

mainstream coverage of the war. It's Jamail's own voice which is the real find, however—interweaving his journalistic coverage with comments on the political and media forces that paved the way for war, and reflections on the haunted sense of connection and responsibility he gained from his travels to and from Iraq. [Haymarket]

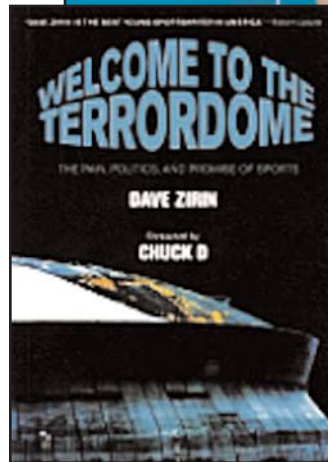
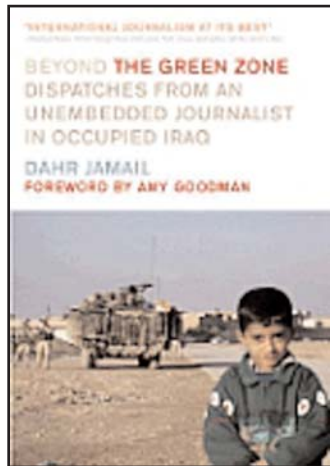
### **So Sexy So Soon** by Diane Levin and Jean Kilbourne

*The New Sexualized Childhood and what parents can do to protect their kids.* Media literacy educators Jean Kilbourne and Diane Levin bring together years of insight and critique of the sexualization of children, especially girls, through entertainment media and consumer products. Themes in the forthcoming book will include how and why sexual content is market towards children; how children are effected by media sexualization, the effects of deregulation and commercialization of children's TV, and what we as parents and teachers can do about it. [Ballantine, forthcoming Aug 08]

### **Welcome to the Terrordome** by Dave Zirin

*The Pain, Promise, and Politics of Sports.* Zirin is probably the most thoughtful and politically savvy sports writer working today. Here he offers his second fantastic collection of essays connecting sports, sports journalism and social/political issues, including racism and sexism in professional sports, doping and responses to doping, soccer and globalism, and the extreme contradictions between the high-dollar economics of professional sports and the popularity of sports as a social institution in many lower-income communities. Citing past examples such as Muhammad Ali, Toni Smith, Oscar de la Hoya and others, Zirin calls for politicized athletes to join forces and use their status as public figures to work for justice. He also calls for fans to recognize the struggles for justice both masked by and embodied within sports. Zirin's work offers a way of looking at sports as a principal site for such struggles, and not simply (to paraphrase Noam Chomsky) as "training in irrational jingoism." [Haymarket]

Based in Seattle since 2002, **Reclaim the Media** is helping to build a community-centered movement for better and more accountable media. We advocate for democratic media policy, promote media literacy, and work for justice and representation in the developing new media ecology. We are founding members of the national Media and Democracy Coalition and the Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net), and organizers of the Northwest Community Radio Network. Find out more and get involved at [www.reclaimthemedial.org](http://www.reclaimthemedial.org), or visit [www.mediagrassroots.net](http://www.mediagrassroots.net) to find a media justice organization in your region. And read at least five books this summer! More reviews online at [www.reclaimthemedial.org/bookshelf](http://www.reclaimthemedial.org/bookshelf).



# Media and Democracy Summer Reading 2008

### **The Future of the Internet** by Jonathan Zittrain

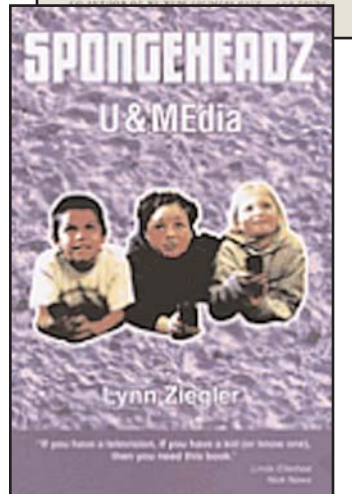
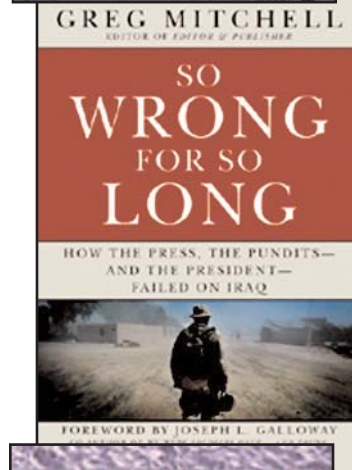
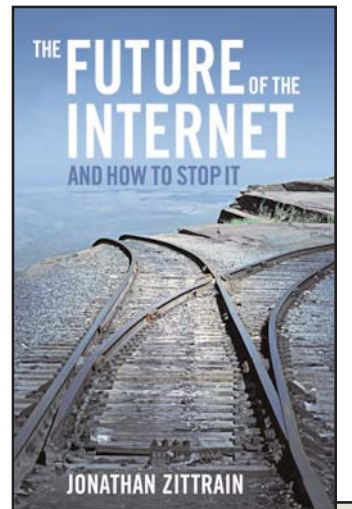
*...And how to stop it.* In this wise and often funny book, Jonathan Zittrain distinguishes between open, 'generative' electronic tools such as programmable computers and Wikipedia, and 'tethered appliances' such as iPhones and Facebook. While the latter offer users convenience, predictability and security, he argues, these benefits come at a cost to creativity, innovation, privacy, and, ultimately, democracy. Zittrain makes the case for a communications environment characterized by collaborative design, open access, neutral networks and distributed responsibility for evolving standards. [Yale]

### **So Wrong for So Long** by Greg Mitchell

*How the press, the pundits, and the President failed on Iraq.* From well before American bombs began falling on Baghdad in 2002, Greg Mitchell's columns in *Editor and Publisher* typed out a sober counter-rhythm to the establishment media's militaristic drumbeat. Providing running commentary on the national media's failures to challenge even the most dubious or unsourced Bush administration claims, Mitchell makes it clear that in many cases, critical journalists should have known *then* what we all know *now* about WMDs and justification for war; Pat Tillman; and Abu Ghraib. Mitchell also takes note of success stories among the failures, and comments on significant (if often overlooked) media contributions from outside the media mainstream. [Union Square]

### **Spongeheadz: U & MEdia** by Lynn Ziegler

Media educator and activist Lynn Ziegler's first published work is a delightful tactical guide addressed to parents concerned about the effect of TV on their kids. Both sternly cynical about TV's potential as an educational tool and optimistic about young peoples' ability to critically engage with flawed media content, *Spongeheadz* offers moms, dads and kids creative and often fun tools for squeezing out the mental sponge. Targeted topics include deceptive advertising, racist stereotyping, and TV's often-corrosive effect on literacy. Ziegler also provides tools for engaging kids (and adults?) in critical thinking about the constructed nature of media programs by thinking about the policies and technology involved in media production. [Book Publishers Network]



## Media Concentration and Democracy by C. Edwin Baker

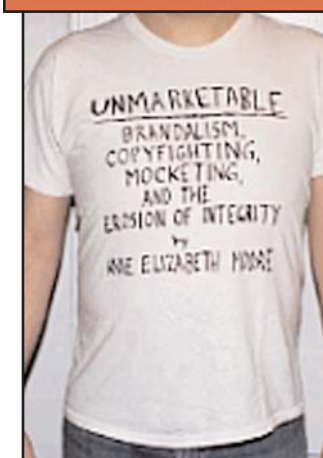
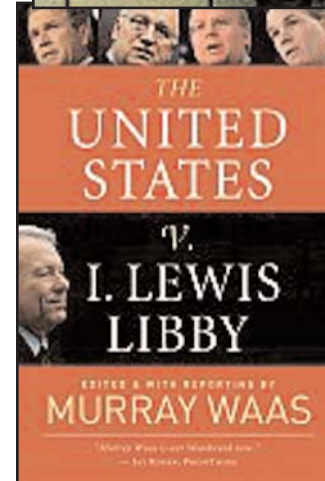
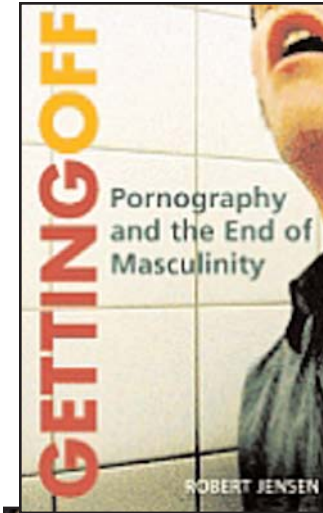
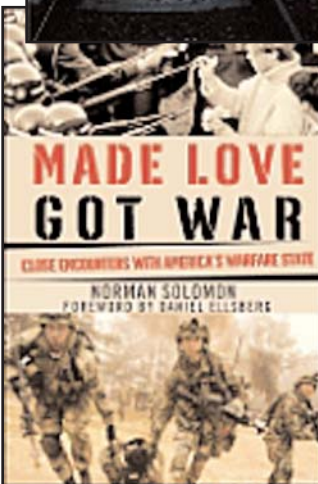
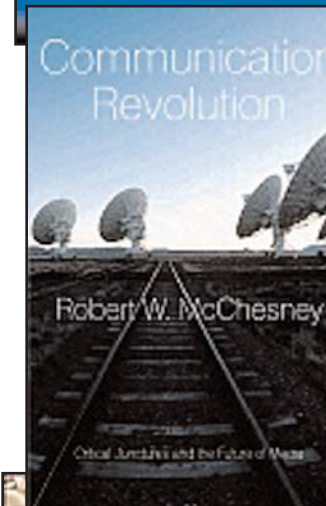
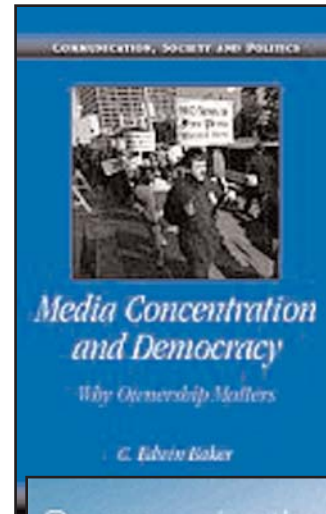
**Why Ownership Matters.** The last few years have seen millions voice opposition to consolidated media power. Media activists have succeeded in slowing and even stopping maneuvers to extend corporate control of a deregulated media system. But the next step—creating new media rules that will actually encourage quality journalism and serve our democracy—will require a long-term commitment to rearticulating the importance of a free press. C. Edwin Baker's latest book provides highly useful blueprints for the struggle ahead. He presents strong arguments for media democratization backed by clear legal reasoning, historical study, and economic analysis. Baker methodically knocks down the most common arguments favoring media deregulation, including the canard that big media only gives consumers what they want, and the attractive but misleading notion that the Internet's vast array of choices makes legacy media consolidation irrelevant. [Cambridge]

## Communication Revolution by Robert McChesney

**Critical Junctures and the Future of Media.** Critical media scholar and activist Bob McChesney focuses his attention on his own academic field in his latest title, and Communication Revolution will be of primary interest to students (nonacademic as well as academic) of political communications. The book's opening chapters offer an annotated historical bibliography of the American idea of a free press, leading to a description of the author's own political education. McChesney describes becoming politicized around academia's unwillingness to challenge, rather than simply observing or enabling, how powerful economic and political establishments have led media away from its traditional watchdog role. He argues that media scholars should embrace responsibility for helping encourage media norms and institutions that support civic engagement and democracy. A rich companion volume of essays spanning McChesney's scholarly career, *The Political Economy of Media*, has been published by Monthly Review. [New Press]

## Made Love, Got War by Norman Solomon

**Close Encounters with America's War State.** Veteran media critic Norman Solomon has helped educate a generation of media activists with his creative and politically uncompromising essays on the faces of power elites hidden behind the most ingrained habits of corporate media. He has paid particular attention to the links between American media and militarism. Solomon's latest book is an activist memoir—tracing the author's development of critical political perspectives as a journalist, anti-nuclear activist and media critic from the 1960s through the 1980s. Laden with enlightening anecdotes, including accounts of Solomon's controversial trips to Iraq with Congressmen and Sean Penn. [Polipoint Press]



## Getting Off by Robert Jenkins

**Pornography and the End of Masculinity.** In his latest work, Robert Jenkins launches an unflinching and personal attack on the consumption of pornography and the porn-ization of mass entertainment media. *Getting Off* surveys how porn serves as a pervasive but rarely-examined cultural support for patriarchy, homophobia and racism. Jenkins also attacks conventional definitions of masculinity based on conflict and emotional noncommunication, and implicates porn in its continued hold on modern men of all political stripes. [South End Press]

## The United States v. I. Lewis Libby ed. by Murray Waas

Investigative journalist Murray Waas provides the definitive source about a legal case related to the Bush administration's attempts to discredit Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who had publicly undermined the official rationale for war in Iraq. Libby was convicted (and his sentence commuted by Bush), but there remain many unanswered questions about the extent of the administration's willingness to lie to the public, and key media players' eagerness to repeat administration claims in return for favored access. Waas' commentary helps makes the long court transcripts accessible and draws out major issues. [Union Square]

## Unmarketable by Anne Elizabeth Moore

**Brandalism, Copyfighting, Mocketing and the Illusion of Integrity.** Kids today are creating their own culture and counterculture in the midst of a manipulative media landscape wherein "alternative," "independent," and "underground" have lost their meaning, deployed over and over by corporations angling for a piece of the teen rebellion market. Punk Planet editor and DIY evangelist Anne Moore looks at this Orwellian phenomenon from many angles - the corporate cooptation of radical culture, the use of copyright law to prohibit rather than protect creativity, the shifting definitions of authenticity and integrity, the attractions of selling out, and the ever-present possibilities for cultural counterinsurgency. The results: easily the best, funniest and most memorable book on cultural resistance in a world where resistance to branding has itself become the basis for more branding. [New Press]

## Beyond the Green Zone by Dahr Jamail

**Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq.** Dahr Jamail's journalistic essays will stand as one of the most important documents of what war and occupation mean to Iraqis whose communities are suffering the short- and long-term effects. In this first collection, Jamail shares the voices of his Iraqi interviewees as well as those of fellow journalists, Iraqi drivers and fixers, and US soldiers—voices largely missing from US