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A liberal voice shares her views, trumpets alternative media

THE AUDIO RECORDING FROM GOODMAN'S TALK PROVIDED BY KCBX IS TOO LARGE TO POST, SO THERE IS NO LINK FOR IT. OUR APOLOGIES FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS.

By [Sona Patel](#)
spatel@thetribunenews.com

The host of a nationally syndicated left-leaning radio news program shared her liberal political viewpoints Sunday with a crowd of Central Coast residents, urging them to embrace independent media.

Amy Goodman is the host of the radio program "Democracy Now!," which offers an alternative perspective of political news that critics of the mainstream media say is ignored.

"When the press acts as a conveyor belt for the lies of government, the lies take lives," said Goodman, whose hourlong program airs locally on KCBX-FM 90.1 at noon Monday through Friday and on KCPR-FM 91.3 at 9 a.m.

Goodman is noted for offering perspectives from voices of anti-war activists and political experts not often heard in the mainstream media and for criticizing corporate media for allegedly funneling lies from the federal government.

About 360 people contributed \$30 or \$100 apiece for tickets, raising nearly \$14,000 to help pay for the local broadcast of "Democracy Now!," according to KCBX program director Guy Rathbun.

War veterans, college students and other local residents listened to anecdotes from Goodman's interviews with grassroots leaders, activists and international journalists who have been affected directly by U.S. foreign policy.

A brief book signing followed her talk at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Memorial Building.

Goodman's career has taken her many places, including Crawford, Texas, where President Bush vacations. There, she held signs supporting anti-war activists.

She's also been to the riot-filled streets of East Timor and spent time with families who lost relatives in the Iraq war.

Among her most notable experience as an interviewer was the story of Cindy Sheehan



Tribune photo by David Middlecamp

Amy Goodman signs her book "Static" for Francesca De Lorenzo on Sunday at the Veterans Memorial Building in San Luis Obispo. Those attending heard Goodman's anecdotes for her radio show interviews.
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Among her most notable experiences as an interviewer was the story of Emily Sheehan — a woman whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004 and who since became a liberal political activist.

Shortly after her son was killed, Sheehan gained national attention through the mainstream media by camping outside Bush's Texas ranch to protest the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq and has continued her activism since.

Goodman also shared stories Sunday about her meetings with families who were angry about their relatives being killed at war.

The stories were key to Goodman's message, which is to pressure the mainstream media to criticize people in power.

"It is essential to the functioning of a democratic society that we be independent, that we have the discussions, that we hold those in power accountable," Goodman said. "We have to challenge the media to stop acting as a conveyor belt for the lies of the administration."

"Whoever is in the leadership isn't as important as you, the people, in this room. You will determine what happens," Goodman said.

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