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Contact:

Matt Toups 412-683-2071 *mtoups@indymedia.org*
Andalusia Knoll 412-281-3468 *radio@indypgh.org*

More information and show archives:
http://radio.indypgh.org

Pittsburgh Indymedia's Rustbelt Radio expands to weekly schedule and is picked up by WVJW in West Virginia

Rustbelt Radio, the **Pittsburgh Independent Media Center**'s review of news from the grassroots overlooked by the corporate media, is pleased to announce a weekly schedule for Spring 2005. Previously a bi-weekly program, Rustbelt is expanding to a weekly broadcast on a new day. Every Monday from 6-7pm the show will air live on **WRCT 88.3FM** in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

Rustbelt Radio is also excited to announce that starting this year the show will be aired by a second radio station, **WVJW-Benwood** 94.1FM in the **Wheeling**, West Virginia metropolitan area. It will air every Saturday from 5-6pm.

Rustbelt Radio started broadcasting in May 2004 and aims to cover issues important to activists and communities which are under-served in the mainstream media. Like other collectives within the Pittsburgh Independent Media Center, Rustbelt Radio is collaboratively produced and is open to volunteers. Andalusia Knoll, a Rustbelt volunteer host and producer, said, "We try to highlight the voices that go unheard in the mainstream corporate news."

Bryan French, General Manager of WVJW said, “Free from corporate and government influences, Rustbelt Radio goes beyond catchy sound bites and blurred headlines to fully inform the listener.”

Rustbelt Radio is a project of the Pittsburgh Independent Media Center (IMC). The Pittsburgh IMC, also known as Indymedia, has been active in the area since Spring 2002, providing grassroots community-based, non-corporate, participatory media. Pittsburgh IMC is a member of the global Indymedia network, formed in Seattle in 1999 and now with local collectives in over 120 cities on six continents.

WRCT and WVJW are both members of the **Pacifica** radio network. Pacifica, a 50 year old network of independent community radio stations around the US, is the nation's fastest growing independent radio network, beholden neither to the government nor any corporation. Both stations air Pacifica's popular national morning news program, "Democracy Now!", hosted by **Amy Goodman** and **Juan Gonzalez**.

WVJW is the Wheeling area's only locally owned and operated community/public radio station. Unlike today’s consolidated media, the staff and management believe strongly in serving the public interest as a steward of the public airwaves. Since its first broadcast 3 years ago, WVJW has aired an assortment of news, public affairs, and music from struggling artists unable to obtain air play on corporate stations. The fully licensed station is funded by listener contributions and does not accept government or corporate funding. Their program schedule can be found at http://wvjw.info

WRCT, based at Carnegie Mellon University since 1948, also features other unique local public affairs programming, including multilingual shows in Spanish and Portuguese, every weekday from 6-7pm. WRCT's program guide can be found at http://wrct.org

Rustbelt's previous season covered topics like the construction of the Mon-Fayette Expressway, the plight of refugees on the Thai-Burma border, on the ground coverage from both the Democratic and Republican National Convention protests, and stories of both local and global housing and food issues. Local groups whose voices have been highlighted include Justice for Janitors, Save Our Transit, Pitt students for justice in Palestine, Pennsylvanians United for Single-Payer Healthcare, People Against Police Violence, and many others. We have also featured coverage and analysis on media issues such as the FCC's crack down on community radio broadcasters and the FBI's seizure of web servers in the UK used for Independent Media websites.