, of science communication especially, at a school where technology/research are so heavily emphasized.

**PROGRAM:** Founder’s Couch  
**HOST:** Chelsea Watanabe  
**TOPIC:** Student Entrepreneurship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Aired:** Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

I interviewed an MIT student, who didn’t want her name disclosed, about her startup business called Hint, which is an assistive Artificial Intelligence (AI) writing service. We talked about the growing emphasis on computing and the broadening applications of AI in various humanities

fields. We also talked about MIT's role in advancing computer science as a tool for technological innovation.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc Stern  
**GUEST:** Jimmy Tingle/comedian/activist/politician  
**TOPIC:** Humor and Performers in the Covid-19 Crisis  
**AIRED:** Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

The host, Marc Stern, spoke to Mr. Tingle and asked his opinion about the effect of Covid-19 on him and other performers. Mr. Tingle discussed how he will approach the loss of all public shows and his efforts to move work online. He talked about the need for humor during this period and how people have to think about the right limits in the moment.

## **HOUSING**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc Stern  
**GUEST:** Helen Marshall of City Live/Vida Urbana  
**TOPIC:** Evictions and Coronavirus  
**AIRED:** Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Ms. Marshall talked about the issues of evictions during the covid-19 crisis. She noted that the housing court has called for a suspension of new evictions but evictions, previously approved, may still go on. Ms. Marshall discussed and supported Massachusetts State Representative Mike Connolly's bill, suspending all evictions. She talked about the reintroduction of bills allowing rent control to be recreated in Massachusetts. Ms. Marshall noted the opposition of a major Cambridge landlords' organization. Finally, she discussed emergency services available to those still facing eviction or foreclosure.

## **LABOR**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern  
**GUEST:** David Goodman/WMBR Nightly News Reporter  
**TOPIC:** Evictions and Coronavirus AT&T  
**Aired:** Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 20 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Goodman discussed an article on labor negotiations at ATT while the firm did \$3 billion in stock buybacks. We discussed the impact of both hedge funds and the 2017 tax 'reform' that encouraged both stock purchases by hedge funds and senior managers and the repatriation of profits from overseas that encouraged both high dividends and stock buybacks. All this is happening while the firm is stonewalling negotiations with CWA workers and while the market, itself, is falling. Mr. Goodman noted the work of author William Lazonick, in terms of value extraction and the impact on the economy during a time of instability in terms of health and the global economy.

## **MILITARY**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**GUESTS:** Susan Hackley and Martha Jackson/film producers  
**TOPIC:** Local Filmmakers Documentary on Children of Veterans  
**Aired:** Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
**DURATION:** 25 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

I spoke to Ms. Hackley and Ms. Jackson, the producers of the new documentary film, "Veteran Children: When Parents Go to War". The film explores the impacts of war, on America's children and families and how to communicate the reality, of military life, to the vast majority of the public who haven't experienced any military involvement, in their lives. They, also, discussed why they made the film and what they hope viewers will learn.

## **POLITICS**

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** The New Hampshire Primary  
**Aired:** Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

I conducted interviews with reporters, from the Weekly Dig newspaper, Boston's alternative weekly. These reporters were in Manchester, New Hampshire, to cover the NH Democratic Primary. They discussed how members, of the public, had direct access to the candidates in NH, how the mainstream media cover the primaries and how the alternative media take a different perspective, on the national political news, focusing on local issues and other concerns, that aren't addressed in the national press.

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**GUEST:** Dave Goodman/WMBR News Producer  
**TOPIC:** The New Hampshire Primary  
**Aired:** Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

I talked to Mr. Goodman, who was in Manchester, New Hampshire, covering the NH Democratic Primary. He discussed how the mainstream media covered the primary and how the alternative media took a different perspective. He played clips of interviews he did with social justice activists in New Hampshire.

## **RACE**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern  
**GUEST:** Rich Cahan/photo journalist  
**TOPIC:** Slavery and Race  
**Aired:** Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 40 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

I spoke with Mr. Cahan, who co-authored a new book, "River of Blood" with Michael Williams of the new book, River of Blood. It features photos and interviews, with former slaves, in America. In 1937-38, WPA workers interviewed thousands, of aged former slaves, in the south and photographed hundreds. Pairing photos and interviews, "River of Blood" brings these people and their experiences, who were enslaved, to life, with pairing photos with the interviews. It also looks at early years of freedom and repression by the Ku Klux Klan. Cahan notes the dignity of these people presented in the photos, who often posed with their tools or possessions. He emphasized the need to understand these experiences, in relation to the debate on reparations, taking place today.

**PROGRAM:** Bike Talk  
**HOST:** Galen Mook  
**TOPIC:** How People of Color Navigate Streets on Bicycles  
**Aired:** Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

“Bike Talk” had co-hosts Gamal Smith, Michelle Cook, Maurice Thomas, and "Moose", in studio, to discuss how they manage to ride around the greater Boston/Cambridge area. They talked about how they organize group rides, specific to people of color and challenges they faced due to racism and prejudice, in the world. One specific point was about clothing and skin care, specific to black people. We discussed the successes and challenges of the "wheelie kids" who ride around in groups, for recreation yet, are breaking laws; how that is viewed by law enforcement and others in our society.

## **SAFETY/BICYCLES**

**PROGRAM:** Bike Talk  
**HOST:** Galen Mook  
**GUEST:** Lilly Worth  
**TOPIC:** Bicyclists Night Riding Without Lights  
**Aired:** Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**DURATION:** 20 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

Ms. Worth volunteers to hand out lights, to cyclists, who are riding without them, at night. I asked her questions about the legal requirements, of lights, at night and how she engages with the public out on the streets. I asked her how law enforcement practices, may be changed, to facilitate a safer and more equitable engagement, of people riding bikes, to make sure they have lights on, at night.

**PROGRAM:** Bike Talk  
**HOST:** Galen Mook  
**GUESTS:** Gamal Smith and Jessica Robertson  
**TOPIC:** Bus/Bike Lane Infrastructure  
**Aired:** Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**DURATION:** 15 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

Ms. Smith and Ms. Robertson debated the benefits and concerns, with road infrastructure, that allocates lanes on the roadway, to be shared, by both buses and cyclists. Whether buses and bikes know how to navigate around each other, how education can help out, and the pushback from

cities and towns based on feedback from residents. This is extra important in Cambridge, around MIT, where the street has recently been redesigned in this way.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**GUEST:** Zoe Kooyman/Free Software Foundation  
**TOPIC:** Computer Technology and Social Justice  
**AIRED:** Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 25 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

I spoke to Ms. Zoe Kooyman, a program manager of the Free Software Foundation, a Boston-based, international nonprofit organization that promotes social justice in the use of computer technology. She discussed their conference, scheduled to be held, in Boston, on March 14 and 15 but, was canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. She talked about the issues that would have been addressed at their event, such as free software, digital rights, and online communities.

## **VOTING**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc Stern and Dave Goodman  
**GUEST:** Thom Hartman/author "The War on Voting"  
**TOPIC:** Vote Manipulation and Election Stealing  
**AIRED:** Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

We spoke with Mr. Hartmann, who's a radio host and analyst, about his new book. He provided a historical analysis and a keen sense of how this process, of voting, is taking place today. Hartmann focused on the intentional purging of minority voters, from voting rolls and the use of never-counted provisional ballots. This is especially a tactic of GOP legislatures around the United States. It has given us the GOP dominance, of the Senate, the Trump presidency and appears poised to replicate those distortions, of popular electoral will.

## **WORLD AFFAIRS**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOSTs:** Marc J. Stern and Dave Goodman  
**GUEST:** Dr. Joseph Gerson  
**TOPIC:** Response and Future Following Iranian general Assassination  
**Aired:** Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Dr. Gerson, who is the President of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, talked about the assassination of General Suliemanie. He noted the imperative. of a broad-based non-sectarian coalition. to short-circuit the drive to war and noted the implications, of the historical conflicts, between the United States and Iran. Finally, he discussed the international isolation, of the US and how US policy fit in relation to both the 2020 election and impeachment.

## **COMMUNITY ISSUE**

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Dave Goodman  
**TOPIC:** The Passing of Chuck Turner/Local Activist/Politician  
**Aired:** Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**DURATION:** 30 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

We talked about Chuck Turner, veteran activist and politician, who recently died, at age 79. He tackled housing and pay equity, advocated for majority minority neighborhoods and stood up for marginalized communities. The WMBR News reporting included clips from interviews conducted, in 2018, 1978 and several in-between. Based on the Mayor of Boston's State of the City address recently, it looks as though many of Turner's campaigns will bear fruit, despite his not being around to see them through.