



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 1997

GLOBAL FRESNO #1

Mexico: What happens there, happens here

Join us Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7 P.M. at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence for the first in a series of **free** public forums about international issues that touch the lives of people right here in the Central Valley.

The theme of our first forum is "Mexico: What Happens There, Happens Here." We'll deal with such topics as:

- Why Mexico's socio-economic future is crucial to the future of the United States
- How Mexico under NAFTA is a key test case for the global high-tech corporate economy
- Why the U.S. is fueling the militarization of Mexico with weapons and military training
- What people can do to change U.S. policy in Mexico before it is too late

We'll also have a report on the demoralizing legal crisis affecting immigrants locally and nationwide, and an update on labor conditions in parts of Latin America. **This forum will be conducted in English and Spanish.**

Our keynote speaker, **Peter Lumsdaine**, has worked for nearly 20 years as an organizer, trainer, researcher and public speaker on the staff of peace, justice and ecological protection organizations. His work has taken him from the small town churches of Montana and Florida to international conferences in Hiroshima; from the war-torn countryside of the central Philippines to the inner security zones

of the U.S. Space Command; from meetings with prominent U.S. politicians to the halls of the federal prison system, where he served a two-year sentence for disabling military satellite equipment. He is currently Latin America Program Coordinator at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz.

Global Fresno forums are intended to serve as antidotes to mainstream media blather about the wonders of markets, exports, competition and pie-in-the-sky right-wing fantasies, like Newt Gingrich's "opportunity society."

If you are outraged by (or at least suspicious of) the sanctification of the entrepreneur, the dismantling of the social safety net, and the profoundly anti-democratic global power structure where money equals power and the vast majority of us have a hell of a lot more debt than money—then support our effort by attending and participating. Your personal experiences are valuable to us.

We will call on all types of people to share with and educate us: experts and non-experts, union leaders, rank and file activists, academics, students, immigrants, unemployed folks, people of all races.

The Fresno area is a global community; we rub elbows with our international brothers and sisters every day. If your gut tells you that cut-throat competition is no family value, then please support our effort to offer a cooperative, real-life, engaging alternative to TV sit-coms and the usual "infotainment."

Global Fresnoans are connected to the *real* world!

Sponsored by Labor/Community Alliance, the Labor Party, and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

A PROJECT OF THE LABOR PARTY (FRANK LITTLE CHAPTER) AND OUR MANY FRIENDS

The purpose

*of Labor/Community Alliance
is to strengthen and unite the
labor movement and the progressive
community in the Central San Joaquin
Valley through information sharing.
This publication is printed monthly and
includes a calendar of events. In addition
to providing the basis for mutual support
between labor and community groups,
this newsletter will be used to promote
dialog on the subject of creating an
independent political party for the
U.S. working class.*

Project Coordinators

John Veen Pam Whalen
Mike Rhodes Del Berg
Larry Langford

Labor Party

Frank Little Chapter
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755
(209)226-2078
Fax c/o Pam Whalen:
277-6709

Labor-Welfare Summit attracts 500+ activists

It was a wild ride at the Labor-Welfare Summit September 26-27 in San Francisco. Put on by the National Lawyers Guild, this two-day event was sold out, with well over 500 activists in attendance.

Scores of labor and social justice organizations were represented. A sampling: California Labor Federation, California School Employees Association, SEIU Local 535, Labor Party, Justice for Janitors, ACORN, Women of Color Resource Center, Immigrant Women's Access Project, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, National Welfare Rights Union, Asian Law Caucus, IAM Local 562, Gray Panthers, Sacramento Central Labor Council, Wages for Housework, Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

"Representing" Fresno were Gloria Hernandez (Immigrant Women's Access Project and Labor Party member) and John Veen (Labor/Community Alliance; Labor Party).

It was a "wild ride" for several reasons: it was held in San Francisco, sponsored by radical lawyers, and was filled to the rafters with speech-making, podium-pounding, impassioned street-fighters for social justice.

And there was another element: community groups repeatedly challenged organized labor. "Where have you been? We're glad you're here, but *where the hell have you been?*" Labor's answer: "This is a new day, a new era, a reborn labor movement made up of people exactly like you: diverse, radical, and fighting for justice. Don't hold the past against us. We're not the 'old guard.' It's time to work together."

The fact is, at this event organized labor and social justice groups were hard to tell apart. As the right-wing attack on the social safety net continues, coalitions and networks of progressive organizations are forming

all over the state. Concrete programs and plans of action are sometimes scarce, and sometimes too plentiful ("Where's the focus?" "Which way should I go?") But (this writer believes) this preliminary chaos will lead to social transformation—if we keep at it without going after each other. For conference details and documents, contact the Labor Party. ~John Veen



According to the United Nations Development Program, the world's seven richest people could end world poverty. Their \$80 billion, the UN agency said, could provide access to basic social services and eradicate poverty in nations around the globe. The report also noted that the net wealth of the world's top 10 billionaires is worth 1.5 times the combined national income of the 48 least developed countries. (Labor Party Press, Nov. 1997)

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Agreement increases power of multinationals

by Del Berg, Labor/Community Alliance

According to the September '97 issue of the *Labor Party Press*, President Clinton is working on an international agreement that would greatly enhance the power of multinational corporations. Known as the Multinational Agreement on Investment (MAI), it would guarantee such corporations the right of unrestricted international investment and trade in commodities and services, and largely free them from regulations protecting labor and the environment.

According to the agreement, multinational corporations would be granted the following powers:

- ❶ Unrestricted construction and ownership in any country
- ❷ Investment decisions without answering to anyone outside the corporation
- ❸ Totally independent world credit and financial arrangements
- ❹ The right to benefit from all credit, tax, or subsidy measures given by any country to its own corporations
- ❺ The right to ignore labor laws and environmental regulations, if they interfere with profit-making activities.

That the rights of workers and trade unions would be severely circumscribed by such measures goes without saying. Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, another major supporter of this agreement, recently spoke at a summit of Latin American leaders, where he proclaimed, "Labor and environmental worries must not be allowed to affect free trade in the world."

"Labor and environmental worries must not be allowed to affect free trade in the world."

Ernesto Zedillo, President of Mexico

Although the agreement will not be finalized before May of next year, we need to be prepared to mobilize all our forces in opposition to it when Congress considers it for ratification. Opposition to MAI will be made more difficult if Clinton gets Congress to give him the so-called "Fast Track" consideration. Under Fast Track, congressional authority to supervise presidential negotiations of trade agreements would be severely limited. Congress could attach no amendments to such treaties that would force their renegotiation, and debate on trade agreements would be limited to 20 hours, with an up or down vote to be taken within 60 legislative days of its consideration.

Both MAI and Fast Track present serious threats to the health and economic well-being of workers around the world. We must let Congress and the President know that labor laws and environmental regulations should have priority over the profits of multinational corporations.

Community station KFCF will feature author David Harris at annual dinner

by Vic Bedoian

Fresno native son David Harris will be the guest speaker at the Fresno Free College/KFCF Annual Banquet to be held on Nov. 14 in the Grand Ballroom of the International Trade Center in downtown Fresno. Born and raised in Fresno, Harris graduated from Fresno High in 1962. As a student at Stanford, he was launched into the public spotlight for refusing to be drafted into the military during the Vietnam War. He was imprisoned for his act of conscience and subsequently became a symbol for American opposition to the war.

Harris is the acclaimed author of seven books, a contributing editor for *New York Times Magazine* and former contributing editor for *Rolling Stone*. His recent work explores two dark chapters of contemporary history. In *Our War: What We Did In Vietnam and What It Did to Us* he confronts the evils of the conflict and its impact on us. Looking at a current conflict in *The Last Stand*, he tells the story of the Redwood War between Wall Street and Main Street over the last of the great ancient Redwood forests of California's North Coast.

The evening begins with a no-host mixer at 5:30 P.M.; dinner is at 7 P.M., followed by the program. Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more information about the event or to make a reservation by Visa or MasterCard, call Vic Bedoian at 233-2221.

HCA petition drive for universal health care

by Ray Ensher, Health Care for All—Central Valley

Sometime soon, a knock on your door may be a Health Care for All volunteer asking you to sign a petition for single payer legislation. Health Care for All—California has launched this drive to pass state legislation to provide health care for every Californian, using a single public health care trust fund. The majority of the 6.7 million Californians and 42 million Americans who have no health insurance are working families.

A single payer bill will be introduced when the state legislature convenes for the new session in January 1998. Based on a revised version of Prop. 186, the bill would provide comprehensive, high-quality, affordable health care for every Californian. The petition drive, which seeks to convince legislators to sponsor universal health care legislation, emphasizes one-on-one contact with voters. People need to understand the benefits of single payer so they will not be swayed by insurance industry sound-bite campaigns. Petitioners hope to collect 15,000 signatures by Dec. 31.

Petitions are available at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence or by calling Bill Young, 855-2438.

Maquiladora workers elect their first independent union

by David Bacon

Fending off a last-minute attempt to destabilize the election process, employees of the Tijuana factory of Han Young de Mexico on Oct. 6 became the first maquiladora workers on the U.S./Mexico border to vote in favor of an independent union.

In the traditional open voting system used by the Mexican labor board, (the National Conciliation and Arbitration Board-JNCA), 55 workers publicly declared their support for the Metal, Steel and Allied Workers Union of the Authentic Labor Front (FAT), Mexico's most independent labor federation, while 32 favored the existing company union.

"This is the beginning of the independent labor movement in Tijuana," declared Jose Angel Penaflor Barron, a local attorney who acted as FAT's lawyer during the proceedings. "This is the beachhead for democratic unions on the border."

"This is the beachhead for democratic unions on the border."

Jose Barron, FAT lawyer

Fearing the company wouldn't release them to vote, the Han Young workers had stopped work that morning, and had traveled to the labor board office as a group. As the procedure finally began, they trooped into the room, one by one, and presented themselves at a table, behind which sat JNCA secretaries and officials. Each was asked for a photo ID, and then another identification paper documenting their employee status at Han Young.

Finally they were asked the question—which union did they prefer? A packed crowd of representatives of both the FAT and the existing company union, the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Farmers (CROC), surrounded the workers listening intently. Numerous observers from U.S. churches and unions jammed into the small room as well. Their delegation had been assembled by the San Diego-based Support Committee for Maquiladora Workers, to ensure a fair and clean election.

As secretaries typed furiously, each worker openly declared their choice. When the waiting line of workers had been exhausted, 52 had voted for the FAT, and only 7 for the company union.

As the process ended, angry shouts broke out from the waiting area outside. A heated confrontation erupted, as a new group presented themselves to vote. To the outrage of Han Young workers, they recognized their supervisors, and saw others they had never seen in the plant before.

The labor board representatives reopened the election procedure. After police were called, the new group was escorted into the conference room, and began voting. Many

had no papers identifying themselves as Han Young employees. Some didn't remember the name of the company where they supposedly worked, until reminded by others. At least one was not asked for an ID at all. Another admitted that he had gone to work in the factory just days before. Still another, Manuel Uribe Vasquez, admitted after voting that he was a foreman, and therefore ineligible to vote under Mexican law.

As this group voted, angry Han Young workers outside chanted "Fraud, Fraud." In the end, however, the votes of the second group proved insufficient to defeat the FAT union, and the total stood at 55 for the FAT, and 32 for the CROC. If its victory is certified, the FAT union will take over the existing contract of the company union at Han Young, becoming the workers' representative and the first independent union at a factory on the border.

Alternative Veterans Day Program honors peace and justice workers

by Gerry Bill, Fresno Center for Nonviolence



The third annual Alternative Veterans Day Program at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence will honor "peace veterans" who have been working for peace and justice in Central America.

The program, to be held Tuesday, Nov. 11, includes:

5:30 P.M.: Potluck meal shared with Pastors for Peace Caravan headed for Chiapas, Mexico, and Nicaragua

6:30 P.M.: Presentation by Pastors for Peace caravanistas describing the purpose of their trip and current conditions in Chiapas and Nicaragua

7:30 P.M.: Program honoring local individuals who have participated in peace missions to Central America or carried humanitarian aid there

Pastors for Peace, a humanitarian aid organization based in Chicago, sends caravans to Central America every year. This year they will have eight routes passing through more than 60 U.S. cities and converging in San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 17 to begin the journey to Chiapas. For details, call 227-2133.

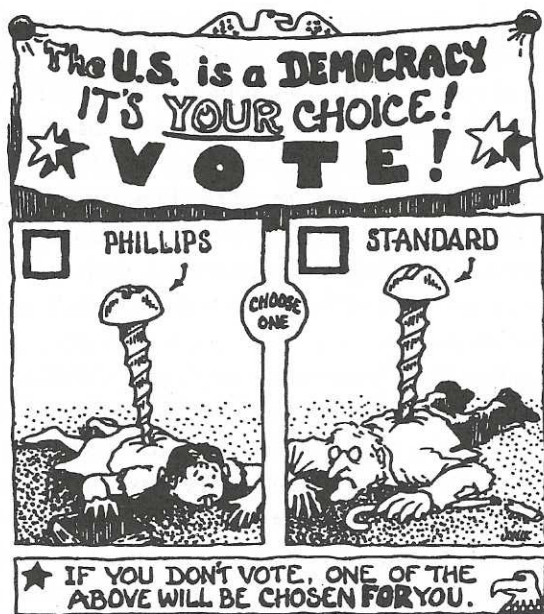
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from *Funny Times*, a monthly newspaper of humor, politics & fun; (800)811-5267

AFL- CIO charts path to the future

by Fred Gaboury, *Weekly World*

An aura of measured confidence and quiet determination permeated the David Lawrence Convention Center as the 21st Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO opened in Pittsburgh on Sept. 22. During three and a half days of discussion and action, the 870 delegates took a hard look at the direction of the labor movement, reflected on the considerable progress made since election of the leadership team of John J. Sweeney, Richard L. Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson in 1995 and, at the same time, charted a path toward the new millennium. In the process, they adopted 11 policy resolutions; resolved to field 2,000 labor candidates in 2000; voted unanimously to remove the anti-communist clause from the federation's constitution; re-elected the Sweeney team to a four-year term; raised per capita tax by a nickel a month to finance voter education and mobilization and, in general, trimmed the AFL-CIO ship for the storms ahead.

Delegates considered "Building a Broad Movement of America's Workers," a policy statement calling upon AFL-CIO affiliates to raise \$1 billion for organizing by the year 2000. The resolution called the right for workers to form unions "the next great civil rights issue of our time." During the discussion Sweeney shared the stage with 60 rank and file workers who spearheaded 2,000 successful organizing drives in the last two years.

For convention delegates, going to the streets also meant going to the election wars. To that end they put the stamp of approval on "2,000 in 2000"—a program aimed at having 2,000 labor candidates on 2,000 ballots in the year 2000. They also agreed to assign 300 field organizers into the 1998

elections and cheered when told that more than 50 were already in the field mobilizing to defeat "fast track." Although the labor movement doubled its contributions to candidates between 1992 and 1996, corporations still outspent the labor movement by a ratio of 17 to 1.

In a strongly-worded resolution titled "Civil and Human Rights," the convention said, "The AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions are united in the belief that barriers that separate workers on the basis of race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual preference or physical abilities are barriers that fundamentally weaken our movement and strengthen our enemies." Pointing to the role that immigrants have played in "building the nation and its democratic ideals," the resolution added: "The labor movement in particular has been enriched by the contributions of immigrant workers . . . who continue to make indispensable contributions to the strength and growth of our unions . . ." The resolution acknowledged the labor movement's "responsibility to counter anti-immigrant bias wherever it occurs" and urged "compassionate and humane treatment and due process of law for all people who enter or attempt to enter, the United States illegally." The resolution called upon political, civic and religious leaders to "refute and speak out against those who seek to blame immigrants for the country's economic and social problems."

Delegates also spoke out strongly in defense of affirmative action: "Affirmative action has moved our society measurably closer to the democratic goals of equal opportunity. The gap remaining is too wide to justify relaxing our efforts and abandoning methods of proven effectiveness. If there are flaws in the execution of these methods," the resolution says, "then by all means we should correct them. But let us not use them as a pretext for returning to the complacent and degrading policies of the past."

The Civil and Human Rights statement stressed the need for the labor movement to build coalitions with community organizations. "[In order] to bring all people into the mainstream of American life, labor must participate fully in effective and enduring coalitions with civil and human rights groups, religious groups and community-based organizations to pursue jointly corrections of the inequities and injustices in society," the resolution said.

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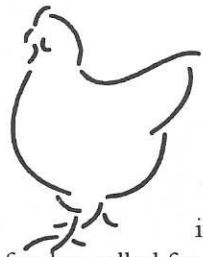
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We welcome the opportunity to consider representing you or your friends needing help with *workers' compensation* and *social security* disability claims.

Labor News



Foster Farms workers unified in strike. Nearly 1,000 workers struck the Foster Farms plant in Livingston in early October. According to Don Hunsucker, president of United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 1288: "This strike is in direct response to the employer's final offer that called for increases in co-payments for medical benefits. Though there are wage improvements offered by this large and profitable company, the company is undermining these improvements by requiring workers to pay more for their health benefits." Negotiations between Foster Farms and the union have been in progress for more than two months. Local 1288, the largest union in the San Joaquin Valley with more than 9,500 members, was successful in its recent strike against the Zacky turkey processing plant in Fresno.

Religious leaders applaud Department of Labor on Poultry Task Force. The National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice congratulated the Department of Labor on taking an important first step by beginning a compliance survey of workplace laws in the poultry processing industry. Nearly a year ago, religious leaders joined with poultry processors to call on the DOL to take action on the rampant workplace abuses and safety risks in this industry. A recent study concluded that nearly 70 percent of workers who filed complaints to OSHA about workplace safety problems are fired from their jobs.

 **Symphony Musicians of Fresno need support.** Professional musicians who play in the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, members of Local 210 of the American Federation of Musicians, are in difficult contract negotiations with the Fresno Philharmonic Association. They are facing drastic cuts while other areas of the budget continue to be funded at current levels. Call Judy Robinson, 449-9868, or Jeff Sandersier, 447-5947.

Let your conscience be your guide. In cities and on college campuses, union members joined with the religious community, students and others concerned with human rights in a National Day of Conscience to End Sweatshops to kick off a Holiday Season of Conscience. Organized by the National Labor Committee, the campaign asks shoppers to reward retailers and manufacturers who respect human and worker rights and penalize those that continue to use child labor and sweatshops. The Oct. 4 rallies and marches drew the public's attention to "the very real and ugly side of the global economy," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "Some companies have taken a few first steps to recognizing the problem. Now we need to focus on the Disney empire, Guess, Wal-Mart and others who still haven't gotten the message."



Carpenters urge boycott of Longs Drugs. The Carpenters Committee to Protect Area Standards urges the public not to shop at Longs Drugs, to protest the store's use of out-of-area contractors who do not pay established wages and fringes.

NAFTA job loss widespread. The job toll from the North American Free Trade Agreement continues to climb, with a net loss so far of nearly 400,000 jobs. Seventy percent of its impact is in manufacturing, according to the Economic Policy Institute. When displaced workers find new jobs, they are likely to be in the services sector, where the workers' average earnings are more than 16 percent lower. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have lost more jobs to imports than were gained from exports under NAFTA, EPI says. EPI's two new reports, *NAFTA and the States: Job Destruction Is Widespread*, and *NAFTA's Casualties: Employment Effects on Men, Women and Minorities*, can be ordered by calling 1-800-EPI-4844 or through the web site at <http://www.epinet.org>.



Ending public education? Congressional Republicans have joined forces with a radical right-wing group whose goal is to eliminate public schools altogether, the *Washington Post* reported last week. The paper said that the American Education Reform Foundation is the key force behind the voucher experiment Republicans want to conduct on Washington, D.C., school children. "The foundation's leaders include wealthy Republican contributors and Libertarians who have espoused funding all elementary and secondary education through government payments directly to parents," the Post reported. "In other words," the Democratic Policy Committee said, "goodbye public schools."

No Guess, it's dirty laundry. More than 800 union members and religious and community activists marched through downtown Los Angeles Oct. 4 to the showroom of Guess Inc. to deliver a "dirty laundry bill" to the jeans maker. The march through the garment district, part of the National Day of Conscience to End Sweatshops, included members of UNITE, the Service Employees, the Farm Workers, OPEIU, AFSCME, LIUNA, AFTRA, the Teamsters, the Carpenters and the Communications Workers.

With authority in L.A. After a decade-long fight, SEIU Local 434B's effort to create a county home care authority and, in turn, an official employer for 77,000 home care workers, paid off when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted recently to create such an authority. On the day of the vote, 1,000 home care workers rallied with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. The entire unit of workers is likely to vote on joining Local 434B next year.

Labor/Community Alliance
Labor Party (Frank Little Chapter)
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755

• Address Correction Requested •

The BART strike

Directors' ties with contractors, developers unchallenged

by David Bacon, Labor Notes

On the picket lines, the BART strikers repeated over and over their explanation of the economic forces that led to their week-long strike. But in contrast to the UPS strike, the voices of BART workers were generally absent from the media. Workers' insight into their own jobs, and the economic pressures behind the strike, were ignored. . . .

BART workers are paid from the system's operating budget. In recent years, BART has attempted to keep that budget from growing, and even to transfer money out of it. . . . While holding the lid on operating costs, BART's construction budget has mushroomed. New lines have been extended. . . .

Construction companies make large profits from the new projects. Rank and file strikers pointed out over and over again that 40 percent of the donations that fund the election campaigns for BART workers come from construction companies. The extension of BART lines is critical to the development of vast new housing tracts in . . . areas on the fringes of the cities of eastern Contra Costa County.

The Bay Area's powerful land developers have a big reason to ensure that BART's construction budget grows without limit, while holding the line on operating expenses. This is a sure formula for constant tension between management

and workers. While the strikers were vocal about these points, their unions made little effort to take their case to the public before the strike started. By failing to do so, they lost the chance to forge a powerful alliance between commuters and workers to defend the BART operating budget and keep construction costs from driving up fares.

The settlement that ended the strike hasn't resolved the basic economic conflicts that led to it. They will surely lead to another fare increase, and may eventually cause another bitter labor conflict.

Beware anti-union initiatives!



Remember not to sign either of the two anti-union initiatives currently in circulation for the statewide ballot.

① **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. EMPLOYERS. LABOR UNIONS. FOREIGN ENTITIES** would impose onerous requirements on all unions severely restricting their ability to raise and spend money to pass or defeat initiatives by wiping out union political action funds.

② **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS. REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED AGREEMENTS** attempts to dry up union funds by eliminating automatic dues deductions and abolishing agency shops.

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Mexico: What Happens There, Happens Here

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- ➔ How Mexico under NAFTA is a key test case for the global high-tech corporate economy
- ➔ Why the U.S. is fueling the militarization of Mexico with weapons and military training

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His work has taken him from the small town churches of Montana and Florida to international conferences in Hiroshima; from the war-torn countryside of the central Philippines to the inner security zones of the U.S. Space Command; from meetings with prominent U.S. politicians to the halls of the federal prison system, where he served a two-year sentence for disabling military satellite equipment.

Lumsdaine is currently Latin America Program Coordinator at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz.

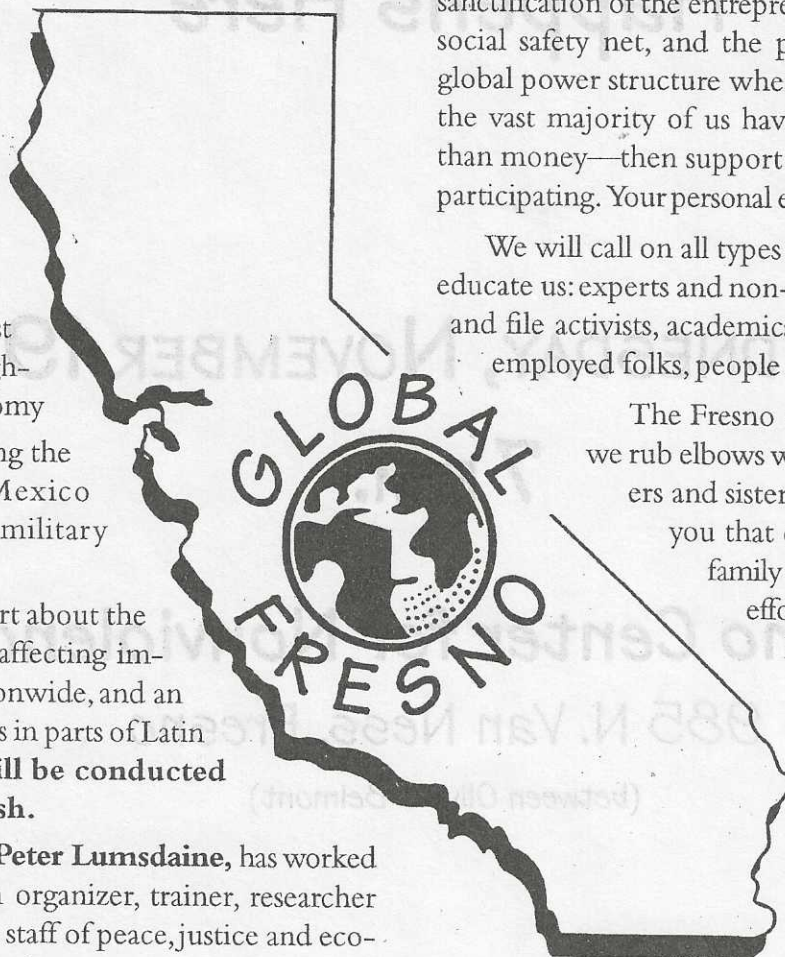
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If you are outraged by (or at least suspicious of) the sanctification of the entrepreneur, the dismantling of the social safety net, and the profoundly anti-democratic global power structure where money equals power and the vast majority of us have a hell of a lot more debt than money—then support our effort by attending and participating. Your personal experiences are valuable to us.

We will call on all types of people to share with and educate us: experts and non-experts, union leaders, rank and file activists, academics, students, immigrants, unemployed folks, people of all races.

The Fresno area is a global community; we rub elbows with our international brothers and sisters every day. If your gut tells you that cut-throat competition is no family value, then please support our effort to offer a cooperative, real-life, engaging alternative to TV sit-coms and the usual "infotainment."

Global Fresnans are connected to the real world!



What:	GLOBAL FRESNO #1: "Mexico: What Happens There, Happens Here"
When:	Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 P.M.
Where:	Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness, Fresno
Who:	Peter Lumsdaine, Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz, and local activists

Sponsored by Labor/Community Alliance, the Labor Party, and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

GLOBAL FRESNO #1

Mexico: What Happens There, Happens Here

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7 P.M.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

985 N. Van Ness, Fresno

(between Olive & Belmont)

✳ **Peter Lumsdaine**

Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz

✳ **Local Activists**

Free public forum sponsored by Labor/Community Alliance, the Labor Party,
and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Calendar of Events November 1997

November is Native American Heritage Month.

Saturday, November 1

Dia de los Muertos Procession and Reception, sponsored by Arte Americas. Call 266-2623 for details.

Friday, November 7

Labor Leader of the Year Dinner, honoring Cruz Bustamante, 6:30 P.M., Golden State Plaza. Call 275-1151 for details.

Saturday, November 8

Fresno Center for Nonviolence Board Meeting, 9:30 A.M., 985 N. Van Ness. Guests welcome.

Alternative Veterans Day Program

*Honoring Messengers of Peace
to Central America*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

5:30 P.M.: potluck meal with pastors for Peace Central America Caravan

6:30 P.M.: presentation by Pastors for Peace

7:30 P.M.: honoring local volunteers who have carried aid to Central America

Call Gerry Bill at 227-2133 for details.

Friday, November 14

Fresno Free College Foundation Dinner with David Harris, International Trade Center, 1999 Tuolumne Dinner at 7 P.M., speaker at 8:30 P.M. Call 233-2221 for details.

Saturday, November 15

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 10 A.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Call 229-9661.

HIV Substance Abuse Support Group, 2-4 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Call 485-3667.

Deadline for submission of information for December issue of *Labor/Community Alliance*. Call 226-2078.

Sunday, November 16

Bring Peltier Home, benefit rally for Leonard Peltier, imprisoned Native American activist, 2-6 P.M., Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd Street, San Francisco. Call (415)821-6545 for details.

Monday, November 17

Amnesty International, 7:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 224-0924.

Tuesday, November 18

Health Care for All, 7:15 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Single payer health care advocacy group. Call 855-2438 for more information.

GLOBAL FRESNO #1

**Mexico: What Happens There,
Happens Here**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

985 N. Van Ness Avenue

(one block south of Olive)

Thursday, November 20

Death Penalty Focus, 7:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 323-4871.

Saturday, November 22

Death Penalty Focus Benefit, 7 p.m., Mennonite Community Church, 5015 E. Olive (at Willow).

Monday, November 24

Labor Party, Frank Little Chapter, 5:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Everyone welcome. Call 226-2078.

Ongoing Activities/Events

Scalzo Talk, Mon & Thurs 6-9 P.M., KAAT 103.1-FM.

Weekly

Monday-Friday: The Living Room, support and referral resource center for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Noon to 5 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 485-3667.

Every Saturday: Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry; 1-2 P.M. near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. **Needed: volunteers to help cook food Saturday mornings**, 9:30, Sierra Vista United Methodist church, corner of Maple & Illinois.

Death Penalty Focus Fund-Raiser

Saturday, November 22, 7 P.M.

Mennonite Community Church
5015 E. Olive (NE Corner Olive & Willow)

Donation: \$10

Refreshments, Door Prizes

Ben Aronoff, renowned folk singer, guitarist, actor and entertainer, former San Quentin prison guard and author, will appear in his critically acclaimed one-man show about the prison community and life on death row.

Sam Reese Sheppard, son of Dr. Samuel Sheppard, who was wrongfully convicted of murdering his wife, will speak about the case and autograph his book, *Mockery of Justice*.

Orders will be taken for *Outsiders Looking In: How to Keep From Going Crazy When Someone You Love Goes to Jail* by local authors/activists Maria Telesco and Toni Weymouth.

Call 323-4871 for more information.

Greed. Union bashing. Racism. Sexism. Violence. Money politics. Consumerism.

Sick of it? Want to do something about it--here in the Valley?

✓ **YES!** Send me **Labor/Community Alliance** every month.

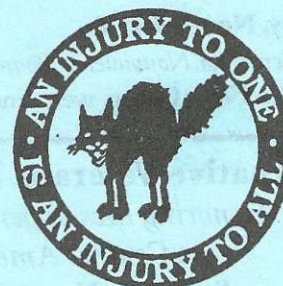
___ Yearly rate (circle one): \$35 or \$20 regular, \$10 low income.

___ Hardship? Contact us. We'll arrange something!

___ Sustaining: \$10 *per month* (this is our core and our foundation).

___ **YES!** I will help distribute LCA. Send me a bundle.

___ **YES!** I want to be put on the "Volunteers for Justice/Emergency Response Network" contact list. Alert me when there's a picket line, street action, phone bank (etc.) for labor rights and social justice.



Name _____ Union/Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ph#, Home: _____ Work _____
Fax _____ E-mail _____

Mail this form to: **Labor/Community Alliance, c/o Labor Party (Frank Little Chapter)**
PO Box 5077, Fresno, CA, 93755. Phone: 226-2078

"...a reborn labor movement must be absolutely committed to racial and gender equality [with] a real commitment to an end to women's 'double day,' real opposition to racism and sexism within unions, relentless antagonism to the dismantling of the welfare state, and a demand for the end of the vicious structure of racial oppression which permeates this country...

"...the most [progressive] mass organizing campaigns have been those of people of color, including Latin American immigrants steeled in struggles in the police states which were their homelands.

"...rather than unionized workers isolating themselves from their communities and becoming 'special interest groups,' they can become vital parts of communities rebuilding themselves and gaining control over their own fates.

"...a labor movement needs a labor ideology, a worker-centered way of seeing the world and interpreting what happens in it. This implies, in turn, an independent labor politics, a politics of ideology first and foremost. Then, fights for higher wages and union democracy will occur within a radically different context than is now the case... An independent and oppositional politics, combined with aggressive organizing, is also more likely to achieve the political reforms needed by workers to organize further.

"If the labor movement does not assert a political program of social and economic justice it will have great difficulty mounting an effective challenge to the control which corporate America exerts over our lives... Only when labor does develop an independent politics will it be able to become a movement."

Fernando Gapasin and Michael Yates, "Organizing the Unorganized," Monthly Review, July/August 1997