MAIN 2.0

Next Generation Community Network

Pack Library

February 23, 2009

MAIN Board of Directors
Approved by unanimous vote
Jan. 6, 2009

In Memoriam: Steve Snow, founder of Charlotte's Web

Our Historical Moment -- The Peril

- * The greatest economic crisis of our lifetimes
- * Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- * Unprecedented threats to our civil liberties
- * Global warming
- * The collapse of journalism

Recent Newspaper Bankruptcies

The Tribune Company:

Los Angeles Times

Chicago Tribune

Baltimore Sun, et al

Former Knight-Ridder & McLatchy-owned:

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia Daily News

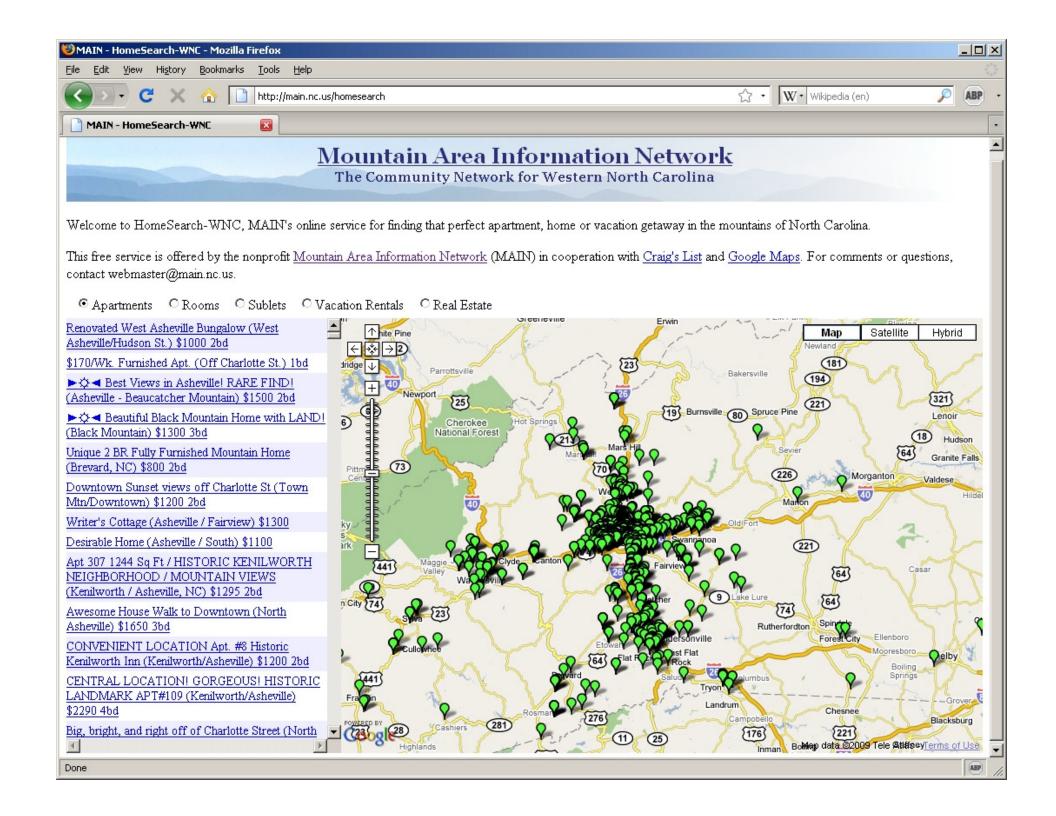
Our Historical Moment -- The Potential

- * New progressive era
- * Rising 'green' consciousness
- * Progressive social-change in WNC
- * Serious media reform movement
- * Creating a more democratic journalism
- * New business model for journalism

Web 2.0

"Web 2.0" is the popular term for advanced Internet technology and applications including:

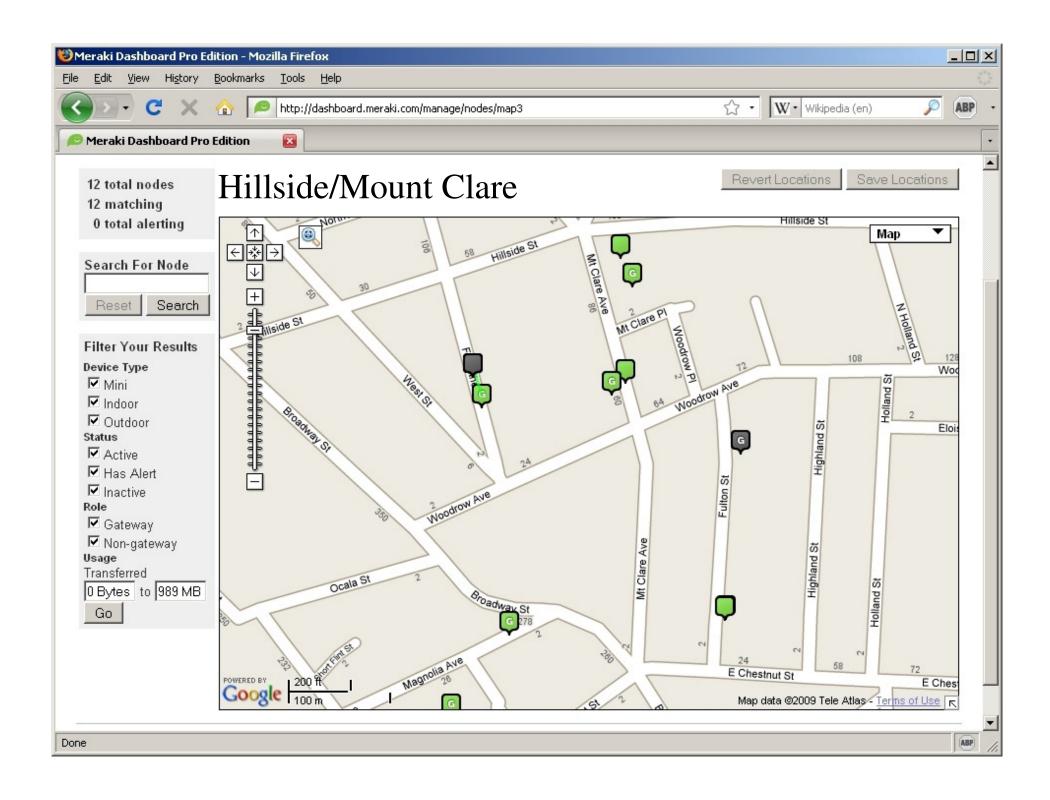
- * Blogs
- * Wikis
- * RSS feeds
- * Mash-ups
- * Social networking
- * Text messaging (SMS)



MAIN's

"Asheville: Wi-Fi City"

Proposal passed unanimously by Asheville City Council March 25, 2008







Wi-Fi Neighborhoods

Ivy St./UNCA

Max St./S. Charlotte

Lenior St./Kenilworth

Haywood Rd./Westwood

Haywood Rd./Sandhill Rd.

Biltmore Ave./Charlotte St.

Joyner Ave./Riverview

Fairview Road/4 th Street

Montford

Mount Clare

Public Service Building/Wall Street

New Wireless Rates

Installation: \$99

Site check: \$50

Wi-Fi Access: No site visit, no installation charge.

Broadband Stimulus Request

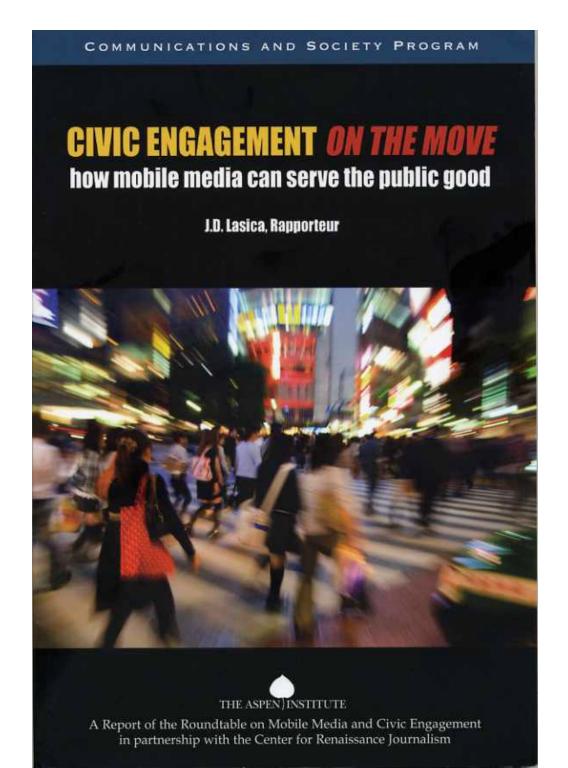
Asheville-Buncombe: \$1.4 million

Spring Creek: \$250,000

Madison-Yancey-Mitchell: \$175,000

'White Spaces' Victory at FCC

- * MAIN will soon be a **mobile** broadband provider
- * Greatly expanded coverage with much greater speeds
- * WS technology capable of high-definition video
- * MAIN will be a platform for local innovation and 2.0 apps
- * Potential for much greater revenue





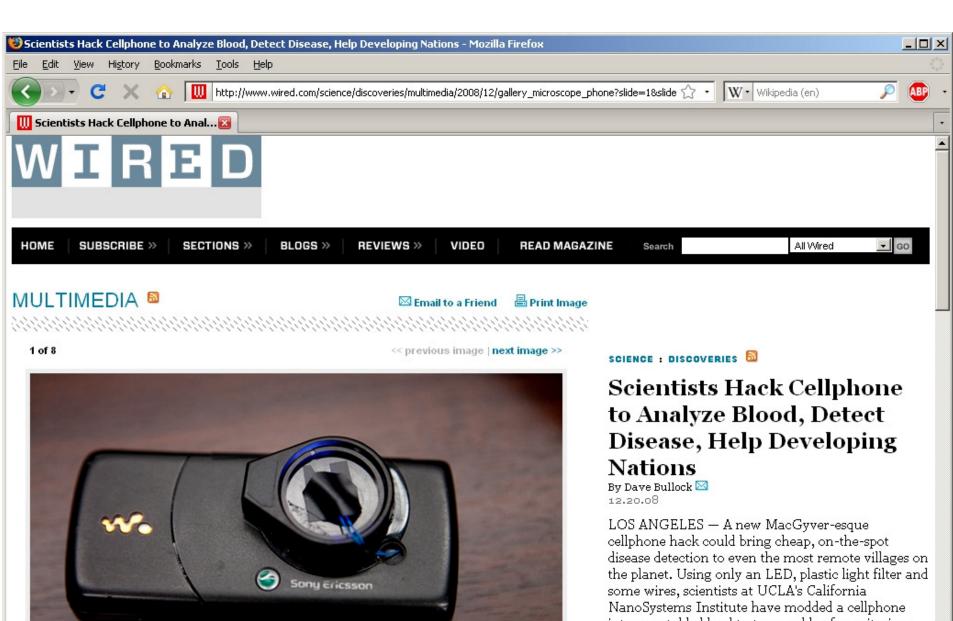
MOBILIZING Generation

2.0

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO USING WEB2.0

TECHNOLOGIES TO RECRUIT, ORGANIZE & ENGAGE YOUTH

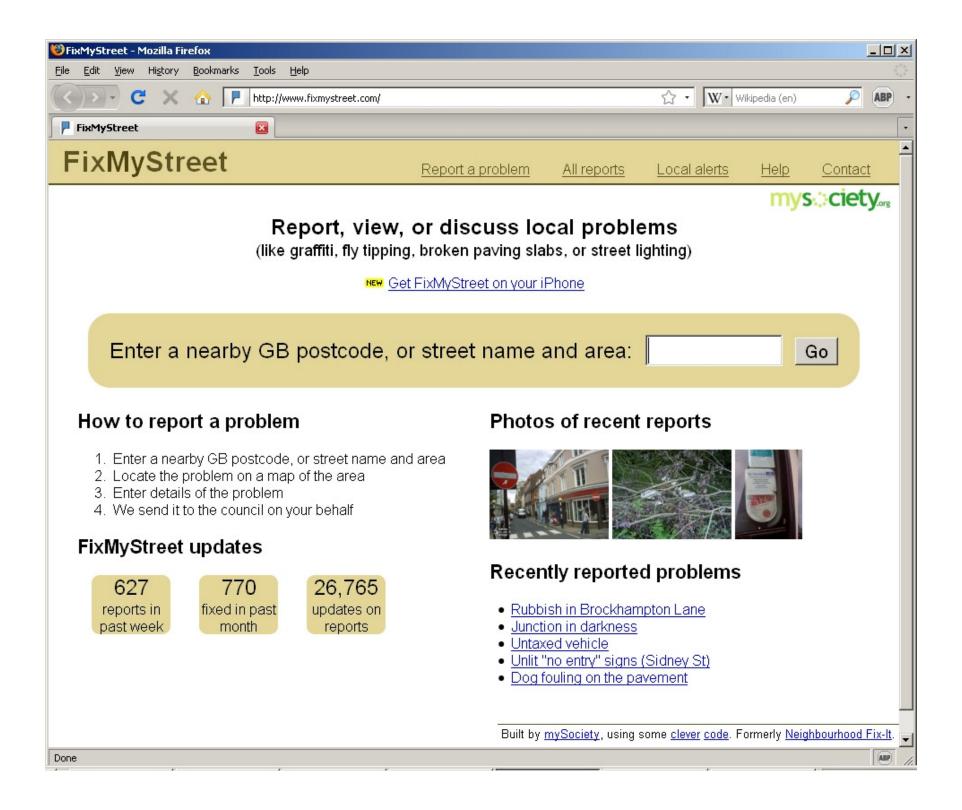
BEN RIGBY



into a portable blood tester capable of monitoring HIV, malaria, leukemia and detecting diseases.

Blood tests today require either refrigerator-sized machines that cost tens of thousands of dollars or a trained technician who manually identifies and counts cells under a microscope. These systems are slow, expensive and require dedicated labs to function. And soon they could be a thing of the past.





The Future of Community Radio

by Greg Guma,

Maverick Media (16 April 2008)?

Will audiences keep tuning in to radio if the information and music they want can be more easily accessed by other means? Can FM compete with the quality and reliability of new portable devices? . . .

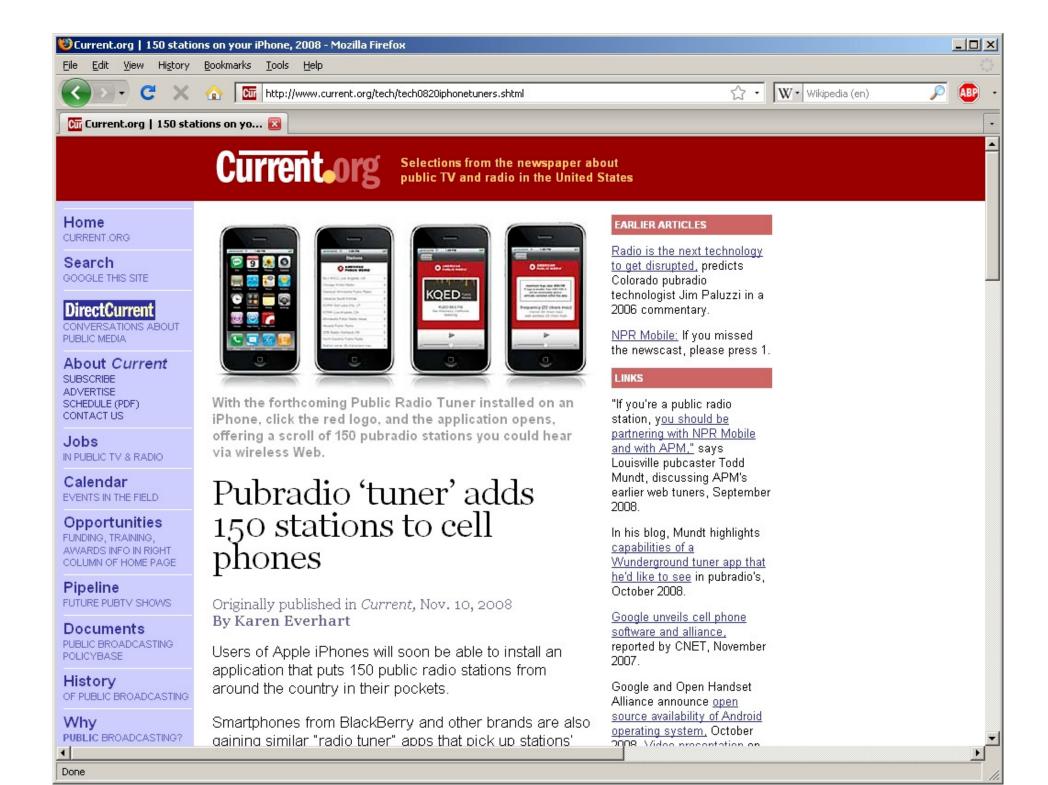
At the moment blogs are undermining newspapers, DVRs and TiVo are allowing viewers to skip commercials and time-shift the viewing of their preferred shows, and iPods are revolutionizing the way we access and consume music.

... broadcasters need to open themselves to the inevitable convergence with new media and the Internet.

"Radio is next to get disrupted"

Six years ago, the Public Radio Satellite System convened a Great Minds conference in Seattle. Public radio leaders gathered with the brightest people they could find to explore where technology might take us later in this decade. . . . Telecom consultant Mark Anderson . . . confidently declared, everybody would carry a single broadband phone/radio/computer capable of receiving 3 megabits to the hip where we presumably would wear the things. . . .

"Current.org" Sept. 11, 2006



From Community Radio to a New Media Model

The template for "community radio" in the U.S. is 50 years old (KPFA, 1949).

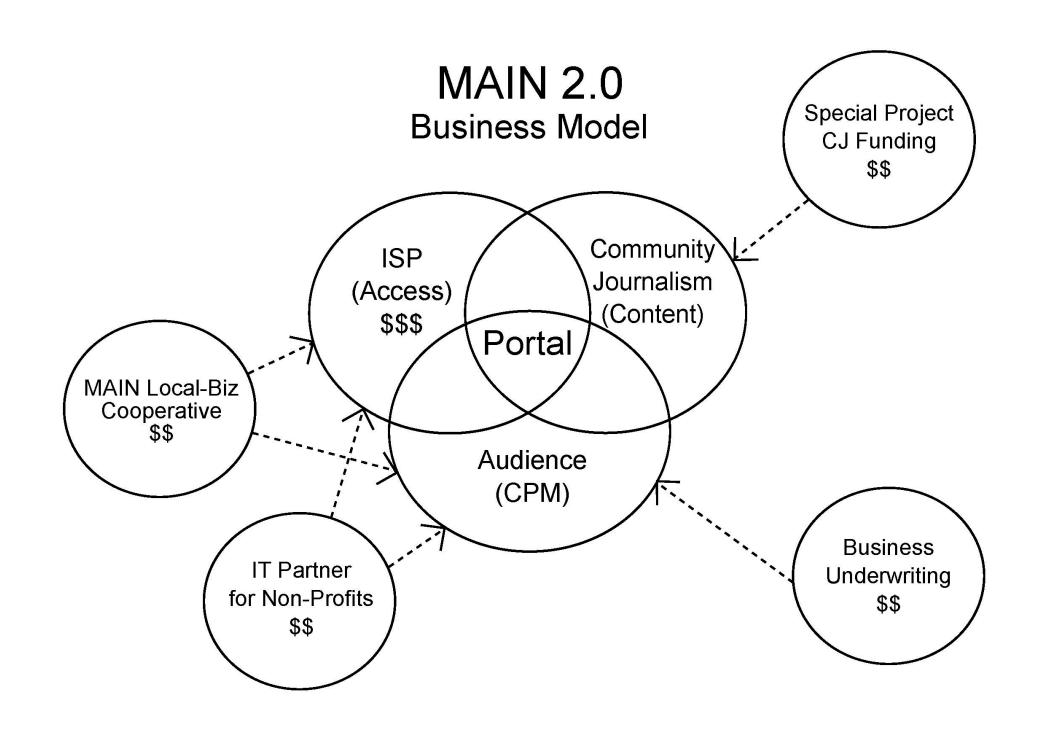
MAIN's community media template is entirely original.

We're doing something that has never been done before.

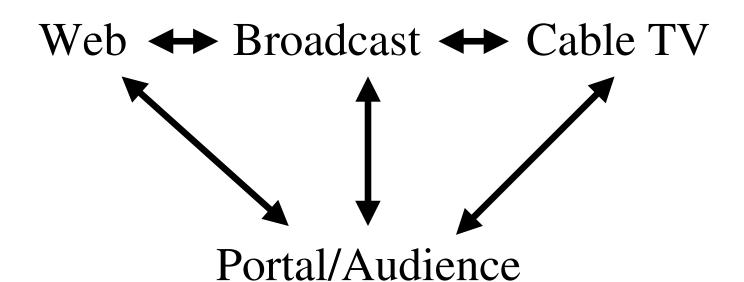
Breakdown ==> Breakthrough

A New Business Model for Journalism

- 1. A nonprofit ISP for sustainable revenue
- 2. Controlling our own infrastructure using licensed spectrum (LPFM, 3.65 GHz) and unlicensed spectrum (900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz, 'white spaces')?
- 3. Creating/delivering content -- and **reaching a larger audience** -- over our own media infrastructure (broadband Internet, radio and public access TV)?
- 4. Breaking corporate advertising's stranglehold on journalism
- 5. Controlling our own destiny.



Building Audience Via Cross-Platform Synergy



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Risks: Group Polarization

- * Collaborative filtering
- * Prior assumptions strengthened
- * Shrinking argument pool
- * Contrarian views self-censored
- * Self-reinforcing views devolve to extremism

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Opportunities: Mechanisms of Collective Intelligence

Challenge: How do we aggregate disbursed knowledge for the benefit of society?

- * Crowd-sourcing
- * Aggregating niche experts
- * Architecture of serendipity
- * Encountering info we need . . . but were not seeking.



Republic.com 2.0

Revenge of the Blogs

In a democracy, people do not live in echo chambers or information cocoons. They see and hear a wide range of topics and ideas. They do so even if they did not, and would not, choose to see and to hear those topics and those ideas in advance. These claims raise serious questions about certain uses of new technologies, above all the Internet, and about the astonishing growth in the power to choose—to screen in and to some out.

Louis Brandeix, one of America's greatest Supreme Court justices, insisted that the greatest threat to freedom is "an inert people." To avoid inertness, a democratic public must certainly be free from ceasorship. But the system of free expression must do far more than avoid ceasorship; it must ensure that people are exposed to competing perspectives. The idea of free speech has an affirmative side. It imposes constraints on what government may do, but it requires a certain kind of culture as well. (George Greedl's Nineteen Eighty Four, with its committee vision of democracy's defeat, a more subtle vision is Adous Huxley's Brave New World, with its pacified, choice-happy, formally free citizenry.) Members of a democratic public will not do well if they are unable to appreciate the views of their fellow citizens, or if they see one another as enumies or adversaries in some kind of war.

I was greatly surprised by the reception of the original edition of this book. I certainly did not expect the argument to prove so controversial—that so away people would be so outraged by the effort to ask some questions about the consequences of the



ABOUT ME

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Cass Sunstein is the
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After the Rights Revolution,
Proc Markets and Social
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Supreme Goort, and, with
Stephen Helmen, The Cast of

"How the Rise of the 'Daily Me' Threatens Democracy"

by Cass Sunstein, Financial Times (11 January 2008)?

Journalism's shift to the Web increases risk of "information cocoons"

Challenge: How do we create an "**architecture of serendipity**" where we are exposed to information out of our comfort zone?

"Journalism: Looking Backward, Going Forward"

by Robert W. McChesney, Hedgehog Review (UVA Press, Summer 2008)?

"One concern generally under-discussed is how the Internet allows Americans to construct a **personalized media world** where they share common experiences with fewer and fewer of their fellow citizens. . . .

"This may be a form of 'freedom' for the individual, but it exacts what may be a high social cost . . . a withering of the experiences that provide the bonds that make us understand that we are all in this together."

"Journalism: Looking Backward, Going Forward"

by Robert W. McChesney, Hedgehog Review (UVA Press, Summer 2008)?

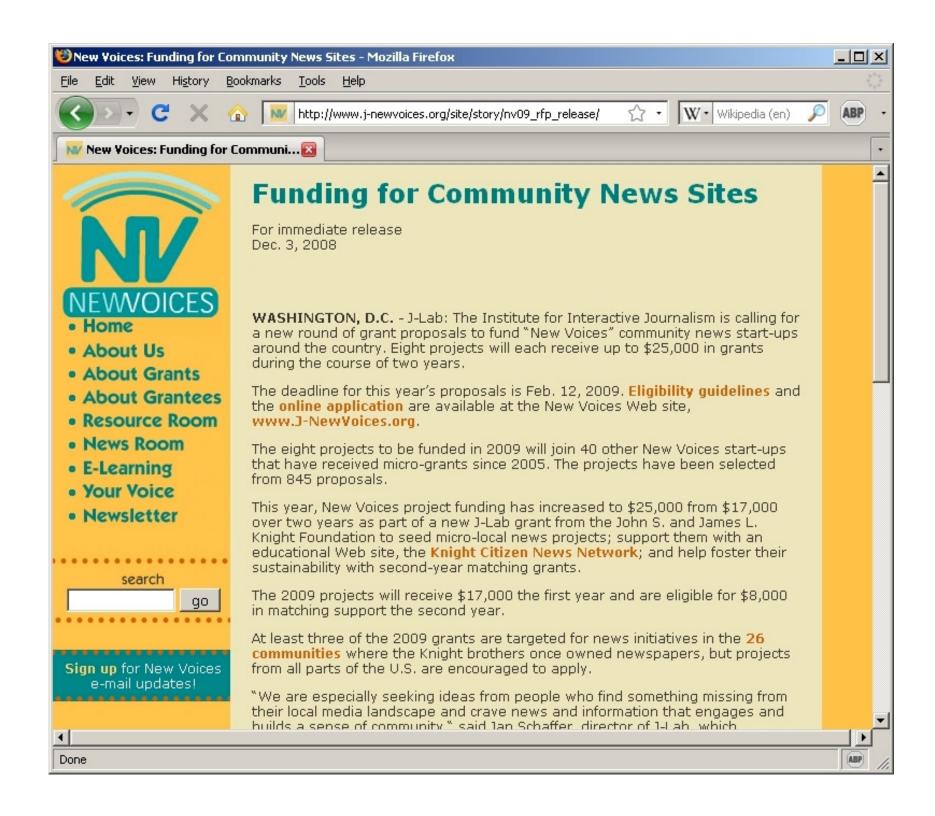
Madison and Jefferson saw fundamental difference between "free speech" and "free press" protections.

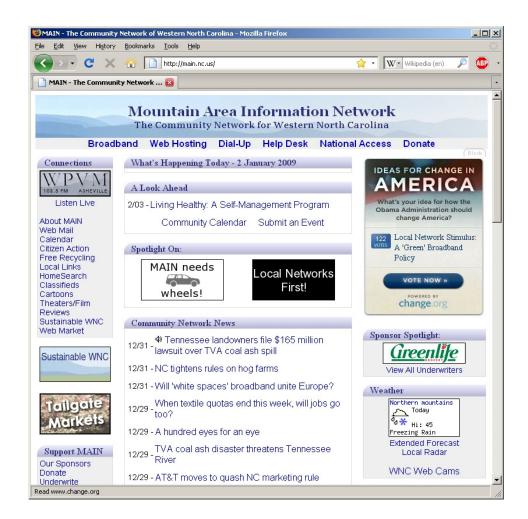
- * We can lose our democracy but retain freedom of speech.
- * To keep our democracy, we **MUST** have a free press.
- * Only a free press can hold government and corporate power accountable.
- * MAIN is fundamentally a free press organization.

MAIN 2.0 and Community Journalism

Competitive Advantages:

- 1. The ability to deliver content and aggregate audience over multiple platforms:
- * Streaming, radio, URTV, and podcasts (mobile broadband)?
- 2. The ability to sustain the project via ISP revenue
- * We have a business model
- 3. "Social production of journalism"
- * Social networking viability: regional footprint, name recognition, and existing audiences.







Community Network Advisory Council (CNAC)?

- 1. Representatives of key progressive nonprofits
- 2. Help guide social networking and community journalism
- 3. Guide partnership 'platform apps' (public health surveys, air/water/soil testing, 'green' apps, GIS mapping, ride-share, energy conservation, etc)?
- 4. WNC Alliance, Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods, Canary Coalition, Clean Water-NC, Pathways for the Future, Just Economics, Center for Participatory Change, COLA, ASAP, Green Building Council, etc.

DIGITAL MEDIA AND LEARNING COMPETITION



"Wi-Fi City" Powered: Neighborhood-Based Learning and Community Media Centers

Wally Bowen
Executive Director

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"The term **solving for pattern** was coined by Wendell Berry, and refers to a solution that addresses multiple problems instead of one. Solving for pattern arises naturally when one perceives problems as symptoms of systemic failure . . ." Paul Hawken, <u>Blessed Unrest</u>

"Solving for Pattern" is an essay in Wendell Berry's 1981 collection, <u>The Gift of Good Land</u>.

Volunteer Opportunities

- * Social networking web development
- * Community Journalism
- * Marketing and messaging
- * Coordinator for volunteers
- * WPVM Tech Support
- * Business model research

Developing Volunteer Community

- * In-take process
- * Orientation
- * Clearly defined roles
- * Volunteer bill of rights
- * Grievance process

MAIN 2.0 Working Groups

- 1. Social Networking and Website Re-design
- 2. Community Journalism
- 3. CNAC/Partnership "Platform Apps"
- 4. Marketing and Messaging
- 5. Developing Volunteer Community
- 6. Business Model Development
- 7. White Spaces Network Planning

"When we have one thing on our mind, we cannot solve for pattern. . .

We can, however, take pride in how focused, determined and clear

we are with one thing on our mind. . . .

"When we solve for pattern, we are getting help on the inside. We've connected to that place where inspirations, intuitions and imaginative innovations come from. We cannot handle what comes to mind in a logical sequence, but we can capture it with a diagram or other imagery."

Tom Haskins on "Solving for Pattern"

MAIN 2.0 -- Going where no community has gone before!