

April 2011

**Dear KPFA Colleagues,**

*We're writing to let you know about some very serious choices facing KPFA in the next week.*

On April 28th, Morning Show co-host **Aimee Allison's** grievance over her termination is scheduled to go to arbitration. Pacifica management has hired the \$400/hour law firm Folger Levin to represent it. Pacifica will be charged \$500/hour by the arbitrator just to hear the case. But the bills will be sent to KPFA.

We know that Pacifica already spent more than \$32,000 of KPFA's money on Folger Levin before it conceded **Brian Edwards-Tiekert's** grievance and returned him to work. As nearly every union member at KPFA is part-time, this is more than most of us earn in a year.

Now, Pacifica is poised to do it again.

***This is a lose-lose proposition.*** If our union wins at arbitration, Pacifica still will have wasted the equivalent of someone's annual salary defending an action it never should have taken in the first place. If Pacifica wins, KPFA is stuck without its biggest fundraiser—and, soon enough, it will be laying off more of the staff who keep the station running.

Here's the calculus: *The Morning Show* accounted for one out of every four dollars that came in to KPFA during pledge drives. In our most recent fund drive, every hour of KPFA's schedule changed by Pacifica – 6 AM, 7 AM, and 8 AM – raised considerably less than before. In addition, fundraising dropped significantly during the 9 AM broadcast of *Democracy Now!* The drop in 9 AM fundraising was a predictable consequence of moving the first airing of *Democracy Now!* up to 7 AM, where it essentially depletes some of the 9 AM audience. In total, morning pledges dropped nearly \$140,000 from the 2010 Winter fund drive.

If we extend that gap over a year's worth of fundraising, translate it into cuts, and work up working from the bottom of KPFA's seniority list, here's what we could get: **John Hamilton** and **Brian Edwards-Tiekert** would be out (again). So would **Laura Prives**. *Flashpoints* would lose **Eric Klein** and **Miguel Molina**. *Letters and Politics* would come to an end: **Mitch Jeserich** would be out. (Since Mitch is currently KPFA's biggest fundraiser, that could trigger still more cuts.) There'd be no-one updating KPFA's

website--**Miguel Guerrero** would be gone. So would **Chris Stehlik** – which means there would be no-one to actually bill KPFA's subscribers for the pledges they make . . . If management decided keeping a website and a membership database were indispensable, Chris and Miguel might keep their jobs – but KPFA would lose its state capitol reporter, **Christopher Martinez**, and the only paid staffer left running its Apprenticeship program, **Mickey Mayzes**.

There's no way to continue down that path, and preserve KPFA as we know it.

***But there is an alternative: Pacifica management could work with KPFA's staff and listeners, instead of against us.*** When John Hamilton got a layoff notice, five union members and one manager willingly sacrificed some of their own pay to keep him funded – that's problem-solving. When Pacifica announced it was cutting *The Morning Show* purely for financial reasons, SaveKPFA raised over \$63,000 in pledges from people willing to give extra to KPFA to bring *The Morning Show* back. That money's still on the table.

Pacifica management could concede Aimee's case right now, and welcome her back to the air. The SaveKPFA pledges would pay her salary, and benefits, and then some. Pacifica would save the listener money that's about to go to overpaid lawyers. And it could put *The Morning Show* back to work raising money for the rest of KPFA.

***Between now and April 28th, we have to convince the powers that be that management should be working with KPFA's staff and listeners to bring Aimee back, not fighting to keep her away.*** Please, talk to whomever you can in KPFA and Pacifica management, and ask them to work this out instead of fighting it out.

In solidarity,

Aileen Alfandary, News Dept. Co-Director  
Phil Osegueda, Subscriptions Director  
Chris Stehlik, Database Manager