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Cover photo: Spoken word artist Sekou Andrews (thesekoueffect.com) performs at the ACLU of Massachusetts 2009 Statewide Conference. Photo by Marilyn Humphries.

Back cover photo: The ACLU of Massachusetts had its largest-ever contingent in the Boston Pride march in June 2009. Photo by David McCluskey.

Except where noted, other photos are by ACLU of Massachusetts staff, interns, volunteers, or contractors, or are stock photographs.

Graphic Design by Ankerson Communications, ankerson.com.









The ACLU of Massachusetts used 30% post-consumer recycled fiber in the production of this report, saving two trees, 224 pounds of carbon dioxide, 1,080 gallons of wastewater, and 66 pounds of solid waste, according to Environmental Defense, a leading environmental organization.

# **DEAR FRIENDS**

MASSACHUSETTS HAS A LONG HISTORY of leading the nation in protecting individual freedom—from the revolutionaries who approved the world's oldest functioning written constitution at the end of the 18th century, to the Supreme Judicial Court justices and members of the legislature who made our state the first in the nation to recognize equal marriage rights at the start of the 21st century.

Now, on the eve of the ACLU's 90th anniversary, our mission remains more critical and relevant than ever: ensuring that our nation remains true to its core values of freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

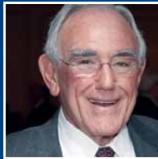
Threats to civil liberties are greater than ever—and growing. Across the country, freedom of speech and association are taking a back seat to intrusive and unnecessary government surveillance. The rapid pace of technological advancement threatens to overwhelm the capacity of our laws and legislatures to ensure that new technologies are used to enhance our freedom rather than to infringe upon individual rights.

Too often, burgeoning surveillance tactics and expanding police powers are used to harass ordinary people based solely on their race, ethnicity, or religious identities. Too often, they are aimed at people who espouse political beliefs that differ from the mainstream, who are critical of the government, or who simply dare to talk back to a police officer. Meanwhile, forces of authoritarianism continue assaults on reproductive freedom and equality based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The crucial civil liberties battles of the present and future will be fought on the state level, the front lines of social change. Leadership is needed from a state that has an environment conducive to expanding definitions of individual freedom.







FANTOZZI

ROSE

ANSIN

Massachusetts can be that state, and the ACLU of Massachusetts is prepared to lead the way. As the first and oldest state-based ACLU affiliate in the nation, we play an important leadership role within the ACLU network. Now is the time for us to build upon our past success by thinking further ahead—and acting more quickly—to meet the civil rights and civil liberties challenges of today and those of future generations.

With your ongoing support, we will lead the way in preserving, protecting, and defending individual freedom in the 21st century.

Martin M. Fantozzi

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR TWO KEY EVENTS IN 2010

### FEBRUARY 6, 2010: STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Join us February 6, 2010, at UMass Boston for the third ACLU of Massachusetts Statewide Conference. We'll bring you up to date on the ACLU's work to shine sunlight on government secrecy and surveillance in the digital age.

## LATE MAY 2010: THE 29TH ANNUAL BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER

Join us in celebrating the ACLU of Massachusetts' anniversary: "90 Years of Leading Freedom Forward." Date and location to be determined.

If you haven't already, join our email list to be notified as soon as details on these events become available! Visit aclum.org/alerts to sign up.

### **VOTING RIGHTS**

The nonpartisan ACLU of Massachusetts scored a win for voting rights—a key form of the freedom of expression—during the 2008 election. The issue was ballot access for third-party candidates and parties, in this case, the Massachusetts Libertarian Party.

Massachusetts law requires parties that do not receive at least three percent of the vote in the previous statewide election to collect 10,000 signatures to place candidates on the next statewide ballot. The deadline for collecting the signatures came before the Libertarian Party's nominating convention, but the Massachusetts Election Division told party officials that they could place the names of their candidates on the ballot after the nominating convention. When the party attempted to do this, however, the Elections Division reversed course, saying party officials would need to re-gather their signatures-a substantial burden for the party, with direct bearing on the right of citizens to vote for candidates of their choosing.

The ACLU of Massachusetts filed suit to ensure ballot access, and a federal court entered an injunction requiring Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin to list Libertarian Party presidential candidate Bob Barr and vice-presidential candidate Wayne A. Root on the November 2008 ballot.

# PROTECTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DISSENT is the foundation for the defense of all other rights, and plays a central role in the ACLU of Massachusetts' civil liberties agenda.

That's why the ACLU of Massachusetts continues to roll back attempts to stifle controversial speech on college and university campuses around the state.

We intervened recently in two such instances. Last April, Clark University in Worcester cancelled a talk by Dr. Norman Finkelstein, a controversial scholar of the Holocaust and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Soon thereafter, Boston College canceled a lecture by University of Illinois education professor and former Weather Underground leader Professor William Ayers.

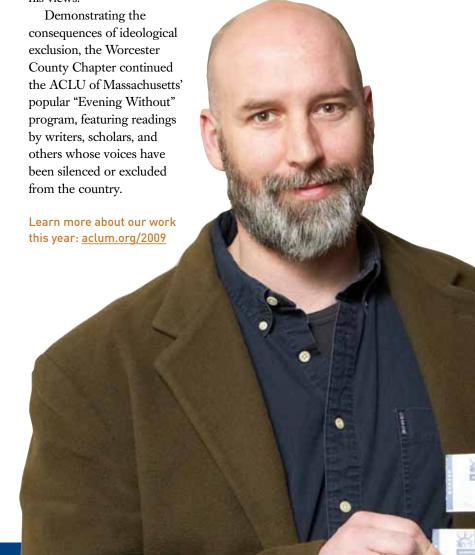
The ACLU protested these decisions to the presidents of both schools and supported student and faculty efforts to keep these campuses open to the marketplace of ideas—and we got results. Clark University's president permitted Dr. Finkelstein to speak on campus a few days later. Meanwhile, Boston College students and faculty came together in support for freedom of speech and, ultimately, Ayers was able to speak through a campus radio interview.

The ACLU of Massachusetts also defended the free-speech rights of Richard Hatch, winner of the first season of the *Survivor* reality TV program. Mr. Hatch was serving out a sentence for tax evasion in home confinement last August when police took him into custody and held him in solitary confinement after he publicly criticized his prosecution in the media.

The ACLU fought for the principle that the First Amendment protects people's right to criticize the government publicly—even when they are serving a sentence.

The ACLU also continues its work against "ideological exclusion," the denial of visas to foreign critics of U.S. government policy. We have sued the

government for its refusal to permit entry to Professor Adam Habib, a South African democracy scholar whose visa was suddenly revoked by the Bush administration after he criticized the Iraq war and U.S. anti-terrorism policies. This type of ideological exclusion violates the First Amendment rights of the people and organizations who invited Professor Habib to speak and wish to hear his views.



# **KEEPING AMERICA SAFE AND FREE**

AT OUR ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE LAST FEBRUARY, constitutional lawyer and *Salon.com* columnist Glenn Greenwald called on ACLU members to keep America both safe and free–regardless of who occupies the White House.

We heard his call and we are paying attention. Make sure you do too: keep up with civil rights and civil liberties by joining our email action alert list. Go to aclum.org/alerts. Check aclum.org/scorecard for our running tally on the Obama administration's progress in keeping his promise to restore the rule of law.

Keeping America safe and free means opposing law enforcement efforts to target people unfairly based on their religion or ethnicity. In June, the ACLU documented the serious effects of Bush administration terrorism finance laws on Muslim communities, including those in Massachusetts. The report, *Blocking Faith, Freezing Charity*, found

that the Treasury Department has used secret evidence,

opaque procedures, and raids to effectively close down seven of the nation's largest Muslim charities, including Massachusetts-based Care International. Such law enforcement approaches undermine the cooperation and trust necessary for effective community-based policing. Such schemes also tarnish America's

reputation as a beacon of religious liberty. In short, they make us less safe and less free.

The safe and free theme arose again at our 28th annual Bill of Rights dinner in May, when the ACLU of Massachusetts presented the Roger Baldwin Award—our highest honor—to Capt. James Yee, the Muslim former U.S. Army Chaplain at Guantánamo Bay. While Yee ministered to Guantánamo prisoners, the government arrested and imprisoned him in a naval brig for 76 days, falsely accusing him of spying, espionage, and aiding prisoners. After months of investigation, however, the government dropped all charges against Yee and reinstated him.

Upon receiving the Baldwin award, Capt. Yee told the ACLU of Massachusetts, "There's no doubt that Guantánamo should be closed immediately, and President Obama should fulfill his promises to ban torture without exception, to adhere to the Geneva Conventions, and to reject the military commissions."

Read our interview with Capt. James Yee: <u>aclum.org/docket</u> Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009





# **DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS**

AN 18-MONTH ACLU INVESTIGATION of Massachusetts jails and prisons has yielded reports of human rights violations against the nearly 800 immigrants and asylum-seekers held in county jails on any given day, even though they have committed no crime. The report, *Detention and Deportation in the Age of ICE: Immigrants and Human Rights in Massachusetts*, details the denial of basic medical care, the harsh detention conditions, and the use of retaliatory transfers against people who seek redress for abuses while in U.S. custody.

The ACLU investigation has become a launching pad for activism and public education about the plight of civil immigration detainees in Massachusetts and nationwide. Hundreds of ACLU activists have sent letters to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, urging her to improve oversight of detention facilities and ensure basic standards such as adequate medical care. Stories about the investigation appeared in major Massachusetts newspapers, on Spanish-language TV stations, on public radio, and on the homepage of the influential blog <code>DailyKos</code>.

In July, the ACLU of Massachusetts submitted documentation about these ongoing abuses to a fact-finding mission of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Our testimony to the Commission detailed ways in which retaliatory transfers from Massachusetts to remote immigration detention centers in other states interferes with detainees' legal rights, as well as the devastating impact

of such transfers on families left behind.

Our work for human rights also extends to the treatment of U.S. prisoners. The ACLU of Massachusetts recently filed suit on behalf of Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, demanding answers about the double-bunking of Massachusetts inmates in small cells originally designed for one. The practice has reportedly caused tension, fear, and violence among prisoners.

Advocacy efforts by the Worcester County Chapter of the ACLU of Massachusetts helped pass a Worcester city ordinance in June to reform how the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system is used. In the wake of the new ordinance, vendors that contract with the city may inquire about past offenses only after an applicant is considered qualified for a position.

We sued the city of Lawrence on behalf of an Essex County resident allegedly beaten, choked, and forced to strip naked and placed in a small cell with another detainee after his arrest. No arrest should result in physical harm and humiliation, and no prison sentence should carry the risk of violent injury caused by overcrowding.

Read our report on conditions in ICE detention: <u>aclum.org/ice</u> Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009







The ACLU highlighted the case of Frank (above right, with his U.S. citizen son) in its report on immigration detention conditions in Massachusetts. Frank spent five years in ICE detention for a 23-year-old drug offense to which he had pled guilty, but for which he was not required to serve jail time. Report author and ACLU of Massachusetts staff attorney Laura Rótolo addressed an immigrants' rights rally in Boston in March 2009.

# FIGHTING SURVEILLANCE AND DOMESTIC SPYING

SCORE ANOTHER FIRST FOR MASSACHUSETTS: in February, the Cambridge City Council voted 9–0 to oppose eight surveillance cameras intended to form part of a network, funded by \$4.6 million from the Department of Homeland Security, linking Cambridge and eight other Greater Boston communities. Though work continues to bring the cameras down, the vote was the first of its kind in the state-and, as far as we know, the nation. The ACLU of Massachusetts helped organize testimony from dozens of Cambridge residents who oppose the creation of an infrastructure for government surveillance of lawful activities with the potential for facial recognition and tracking technology, and database abuses.

Following up on the Cambridge vote, Brookline Town Meeting passed a resolution by a large majority in June calling on the town's Board of Selectmen to halt a one-year trial for twelve DHS-funded cameras and take them down. The Selectmen did not comply with the resolution but, instead, voted 4–1 to operate the cameras only from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and in the event of an emergency.

The ACLU questions easy assumptions about the effectiveness of surveillance cameras at fighting crime. Studies have repeatedly shown that surveillance cameras have no significant effect on deterring or solving crimes. Measures as simple and inexpensive as better lighting have a stronger effect, and crimes that are

captured on video can be solved without it.

The ACLU of Massachusetts also has joined a nationwide effort to create oversight and accountability for a network of government intelligence data-collection and data-mining centers. Massachusetts has two such centers, the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. These centers, part of a nationwide domestic spying network, secretly collect and retain detailed information on people and groups, for the professed purpose of preventing terrorist incidents and ordinary crimes before they take place.

But they also empower local and state officials to engage in domestic spying and monitoring of everyday behavior beyond criminal investigations. They encourage state and local police to collect and report on non-criminal "suspicious" behavior, including protected First Amendment activity such as taking photographs, writing notes, and espousing "radical" beliefs. And they invite non-law-enforcement participants, including private sector companies and the U.S. military, into local and state intelligence operations.

This dramatic expansion of intelligence collection at the local and state level raises profound privacy and civil liberties concerns, notably for individual privacy and freedom of speech and association. Indeed, the federal Department of Homeland Security's Privacy Office has "identified a number of risks to privacy presented by the fusion center program."

In Massachusetts, the ACLU has worked



Top: At an ACLU briefing at the State House, State Sen. Harriette Chandler (Worcester) explains her bill to prevent surveillance abuses and ensure that intelligence operations in the state do not violate privacy and First Amendment rights.

with legislators to introduce a bill to provide independent oversight and auditing of these data collection centers. The proposed legislation would establish a state office to protect Massachusetts residents' personal information and privacy from intrusion by fusion center operations and provide oversight, auditing, and accountability. It would also establish standards to regulate what type of information intelligence data centers can collect about ordinary residents, and how and to whom they can disseminate such personal information.

Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009

# SECURING STUDENT RIGHTS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE







Top: ACLU of Massachusetts board member and attorney Jeff Pyle (an ACLU client in a censorship case when he was in high school) joined Mary Beth Tinker (one of the Iowa public school students at the heart of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*) at the ACLU's Constitution Day event on student rights in September. Lower: The ACLU chose Elizabeth Asefa, a senior from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, as one of 16 student "activist-scholars" from across the country to be awarded a 2009 Youth Activist Scholarshp. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Asefa.

IN A MAJOR VICTORY for the rights of young people, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in September struck down the criminal provisions of a Lowell ordinance that made it illegal for youth under age 17 to be out between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. The law allowed police to arrest youth who were out late, even if they were doing nothing wrong. If caught out late, young people could be found delinquent, confined at the Department of Youth Services, and left with a juvenile criminal record.

The ACLU of Massachusetts joined with a coalition of community and juvenile justice groups in the state to file friend-of-the-court briefs in the case of two children who were arrested under the law. We argued that this unconstitutional law exacerbated juvenile crime by pushing kids who had done nothing wrong into the criminal justice system.

This is just the latest example of the ACLU of Massachusetts' work for juvenile justice. We also released a report called *A Looming Crisis*, documenting the overuse of incarceration for youth in trouble, sparking an overdue discussion among policy makers on ways to create alternatives to detention for youth who are arrested for minor infractions. The ACLU recommendations include detaining youth only when they are a flight risk or a danger to others. We are also working to move oversight of these facilities to the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services.

The ACLU of Massachusetts is working with Boston-area advocates to ensure that Boston school districts are not altered in ways that push students out of schools and into the criminal justice system, thereby exacerbating racial and socioeconomic inequities. Our efforts to close the "schoolto-prison pipeline" were further enhanced by the Massachusetts distribution of the ACLU National Racial Justice Program report entitled Policing in Schools: Developing a Governance Document for School Resource Officers in K-12 Schools. This document sets forth specific recommendations to limit over-aggressive policing tactics in public K-12 schools. It also includes a model governance document that the ACLU of Massachusetts is encouraging school districts and police departments to adopt. Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009

# SAFEGUARDING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

ENSURING THAT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING receive a full range of health services to which they are entitled remains a top priority for the ACLU's reproductive freedom work in Massachusetts. The issue arose when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under President Bush designated the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as the agency to dole out government money to service providers under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

At the time, the U.S. government knew that the USCCB was insisting, on religious grounds, that it would give funds only to agencies that agreed never to use the money to provide trafficking

victims with contraception or referrals for contraception or

abortion. The ACLU sued the HHS to stop federal tax dollars from being used to impose religious restrictions on medical services provided to victims of human trafficking. Our suit urged the court to halt this misuse of taxpayer dollars and to protect the health and safety of trafficking victims as intended by Congress when it passed the law.

The ACLU also has raised questions about access to a complete range of sexual health and family planning services under Commonwealth

Care, the subsidized insurance program for low-income people in Massachusetts. After the ACLU and other organizations intervened, members of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority Board obtained assurances that all Commonwealth Care members will receive comprehensive access to family planning services.

Meanwhile, with attacks on doctors undermining the right to obtain reproductive health care, the ACLU supported a physician's zoning application for permits to enable her to relocate her office in Brookline, despite the objections of some neighbors that opponents of abortion would disturb their neighborhood. Likening this objection to a "heckler's veto" over freedom of speech, we asked the local zoning board to grant the physician's application.

The ACLU of Massachusetts also helped organize statewide lobby days for three bills that would update our statutes by removing outdated and unconstitutional restrictions on reproductive freedom, eliminate barriers to full health-care access for young women, and introduce comprehensive, age-appropriate health education in Massachusetts schools.

Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009





# **ADVANCING EQUAL RIGHTS**

THE CONTROVERSIAL ARREST OF Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., in his home put the national spotlight on the need to continue working on issues of racial justice, free speech, and police accountability in the Commonwealth. But ACLU of Massachusetts advocacy for equal rights extends well beyond this single incident.

Consider the case of Jason Vassell, an African-American student at UMass Amherst who was the victim of a racially motivated attack, but ended up facing serious criminal charges for defending himself. In 2008, intoxicated non-student intruders at UMass Amherst smashed Vassell's dormitory window while shouting racial slurs, then entered the building, where they attacked Vassell. Yet Vassell must now defend himself in court against far more serious charges than his white assailants. ACLU of Massachusetts lawyers have joined with Vassell's defense attorneys in seeking dismissal of all charges against him on the grounds that this was a discriminatory prosecution.

In a victory for gender equality, the ACLU of Massachusetts filed a friend-of-the-court brief in a case in which the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts held that a 14-year-old boy being prosecuted for statutory rape had a right to information from the district attorney's office supporting his claim that he was a victim of gender discrimination. The ACLU of Massachusetts, joined by the national ACLU Women's Rights and Reproductive Freedom Projects, argued that the DA's office engaged in gender stereotyping and selective prosecution based on gender when it prosecuted only the boy involved in sexual activity with three girls, even though all four children were under age 16. Such gender stereotypes harm women and girls, as well as the boys selected for prosecution based on gender, and the SJC ruling was a victory for equal rights.

LGBT equality remained an ACLU priority, as we lobbied at the State House to update Massachusetts' nondiscrimination laws to include protections for gender identity. We also helped turn people out for rallies against the passage of anti-gay Prop 8 in California, against which the ACLU helped file an immediate constitutional challenge within hours of last November's election. The outcomes in California and Maine were a setback, but we cheered when three more states—Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire—followed Massachusetts' pioneering lead for equal marriage rights.

Learn more about our work this year: aclum.org/2009



10to by David McCluskey

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# **DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIALS**

The ACLU depends on YOU. Our members and supporters provide not only the political clout that makes us powerful, but also the financial support that makes it possible for our team of lawyers, legislative experts, educators, and grassroots organizers to preserve, protect, and defend the constitutional rights and individual liberties of every resident of the state of Massachusetts.

The ACLU accepts no government funding, and never charges our clients for legal representation.

The ACLU of Massachusetts and ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts are separately

incorporated nonprofit organizations. The ACLU of Massachusetts ("the Union") is a 501(c)4 organization which conducts legislative advocacy and lobbying efforts as well as membership outreach and organizing. The Union is supported by membership dues and other contributions, which are not tax-deductible. The ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts is a 501(c)3 organization which supports our litigation and public education programs. Contributions to the ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts are tax-deductible.

To maximize the ACLU's ability to fight for the individual rights and liberties that the

Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee to everyone in this nation, gifts and membership dues are shared between the national ACLU and the Massachusetts affiliate. Through this sharing arrangement, your gifts help the fight for freedom on the national level, while also helping to make the ACLU of Massachusetts a beacon of liberty for our nation.

Everything we do is made possible by your generous support, whether a \$20 membership or a more generous gift. THANK YOU for everything you do!

#### **ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS**

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Membership Income	\$486,808
Contributions	\$26,696
Donated Goods & Services	\$14,797
Bequests	\$9,863
Interests & Dividends	\$5,561
Other	\$742
TOTAL	\$544,467
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services (Legislative & Education)	\$403,176
General & Administrative	\$152,523
TOTAL	\$555,699

### **ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION**

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Contributions	\$1,181,033
Grants	\$625,956
Bequests	\$96,127
Interests & Dividends	\$66,457
Legal Awards	\$56,484
Donated Legal Services	\$13,358
Other	\$30,845
TOTAL	\$2,070,260
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services (Litigation & Education)	\$830,841
General & Administrative	\$261,352
Fundraising	\$620,283
TOTAL	\$1,712,476

# WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get weekly updates from the ACLU about how you can help protect and restore civil liberties by joining our email alert list:

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- Give gift memberships: If you're looking for a special gift, consider the gift of courage and clarity symbolized by ACLU membership.
- Make a tax-deductible gift online: Donate to the ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts.
- Sign up for monthly giving: Join the Guardians of Liberty with monthly gifts at a level of your choosing.
- Make a gift of stock: Support the work of the ACLU through a gift of stock.
- Make a bequest: Where there is a will, there is a way! Make a gift without writing a check!

### SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE FIRST AMENDMENT



In 2009, we were proud to introduce the ACLU First Amendment Minute podcast: aclum.org/

Recorded each week by ACLU of Massachusetts attorney Bill Newman—with introductions by Rachel Maddow—the podcasts will keep

you up-to-date on civil liberties

issues both in Massachusetts and across the country. They have covered topics such as:

- Senator Kennedy's lifelong fight for civil rights and liberties;
- Harvard's attempt to censor its medical students;
- White House visitor logs no longer being kept secret;
- executing the innocent in America;
- indefinite detention without charge or trial.

We post new segments each week, so check our website regularly:

## aclum.org/podcasts

You can stream or download podcasts to listen on computers or MP3 players, and you can subscribe to our podcasts—for free—via iTunes.

You can also hear the ACLU First Amendment Minute throughout the week on WHMP 1240/1400AM or 96.9FM, as well as WMUA 91FM, both in western Massachusetts. We're also working to bring them to other radio stations.



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