

A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

PROGRESSIVE CULTURE, POLITICS, ART, AND ENTERTAINMENT SINCE 1996



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WHAT ARMY RECRUITERS DON'T WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW

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A CARNIVOROUS ENVIRONMENTALIST?

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Chronicles

Peace • Justice • Big Mama

**We un-recruit for evil axis
of killing and commercialism**



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**We rise up with Mother Nadia
from grief of senseless killing**

**Govanetor joins our protest of Arnold's
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We nail cop spying on us broccoli eaters!
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The Community Alliance is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental, & economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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home

From the Editor

The letter and artwork below is from Patrick Acuña, who is a prisoner in Corcoran. The Community Alliance newspaper gives free subscriptions to any prisoner who requests one.

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for sending me your paper. Enclosed is one (1) piece of political art (comic, re: Minute Men). Please accept this original offering in lieu of monetary funds. Once again, thank you for your generosity. I will read your publication from cover to cover! Keep up the great work.

In Solidarity,

Patrick Acuña



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GRASSROOTS

(Interviewer's comments: "People With Power" is one of several spirited groups that have appeared in Fresno in the past few years, each with a somewhat different emphasis and social analysis, each searching for the "lever" that empowers people to stand up for their rights and live out their values.

Each of these groups has something worthwhile to say about "what matters," each is important for touching the lives of specific people. I remember what the late Bill Moyer (the author of Doing Democracy) taught on his two visits to Fresno: that we each need to do the work in front of us and no one is "in charge" of when all the small groups and preparatory work coalesces into a movement that transforms society. Often it coincides with the appearance of a charismatic leader—a Gandhi or a Chavez. But they are the sun to fields that have been tilled and planted. We can each do groundwork, we can each plant seeds, we can each prepare ourselves to blossom.)

PROFILES OF LOCAL ACTIVISTS

By Richard Stone

MEET **BALTAZAR AVILA, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF PEOPLE WITH Power (PWP).** Baltazar came to the United States three years ago for ongoing medical treatment and established PWP after working in Fresno with ACORN. He is committed to grassroots organizing, going door-to-door seeking companions to work with in generating "people power" among the workers and the poor.

Baltazar was born and raised in Mexico, in an environment with a tradition of radical political engagement. He graduated law school, and has been an activist as long as he can remember. He was a founder of the opposition party PRD, which supported Cardenas in 1988, only to have its election victory stolen (perhaps foreshadowing the American pattern of 2000 and 2004).

Baltazar has been looking for an approach to organizing that gives equal emphasis to understanding and action, echoing the "theory and praxis" philosophy of Antonio Gramsci. It is, he says, vitally important to oppose the neo-liberal values and institutional structures, not just the specific people who at the given time hold positions of power. The key, he says, is to change the way wealth is

distributed and power achieved. It is not as important that a particular group of the oppressed achieve power as that a continuing distribution and de-centralization of power be realized among the people.

To begin this work, Baltazar and his colleagues invite the public to join them in "Leadership School" every Thursday at 101 E St, near Tulare. (The meetings are conducted in Spanish, but translation can be provided.) The group discusses readings on such topics as what can be learned from the 1848 Paris Commune, or the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua. They also discuss current issues like affordable housing, and are organizing to oppose the practices of JD Home Rentals, considered by some to be the biggest slumlord in Fresno.

In the long run, Baltazar believes, it is necessary to build a national organization to support a Workers Party. Despite the huge political and institutional obstacles that goal presents, he remains motivated by what he calls "the historic duty" of each of us to face the most egregious source of injustice in our time. "In the 19th century, we would have stood up against slavery. Today it's neo-liberalism. We can't just be spectators."

IDENTITY BOX

- **Primary Personal Identity:** Hispanic
 - **Political Affiliation:** Democratic Party
 - **Religious Affiliation:** Catholic
 - **Most Frequented Part of Fresno:** The South east
 - **Inspirational Figures:** Jose Marti, Malcolm X
 - **Motto:** "By working together we can accomplish anything."
 - **Non-Political Interest:** Classic literature
 - **Secret Pleasure:** Hanging out in bookstores and libraries
- Contact information:**
phone: 255-2139
e-mail: peoplewithpower@yahoo.com
website: <www.peoplewithpower.org>

FRESNO ANGELICA LAUNDRY WORKERS READY TO STRIKE

May 5th Strike Could Leave Many Valley Hospitals Without Clean Linens

From the UNITE HERE web site

FRESNO, CA-

WORKERS AT **FRESNO'S ANGELICA TEXTILE SERVICES PLANT HAVE VOTED TO** strike, an authorization that could leave up to 250 healthcare facilities in California without clean linens. Angelica workers throughout the state and the nation have threatened to strike on May 5 if the multi-million dollar company continues to break labor laws, jeopardize their health and safety and bargain in bad faith.

Nationally, as many as seven Angelica plants could strike May 5th and in an unprecedented show of support, as many as twelve plants could walk out in honor of the strike.

"Angelica has been violating our rights. If they don't do what is right and stop breaking the law, and negotiate a fair contract, we have no choice but to strike. Our families, our health and safety and our jobs are worth fighting for," said Amador Quintero one of the 95 workers at the Fresno plant.

In California, many of Angelica's approximately 2,000 laundry workers toil in filthy, unsanitary conditions where repetitive strain injuries are common, amputations occur, and linen quality is questionable. Workers clean linens that are often soaked with blood and feces and contain used hypodermic needles and surgical instruments. Despite dangerous working conditions and exposure to HIV and Hepatitis B, Angelica doesn't always provide vaccinations and has been cited with 65 Cal/OSHA violations.

UNITE HERE is the newly merged union of hospitality, gaming, apparel, textile and laundry workers with nearly half a million members. Angelica Textile Services is the biggest health care linen service provider in the United States and has California plants in: Antioch, Colton, Fresno, Sacramento, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange, Turlock, Pomona, San Fernando, Stockton, San Diego and Vallejo.

For more information visit www.thedirtylaundry.org or call Amanda Cooper at 212-332-9376.

POETRY CORNER

By Richard Stone

No submissions this month, so I'm printing the results of an experiment I performed with Fred Howard (a new acquaintance with whom I've been in serious dialogue), rewriting the Pledge of Allegiance so that we could speak it in good conscience. Fred's version is first, followed by mine. And here is an invitation for you, gentle reader, to submit your own.

FRED'S PLEDGE: I pledge allegiance to the principles which underlie the idea of these United States of America, and the Republic which they are intended to make possible, co-creatively with God, one nation, indivisible (and, when we finally get it right enough) with the freedom to pursue "creativity needs fulfillment" and the justice of good enough practical achievement of such fulfillment, for all.

RICHARD'S DECLARATION OF INTENTION: In the course of a lifetime, it becomes clear that each human being is moved by an essential urgency to protect and improve life, in the best ways each knows.

In the light of scientific, historical, and biographical evidence, certain enduring principles have gained credence for guiding action toward these ends.

I hereby declare my dedicated intention to understand these principles of "right action" and to conduct my life increasingly in accordance with them, as I gain the wisdom and strength to do so. At this time, I accept this formulation:

As an individual, I commit myself to the twinned intentions of creating goodness and reducing violence. I commit myself to the ongoing endeavor of understanding my place—my unique place—in the

cosmos, and to balancing the counterpoised necessities of "being a creator" and "being a creature of Creation."

I aspire toward Incarnation—participating in the birth of new Living Principles that will endure perennially ("for good") as organizing elements for this universe.

As a participant in society, I pledge allegiance to the existing legal and political structures insofar (and only insofar) as they contribute to the furtherance of creating goodness and reducing violence by providing institutions that promote economic and social well-being, opportunity and justice; and by protecting the freedom of individuals to pursue these goals.

I pledge to defend, in accordance with the principles of nonviolence, the existing legal and political structures when they are threatened by forces that a preponderance of evidence indicates seriously to interfere with the pursuit of the ascribed-to goals and freedoms.

I pledge to oppose the existing structures when a preponderance of evidence indicates they themselves interfere with the pursuit of said goals and freedoms.



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15TH ANNUAL FRESNO PRIDE CELEBRATION SET TO GO

By Dan Waterhouse

COME OUT, COME OUT!

The Fresno queer community and its straight allies are cordially invited to join hosts Fresno Rainbow Pride on Saturday, June 4, in Fresno's Tower District. The parade will start making its way through the heart of the Tower at 10 AM. The festival will begin immediately after the parade. A \$5 donation will be requested at the gate, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

AS IN RECENT YEARS, THE PRIDE PARADE WILL BEGIN AT PALM AVENUE AND head down Olive Avenue, past the Tower Theatre. This year, the route has been extended to Maroa Avenue near Lauck's Bakery. Parade units will turn north from Olive there and then disperse.

"This year for the first time ever, a panel of judges will be voting on the best parade entries," Rainbow Pride chief Jeffery Robinson said. "The winning entries will receive cash prizes. 'We'd like to see more equestrian entries,'" Robinson commented. "There were three horses last year, and they were a big hit with the crowd."

Robinson added that current plans include placing the parade judges' stand near J.Ho's eatery on Olive. He said the parade announcer and reviewing stand will be at the corner of Linden and Olive avenues, in front of Irene's Cafe.

"We're planning a bigger and better festival this year," Robinson said. This year, the festival will be located on Fulton Street, between Olive and Alhambra Avenues, and on Alhambra Avenue between Fulton Street and Van Ness Avenue. Robinson said having all of Fulton Street effectively doubles the size of the festival.

"Because of the closer working relationship we have with the city of Fresno this year," Robinson explained, "we've been able to get the space we need for the festival."

Robinson said that in 2003, the festival outgrew the parking lot near the Chicken Pie Shop, across from the Tower Theatre, so it was moved to Alhambra Avenue. He said organizers quickly realized the festival needed even more space.

"There'll be several changes this year," Robinson explained. "One is that our dance and entertainment pavilions will be out in the middle of the street. We've gone out and found entertainers who will, we think, appeal to a wide cross-section of the community. Another change is that festival goers will be able to stroll the entire festival grounds drinking their beers, instead of being confined to a small beer garden."

Entertainment headliners this year include Janet Robin, Anne McCue, Roberta Chevrette, and the Bobbelheads. Local performers Minor Imperfections will open the festival. "Janet Robin has performed with Lindsey Buckingham (Fleetwood Mac) as a band member for tour (both as headliner and as support with Tina Turner) and in the studio," entertainment coordinator Chris Esqueda said. "In addition, Janet has both performed and recorded with artists Garrison Starr as well as Maia Sharp who has recorded some of Janet's songs. She has been the support act, for Meredith Brooks, Colin Hay (Men at Work), Loudon Wainwright III, The Smithereens, Heart's Ann and Nancy Wilson, and Catie Curtis, among many others."

According to Esqueda, "Anne McCue's career has covered punk, Lilith Fair, Australian awards and Vietnam. She has shared the stage with many of the greats such as The Pretenders, Emmylou Harris, and Sarah McLachlan with her previous bands but has truly flourished as solo act. She has toured with Lucinda Williams and most recently with the likes of Anne and Nancy Wilson opening for Heart. Her renditions of Jimi Hendrix songs are amazing and add an original twist to this talented singer-songwriter."

"Powerful, fiercely independent, sultry and intelligent...' are a few of the words that have been used to describe Roberta Chevrette," Esqueda commented. Chevrette is a new face on the Sacramento music scene and the national folk circuit. Like many artists these days, she has been building a career outside of the homogeneity of the mainstream, and with a relentless playing schedule, high-energy performances, and her direct personal-political-feminist informed lyrics, she has been playing to growing audiences in California and across the country.



Also helping Chevrette to carve her own path are her distinctive guitar work and a voice that one reviewer describes as "stunning," saying, "It's clean and clear, and it provides the perfect vehicle to carry her thoughtful lyrics across the landscape created by her melodies."

So it is that armed with just her acoustic guitar and her naivete, (along with the help of online stores like CD Baby), Chevrette's homegrown demo CD, Can You Hear This? (2003), managed to draw attention as far away as Belgium and Germany, and her full-length studio debut, Woman Mother Earth Sky (2004), led to tours and radio appearances across the United States. With her sophomore CD, Miss America, this driven and talented 23-year-old has certainly been keeping busy.

In the past two years Chevrette has shared the stage with Sacramento's rising star, Jackie Greene; she has performed at folk festivals alongside seasoned veterans such as Utah Phillips and newcomers like Noe Venable; and she has toured near and far, receiving press and airplay while criss-crossing the country. She is a performing member of Indiegrrl and a dedicated activist to feminist/queer/progressive causes, interrupting the stream of coffeehouses, bars, and acoustic music venues and festivals to play for diverse causes, from Seattle's Bend-it! Queer Youth Arts Festival to benefits for the West Coast Feminist Health Alliance, NOW (National Organization for Women), the Green Party, Sacramento Peace Action, and many others.

Esqueda added, "The power pop group the Bobbelheads has been building a loyal following and receiving rave reviews for their live show. They include a multimedia element that takes their events to the next level. They have just released their first full length CD, Automatic Fun."

The opening act, Minor Imperfections, is a combination of Esqueda and a friend, Chris Ramos. Esqueda explained the combination formed out of a happenstance friendship in a music store. Esqueda said, "Songs such as 'Second Song (Falling)' or the more recent edition 'MadeUp Girl' are extremely relatable and are carried through with beautifully expressive guitar work by Ramos. One would be rightly amazed that these two have only been playing together for a year and a half but, for a fledgling act, their future looks bright."

For those into more physically active entertainment, there will be a dance pavilion with DJs spinning the latest hits, and some oldies too.

Organizers anticipate more food booths and there are plans for a comfortable eating and kick-back area. More vendors have been in touch, wanting to bring their wares to the event. Organizers are planning several pre-Pride events, including the first-ever "Queer Eyes for the Queer Guys and Gals" fundraiser on May 20 and 21 beginning at 7 PM both nights at the North Tower Circle at Maroa and Princeton avenues.

THE PREMISE IS SIMPLE: queer guys and gals in need of a makeover will be introduced on Friday, May 20. Contestants will then be randomly paired with a makeover team, who will have 24 hours to work their magic. The following night, the "before" look will be shown via videotape, then the new look will be revealed to the audience.

Admission to each show is \$5.

Major sponsors of Pride this year include the Imperial Dove Court and Central California Alliance. More information is available about sponsorships at <www.fresnorainbowpride.com>. Much more information on the parade and festival is available online there also, or by calling (559) 486-3464.

PUBLIC/MEDIA ACCESS TO THE PRISON SYSTEM

By Boston Woodard

IN 1996, I WAS FIRED AS EDITOR OF CALIFORNIA'S last prison newspaper: the Communicator, written and published by prisoners for prisoners. I was subjected to further punishment on the grounds that I might be trying to get around (then-governor) Pete Wilson's new unwritten rule that no public media be allowed one-on-one interviews with any California prisoner.

In the mid-1990s, the California Department of Corrections (CDC) placed a moratorium on prisoner interviews with the news media, pending a review of their regulations. CDC officials acted in response to statements by Gov. Wilson, who cited the growth of "tabloid journalism" and the ability of prisoners to use the media for personal gain. Prison walls work both ways. They keep prisoners from society; but they also prevent the public from knowing what happens behind the barriers, on the other side of the wall.

Access to the media has long served the public by shedding light on conditions inside prisons. For instance, prison interviews with 60 Minutes and other news organizations informed the public about deplorable conditions at Pelican Bay State Prison long before the federal court found those conditions unconstitutional. Courts have recognized the importance of a prisoner's ability to communicate with the media.

What prison officials most detest is my policy of corresponding with members of the media. In the past, I have arranged media coverage of (mostly) positive undertakings by prisoners at San Quentin, Soledad, and Folsom state prisons that undermined the adversarial "us and them" mentality that state government and the California Peace Officer's Association (CCPOA) seem to perpetuate.

Under these circumstances, the public sees prisoners as real people—as the friends, parents, and children they are—not some sort of creatures unrelated to human society, or as Charles Manson replicas.

It is not only convicts who are deprived of freedom of expression when prison officials exercise censorship, for prisons are no longer the transparent public institutions that can be separated and blocked from the people they serve. If government agencies are allowed to decide who can speak and who has to listen, everybody's rights are threatened.

The CDC says journalists may visit prisoners under the same terms as family and friends, but they may not bring with them the "tools of their trade," that is, pen, paper, camera, or recorder. Media representatives now need to be memory acrobats to accomplish their assignment. Prison officials also say that journalists can still interview "random" prisoners, whom they happen to en-

counter during guided tours of the prison. This means, they will make sure you are in an area where all the prisoners you talk to randomly will have the IQ of a cinder block, or are hand-picked jailhouse snitches spewing what the administration wants them to. Prison officials used my continued correspondence with representatives of the media as evidence I intended to disobey the governor's announced "ban" on prisoner interviews, and I was thrown into an isolation cell.

The 1996 ruling that media will no longer have access to individual (specific) prisoners, to prevent the "glamorization" of criminals, serves the prison authorities well in preventing public knowledge of incidents.

Consider the boiling alive of prisoner Vaughn Dortch at Pelican Bay, which was covered heavily by the media in the 1990s; the department's policy of encouraging deadly force to break up fights on prison yards; and lack of overall medical and mental health treatment of prisoners, which has resulted in prisoners' deaths or permanent injuries and disabilities.

A prison journalist who is unwilling to go along with the censor's capricious blue pencil when attempting to define his surroundings, may find the description "uncooperative, disrespectful of authority" in his or her prisoner Central File. No convict wants to spend an extra day behind bars, but for some, pursuing a story may mean just that. Prison walls are thicker than they seem. Convict-journalists' use of their freedom of speech (as clearly written in federal law) has been a way to bring that wall down.

Since April 1996, the public has been afforded only the watered-down "official" version of prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners—the version approved by prison administrators and public information officers for release to the public.

What was so ridiculous about the media policy change—besides the fact that there was no written evidence of the then-new rule change for prisoner or media reviewing, perhaps because of its blatant unconstitutionality—was that current law (then and now), as expressed in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, Section #3260, states: "Correctional Facilities and Programs are operated at public expense for the protection of society. The public has a right to know how such facilities and programs are being conducted."

That same code contains lengthy exposition on acquiring this knowledge, including rules that prevent abuse of this right by tabloid journalists, supposedly the reason for the back-door media-rule change.

When the final regulations were issued, furtively, as both emergency and permanent rules, they contained still another surprise.

Along with the interview ban, the regulations now included a provision eliminating the confidentiality of correspondence between a prisoner and the news media. This was a policy that went on without incident for close to twenty-five years. Over the years, many a prison memo has leaked out to the news media in sealed mail, much to the embarrassment of prison officials. In other governmental contexts, such memos would be considered public documents open to public inspection under Freedom of Information legislation, but it is extremely unlikely that prison officials searching media mail for "contraband" will forward such embarrassing documents to the media.

Prison officials assured the public that under the new rules, prisoner mail "cannot be censored simply for the ideas or values it contains." You'll have a hard time convincing me of that. When I was fired from my job assignment as editor of the Communicator, I was also charged with "circumventing policies," all because I wrote to a freelance journalist suggesting a way to bypass the interview ban on what I was told was "one-on-one" media interviews. I suggested that the journalists instead interview a group of people. The resulting charge of circumventing policies—a serious infraction—was one of three that was issued and then dismissed as prison administrators shopped around for something with which to punish me. All charges against me were later expunged from my prison Central File when the CDC settled a federal lawsuit I filed (Woodard v. Duncan, CV96-4182ABC) for violating my First Amendment rights.

The disciplinary infractions leveled against me for "circumventing policies" were all issued well before the CDC had officially promulgated the new regulations, so there were no written policies to circumvent. Even if such comments could constitute violation of subsequent policy, the content of correspondence is not grounds for punishment. In my "illegal" letter, I even referred my journalist correspondent for further information to the public information officer of the prison, and helpfully included the phone number and office hours.

It is important that the public make informed choices about the criminal justice system. These choices are all the more critical as the prison population continues to increase and the CDC consumes a \$6 billion share of California's taxes annually.

It is unfortunate that state government and prison officials have acted to restrict media access especially as more and more prisoners are added to its population. According to prison officials themselves, Governors Pete Wilson, Gray Davis, and now Arnold Schwarzenegger have all turned a blind eye to the media regaining full access

back into the California prison system and its prisoners. The local public, especially the media, should demand their right to conference with prison officials as well as prisoners (specifically, not randomly) to be better informed of possible hazards and conditions in their communities.

This is not only an issue of prison rights, or prisoner First Amendment rights. It is an issue of the public's right to know about the good and the bad within these prison walls, about the draconian practices inside the prison system, and about the positive efforts of the men and women given up for lost by society.

It is shameful that men and women in prison blues should suffer for having done the right thing. It is absolutely criminal that the free citizens of California are denied their right to access prisons and prisoners in this fashion.

The Department of Corrections, undoubtedly one of the most dysfunctional bureaucracies in the state, has a history of advancing its agenda through misinformation, intimidation, and if need be, strong-arm tactics. And for good reason: The system is a cash cow for career bureaucrats and building contractors, an enterprise that requires all the secrecy it can muster to ensure the perpetuation of its unchecked growth.

As I have written in the past, nearly half of the people incarcerated in California prisons today simply shouldn't be there. They are behind bars as a result of another popular cash cow, the wholly bogus "War on Drugs." I'm no MD, but it seems reasonable enough that medical problems shouldn't be confused with wanton criminal behaviors, nor should these be treated the same. Society would be better served by sending most nonviolent offenders to drug treatment facilities or Harvard. Both are cheaper alternatives. More reasons why full media access into prisons is imperative.

The indomitable insanity of the CDC kicked in and took control once again of the public's right to know what goes on behind prison walls. In the twisted logic of the CDC, good policies, such as media access that actually benefit the public, are bad. Bad policies that conform to the CDC's agenda are good. Silence is golden.

The entire prison system begs for severe, fundamental reform. A good place to start is with the active adoption of full media access to state prisons and their charges. The most vital element in the penal system's ultimate reform, however, is the continuation of uncensored voices of prisoners, voices from inside the system. Without the light such unfettered voices cast, the ubiquitous roaches inherent in the system will have no reason to flee.



Big stick: F.J. "Boston" Woodard, editor of The Communicator, is shown here standing up for freedom of the press in a cartoon by James Haberlin, a former Communicator cartoonist and CDC inmate.

There is a support group for families and friends of prisoners, which meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno. Next meeting, May 19. Completely free of charge, of course. For info call Donna, 456-4974; Maria, 255-9492; or Patty, 299-8194. In addition to regular meetings, we are available to prisoners' families and friends for one-on-one peer counseling, support, and general information about prison life.

The group also helps prisoners at the two women's prisons in Chowchilla by seeking pen pals and visitors for them, visiting the women on death row at CCWF, and from time to time contributing to drives that provide library books for the women prisoners.

<www.indybay.org/news/2005/04/1732587.php>

For more information about the Prison Industrial Complex and groups working to stop the insanity, contact:

Debbie Reyes
Central Valley Organizer
California Prison Moratorium Project
(559) 916-4370
pmpvalle@yahoo.com

Meeting: Last Saturday of each month at Center for Nonviolence

BE LIKE MIKE

By Horace (Rog) Lucido

"BE LIKE MIKE." GATORADE'S ADVERTISING SLOGAN TAPPED INTO OUR CULTURAL BELIEF THAT IF WE EMULATE someone successful, we too can be successful. Does success mean more money for you? Then follow those who have made it big. Do what they did: invest, start a business, be wise, be frugal—but in any event follow the winners, Many parents use this modeling idea with their children. If you want to be successful, do what Mom and Dad do. Go to school, keep your faith, have a family...whatever the formula is that we think works. It's the same the world over- find those who did it right and follow their lead, making improvements along the way. We call this progress.

Let's apply this to an ordinary Fresno Unified student who wants to be "successful" as defined by California testing results. (This "success" just means an acceptable numerical score, not the ability to contribute meaningfully to our society.) He or she will have to emulate other successful students in the district.

Let's help our student by getting some data from the 2003 STAR testing for Fresno Unified, as reported on the California Department of Education's Web site. Here is what we find when we break down the percent of students at or above the "proficient" level in grades 2-7, according to their parents' educational level:

Parents' Education	% Students at or above "Proficient" in	Language Arts (Gr 2-7)	Mathematics (Gr 2-7)	No H.S. Diploma	10% 17%
H.S. Diploma	19%	23%	Some College	31 %	34%
College Grad.	43%	45%	Post Grad	57%	57%

The pattern is clear. The more educated your parents are, the better your chances of a "proficient score." So, if you want to be considered a successful student, make sure your parents are as educated as possible.

As you might guess, this relationship is not just true of Fresno Unified students, but it holds true across the country. More educated parents have students who do better on these tests. English language development is a critical component.

Given that about 22% of FUSD parents reportedly have no high school diploma (and this statistic will surely increase as time passes and more students fail to pass the California High School Exit Exam); another 20% have only a high school diploma, and only 12% have graduated college, is it any wonder that many of our students struggle on these tests?

When you couple this parental educational disparity with the fact that more than 80% of our students in grades 2-7 are also classified as economically disadvantaged, the percent differences in levels of "proficiency" are even more radical.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, men and women with four years of college earn nearly 45 percent more on average than those with only a high school diploma. The more educated parents make more money, have better health care, and have students who fare better on high-stakes testing. A quick check of the SAT Web site shows the same patterns. Why are some so willing to use this data to judge students and schools, yet so

unwilling to believe what that same data says about who scores higher? Proficient scores are not a predictor of a student's ability to be successful in life but they are good indicators of who has the more educated parents with higher incomes.

SAT scores have a very weak correlation to college grades. High school grades are a much better predictor of college success. But beyond that, "to be successful in life" is usually meant as the degree one is able to contribute meaningfully to a society. There is no correlation between STAR test proficiency score results and a student's ability to "to be successful in life". It is not what grades or scores you received that makes for success, but what you do with the education you've gained along the way

Although it is the stated intent of the No Child Left Behind legislation to close this test-score gap, we must also focus on closing the parent-education gap, the economic gap, and the health care gap. Having more tests with scripted lessons that turn our schools into test prep centers is not the answer. This was quite evident last month when the Associated Press reported:

"The National Conference of State Legislatures wants changes in the fundamental parts of the No Child Left Behind Act: how student progress is measured, how schools are punished if they fall short, and who decides when the rules are waived for struggling districts.... The law leads to unintended consequences and ...the federal government is indifferent to them—the lowering of academic standards, increasing segregation in school, and the driving away of top teachers from needy schools. It claims the government is also violating the Constitution by coercing state compliance...."

There is not just movement on the national level to address the gross injustice of high-stakes testing; there are state and local organizations that are also addressing these issues. Here in Fresno there are two such groups. One is CalJustice <caljustice.org>, which is one of a statewide alliance of over 100 organizations sponsoring the Campaign for Quality Education. They have been instrumental along with other education advocates in winning the Williams lawsuit against the State of California for not providing all students with a quality education. They have also been involved in the effort to postpone the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) until 2006. They are continuing to support two bills—SB 517, by Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, and AB 1531, by Assemblywoman Karen Bass, both of which would have significant impact on the CAHSEE.

The second group is Educators and Parents against Testing Abuse <testingabuse.blogspot.com>. EPATA is an organization of parents and educators who are concerned with the impact that high-stakes testing is having on students, their parents, and educators in California and the Central Valley. They recognize that high-stakes testing harms children and impoverishes education. They are working to educate policy makers and the public about the dangers of the current trend in educational reforms, and to promote authentic assessment and reform efforts that work toward equity, democracy, academic excellence, and social justice.

This is a serious issue. We need to seek justice for those who are suffering the most in their quest to "Be like Mike."

CalJustice contact, Bernardo Reyes: 443-1394 or Bernardo@caljustice.org
EPATA contact, Rog Lucido: 277-1312 or lucid4@cvip.net

With Angelica management, there's no quality, only quantity.



The employees of Angelica Corporation believe in emphasizing safety, not profit, in their laundry facilities. The workers and their union want to avoid possible accidents including personal injury, fires, and the transmission of diseases to workers, their families, and local communities.

Unfortunately, Angelica's management has chosen to ignore the concerns of its workers. Instead, it has set aside \$1.1 million this year to counter its employees efforts, which it describes as a corporate terrorist campaign.

ABN AMRO, a Dutch bank that is raising funds for the expansion of Angelica, claims that its key principle of corporate social responsibility is to analyze the sustainability of the "triple bottom line: people, planet and profit." ABN AMRO says that it "strives to integrate sustainability into regular business activities such as lending, investment and risk assessment." But how can ABN AMRO claim a commitment to social responsibility if the workers of its corporate partner are being placed at risk?

In fact, Angelica Corporation recently fired Linda Freeman in retaliation for her efforts to inform the bank of these risks. Her actions are protected by US law and are fundamental, internationally recognized rights.

Respect the rights of workers, ABN AMRO. Demand that your business partner does the same. That is responsible business. For all of us.

www.unitehere.org

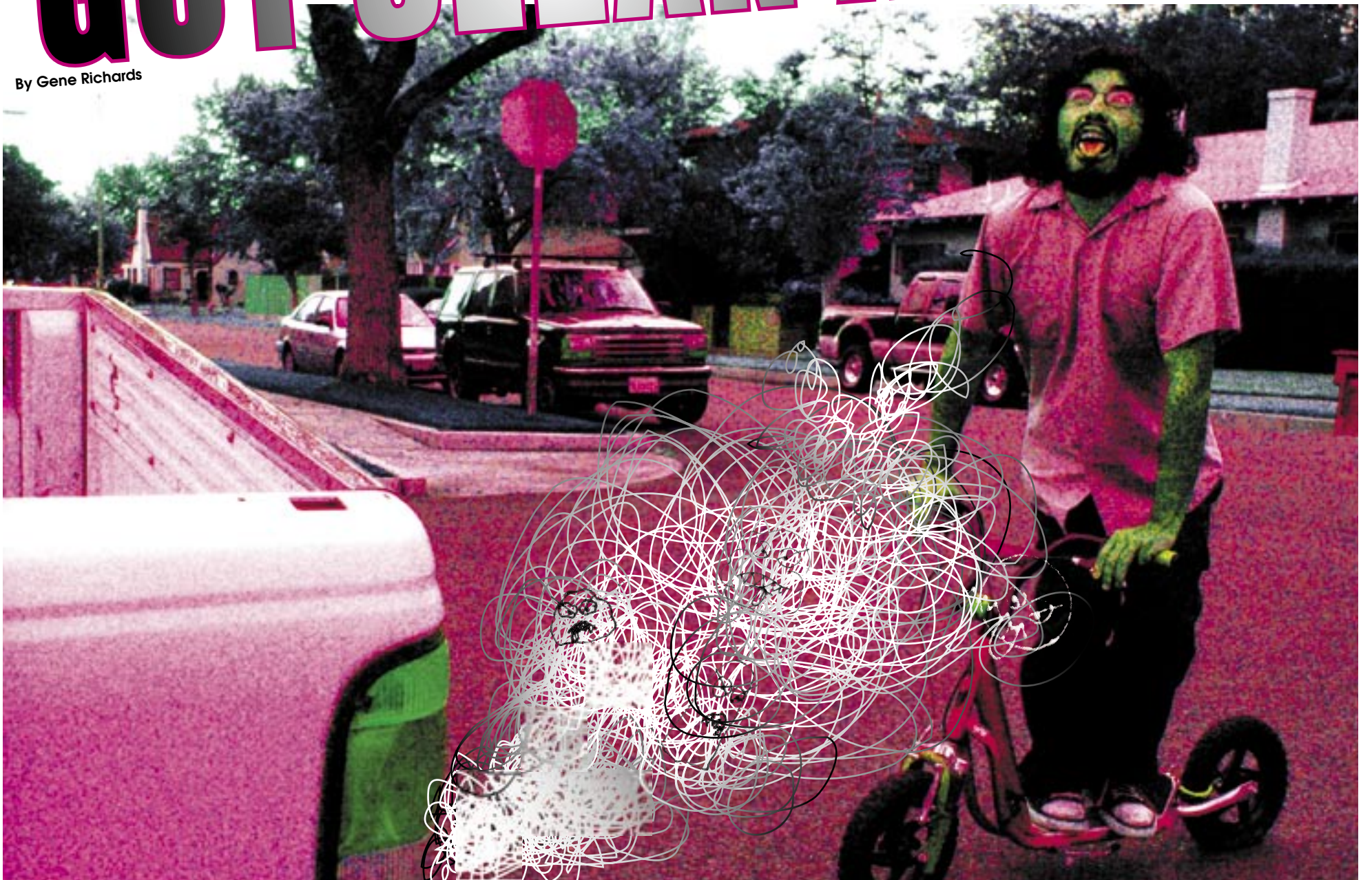
This message brought to you by **UNITE HERE!**



Linda Freeman
Ballston Spa, NY

GOT CLEAN AIR?

By Gene Richards



I'M COMING BACK FROM VISITING FRIENDS AND PLAYING TENNIS over at my old university, just ambling along on my bike about 9 PM. It's pretty safe and I never think about being attacked except when I start swearing at someone for cutting me off. You often see single females out pretty late here. And I'm thinking about what I'm going to tell you about life here, rubber necking at pretty girls or couples "talking intently" in each other's arms, trying to remember where I am, listening to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers on the Walkman, singing to myself and whoever happens to be beside me, although traffic has thinned considerably. And this girl cuts me off on her bike so I sort of raise my voice a little and tell her to watch out (in a mixture of Chinese and English) but not angrily and she sort of nods like, ok dude, and then I get the feeling I'm closer to my place and I'm passing all these little shops open late with strings of red lights inside and they have girls sitting around doing nothing and they're not selling any obvious merchandise and then I do realize what merchandise they are selling. But I have to keep checking the street signs (which are fortunately, for this outlander, in pinyin, the Romanized Chinese) to make sure I don't miss my street because I haven't come back this way before. At one point I ask a couple of guys walking if this is Fuqing Road but they say 'bu shi' (isn't). Then I do find the right street and then have to negotiate the very narrow side street near my residential area along the river but they're rebuilding the banks so the path is torn up and it was raining in the morning so if I put my feet down it's mud-city but it's dark because there are few street lights here – in some parts it's pitch black but I can make out the path edge from the big tree shadows. Then I wheel onto my little back street unscathed where a bunch of guys and a few girls are still out playing mahjong (a Chinese friend calls it China's worst drug – you can hear the tiles being shuffled all over China but especially here in Sichuan). Then into my compound where most of the university's teachers live and a nod and a 'hey' to the guard, who won't close the gate until midnight (but he'll be there sleeping even if I stumble in early in the morning).

So, home at last, but there's more adventure than anxiety, cycling around this city. And I can't shake the feeling, when I'm tooling around on my bike, plugged into the music, that I'm taking friends from back home on a tour of my new hometown: stay over to the right; hey ... watch out for the taxi turning from the right (you thought they were going to stop?—ha!) ... and keep your eyes open ... I think it's down this street 'cause it looks familiar ... wait to cross ... wait ... wait ... NOW ... oh, there's a cute girl on a mountain bike... hey, let's stop here and have noodles for lunch. Stuff like that.

And I'm thinking, this is so not-America, first because of the relative security (and it's degraded since the true Communist era when there were spies everywhere, usually old farts hanging around every corner and gateway) but also because bikes are still the primary mode of transit, even though the Chinese are rushing into the motorized age so that traffic is truly horrendous all over the country, with bikes, cars, trucks jockeying for position. You realize after you get settled and start looking around at your surroundings (I've spent 3 1/2 years in China since 1986) that things are different... yes, but they're beginning to look a lot like ... wait, where is it? Yes, America!

They're rushing to adopt western lifestyles they see in the movies and TV shows: Big Macs, car culture, western dress, slang, thinking.

What's really scary is the thought of what China (or India or any other developing country) would look like if the people lived like Americans, with huge houses on huge lots, huge cars, huge refrigerators, huge appetites, and a huge demand for petroleum products. But that's where everyone in the world is headed. It's what America exports best: rising expectations and petroleum usage.

You might think we had learned some lessons along the way from the first "oil crisis." But are we headed toward less reliance on petroleum any time in the near future? Are we even thinking that this reliance is making us more belligerent in world politics, increasing our export of dollars, especially to unstable regions of the globe, degrading our air and water resources, using up our mineral and environmental wealth? Is there no stopping our rush into this petroleum future? Is there no alternative?

Being on a bike is liberating. You are not plugged into the petroleum economy. You use the streets but on your own terms. You follow the laws like a vehicle but you have more freedom. You don't get stuck in traffic jams, don't pay for parking or gas, don't get caught up in the frenetic pace of getting somewhere.

Forgot what it was like to be on a bike? Why not let BIKE MONTH be a chance to join others to find out? Check out local activities that are safe and fun. And meet some bike friends, and see why they're more relaxed than those who drive everywhere.

The Fresno County Bicycle Coalition believes that allocation of scarce resources should be applied to making our communities more livable, which includes scaling back use of the car and relying more on mass transit and cycling for health and for the environment. Toward these ends, we celebrate Bike Month each year with activities which highlight the individual and community benefits of cycling—to school, to shop, to work, to recreate. Why not join us and see how much fun it can be again—you're not too old to have fun, are you? Here's a calendar of Bike Month activities.



MAY IS BIKE MONTH

The FCBC is sponsoring Fresno's 4th Annual Bike Month Celebration
with events and rides for all cyclists.

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Bike/Art Hop

Meet at Bike Works Repair Shop at:

Art Hop is sponsored by the Fresno Arts Council, first Thursday of each month—free admission

For details see www.fresnoartmuseum.org/cal_arthop.php

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Bike Swap Meet

Sponsored by the Fresno Cycling Club. 7 PM at University Center Parking Lot, 550 East Shaw Bring bikes, parts, tools.

Saturday, May 14, 2005

Winery Ride

Winery ride to Engelmann Cellars and Nonini Winery. Meet at 10 AM at the Java Wava Café at 1940 N Echo (across from Fresno High). Bring a lunch and sunscreen.

Sunday, May 15, 2005

Bike Clinic and Safety Checks

Fresno Free Bicycle Clinic is offering general tune-ups and repairs, and workshops on flat repair, bearing care, brake adjustments and rim truing for our friends in the cycling community. Free; door prizes. Come to Bicycle Works, 1461 N Van Ness, #C in the courtyard. In the Tower, north of Olive across from Club Fred. Also, Bike and helmet safety checks at participating Bike Shops.

Monday, May 16, 2005

Clovis City Council Bike Month Proclamation

Meet at the Clovis City Council on 5th Street across from Clark Elementary at 7 PM for Bike Month Proclamation.

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Fresno City Council and County Board Meetings

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Fresno City Council (Fresno City Hall) and 9 AM at Fresno County Board of Supervisors (nearby at Hall of Records) for Fresno Proclamation Readings. Come show support for safe bicycling.

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Bike Month Celebration

Party – Bobby Salazar's on Olive in Tower District, 6 PM–9 PM.

Join us for food, fun, and raffle prizes. Brought to you by the FCBC.

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Park Your Car Day

Leave the car at home and cycle to the store, the library, the park. Rent American Flyer, Breaking Away, Beijing Bicycle or The Triplets of Belleville.

Friday, May 20, 2005

BIKE TO WORK DAY!!! BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY!!!

Join cyclists and politicians for a public ride from Manchester Center to Kern Café for free coffee and social.

Gather at 8 AM for 8:30 ride, near Manchester's Fresno Area Express.

Clovis cyclists, meet at Old Town Trail rest stop near Ashlan and Clovis at 7:15 for ride to Manchester. Edison High School Annual Bike to School Ride.

Center for Advanced Research and Technology

For more information, see FCBC website at

<www.fresnobike.org>

or email info@fresnobike.org for details.

CLEAN AIR ACTION DAYS

By Laura Fultz

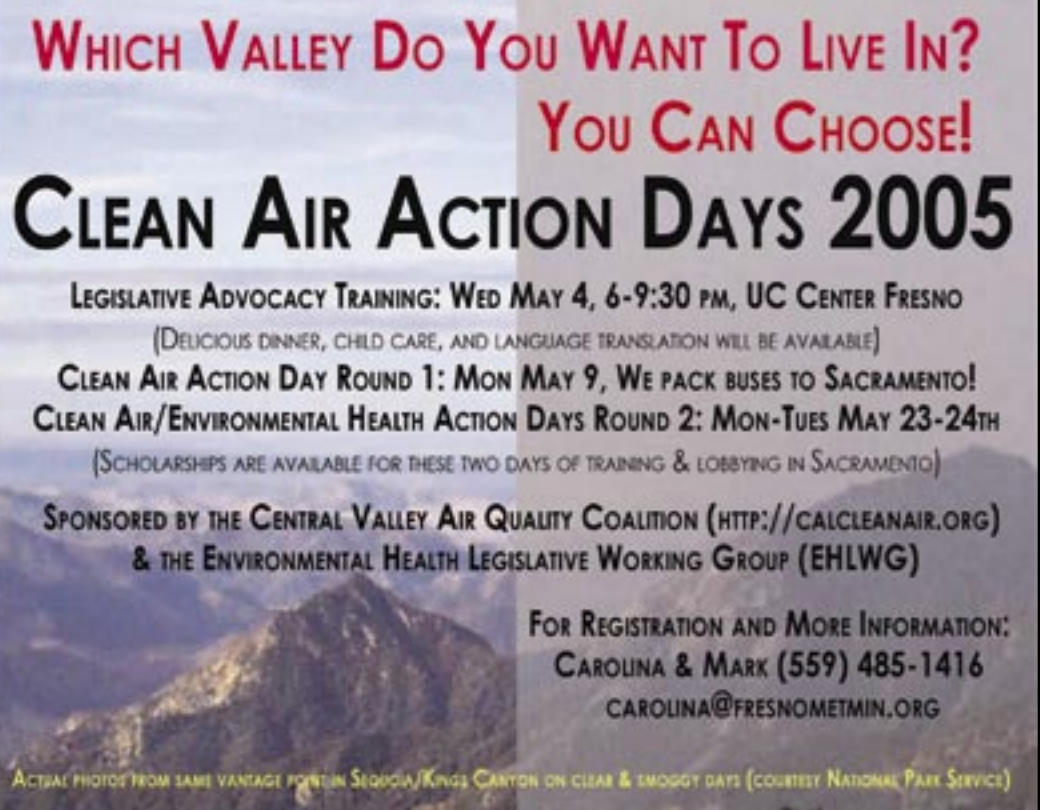
THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY IS ONE OF THE most polluted regions in America, by many measures beating out Los Angeles as the air basin with the worst air quality. The effects on our children, communities, and economic health are staggering: 16% of our children suffer from asthma, three times the national average. There are more than 1200 premature deaths each year in the Valley due to particulate matter pollution. Over \$350 million is spent annually in the Valley on cardio-pulmonary illness due to poor air quality. To be part of the solution, please join us for the following Clean Air Action Day events.

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ) is hosting a legislative advocacy training on Wednesday, May 4, 6–9:30 PM at the UC Center. A delicious dinner, child care, and language translation

will be provided. Community members will obtain needed skills to lobby their legislators on the importance of passing air-quality bills that help to reduce and eliminate the poor air quality in our Valley.

On May 9, Valley community members will have the opportunity to lobby at the Clean Air Action Day in Sacramento. A free bus ride and lunch will be provided on the trip from Fresno to Sacramento. Another opportunity for learning and advocacy on the issues of air quality and environmental health will be held on Monday and Tuesday, May 23–24 in Sacramento. Scholarships are available upon request.

For more information regarding any of these events, please call Mark Stout or Carolina Simunovic at (559) 485–1416 or e-mail carolina@fresnometmin.org.



**WHICH VALLEY DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN?
YOU CAN CHOOSE!**

CLEAN AIR ACTION DAYS 2005

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING: WED MAY 4, 6-9:30 PM, UC CENTER FRESNO
(DELICIOUS DINNER, CHILD CARE, AND LANGUAGE TRANSLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE)

CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY ROUND 1: MON MAY 9, WE PACK BUSES TO SACRAMENTO!

CLEAN AIR/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTION DAYS ROUND 2: MON-TUES MAY 23-24TH
(SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THESE TWO DAYS OF TRAINING & LOBBYING IN SACRAMENTO)

SPONSORED BY THE CENTRAL VALLEY AIR QUALITY COALITION ([HTTP://CALCLEANAIR.ORG](http://CALCLEANAIR.ORG))
& THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP (EHLWG)

FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION:
CAROLINA & MARK (559) 485-1416
CAROLINA@FRESNOMETMIN.ORG

ACTUAL PHOTOS FROM SAME VANTAGE POINT IN SEQUOIA/KINGS CANYON ON CLEAR & SMOGGY DAYS (COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT VIOLATES THE STATE CONSTITUTION, CONTINUES TO INFILTRATE FRESNO PEACE GROUPS

By Mike Rhodes



EVIDENCE THAT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS CONTINUING TO infiltrate Fresno peace groups was presented at a press conference at California State University Fresno (CSUF) on April 6, 2005. Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, president of the campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition said, “We have recently discovered that undercover law enforcement agents were present at an event we held.” Obel-Jorgensen said that CSUF police chief David Huerta admitted that undercover agents were present at a presentation in November 2004 by Gary Yourofsky. Yourofsky is one of the foremost animal-rights lecturers in the United States.

The press conference came the same day that the Fresno Bee reported that Peace Fresno was again being monitored by undercover law enforcement agents. The Bee article <www.fresnobee.com/local/story/10259715p-11070404c.html> describes a Peace Fresno event, The Rally in the Valley <www.indybay.org/news/2005/03/1728059.php> where undercover law enforcement personnel were present.

Law enforcement’s presence at the Rally in the Valley was dramatically different from its presence at earlier Peace Fresno events. For example at this <www.indybay.org/news/2004/08/1693622.php> march held in August 2004, the Fresno Police had a very visible presence. There were police in cars, on bikes, on foot, and on horses. They were everywhere! When Peace Fresno organizers were asked on the day of the event about the lack of a police presence at The Rally in the Valley, they shrugged and said, “they’re here but you just don’t see them.” That assumption was proved correct when the Fresno Bee identified a photo of a particularly large sheriff’s deputy in film they shot.

Law enforcement in Fresno is downplaying the significance of the shift in tactics and is claiming that the surveillance is simply business as usual. David Moll, director of public safety at CSUF, was quoted in the Fresno Bee as saying, “I don’t see what the problem is. There’s undercover police everywhere. They’re gathering intelligence to keep order, not to repress anybody.”

At the press conference on campus, students were joined by faculty and several community groups to demand an end to the infiltration and a full disclosure of what law enforcement has been doing. Obel-Jorgensen said that the infiltration “is a breach of academic freedom of our civil liberties . . . and we want the university to acknowledge that this is an unjust practice.” Nicholas DeGraff, who is working with the students and the American Civil Liberties Union on this issue, said that California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has distributed guidelines to all law enforcement offices. Those guidelines direct law enforcement to adhere to the California Constitution, which prohibits the infiltration or monitoring of groups unless there is evidence of criminal activity. Nathan Barankin, who works in the attorney general’s office, said that “in California we have strong privacy guarantees. The AG’s policy is that we do not conduct undercover surveillance without probable cause of criminal predicate. In plain language, that means we don’t go on fishing missions.”

Civil Liberties Violations in the 1980’s
During the 1980s the Latin American Support Committee (LASC), a grassroots Fresno group working to stop US intervention in Central America, was investigated by the FBI. There was a student group affiliated with LASC and Scott Stark was the chairperson. Stark said that after he returned from a trip to Nicaragua, he noticed a middle-aged man in an unmarked car with government plates taking pictures of him. The investigation involved anti-intervention activists both on and off campus. FBI documents obtained by Indy-media reporters indicate a wide-ranging investigation with agents following activists to meetings throughout the Valley, monitoring their mail, photographing demonstrations and other events, and maintaining extensive files.

LASC pressured the FBI to reveal why they were investigating a group that was engaged in no criminal activity. In a statement addressing this question, the FBI claimed LASC was under investigation because the group’s address was found on “Top Ten Fugitive, Raymond Luc Levasseur, subsequent to his arrest on 11/4/84.” LASC contacted Levasseur, who was a member of an urban revolutionary group on the East Coast, who said he had no idea who LASC was and had never been in Fresno.

Members of the LASC recalled other troubling incidents during the 1980s, which they believe were related to FBI or other law enforcement activity. In one incident, a person attending a meeting argued that the group should be raising money for guns to send to Central America. When it was explained that the group was not engaged in criminal activity, he left. He was later seen by a member of LASC at his job at the Fresno Police Department. When spotted, he ducked into another room to avoid a confrontation. A different government agent approached the group’s leadership and said he could raise some serious money by robbing banks for the group. The agent said he was “down with the revolution.” He was told, “Don’t contact us; we will contact you,” and was never heard from again.

CSUF ANTI-SWEATSHOP GROUP INFILTRATED

Local law enforcement was involved in another case of infiltration five years ago. In that case, several CSUF students and faculty were active in organizing an anti-sweatshop demonstration against the Gap on May 6, 2000, where 19 activists were arrested. The protest at the Fashion Fair mall, which is right down the street from CSUF, was one of many held against the Gap’s use of sweatshop labor. There had never been any violence or arrests at any previous protest at Fashion Fair. Organizers were surprised when they were contacted by Fresno City Police and told at a meeting that they would be arrested if they stepped on the “private property” owned by Fashion Fair. Law enforcement seemed much more interested in protecting property rights than the right to free speech guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The Fresno Police Department and Fashion Fair security were amazingly well coordinated on the day of the May 6 demonstration. In fact, a video recording released in the criminal proceedings following the arrest showed the head of Fashion Fair security directing the FPD who to arrest. They seemed to know who the leadership of the demonstration was and targeted them for arrest. Further discovery during the criminal proceedings revealed that the FPD had, with the coordination of the CSUF police department, infiltrated the anti-sweatshop activists. The infiltrator was a student who was placed, at the direction of the FPD, in the campus group: United Students Against Sweatshops. The informant attended meetings and got on the group’s e-mail listserv. She passed the information she gathered on to the FPD. That is how they knew every organizational decision the group made. That is how they knew who the leaders were and who to arrest.

The Gap 19 spent a year and a half in the criminal justice system. They were told that they could plead guilty and would be given 10 hours of community service time, or if they were found guilty they could be sentenced for up to 1 year in jail and have to pay a \$10,000 fine. The judge in the case eventually dropped all charges because the protesters had broken no law. Several of the activists filed a civil action against the Fashion Fair Mall and the City of Fresno claiming that their civil liberties had been violated. They won an out-of-court settlement, which they distributed to numerous community groups working for peace and social and economic justice.

Several of the Gap 19 protesters returned triumphantly to Fashion Fair to hold a victory rally on July 4, 2003, where they read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution on the very spot they had been arrested a few years earlier. There were no arrests, proving that activists who stand up for their rights will prevail.

PEACE FRESNO INFILTRATED - THE FIRST TIME

A couple of months after the victory celebration at Fashion Fair, another police infiltration story broke in Fresno. Peace Fresno president Camille Russell noticed that a picture in the obituary section of the Fresno Bee looked really familiar. Pictured was Aaron Kilner, whom she knew as Aaron Stokes. Kilner was a regular at Peace Fresno meetings. Russell read the obituary that said Kilner was a member of the Fresno County Sheriff’s Department and a member of the “anti-terrorist team.”

Peace Fresno members recalled Kilner attended demonstrations, taking a lot of notes at the meetings, and telling them that he was independently wealthy. The Fresno County Sheriff’s department has never clarified what Kilner was doing attending Peace Fresno meetings, but all indications are that he was an informant for the Joint Terrorism Task Force that has been established in this area following the September 11, 2001, tragedy. Millions of dollars have been pumped into this area to protect the community from terrorist sleeper cells, Al-Qaeda, and Peace Fresno.

The infiltration of Peace Fresno made national and international news. It was one of the first concrete examples showing that the US government used the Patriot Act to infiltrate community groups that were not suspected of involvement with criminal activity. The story of the infiltration was told on Amy Goodman’s Democracy Now! radio show, Bill Moyers’ television show on PBS, and in Michael Moore’s Fahrenheit 9/11. Attorney General Bill Lockyer even issued a directive to all law enforcement offices in the state directing them to follow the California State Constitution, which prevents them from infiltrating groups that are not under investigation for criminal activity.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ENVIRONMENTALISM CONFERENCE

In February 2003 a conference titled “Revolutionary Environmentalism: A Dialogue Between Activists and Academics,” was held at CSUF. While faculty and students at the university were busy organizing the conference, conservative forces were trying to undermine the event. Right-wing forces threatened the university’s funding and managed to close the conference to the community. Only students and faculty with valid ID were allowed to attend the event.

After the conference a federal grand jury demanded a video of the event. The university readily turned over the videotape and gave no indication to the organizers or participants that they had any concern about the issues of academic freedom involved.

It was following this conference that CSUF changed its policy regarding outside speakers. The policy before the revolutionary environmental conference had been that campus groups needed no official authorization to hold an event with an outside speaker. But now, according to Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, president of the CSUF Peace and Civil Liberties group, “they wanted us to go around and get signatures from representatives of eight different departments every time we wanted to have a speaker come to the campus.” When Obel-Jorgensen went to CSUF chief of police David Huerta’s office to get a signature so her group could bring to campus Dr. Ilan Pappé, an Israeli historian from Haifa University, she came up against some unexpected obstacles. Obel-Jorgensen said the police chief wanted to know who the speaker was and why her group was bringing him; he also expressed concern about the speaker’s safety, and brought up the issue that he is a controversial speaker and that someone might try to kill him. “I definitely got the impression that Huerta was making a determination about whether or not he would approve the speaker or not,” Obel-Jorgensen said.

Huerta ended up signing the form to allow Pappé to speak on campus, but the incident made Obel-Jorgensen uncomfortable. She asked, “Why should the chief of police, the parking department, risk management, and five other departments be able to determine who can speak on campus?” To make matters worse, the Peace and Civil Liberties group appears to be the only organization on campus that has been forced to go through this procedure.

The Campus Peace and Civil Liberties group has requested information from the CSUF police department to determine the nature and depth of this latest round of undercover surveillance. The police have 10 days to respond to the request. The student group is also considering other legal and political action to find out what files are being maintained on students and faculty at the university.

To contact the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties group email ruthoj@riseup.net or call Ruth at (559) 916-7396

To contact Peace Fresno go to
<www.peacefresno.org>.

NEWS FROM FRESCAMP

By Judy Stege

BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING SOIL BACTERIUM that produces a protein toxic to certain insects, including corn borer caterpillars. In October 2001, the EPA announced that because scientific studies and a history of successful use demonstrated that Bt is not toxic to humans or other animals, it would be approved in biotech corn seed for seven more years. (It was scientifically demonstrated in 1999 that pollen from Bt corn poisoned the larvae of Monarch butterflies. But this wasn't important.)

Bacillus thuringiensis is also one of few natural insecticides approved by Integrated Pest Management and organic regulations because it is a least-toxic pesticide.

Heads up! When biotech farmers plant Bt corn, and every corn plant in the field has the Bt gene, the corn borer quickly adapts a resistance. Instead of taking 30 years to develop, caterpillars are nibbling the Bt corn and in three years are reproducing resistant young. Chuck Benbrook, a crop consultant and sustainable agriculture advocate, estimates that up to 10,000 times as much Bt toxin is produced in the crop as would have been used in typical external application—and that is assuming a year in which the corn borer needed to be controlled at all. Overkill, but the borer adapts. The biotech farmers look to the biotech corporations for new seeds or pesticides with more power, creating a perpetual market.

What about the organic and non-biotech farmers in the area? They are challenged with more work and worry to find another safe and approved pesticide to apply when needed.

ISN'T THIS A MISUSE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY?

Source:
Barstow, Cynthia, THE ECO-FOODS GUIDE, 2002 (pages 104–105).

Parents were shocked when told by the National Institute of Health (December 2004) that a chemical (MIT) in some shampoos, when used by pregnant women, may cause brain damage in their babies. We trust that what we grab off the shelf at the store is safe. In actuality, the FDA, which is responsible, spends

little time, money, or effort investigating these products....

Many families (ten million estimated) experience head lice, usually in warm months. These little bugs produce itching, scratching, and embarrassment, but they cause little harm unless secondary skin infections develop. Lice may live on a head for years unnoticed, until the allergic reaction to lice saliva causes the itching. There are several commercial preparations handy for a harried parent to grab. Does Mother or Father know that the pesticides in the box are more harmful than the lice? Look for these dangerous active ingredients:

Pyrethrum, and its synthetic chemical copy, pyrethroid, are pesticides banned from agricultural use in food production. They may cause pneumonia, muscle paralysis, vomiting, asthma, and respiratory failure. How did they end up on drugstore shelf?

Lindane is dangerous to the nervous system, and many studies show that it is linked to cancer and disrupts our hormone systems. Worse, the suds rinsed down the drain show up in drinking water and in the arctic region in whales and people. Lindane stays in the environment a long time, traveling in water and air currents. It has been found in breastmilk around the world. Lindane has been banned in more than 50 countries and in California, but shows up in prescriptive treatments.

Protect your children by reading labels and directions, and by buying nontoxic products. Your family and our environment are worth the extra time and money.

Sources:
www.newstarget.com/003210.html
www.SixWise.com
Pesticide Action Network <www.panna.org>

4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH • 7 PM
FRESCAMP (FRESNO COALITION AGAINST THE MISUSE OF PESTICIDES) MEETS AT THE BARN AT MARGARET HUDSON'S HOUSE, 4230 N ARTHUR. FOR MORE INFORMATION E-MAIL ILSASSO2003@YAHOO.COM, CALL (559) 227-6134, OR VISIT THE CALIFORNIANS FOR PESTICIDE REFORM WEB SITE AT <WWW.1000FRIENDSOFFRESNO.ORG/PESTICIDES.HTML>.

There are safe alternatives. Researchers at Harvard School of Public Health have reported that lice have become resistant to pyrethroids, so alternative methods will become more popular. The National Pediculosis (Headlice) Association (NPA) has developed the "licemeister" comb. Used on wet hair, this comb is effective in removing lice and their eggs (nits) with no chemicals, lotions, or other additives. It comes with a video in English and Spanish with full directions.

On drug store shelves is Licefreee, a homeopathic hair gel made from a naturally occurring mineral, sodium chloride. Two treatments are recommended, 7-10 days apart. Another safe formula is Lice B Gone, a proprietary blend of water and non-bacterial enzymes from plants. Health professionals in the Los Angeles Unified School District suggest its use, which takes one application, because it does not harm nursing and pregnant women and can be used as often as necessary. It is available at www.SixWise.com

UPDATE ON POLICE SPYING SCANDAL AT CSU-FRESNO

By Mike Rhodes



RUTH OBEL-JORGENSEN SAYS THAT HER CIVIL LIBERTIES HAVE been violated and academic freedom is in jeopardy at CSUF. Obel-Jorgensen is the president of the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition. Her group held an event November 10, 2004, on campus. The topic was veganism, which is a type of vegetarianism. Obel-Jorgensen said that her group was surprised to learn that there were undercover law enforcement officers attending the event.

At a press conference held on April 6, 2005, students, faculty, and community supporters demanded an end to undercover operations at student events, an apology from the university for engaging in the spying operation, and an opening of campus police files. The group wants to know what files the campus police department has on student activists.

Before the press conference, Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition students had several meetings with CSUF police chief David Huerta to try to sort this issue out. Ruth Obel-Jorgensen remembered one meeting where Huerta "looked me straight in the eye, reiterating that he was an honest man and a man of integrity. He urged me to trust him and assured me that I would see that he was a man of his word. He stated specifically that there were not undercover campus officers at the event and that he would not send undercover campus officers because he felt it was a covert action. Chief Huerta stated that one of his goals was to reach out to the student body to form a trusting relationship."

On April 18, 2005, CSUF president John Welty sent the Community Alliance the following statement:

"The University does not and will not engage in surveillance of University activities using undercover police officers. Should such surveillance be deemed necessary by any law enforcement entity, it is expected that the University President or his designee will be notified of the need for such surveillance.

At a campus club event on November 10, 2004, the University Police Department assigned two uniformed police officers for event security. No plainclothes university officials were present. The purpose of uniformed officers was to ensure safety at the event, as the university does for many campus events ranging from athletics, to Vintage Days, to dances and concerts. University plainclothes officers can and have been used at university events for security purposes only. Such was not the case on November 10th."

A few days later Welty corrected the above statement and admitted that undercover campus police officers did attend the lecture on veganism. Welty said, "There were three Fresno State police officers at the event in plainclothes . . . They were present to maintain the safety of the event. The campus routinely used both plainclothes and uniformed officers at a wide variety of on-campus events for safety."

Not only does the CSUF administration confirm that they had three undercover officers attending the lecture of a campus group, but in their latest statement they say there

were three additional undercover law enforcement officers from the Fresno County Sheriff's department at the event. There were only about 60 people at the November 10 event. There were six confirmed undercover officers—at least 10% of the audience at this event were undercover law enforcement officers.

On April 21, 2005, students, faculty, and community allies held a very animated and loud rally in front of the campus police station at CSU-Fresno. They were demanding that the administration tell the truth about police infiltration of campus groups; they also wanted an apology for the damage that has been done, and an opening up of campus police records to see if files are being maintained on campus activists.

When asked if the University police maintained files on campus activists, Dr. Welty wrote, "There are no records regarding individual students as a result of this event." Does Welty's statement leave open the possibility that the University police have records of student activists that are not related to that specific event?

Ruth Obel-Jorgensen wonders, if the police and the University administration don't think that it is wrong to spy on students, why have they lied and repeatedly changed their story. "The students need a public apology! Not only have we had our civil liberties and academic freedom violated, we have been lied to! The least we deserve is an apology," Obel-Jorgensen said.

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Mother's Day for Peace

Honor Mother with Rallies in the Streets.

by Ruth Rosen

The holiday began in activism; it needs rescuing from commercialism and platitudes.

Every year, people snipe at the shallow commercialism of Mother's Day. But to ignore your mother on this holy holiday is unthinkable. And if you are a mother, you'll be devastated if your ingrates fail to honor you at least one day of the year.

Mother's Day wasn't always like this. The women who conceived Mother's Day would be bewildered by the ubiquitous ads that hound us to find that "perfect gift for Mom." They would expect women to be marching in the streets, not eating with their families in restaurants. This is because Mother's Day began as a holiday that commemorated women's public activism, not as a celebration of a mother's devotion to her family.

The story begins in 1858 when a community activist named Anna Reeves Jarvis organized Mothers' Work Days in West Virginia. Her immediate goal was to improve sanitation in Appalachian communities. During the Civil War, Jarvis pried women from their families to care for the wounded on both sides. Afterward she convened meetings to persuade men to lay aside their hostilities.

In 1872, Julia Ward Howe, author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," proposed an annual Mother's Day for Peace. Committed to abolishing war, Howe wrote: "Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage... Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

For the next 30 years, Americans celebrated Mothers' Day for Peace on June 2.

Many middle-class women in the 19th century believed that they bore a special responsibility as actual or potential mothers to care for the casualties of society and to turn America into a more civilized nation. They played a leading role in the abolitionist movement to end slavery. In the following decades, they launched successful campaigns against lynching and consumer fraud and battled for improved working conditions for women and protection for children, public health services, and social welfare assistance to the poor. To the activists, the connection between motherhood and the fight for social and economic justice seemed self-evident.

In 1913, Congress declared the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day. By then, the growing consumer culture had successfully redefined women as consumers for their families. Politicians and businessmen eagerly embraced the idea of celebrating the private sacrifices made by individual mothers. As the *Florists' Review*, the industry's trade journal, bluntly put it, "This was a holiday that could be exploited."

The new advertising industry quickly taught Americans how to honor their mothers—by buying flowers. Outraged by florists who were selling carnations for the exorbitant

price of \$1 apiece, Anna Jarvis' daughter undertook a campaign against those who "would undermine Mother's Day with their greed." But she fought a losing battle. Within a few years, the *Florists' Review* triumphantly announced that it was "Miss Jarvis who was completely squelched."

Since then, Mother's Day has ballooned into a billion-dollar industry. Americans may revere the idea of motherhood and love their own mothers, but not all mothers. Poor, unemployed mothers may enjoy flowers, but they also need child care, job training, health care, a higher minimum wage, and paid parental leave. Working mothers may enjoy breakfast in bed, but they also need the kind of governmental assistance provided by every other industrialized society.

With a little imagination, we could restore Mother's Day as a holiday that celebrates women's political engagement in society. During the 1980s, some peace groups gathered at nuclear test sites on Mother's Day to protest the arms race. Today, our greatest threat is not from missiles but from our indifference toward human welfare and the health of our planet. Imagine, if you can, an annual Million Mother March in the nation's capital. Imagine a Mother's Day filled with voices demanding social and economic justice and a sustainable future, rather than speeches studded with syrupy platitudes.

Some will think it insulting to alter our current way of celebrating Mother's Day. But public activism does not preclude private expressions of love and gratitude. (Nor does it prevent people from expressing their appreciation all year round.)

Nineteenth century women dared to dream of a day that honored women's civil activism. We can do no less. We should honor their vision with civic activism.

Ruth Rosen is a professor of history at UC Davis.

Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

Mother's Day was originally started as a protest to the carnage of the recent Civil War, by women who had lost their sons. Here is the original Mother's Day Proclamation from 1870, followed by a bit of history (or should I say "herstory"?):

Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise all women who have hearts,
whether our baptism be that of
water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great
questions decided by irrelevant
agencies. Our husbands shall not
come to us, reeking with carnage,
for caresses and applause. Our
sons shall not be
taken from us to unlearn all that
we have been able to teach them of
charity, mercy, and patience.

We women of one country will
be too tender of those of another
country to allow our sons to be
trained to injure theirs. From the
bosom of the devastated earth a
voice goes up with our own. It says
"Disarm, Disarm! The sword of
murder is not the balance of jus-
tice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor
nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the
plow and the anvil at the sum-
mons of war, let women now leave

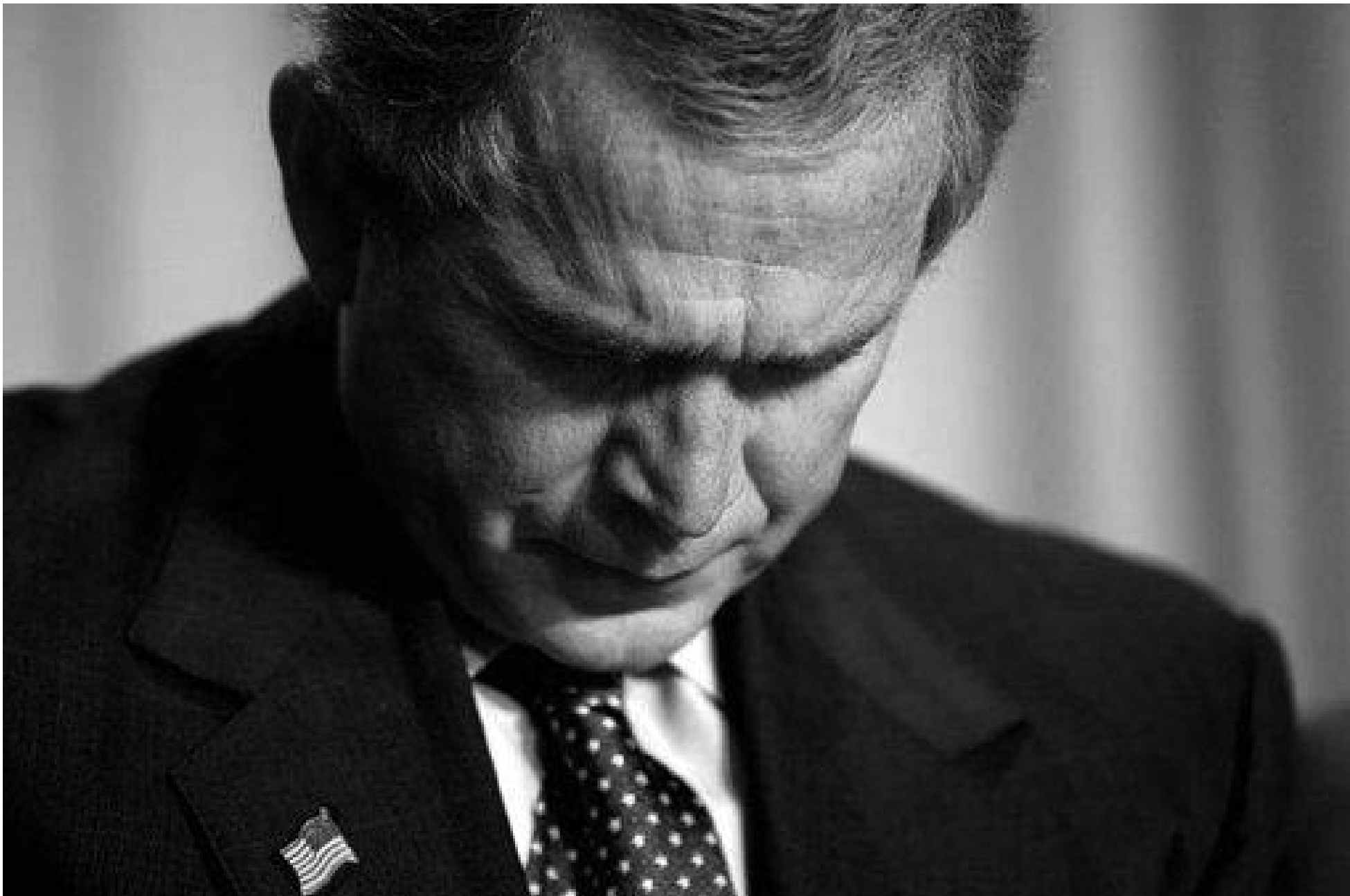
all that may be left of home for a
great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women,
to bewail and commemorate the
dead.

Let them then solemnly take coun-
sel with each other as to the means
whereby the great human family
can live in peace, each bearing after
their own time the sacred impress,
not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and
of humanity, I earnestly ask that a
general congress of women with-
out limit of nationality may be
appointed and held at some place
deemed most convenient and at
the earliest period consistent with
its objects, to promote the alli-
ance of the different nationalities,
the amicable settlement of inter-
national questions, the great and
general interests of peace.

Julia Ward Howe
Boston
1870





BUSH'S BUDGET PROPOSAL HURTS THE POOR

By Eduardo Stanley, *Pacific News Service*

FRESNO, CA

IN HIS 2000 CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT BUSH CAME ACROSS AS A COMPASSIONATE MODERATE. BUT HIS budget proposal for 2006, presented to Congress February 11, demonstrates he actually is much more conservative than compassionate. The \$2.57 trillion budget, which will go into effect in October, aims at reducing the \$427 billion deficit to \$390 billion. And for that, Bush is making use of a very conservative technique: slashing public services.

"This shouldn't surprise anybody," said Dr. James Cypher, economics professor at California State University, Fresno. "Those are techniques stemming from a conservative ideology, which reduces taxes first and then creates a crisis, which in turn results in budget cuts."

Dr. Cypher added that no one would dare to question the budget allocated to homeland security, even in areas where failure has been present—such as in the case of the Star Wars program—for fear of being considered anti-American. In his proposal, Bush didn't include the costs for the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan or the privatization of Social Security, which makes one think that the deficit will not be controlled, especially considering the budget cuts that favor large corporations.

Bush's proposal seeks to eliminate 99 programs, reduce 55, and change 16 in order to save about \$20 billion. It reduces, for example, health insurance (Medicaid) benefits for the poor and handicapped, and it reduces veterans' services. And despite the fact that obesity is considered an "epidemic" by some in the medical community, the budget eliminates \$59 million of funding for education on preventing obesity among children between the ages of 6 and 13.

One way to prevent obesity is to increase physical activity. But the conservative administration is proposing to eliminate the 30-year-old National Sports Program, which is aimed at low-income youth and has a budget of only \$18 million. In education alone, cuts include \$41 million to university scholarships and \$496 million to vocational education. And if that weren't enough, Bush has proposed to eliminate \$1.2 billion from a vocational training program for farm workers administered by the Department of Labor.

"This isn't the first time government has tried to eliminate this program," said Ernie Flores, executive director of the Central Valley Opportunities Center (CVOC,) which provides vocational training to farm workers, as well as other services. CVOC, based in Merced, serves Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera counties. More than 1500 students

benefit from these services annually, which include ESL or English language classes, and high school equivalency classes.

Flores says the value of such training is immeasurable. "Now we have to take time off our responsibilities to lobby congressmen. We have to convince members of Congress of the importance of our services." The Opportunities Center receives \$1,900,000 a year for training, half its total budget. Throughout the state, other organizations offer similar services to farm workers.

"Bush's proposal hits those who can't defend themselves, such as farm workers," said Cypher. The economics professor added that while Bush proposed to eliminate five agricultural programs, cutting \$306 million from the budget and other subsidies, "Agricultural workers have a lot of political strength and those cuts will hardly be approved by Congress."

The situation among farm workers is particularly alarming. A majority of them are Latinos (especially of Mexican origin) and undocumented, which makes them more vulnerable to pressure to take underpaid jobs and avoid claiming their rights because they are afraid of retribution.

Combined, the elimination of health and education programs and public services targeting the poor, as well as \$143 million on cuts to housing programs and an immigration law that would authorize temporary farm workers to come for work en masse, are nothing but an attempt to, as some activists say, legalize poverty, continue to be marginalized and keep cheap labor at the cost of farm workers.

Keeping the status quo among farm workers today helps ensure that future generations also live under the same conditions. That's what the cuts proposed by Bush really imply, long-term. Poverty levels in the Central Valley have already been documented. For example, a recent study shows almost half the number of families comprising low-income families of immigrants in the Central Valley are facing hunger (1999, National Survey of America's Families).

"Conservatives say if you don't have money, it's because you didn't work enough; therefore, you don't deserve it," said Cypher. This argument is repeated by President Bush continuously and in different ways: The poor don't deserve anything because they don't do enough to earn more. And those who earn more can pay for services the state doesn't provide. So, government doesn't have to provide. This is the "laissez faire" that the conservatives preach. If it doesn't affect their interests, of course.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, PO Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755
Vickie Fouts, Editor, (559) 658-8260 or socialjustice@sti.net

WILPF DATES:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, NOON:

Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse Breezeway

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 7 PM:

WILPF Business Meeting, 1584 N Van Ness

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

We wish to thank Marilyn Byrne and Cynthia Lowebug for tabling at Rally in The Valley and to all the members who attended. The Eyes Wide Open exhibit was a great success thanks partially to all the WILPF members and WILPF friends who volunteered. WILPFers made up a large percentage of the volunteers and there are too many to mention here, but know you are in our hearts. Thanks also to all those who handed out leaflets on Tax Day: Ellie Bluestein, Nancy Marsh, Lupe Orosco, JoAnn Griffin, Lydia Flores, Nancy Waidtlow, Marilyn Byrne, Catherine Garoupa, and Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, and WILPF friends Lynn Baker and Mary Anne Isaak. Thanks also to those who helped table at Earth Day.

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS:

At our May meeting we should be nominating members to become board members for the next year, with elections at the June meeting. The positions available are vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership, literature, legislative, phone tree, volunteer, and publicity chairs, newsletter editor, herstorian. We also have an opening for the Stir It Up KFCF radio show host. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact the nominating committee: Catherine Garoupa at cgaroupa@csufresno.edu or 930-9995 or Ruth Obel-Jorgensen at ruthoj@csufresno.edu or 916-7396. Remember "Where there is a WILPF, there is a way"!!!

US SECTION TRIENNIAL CONGRESS:

San Francisco State University (SFSU) is the site of the 90th anniversary Triennial WILPF Congress on August 10-14, 2005. The cost for the entire Congress, including registration, all meals, a shared room, and all materials and events is only \$350. Registration forms can be found at www.wilpf.org/us-wilpf/congress.htm. Hopefully you will also be receiving something by mail soon.

There will be a Leadership Institute at the Congress. The Institute is offered for young (under 30) and new members of WILPF. It will begin on August 9 (one day before the Congress begins) and sessions will continue throughout the Congress. The Institute is designed to build leadership skills in the democratic arts and to deepen understanding of WILPF. In addition to their own sessions, participants will take part in many of the Congress events. They will also be matched with active WILPF members. Be prepared for an active and fun-filled five days. The cost for the Congress and Institute is \$410. This includes all the Congress costs plus one extra night and five extra meals. Partial scholarships may be available. For more information, contact Jody Dodd at the WILPF National Office, (215) 563-7110 or jdodd@wilpf.org.

RADICAL WOMEN:

I ran into a Web site that seems right up WILPFers' alley. It is Radical Women at www.socialism.com/rw/intro.html. Take a look at it if you can. This trailblazing socialist feminist organization is the revolutionary wing of the women's movement and a strong feminist voice within the left. Immersed in the daily fight against racism, sexism, homophobia, and labor exploitation, Radical Women views women's leadership as decisive to world revolution and trains new women to take their place in the forefront of the struggle. Radical Women is an autonomous, all-women's group, affiliated with the Freedom Socialist Party on the basis of mutual respect, solidarity, and shared socialist feminist ideals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT:

The Women's Foundation recently hosted an Environmental Summit in Fresno. They have done a few reports WILPFers may be interested in. Check them out if you can:

GASPING FOR AIR:

Why We Must Cultivate a Healthier Central Valley www.womensfoundca.org/cv.pdf

Women in Transit: Analyzing Gender for Transportation Justice www.womensfoundca.org/transit.pdf

Confronting Toxic Contamination in Our Communities www.womensfoundca.org/fullreport10_7.pdf.

PEACE CAMP:

WILPF will be holding our annual children's peace camp, Camp Harmony, June 13-17 at O'Neill Park at CSUF, 9 AM-2 PM. We need volunteers for the organizing committee and during the week of camp. One thing we would really like WILPFers to help us with is to provide one or two nutritional snacks per day for

This section is paid for by WILPF, who has complete editorial control of the content.

Church and State

By Leesa Myers

The news media has, for the past several weeks, been transfixed with two major news events: the life struggle of Terri Schiavo, and the death of Pope John Paul II. Issues of life and death, particularly if they involve drama, crisis, or (as in the case of the Pope) the passing of a major world figure are always topics of intense interest.

Public thought and opinions were drawn to the Schiavo struggle, and most agreed either with her parents or with her husband. The subsequent involvement of the federal government in this issue was unprecedented, and will surely have far-reaching implications with respect to the personal rights and individual liberties of all Americans.

Meanwhile, as the world grieves for the Pope, the College of Cardinals are gathering to select a new leader of the Church. Speculation about this selection has been underway for some time, with cardinals from a Latin American or African country, figuring heavily on the roster of potential contenders. Both these parts of the world are overall, impoverished, with a destitute population. Thousands of people live below the poverty level and are on the brink of starvation, often succumbing to outbreaks of disease. Yet, even with this dire situation, the Church refuses to allow any artificial form of birth control, forcing people to rely on the imprecise "rhythm" method, or total abstinence.

In the ancient world a high birthrate was assumed to be a reasonable solution to a high infancy death rate. Many offspring would provide large families, which were thought to enable prosperity and enhance the quality of life. But we now know that as the infancy birth and death rate continues, so also does the poverty. Expecting an uneducated (or under educated) population to adhere to the complexities of the "rhythm" method is unrealistic. And expecting women in countries where they have few (or even no rights) to ask men to abstain from sexual contact is even more unrealistic. Unfettered reproduction will not enable an undeveloped country to escape the poverty levels. It will, instead, increase both poverty and suffering, and, as always, it will be the women and children that suffer most.

It is time for the government to stop intervening in personal matters and run our country. That is their job. And it is time for the Church to revisit the birth-control issue to ensure one of their goals of enhancing the quality of life of all its adherents.

Quote of the Month: "When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country." - Comedian Elayne Boosler

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For questions contact Vickie Fouts at
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FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

This section is paid for by Fresno Center for Non-violence, who has complete editorial control of the content.

ANNIVERSARY: Our 14th anniversary comes the end of June, and as usual we'll have a celebration (time & place TBA). Our theme is "Give Peace A Dance," and we plan to have both performances and a dance. We'll also have our 2nd annual Art Raffle, for which we'll be selling tickets by mid-May, with a chance to win genuine works of art (worth over \$100 each) for a \$10 ticket, with a limited number of tickets to be sold.

Also for the anniversary, we'll be issuing a pamphlet documenting the creation of the Center, and honoring our pioneering founders. We hope you'll be able to share the good spirits with us.

SECOND WEDNESDAY "STIR IT UP": Vickie Fouts will be hosting our May show, focusing on the struggle to save Jesse Morrow Mountain. The June program will be about the Center's founding (see above). For future shows, we're inviting proposals for guests and/or issues you'd like to hear about...call or e-mail us with your thoughts.

FOR: We are an affiliate of the international organization, the Fellowship of Reconciliation. They recently sent

us a packet with information I'd like to pass along.

1) FOR has entered into a working relationship with Holy Land Trust to provide training in nonviolent activism to Palestinians—the same kind of training FOR provided to Martin Luther King some 45 years ago. They are appealing for donations dedicated to this project.

2) They have initiated the Iraq Photo Project, sending photos of groups of US citizens holding signs expressing their opposition to the war and/or support for the Iraqi people. They are soliciting photos, to be sent to Iraq Photo Project, 521 N Broadway, New York, NY 10960 or e-mailed to iraq@forusa.org

3) They have issued "The Nyack Declaration of Conscience & Courage" which reads in part: "We celebrate and declare our support of conscientious objectors because we value the sanctity of life, respect human dignity, and affirm the right of freedom of thought, as expressed in individual moral, ethical or religious beliefs. Conscientious objectors are those individuals who refuse to participate in, or otherwise directly support, the conduct of warfare and the killing and degradation of fellow human beings...We support those who conscientiously object to participation in

"war in any form," as well as those who object to: specific wars deemed unjust by the individual's religious faith or conscience ("selective objection"); particular methods of warfare....; supporting warfare with taxes, forced registration for Selective Service ("the draft") or compulsory "national service";...social structures of injustice and exploitation that leave some individuals no alternative but military service ("poverty draft").... It is our hope that in so honoring conscientious objection...we resist a culture of death, and work for a world where war and violence are replaced by peace and justice.

More information on these or other FOR activities can be found at their Web site: www.forusa.org.

GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY: This is real, taken from the Fresno Bee, quoting a report by the Homeland Security Dept concerning misinformation given by the Transportation Security Administration: "TSA officials made inaccurate statements regarding these transfers that undermined public trust in the agency. These misstatements were apparently not meant to mischaracterize known facts. Instead, they were premised on an incomplete understanding of the underlying facts." The message is pretty clear—when caught, don't deny, obfuscate.



THE WELCH REPORT

By Jack H. Welch, M.D.

WORLD AT WAR

"You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want." (Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Dec. 8, 2004). If made on December 7, 1941, this assertion would have reflected reality, as the United States suddenly found itself an active participant in WWII. But if a war is made by choice, as is the war and occupation of Iraq that began March 19, 2003 (despite Saddam Hussein's regime not posing an imminent threat to the United States or any major ally), then it should be possible to go to war with an army more like the one "you might want." However, there was a deficit in the army attacking Iraq, the consequence of which was to unnecessarily increase the risks to US forces, because many soldiers and vehicles lacked adequate armor.

As 2005 began there were 23 significant ongoing armed conflicts in the world (defined as causing 1,000 or more deaths) and another 28 "hot spots" that could slide into war. In addition to Washington's "global war on terror," the distribution of the remaining 22 armed conflicts was as follows: Asia, 7; Africa, 7; Middle East, 3; Americas, 4; and Europe, 1.

AFGHANISTAN

Contrasting January 2004 and December 2004 indicates that Afghanistan is moving from perpetual strife to an intermittent peace. In January a draft constitution was approved, and in December Hamid Karzai was sworn in as president. But attacks and assassinations attributed to those opposed to the new order have continued. It appears that the 18,000 US troops, plus the NATO-led 9,000 members of the International Security Assistance Force will remain there throughout 2005.

IRAQ

Fatalities among Iraqis, coalition military and civilian personnel, and foreign jihadists continued to mount in 2004. Neither the capture of Saddam in mid-December 2003, nor the handover of "sovereignty" to an interim Iraqi government seemed to change the dynamic of violence. "As 2004 turned into 2005, insurgents increasingly focused on local police, Iraqi national guardsmen, officials preparing for the Jan. 30, 2005, balloting, and ordinary Iraqis working for US contractors or employed at US bases." The US has suffered more than 1,500 fatalities in Iraq, and more than 10,000 US troops are listed as wounded in action, a number which includes non-combat incidents and psychological trauma.

Lessons of past wars such as Vietnam seem lost on the Bush administration. "Fallujah was effectively razed after most of the population had fled. Searches and detentions by US troops created terror among Iraqis. The abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib and other prisons fuel opposition and serve as a major recruiting tool for insurgents." As 2004 ended, signs began to appear that sometime in 2005 the US will begin to remove some of its 150,000 troops now in Iraq.

ASIA

Prospects for resolving many conflicts in South Asia brightened in 2004. The mutual cease-fire declared in late 2003 by Pakistan and India along the Line of Control in Kashmir held throughout 2004, bolstered

by frequent high-level talks. Within India some 32 active insurgent movements continue to roil the country. Nepal plunged deeper into chaos in 2004 with anti-government Maoists closing down roads in many parts of the country, and staging devastating attacks on police and Army forces; they insist on certain requirements for any negotiations, which the government rejects.

In Indonesia informal contacts were under way between Jakarta and representatives of the Free Aceh Movement. In May the government downgraded its year-old declaration of martial law, during which time more than 40,000 troops had swept into Aceh to try to end the insurgency that began in 1976—a struggle for autonomy.

MIDDLE EAST

The death of Yasser Arafat on November 11 is the seminal event in the perennially dysfunctional Israeli-Palestinian relationship. Elections for a new president held in January 2005 brought into office Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister who had resigned in September 2003. Hamas offered to halt all attacks for 10 years if Israel agreed to withdraw from territory seized in the 1967 war. In February 2004 Sharon confirmed that he intended to dismantle the Israeli presence in the Gaza strip; however, he remains intent on completing the "security barrier" he is building. The violence continued.

AFRICA

African nations in conflict in 2004: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. It has taken two years to hammer out a peace accord to end war in Sudan, which had raged for 20 years and caused 2,000,000 deaths. An estimated 2,000,000 have been displaced by the conflict in Darfur (in addition to the many deaths), to which the world has not yet paid sufficient attention.

EUROPE

"The war between Russia and Chechnya descended to new depths of brutality when insurgents loyal to Shamil Basayev seized a school in Beslan in North Ossetia, Russia in September. Over 1,000 children and teachers were held hostage for four days. Negotiations broke down, gunfire began, and by the time it ended 10 hours later, more than 340 were dead, most of them children." Chechnya's newly elected president, Ahkmad Kadyrov, was assassinated in May 2004.

THE AMERICAS

Colombian president Alvaro Uribe Velez, with strong US backing, continues to pursue two armed forces of Colombia. Some right-wing paramilitaries have surrendered their weapons and stopped fighting. Haiti once again plunged into turmoil when President Aristide was ousted in a February 2004 coup.

(Source: The Defense Monitor, Newsletter of the Center for Defense Information, Jan./Feb. 2005; by Col. Daniel Smith, USA (Ret.), analyst at the Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Surely, let us all continue and strengthen our political activities in favor of peace!

The Welch Report is based upon mail received at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence coming from peace and social justice centers around the State of California, and at times upon articles in newspapers and other print sources. Each month I select and edit the material going into the Report, usually representing my personal opinion but consistent with the agenda of FCNV.

QUAKERS

FRESNO FREINDS MEETING

Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM

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May 1 1:
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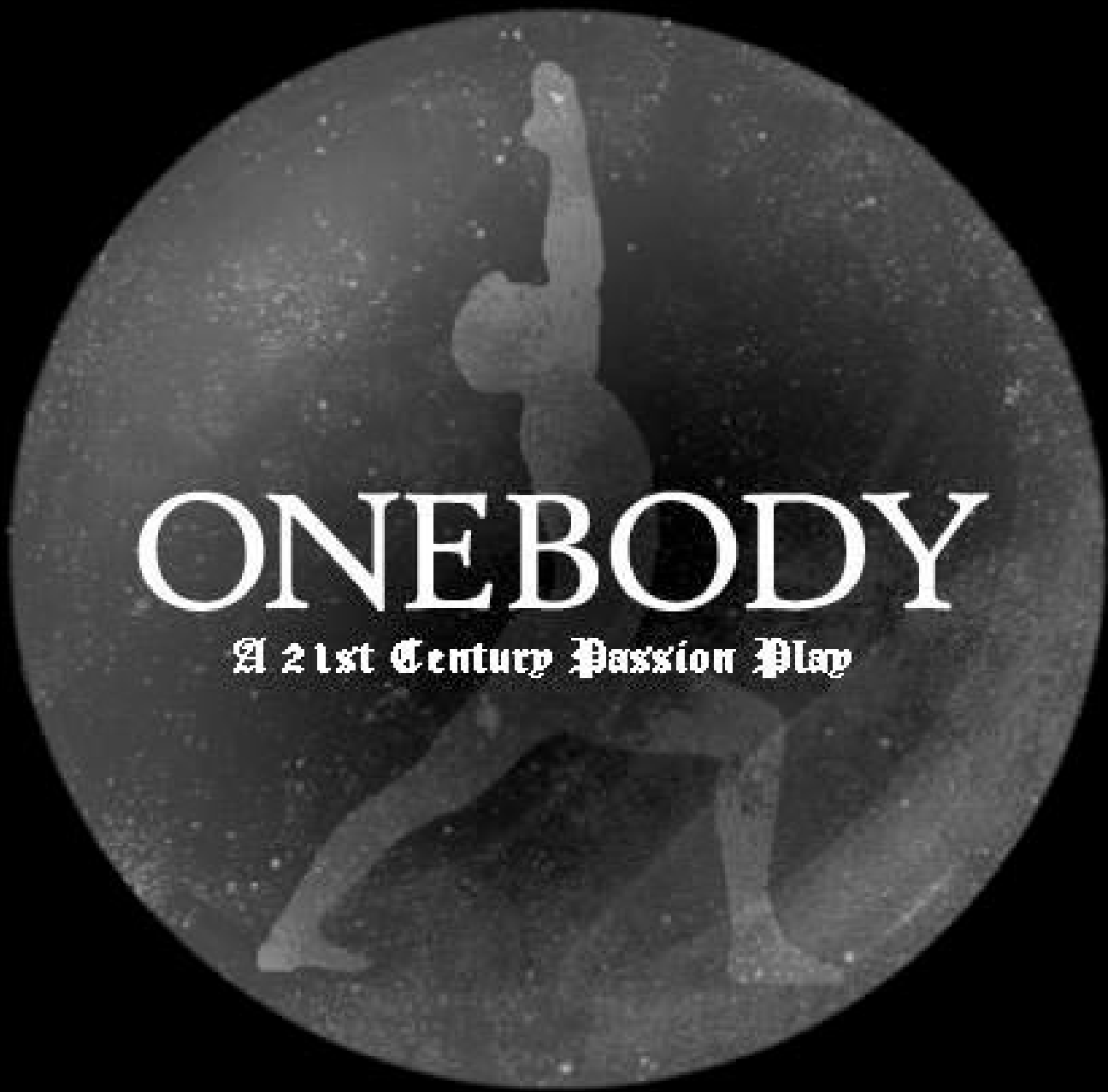


UPCOMING EVENTS

(5 5 9) 2 6 4 - M E A D (6 3 2 3)

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

HAND CRAFTED BEERS, MEADS, ROOT BEER & SPECIALTY WINES
COME BY FOR A TASTE, STAY FOR A PINT & TAKE A GROWLER HOME



In the form of a Multi-media Opera

Integrating Rock, Jazz, Classical, Folk Music

California State University's Department of Arts and humanities presents the world premiere of
"ONEBODY" a multi-media Musical Theater production in complete surround sound.

May 13th, 14th, and 15th, at the satellite student union.
For tickets and more information go to

ONEBODY2005.com

ONEBODY COMES TO FRESNO

By Jim Coventry

ONEBODY IS A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PASSION PLAY, A MULTIMEDIA OPERA INTEGRATING rock, jazz, classical, and folk music, and all dance associated there with. Onebody is about unity and the belief that all things are possible if we see humanity as a unified field of energy. This production carries an extremely strong antiwar message, but more important, it offers alternatives for us to create what we say we want as a race: peace. Using quantum physics, metaphysics, humor, passion, music, and drama, Onebody critically addresses nationalism, religious fundamentalism, and the "great" capitalist spirit.

It strives to express in an engaging and entertaining way the following three concepts:

1. The true nature of our existence is that of divine spirit (not of body).
2. This spirit or energy is connected to all else (we are one).
- 3) This spirit or energy is eternal.

We as humans can only perceive and experience life in relative terms, where one thing can exist only insofar as it relates to another—where a thing's qualities are measured in terms of their opposites; what something is is defined by what it is not. Polarities. Dualities. Opposites. Relativity. It is within this framework the characters of Onebody are created.

Onebody is a professional production, using performers from the New York City Opera and the Houston Grand Opera. It also includes performers from the faculty and student body of Fresno State and the surrounding artistic community. It utilizes cutting-edge technology in a way never before seen or heard onstage. It has developed a complete surround-sound system, fully functional in the Satellite Student Union, as well as a 3-D digital scenic design and light show.

March 21, 2005

RE: JESSE MORROW MOUNTAIN MINING PROJECT

Steven Greer
Fresno Co. Planning & Resources Analyst
2220 Tulare St, Street Level
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Sir:
My family has lived at 643 North Trout Lake Drive, Tivy Valley (Sanger), California, since 1978. Our home is located approximately two miles from Jesse Morrow Mountain, in a neighborhood known as Wildwood Island. The development contains about 150 homes with values starting at \$350,000. The county taxes start in the vicinity of \$1,500.00 per home per year. The area around us is rural Fresno County, populated by farmers, ranchers, and Native Americans. The majority of individual worth is invested in property and structures. Our property fronts the Kings River and was home to many species of trout and other aquatic life. However, due to changing ecological conditions, much of the life in and along the river is now diminished and/or depleted. The nature biosphere has been damaged by increasing air pollution, resulting in the reduction of crop yields and the die-off of natural vegetation and trees in the Valley and in national parks. People in the area—children and senior citizens in particular— will be affected with higher rates of asthma (already among the highest in the nation), due to increases in road traffic. Aquifers are being depleted, and water is becoming scarce and more valuable, gradually becoming the most valuable natural resource in the world. Housing developments are being planned and built, using more natural resources and increasing air pollution.

RMC PACIFIC MATERIALS now wants to exploit the natural resources of our area by placing a gravel mine on the sacred mountain of the Native American Choinumni tribe. Jesse Morrow Mountain is an arch, an entryway to the sequoias. The area should not be turned into a profit-making industrial wasteland by a corporation with no regard for the tourist value of the scenic rural countryside. According to early meetings with representatives of the corporation, net new employment on site will result in the addition of two new jobs, with other workers being transferred from other operations. However, road traffic will increase (with up to 350 dual-rig tractor trailer trucks per day, or one every three minutes), with liability ending at RMC’s property lines.

I am against the proposed RMC PACIFIC MATERIALS project for the following reasons:

1. Economic loss to Fresno County’s tourist industry due to the disfigurement of the national park entranceway.
2. The cost to the taxpayers of repairing, replacing, and strengthening the roads, highways, by- ways, and bridges leading to the project.
3. The fact that the corporation is owned by a foreign multinational corporation with no relationship to this country nor concerns for its citizens.
4. The cost to citizens incurred by flying gravel (made airborne by the dual-rigs) to windshields and resulting traffic accidents.
5. The damage to the biosphere by increased diesel emissions.
6. Increased levels of asthma to members of the lorcal population.
7. The loss of property values to citizens due to the proximity of a commercial/industrial hundred-year gravel mine operation.
8. The loss of precious ground water for first-use consumers.
9. The violation of the County’s master plan for Eastern Fresno County and Sierra Conservation programs.
10. Violations of California state law regarding the protection of historical Native American sites.
11. Damage to the aquifer when accidents occur at the asphalt mixing operation. (Nothing is perfect and accidents will happen.)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT LOCALLY.

Respectfully,

Roderick F. Gaudin, Sr.
Professor of Sociology (Retired)
Tivy Valley, California



A Mountain Not a Mine.

NOTED

CIVIL LIBERTIES EXPERT COMING TO FRESNO MAY 8

ANN FAGAN GINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MEIKLEJOHN CIVIL LIBERTIES INSTITUTE IN BERKELEY, AND NATIONALLY RENOWNED AND LONGTIME ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL LIBERTIES, WILL BE SPEAKER AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FRESNO ON MAY 8, 2005. She will be talking about a just-released book she has edited, which documents civil and human rights violations throughout the United States since 9/11. The book includes a section on the infiltration of Peace Fresno. Ginger will be speaking at both the 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM services. The UU Church is located at 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno (1/2 block south of Ashlan). Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase between services and after the second service. Noted historian Howard Zinn wrote the Introduction to the book. Ginger has spent more than 70 years fighting for social justice and human rights in the United States and around the world. She is a lawyer and expert on human rights treaties and covenants. For more information on the book or the MCII, go to <www.mcii.org>. For more information on her Fresno appearance, call 435-1992.

The California Right to Live

By Will Tranquilli

THE PREAMBLE TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ASSERTED THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE pursuit of happiness. California's medical/industrial complex, on the other hand, figures two out of three ain't bad.

If you believe all's well with health care in California, please report at once to the Witless Protection Program, for you are most grievously deceived.

Our health care delivery system is not just a wreck; it's ruined. Like Topsy in Uncle Tom's Cabin "I spect I grow'd. Don't think nobody never made me." —malnourished by corrupt politicians' thirst for campaign contributions, the electorate's imprudent complacency and, worst of all, the totally unrestrained greed of the medical/ industrial complex. And it continues to grow, uglier and uglier. Its ugliness is the combination of its failure to deliver adequate health care and its success at delivering enormous, obscene profits.

Nationally, HMOs recorded a 73% profit increase in the first half of 2003 compared with the same period in 2002, according to the market analyst, Weiss Ratings.

This announcement came on the heels of record-breaking profit increases over the last several years, a period in which more and more working families could not afford health insurance.

It's grown to be monstrously large, with cracks through which Californians are falling like goose crap through chicken-wire. Even upper-middle-class families suffer crushing debt from a member's prolonged illness.

In 2002, according to the US Census Bureau, the fastest growing increase in uninsured rates occurred in families with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Non-profit HMO, Kaiser, announced a 2003 net income increase 14 times higher than 2002 levels, while patient enrollment fell by 2% . The number of uninsured among middle-class families is increasing geometrically.

Meanwhile, Californians who qualify for well-intentioned stopgap programs such as Medi-Cal and Medicare, know well the futility of seeking even minimal care under our patchwork healthcare delivery system. It's literally, "shop till you drop." The increasingly rare

facilities that will accept these patients are seriously understaffed with the least experienced personnel and are abysmally overcrowded.

The rich get richer, the poor get—squat.

But do not fear, all may not be lost. Take heart. Legislation by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, was approved by a state senate committee Wednesday, April 7. Her universal health care system would replace private insurance plans and also extend coverage to approximately 7 million Californians who have no health insurance.

Hacks will trot out all the timeworn medical industry arguments such as, "It's going to be too expensive." Consider the profits harvested by the insurance industry, the HMOs, and the pharmaceutical industry. Even a modest slice of these obscenely spiraling profits would finance health care for all of California.

Kuehl said her plan would actually save money. She pointed to a study by the Lewin Group, a Virginia consulting firm, predicting the legislation would save California \$343.6 billion in health care over the next 10 years, mainly by cutting administration costs and using bulk purchases of drugs and medical equipment.

California, with an economy larger than 97 percent of the world's countries, can afford to care for its citizens as least as well as the rest of the industrialized world.

Another tired argument, used to frighten voters out of demanding adequate health care, is that the system is inefficient. "The claims that it is less efficient cannot be substantiated," Kuehl said. Quite the contrary, California's health care system has borne the burden of the bureaucracies of the insurance industry, the military, the medical industry, and a crazy-quilt system of multiple levels of governmental bureaucracies. Talk about inefficient...Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Culver City, said he doubted that Kuehl's proposal would be any worse than our private health insurance system. "We could not screw it up any more than it has been screwed up by [the medical/industrial complex] business people," he said.

That a single Californian should be made to suffer from lack of health care is unthinkable. Can we afford to do less than guarantee the right to live? Dare we?

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL—CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

The local chapter of Health Care for All here in Fresno has been working on universal health care legislation for a number of years. The current bill is titled, "The California Health Insurance Reliability Act," or CHIRA. California Senator Sheila Kuehl has reintroduced the bill in this session of the legislature as SB 840. It would provide fiscally sound, affordable health insurance coverage to all Californians and provide every Californian the right to choose his or her own physician and control health cost inflation. At this point, SB 840 has passed the Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee on a party-line vote—7 Democrats in favor and 4 Republicans against. It next moves to the Senate Health Committee on April 27.

Supporters of universal health care should send letters of support to their Assemblypersons and Senators. Senator Dean Florez is a co-author of the bill and Assemblyman Juan Arambula and Assemblywoman Parra should be encouraged to co-author the bill as well. Republicans Poochigian, Maze, and Villines also need to hear from us as their constituents. Because the single-payer system will save taxpayers and the State of California such a substantial amount of money, it is important to emphasize that aspect of SB 840 in your letter. Log on to <www.healthcareforall.org> for more information about CHIRA.

Please come and join us at the next meeting of Health Care for All--Central California on Thursday, May 12, 2005. We meet at 6:30 PM at the SEIU Health Care Workers building at 1279 N Wishon near the Tower Theatre in Fresno. Next month, the meeting will take place on Monday, June 6. See the Peace and Social Justice calendar for more details. For more information, please call Ed Perez, 261-2423; or Lynn Jacobsson, 434-0427.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Calendar Of Events

Sunday, May 1 6 PM

International Workers Day event. See the movie The Take .

In the wake of Argentina’s spectacular economic collapse in 2001, Latin America’s most prosperous middle class finds itself in a ghost town of abandoned factories and mass unemployment. In suburban Buenos Aires, thirty unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory, roll out sleeping mats, and refuse to leave. All they want is to restart the silent machines. But this simple act —the take —has the power to turn the globalization debate on its head.

Director/producer Avi Lewis (Counterspin) and writer/producer and renowned author Naomi Klein (No Logo) take viewers inside the lives of ordinary visionaries, as they reclaim their work, their dignity, and their democracy.

This movie will be shown at the Hudson Garden Collective Big Barn (Park diagonally at 4230 N Arthur & 4247 N Thorne, N of Ashlan, btw. Palm & Fruit). Admission: Bring food or drink to share.

Also, Jan Slagter will speak about her experience with Argentina workers who reopened their factories after the “owners” shut them down.

This event is sponsored by the Community Alliance newspaper. For more information call (559) 226-0477.

Tuesday, May 3 4:30–6 PM

Building Bridges and Tackling Fears, a Panel Series coordinated by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), will be held at CSUF. The issue discussed will be xenophobia. The event will be held at the Renaissance Room on campus. If you would like further information or would like to participate on a panel, please contact Ruth at 278-6946. NCBI is a project of the Presidents Commission on Human Rights & Equity and is coordinated by the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute.

Wednesday, May 4 6–9:30 PM

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition—Clean Air Action Days (Legislative Training & Lobby Days). Training workshop, UC Center Fresno, 550 E. Shaw Ave

Wednesday, May 4 7–9 PM

Spring into Words at CSUF Henry Madden Library. Free Poetry Jam...Express Yourself with Words. Open Mic for Beginners & Experienced Poets. First Wednesday of every month. Further info contact Marylee, 278-4435.

Thursday, May 5

Bike Month activity—Bike/Art Hop. Meet at Bike Works Repair Shop in Van Ness Village (1461 N Van Ness). Art Hop is sponsored by the Fresno Arts Council, first Thursday of each month; free admission. For details see <www.fresnoartmuseum.org/cal_arthop.php>. For more information about Bike Month activities, see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Friday, May 6 4:30–6:30 PM

Monthly Peace Demonstration at Blackstone and Shaw in Fresno. Bring the Troops Home NOW! For more information go to <www.peacefresno.org> or call (559) 487-2515.

Saturday, May 7 Starting at 8 AM

Community Yard Sale in the Tower District—Blockbuster Parking Lot across from Tower Theatre. Donations for the sale may be brought to the site starting at 6 AM. The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will have a table at this community event, as a fundraiser for the Center. Donations of decent, intact items, which can be easily transported are needed—no furniture or large items. Bring to Center during our open hours, Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM or to the event site.

Saturday May 7 9:30 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meets at Denny’s Restaurant at Abby and Divisidero. “Another World Is Possible”: a report back from the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes will present a program on their recent trip. Call 439-8140 for more information.

Saturday, May 7 11 AM–5 PM

Benefit Art Show and Wine Tasting for the Jesse Morrow Mountain Defense Fund. Location: Sequoia View Winery Bed and Breakfast, 1384 South Frankwood, Sanger (one mile south of Sherwood Inn, which is at the corner of Highway 180 and Frankwood).

Program:

11:00–11:15 AM Opening featuring David Krehbiel playing the Alpine Horn
11:15 AM–12 noon Viewing and grounds walk
12–1 PM Choinumni Indian presentation by Angie and Audrey Osborne
1–2 PM Pipe on the Hobb, Irish Band
2–3 PM Piano concert featuring Doug Kliever playing “Lost Mountain Music”

3–5 PM Coyote Five playing blues, folk, and reggae

Throughout the day: wine tasting, farmstead cheese and fruit preserve sampling, Art viewing, farm walks, poetry reading.

More than 35 artists from Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties have volunteered to make Jesse Morrow Mountain their subject for the past five weeks. Its powerful image has been recorded in oil paint, watercolor, charcoal, acrylic, and clay. Each artist has been asked to donate one work or to do several works and donate a 30% commission to raise money for the Jesse Morrow Mt Defense Fund. It will be an art show like no other! Great food! Great music! Great art! Don’t miss it.

Call the winery at 787-9412; Paul Buxman at 897-7547; or Sally DeLap at 970-3794.

Saturday, May 7 11 AM–12:30 PM

A Counter-Recruiter Coalition Organizing Meeting will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (south of McKinley). Sponsored by Peace Fresno: <www.peacefresno.org> (559) 487-2515; or to contact the Center: 23-PEACE (237-3223).

The purpose is to develop a way to

1. link local organizations and individuals in the effort to counter military recruiters.
2. fund the printing of leaflets.
3. create a system for making materials readily available for counter-recruiting.
4. Broadcast immediate alerts of the presence of recruiters on campuses for an immediate response.

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2. fund the printing of leaflets.
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4. Broadcast immediate alerts of the presence of recruiters on campuses for an immediate response.

Saturday, May 7 8 PM

Persian classical guitarist Dr. Lily Afshar will give a performance of classical guitar and Persian music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 4144 N Millbrook.

Ms. Afshar is well known as one of the leading guitarists of her generation and has traveled the world performing. Tickets are \$20 and proceeds go to the UU Church Building Fund. For ticket availability, call 434-0686 or e-mail info@newmillguitar.com.

Saturday, May 7 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents John Renbourn, guitar; Jacqui McShee, vocals. Original members of Pentangle at the Fresno Art Museum.

Sunday, May 8 9:15 & 11:00 AM services

Ann Fagan Ginger will be the Sunday service speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Church. She will be speaking about the new book she has edited entitled, Challenging US Human Rights Violations Since 9/11.

Sunday, May 8 11 AM–2 PM

Mother’s Day Rebozo Festival at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno. Call (559) 266-2623 for more information.

Monday, May 9

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition—Clean Air Action Days (Legislative Training & Lobby Days). Free bus trip to lobby in Sacramento. For registration or more information, please call Mark Stout or Carolina Simunovic at (559) 485-1416, e-mail Carolina@fresnometmin.rg , or visit <http://calcleanair.org>.

Wednesday, May 11 12 Noon and 7:30 PM

FREE—Monthly Video Series—Second Wednesday of every month at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (southeast corner Van Ness and McKinley). Peaceable Kingdom: At a time when the public is more concerned than ever about health and environmental problems associated with factory farming, this documentary explores the life and journeys of farm animals, former farmers, and animal rescuers struggling against an out-of-control industrial system. Peaceable Kingdom weaves together themes of respect, forgiveness, and healing, offering a more peaceful world that is well within our reach.

Wednesday, May 11 3:30–4 PM

Radio Show, “Stir It Up,” second Wednesday of each month, KFCF, 88.1 FM. Host: Vickie Fouts. Topic: Jesse Morrow Mountain Quarry.

Wednesday, May 11 7 PM

Bike Month activity—Bike Swap meet. Sponsored by the Fresno Cycling Club at the University Center parking lot, 550 East Shaw. Bring bikes, parts, tools. For more information about Bike Month activities, see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Wednesday, May 11 7 PM

Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter, general meeting at the University of California Center, 550 E Shaw Ave (across from Fashion Fair). The speakers will be John and Marcia Rasmussen, who will talk about a trek to the top of Mt. Rainier. For more information go to <www.tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Friday, May 13 5 and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents Travelers and Magicians at the Tower Theatre. A magical mixture of rustic road movie and mystical fable, the film is the first feature ever shot in the tiny Himalayan kingdom of

Bhutan. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door for \$10; \$8 for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>.

May 13 – 15

Onebody is a twenty-first century passion play, a multimedia opera integrating rock, jazz, classical, and folk music, and all dance associated therewith. See page ?????????????? for details.

Saturday, May 14 10 AM

Bike Month activity—Winery ride to Engelmann Cellars and Nonini Winery. Meet at the Java Wava Café at 1940 N Echo (across from Fresno High). Bring a lunch and sunscreen. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Sunday, May 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the June 2005 Community Alliance newspaper. Send information to AllianceEditor@Comcast.net.

Sunday, May 15

Bike Month activity: Bike Clinic and Safety Checks. Fresno Free Bicycle Clinic is offering general tune-ups and repairs, wand workshops on flat repair, bearing care, brake adjustments and rim truing for our friends in the cycling community. Free. Door prizes. Come to Bicycle Works, 1461 N Van Ness, #C in the courtyard. In the Tower, north of Olive across from Club Fred. Also, bike and helmet safety checks at participating bike shops. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Sunday, May 15 3 PM

The Corporation. The Fresno Center for Nonviolence, the Fresno County Green Party, Peace Fresno, and WILPF are sponsoring this movie at the Full Circle Brewing Co., 620 F Street. Doors will open at 2:30 PM and there will be one intermission.

This film explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Footage from pop culture, advertising, TV news, and corporate propaganda illuminates the corporation’s grip on our lives. Taking its legal status as a “person” to its logical conclusion, the film puts the corporation on the psychiatrist’s couch to ask, “What kind of person is it?” Provoking, witty, sweepingly informative, The

Corporation includes forty interviews with corporate insiders and critics—including Milton Friedman, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, and Michael Moore—plus true confessions, case studies, and strategies for change.

Monday, May 16
7 PM

Bike Month activity: Clovis City Council Bike Month Proclamation. Meet at the Clovis City Council on 5th Street across from Clark Elementary for Bike Month Proclamation. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Tuesday, May 17
8:30 and 9 AM

Bike Month activity: Fresno City Council and County Board Meetings. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Fresno City Council (Fresno City Hall) and 9 AM at Fresno County Board of Supervisors (nearby at Hall of Records) for Fresno Proclamation readings. Come show support for safe bicycling. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Tuesday, May 17
5–6:30 PM

Counter-Recruiter Training. Led by Elizabeth Stinson, Director, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County. Receive expert training on countering military recruiters. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (south of McKinley). Sponsored by Peace Fresno: <www.peacefresno.org> (559) 487–2515; or to contact the Center: 23–PEACE (237–3223).

Tuesday, May 17
7 p.m.

Counter-Recruiter Info Night. Led by Elizabeth Stinson, Director, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County. Have military recruiters promised you the world? Get all the facts before enlisting, or even if you already have! McLane High School Library, 2727 N Cedar (at Princeton), Fresno.

Did you know...? The Pentagon’s “stop-loss” policy can keep you in the military beyond the eight-year “contract” term (Santiago v. Rumsfeld, 4/6/05)? Your pay, benefits, and responsibilities in the military can change without warning regardless of any promises in your agreement (Sec.

C.9. of the enlistment agreement). There are other ways of getting money for college. Know your rights and what rights you give up! Sponsored by Peace Fresno: (559) 487–2515 or <www.peacefresno.org>.

Wednesday, May 18
6–9 PM

Bike Month activity: Bike Month Celebration. Party: Bobby Salazar’s on Olive in Tower District. Join us for food, fun, and raffle prizes. Brought to you by the FCBC. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Thursday, May 19

Bike Month activity: Park Your Car Day. Leave the car at home and cycle to the store, the library, the park. Rent American Flyer, Breaking Away, Beijing Bicycle or The Triplets of Belleville. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

Thursday, May 19
6:15–9:30 PM

Progressive Thursday presents “Tales of the San Joaquin” at Round Table Pizza, 5763 N First Street (SW corner of First and Bullard). Lloyd Carter will lead the discussion that follows the movie. Progressive Thursday is hosted by the GROW working group of the Fresno County Green Party. It is a free, wheelchair-accessible event open to anyone interested in discussing topics of interest to the progressive community.

Thursday, May 19
7 PM

There is a support group for families and friends of prisoners on the third Thursday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook, in Fresno. Free. For info call Donna, 456–4974; Maria, 255–9492; or Patty, 299–8194. In addition to regular meet-

ings, we are available to prisoners’ families and friends for one-on-one peer counseling, support, and general information about prison life.

The group also helps prisoners at the two women’s prisons in Chowchilla by seeking pen pals and visitors for them, visiting the women on death row at CCWF, and from time to time contributing to drives that provide library books for the women prisoners.

Friday, May 20
7:15 AM; 8 AM

Bike Month activity: BIKE TO WORK DAY!!! BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY!!! Join cyclists and politicians for a public ride from Manchester Center to Kern Cafe, for free coffee and social. Gather at 8 AM for 8:30 ride, near Manchester’s Fresno Area Express. Clovis cyclists, meet at Old Town Trail rest stop near Ashlan and Clovis at 7:15 AM for ride to Manchester. For more information about Bike Month activities see the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at <www.fresnobike.org> or e-mail info@fresnobike.org for details.

May 20–22

Third annual California autoharp festival at St. Nicholas Ranch in Squaw Valley. Fresno Folklore Society is sponsoring. Big-name performers and teachers. <www.californiaautoharp.com>

Saturday, May 21
1–4 PM

“Holding Corporate Media Accountable.” The Media Alliance <www.media-alliance.org> will present this workshop on your rights as a media consumer. Is corporate media required to present “fair and balanced” information? Can we force them to give “equal time” to alternative points of view? If the corporate media is not operating in the public interest, what can we do about it? Learn how to monitor the media, hold them accountable, and challenge their licenses if they are not operating in the public interest. This workshop

is sponsored by the Community Alliance newspaper. For more information call (559) 978–4502 or e-mail AllianceEditor@Comcast.net .

Sunday, May 22
5 PM

The Fresno Grand Opera ensemble artists and chorus perform Broadway hits and opera classics featuring international soprano Robin Follman. A reception catered by Erna’s Elderberry House and silent auction begin at 4 PM. The special one-hour concert ends with a dessert reception. The First Congregational Church of Fresno, 2131 N Van Ness, is hosting the event, which raises money to refurbish the pipe organ. (The Central California Children’s Choir, Fresno Pacific College, Fresno State, the Fresno Grand Opera, and the Central California American Guild of Organists hold concerts and rehearsals at the church.) Tickets cost \$45. They are available at the Fig Garden Bookstore. Call (559) 225–3116 for information.

Monday & Tuesday,
May 23–24

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition—Clean Air Action Days (Legislative Training & Lobby Days). Free bus trip to lobby in Sacramento. For registration or more information, please call Mark Stout or Carolina Simunovic at (559) 485–1416, e-mail Carolina@fresnometmin.org, or visit http://calcleanair.org.

Tuesday, May 24
1–4 PM listening session
4–5:30 PM reception

The Road to Equity tour comes to Fresno. On May 3, 2005, the

Women’s Foundation of California will embark on a month-long tour throughout the state. At each stop, they will host listening sessions to bring together diverse members of each local community including community leaders, government officials, community-based organizations, and funders. These events will provide opportunities for women, girls, and their families to share local challenges and to discuss solutions for change. In the fall, they will release a report in Sacramento summarizing the tour’s findings.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Fresno
2233 Ventura Street

Saturday, June 4

The 15th annual Fresno Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival in the Tower District. For more information contact Fresno Rainbow Pride at (559) 486–3464 or e-mail ClinkInc@aol.com.

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The Pentagon’s “stop-loss” policy can keep you in the military beyond the eight-year “contract” term (Santiago v. Rumsfeld, 4/6/05)? Your pay, benefits, and responsibilities in the military can change without warning regardless of any promises in your agreement (Sec. C.9. of the enlistment agreement).

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2 DAYS
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Sat. May 7th

- 12:00pm: Live Painting begins
- 4:00pm: Food And Drinks
- 5:30–8:00pm: B-Boys/Live dj session

Sun. May 8th

- 12:00pm: Live Painting begins
- 3:00pm: Food And Drinks
- 6:00pm: Live musical Performances/open mic session

Calwa Park

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