

Update: Robert Knight and the Knight report axed by KPFA management *

Request for Crucial info on Layoffs & Hour Reductions at KPFA

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Date: Dec 13, 2009 10:56 AM

Hi Esther, Hope you're having a good weekend. This is a request for further clarification about cut backs at KPFA. I write to you in you position as shop steward. First of all, could you send me update seniority list. As you know the one we have is outdated and confusing. Secondly, what cuts have actually been made to date, on the morning show, KPFA news, and hardknock. Since current management came to power, Flashpoints has been cut back 95 hours, including Robert who was cut from Flashpoints by Lemlem via fed ex over the weekend. Has the morning show been cut yet, and by how many hours. Has the morning show's budget increased or decreased since current management came to power? Same questions for the KPFA news. Has their budget increased under current management or decreased? (Below you list no cuts yet announced for the KPFA news.)The cuts against Flashpoints, under current management now equal 45-50% personnel cut of Flashpoints. And finally, what role does seniority play in these cuts? As you know, Nora, who was ambushed by management, and cut in half, has more seniority than 12-15 people at KPFA. Does seniority have any bearing on this process, or is this just another attempt by current management to use the budget crunch, to slash her enemies, like Nora, who GM Lemlem MsRijio, has shown nothing but disdain and disrespect. Please respond ASAP to these requests for crucial information, so the Flashpoints team knows exactly where it stands. With the Greatest Respect, Dennis Bernstein for the Flashpoints team

>From: dbernstein@igc.org >Sent: Dec 13, 2009 9:38 AM *

>PLEASE DISTRIBUTE FAR AND WIDE:

>**Subject: Emergency: Robert Knight and the Knight report axed by KPFA
>management**

.....Third major cut to the program in less than a week with no warning This is not an across the board 20% cut as management claims, but clearly a move to kill flashpoints. Our personnel budget has been slashed 45-50% under current management. No other show has come close to these kind of cuts and this kind of treatment.

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>To the KPFA board and all interested parties:

>Hi,Joe, everyone, i very much appreciate what the board is doing, but by the time you win control of the board, every radical program and producer, and non-supporter of the current regime will be gone from KPFA. The bottom line is easily stated in a fact and a few questions. The fact is: Since the current regime took power, Flashpoints has been cut 75 hours, or over thirty percent of its personnel budget. To this date, has the morning show budget went up or down in the same time period? Has the KPFA news department gone up or down in the same period? How are the cuts being implemented:fairly, by seniority? Whats the criteria? And If Flashpoints has been cut, while other key programs were expanded in the same period, why? Is it because they are better and deserve the support and the constant praise of management, while the Flashpoints team is getting threatened, harassed, censored and cut back, by the same management? Or is because Flashpoints spoke out on the air against the police beating inside KPFA, inspired and condoned by current management? Is it because Flashpoints covers the unpopular stories like slaughters in palestine and Haiti. Is it because of our devotion to migrant rights and native american struggles, or because of our drumbeat coverage of the coup in Honduras? Are we being cut DISPROPORTIONATELY because we take on Obama and the NPR liberal mentality, and refuse to soften our message?