indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- Initial meetings and indybay.org domain registered in early 2000
- Site launched after the LA DNC
- SF-active codebase forked from LA-active code
One of the initial features was “The Housing Project” covering housing crisis/gentrification (AKA dot-com boom, AKA dot-com bubble).

Users were initially allowed to create account and rate articles.
Indybay expands to cover prison industrial complex, forest defense, other issues and surrounding region.

*Photo by Jeff Paterson*
Global Indymedia gathering held at SF State in April 2001: Indymedia Principles of Unity

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

1. The Independent Media Center Network (IMCN) is based upon principles of equality, decentralization and local autonomy. The IMCN is not derived from a centralized bureaucratic process, but from the self-organization of autonomous collectives that recognize the importance in developing a union of networks.

2. All IMCs consider open exchange of and open access to information a prerequisite to the building of a more free and just society.

3. All IMCs respect the right of activists who choose not to be photographed or filmed.

4. All IMCs, based upon the trust of their contributors and readers, shall utilize open web-based publishing, allowing individuals, groups and organizations to express their views, anonymously if desired. [See appendix: Open Publishing document — still in proposal phase, at this address: http://ims.indymedia.org/main/appendix comunicacion/2001-April/0001707.html http://ims.indymedia.org/main/appendix comunicacion/2001-April/000074.html]

5. The IMC network and all local IMC collectives shall be not-for-profit.

6. All IMCs recognize the importance of process to social change and are committed to the development of non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian relationships, from interpersonal relationships to group dynamics. Therefore, shall organize themselves collectively and be committed to the principle of consensus decision making and the development of a direct, participatory democratic process that is transparent to its membership.

7. All IMCs recognize that a prerequisite for participation in the decision making process of each local group is the contribution of an individual’s labor to the group.

8. All IMCs are committed to caring for one another and our respective communities both collectively and as individuals and will promote the sharing of resources including knowledge, skills and equipment.

9. All IMCs shall be committed to the use of free source code, whenever possible, in order to develop the digital infrastructure, and to increase the independence of the network by not relying on proprietary software.

10. All IMCs shall be committed to the principle of human equality, and shall not discriminate, including discrimination based upon race, gender, age, class or sexual orientation. Recognizing the vast cultural traditions within the network, we are committed to building [diversity] within our localities.
Sept. 2001: SF IMC space opened in historic Redstone Building: public computer lab, video editing, meeting space.

And Indybay is one of few outlets covering anti-war movement.

*Emergency Action Against Racism and War (Oakland)*

by gkt
Thursday Sep 13th, 2001 2:38 AM

One summary of tonight's rally in Oakland

Community Gathers in Oakland to Mourn and Organize Against Racist Violence Committed by US Government

Oakland, CA (September 13) - Hundreds of people gathered at Snow Park in Oakland tonight to mourn, provide support for each other, and speak out against violent United States policies at home and abroad, which they say are the underlying reasons for unprecedented terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington DC. Organizing against a growing climate of racism, nationalism and anti-Arab bigotry was a focus of the rally.

Organized by youth and people of color in Oakland and San Francisco, solidarity speakers included supporters of Palestine, people returning from the WCAR in South Africa, police brutality activists, anarchists and socialists, anti-gentrification activists and other people representing dozens of cultures and ethnicities. International solidarity was the theme as community and activist groups stood together against the threat of more US violence. Michael Franti of Spearhead also spoke, saying that "we need to be in a war against war."

In addition to an open mic, people at the rally talked with friends and strangers, cried, and began coming to terms with the events of the last three days. Many people who attended have family members still missing on the east coast. And many others have
January 2003: Aerial photos by Indymedia photographer Peter Maiden showed that the Jan. 18 anti-war march numbered 250,000 -- far more than the 55,000 police estimate.
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- Google delivers huge number of page views to Indymedia sites.
- May 2003: Indybay removed from Google News index; hate speech controversy.
- Finally restored in 2004.

Referring Site Report

Listing the top 40 referring sites by the number of requests for pages in...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pages</th>
<th>7-day pages</th>
<th>site</th>
<th>site</th>
<th>site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21082</td>
<td>2577</td>
<td><a href="http://www.google.com/">http://www.google.com/</a></td>
<td><a href="http://images.google.co.uk/">http://images.google.co.uk/</a></td>
<td><a href="http://images.google.co.uk/">http://images.google.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
indiybay.org

“make media make trouble”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Article Quality</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
We Interrupt This Empire
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”
Diebold: Electronic voting systems. CEO promised to get Bush elected (?!)

Sept 29, 2003: Diebold memos reposted to web from public (oops) FTP server and link published to Indybay.

This presidency brought to you by Diebold

You don’t count because we don’t count.
Diebold sends DMCA take-down notice to Indybay's upstream host, a non-profit called Online Policy Group.

Judge ruled that Diebold had misused DMCA; awarded $150,000 damages.
The man who killed a Police Officer in Red Bluff, CA claims immunity because he was incorporated.

Hello Everyone, my name’s Andy. I killed a Police Officer in Red Bluff, California in a motion to bring attention to, and halt, the police-state tactics that have come to be used throughout our country. Now I’m coming forward, to explain that this killing was also an action against corporate irresponsibility.

All of the major problems in America and throughout the world today are caused by corporate irresponsibility. The very concept behind corporations is to protect their owners from taking responsibility for their actions. This means that directors within corporations can dump waste chemicals in our drinking water, or keep our work environments in fatally dangerous conditions without any personal liability. Corporations murder thousands of people each year this way and are never held accountable.

As a statement against this practice, prior to my action in Red Bluff, I formed a corporation under the name “Proud and Insolent Youth Incorporated,” so that I could use the destructive immunity of corporations and turn it on something that actually should be destroyed.
CHP revokes Indybay press passes after Humboldt County Sheriff complains.

CHP gave up on its entire press pass program after Indybay and First Amendment Project attorneys intervene.
 Fault Lines newspaper
10,000 circulation
monthly/bi-monthly
Supported by subscribers
and ads from local coops, small businesses
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- Street Level TV: womyn-run community TV
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- Enemy Combatant Radio
- Internet radio; relayed on FM microradio in SF, East Bay, Modesto...
- Took calls from the streets, coordinated information exchange with other sources.
indybay.org “make media make trouble”

- Breaking news via SMS text message.
- Utilized TXTmob.com
- Automatically syndicate breaking news items from Indybay to TXTmob.com to phones.
Josh Wolf ordered to turn over video in Grand Jury investigation of July 2005 anti-G8 protest.

Jailed for 226 days, a record for a journalist refusing to divulge source materials.

*Photo by Bill Carpenter*
Can journalists refuse to comply with grand jury subpoenas?

Definition of journalist (professional vs. participatory)

Does Fed. Govt. have standing?
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- International solidarity in Lebanon, Oaxaca
  *Photos by Calamity (Baruch Peller)*
Tristan Anderson

Prolific contributor of photographs and written reports to Indybay
Indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- Indymedia vs. Racist Police Violence
Fruitvale BART station in Oakland, Oscar Grant murdered January 1st, 2009.
Video surfaced publicly a few days later.
Video surfaced publicly a few days later.
Rebellions on Jan. 7th...
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

…and Jan 14th…
...Lead to first ever murder charge against California cop for on-duty shooting.
Corporate media coverage biased towards police and ignored key points.
the BART system to remind the public about the case. The group posted fliers throughout the
BART system picturing the BART police logo, with the words, "Police Murder. BART lies.
We die." (Exhibit 14) The flier also pictures an officer shooting a man who is clearly restrained
by the police. Members of the group spoke on BART trains throughout the system, making
various (and often patently false) factual claims about the evidence in the case. Videos of the
speeches, as well as an article describing the groups efforts to publicize the case, were posted

Another similar passage continues:

Also in the wake of the Grant shooting, a series of websites began closely to cover the
case, which coverage amounts to a highly prejudicial marriage of advocacy and reporting.
So, for example, a site called indybay.org describes its purpose this way: "We strive to
provide an information infrastructure for people and opinions who do not have access to the
airwaves, tools and resources of corporate media. This includes audio, video, photography,
internet distribution and any other communication medium. We support local, regional and
global struggles against exploitation and oppression. We function as a non-commercial, non-
corporate, anti-capitalist collective."

Indybay.org has provided regular coverage of the Grant shooting and its aftermath, with
a strong and not particularly concealed view that Grant was killed because he is black, that the
shooting is evidence of generalized police brutality against the black community, and that
Mehserle is guilty of murder. Indeed, the site always refers to the shooting as the "murder" of
Oscar Grant, a word not used by the Chronicle, Tribune, television stations and so forth. See
http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/07/15/18608188.php; see also http://www.indybay.org/

The activities of CAPE, BAMN, Indybay.org, and the rest of the groups named above
and described in Exhibit 13 amount to yet another political factor that, under Maine and Powell
requires a change of venue. These groups impacted and heightened the political impact of the
shooting and the massive media attention that followed in four key ways.
First, the groups acted as a catalyst for that publicity: they spread information or in
many cases disinformation about the case; they distributed the shooting video; they distributed
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

• ... and community activists. Judge agreed.
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

- LA or San Diego?
- Need media activists in courtroom and outside courthouse.
- Need housing for Bay Area activists.
- Solidarity for precedent-setting case.
indybay.org  “make media make trouble”

Questions?