

Left Coast Events - Lower Mainland - Aug 1 07

Written by

Wednesday, 01 August 2007 15:06 - Last Updated Wednesday, 01 August 2007 15:06

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1. Radio DISCUSSION - John Graham - Wed August 7th
2. Hip-Hop for Social Justice - Aug 7-9th
3. Prison Justice Day and John Graham - August 10th - Victoria
4. Alchemy's Creative Arts Summer Camp for Moms
5. Ecological Disaster: Preventable or Not? Aug. 16
6. August 20: Oppose the Security & Prosperity Partnership Agreement (SPP)!
7. The CASSANDRA PROJECT - An Invitation - August
8. RECONNECTING TO LIFE - 6th Annual Residential Retreat
9. New Leisure Access Card - West Van Rec

1. Radio DISCUSSION - John Graham - Wed August 7th

Extradition, Indigenous Sovereignty & Jurisdiction & the John Graham Case

DISCUSSION 102.7 F.M. (Internet Live: www.coopradio.org) [please forward]
Wednesday, August 7th -- 7 to 8 p.m.

"Extradition Treaty, Indigenous Sovereignty & Jurisdiction, & the John Graham Case"

Participants: Gary Botting, lawyer-author of the basic text book on the 1999 Extradition Treaty between Canada and the U.S.A,

Bill Lightbown, Haida-Kootenay Elder, Sovereigntist & founder of United Native Nations,

Chusia & Nanee Graham, Southern Tutchone & John Graham Defence Committee members.

Host: Charles Boylan

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The John Graham case, now being brought before the Supreme Court of Canada, is a far bigger question than the innocence or guilt of a Southern Tutchone activist with respect to the murder of Anna Mae Aquash. The case directly relates to the legal rights of all Canadians, particularly those most vulnerable to racist profiling and the "war on terror" waged by the Bush coup regime in the U.S.A. Why? Because the Extradition Treaty, 1999, gives more power over Canadian citizens to U.S. law enforcement agencies than Canadian police have. The Extradition Treaty, passed in Parliament without a breath of public discussion, is significant a step in the U.S. annexation and domination over the Canadian polity.

Gary Botting is the foremost legal expert on this treaty. He will explain why this treaty needs to be repealed, and why its use against John Graham is unjust and dangerous to all Canadians.

Secondly, the Graham case brings to the fore the ongoing struggle to rid Canada and the rest of the western hemisphere of its colonial and genocidal legacy, to set historical wrongs right. This means, foremost, acknowledging Indigenous nations sovereignty and full jurisdiction over their lands and laws. Anna Mae was murdered in the course of Indigenous resistance at Pine Ridge, sovereign Lakota territory, against the violent and unlawful invasion of Lakota territory by uranium mining monopolies and the FBI who together were responsible for the killing of some 65 Native people including Anna Mae. The Graham case rightfully belongs in the hands of the Indigenous nations, in the juridical mechanisms to be created by the defending sovereign peoples, whether it be in the way of a trial or "justice & reconciliation" mechanism, or whatever the Lakota, Mi'kma, Tutchone and others decide themselves to create. How can there be justice for Anna Mae through the colonial courts and prison system of the very powers that have committed genocide and denied Indigenous sovereignty for more than a century, and who were directly responsible for the tragedies at Pine Ridge? We already know the colonial "justice" system serving the mining corporations and other robber barons fraudulently and unjustly extradited Leonard Peltier from Canada, and fraudulently imprisoned him after a kangaroo "trial" where he continues to be a victim of FBI revenge politics. A serious conversation is required amongst all Canadians as to what self-determination means for Indigenous nations in Canada, and what juridical powers they have in law already, and how it must be evolved in practice by limiting the power of the colonial courts and prison system.

Bill Lightbown, a Kooteny-Haida Elder, a leading founder of the United Native Nations organization in B.C., and advocate for Original Peoples' sovereignty and jurisdiction will explain why this consideration is important in creating a renewed, anti-colonial Canada.

Thirdly, there is the importance of defending the legacy and ongoing practice of Resistance. John Graham was a young, patriotic activist who answered the call of the American Indian

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Movement to defend the sovereign rights of the Lakota people at Pine Ridge Reserve. He, Anna Mae and all the pure-hearted activists who joined that historic resistance had to face the intrigues and violence of a merciless, cunning and greedy enemy prepared to throw all morality into the mud to get their hands on profitable natural resources, just as they do in Iraq, Afghanistan, throughout Turtle Island and everywhere else too. When two FBI officers died in a shoot-out of their own making, the FBI have relentlessly pursued revenge politics to "get" at least "two Indians" into their dungeons, not unlike their vicious treatment of the Cuban 5. They want to "prove" that those who resist the Empire and its state machine, will be "punished". They want to teach the young generation, don't follow the footsteps of the brave defenders of Pine Ridge Reserve. But the youth will not "duck and cover." They will not bow to blackmail. The path of resistance is the road to liberation, as it has always been.

Chusia and Naneeq Graham represent the fighting spirit of this young generation, and they call on all Canadians to resolutely take up the case of John Graham as their own, as it indeed is.

Please join us for this important DISCUSSION. Please forward this notice to your friends and contacts.

CFRO 102.7 FM Wed Aug 7th 7 p.m.

From: helen michell <telquaa@hotmail.com>

2. Hip-Hop for Social Justice - Aug 7-9th

Hip Hop schoolin' and production workshops

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
1607 East Hastings

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August 7-9 | 2PM - 6 PM

Facilitated by Sara Kendall , Rupinder Sidhu
With guests, JB the First Lady and Skeena Reece

Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements, SFU

Write and Record, Make Beats, and Learn About Hip Hop History

This three-day, intensive Hip-Hop workshop offer heart-centered community building and personal empowerment through Hip-Hop media. The group will be guided through rhyme writing, group song, dance and cultural dialogue. Facilitators will guide the group of participants through a self-generated process of performance creation.

The spirit of the workshop is inclusivity (all backgrounds, all skill levels) and depth (reflecting on the greater meaning of relationships, personal wellness, and how we can help one another grow).

Facilitators' experience with youth ranges from inner-city school and community settings in the US and Canada to rural, on-reserve, in detention centers and residential camp programming. Facilitators are practicing artists in their own forms, and dedicated to joining their facilitation work with their other work for positive social change. Between them, they can speak English, Spanish, Punjabi, and Hindi.

Jerilynn aka JB the Firstlady is a Youth advocate, hip hop Emcee, and director/curator. She hails from the Nuxalk (Bella Coola) and Cayuga Nations (Six Nations). She is an advocate for youth voice and expression through involvement with the community for the Last 6 years. She is currently working as co-director at Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA). Jerilynn is also the Vice-President of the Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA). She loves developing theatre productions with native youth in East Vancouver to give a voice to urban aboriginal youth issues. Jerilynn is also the 2006 urban aboriginal Youth award winner for the work in her community. See www.kayaweb.ca .

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Sara Kendall is a facilitator of arts-based and empowerment-focused processes. Much of her work is dedicated to youth oriented and youth driven initiatives; all of her work comes from a place of passion for joining creative expression with personal development in the context of supportive community. Sara was the coordinator of A People's Project: the Vancouver Child and Youth Rights-Based Monitoring initiative. Sara is a practicing circus artist and coach, a Hip-Hop artist (freestyle, song, rhyme, mouth percussion) and otherwise multi-disciplinary performer (mixing clown, theater, movement, media). "My work is heart-centered, accessing the development of community energy through connection to our spirits, as individuals, together."

Skeena Reece is a Tsimshian and Cree womyn who is dominating her body in this world of song, spoken word, performance art and videography who is frequently heard on CBC Radio and performed at the 2005 Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Her performances are a contemporary form, blending traditional songs with spoken word performance and improvisational comedy. Says Reece: "