

Labor/Community ALLIANCE

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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 9



SEPTEMBER 1999

RECOVERING COMMUNITY RADIO AT PACIFICA

by David Bacon

BERKELEY, CA (8/5/99) — At seven a.m. on Thursday morning, the insistent twang of Philip Maldari once again crossed that inch of airspace between lips and microphone, beamed out over the transmitter high in the Berkeley hills, and welcomed listeners to KPFA's morning show.

The staff is back on the air. Armed palookas no longer sit in rumpled suits in the lobby, checking every person in and out. The hated gag rule is gone, defeated by on-air civil disobedience which finally let the listeners know the truth about the struggle over the station's direction and control.

Three weeks ago the Pacifica Foundation, which owns KPFA's license, locked the staff out of the station in an incredible night which saw its two news directors, Aileen Alfandary and Mark Mericle, arrested for trespassing as they sat in the newsroom fielding calls from reporters from coast to coast. Fifty-two others were arrested along with them, including Dennis Bernstein, yanked off the air and suspended after broadcasting a press conference on the daily newsmagazine Flashpoints, which talked about previous arrests at the station.

The arrests and lockout galvanized an already-angry community. By the weekend before the lockout's end, fifteen thousand people had marched through Berkeley streets to protest Pacifica's campaign against the station. They were led by the station's staff — paid and unpaid programmers walking together, older white news reporters beside young hip-hop apprentices, African-American program producers in step with union stewards.

It was a clear demonstration of the source of the pressure

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FRESNO LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN TAKES OFF

by Mike Rhodes

Last month, representatives from numerous Labor and Community groups started a Living Wage campaign in Fresno. "What I like about this campaign is that we are being proactive, this group is taking the initiative and pushing a progressive agenda in Fresno," said Ed Perez who works with Metro Ministry. "All too often Labor and Community groups are on the defensive, responding to attacks by the right...this is our chance to take the initiative and guarantee a Living Wage for workers in this community," Perez added.

The groups represented at the first Living Wage meeting were:

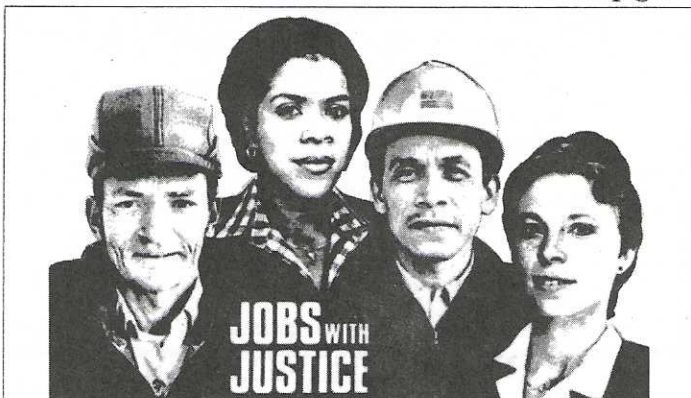
Labor/Community Alliance, The Unitarian Church, Operating Engineers Local 39, Metro Ministry, Fresno City Employees Association, College Community Congregational Church, SEIU Local 535, Carpenters Local 701, Catholic Workers, California Faculty Association, and Fresno County Green Party.

Pam Whalen, coordinator of The Labor/Community Alliance and senior organizer for SEIU 535 talked about how Living Wage campaigns have been run in other cities. There have been over 20 successful Living Wage campaigns in communities around the country, including San Jose, Oakland, and Boston. These campaigns have determined what a living wage is in their communities and passed an ordinance which forces the city to pay their employees enough so that they are

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LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Labor/Community Alliance is independent and dedicated to building a coalition of organized labor and progressive community groups to pursue economic and social justice for working people in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley. The Labor/Community Alliance is affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. This newsletter is published monthly.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 10, 1999

Born from the tragedy between KPFA and Pacifica (reported upon in the *Alliance's* August edition) is a bright, new opportunity for the San Joaquin Valley: the chance for valley communities to access *their own* community radio station, KFCF. The local station's transition toward more inclusive, local programming appears to be underway.

At this time, the fledgling Community Radio Coalition (CRC) is asking valley communities and interest groups to support the efforts being made by the Fresno Free College Foundation Board of Directors as its members grapple with the birthing pains of this exciting transition. We must try to put aside differences and competing interests and rally around this important community asset in whatever way we can.

Being historically and primarily a repeater station for KPFA/Berkeley, KFCF's local programming was never the local station's mission. However, visionaries on the FFCF Board have, for several years, been investigating and promoting the possibilities of making KFCF's programming and participation more responsive to our *local* informational needs and reflective of our diverse, *local* cultural and ethnic backgrounds. (There appears to be community wide unanimity that KPFA's most vital programs will always be a part of KFCF's programming mix, for as long as they are available.) These board members see tremendous need for KFCF to evolve such that it might serve the San Joaquin Valley in much the same way that KPFA has served the Bay Area. From the recent KFCF community and volunteer meetings, it is apparent many valley residents are ready not only to *hear* such a transition, but are also ready to help make the transition happen.

KPFA's crisis July 13th along with its current precarious status, have prompted the board to accelerate the transition to more local programming, slightly. Considering the following, the pace seems justified.

To the untrained ear, radio programming *sounds* easy. Few realize the prime ingredients of *important*, quality programming are heavy doses of time and commitment. Finding responsible persons who understand and value the "resource" entrusted to the board is tough enough. That most will not be paid makes the challenge formidable. The board has adopted an evolving proposal process to pave the way toward community access. (The CRC can provide *unofficial* assistance in preparing proposals.)

The Community Radio Coalition supports the board's move toward creating community access. The Coalition also supports the board's desire for community input regarding governance and programming. These will be the mileposts along the road to creating genuine community radio.

The FFCF Board deserves praise for guiding the Foundation and KFCF through these challenging times. It is evident the board sees KFCF as a precious community resource *in the rough*. Its facets will not be hewn quickly nor without difficulty. But the gem that arises from the collaborative efforts of the station's governing board and KFCF's communities of interest stands a fighting chance to at least equal KPFA's brilliance.

Gunnar Jensen

The Community Radio Coalition (CRC) seeks to reflect the valley's ethnic and cultural diversity in its promotion of community radio values. The CRC seeks to create access on public and commercial radio for programming of community interest produced by the community. For information on how to become a member of the CRC, call 264-6059.



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KFCF AND RADIO FOR THE COMMUNITY

by Vic Bedoian, KFCF Station Manager

To paraphrase Mark Twain - rumors of KPFA's death have been greatly exaggerated! Yes, KPFA is back on the air after the lockout of the staff and programmers on July 13. After the "administrative leave" imposed by Pacifica took place, KFCF 88.1 FM decided not to air the scab programming placed on the airwaves by the Pacifica management and went into an emergency broadcasting mode.

This condition was reinforced on the evening of July 23 when Pacifica cut the signal from KPFA to its sister station KFCF. The reaction by the local community to both the outrageous actions by Pacifica and the local programming by KFCF was enormous and heartwarming. People in Central California very much want and need community radio. Since then, at community meetings, by phone calls, letters, email and on-air responses by listeners, people have emphasized two major points to KFCF. First, people want to receive the excellent programming from KPFA and Pacifica's national programs. Second, local folks want more locally produced radio programs that reflect life in the San Joaquin Valley.

To make such programming possible the Board of Directors of the Fresno Free College Foundation, which operates KFCF, welcomes program ideas and proposals from the community. The Board has set up a committee that will review program proposals and submit their selections to the full Board for decisions. KFCF is now inundated with many critical tasks, including economic survival, public events and organizing the infrastructure for greater community input.

The process for deciding the criteria for when and how new programs are scheduled will take some time to set in place. It will be a very careful and deliberative process to ensure such things as balance, quality, training and other important issues that are necessary to produce good radio. KFCF has developed a guideline for submitting proposals for specific programs which is available either by calling the office at 559-233-2221 or on our website at www.kfcf.org, and general ideas can be submitted by writing to KFCF at P.O. Box 4364, Fresno 93744. The future of community radio in Central California ultimately will depend on the ongoing energy, creativity and financial support of its listeners.

FRESNO WELCOMES SISTER HELEN PREJEAN

by Maria Telesco, Death Penalty Focus

On Wednesday, **September 8th**, Fresno will welcome Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ to a long-awaited event at St. Paul Newman Center, 1572 East Barstow, from 5 to 9 PM. A buffet dinner and reception will be followed by Sister Helen's keynote speech. Tickets are \$25: \$15 for the dinner and \$10 for the talk only.

Sister Helen is author of *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the U.S.* (Random House, 1993, Vintage, 1994), on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. The book was made into a motion picture written and directed by Tim Robbins. Susan Sarandon received Best Actress at the 1996 Academy Awards for her portrayal of Sister Helen in the film.

The book has been translated into ten languages, and is now being made into an opera by the San Francisco Opera Company, with Terence McNally as librettist and Jake Heggie, composer. World premiere of the opera will be performed in San Francisco in October, 2000. Sister Helen was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 and again in 1999. She has received many awards for her work, including the Laetare Medal from Notre Dame University, the Champion of Liberty Award from the U. S. Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Sanctity of Life Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She has received twenty honorary degrees, including those from Georgetown University, Amherst, the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and the University of San Francisco. She has been featured in many publications including the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Atlanta Constitution* and *Mirabella Magazine*, which named her among "100 Fearless Women" in 1994. ABC did a special on Sister Helen on *Prime Time Live*, PBS featured her on *Frontline*, and BBC did a special on her on *Everyman* called "Angel of Death Row." She has been interviewed on many television and radio programs including *Larry King Live*, the *Oprah Show* and *60 Minutes*.

She travels internationally, but mostly in the U.S., telling stories and educating people about the death penalty. She is honorary chairperson of *Hands Off Cain*, an international group based in Rome working for abolition of the death penalty, a member of Amnesty International and the U. S. National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, where she served as a board member for ten years.

Sister Helen was born April 21, 1939 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and has lived and worked in Louisiana all her life. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille in 1957. She received a B.A. in English from St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans in 1962. In 1973 she received an M.A. in Religious Education from St. Paul's University, Ottawa. She has taught junior and senior high school students, has been Religious Education Director of a Catholic parish, and has been Formation Director for her community.

In 1981 she worked at the St. Thomas Housing Project with poor inner-city residents and began counseling death row inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, and continues that ministry today. She has accompanied five men to their executions. She also works with murder victims' families, and founded a group in New Orleans called *Survive*.



NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL THAN AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME.....





Womens International League for Peace and Freedom

Legislative Report

by Lindell Cross

THE COSTS OF WAR

(Summary from FCNL Washington Newsletter, July 1999)

It is difficult to estimate accurately how much a war costs, especially when Pentagon and NATO officials fail to release detailed information on missions flown, types of aircraft, munitions used, etc. However, the amounts of money being considered for the FY99 budget yield some clues:

President Clinton has requested almost \$5.5 billion in emergency military spending for operations in Kosovo; \$566 million for Kosovo humanitarian assistance, and \$25 million for security upgrades to U.S. missions in the light of the Kosovo war. His total request came to \$6.049 billion. Congress, not to be outdone, included the President's almost \$5.5 billion for Kosovo military spending, \$1.068 billion for Kosovo humanitarian assistance, and \$70.5 million for security upgrades. Congress offers a total of \$6.596 billion. This is the bill for the Kosovo/Yugoslavia war that is being passed on to U.S. taxpayers in FY99.

Most consumers recognize the trade-offs they must accept if they make a big-ticket purchase. What should a Congressional comparison shopper look at before buying a war with a \$6.6 billion price tag? Consider the following matters:

- * The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a regional organization that works for non-military and diplomatic solutions to conflicts in many parts of the world, has an annual budget of about \$100 million (The U.S. spent that much in three days of bombing in Yugoslavia).

- * The U.S. currently owes the UN and its affiliated agencies \$1.5 billion in arrears. Perhaps if the U.S. had paid its arrears, the UN could have increased its support of preventive diplomacy, which possibly could have avoided both the "ethnic cleansing" and the bombing.

- * The increased military spending is likely to result in sharp cuts to programs that serve human needs at home and abroad. For example, Congress is debating a proposal to appropriate an additional \$45 million for the WIC supplemental nutrition program in the U.S. Failure to provide this funding will mean that 80,000 participants will be cut from the program in FY2000.

Becoming a Member is Important!

If you are not a WILPF member but want to join please send your name, address, city, zip, and phone number to:

Fresno Branch WILPF, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, Ca 93755.

Dues: \$35 Individual \$15 Student \$40 Household

Fresno Branch News

The *retreat* scheduled for August was canceled. A future date will be planned.

We extend a warm welcome to *new members* **Barbara Nelson** and **Rebecca Shen**. We also thank the many members who quickly responded to our letter and sent in their current dues. *Special thanks* to those who sent in a little extra in addition. And again thanks to a couple of friends who contributed \$100 to WILPF in honor of **Ellie** and **Gene's 50th Wedding Anniversary!**

Jean Kennedy Douglas and Rebecca Shen are planning to attend the *WILPF seminar on the UN* taking place at the end of August in our UN office as well as at the UN itself. Jean is seeking contributions to help pay for the trip. They may be sent to our P.O. Box 5114, Fresno 93755 and marked "for UN Seminar."

Blanche Nosworthy graciously hosted our *August potluck evening*—good conversation and interesting reports of the WILPF national congress by Millee Livingston and Jean Kennedy Douglas.

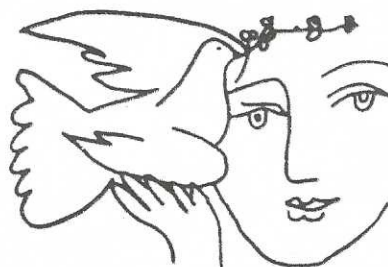
Calendar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 6 PM

Board Meeting, Laura Fultz, 229-9661

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, 5:45 PM

Reorganization and Restructure of local and National WILPF



WILPF
Fresno Branch

P.O. Box 5114

Fresno, CA 93755

New Members 229-9807

Labor/Community Alliance • SEPTEMBER 1999

FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

Center Report: SEPTEMBER 1999

by Richard Stone

"Not Just A Job": In late July a representative from Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCCO) met with community members at the Center. We discussed draft registration by 18-year olds (and consequences for not registering or of registering as a C.O.); "economic conscription" and the opportunities the military affords to some minority youth; misrepresentations in military advertising (e.g. few enlistees ever get to college); the downside of military life and indoctrination; and military presence in public schools. For literature or more information, CCCC can be reached at 630 Twentieth St. #302, Oakland, CA 94612; Tel. (510) 465-1617; e-mail cccowr@peacenet.org. Locally, GAIA House will be doing some youth outreach regarding these issues—call Aaron or Kristen at 266-5305.

SECOND TUESDAY: Thanks to Jeff & Jayne of **The Movies** (1435 N. Van Ness) for loaning us the video *Dead Man Walking* in August. This month, Matilda Rangel will lead a discussion on "Police & Us". Matilda, whose son was killed by police officers during an arrest, brings a voice of passionate dissent to the chorus calling for an ever larger police presence. Join us for what will likely be an intense conversation. Potluck, 6:30 p.m.; program at 7:30, Sept. 14th.

PEACE CHALLENGE: The Center is grateful to **Charles Walton** of San Jose, who is underwriting our new *Peace Challenge* (see separate article on pg. 12 and flyer.) Mr. Walton met some of us at a Peace Centers Conference held each March, and when he decided to expand his support to areas beyond San Jose, he remembered us. We're excited by the innovative approach we have taken to Mr. Walton's offer. You can support this experiment by spreading the word.

WORD IS OUT: The Aug. 5th "Neighbors" section of *The Bee* had a substantial article on the Center, featuring interviews with Silvio Manno, Gerry Bill, Jack Welch, Sudarshan Kapoor and me. Thanks to staff writer **Deborah Sanchez** for her interest and understanding.

MUMIA: Mumia Abu Jamal's final appeals before execution in Pennsylvania are rapidly approaching. **Sept. 19-25** has been designated as a time of action on his behalf. The Center strongly advocates a new trial for Mumia (an internationally known commentator, now political prisoner). We are convinced his first trial was highly politicized and illegally conducted. Look for Mumia information at the Sister Helen event on Sept. 8, or contact his defense committee directly at (212) 924-8585, www.j4mumia.org.

YARD SALE: Drop off items afternoon of Fri. Sept. 24th, or call Richard at 266-2559 for pick-up. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** the 24th (3-9 p.m.) and Sat. the 25th (esp. 6-9 a.m.)

The Welch Report

12 August 1999

by Jack H. Welch, M.D.

I am struck by the difference in the responses of Scotland and of the US to similar tragedies involving children. Following the shooting of children at a school in Scotland a few years ago, the possession of firearms was virtually banned. Since Littleton, Colo., despite the views of US citizens, the Congress has failed thus far to pass further gun-control legislation. To quote the NRA, people do kill people, but far too often guns are the instrument.

From a *Los Angeles Times* interview of Lee Butler by Robert Scheer May 23, 1999: Gen. George Lee Butler, Ret., was commander of the US strategic nuclear forces between 1991 and 1994. Butler was charged with reevaluating the US nuclear deterrent in the aftermath of the Cold War. He recommended to the Bush administration a stand-down of the US nuclear force from hair-trigger alert for the first time in 30 years, which the administration acted upon. Butler, however, considers Russia's present weakness and instability a prescription for disaster and so has devoted his retirement years to getting arms-control back on track.

Q: What about the charges of China stealing secrets from the Los Alamos lab?

A: "I'm not so outraged that China is spying on us. Everybody spies on everybody else — even our friends. It simply means we all have the obligation to safeguard those secrets we feel could be most damaging to our national security if revealed."

"The single most important set of arms-control accomplishments were Bush's unilateral measures in 1991: we took all of the tactical nukes off the ships and brought them home from Europe, took the bombers off alert, and accelerated retirement of the Minuteman II force" (strategic weapons). President Gorbachev then followed suit. Why doesn't our government now take the simple step of reducing the alert status of our nuclear weapons?

Q: What is the risk of China's putting a warhead on a ballistic missile?

A: For most nations that would be the last thing you'd resort to in order to explode a nuclear device against the US. More efficient ways of accomplishing that are with suitcase bombs or offshore launching of a cruise missile strapped to the hull of a freighter. "China's launching a nuclear attack on the US is effectively to commit suicide."

Gen. Butler sees no need to proceed to a ballistic missile defense, given the lack of adequate threat, absence of the technology, and that we don't want unilaterally to abrogate the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

A: Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) has attended seminars in Moscow and Stockholm, where she was told that NATO bombings of Serbia have set back disarmament 20 years. A Russian IPPNW physician now advocates nuclear deterrence for Russia rather than disarmament. A Russian Parliament official states that US-Russian relations now are at the most dangerous juncture since the US-Soviet Berlin and Cuban missile crises. (*Because People Matter* July/Aug. '99)

Calendar of Events September 1999

Sunday, September 5 Noon - 6 PM

The Central Labor Council will hold its annual picnic at the CSUF Campus (Next to the Satellite Union). Activities will include kids rides, a horse shoe tournament, and a raffle. Tri-Tip dinner tickets are \$7.50 for those over 12 years of age. Children under 12 are free.

Tuesday, September 7 7:30 PM

KFCF Community Meeting in Fresno at the First Congregational Church 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. Call 233-2221 for more information.

Wednesday, September 8 10 AM

Local unions plan for federation voter registration workshops. *Labor 2000* begins with voter registration campaigns across the state this fall. Local unions are planning now to attend California Labor Federation workshops to learn more about the COPE database, and to plan for increasing the number of registered union voters by 10%. To register, contact your Central Labor Council.

Wednesday, September 8 5 - 9 PM

Fresno welcomes *Sister Helen Prejean*, author of *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the U.S.* at St. Paul Newman Center, 1572 East Barstow. A buffet dinner and reception will be followed by Sister Helen's keynote speech. Tickets are \$25: \$15 for the dinner and \$10 for the talk only.

Thursday, September 9 6:30 PM

Meeting of the *Living Wage Campaign* at the SEIU 535 offices at 3485 W. Shaw, suite 103. Call 226-0477.

Saturday, September 11 9:30 AM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly board meeting
at 985 N. Van Ness. Call 237-3225.

September 13 - 15

Star Wars International! Call-in Days. Please call the White House (202) 456-1111 and Congress (202) 224-3121 and demand an end to Star Wars and the waste of our tax dollars. For more info contact the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space at (352) 337-9274.

Tuesday, September 14

Potluck at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM

Second Tuesday at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Discussion and views of police brutality. Matilda Ranggal will host.

Wednesday, September 15

Deadline for submissions for the October issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Call 226-0477.

Thursday, September 16 7:30 PM

Amnesty International Group 264 will meet at the Center for Non Violence, 985 N Van Ness. Call 224-0924

Friday, September 24 5 PM

Street Heat on KFCF 88.1 FM. Featuring Labor and community activists.

Saturday, September 25 Early

Yard Sale at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. Call 237-3223 for more info.

Monday, September 27 6:30 PM

Labor/Community Alliance monthly meeting at 985 N Van Ness.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Every Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. Volunteers are needed to help cook food Saturday mornings, 9:30 AM at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, corner of Maple and Illinois. Donations of good or almost good produce can be dropped off also. They are always in need of servers at the park.

Every Sunday 1:00 - 2: PM

Food Not Bombs serves on Sundays as well, at Roeding Park. To volunteer contact us at the Gaia House at **266-5305**. Donations of food, clothing, or whatever, are always accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

Every 4th Saturday 8:00 PM 'til?

Cultural Coffee House: Open-mike poetry, spokenword, acoustic music, song, or anything you have on your mind. Donations for each event go to one set individual or group that needs it for a certain purpose. Followed by dancing to d.j., an art show, political movies, etc. The Gaia House, 1009 N. Wilson between Olive and Palm.

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM

Democracy Now! on radio KFCF 88.1 FM. Amy Goodman, award-winning veteran journalist, appropriately subtitles this show "*The Exception to the Rulers*" as the program covers news of the nation and world from a progressive viewpoint, with focus on the history and economics of workers, women and people of color around the world.

Every Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

St. Benedict Catholic Worker feeds the hungry in front of Fresno County Jail (Fresno and M Sts.). Volunteers are needed. The Catholic Worker is located at 4022 N. Cheryl Ave. Fresno (Cross streets are Marks and Ashlan). Donations of food are ALWAYS welcome. For further information call Bryanor Liza Apper at 229-6410.

Every Monday and Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Scalzo Talk A radio program for unions, about unions and to union people. A radio program with a union voice. Interviews of local people on labor issues and political issues that deal with the working people. KAAT 103.1 FM. For more information, visit their web site at: www.scalzotalk.com

Every Wednesday 7:30 PM

David Bacon's Labor Journal on KFCF 88.1 FM.

David Bacon's experience as a union organizer and his worldwide contacts in the labor community make him uniquely qualified as a journalist specializing in issues and concerns of working people.

which forced the reopening of the station - community power.

But the end of the lockout is more a truce than an end to the conflict. The station is more threatened now than ever. Despite months of denials by Pacifica board chair Mary Francis Berry that there were any plans for KPFA's sale, two day-long conference-call board meetings in early July discussed various scenarios for selling the Berkeley license, or possibly that of New York's WBAI. The board decided it would eventually choose between various sale options.

Three board members dissented, including LA's Rabbi Aaron Kriegel. Pete Bramson, another board member, says he was called a "fascist thug" for his opposition, and finally blew the lid at a press conference in front of the Berkeley station.



The station may also be close to going broke, a bitter irony. Last spring, the staff, while fighting with Pacifica, raised \$600,000 in its fundraising marathon — more money than ever before in KPFA's

history. But most listeners checked a box on the pledge form devised by staff, stating they were pledging under protest. Pacifica then wrote them all a letter saying the foundation couldn't accept money under those conditions. Listeners were even more disaffected by the lockout, and pledge cancellations are pouring in.

The lockout's end has resolved none of the underlying issues in a conflict which has not only engulfed the Berkeley station, but rages in New York and licks at the doors of Los Angeles' KPFA. The conflict is unlikely to be settled easily or quickly. The differences between the foundation and its opponents in the local listening areas are profound.

Pacifica's ideology is ill-defined, but its view of how to create an alternative media network is clear. Power over programming and the allocation of resources has become concentrated in the foundation, a reverse from early days when station managers in the five-station chain chose a Pacifica director who had little power.

Now Pacifica's budget eats up 17% of revenues collected from listeners, up from 4% two decades ago. It depends increasingly on revenue sources independent of listener contributions. That's always been anathema at Pacifica, which prided itself on the absence of financial strings which could restrict the sometimes free-wheeling leftwing politics of programmers.

Some national Pacifica programs, like *Democracy Now!*, produce award-winning investigative journalism. But many syndicated shows on the national feed have been sleepers — interview programs concentrating heavily on the personalities of their hosts. In the Pacifica plan, stations are pushed to become outlets for political content created centrally, rather than material originating in local communities. In a paternalistic style, talking heads define issues, provide what they see as an alternative view, and expect local communities to accept it with little input. It's a far cry from the original vision of community radio.

KPFA is the U.S.'s oldest community broadcaster. Its founders saw it as a free speech forum which could challenge the intellectual suffocation of McCarthyism. In the 1960s and 70s, Pacifica stations became more radical, giving a microphone to growing social civil rights and anti-war protests, while building an alterna-

tive media institution. In the wake of Watergate, Pacifica programmers regularly broke stories exposing the abuse of power, often long before mainstream outlets would touch them.

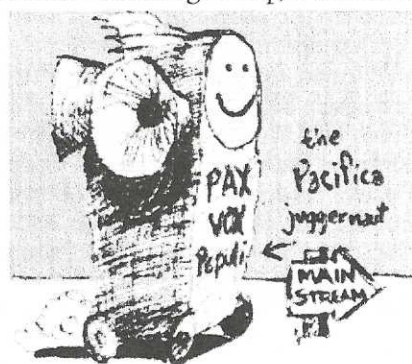
Programming has always been uneven. Some programmers were long on politics and short on production skills. Debates have raged between advocates of more music and public affairs documentaries. But behind the sometimes-messy debates is a core philosophy: Community radio stations need to identify the various diverse constituencies in their local listening area. The stations exist, not to serve the paternalism of a progressive elite, but to concentrate on those who have been locked out of the mainstream — minorities, immigrants, workers and labor, gays and lesbians, intellectual radicals and political leftists.

Community radio gives those communities access to the airwaves. They in turn support it. That's what makes it different from National Public Radio. Success is measured, not just in the number of listeners, but in the kind of base the station builds in the communities it serves.

In the last decade, however, critics increasingly accused the programming of becoming irrelevant to most people. They pointed to low production values as proof of their contention that not just technical skills, but programming itself, should become more mainstream.

These critics eventually became Pacifica managers — David Salniker, Pat Scott, and now Lynn Chadwick and Mary Frances Berry. But even with Pacifica's growing power, it wasn't easy for them to change the stations' political direction. More control over programming required more control over the staff. As KPFA station manager, Pat Scott first tried to make key Flashpoints programmers into temporary contract employees. Then as Pacifica director, she hired the American Consulting Group, a notorious

firm of unionbusters, to develop a negotiating strategy to the same end. As a result, Pacifica walked into bargaining at all three union stations four years ago with the same set of proposals — to make newly-hired programmers into at-will employees, who could then be fired at any time. She sought as well to separate the paid from unpaid staff, excluding the volunteers from the union in Berkeley and trying to do so in New York. Reformatting programming also provided a vehicle for removing staff unwilling to go along with the new direction, and brought massive layoffs to Los Angeles especially.



The mainstream push on programming, the fight for control over staff, and the centralization of power in the foundation, all proceeded simultaneously, while the institution of the gag rule kept listeners out of the loop as the conflict progressed. It's not surprising, therefore, that the large stations in Berkeley, New York and Los Angeles have been rocked by labor strife as a consequence. These are deep-rooted conflicts, and will not evaporate simply because the staff is back on the air in Berkeley.

Berry has continually criticized KPFA for having an audience of 200,000 people in a media market of over 4 million, accusing the staff of lacking diversity and being unconcerned with reaching out to communities of color. African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander programmers responded with statements

Continued on page 12

LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE LETTER TO PACIFICA

To the Pacifica Foundation National Board:

A tremendous wave of relief flowed through not only the Bay area but also the Central Valley last week as KPFA returned to the air Thursday, August 5 at 7 a.m. Yet it is clear to all listeners that the Pacifica crisis is not yet over. The incompetence of Executive Director Lynn Chadwick has not yet been addressed; there is no reason to believe that the station is safe from an impending sale in the next 6 months; and the National Board continues to wield autocratic power over the five Pacifica stations. No formal actions have been taken to address the termination of KPFA station manager Nicole Sawaya, whose release from her duties took place in clear violation of the Pacifica charter, which requires consultation with the local Advisory Board before such action can take place. The Board of Directors of the Pacifica Foundation continues as a tyrannical reign of people with no familiarity with public radio or, as has become clear, social movements.

Fresno's Labor/Community Alliance is an activist organization committed to coalition politics between local unions, solidarity movements, and independent organizers. We deplore Pacifica's disregard for their negotiated contract with the Communication Workers of America. We similarly deplore Pacifica's earlier use of a notorious union-busting firm, The American Consulting Group, to prevent unionization of employees, violating the tradition of progressive organizing. Though ACG was dismissed after public outcry, Pacifica has clearly not learned the lesson that amoral corporate support organizations are unacceptable to its listening audience. It has chosen instead to use funds raised by the people of the KPFA/KFCF listening areas to support expensive lawyers, public relations firms (Fineman & Ass.), and armed security guards specializing in corporate downsizing and hostile takeovers (IPSA). This insult to the memory of pacifist Lewis Hill, Pacifica founder, appears to be a conscious attempt to bankrupt the station and "force" a sale. And the consistent lies of Board President Mary Frances Berry, including repeated denials that the sale of KPFA and sister station WBAI were even being considered, is an affront to the ethical principles of the tradition of progressive politics embodied by KPFA and Pacifica's historical mission.

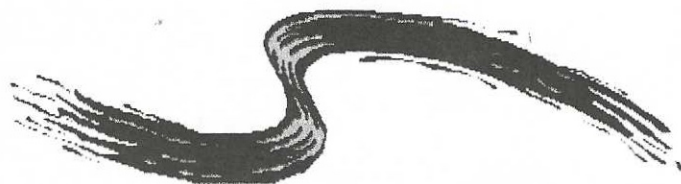


"Don't worry. It won't get far."

An entire tissue of lies stands exposed by the tireless efforts of KPFA staff and supporters. Their only thanks has been to return to a station with \$30,000 worth of damage done by Pacifica's goon

squads. Nonetheless, they were able to return to the airwaves within four days. Continuing the excellent programming on KPFA will not be guaranteed, however, until the corporate management of Pacifica alters the course it has chosen these past five years. We at the L/CA join with the people at the Coalition for a Democratic Pacifica, Free Pacifica, Take Back KPFA, the Black Radical Congress, FAIR, the International Media Collective, and numerous union locals to demand that Pacifica settle this conflict once and for all with the resignations of Mary Frances Berry and Lynn Chadwick, a written guarantee that the station will not be sold, and the restoration of democratic control over the Pacifica Foundation through the Local Advisory Boards.

Fresno Labor/Community Alliance



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Valley Labor Chatter

LABOR DAY PICNIC

The Central Labor Council will hold its annual picnic on Sunday, September 5 from 12 Noon to 6 PM at the CSUF Campus (next to the Satellite Union). Activities will include kids rides, a horse shoe tournament, and a raffle. Tri-Tip dinner tickets are \$7.50 for those over 12 years of age. Children under 12 are free.

VOTER REGISTRATION WORKSHOP IN FRESNO

Local unions plan for federation voter registration workshops Labor 2000 begins with voter registration campaigns across the state this fall. Local unions are planning now to attend California Labor Federation workshops to learn more about the COPE database, and to plan for increasing the number of registered union voters by 10%. The Fresno workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 8 at 10 AM at the UFCW 1288 office at 3485 W Shaw (corner of Shaw at Valentine).

DOOLEY SUPPORTS ANTI-ERGONOMICS BILL IN CONGRESS

Some California Democrats fight for working families - some fight against. U.S. Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Lynn Woolsey have been commended by the AFL-CIO for their roles in fighting H.R. 987, the anti-ergonomics bill. "Our champions in the House were passionate in the debate and fought a good fight," said Peg Seminario of the AFL-CIO Safety and Health Department.

Unfortunately, other members of the California delegation - including Democrat Cal Dooley - voted against working families. Two California Republicans, Tom Campbell and Bill Horn, voted for working families and will hear thanks from labor constituents. Brian Bilbray and Tom Lantos did not vote. "The Conservative Blue Dog Democrats were responsible for losing the vote," said Seminario.

SLAP ON THE WRIST

How much is a human life worth? Seven hundred and nine dollars is the average penalty for an employer who puts an employee at risk of death or serious injury, according to "Death on the job: The Toll of Neglect," a study released by the AFL-CIO in May. Almost 2 million of the 6 million workplace-related injuries in 1997 were severe enough to force the employee to miss work. The international picture is even bleaker, with a toll of 1.1 million people per year worldwide who either die on the job or from occupational disease, according to the International Labor Organization. Things have been looking up in the United States though. Despite a less than perfect record of enforcement, fatalities have fallen overall by 75% since 1970 because of the Occupational Safety Act passed in that year. Now corporations are fighting regulations that would reduce injuries from repetitive movement. We wouldn't be surprised to find they are paying more to lobby against these regs than to phase them in for their workers.

CalOSHA LEVIES LARGEST FINE EVER AGAINST TOSCO REFINERY

CalOSHA has cited Tosco Refining Co. for thirty-three violation of health and safety laws. The agency levied an \$810,000

fine, the largest in its history, against the Contra Costa refinery where five workers have died since 1997. The California Labor Federation applauded CalOSHA's action but cautioned that too many corporations have found ways to get fines reduced or forgiven. Speaking at the Department of Industrial Relations press conference on August 3, president Tom Rankin urged enactment of Assembly Bill 1127. The bill, by Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), puts real teeth in CalOSHA's enforcement capabilities.

More info: <http://www.calaborfed.org/media-080499.html>, <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

LABOR COMMISSIONER FINES CONTRACTOR FOR PREVAILING WAGE VIOLATIONS

The California Department of Industrial Relations has issued a "final debarment order" against W.S.B. Electric, Inc. for 11 willful violations of prevailing wage laws on three separate public works projects since 1997. The company will stop work on prevailing wage contracts for three years, except for six projects now underway which must be completed by Sept. 1. The company also agreed to pay \$50,000 in penalties to the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. The company submitted falsified payroll records, underpaid employees and failed to make pension fund payments. "This is the first time that debarment has been used against a contractor who was actually bidding or working on prevailing wage projects and that actually removes the contractor from completing ongoing projects," said Miles Locker, chief counsel for Marcy Saunders, labor commissioner. "This is intended to send a strong message to contractors who, in the past, have violated prevailing wage laws without fear of consequences. Those days are over."

WHAT BOYCOTT?*

Nike, Reebok, Adidas, and other sportswear companies are in a 16-month sales slump, reports the Wall Street Journal. The cause? The Journal says the public is disenchanted with the athletes who hawk the merchandise. Sportswear companies are also facing more competition from retailers like The Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch. Somehow, Wall Street's paper of record overlooked the organized boycotts and rising public awareness that 90% of their products are made in low-wage Chinese, Indonesian, and Filipino factories.

GREEN ECONOMY*

Environmentalists are trying to appeal to the nation's bottom line to save forests. Friends of the Earth and Forest Guardians, among other groups, are suing the U.S. Forest Service, *Earth First!* reports, because the government does not consider the economic and social benefits of a standing forest before allowing it to be cut down, as is required under federal law. Environmentalists say the long-term economic benefits of a standing forest — such as creating jobs from recreation, hunting, fishing, and tourism — are greater than the short-term benefits of logging.

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FRESNO LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN TAKES OFF: *continued from page 1*

above the poverty line. This includes all city government jobs, any jobs that the city sub-contracts out, and can include employers that have benefitted from city subsidies (like The Gap). The Fresno coalition has not determined what a Living Wage is in Fresno but many other cities have used \$10 an hour.

Gene Zimmerman of the Fresno City Employees Association and Alex Correa with the Operating Engineers Local 39 explained that the City of Fresno has eliminated good paying jobs (with full benefits) and replaced them with positions paying minimum wage (with no benefits). The Living Wage Coalition in Fresno wants to stop this race to the bottom. There are three possible time lines for a Living Wage campaign in Fresno:

1. The coalition will convince a majority of City Council members to support a Living Wage ordinance and it will be passed legislatively. This could happen in the next couple of months.

2. The City Council does not pass the Living Wage ordinance but agrees to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide. This could be on the March or November 2000 ballot.

3. The City Council does not pass or place the ordinance on the ballot. The Living Wage coalition would then engage in a petition campaign to put the ordinance on the ballot for the November 2000 election.

Fresno County Green Party organizer, Mark Stout said "we are really excited to be working with this great coalition. This project is a priority for us because we want to be a part of the coalition of labor and community groups uniting to fight for social and economic justice." The next meeting of the Living Wage Campaign will be Thursday September 9 at 6:30 PM at the SEIU 535 offices at 3485 W Shaw, suite 103. If you would like more information call 226-0477.



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BRACERO JOB REGISTRY COULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE

by Amber Lopez

The guest worker debate continues with a grower-brokered amendment to a national appropriations bill on the way. The amendment, like its 1998 predecessor, promises to recruit farm workers through an electronic registry, administered by the US Dept. of Labor (DoL). The program would attempt to follow a mobile agricultural labor force through this high-turnover industry by electronically registering all authorized farm workers. But government-controlled job banks are rarely used in California's agricultural industry. In fact, California's Employment Development Department's (EDD) job match systems were responsible for placing only .51% of seasonal agricultural positions in 1997. According to the legislation almost immediately after it passes, the DoL would have to register enough domestic farm workers to fill job order requests from farm employers. If they fail to fill the orders with domestic workers within 14 days, visas must be issued to guest workers.

Job registries would not address the untenable and deteriorating conditions that farm workers are forced to live and work in. In fact, some rural agricultural communities consider this legislation to be potentially harmful.

In 1998 four such communities passed city council resolutions opposing guest worker legislation. Three of them were among the ten poorest cities in California. The job registry has the capacity to take a number of workers out of the farm labor employment loop, raising unemployment in areas already experiencing rates more than double the state average. Traditionally recruitment takes place within networks, or centralized locations for day hires. And there are many linguistic, cultural and technological obstacles to the proposed government-sponsored program. Research indicates that 86% of farm workers would have difficulty obtaining information from printed materials, even in Spanish. Many of the workers travel to find work and are often living in places without postal addresses. How will the system track them? Making the government the farm labor contractor under these conditions is not likely to work, and perhaps not advisable under any terms.

We have seen many attempts to create another bracero program through the last few years. Never are they done with broad participation and input from labor representatives, farm worker advocates, etc. The drafters of the legislation do not consider the larger socio-economic impacts of these laws on farmworkers. A number of groups that are working to improve the lives of farmworkers, have scheduled a conference - The Forum for Transnational Employment on September 8 in Berkeley. For more information call Amber Lopez at (530) 756-6555 ext. 12.

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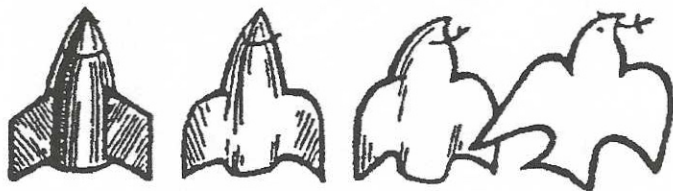
WANNA MAKE PEACE?

by Richard Stone

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence announces its first annual Charles Walton PEACE CHALLENGE... "Making It Better". This is an opportunity for youth (ages 12-18) to identify a conflict that touches their lives—be it in the family, the school, the neighborhood, the city—and come up with a plan to bring healing to the situation. Grants of up to \$100 are available to help carry out the plan; over \$1800 in prizes (including a \$600 first prize) will be awarded.

The PEACE CHALLENGE has been underwritten by Charles Walton of San Jose as his way of building a more peaceful world. The Center, in turn, has focussed the Challenge on group projects rather than individual entries.

Eligibility includes having 3 or more youth working together with the supervision of an adult, to address a specified area of conflict. Projects may include such activities as public forums, peer group dialogues, art projects, public performance, group action. If you do not get a flyer enclosed, you can receive detailed application information by leaving a message at 237-3225. Anyone interested in assisting with administering the CHALLENGE can contact Richard at 266-2559.



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RECOVERING COMMUNITY RADIO AT PACIFICA: *continued from page 7*

criticizing her for manipulating the issue. The union contract at the station has strong affirmative action language, including staff hiring committees — provisions which Pacifica negotiators sought to weaken. KPFA's minority apprenticeship program, instrumental in teaching broadcast skills to young people of color, is graduating its 20th class. Nothing like it exists elsewhere in the Pacifica network.



Outreach by African-American, Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander staff members has brought crowds of listeners down to the demonstrations in front of KPFA, where a microtransmitter broadcast programming to the surrounding neighborhood. In a recent labor rally, over 20 unions spoke in solidarity with the staff, along with an official representative of the state AFL-CIO. Four Bay Area labor councils and numerous local unions have passed resolutions in support.

One of them — from District Council 57 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — was greeted with particular enthusiasm. AFSCME's national secretary-treasurer, Bill Lucy, is a member of the Pacifica board. This outpouring of local community support provided the political muscle which forced Pacifica to end the lockout.

But the communities which support the station do need more input into programming decisions, especially because the ongoing crisis can only be resolved with their financial and political support. The station not only has to broadcast to them, but has to use the power of the airwaves to help organize them in its defense. KPFA's staff of color have called for the reestablishment of the third world and women's departments, abolished by previous Pacifica managers in the mainstream push.

The attack on KPFA's staff, by managers who say ending job security is the key to better programming, must be stopped. Making long-term commitments to in-depth programming requires a commitment from the station and Pacifica to the people whose work provides it. And that work is done by both paid and unpaid staff, who managed to hold together throughout this dispute, despite the efforts of Pacifica for years to pit them against each other. Stations like KPFA can't survive using just paid staff members, nor should they.

One of the strengths of community radio is its accessibility to people dedicated enough to learn the skills and make a commitment. A more democratic system for making programming decisions should give weight to them all. The return of the staff is an opportunity to do more than defeat Pacifica's drift to the right. It is a chance to redefine what community radio means, far beyond the Bay Area. Hiphop programmer Davey D warns that "if KPFA falls, all the other stations around the country will fall with it." By the same token, KPFA can help remake community radio, providing an alternative to Pacifica's top-down conservatism that could create a real network of stations based in local communities, linked by a common progressive outlook. "We have some restructuring to do," says Khalil Jacobs-Fantauzzi of the station's steering committee, "not just at KPFA, but at Pacifica itself." It's time to see what community radio can really do.

SMOKE AND MIRRORS IN THE TAX CUT FUN HOUSE or Don't Spend That \$160 Tax Cut Yet

by Bob Baker

If you were given a trillion dollars to fix the nation's social and economic problems, what would you do? (Just in case you have not been following the "media" on this one. I don't think KPFA has had time to say much about this, what with the struggle with the Pacifica co-opters). Republicans came up with a remarkable answer. In their view, our most pressing national crisis is that the very wealthiest households in the very wealthiest economy in the history of the world urgently need a huge cut in taxes. While we are out trying to get a living wage for the minimum wage challenged workers the Republicans are planning a way to massively redistribute income and wealth to the "deserving rich".

As Republican congressional leaders tour the country this month to tout their tax cut plan, average American taxpayers should keep a number of things in mind.

For starters, there's the fact that the tax cuts spend an illusory "surplus" that exists only if there are deep reductions in domestic programs—reductions that not only shouldn't happen, but almost certainly won't. That's why many people are starting to call the GOP tax plan the "Deficit Restoration Act of 1999."

Then there's the fact that two-thirds of the GOP tax cuts will go to the best-off tenth of all taxpayers. People at the very top, the best-off one percent, do particularly well, with an average annual



tax cut of some \$46,000 each. On the other hand, for families in the middle of the income scale and below, the average tax cut, when everything is fully in place, is only about \$160—far less than the amount they stand to lose in reduced government services.

Finally, there's an additional insult to ordinary taxpayers in the bill. While corporations and wealthy investors will start seeing big tax cuts right away, the tax reductions reserved for the non-rich don't even start to take effect until the year 2001, and are only gradually phased in thereafter. The Reagan era showed us the effects of such "redistribution". Republican history always repeats itself.

The Steelworkers Union is asking everyone who banks with Wells Fargo to change banks and close their accounts. Wells Fargo is bankrolling the union-busting activities of Oregon Steel in Pueblo, Colorado. Hundreds of strikers have been permanently replaced, and Wells Fargo continues to provide funds to the otherwise bankrupt company.

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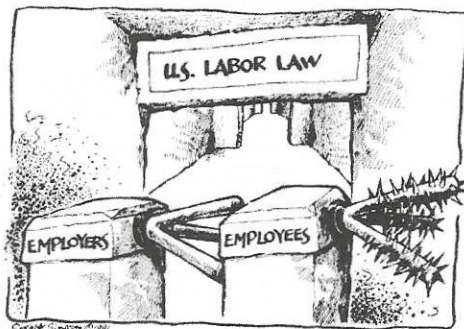
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LABOR LAW AND THE HEAVY HAND OF THE STATE

by Elaine Bernard

There is one remarkable exception to the deregulatory trend in the United States. While politicians happily hack away at regulation, protective legislation, standards and government's ability to act on behalf of the whole community, one organization seems to be singled out for further containment — unions. There have been, of course, some attempts at workplace deregulation designed to weaken worker protection and workplace anti-discrimination legislation. But no one is talking about deregulating unions. One can only assume that the proponents of "free enterprise" are very concerned about "free labor" and are prepared to use the power of the state to prevent "free collective bargaining."



Through the courts (which have increasingly seen their role as interpreting labor legislation) and the National Labor Relations Board, the state has played a heavy handed role in undermining workers' basic civil

rights to form unions, to collectively bargain with employers, to extend solidarity and take concerted action with other workers, and ultimately to go on strike and apply other economic sanctions against a recalcitrant employer.

Our labor law isn't just bad because the enforcement is weak and the penalties on employers for violating workers' organizing and union rights are minuscule, though this is certainly true. Rather, US labor law is faulty because it denies a majority of workers their basic right to organize and collectively bargain. Consider for a moment, the following features of US labor law.

1) The first and most basic assumption of US labor law is not neutrality — but rather the assumption of the law is that the "natural" state of the workplace is union free. What a strange assumption for a democracy. Shouldn't the default be that the natural state of the workplace is organized, with workers having collective voice — and the responsibility, fundamental to a democracy, to participate in decisions that affect them? They should be able to relinquish that responsibility, but the default should be organized, not unorganized.

2) Most of labor law consists of barriers over which workers must climb in order to organize — that is, gain the right to be "certified" by the NLRB as a union and the "sole bargaining agent" for a group of employees. And with each year, with endless decisions by the NLRB and the courts these barriers are getting higher and higher. First, in order to be certified, the union must prove that a majority of employees in the designated bargaining unit have voted union. (In the past, other methods of proof of majority support were permitted including petitions signed by the majority of employees, or a "card check" where the union demonstrates that a majority of the employees have signed union cards.) Through a series of decisions the courts have determined that the employer has the right to exclude union organizers from company property, including the parking lot, and lunch rooms.

The courts have also permitted the employer to have a say in the workers decisions about whether or not to form a union — even permitting management organized captive audience meetings of employees where workers are harangued about the evils of unionization. Finally, while workers are supposed to be protected by the NLRB from being fired or discriminated against for attempting to organize — there is an illegal firing in one out of four organizing drives. And the worst penalty an employer will face for such illegal behavior is to be forced to reinstate the fired employee (often many months after the organizing drive has been defeated).

3) Workers are guaranteed the right to strike — but this right is severely limited. Both in labor law and by a court decision the right to strike is greatly constrained. For example, because of the Supreme Court "MacKay Radio" decision, employers are permitted to "permanently replace" striking private sector workers, effectively denying them the right to strike.

4) The state through the NLRB determines "appropriate bargaining unit." Workers are severely limited in their ability to exercise their freedom of association — the human right that underlies the right to organize. You can organize, but the state will tell you with whom. Unions are about constructing a community of interest among workers, but the state through the NLRB has tended to assure the weakest and least solidaristic community possible, by separating white collar from blue collar, front office from back office, full-time from part-time and skilled from unskilled.

5) There is a ban on "solidarity strikes" and "secondary picketing." Freedom of association means that you should be able to call on your co-workers in another plant to extend solidarity and engage in a solidarity strike or other solidarity economic actions. Labor law seeks to contain economic action to the immediate (primary) employer and strictly forbids any (secondary) employer actions.

6) Labor law only applies to "employees" as defined by the National Labor Relations Act — and its definition excludes lots and lots of workers. All sorts of people are not considered "employees" under the act — including most public sector workers, private sector university professors (Yeshiva decision), and almost anyone who supervises anything.

Few people today remember that when the National Labor Relations Act, the cornerstone of US labor law, was adopted by Congress in 1935, its purpose was not simply to provide a procedural mechanism to end industrial strife in the workplace. Rather, this monumental piece of New Deal legislation had a far more ambitious mission: to promote industrial democracy. To achieve this extension of democracy into the workplace, the NLRA instituted "free collective bargaining" between workers and employers. Unions were to be encouraged, not simply tolerated, as it was understood that workers could not engage in meaningful collective bargaining without collective representation.

Needless to say, it has been a long time since we've heard any President or Administration, much less Congress, talk about promoting industrial democracy. In fact, the very term "industrial democracy" seems like a contradiction in terms. While the battle to restore "fairness" in labor law is important, even a victory in this campaign would simply bring us back to 1935. We need instead to question the basic assumption of US labor law that the natural state of the workplace is union-free with workers having few rights.

NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY PROJECT GOING STRONG

by Mike Rhodes

I was surprised on the road to our Nicaraguan sister city when our vehicle was stopped by a road block. Looking over the cab of the truck I saw about a dozen students with a rope across the Pan American Highway. They were stopping traffic and asking for donations so they could pay their school tuition, now demanded of them by their government. Education in Nicaragua is no longer free! The children who want to go to school are desperate!

Ten years ago an intrepid group of Fresno's traveled to Nicaragua, during the U.S. sponsored "contra war", to help build a school. They held fund raisers to buy building materials, paid their own way down there, and poured the concrete walls so that the children would have a place to study. To them, support for free quality education seemed like a better foreign policy than supporting mercenaries (which was the official U.S. policy at the time). They were putting their lives on the line as an expression of International Solidarity.

The spirit of this people to people aid project is apparent in the improving lives and conditions of the people in our sister city, Telpaneca. The school we helped build has been expanded and now includes three buildings and running water. The children that attended this school when it was first built have graduated and were able to continue their education - some are now attending college.

The Fresno/Telpaneca Sister City Association, keeping with the theme of free quality education for all, started a scholarship project in 1993 to assist motivated students who wanted to continue their education. I found out just how motivated some of these students are at a meeting with parents and teachers last month. Some of these children, we were told, get up at 4 AM in the morning for a 3 hour walk to school, they are at school all day and get back home just before dark. How is that for dedication?

The scholarship project currently supports about 50 students from Telpaneca and surrounding hamlets. With the assistance from the project they pay tuition and purchase school supplies like backpacks, notebooks, pens, uniforms, and shoes. We were told by parents that many students would not be able to attend if it were not for the scholarship project. In fact, one of the unexpected issues that came up at the meeting was that there are many more students that would like to attend but simply can't because they don't have the money. They would gladly walk the 12 miles to school and back each day if they could only afford the tuition and school supplies. We told the parents that we would try to find more support for the project so their children could start school next year.

It costs about \$75 to sponsor a student for one year. We have a project that is working to provide education to motivated students, we know that about 90 cents out of every dollar received by the Scholarship Project goes directly to help the children, and there is no lack of deserving and needy students. All the project needs is your help. The Fresno/Telpaneca Sister City Association can be contacted at P.O. Box 4496, Fresno Ca 93744 or by calling (559) 226- 0477.

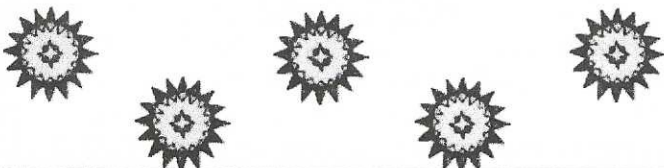
Tired of front page auto tragedies?
Bored with right-twisted political
and corporate apologetics?
Cancel your subscription to The
Fresno Bee 'in protest' and
contribute to a paper devoted to a
justice seeking, creative thinking
readership.

Rev. Robert M. Baker &
Phyllis Fess Baker, LCSW
are pleased to support the
Labor/Community Alliance
Newsletter

MISUSE OF CONSTITUENT'S PERSONAL INFORMATION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

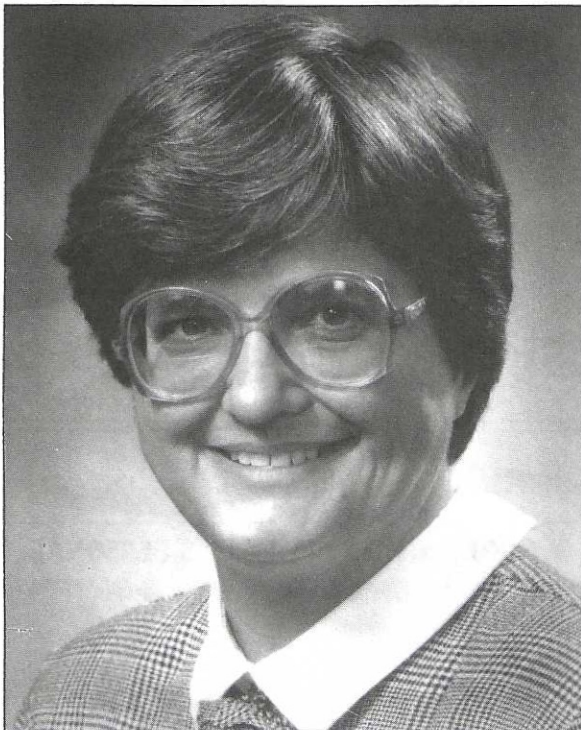
by Diane Scott

In May of this year several members of The Interfaith Alliance of Central California (**TIA-CC**) met with Representative Radanovich and at least one other member of his staff to discuss two issues of importance to everyone. Many constituents of the Representative are very much opposed to the school prayer bill which the Representative favors even though it does, in fact, violate the Constitution. The other issue was gun control, which Representative Radanovich opposes, while many people in his district are in favor of it. **The issue of abortion was neither brought up nor discussed.** However, subsequently, a phone call was made either by the Representative or a member of his staff to one of his advisors, **Ed Hurlbutt, Executive Director of the Fresno/Madera Right to Life** group, after which Mr. Hurlbutt wrote a letter to a priest whose name appeared among those of other faith groups of the Alliance. In Mr. Hurlbutt's letter he accused the **TIA-CC** of "vigorously push(ing) on the Congressman" their views on abortion, an issue, in truth, never mentioned. Mr. Hurlbutt then advised the priest in question to take his name off the literature. Also in this letter, the name and place of business of one of the **TIA-CC** members was spelled out along with alleged statistics demonizing the organization to which he belongs. Rep. Radanovich did not have the right to single out this **TIA-CC** member because of his profession. Curiously, Mr. Hurlbutt stated that his Right to Life group takes no position on the two issues which actually were discussed. So, why, then, did he write his letter? And why did Representative Radanovich make it public? And who will use the information? The letter, as an official statement from Right to Life (written on their letterhead), by its rhetoric and choice of words, appears to be an invitation to violence. Human, personal, civil rights have been ignored by our elected official and those who work with him. The people need to make their displeasure known.



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Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ to be in Fresno, September 8, 1999

Let's Get Organized

Are you tired of:

- X lousy wages;**
- X no benefits;**
- X no respect on the job?**

Call one of the following local union organizers to help you make the world a better place to work!

Central Labor Council of Fresno,
Madera, Tulare & Kings Counties
(559) 275-1151

Pam Whalen, Gerry Villero,
Yolanda Guerra
SEIU Local 535
Public Employees, Health Care, Social
Services
(559) 261-9312

David Yancy
Plumbers Local 246
Plumbers
(559) 252-5367

Glen Westersund
Engineers & Scientists of CA Local 20
Technical & Professional Workers
(559) 263-7481

Kenneth McCormack
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers Local 100
Electricians
(559) 251-8241

Marc Scalzo
International Association of
Machinists & Aerospace Workers
Local 653
Auto Repair, Industrial, Retail
Consumer, Electronics
(559) 264-2817

Doug Whipple
Local 701
Carpenters
(559) 268-3895

James Todd
Rachel Rodriguez
Ninfa Franco
SEIU Local 250
Health Care Union
Representing 47,000 Health Care
Workers in No. California
(559) 271-7005

Al Madrigal, Jr.
United Steel Workers of America
Manufacturing
(559) 264-5342

Frank Flores
Sheet Metal Workers Local 162
Sheet Metal Manufacturing
(559) 255-0454

Hotel Employees
Restaurant Employees Union
Local 19
Restaurant Workers
(559) 485-0601

United Food & Commercial
Workers Local 1288
Retail Clerks, Wholesale & Poultry
(559) 271-1288

Jimmy Hammack
Teamster Local 431
(559) 486-5410

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence announces the
First Annual Charles Walton
PEACE CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH
"MAKE IT BETTER . . ."



Are there conflicts that disturb your life--in the family, neighborhood, school, city, or elsewhere??? You can join with friends to **MAKE IT BETTER** and win up to **\$600**.

The Charles Walton Peace Challenge is open to groups of three or more young people, ages 12-18, living in Fresno County.



FIRST PLACE PRIZE	\$600
Two Second Place Prizes	\$200 each
Three Third Place Prizes	\$100 each
Four Fourth Place Prizes	\$50 each
Five Fifth Place Prizes	\$25 each

Projects may include such activities as:

****Public Forums or Debates**



****Peer Group Dialogues**

****Group Research Paper**

****Group Action to Address a Problem**

****Murals and Art Projects**



****Plays or Other Public Performances**

Projects are to be directed at **healing** a conflict situation, involving people with different perspectives. You can apply for a grant of up to \$100 to help with carrying out the project.



Application information on reverse side. Leave a message at (559) 237-3225 to request information.

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to resolving conflict more peacefully at every level--personal, local, national, and international. Donations are tax deductible.

PEACE CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH

Application For Eligibility And Grants

To be eligible for the PEACE CHALLENGE, three or more young people, ages 12-18 and residents of Fresno County, may submit a proposal for an activity concerning a conflict that touches their lives. The proposal should include an action plan to "MAKE IT BETTER."

The proposal needs to state:

- a) the conflict
- b) the course of action planned to "make it better"
- c) how the plan will be carried out (time line, any materials to be used, how many youth are expected to be involved, etc.)
- d) how the project's success will be measured
- e) the name, address and contact number of an adult advisor
- f) the printed names and signatures of the group members

The application may include a request for up to \$100 to help with carrying out the project. Grant requests will be evaluated on:

- a) the originality and boldness of the plan
- b) how specific and necessary the projected costs are
- c) the presence of a responsible party to receive, monitor, and keep records of the grant and its use.

TIMELINE

Proposals and grant requests are due by October 15, 1999.

Confirmation of eligibility and announcement of grants will be made by November 1.

Projects are to be completed and reports are due by April 14, 2000.

Awards will be announced by May 1, 2000.

A recognition event will be held in early May (time and place to be announced).

Please fill out the form below and attach it to your proposal.

Name of group (if it has a name) _____

Name of adult advisor _____

advisor's address: _____

_____ telephone: _____

Names of at least three group members:

print

signature

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Send applications to: Fresno Center for Nonviolence
985 N. Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728

Attn: Peace Challenge

Contact Doug or George at Local #701
559-268-3895 or 268-2405



CARPENTERS STORM RALLY / MARCH

*The California Carpenter's
MARCH for DIGNITY
Friday September 17, 1999 8:00 a.m.—12:00*



Dear Brothers and Sisters;

We know that you are concerned about the plight of the working people. This rally march is to show the working tradesman of the South Valley the Unified strength and commitment of all the Unions, Churches, and community organizations. Help us help them to bring their plight to the forefront of public awareness.

Highlights

- Bring your flags-banners-megaphones , voices , and your passion.
- Rally / March begins at 8:00 a.m. We will all march through 2 different housing tracks to a Rally point for lunch and Closing Rally

LOCAL UNION NO. 701

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS
OF AMERICA

1335 N. HULBERT AVE., FRESNO, CA 93728



Phone: 559-268-3895 or 268-2405

Fax: 555-268-2004-

Email:

