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## DETROIT NEWS BRIEFS

## Lecture topic is faith and politics

SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

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The intersection of faith and religion with politics and public policy will be the topic of discussion for author, theologian and Detroit-area native Jim Wallis when he speaks at University of Detroit Mercy at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. His lecture is titled "Faith in the Public Square."

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Wallis is president of Sojourners, a faith-based organization that says the Bible demands work for social justice. He is editor in chief of Sojourners magazine and has criticized politicians for misunderstanding the Bible or misrepresenting it to fit their messages. He wrote "The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America."

He will speak at Calihan Hall, 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit. The event is free and open to the public.






### Ex-Detroit pleads guilty to mail fraud in scheme

Michael Awad, a former Detroit resident, pleaded guilty to mail fraud in a scheme to defraud buyers of precious metals and coins via the Internet, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit announced Thursday.

Awad, 50, pleaded guilty before Judge Lawrence Zatkoff. In March, Awad was indicted on 10 counts of mail fraud.

Information from the plea hearing showed that from 2005 until 2007, Awad

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-- while using his sister's name -- defrauded those who wished to buy from him over the Internet. He required prepayment from the buyers but refused to ship the purchases.

Ultimately, Awad defrauded more than 10 victims of about \$150,000.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Awad faces up to 33 months in prison.

Compiled by Robin Erb and Free Press staff.

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