

events that would otherwise be neglected or buried by corporate media.

Race relations, the death penalty, Women's issues, Environmental degradation, the privatization of prisons, Native American issues, censorship, religious fundamentalism, corporate and military pollution, police profiling and brutality, political corruption, gay/lesbian/bisexual issues, peace activism, HIV/AIDS activism, drug policy reform and many other social and economic issues in this state need to be thoroughly covered. If we can't rely on the media corporations to provide people with the information they need, someone else must. That's where an Oklahoma IMC comes into the picture, and that's why we need your help.

How Can I Help?

The network of independent media centers is completely non-profit, financed entirely by donations, and run by hundreds of volunteers. There is a significant amount of work a local IMC needs to do before it can become part of the global network. Before and after becoming a full-fledged IMC, we need reporters, photographers, graphic artists organizational people, techies, and people willing to do outreach and fundraising. If You don't have any experience in any of these areas, don't worry. An enthusiastic desire to make a difference and an interest in independent media is all you need to make a positive contribution to the IMC.

The OK IMC website operates on the principle of "open publishing," the idea that anyone can make media by contributing their news, and announcements and commentary to the Newswire. Just log on to www.okimc.org and click the link that says "post and article". You can enter your article text and upload photos, audio, and even video. The site also features a Media Gallery, if you just want to add a photo, audio clip, etc. Another section of the site is the "Other press" this allows people to add summaries and links to interesting and relevant stories on other websites.

www.okimc.org is not just a website, it is a group of people eager to "Be the Media". We hope to state other projects like a printing publication, a video project, how-to work shops, and more. If you are interested, please take a look at the websites listed on the next page for more information.

Log on and post your article, commentary, photos, video, or audio today!

Oklahoma Independent Media Center

OKC Contact: revjack@ifairtade.net or
jmb@jmbzine.com
State: chris@urbandiscourse.com
Global site www.indymedia.org
Local site: www.okimc.org



o k l a h o m a
independent
media center

*Don't hate the media,
become the Media!*

Next Meeting:

Location: Belle Isle Library Conf. Room

Purpose: Informational and Networking

Date: Saturday, May 24, 2003

Time: 1-2pm

OKIMC.ORG

The Oklahoma Independent Media Center is an outlet for underreported news and opinions in Oklahoma. We will serve as an alternative to the corporate-owned media which dominates local news. In this underserved and unorganized region, we will seek to promote and support the efforts of local individuals and organizations working towards a better world. In doing so we will help build a strong, informed community dedicated to progressive social change.

The Independent Media Center is a network of collectively run media outlets for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of the truth. We work out of a love and inspiration for people who continue to work for a better world, despite corporate media's distortions and unwillingness to cover the efforts to free humanity.



History

The Independent Media Center www.indymedia.org, was established by various independent and alternative media organizations and activists in 1999 for the purpose of providing grassroots coverage of the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle. The center acted as a clearinghouse of information for journalists, and provided up-to-the-minute reports, photos, audio and video foot-

age through its website. Using the collected footage, the Seattle Independent Media Center (seattle.indymedia.org) produced a series of five documentaries, uplinked every day to satellite and distributed throughout the United States to public access stations.

The global center also produced its own newspaper, distributed throughout Seattle and to other cities via the internet, as well as hundreds of audio segments, transmitted through the web and Studio X, a 24-hour micro and internet radio station based in Seattle. The site, which uses a democratic open-publishing system, logged more than 2 million hits, and was featured on America Online, Yahoo, CNN, BBC Online, and numerous other sites. Through a decentralized and autonomous network, hundreds of media activists setup independent media centers in London, Canada, Mexico City, Prague, Belgium, France, and Italy over the years. IMCs have since been es-



Spiritual Walk for Peace, Anti-War protest April 20, 2003

established on every continent, with more to come currently there are . And now Oklahoma has finally has an Independent Media Center www.okimc.org)

Why does Oklahoma need an IMC?

With the conservative political environment in Oklahoma, it is not surprising that many significant stories and issues important to Oklahomans are unreported, undercovered, or skewed by the mainstream media. A non-profit independent media outlet in Oklahoma would bring attention to stories, issues, and



"The Guardian" by Kelly Haney