

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Progressive Culture, Politics, Art, and Entertainment Since 1996

## AIR AMERICA

### PROGRESSIVE TALK RADIO FOR FRESNO

See story on Page 12



#### WHAT'S INSIDE?

5...Queer Eye

11...Medical Marijuana Update

21...??What To Do?? Around Town - Arts and Entertainment

*Al Franken & Katherine Lanpher*

AUGUST 2005

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

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Permit# 02103

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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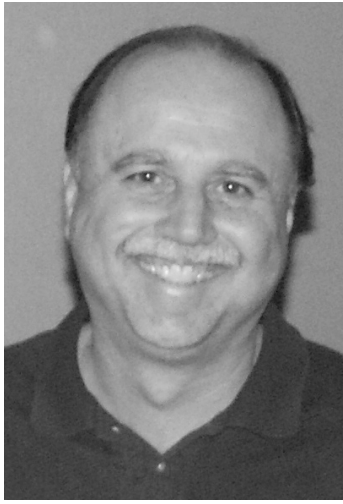
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The Community Alliance newspaper is supported by a grant from the Vanguard Public Foundation.



## From the Editor

By Mike Rhodes

Did you know that Fresno is the largest city in California without an alternative/independent weekly newspaper? Sacramento has the *News and Review*, which goes out to about 80,000 people every week. Santa Cruz, which has less

than 20% of the population of Fresno, has two weekly alternative/independent newspapers. The staff, volunteers, and editorial board of the *Community Alliance* newspaper want to take Fresno off the list of cities without a weekly free press.

About a year ago we held a retreat and talked about where we wanted this paper to be in a couple of years. At the time, we were a magazine and printed about 2,000 copies a month. We recognized that we had hit a plateau and, given the design and content, we were not going to grow unless changes were made. While most readers liked the magazine, there were some complaints about "preaching to the choir" and a desire to reach out to more people in the community.

Over the next six months, we discussed several options for growth, but agreed on two things:

1. We wanted to include more arts, music, and entertainment information.
2. We wanted to make a transition from a magazine to a newspaper format.

Last December, we began publication as a newspaper, using full color on some of our pages. We doubled our content and tripled our circulation. What made this possible was the talent of Stephen Gamboa and Frank Sanchez, who took over as our new graphic art/design team. We could not have made this transition without their hard work and creativity.

Stephen and Frank left the *Community Alliance* last month, and they will be missed. As we move forward with our new graphic artist, Kris McNew from Hume Printing, we are looking forward to fulfilling our vision of a more substantial arts, music, and entertainment section. We believe that if the *Community Alliance* is going to become a weekly, we need to balance our coverage of news, which has a decidedly progressive slant, with information about what is happening in this community's art and music scene.

If you are interested in helping the *Community Alliance* develop a regular arts, music, and entertainment section, give me a call at (559) 978-4502. If you have information about upcoming arts and entertainment events, please send them to us at [ca\\_arts@hotmail.com](mailto:ca_arts@hotmail.com).

# Freedom with Justice for All

## Robert Valett

How did you celebrate July 4th. this year? Of course fireworks, parades, and family picnics will always remind us of our Declaration of Independence from England in 1776. We still continue to celebrate Thomas Jefferson's affirmation that all men are endowed with certain unalienable rights and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But we often tend to forget our founding fathers' admonition that when any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the responsibility of the people to abolish it and institute a new form of government.

Unfortunately, our liberty is still precarious. Many news reports on the 'Gitmo Problem' aptly describe how the United States has betrayed its own human rights principles at Guantanamo, Cuba. Denying due process of law to prisoners of any kind will seriously undermine our democracy. We certainly need to abolish these unethical practices and institute major governmental reform and accountability!

### Abusing human rights.

Now Amnesty International has called our Guantanamo detention center in Cuba "the gulag of our time" and maintains that the United States is maintaining numerous prisons around the world in which people are being literally disappeared. Interestingly, Senator Joseph Biden Jr. of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee agrees that the time has come to shut down the military prison camp at Guantanamo Bay and move to other facilities those prisoners we have reason to keep.

Ironically, the military has confirmed mistreatment of inmates at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, including desecration of the Koran, the Muslim holy book. Our infringements of human rights have actually stimulated the recruitment of terrorists around the world and insurgents in Iraq. Consequently, enlistments in many of our own armed services are seriously lacking.

Tragically, all this comes well after the 9/11 Commission Report that recommended we must do all we can to improve our relations with the Muslim world. Congress will now hold hearings to investigate why many of these recommendations have not been implemented. They may also further embarrass the Bush administration by showing that the government has not done enough to prevent terrorist attacks or to prepare for their aftermath.

### Continuing social revolution.

In 1789 we created a Constitutional system of government with checks and balances between legislative, administrative, and judicial branches. Since then we have had amendments, including the Bill of Rights, and other reforms, which have defined and extended our freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion and our civil rights. For example, on January 5, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt presented his famous "four freedoms" address to Congress.

Roosevelt reminded us of our "perpetual peaceful revolution," which adjusts itself to changing conditions and prepared us for the war to come. He emphasized the importance of freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from economic poverty, and freedom from fear and physical aggression. He called for personal sacrifice and willingness of all Americans to respond to that call—including the principle of tax payments in accordance with ability to pay.

And during World War II the people responded positively. We bought war bonds. We accepted gasoline rationing. Wages and prices were regulated. Even big corporations "patriotically" paid up to 90 percent in taxes. Millions of young men volunteered for military service. Almost everybody had faith in their government and strongly believed we were fighting for freedom and the common good.

Now public opinion has changed. A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll (among others) found that more than half of Americans have come to believe that the war in Iraq has not made the United States safer. Nearly three-quarters of Americans say the number of casualties in Iraq is unacceptable and that the war may well prove unwinnable. The lack of due judicial process is unacceptable. Americans are beginning to lose faith in the righteousness of their elected leaders.

Perhaps this is the time for another peaceful social revolution. Let us reassert our belief in our democracy by holding this administration responsible for an unnecessary war with numerous lies and deceptions. Let us insist on economic and corporate justice. Let us demand due process of law. Let us raise taxes and pay as we go instead of impoverishing our children with debt. And let us ardently continue our pursuit of human liberty with justice for all!

## Attention KFCF listeners and subscribers!

The deadline for becoming a voting member of the Fresno Free College Foundation is August 31, 2005. If you want to participate in this year's election for the FFCF Board of Directors, you can become a member with a donation of \$25 or more per year. Folks who have subscribed for at least \$25 during one of the on-air fund raising periods this year qualify as members. People who are uncertain about their membership status, or who have moved recently, should contact the FFCF/KFCF office at 559-233-2221 or send an email to [office@kfcf.org](mailto:office@kfcf.org) to make sure our information is up to date.

KFCF is listener-sponsored and democratically operated community radio serving Central California. The station is owned and operated by the Fresno Free College Foundation, a membership-based public service organization. The Foundation is governed by an eleven member board of directors. Elections for open positions are held in November of each year.

"This so-called ill treatment and torture in detention centers, stories of which were spread everywhere among the people, and later by the prisoners who were freed...were not, as some assumed, inflicted methodically, but were excesses committed by individual prison guards, their deputies, and men who laid violent hands on the detainees."

- Rudolf Hoess, the SS Commandant at Auschwitz

# California's No-Parole Policy: Old-School Lifers Held Decades Beyond Their Release Dates

By Boston Woodard

Thousands of California state prisoners serving a "term to life" sentence *with* the possibility of parole have had their commitments illegally enhanced to life *without* the possibility of parole.

Without the benefit of legal representation or a new trial, these prisoners are being held years, even decades beyond their prescribed (by law) release date. Term to Life prisoners (TLPs) are also referred to as "old-school lifers," "seven to lifers," or "7-Upers." They were sentenced, pre-July 1977, to serve seven years to life. In July 1977, Senate Bill 42 was overwhelmingly voted into law, which changed all California prison commitments from the Indeterminate Sentencing Law (ISL) to the Determinate Sentencing Law (DSL). Any prisoner sentenced prior to July 1977 is considered "old school."

Seven to lifers, or TLPs, were sentenced to a maximum prison term of life and a minimum of between seven and twenty-five years, reduced for work and good behavior, by a three-member Board of Prison Terms (BPT) panel at intervals prescribed by California Penal Code Statutes and Parole Regulations Title 15, Division 2, Board of Prison Terms, 2000 et seq.

The Title 15 includes a matrix chart, which clearly indicates the amount of time that TLPs are to serve according to the law. There are two major factors on the matrix chart that determine the specific amount of time a prisoner should have to serve for his or her particular crime.

First, the circumstances of the case are considered; whether or not severe trauma or torture was inflicted on the victim and/or the type of weapon used. The second factor relates to the victim. Various amounts of time are ordered on the matrix chart, depending on the relationship between the victim and the accused. If the accused was in a relationship that contributed to the motivation for the act resulting in death—as a spouse, family member, friend, and so on—he or she will serve less time than a prisoner whose crime involved no prior relationship with the victim, according to California state law governing paroles.

In 1971, Willie Thomas was sentenced to seven years to life for first-degree murder in Alameda County. For nearly thirty-five years, Willie has served his sentence in San Quentin, Folsom, Soledad, Tehachapi, and other state pens, waiting for a release date that has yet to come.

According to Willie's matrix parole calculation, he should have been released in 1993 or 1994. He is eleven or twelve years past his legally prescribed parole date.

Willie concedes he was a young and irresponsible teenager when he committed his crime. "I'm not the immature, uneducated, inarticulate kid I was when I committed my crime thirty-five years ago," says Willie. "I have spent my entire adult life behind bars realizing the seriousness of what I had done to my victim, his family, and my family."

Many of these aging prisoners like Willie Thomas are not the out-of-control youths who committed these crimes so many decades ago. Many have close family ties and support systems that would help them stay out of trouble for the remainder of their lives.

Willie, now in his mid-fifties, is one of approximately 900 prisoners caught up in this political snafu. There were thousands of seven-to-lifers who spent many years conforming to the rules, working for credit, taking up a vocational trade or two at the behest of the BPT, fulfilling all work incentive and educational requirements to earn a parole.

Those prisoners who are best prepared to return to society are the very ones that the politicians have been maligning for decades: the old-school lifers. Thousands of these prisoners were given "indeterminate" life sentences, such as seven years to life. After they had served the fixed portion of their sentences, they were supposed to have a chance to prove they had been rehabilitated and were ready to be released back into society.

Many of these aging pris-



oners are infirm and kept in prison medical facilities where millions are being spent on the many health services they now require. In fact, California spends \$1.1 billion a year on health care for prisoners. According to an internal Corrections Department report, the total cost of an elderly prisoner is at least three times that of a younger one, which is a minimum of \$31,000 per prisoner annually.

In 1991, Governor Pete Wilson substantially reduced parole grants; in fact, for all intents and purposes, his policy virtually eliminated paroles. He began by appointing and re-appointing BPT commissioners known to disfavor paroles and who would stand firm to a "no-parole policy."

Every one of Wilson's appointees were all crime victims and/or family members of crime victims, former law enforcement personnel, or Republican legislators who were defeated in elections and who needed a job that pays more than \$100,000 a year plus expenses, with full benefits. The nine-member BPT, appointed by the governor, is supposed to evaluate thousands of prisoners serving sentences of life with the possibility of parole: most of these prisoners have been convicted of murder, arson, or kidnapping. A very small group, convicted of more heinous crimes, is ineligible for parole.

Albert M. Leddy, who for twenty-five years was deputy assistant and district attorney for Kern County, and for nine years was a member/commissioner and chairman of the California State Board of Prison Terms, is by no means an advocate for prisoner's rights. Nonetheless, Leddy was absolutely opposed to Governor Wilson's (and later, Governor

Davis's) expensive campaign to eliminate life prisoners' rights to a fair hearing before the BPT. For five years as governor, Gray Davis perpetuated Wilson's illegal no-parole policy before being recalled from office by California voters.

According to a May 10, 2000, notarized declaration by Leddy, "Governor Wilson's BPT appointees were mostly from his home area of San Diego. Most were not qualified by training or experience for position of BPT commissioner, and they did not fulfill the statutory cross-section requirements of racial, sexual, economic, or geographical proportion."

Mr. Leddy further swore under oath that, "On one occasion Joe Sandavol, former secretary of YACA [Youth and Adult Correctional Agency], a cabinet-level appointment, personally warned the commissioners to be careful about granting paroles. Chairman John Gillis told two commissioners, 'Stop giving these dates!'"

At one point Leddy became concerned enough about the no-parole policy that he wrote a nine-page brief stating that the BPT was not complying with the laws. Leddy gave a copy to each Board member, pointing out that they could be sued. He asked that the brief be a topic on the Board's agenda. Ted Rich, as executive officer, said, "That's not going to be on the agenda. You can't have it on the agenda."

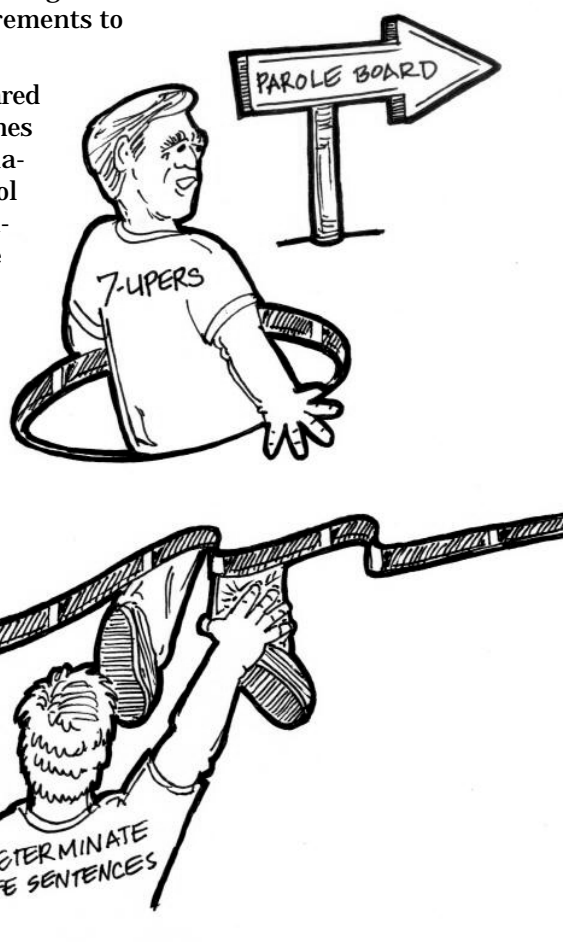
Four years ago, a State Senate panel eliminated the state parole board's budget for that fiscal year, a rare tactical move that reflected some lawmaker's deep frustration with how California treats prisoners eligible for release. The panel erased the BPT's \$28.4 million in funding on the grounds that it has done little to fix problems exposed by the legislature and others.

"If they're not doing their job, then why are we funding this operation with tens of millions of taxpayer dollars?" asked Senator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles), who was chairman of the Senate Subcommittee that wiped out the Board's budget in 2001.

"Maybe this will get their attention," added John Burton (D-San Francisco, Senate President Pro-Tem at the time), who was a leading critic of the Board of Prison Terms before retiring.

Thousands of old lifers have died off waiting for the parole date that never came. Many died behind bars long after they should have been released per the law.

Continued on page 18



Photos Courtesy of Chuck McNally, Central Valley Indymedia

# Art and Soul at Pleasant Valley State Prison

By Libby Bevans

In April, members of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence were invited to an arts event at Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP). We approached the event with curiosity, not knowing what to expect. Were we invited simply to provide support for inmates trying to express themselves through the arts, or would it be an occasion to gather information on current conditions? Would it be an opportunity to update interested persons on the work of FACTS (Families Amending California's Three Strikes)? To network for family support groups?

After driving an hour and a half through orchards and hay fields, we found ourselves at a relatively new complex just outside of Coalinga. The elements surrounding us were an odd mix: highly manicured, inviting grounds bedecked in roses, and heavily armed guards looming in stark gray towers above, alert to even the slightest haste in a civilian's step.

What we soon discovered was that we were actually guests at the prison's eighth annual Interfaith Banquet, hosted by the prison's Muslim chaplain, Imam Michael J. Salaam.

Imam Salaam was himself a garrulous rush of warmth and welcome; as he led us through the cafeteria to our table, my wariness as a first-time prison visitor began to fade. The cafeteria was a less severe space than I had anticipated, and the guards' presence was surprisingly low-key. As we looked about the room, our eyes met with those of a hundred or so male inmates, and rather than a sensation of fear, I was overcome with compassion: there was a longing for exchange, of men simply in need of contact, of affirmation of their own humanity.

Arts Director Bruce Bickham, who had extended the invitation, greeted us with a smile as we munched on goldfish and trail mix. Tall, tan, relaxed and good-looking, it seemed he'd be better suited to life in a resort community than to working with inmates in the Central Valley. He runs the music program, and at this moment about 10 inmates were setting up for their big performance. Bruce provides them with practice time on a variety of instruments, but insists they write their own material. The fruits of their efforts were stellar: smooth jazz grooves, mellow funk, and the powerful, uplifting reggae number, "May I Shine Even Brighter," on which they graciously allowed me to sing backup vocals. Jeremy Hofer, a member of Fresno Metro Ministry, added his own sweet flavor to the mix by playing flume on a couple of tunes.

The official program was one of prayer. Imam Salaam's message was to highlight the aspect of personal responsibility in the greeting, *Assalaamu-alaikum*. He stressed that it "[obligates] everyone to uphold the peace.... It means that you [personally] have to carry the burden for keeping the peace." He also emphasized the interfaith aspects of that daily responsibility, citing the fact that Muhammad adopted the greeting from the Hebrew *Shalom Aleichem*.

In fulfillment of his commitment to interfaith cooperation and peace, he has worked closely with the Reverend Deborah L. Johnson of Inner Light Ministries from Santa Cruz. Both spiritual leaders offered prayers, and Rev. Johnson closed her sermon with a soul-trawling spoken word poem: Her thoughts on the power of knowing God in one's own heart were received with rapture by Muslims and Christians alike.

Of equal importance was recognition of the inmates' own accomplishments. Imam Salaam and Brother Tasnim Rashid Sandifer gave awards to deserving inmates in Muslim scholarship and community service, with one honor going to a Christian inmate for his diligent study of the Suras.

To be in prison, these men have admittedly made bad judgments and even worse mistakes. There is nothing warm and fuzzy about crime and punishment, and the legitimate anguish of the victims and loved ones affected by violent acts should never leave our minds. But we need to remember that most inmates do return to society eventually; the question is whether you'd prefer your new neighbor be angry at the world or hopeful about his contributions. Mumia Abu Jamal speaks the truth when he emphasizes that reform is also the responsibility of those on the outside.

As many inmates will attest, a ten-year sentence definitely gives you time to think. And with the aid of some progressive arts and spiritual leaders, we witnessed that rehabilitative justice is possible: many of these inmates have cultivated a faith, diligence, and commitment to community that surpasses that of many outsiders. Rev. Johnson remarked that it was not pity that brought her to this prison, but the realization that she learns a great deal in working spiritually with the inmates who choose religious study. Their ability to "dig deep," she says, surprises and challenges her every time.

Finally, there came that awkward moment when everyone was free to "mingle." With so many people to talk to, it was difficult to know where to begin. I was fortunate to be able to chat with Tasnim, one of the imam's more prominent students. Tasnim is charming and soft-spoken. He is eager to talk about his wife and "adorable" adopted children, as well as his love for writing, particularly poetry. He acknowledges the bad life choice that brought him to prison, but earnestly works to become a better person. Above all, he wants people to know that not all inmates are unrepentant, bad people. He wants desperately to represent the goodness and strong potential for rehabilitation if only we're willing to give them a chance. I, for one, am now willing to try.

*Libby Bevans is assistant coordinator for the Pairs Project at the Center for Nonviolence and arranges correspondence with other PSVP inmates as part of community outreach. To learn more about the project or to correspond with an inmate, e-mail us at <FCNV@sbcglobal.net>.*



## WHY BOTHER?

by Maria Telesco

People ask, when they hear about my prisoner-friends, "Why do you bother trying to help THEM?" I'll tell you why. It's because, in the long run, it's not the big, earth-shattering things, but the minor, seemingly insignificant, vicissitudes of everyday life that can drive a person nuts. Especially when the person is absolutely powerless to do anything about it.

The other day, when it was one-hundred-and-die-of-heat-stroke-and-a-half-in-the-shade, I went out while it was still bearable. The cooler had been left off to conserve energy. I spent the day in a comfortably pleasant office, walked about 20 feet to the parking lot, drove my delightfully air-conditioned jalopy twenty minutes to home, and walked about 100 sizzling feet to my apartment. By the time I got there, I was ready for the undertaker.

The thermometer said it was 90 degrees inside. No problem. I could fix it. I hastened to turn on the swamp cooler and all the fans, then collapsed on the bed with some iced tea, a cup of ice cubes to suck on, an ice pack for my head, and a wet towel over my—well, never mind—and let the refreshing breezes soothe me to blissful slumber. Woke me up when it got too chilly.

I started thinking about some of my prisoner-friends in Hotel California at Chowchilla, and Coalinga, and Folsom, and Vacaville, and San Quentin, and Calipatria, and Soledad, and Susanville.

When they feel like talking about what's going on in their lives, they don't grouse about their sentence, which they may believe is unjustly long; or that their spouse hasn't written or visited in months; or that once again some court turned down their appeal; or that their lawyer hasn't been heard from in two years; or that some male guard made a vulgar remark about her breasts; or that the green bologna for lunch would be rejected by any self-respecting dog. That would be the big, earth-shattering stuff.

They bitch about the heat.

Two regular-sized adults crammed into a six-by-eight foot sardine can, too tiny even for one, smaller than your bathroom. No window to open for air. No air conditioning or swamp cooler. No ice cubes to suck on. No cold pack for the intense headache. Nothing they can do about it, though. And no fans. Get used to it.

Some institutions—not all—allow a small, outrageously overpriced, six-inch fan, which the prisoner has to purchase him or herself from a prison-approved vendor. (We are not permitted to send them in from regular stores.) But there's a limit on the number of electric appliances allowed—I think it's two, these days—so a prisoner will have to trade in his or her "stinger" that's used to boil water for coffee, or electric typewriter or TV (all of which were purchased by the prisoner or family or friends, not the People of the State of California) for the fan. That is, if he or she can get permission for a fan. In some prisons, fans are not on the "usual" approved appliance list. It takes the proverbial "Act of Congress." Paperwork. Submit a request. Have it okayed—or denied—by various officials. Phone home collect to see if Mom can spring for the fan. No. She just sent you money last month so you could go to the doctor. She doesn't have a money tree in the back yard, you know. So you call your ex. Okay, he will send the money, but not until the first of the month when the checks come out.

Yard call. You decide to go outside—it can't be any hotter out there. Can it? Wrong. It's worse. There's no shade. But you can't go back inside until the 4 o'clock "unlock." So you sit out there and count the heat devils swirling above the asphalt, and pray that you'll die mercifully. Back in your cell, there's an envelope on your bunk. The captain turned down your request for a fan—again!

So you submit yet another request. It finally gets approved—in October! Screw it! You don't need their stupid-ass fan anyway. You hear a story on the TV news about a prisoner who died of heat prostration at some county jail in Alabama. Or was it Oklahoma? Oh, God—why couldn't it have been me?

That's why I try to help them. For the small stuff. All "my" organizations (Death Penalty Focus, California Prison Focus, Legal Services for Prisoners With Children, Families to Amend California's Three Strikes, and several others) have the same goals: Help the Prisoners. We fight for prisoners' rights. To make a bleak existence a little more bearable. Sometimes we win. More often we lose. But we keep trying.

I don't have the clout to abolish the death penalty or straighten out the medical system that's soon to be put into federal receivership, or eliminate Three Strikes, or even get fans. Heck, I don't have any clout at all.

But sometimes, on a good day, I can find the person who has the authority to cut some red tape and help someone to get what he or she needs. Or maybe raise a few dollars to help a prisoner get a decent pair of eyeglasses, or another prisoner buy shoes that don't hurt. Or just listen to some prisoner grouse, and nod sympathetically.

Not the big, important stuff. Just the small stuff that can drive a person nuts. It's the least anyone can do.

*Maria Telesco can be reached by writing to her at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness, Fresno, CA 93728 or at maria.telesco@att.net*





# QUEER EYE

## "God Hates Fags" Group Repelled Central Valley Town

By Dan Waterhouse

A group of Westboro Baptist Church members who briefly protested outside Tracy High School's June 11 graduation ceremony were met in kind by several hundred queers, straight allies, and irate local residents. The locals were incensed by the sight of the Westboro folks dragging American flags, not to mention American values, in the dirt.

The 13 followers of the Rev. Fred Phelps showed up in Tracy to protest the existence of Gay Straight Alliance clubs at the two high schools in town. Phelps's daughter Shirley Phelps-Roper accused Tracy residents of "child abuse" for not teaching the "true word of God" and the "truth about homosexuality."

The two groups kept a safe distance from one another. Tracy police said there were no incidents of violence, although the Phelps group's rental cars were nearly towed for illegal parking on private property.

Of the small group, nine were members of Phelps's family. The Westboro church has not attracted converts in many years.

Tracy student supporters came from all over the Central Valley: Supporters said they were from Bakersfield, Visalia, Lodi, Manteca, Modesto, and Tracy.

Becki Jones said, "About 3:15 they came. They were carrying horrible signs: God Hates America, Thank God for 9-11, God Hates Fags, and God Hates the GSA. These are not peaceful people. There were no confrontations; however, their presence was virulent enough. They were surrounded by the police in order to contain any physical confrontations that may have been instigated."

"Around 4:15 we started packing it in" Jones said. "We accomplished what we set out to do: to support the Tracy High GSA and to show Phelps he was not wanted in the Central Valley."

"The support we showed for each other was overwhelming. To see the Central Valley rally together in the numbers and passion that we did was empowering. There is strength in numbers and we definitely had the strength from our numbers."

The Phelps protest was sparked by news reports about the resignation of a Tracy high school teacher after he allegedly made anti-gay remarks to a student last November. The teacher, Richard Thompson, said he re-

signed to re-enter the technology industry. He said his decision to leave teaching had nothing to do with his statements or the resulting fall-out.

According to students, Thompson told his math students during a class discussion that he believes homosexuals choose to be that way. West High freshman Derek O'Bar later said that Thompson told him that associating with gays was just as sinful as being gay. Thompson denies ever saying that.

The incidents with Thompson led junior Justin Daley to resurrect the West High GSA chapter. The group pressured the school district to take affirmative steps to end harassment of queer students on school campuses.

The district announced on April 22 that Thompson would not be returning for the 2005-06 school year. Reports of Thompson's resignation then attracted the attention of what Tracy residents described as the "pathetic" Westboro Baptist group. "God Hates Fags" announced their descent upon Tracy in a graphic fax sent to the local police, the school district, and the local newspaper.

The Phelps message described the two Tracy campuses as "sodomite warehouses masquerading as high schools."

In response, Daley organized a counter-protest, to support the graduating seniors from both schools.

The school district tried to discourage any response to Phelps's group. A school district representative contacted at least one pro-queer group in mid-May, asking them not to come. Jeff Gianelli of Equality California told the *Tracy Press* the representative told him "she would prefer if we didn't come." Gianelli said the group planned to bring 200 to 500 members.

The school representative, Rebecca Frame, said that police had told her the best response to Phelps was no response. She also said local police were worried about large groups of

counter-protesters showing up. Tracy police assigned 30 extra officers to graduation and had officers from the Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol on tap if trouble started.

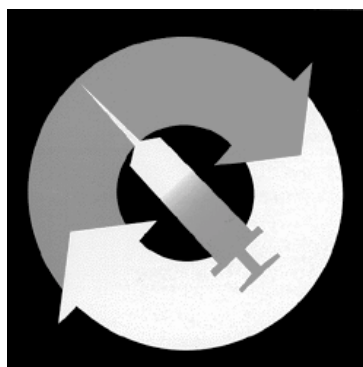
Problems almost erupted when locals saw the Phelps group dragging the US flag through the dirt. Several members of the group also trampled the flag. Phelps-Roper claims the United States is "sick" and "worships the flag as a false idol." One Westboro member expressed delight over the events of September 11, saying she "thank[s] God those planes crashed into those buildings on 9/11. Not enough died."

Local residents confronted them, telling them to go back to Kansas "with Dorothy and Toto!"

The Phelps group left less than 30 minutes after arriving. They returned the next morning to picket six Tracy churches. They were thoroughly ignored or ridiculed by church-goers.



Photos Courtesy of www.GayFresno.com



## Needle Exchange Now!

By Brandon Hill

In the wake of Fresno County Grand Jury recommendations and

in light of the subsequent, generally positive print media coverage, it looks as if Fresno County may be closer than ever to legalized needle exchange. Needle exchange programs allow injection drug users to exchange used needles for sterile ones, thereby reducing the rates of transmission for HIV and hepatitis C and providing a bridge to drug treatment programs.

The evidence in support of needle exchange programs is strong, with countless government and privately funded studies proving their effectiveness. Citing such studies, Clinton administration Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala stated at a 1998 press conference, "A meticulous scientific review has now proven that needle exchange programs can reduce the

transmission of HIV and save lives without losing ground in the battle against illegal drugs. It offers communities that decide to pursue needle exchange programs yet another weapon in their fight against AIDS."

Despite the strong evidence and endorsements by many high profile groups, the fight for needle exchange remains an uphill battle. In order for needle exchange to be legalized, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors must declare "a local emergency due to the existence of a critical local public health crisis," a declaration requiring three votes in favor and renewal every 14 to 21 days. A bill currently in the California State Senate (A.B. 547) offers a streamlined process with a one-time authorization for needle exchange programs.

According to comments made in a July 14 meeting with CHAANGE/San Joaquin Valley, Supervisor Henry R. Perea will support needle exchange only if it is tied to a mandatory drug treatment program, a position CHAANGE/San Joaquin Valley is in concurrence with. Among the remaining supervisors, only Supervisor Susan B. Anderson counts herself as a steadfast supporter while the others remain undecided or critical.

CHAANGE/San Joaquin Valley is dedicated to the fight for legal needle exchange in Fresno County because of the strong evidence showing it as a means to slow the

spread of HIV/AIDS and the statistics showing that injection drug use is a major contributor to the spread of HIV in Fresno County. As a grassroots organization CHAANGE welcomes and needs the input and support of any individuals and organizations interested in furthering this cause. Any interested parties are welcome to attend the next CHAANGE monthly meeting where participants will discuss strategy for this campaign. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 2 PM in the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. For additional information you may call (559) 268-1968.



# LABOR NOTES

## —Support Farm Workers—Boycott Gallo

By Vanessa Rhodes



From the painfully tedious work of pruning to the brutally rushed labor during harvest, working the grape fields is labor intensive. A typical day begins at 6 AM; the work continues into the hot hours of the afternoon to end around 4 PM. This hard work is rewarded with low pay and few benefits.

The workers of Gallo in Sonoma County have been fighting hard to improve working conditions, making strides to overcome an eight-year drought in wage increases. However, while some Gallo workers now earn \$8.18 an hour, have 8 days of vacation and receive health benefits for themselves and for their families, the majority do not. Seventy-five percent of Gallo workers are hired through farm labor contractors (FLC), third-party agencies—a contract loophole that denies the majority of the workers their hard-fought benefits. This inequality is at the heart of the current battle being fought by the United Farm Workers Union of America (UFW).

On June 14, 2005, the UFW announced the official boycott of all E & J Gallo, Inc., labels in an act of solidarity with all Gallo farm workers in Sonoma County who seek a fair contract. UFW President Arturo Rodriguez states, "We will ask millions of people of good will to respond to an appeal for them to act constructively by convincing the Gallos to do the responsible thing. And in the end, we will succeed."

Neither Gallo nor the UFW workers are strangers to these conflicts. Salvador Mendoza, a former Gallo worker and a longtime UFW union organizer, stated that the Gallo family is notorious for treating their workers poorly and for their anti-union values. In turn, the workers have had a long history of fighting back. In 1973, the UFW led the way in asserting rights for farm workers during the first Gallo boycott. At that time, Gallo had colluded with the Teamsters Union to destroy the workers' organization under the UFW. The Gallo workers fought back through a harvest-time strike and then mounted a multiyear boycott that helped bring about the passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act. This act enforces basic provisions that were at one time denied to workers: accessible bathrooms, cold water, and the right to organize

without retaliation.

The successful boycott and other gains of the 1970s brought about changes that at one time were unthinkable. The opportunity to confront injustices is again at hand. Yet now the fields face different challenges and new obstacles.

Gallo workers in Sonoma County are in the front line of these struggles. In 1994, the workers overwhelmingly voted for union recognition and in 2000 signed their first contract. This five-year struggle ran into a wall when the company refused to extend

the health

benefits, seniority, grievance/arbitration procedure and vacation to workers employed through FLCs. The full benefits of the contract signed in 2000 strictly covered the direct hires, but it was a tentative agreement to re-address the needs of the FLCs in the next contract. At that time, the majority of the labor force was direct hires. Today, FLC workers constitute more than 75% of Gallo's farm labor. Gallo is fiercely holding on to an industry trend that offers companies an out in regard to worker's compensation claims and to providing employees benefits.

FLCs provide easily exploited labor; FLC workers also prove to be an erratic workforce, which is practically immune to being organized. Workers of the FLCs are mostly young Mexican men who have immigrated from Puebla, Michoacan, and Oaxaca. These immigrants do not cross the desert on a five-day hike with only the clothes, water, and food they can carry, only then to fight the injustices of the California farm labor system. They come in search of fair work. Gallo and other corporate wine giants understand that and use it in their favor. The FLC loophole is exploited by almost all growers in the agricultural industry, and the UFW is fighting back. When the contract expired in November of 2003, the question of the FLCs became the focal point of the negotiations.

The workers' insistence on including the FLCs in the contract will force this wine giant to lose an exploitative economic edge in the industry. It is no surprise that Gallo is fighting back. In January 2004, Gallo was charged by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) with unfair labor practices. Company foremen and supervisors were found circulating and directing workers to sign a decertification petition to oust the UFW. Decertification is only valid when the request to decertify the union is driven by the workers themselves. In November 2004, the ALRB unanimously ruled that the decertification attempted had been engineered by the company and charged Gallo with unfair labor practices.

Continued on page 7



## The Impact of a Local Living Wage Ordinance

By Frances Sivak, Fresno Living Wage Campaign

It has been 10 years since the first municipal living wage ordinance went into effect. Since that time more than 100 living wage laws have been passed across the United States, including 18 in California. What is the impact of these laws on a city? On a city's budget? On the workers? On the contractors?

Several reports looking at these issues are now being published. What are the findings? The glass is both half full and half empty.

Los Angeles just published its study, "Examining the Evidence." On the full side, more than 10,000 employees have seen pay increases that raised their wages by 20% (to \$20,000 per year). These workers are more likely to be women (57%), older than 35 (60%), Latino (50%), or working full-time (86%). Of course this made their lives a little easier. On the empty side the study found that the living wage mandate did not induce firms to initiate health plans for their workers, and the pay differential is still less than the cost of a health plan. Even with their wage increases, none of the affected families lost their eligibility for public health insurance, which tells you that they are still living within that 200% cap of "poverty level." See < [www.LosAngelesLivingWageStudy.org](http://www.LosAngelesLivingWageStudy.org) >.

Another study, this one from the Brennan Center, looks at the costs to city budgets. And to everyone's surprise, local officials reported that cost increases to their overall budget have been small and less than initially expected (less than 0.1%). There are various factors in play here. First, overall there are not many contracts that employ a large low-wage workforce. We estimate that in Fresno we are looking at fewer than 15 or 20 contracts. Second, while some contract costs increased

a little, employers did absorb costs and showed savings because of better employee retention and increased efficiency. It really is true that well-compensated employees are more productive and are less likely to leave the company.

And so the discussion continues. . . . Living wage laws boost the wages of low wage workers, but at the cost of dis-employment of the least-skilled. Living wage laws do not create new jobs. Living wage laws do reduce poverty, but only for some families.

A living wage law does not make a huge dent in a city's budget, but only because it does not affect enough workers.

And this is the shortfall of living wage laws—they are not enough. We also have to work to raise the minimum wage, strengthen unions, work for health benefits, and more. Here in Fresno we are moving forward to work for a city living wage law. As surely as it is the goal of public policy to work for the welfare of all residents, a living wage law is one small way of doing this.



SAN FRANCISCO, CA - 14JUNE05 - Farmworkers and their supporters rally on the steps of San Francisco City Hall, and announce the start of a boycott of Gallo Wine, because Gallo, the world's largest wine company, refuses to negotiate a fair contract with the United Farm Workers.

Photos Pg 6 & above - Copyright David Bacon

### Continued from page 6

Throughout the negotiations, workers charge that dishonesty and ill-will on the part of Gallo have become more and more evident; this helps to further their resolve. Although the organizing efforts have been strong, they have not achieved all the goals. Gallo continues to deny additional benefits to employees working under FLCs. The UFW bargaining committee has offered a counter-proposal to provide the FLC workers with an end-of-the-season bonus. The grape harvest ends in December, a month when workers traditionally go back to Mexico. In a clear example of bad-faith negotiating, Gallo's counter-offer promised to pay the workers this bonus in January. However, Gallo knows that it is never certain that a worker will return the next season or that the supervisor of the FLC will choose to re-hire the worker; this option is a complete insult to the workers.

A commercial boycott of Gallo products will allow the public to hold this wine giant accountable to fair labor practices and prevent Gallo from taking advantage of the FLC loophole. A successful boycott will have a serious economic impact on Gallo and push it to comply with the demands set forth by its workers at the negotiating table—mainly equal benefits for direct hires and FLC workers. California's wine consumption alone is twice the national average. Our buying power is an effective tool in bringing justice to hardworking people who put food on our table and wine in our glasses. First UFW Vice President Irv Herschembalm stated in an interview that "after nineteen months of trying to get Gallo to respect the workers, it has become clear that the only thing Gallo respects is power, so we are taking the power to the community."

Gallo must respect the rights and needs of the workers in this industry. Farm workers are once again asking for your help. Join in solidarity with them and say NO



Photo by Mike Rhodes

**2nd Monday of every month 5:30 PM**

**The Living Wage Committee will meet at the SEIU 250 office, 1279 N Wishon. Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (CAFE) is taking the lead in this effort. We are in the research and planning stages of development. For further information, contact Frances Sivak: (559) 222-5240 or [fsivak@msn.com](mailto:fsivak@msn.com).**

Thousands of farmworkers and their supporters march July 17 to promote the boycott of Gallo wine. Photo credit: Zachary Ogren, [www.indybay.org](http://www.indybay.org)




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# One Hundred Chemicals Before Breakfast, Anyone? By Judy Stege

When consumer and working mother, Kathy Young, read in Co-op America's Real Money (May/June 2005) that the average American's "morning routine puts him/her into contact with over 100 chemicals before breakfast," she said she just could not believe that statement. When asked, "Why not?" she responded, "Because I trust the manufacturers of the products I buy. Oh, I know there are things in the products which I can't pronounce, and we consumers, just common people, don't even know what they are. But we don't question—we just trust that it must be safe. It's packaged and out there on the market."

Ignorance is bliss, and thankfully there are groups working to make those products we grab off the shelf safer. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) found that "89 percent of 10,500 ingredients used in personal care products [in the United States] have not been evaluated for safety by the CIR [Cosmetic Ingredient Review, a manufacturer-controlled safety committee], the FDA, nor any other publicly accountable institution." The EWG also found that ingredients certified by the U.S. government as "known or probable carcinogens" are in one of every 120 cosmetic products on the market, including shampoos, lotions, make-up foundations, and lip balm. Cancer is just one effect of the toxins applied to our skin. Accumulative effects of chemicals in products we use can cause skin and eye irritation, reproductive complications (birth defects) and potential neurological, liver, and immunological diseases.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for ingested chemicals, and any substance we apply to our skin goes into our bodies. In April 2005, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (CSC), a coalition of environmental, social justice, and consumer groups, learned that the FDA had completed a study on the safety of phthalates in cosmetics, but has refused to release the findings. CSC found that two-thirds of health and beauty products analyzed by the FDA in 2004 contained phthalates. These industrial chemicals are linked to birth defects, but are not listed on labels because they can only be detected through laboratory analysis. Two of the most toxic phthalates, DBP and DEHP, were banned in cosmetics sold in the European Union, but remain unregulated in the United States. In September 2004, an EU Directive targeted about 450 chemicals for elimination in cosmetics sold in Europe because they were "known or strongly suspected of being carcinogens, mutagens, or reproductive toxins." Compare this to the FDA's record of banning or restricting only nine chemicals in personal care products. Meanwhile, the Friends of the Earth, a founding member of CSC, has filed a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain the FDA phthalates study.

Meanwhile, the FDA last February notified the cosmetic industry that it "will be taking steps to enforce the label law," which requires companies to post a warning label on products that have not been assessed for safety. Hopefully the FDA will not spend years negotiating with the cosmetic industry like it has with the pharmaceutical companies.

Soon a whole lot of relabeling may be going on, so Kathy and other consumers can more easily choose safer products. Meanwhile women can check out their brands for toxins on two Web sites: <www.ewg.org/reports/skindeep> and <www.scorecard.org>. They can also go to <www.safecosmetics.org> to help CSC encourage all cosmetic companies to remove from our markets the chemicals banned from the European Union. "Most women don't have the money to buy organic or European cosmetics, nor do we take the time to check out those products we grab," commented Kathy ruefully. Now with these resources and her new awareness, she can take the time to choose safe products for her family as European consumers have done.

Sources:

Co-op America's Real Money May/June 2005 issue


<www.coopamerica.org>

<www.ewg.org/reports/skindeep>

<www.scorecard.org >

<www.marincancerproject.org>

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# Pesticide Testing on Humans Raises Concern

By Judy Stege

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for protecting our air, water, and food, monitoring waste disposal systems, and keeping Americans safe from hazardous and chemical materials in our environment. Children are especially vulnerable to toxins in the environment because of their developing brains and nervous systems. We adults need to be doing everything we can to encourage all children to develop and grow up healthy. Parents know the government cannot do it all, yet we often assume it is doing most of the protecting, because we have our lifestyle to keep up and little time to involve ourselves in environmental issues. Look back at the typical American family preparing for the Fourth of July party at home last month. Friends and family would share fun and food, so the house and yard were spiffed up. Oh, ants on the patio! Gosh, the weeds in the lawn! Bugs in the kitchen! Quick, get the Raid, Round Up, and mosquito repellent, and yes, we know that pesticides are not good for living things. But it is worth it! (Parents, did you notice how often your kids crawl, roll, or lie on the floor and lawn? Did you think to keep them away from sprayed areas?)

Thankfully, many parents are careful and choose a pesticide-free lifestyle, or search out the least harmful consumer products. Also, some of our elected officials are paying attention and taking action to keep our children safe, even if the general public, like the EPA, is willing to assume pesticides are safe because no visible tragedy has occurred. Senator Barbara Boxer used her political position to stall and finally eliminate the proposed EPA pesticide study named CHEERS. In October 2004, the EPA was given \$2.1 million from the American Chemistry Council, a chemical industry front group for Monsanto, Exxon, Dow, and other prosperous corporations, to run the Children's Environmental Exposure Research Study. Our tax dollars would have supplied the rest of the funding. The two-year study was supposed to monitor Florida infants in low-income families to find out how "chemicals can be ingested, inhaled, or absorbed by babies to children up to age 3, as well as the health effects they would cause." (Why not high-income or EPA families?)

The participating parents "were to receive \$970, a t-shirt, a bib for their baby, a calendar, a newsletter, a framed certificate of appreciation, and a video camcorder." The study did not require parents to "change the level of pesticide use in their home, nor add any special chemical products, but it required that they "demonstrate a use of these toxic products in their home."

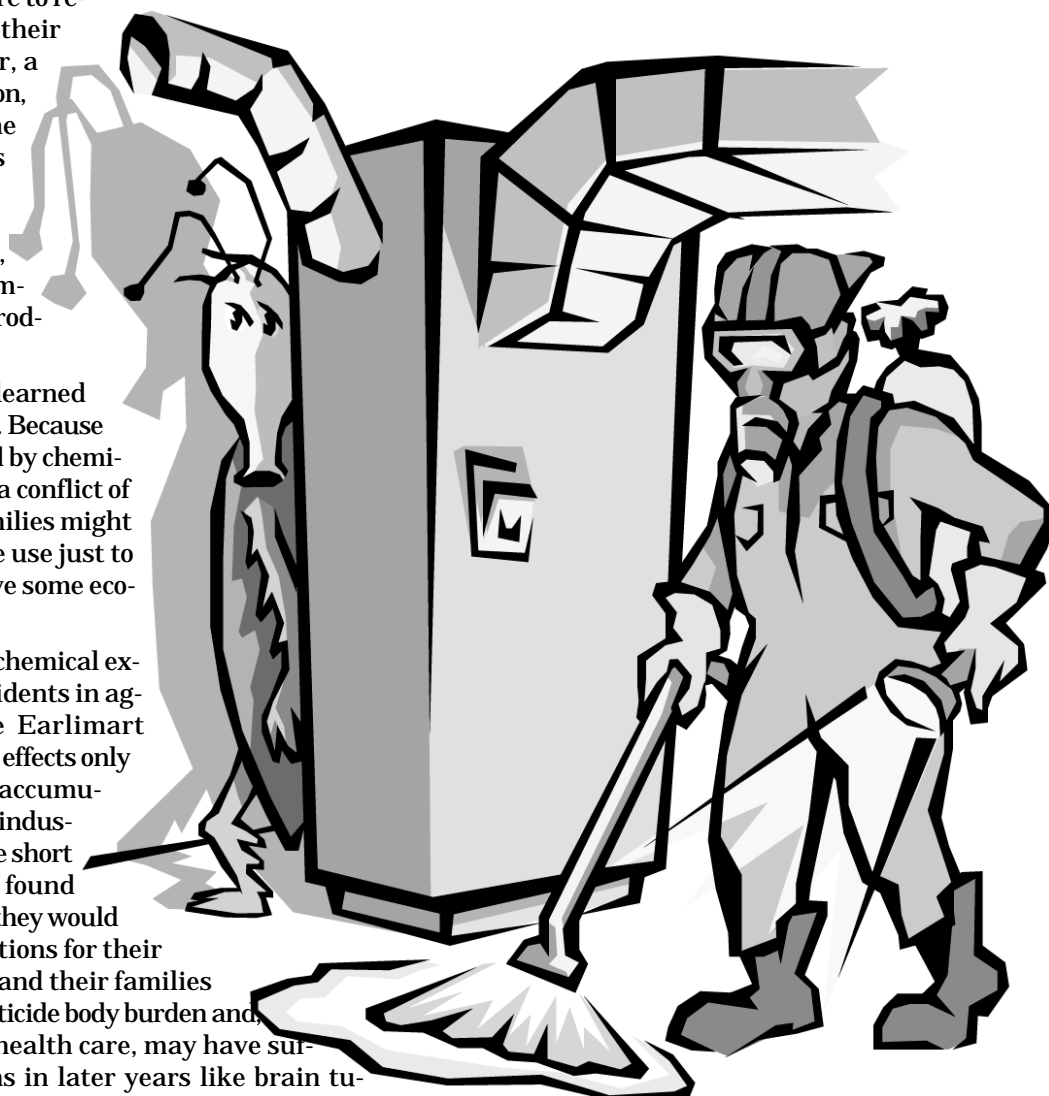
Fortunately, Americans who learned about this study were appalled. Because the study was partially funded by chemical companies, it represented a conflict of interest. Also, low-income families might have increased their pesticide use just to be involved, as \$970 would give some economic relief.

Further, unless the pesticide/chemical exposure is acute, as in drift incidents in agricultural communities like Earlimart (1999) or Arvin (2005), adverse effects only show up when the pesticides accumulate in the body. The chemical industry could have claimed after the short two-year study that the EPA found their pesticides safe, and then they would have lobbied for looser regulations for their use. Meanwhile those babies and their families would have increased their pesticide body burden and, with limited or non-existent health care, may have suffered serious health problems in later years like brain tu-

mors, leukemia, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, birth defects, nervous system damage, hormone or endocrine system problems, and behavior and academic problems in school. Thankfully, this study was cancelled on April 8, 2005.

This inhuman study was made possible because the Bush Administration, lobbied by the pesticide industry, had reversed a moratorium on human pesticide testing. The EPA felt that human studies were "available, relevant, and appropriate", and implemented studies like CHEERS. However, a review of actual and planned EPA testing reported by Senator Boxer and Representative Waxman in June 2005 showed that the EPA allowed more than 20 human-pesticide experiments that "violated ethical, scientific, and moral guidelines." The current EPA guidelines allow dangerous human pesticide testing on pregnant women, children and babies, which appalled even the legislators. On June 29, 2005, the Senate passed (60-37) the Boxer/Clinton Amendment to reinstate the expired moratorium on human pesticide testing. The House passed a similar amendment last May, so for one year pesticide testing with human subjects will be restrained, at least by our federal "by and for the people" agencies like the EPA.

1. <http://www.epa.gov/cheers/>
2. <http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=239845> (06/30/05)
3. Waxman and Boxer Release Report on Human Pesticide Experiments  
[www.truthout.org/issues\\_05/printer\\_061705HA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_05/printer_061705HA.shtml) - 13k
4. [www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-04-11-pesticides-inside\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-04-11-pesticides-inside_x.htm)
5. [www.nospray.org/articles/farm\\_workers](http://www.nospray.org/articles/farm_workers)



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# Back-to-School: Time to "Opt-Out" of Military Recruitment

by Ken Hudson

**Opt-Out:** Most readers of the *Community Alliance* are aware by now that the No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to release student contact information to military recruiters. Now is the time to exercise the right to opt out of this provision (NCLB, Sec. 9528). Otherwise, the school district is required to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of male and female high school students to military recruiters who request them. In other words, if the school doesn't hear from you, they assume consent.

Although the law allows students to opt out at any time of the year, they will need to do it at the beginning if they want their name removed from the list's first release. In Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) the list is scheduled for release on October 1, 2005, so the deadline for getting removed from that list is September 16, according to Robert Pankratz, FUSD's executive director of student services. An Opt-Out form will be included in the registration packet that is handed to the students on the first day. However, official school forms are not required. The law allows for any written notice to be sufficient (even if it is written on toilet paper, I suppose).

One of the easiest opt-out forms on the Internet locates the mailing address of the school superintendent in your zip code. You can find this at <[www.leavemychildalone.org](http://www.leavemychildalone.org)>. An opt-out form with Peace Fresno's contact information that is useful for distribution is found on the web at <[www.peacefresno.org/pdf/Do\\_Not\\_Call\\_Military.pdf](http://www.peacefresno.org/pdf/Do_Not_Call_Military.pdf)>.

Or clip and use the form below, mailing it to your school district Superintendent's office. Of course, after submitting the opt-out request, it is important to confirm that your name was actually removed from the list. FUSD students can expect a confirmation through the mail, thanks to the efforts of Peace Fresno; others may wish to contact their school district. If a military recruiter does phone your home, ask how your number was obtained. If the school district has released your directory information despite your request, it may be in violation of federal law. The Peace Fresno Education Committee is compiling local abuses of this sort as well as aggressive tactics by recruiters and would appreciate hearing from you at (559) 455-0821 (Vincent Lavery).

**Toward a new Opt-Out Policy at FUSD:** Peace Fresno and the Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition will be requesting changes in FUSD's opt-out policy. We are hoping to present this request at one of the August school board meetings. Our proposed changes include the following:

- Release directory information **only** of juniors and seniors. FUSD currently includes students in grades 9-12 on its list, although a joint letter by Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld and (then) Secretary of Education, Rod Paige (October 9, 2002) states that the release of information under NCLB affects only juniors and seniors.
- Provide the "Opt-Out" option on the student emergency card. Pajaro Valley USD in and around Watsonville was the latest district to pass this board policy.
- Allow students to opt themselves out. NCLB, Sec. 9528 (a)(2) states, "CONSENT—A secondary school student **or** the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing... not be released without prior written parental consent..."

- Notifications from FUSD regarding the right to opt-out should include the fact that telephone numbers are included in what the District is required to release under NCLB. Currently, notification from FUSD states that only names and addresses will be released. (The District has stated that it has not released telephone numbers in the past.)
- Charge recruiters \$.03 per student for the list as Los Angeles Unified School District does.
- Make Opt-Out forms readily available in every high school office.
- Pass a resolution supporting the Honda Bill, H.R. 551, and lobby for its passage. The Honda Bill addresses the release of student information under NCLB, reversing the procedure for obtaining consent from "opt out" to "opt in." Under an opt-in policy, the only students on the list would be those students for whom the school has actual written consent (imagine that!).

All items in the proposal are 100% legal, are in use by other school districts, and do not put federal funds at risk. When placed on the school board agenda (hopefully in August), notice will be distributed and posted on the home page at <[www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)>. We hope to have a school board member sponsor the proposal. For more information or to have your group endorse the proposal, contact the Peace Fresno Education Committee at the above phone number.

This won't be the first time Peace Fresno has presented opt-out issues to the FUSD school board. A new book edited by Ann Fagan Ginger (2005), *Challenging US Human Rights Violations Since 9/11*, gives the following report:

The Peace Fresno Foundation Committee responded to this problem (NCLB, Sec. 9528) on December 3, 2003, when Vincent J. Lavery, chair of the Peace Fresno Education Committee, presented to the Superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District a request that teachers from each high school grade read a statement to their students regarding parent/student approval to have their directory information released to military recruiters, and instructions on how to notify the School District if they did not want this information released. In its presentation, the Committee also pointed out that the District failed to notify all parents that they could opt out of the system before the date on which opting out ended. (P. 260)



**CUT AND MAIL TODAY!**

## OPT-OUT FORM

To: Administrator at \_\_\_\_\_ School District

Re: Release of student directory information

I do not want this student's directory information released to **military recruiters**.

Student name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Student I.D. number or Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of person signing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pentagon's national database:** People concerned about protecting their privacy from military recruiters were dismayed at the recent news that the Pentagon has also been creating a national database of information on 16- to 25-year-olds to distribute to local military recruiters, separately from the data it receives through the No Child Left Behind Act.

According to an Associated Press report (June 23, 2005), the data are collected from "individuals who volunteer it, state motor vehicle departments, commercial information brokers, and the Selective Service system." The data include "name, gender, address, birthday and, if available, the Social Security number, e-mail address, ethnicity, telephone number, high school, college, graduation dates, **grade-point average**, education level, and military test scores." This was discovered by a group called Electronic Privacy Information Center when they found a notice on the Federal Register placed by the military. News reports do not say specifically how grade-point averages are obtained, but I know they don't come from the motor vehicle department.

**Local Action—Opt-Out March, Sept. 10:** Problems with military recruitment have certainly been on the media radar lately. Aggressive tactics by recruiters, privacy concerns, the public's frustration with the war in Iraq, the Pentagon's "stop-loss" policy of keeping soldiers involuntarily beyond their terms, the Downing Street memo/smoking gun, and Karl Rove's revelation have all come together to make this moment ripe for a response from the community.

The Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition is a newly formed group consisting of area peace, social justice, and religious groups interested in providing an alternative to the message of military recruiters. It has called for events to publicize the right to Opt-Out of military recruitment in local school districts on Saturday, September 10, 2005 (date chosen to meet FUSD's deadline to Opt-Out).

Peace Fresno is sponsoring an opt-out march called "Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone!" (borrowing a slogan from Mainstreet Moms): Saturday, September 10, 2005, 11:00 AM-12:00 noon. March in downtown Fresno from the Fresno Unified School District Office, at Tulare and M Streets, to the military recruiter office at 2020 Tulare (less than a mile). Marching from the school district office to a military recruiter office symbolizes the schools' role in filling the ranks of the military. Suggested signs are Opt Out Now!, Protect Your Privacy from Recruiters!, Books Not Bombs!, and, of course, Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone! As students are the focus of NCLB, we are hoping they will be a focus of the march. So students, get your school involved, make your signs, plan your street theater, bring your drums, and get in front, because we don't want to "leave any child behind."

Groups and individuals in other Central Valley school districts wanting to publicize the right to opt out are encouraged to hold public events in their areas on that day, Saturday, September 10. For more information or to get help about what you can do in your community, contact the Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition at (559) 432-3445 (Dan Yaseen) or by e-mail at [danyaseen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danyaseen@sbcglobal.net). Let us know what you plan to do!

# June 6, 2005: Supreme Court Rules Against Medical Marijuana Patients

## Raich & Monson: State Law Not Affected

The Supreme Court rejected the constitutional challenge of medical marijuana patients Angel Raich and Diane Monson to the federal Controlled Substances Act in a 6-3 decision.

The Court did not overturn Prop. 215 or other state medical marijuana laws, which remain in full force at the state level.

Writing for the Court's majority, Justice John Paul Stevens ruled that the federal government had power to prosecute patients for personal possession and cultivation of marijuana as part of its own powers to regulate interstate commerce notwithstanding state laws allowing medical marijuana.

Medical marijuana supporters expressed disappointment at the decision, but noted that it did not change existing law. "California must know that state and federal laws are no different today than they were yesterday," declared California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. "People shouldn't panic. There aren't going to be many changes," he added.

"The court's decision will not stop Californians from using medical cannabis," said California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer. "The burden is now on Congress to change our bankrupt federal laws."

In its opinion, the Court pointedly questioned the wisdom of prosecuting patients. "The case is made difficult by respondents' strong arguments that they will suffer irreparable harm because, despite a congressional finding to the contrary, marijuana does have valid therapeutic purposes. The question before us, however, is not whether it is wise to enforce the statute in these circumstances; rather, it is whether Congress's power to regulate interstate markets for medicinal substances encompasses the portions of those markets that are supplied with drugs produced and consumed locally."

A spokesman for the San Francisco DEA office said that the agency was not interested in pursuing individual patients, but rather large-scale traffickers.

The court's opinion did not bear directly on the legality of distribution or sale of medical cannabis through California's 150-plus patients' coops, dispensaries, and delivery services. However, it did preclude them from potentially invoking the defense that they aren't engaged in interstate commerce. A dozen or so facilities indicated to California NORML that they were closing, but most continued to operate.

The Court's majority opinion was written by Justice John Paul Stevens, joined by liberals Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Stephen Breyer, and conservatives Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter.

The minority opinion, by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, held that the federal government was over-reaching in trying to cover individual medical marijuana patients under its powers of interstate commerce. O'Connor was joined by conservatives Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice Rehnquist.

The Court left open other possible legal challenges to the federal law such as medical necessity or substantive due process. Above all, it suggested that medical marijuana supporters get Congress to change the law.

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, California has seen a resumption of raids on medical cannabis dispensaries both by the DEA and local police. So far, the DEA has been working in cooperation with local police, who have targeted operations accused of abusing local regulations. Federal authorities insist they aren't interested in pursuing medical marijuana patients, but only organized criminal enterprises.



Medical Marijuana is available in Fresno

In San Francisco on June 22, the DEA raided three medical marijuana dispensaries and arrested 19 defendants, most of them Asian-Americans, in what was described as an organized crime operation. Federal agents searched 24 homes and businesses, located 10 indoor grow sites, and seized over 9,000 plants. To date, 20 defendants have been indicted for conspiracy to cultivate and distribute over 1,000 marijuana plants. In addition, three have been indicted for sales of ecstasy, and two others for money laundering. There are also allegations of international cash smuggling.

Federal spokesmen denied attacking medical marijuana per se. "It's not an attack on medical marijuana," one law enforcement official told the San Francisco Chronicle. "This is an organized crime group that is using the whole pot club thing as a front."

Supporters say that the defendants were mostly involved in medical marijuana. One of them, Van Nguyen, was well known as the director of the first Asian-American dispensary, the Herbal Relief Center, which was known to give away cannabis to needy patients. "I am not a profiteer, I don't know what money laundering is," Nguyen told the San Francisco Bay Guardian. "This is what I believe in. I'm not going away."

Defense attorneys argue that the involvement of minority Asian-Americans plus the charges of ecstasy sales, money laundering, and large-scale operations, made this an opportune target for federal officials. Significantly, the defendants had also attracted the ire of the San Francisco police department, who were intimately involved in the investigation. Eleven of the defendants had been arrested by the SFPD in the course of six other raids for growing in San Francisco and Oakland over the past two years. They had avoided prosecution on grounds of Prop. 215.

The organization had also attracted neighborhood complaints by opening what was the third dispensary along Ocean Ave. in the sleepy Ingleside district, where they also operated another facility. Complaints about over-concentration of clubs were a major factor in San Francisco's recent decision to impose a moratorium on new facilities.

California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer described the San Francisco raids as a "warning shot across the bow" and expressed hope that further raids could be avoided through better cooperation between police, dispensary owners, and public officials.

On the same day as the San Francisco raids, federal officials in Sacramento arrested medical marijuana physician Dr. Marion Fry and her husband, attorney Dale Schafer, on a sealed indictment. Fry and Schafer, who run a medical cannabis center in El Dorado County, had been under investigation since 2001, when DEA agents raided their office.

Although Dr. Fry was protected from prosecution for recommending marijuana under the federal court Conant decision, a medical marijuana garden was discovered on the couple's property, rendering them liable to federal prosecution. Dr. Fry, who is also a cancer patient, contended the garden was legal under Prop. 215. However, the Supreme Court's Raich decision ruled out any defense based on personal medical use, clearing the path for the couple's recent indictment.

In San Diego, police arrested a medical cannabis dispensary owner, Jon Sullivan, at his home. Sullivan was arrested on account of a neighbor's complaint,

not out of any investigation of his two dispensaries, which operate under the name "Triple Holistic Chronic." Police seized more than a pound of marijuana and patient records that were stored at his home.

Several other dispensaries remain in operation in San Diego, which so far has no ordinance regulating their presence. Three days after the Supreme Court decision, the San Diego grand jury rebuked the county for ignoring the needs of medical marijuana patients and urged it to take "all possible action" to promote access for the seriously ill.

Another major medical cannabis operation, Compassionate Caregivers, closed several of its outlets after becoming embroiled in a federal IRS investigation. Their troubles began last May, when Los Angeles police raided their West Hollywood outlet, confiscating over \$300,000 cash and hundreds of pound of product. Following the Supreme Court decision, Compassionate Caregivers suspended its business, including seven outlets from Ukiah to San Diego. They have since re-opened two outlets in Oakland and San Francisco.

Another large medical cannabis operator, United Medical Caregivers Clinic of Ukiah and Los Angeles, voluntarily closed doors after the Raich decision. The move followed another LAPD raid last March, which resulted in seizure of \$180,000 in cash and 200 pounds of product. No charges have been filed.

The IRS is said to be considering assessing operators for back taxes. Although medical cannabis businesses say they pay IRS taxes, the IRS is claiming that they cannot deduct the expenses of product purchased from grow-



James Mitchell of Medical Cannabis of Fresno with one of his plants. Photo by Mike Rhodes

ers unless they file 1099 forms for them. This presents an irresolvable dilemma to the dispensaries, since they need to assure anonymity to their growers in order to protect them from federal cultivation charges.

**June 30, 2005: Americans for Safe Access (ASA) served a lawsuit against the City of Fresno for restricting medical marijuana dispensing collectives from operating as enumerated in California law.**

The City of Fresno is one of seven localities that have passed legislation restricting the rights of qualified patients and their primary caregivers—limiting to three the number of qualified patients and primary caregivers who can form into cooperatives.

ASA filed the lawsuit on April 25, 2005, and actually served the suit on June 30, one week after the state Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued an opinion affirming that municipalities may not restrict the protections afforded by the Compassionate Use Act and SB420 to qualified medical marijuana patients. In particular, the opinion states that a city cannot define a "primary caregiver" more narrowly than state law or limit the amount of marijuana state law permits a qualified patient to possess because such provisions would be preempted by state law. (To see the AG opinion, go to <<http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/agopinion.pdf>>.

"The Attorney General's opinion goes a long way to curb the implementation of unlawful local ordinances," said ASA Legal Campaign Director Kris Hermes. "Municipalities considering restrictions on patient access to medical marijuana should be warned that these actions will have very real consequences." Lockyer's official opinion on this matter is one of several actions he has taken in recent weeks to clarify the legal rights and responsibilities of state officials since the US Supreme Court ruled that state-legal patients can still be prosecuted



Angel in front of a wheelchair. Photo by Martin Cohen

# Progressive Talk Radio for Fresno

By Mike Rhodes

Air America Radio, talk radio for the rest of us, started broadcasting in Fresno on July 4, 2005. KFPT 790 AM identifies itself as progressive talk radio for Fresno. A clear alternative to right-wing talk radio that has dominated the airwaves for the past decade, Air America is a national phenomenon now broadcasting on 74 affiliate stations. They expect to be in 100 market areas by the end of this year.



Al Franken and Katherine Lanpher are on the air from 9 AM - 12 Noon

Patty Hixson, vice president & general manager of Infinity Radio Fresno, said, "Fresno and the Valley have been crying out for a new talk radio station like this and we heard them loud and clear. We believe there is a large and enthusiastic audience for progressive perspectives, and AM 790 will serve that audience. AM 790's programming will include Air America shows such as *The Al Franken Show*, *The Randi Rhodes Show*, Mike Malloy, along with syndicated hosts Ed Schultz and Stephanie Miller. This is an excellent line-up and one that Fresno and the Valley needs. We are excited to bring a progressive talk radio format like AM 790 KFPT Progressive Talk to the Fresno radio community. Our goal at Infinity Broadcasting is to develop products that reflect the voice of the community and the people we serve. AM 790 Fresno's Progressive Talk will represent that audience."

The following is the AM 790 KFPT Fresno's Progressive Talk weekday lineup:

3 AM – 6 AM	Morning Sediton with Mark Riley and Marc Maron
6 AM – 9 AM	The Stephanie Miller Show
9 AM – 12 PM	The Al Franken Show
12 PM – 3 PM	The Ed Schultz Show
3 PM – 7 PM	The Randi Rhodes Show
7 PM – 10 PM	The Stephanie Miller Show
10 PM – Midnight	Mike Malloy

Here is how Air America Radio describes some of their programs:

## Morning Sediton

It's your daily wake-up call, with a healthy shot of laughter and a thorough look at the day's news; not just what the mainstream media are focusing on, but the stories they DON'T tell you about. It's all brought to you by comedian and reluctant messiah Marc Maron (creator of the book and one-man show *Jerusalem Syndrome*) and New York radio veteran Mark Riley, abetted by newsreaders Rachel Maddow and Wayne Gilman. Together, they bring you the day's big stories, thoughtful explorations of the issues underlying those stories, and far more fun than any self-respecting liberal is supposed to have.

*Morning Sediton's* regular segments—from Maron and a writing crew that includes veterans of *The Daily Show*—include "The Liberal Agenda," Barbra Streisand's daily marching orders for all good liberals, and "Planet Bush," reports from the alternate reality in which our nation's leader operates.

*Morning Sediton* also breaks news. Past highlights include unearthing and airing the first national reading of "The Pet Goat," the story that kept President

Bush entranced while his country counted on him to lead; the first interview with voting commission chairman "Buster" Soaries after rumors floated that the elections might be delayed in the event of a terror attack, and our breach of security during the RNC convention, demonstrating just how shoddy President Bush's security measures are, even when it's his own party on the line.

Past guests include: Former President Bill Clinton, Pat Buchanan, Tim Robbins, Michael Stipe, Ambassador Joe Wilson, Gov. Howard Dean, Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bob Graham, Will Ferrell, Robert Reich, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and many others.

Join us for *Morning Sediton*, while it's still legal.

## The Al Franken Show

After debunking right-wing propaganda in his best-selling books *Lies*, and *The Lying Liars Who Tell Them* and *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot*, Al Franken is taking the fight to America's airwaves—and he's doing it drug-free. With his co-host, veteran radio personality Katherine Lanpher, Franken delivers three hours a day of fearlessly irreverent commentary, comedy, and interviews. Franken and Lanpher have a mean streak a mile wide. *The Al Franken Show* energizes fans, infuriates liars, and delivers the truth—in what Al Franken likes to call the Zero Spin Zone.

## The Ed Schultz Show

Here's what the *Nation* had to say about Ed Schultz in its January 31, 2005 issue:

What is it that works about Schultz? For one thing,



The Randi Rhodes Show airs from 3 - 7 PM

he comes from radio. "I'm here to do a good radio show first," he says. "If you go into this with political aspirations, or thinking you're going to change your country, you're going to fall on your face." The former quarterback knows a thing or two about hurting his face, and his ego—and also about recovering. After the former NCAA Division II passing champion got turned down by the pros, he went into sports announcing in Fargo, North Dakota. Eventually, he got his own local talk show and, at the prodding of the woman he eventually married, started discussing issues like homelessness and the Upper Midwest's lingering farm crisis. Schultz is not a cookie-cutter liberal: He hunts, eats red meat and is the first to point up when he believes Democrats are boneheads. "I think I have the old traditional Democratic values," says Schultz, 50. "I think I represent the people who take their shower after work. I'm as much a populist as I am a progressive."

He's also quick-witted, funny and just over-the-top enough to draw an audience. One of Schultz's most enthusiastic Fargo listeners was North Dakota Democratic Senator Byron Dorgan, an old-school progressive populist who had grown increasingly alarmed at the dominance of the radio airwaves by conservative talkers. With encouragement from Dorgan and a few



others, Schultz started exploring the prospect of going national. He knew that more-prominent figures, from Mario Cuomo to Jim Hightower, had tried to be the liberal Limbaugh. And he knew radio programmers had come to dismiss the idea that there might be an audience for something other than round-the-clock right-wingers. But, says Schultz, "I just didn't buy it. I was on radio in Fargo doing liberal talk-radio and getting high ratings."

After laying the groundwork, Schultz made his move last January. Since then his show has changed many minds. Howard Dean hails him as "a tremendous voice for Democrats." John Kerry made three appearances (Schultz complains, "Kerry and his people really did not understand radio the way Bush and his people did"). Potential 2008 presidential contenders, from Hillary Clinton to Russ Feingold, have begun appearing. Schultz says they're smart to come on—not just because his show is hot but because radio is the medium of the future for progressives. "You're not going to win elections anymore on an editorial page; you're going to win elections with a constant repetition of themes that finally get to people. And that happens on radio," he says. "Progressives better get on radio, because radio is where the message is delivered—and we've proven over the past year that it doesn't have to be some Limbaugh-clone, right-wing message."

## The Randi Rhodes Show

The smoky-voiced Brooklyn native with the lightning fast wit cracks the mic and legions listen.

One of the country's first female entertainment and political talk show hosts, Randi has a passion for people.

Her radiogenic odyssey started in Seminole, Texas, where she was a waitress in a Mexican restaurant to support her radio habit. She made it to New York, Dallas, and Milwaukee before settling in South Florida (WIOD-Miami) and West Palm Beach (WJNO).

Randi was also voted "Most Outstanding Woman" in the Air Force in 1979 and won the American Women in Radio and Television award for "Best Entertainment Programming." During her acceptance speech she thanks her gynecologist as well as her plastic surgeon before adding, "I want a stinkin' syndication deal. Thank you."

## The Mike Malloy Show

Here's what Salon.com had to say about it:

"For nearly 20 years, Mike Malloy has been making talk radio like this: caustic, abrasive, inventive, confrontational and resolutely left of center. It has won him admirers and awards, and it has cost him jobs. At a time when the very genre of talk radio is widely seen as synonymous with strident conservatism, his career both ratifies and belies that premise."



Morning Sediton co-hosts Mark Riley and Marc Maron



KFCF is dedicated to the promotion of cultural diversity, pluralistic community expression and freedom of press and to contributing to a lasting understanding between individuals of all nations, races, creeds and colors.

## KFCF 88.1 FM Community Radio for Fresno

By Mike Rhodes and Pam Whalen

For many, KFCF is an oasis in a desert of corporate media. The station, which is appropriately enough located on the far left of the FM dial, brings the Valley alternative news, music, and information from Pacific station KPFA in Berkeley. Some of the more popular shows are Amy Goodman's *Democracy Now!*, which is heard at 6 AM and 9 AM Monday-Friday; the KPFA evening news heard at 6 PM daily; and Hard Knock, a youth-oriented hip-hop show on Monday-Friday, 4-5 PM.

Increasingly, KFCF is providing an opportunity for local voices to be heard on its airwaves. There is a block of programming heard every Wednesday at 3:30 PM that is produced by activists from progressive community groups.

Vickie Fouts, president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, hosts *Stir It Up* on the fourth Friday of each month. Fouts says, "We try to educate the public on peace and social justice issues from a woman's point of view with our show. We usually interview strong women who have done wonderful things and this can be a catalyst for listeners to be strong and do wonderful things. The show lets the community know there are strong, wonderful women out there and gives us an opportunity to invite the community to our different educational programs and meetings."

Another locally produced show is on at 3:30 PM every Monday. *Valley Politics*, featuring Woody Miller, Mel Sanders, and Wally Porter, is perhaps the only independently produced public affairs radio show for the African American community in the Central Valley.

Sanders, the program's engineer, says he is surprised at how often he hears people talking about the show in West Fresno. Sanders says the show is "a growing voice in the African American community" and that they promote the show by distributing fliers and word of mouth.

Eduardo Stanley and Rufino Dominguez produce a Spanish-language program called *Nuestro Foro (Our Forum)*. Stanley says "The idea behind the show is simple: a brief segment of news, and the rest of the hour is filled with interviews and analysis about issues concerning the Latino population and beyond. While there is a large amount of Spanish media outlets in the Valley, from printed to broadcast media, many issues go unnoticed or without discussion."

*Nuestro Foro*, which is heard every Wednesday, 7-8 PM, features a wide range of guests. You will hear everything from government leaders in Mexico, to Arab residents in the Valley talking about the US invasion of Iraq, to a Latina lesbian discussing discrimination—and more.

Continued on page 14



Rick Flores does his *Wasteland of the Free* show from the Old Fig Garden Studio



Wally Porter can be heard every Monday at 3:30 PM



KFCF Executive Director Vic Bedoian takes a call



Engineer and occasional host Richard Gomez in the Tower District studio



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom president Vickie Fouts hosts *Stir it Up* on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Photo by Howard Watkins



Devoya Mayo hosts *Moving on Up*, every Friday at 7 PM



Woody Miller is co-host on *Valley Politics* heard every Monday



Street Heat host Pam Whalen interviews the Rev. Floyd Harris



*Valley Politics* hosts and guests in the Tower District studio

Devoya Mayo, is the host on *Move on Up*, heard every Friday at 7 PM. She says, "We try to bridge the gap between arts and activism." The show often features local musicians and is one of several KFCF programs appealing to a youthful audience. Mayo says that she enjoys giving local youth a platform for their poetry and a chance to reflect on their own experiences. One of Mayo's favorite interviews was with Annyango Reggy, about the "Life over Debt" campaign. Reggy came to Fresno to advocate for the cancellation of the World Trade Organization African debt.

KFCF has supplemented the programming from KPFA in Berkeley with local shows for a long time. But, it was the 1999 crisis at KPFA—when KPFA staff were locked out and the signal to Fresno was interrupted—that really pushed KFCF to provide more local programming.

Rick Flores remembers getting a call from KFCF's executive director, Vic Bedoian, requesting help contributing programming during the crisis. Flores said that "for approximately three weeks, I began providing music, public affair interviews, and news concerning the lockout on a daily weekday basis. On my first Monday shift beginning at 6 AM. I chose to play a song by Iris Dement entitled 'Wasteland of the Free.' A listener called in, relating how the song had moved her. I received several more calls from other listeners who wanted to know more about the song. The next day I repeated the show opening with 'Wasteland' and received more calls from listeners stating their approval. One of the callers remarked I should make it my theme song—a suggestion I took to heart." Flores's show, *Wasteland of the Free*, is heard every Tuesday, 10 AM–noon.

Janet Alexander Flores brings the wealth of our local art alive on her show *Art Attack*, which airs on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 3:30 PM. Flores says, "I try to bring the voices of the people involved in the creation of a variety of these arts to our KFCF listeners. Interviews with folks in theater, music, dance, writing, cooking, gardening and the visual arts are what I spotlight, along with announcements about some of the events that are happening in our culturally rich communities. The arts give us glimpses into each others' minds and souls and are a way we can learn more about one another and grow to a fuller understanding of the world we share."

KFCF 88.1 FM is owned and operated by the Fresno Free College Foundation (FFCF), which grew out of the struggle for free speech and academic freedom at CSUF in the late 1960s and early 1970s. KFCF first went on the air on June 9, 1975, making this their 30<sup>th</sup> year of uninterrupted broadcasting. There are people who swear that if KFCF were not here, they would move out of the area. KFCF's ability to bring in alternative information and new thoughts does provide a much-needed oasis in a landscape dominated by corporate media. The addition of local voices to the mix from KPFA adds to the richness.



**Listener Supported, Free Speech Radio for Central California  
Owned & Operated by The Fresno Free College Foundation  
KFCF Local Programming Schedule**

**SATURDAYS**

- 4:00 to 6:00 PM:**
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month: *Music for a Blue Planet* hosted by Kent Stratford.
  - 2nd and 4th: *Rhythms in Jazz* with host, Mr. Leonard.
- 7:00 to 11:00 PM:**
- 1st Saturday of the month: *Dixieland Jazz* - Traditional and Dixieland Jazz with host, Lou Beck.
  - 2nd: *Earthbeat* (7:00 to 9:00 PM) Annie Compton-Schmidt hosts two hours of music from the world followed by *Jazz with Jim* (9:00 to 11:00 PM) hosted by Jim Compton-Schmidt with two hours of Jazz classics.
  - 3rd: *Underground Railroad*. Modern Blues music with host, Michael Hill.
  - 4th: *Interstellar Lounge*. Music from inner and outer space with Dan Cook.

**SUNDAYS**

- 7:00 to 9:00 PM:**
- 1st Sunday of the month: *Mousikés Nótes*. Music by Greek Composers, hosted by Alex Vavoulis.
  - 2nd: *Sunday Evening Classics*. Classical music with Bruce Kennedy.
  - 3rd: *Time Trippin*, with host Bob Lambert featuring a musical journey to a specific time in your past. The feel of the year, not the hits it produced.
  - 4th: *Pipe Organ Showtime*. Hosted by Randy Stover, a program featuring historic recordings of pipe organ music from around the nation.

**MONDAYS**

- 3:30 to 4:00 PM:** *Valley Politics and the African American Community* with Woody Miller, Mel Sanders and Wally Porter. Discussion on a spectrum of issues relating to African American society, culture and politics.

**TUESDAYS**

- 10:00 am to 12 noon:** *Wasteland of the Free* with Rick Flores. An eclectic blend of music, local public affairs, interviews, literary readings, calendar of events and more. Airs when the Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting is not in session.

**WEDNESDAYS**

- 3:30 to 4:00 PM:** *Stir It Up*. This program is hosted by a different group of progressive community activists each week of the month. Listen in for the community calendar, interviews and more.
- 1st Wednesday of the month: Hosted by Pam Whalen, this program focuses on labor organizing, workplace issues and immigration.
  - 2nd: Hosted by the *Fresno Center for Non-Violence*, this program examines issues of peace, social justice, health and community health and economics.
  - 3rd: *The Green Scene*. Hosted by the Fresno County Green Party, this program focuses on local political, social and environmental issues.
  - 4th: Hosted by Vickie Fouts from the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*. This program covers the local impacts and activities concerning national and international politics, economics and human rights issues.
- 7:00 to 8:00 PM:** *Nuestro Foro*. Hosted by Eduardo Stanley and Rufino Dominguez, this public affairs program in Spanish provides news and information to the Valley's Latino population.

**THURSDAYS**

- 3:30 to 4:00 PM:** Programming focused on the arts and literature.
- 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month: *Art Attack*, with host Janet Flores. This program focuses on the visual and performing arts with interviews and an events calendar.

**FRIDAYS**

- 3:30 to 4:00 PM:**
- 1st Friday of the month: *Sierra Nevada Earth First!* A review of environmental issues discussed by Mike Robe and Mark Somma.
  - 2nd: *Down in the Valley*, with host Lloyd Carter. This program focuses on water policy and politics, agribusiness, and land use.
  - 3rd: *Down on the Farm*. This program concentrates on sustainable agriculture and organic farming and is hosted by Tom Willey, one of the most successful organic growers in the region.
  - 4th: *Clearing the Air*, a program looking at issues of urban growth, air quality and transportation. Hosted by Kevin Hall, an activist and journalist, who intensely follows the policies, decision making and impacts of development in the Valley.
- 5:00 to 6:00 PM:**
- 1st Friday: *Radio Rise Up!* Jeremy Hofer features youth issues, community activism and building an alternative culture with words and music.
  - 2nd: *Literary Mosaic*. Dorina Lazo explores the local literati.
  - 3rd: *It's a Queer Thing*. Programming on gay and lesbian issues with host Jeff Robinson.
  - 4th: *Street Heat*. Labor & community issues are the topic with host Pam Whalen.
- 9:00 to 11:00 PM:** *Southeast Asian Refugees Program* - Cambodian News and Information with host, Lay Prum.  
**Last Friday of the month:** *That Time of the Month*. From Midnight to 6:00 AM Saturday morning, special music & arts programming by a variety of hosts.



**Listen to KPFA and KFCF on the Internet**  
Enter the following URLs in your favorite media player  
KFCF audio stream: [www.kfcf.org:8000](http://www.kfcf.org:8000)  
KPFA audio stream: [aud-one.kpfa.org:8000](http://aud-one.kpfa.org:8000)

P.O. Box 4364 • Fresno, CA 93744-4364 ❖ TEL: (559) 233-2221 • FAX: (559) 233-5776  
WWW.KFCF.ORG • E-mail: [KFCF@KFCF.ORG](mailto:KFCF@KFCF.ORG)



A more relaxed Rick Flores (*Wasteland of the Free*)



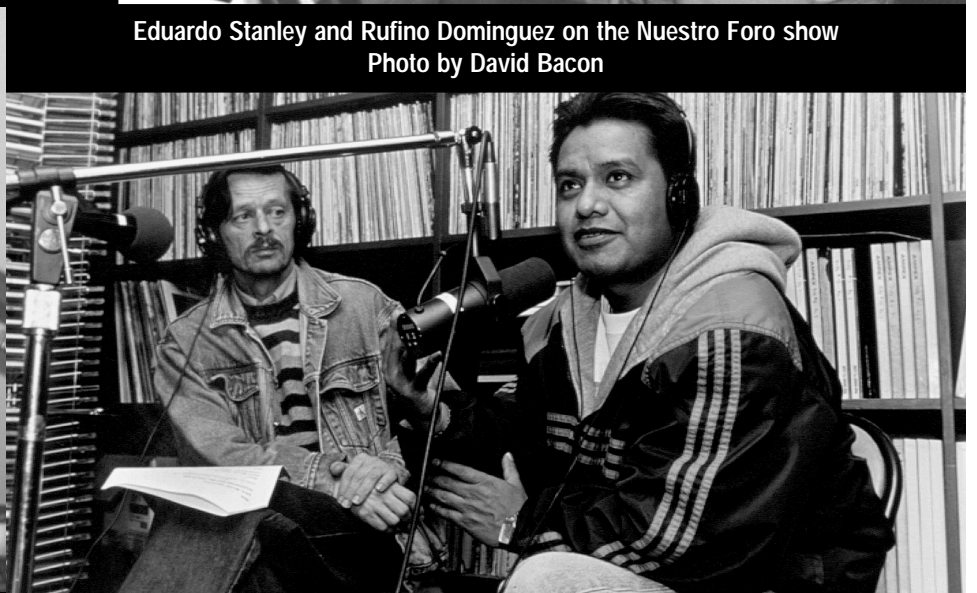
Janet Alexander Flores hosts *Art Attack* on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month



Mel Sanders from the *Valley Politics* show



KFCF staff member Cathy Lindeboom recording the weekly community calendar



Eduardo Stanley and Rufino Dominguez on the *Nuestro Foro* show  
Photo by David Bacon

## Grassroots Profile

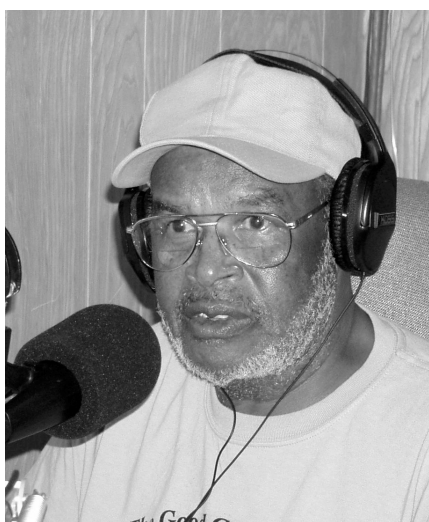
By Richard Stone

Meeting Woody Miller is like taking a ride in a slow-motion whirlpool. The pace is easy and relaxed, but before you know it you're eddying through time and space, and you end up somewhere quite different than where you expected.

I knew of Woody primarily as co-host of the weekly radio show "Politics in the African-American Community" (KFCF every Monday 3:30-4:00 PM, and the last Monday each month 8-10 PM). The Woody Miller who emerged from our meeting (twice as long as I'd anticipated, and at least twice as entertaining and illuminating) is a much more complex figure. He is a man of vision, determination, religious fervor, political passion, and entrepreneurial spirit, well-disguised within the persona of a congenial radio personality.

As we talked, the different facets of his lifework would come into focus briefly, then return into the variegated presence of "being Woody." He is simply an individual who has followed his nose and his truth where they take him, being faithful to his God, his heritage, his thirst for justice, his love of music, and (as W. E. B. DuBois expressed it) the soul of black folks. But while Woody is what used to be called in his growing-up years a race-man, he is also an internationalist who has traveled widely and appreciates integrity and beauty wherever his find them. So here he is in Fresno, California, thinking globally and acting locally.

Unravelling Woody's past revealed several strands. He has worked for years in radio, in capacities ranging from DJ to on-air pastor, from engineer to sales rep, from public relations agent to station owner and general manger. He has been a community figure: organizer of beauty pageants and musical fundraisers, proponent of church involvement in social welfare. He has been a political organizer, helping bring about district elections for City Council, running campaigns for figures including Bobby Kennedy and Jesse Jackson, advocating for the end of South African apartheid, and even running for office himself. He has taught classes



and seminars about the history of black music. And more...

But to get to the present (no easy task with Mr. Miller). . . . Across from me sits a man with sporty two-tone shoes and a broad smile. Yet as he speaks every word reflects the history of the slavery that shaped his family background producing (among many results) unshakable conviction and resolve. "We were walking and this bulldog came at us and my grandmother said, 'Don't run, don't show fear.'" Or again, "There's only one Truth: it can be broadened, but not varied." Or again, "I can't afford to not think I'll succeed."

For the third time, I ask "So, Woody, what are you working on NOW?" Important stuff, it turns out. He is "community liaison" for The Good Citizen Project. (That's what the card says. When asked what a community liaison's job is, he says, "I have no idea. I do whatever is needed.") The main enterprise is The Brother/Sister Project, a response to the horrendous toll of HIV/AIDS in the black community, especially for women 18-34 years old. A major responsibility for Woody is getting the churches to admit the problem and become involved. ("I hook up the pastors.") He is also close to setting up a Fresno office for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Martin Luther King's parent organization.

### IDENTITY BOX

Place of birth—Dermott, Arkansas  
 Ethnic background—African American male with history ("the deal was never done")  
 Religious affiliation—Christian  
 Stomping ground—all of Fresno, "but West Fresno is my heart's home"  
 People who've been an inspiration—Martin Luther King Jr., Bobby Kennedy, my grandparents, the guys in Oakland who all wanted "to become somebody"  
 Motto—"It ain't over till it's done"; "Peace does not mean quiet."  
 Nonpolitical interest—travel (including Asia, and Spain & Portugal) and meeting new people

Another—but longer term—goal is to create an African American influence in the political arena. "The days of belonging to one political party or another are gone, at least for now. We have to register undeclared and make candidates win our votes. And then we have to have voters—people need to think their participation makes a difference."

I listen to Woody conjure up stories about growing up in Arkansas, electioneering for Bobby Kennedy ("he felt the fire, he of all the Kennedys had the brains and the courage"), promoting rhythm and blues bands, fighting City Hall for necessary services and fair representation. I hear themes. His life is not marked by huge successes. He's had major setbacks in his personal and business life. He's been defeated in his run for electoral office. (It was left to his friend and ally Les Kimber to become Fresno's first elected black Councilmember.) He's seen the hopes sparked by King and the civil rights movement dim to near-extinction. But he has never failed to stake out a course of action and pursue it wholeheartedly. He has the rare courage to risk what he has to seek something higher. So it is no surprise that, when asked what readers can do to help his work, he replies: "Don't sit, let your voice be heard, get in the mix." That's Woody.

## RAISIN A RUCKUS!

### Food Not Bombs to Hold Fund Raiser

By Kelly Borkert

On Sunday, August 28, at 5:00 PM, Fresno Food Not Bombs volunteers and supporters from all corners of the community will hold a special event full of musical surprises for friends and family members. In the relaxing environment of the Full Circle Brewery, all ages will find themselves amused, astonished, and inevitably gratified by an interesting opportunity to watch Fresno artists, musicians, activists, and the community collide with truly exciting results.

The raison d'être of this particular gathering of friends is something that has been mentioned occasionally for years by concerned supporters, yet is only now beginning to materialize: a fundraiser for Fresno Food Not Bombs. One of the recent recipients of the Center for Non-Violence Way of Peace awards, Fresno Food Not Bombs is taking the initiative to resolve some of the material issues that are part and parcel of large-scale food prep when making weekly meals for 100 or more people.

Fresno Food Not Bombs has been serving quality vegetarian meals at Roeding Park every Saturday at 1:00 PM for almost ten years. The group of volunteers starts early Saturday morning cleaning and processing produce donations, cooking the beans and rice, brewing tea and preparing some of the tastiest salads in the county.

Frequently spotted at community events during the year, Fresno Food Not Bombs has participated in annual Earth Day celebrations, peace marches, civil rights events, and local progressive functions, most recently the 2005 Interfaith Alliance 4th of July breakfast.

Although the Food Not Bombs operation runs well on a shoestring, powered primarily by elbow grease and donations of food and labor from the community, kitchen expenses and equipment wear-and-tear require attention in order to sustain the current level of Food Not Bombs activity. In this respect, several community organizations, groups, and individuals are stepping forward to help Fresno FNB catch up with its own obligations and needs.

Come Sunday, August 28th, Food Not Bombs will serve vegetarian chili, tortillas, chips, salsa and non-alcoholic beverages—well worth the \$5.00 ticket and maybe even a drop in the donation bucket. However, the magic really gets going at 6:00 PM when the aptly named SWIGGLEBY MCFRITTS combo (with Josh McDonald on electric trumpet, Josh Appleby on electronic trombone, Kevin McDonald on upright bass, and Josh Fritts on drums) start spreading their nearly indescribable, always enjoyable—and best of all, interesting—electro-acoustic sculptures into the welcoming resonant space of the Full Circle Brewery. Expect to be entertained and provoked by the cosmic sonic nooks and crannies SWIGGLEBY MCFRITTS will ex-

plore—but there's more...

At 7:00 PM Blake Jones and the Trike Shop will put on one of the best shows of the summer. Another great moment in Fresno Musical History; no longer will people talk about the Stones show at Ratcliff, or Save Mart, because Blake and the Trike Shop (Leland Vander Poel on keyboard, Martin Hansen on bass, Mike Scott on guitar and the tight-as-a-drum playing of John Shafer on, what else, drums) have taken the craft of songwriting, arranging, and live performance to a place rarely traveled in this era of retro-sampled cover tunes delivered via hard drive and lip-synched to audiences kept unaware of the authentic origins of their imitation corporate swill. The Trike Shop will drag the audience, screaming and clapping, into the best part of the fertile '60s, when music meant more to its makers and listeners alike. In a combination of the intelligent, beautiful, and perverse, the influences of Brian Wilson, Ray Davies, and Frank Zappa have produced a mutant progeny determined to put creamy, clever, and catchy musical effort into the local atmosphere. And vice versa. Jones has written entire suites of highly enjoyable rock opera about his beloved hometown, and for once the word *Fresno* is used in songs compassionately and not as a punch line.

Conversations with local music scene makers invariably perk up when the name Blake Jones is mentioned. Never damned with faint praise, Jones is lauded for various aspects of his performing, musicianship, compositional abilities, and endearing quirkiness. All of which are often on display simultaneously, sometimes expressed solely through hand gestures, eliciting ethereal howls, sonorous vocalizations, and inhuman screams in response. Some form of taxpayer-funded torture? Not this time.

Blake Jones, thereminist, will be performing with the Trike Shop at 7:00 PM, August 28, at the Full Circle Brewing Company, 620 F St. in downtown Fresno, just east of 99 and just north of Ventura for the benefit of Fresno Food Not Bombs.

Food Not Bombs looks forward to seeing the entire community come together for this event, not for

the fundraising so much as the fun raising and the opportunity to gather good friends together, reward our supporters directly with food and entertainment that serves well but can only scratch the surface of FNB appreciation for a progressive community we are proud to be a part of.

Please join us between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM, August 28, for this very special event!



**FOOD NOT BOMBS**  
 FRESNO, CA

**FOOD NOT BOMBS**  
**FUN RAISIN' HARVEST**  
 FRESNO FNB FUNDRAISER  
 LIVE MUSIC, HOT CHILI & HOTTER PERFORMERS!  
 AND PLENTY OF RAISINS

**Blake Jones & the Trike Shop**  
**Swiggleby McFritts**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH**  
**5PM-8PM**  
 @ **FULL CIRCLE BREWING CO.**  
**620 F ST.**

TICKETS \$5.00 AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE  
 FOR EVENT INFORMATION CALL (559) 438-4088



# 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, August 3, Noon:**  
**Women in Black**  
Fresno County Courthouse Breeze-  
way

**Thursday, August 11:**  
**No WILPF Business Meeting**  
WILPF Congress

**Wednesday, August 10 to Sunday,**  
**August 14:**  
**WILPF Congress**  
CSU San Francisco

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**WILPF Annual Retreat**  
**September 17**  
More info to come

### WILPFer Receives Fellowship:

WILPF is excited to celebrate the success of our members. We are proud to announce that Catherine Garoupa, one of last year's social work interns and this year's branch vice president, has been awarded a Service Corps Fellowship through the American India Foundation. (For more information about the foundation or the fellowship, log on to <[www.aifoundation.org/site](http://www.aifoundation.org/site)>.)

The fellowship begins September 1, 2005, and ends June 30, 2006. Catherine will participate in two weeks of group orientation, trainings, and seminars on development issues in India, along with 21 other fellowship recipients from across the United States. For the remaining nine months of her stay in India, she will be working for the Rural Litigation and Entitlement Center (RLEK, [www.rlek.org](http://www.rlek.org)), a nongovernmental organization located in Dehradun, Uttaranchal. Catherine will be involved with RLEK's PRAGATI project, which works at the grassroots level for gender equity through informed governance. The mission of PRAGATI is "to enhance the status of women in social, economic, and political spheres through a process which aims at changing the nature and direction of systemic forces that marginalize women and other disadvantaged groups."

We at WILPF are elated that Catherine has been awarded such a wonderful opportunity, and wish her all the best on her journey. Catherine would also like to thank WILPF for the experience and support our local branch has provided. Special thanks to Vickie Fouts for writing one of her letters of recommendation for the fellowship. Questions, comments, or congratulations are welcomed and can be sent to Catherine at [cgaroupa@csufresno.edu](mailto:cgaroupa@csufresno.edu).

### New WILPF Campaigns:

As of the WILPF Congress we will have two new campaigns for 2005-2008. The first one is *Women Challenge US Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East*. WILPF's Middle East campaign will examine the role of US policy in the dynamics of current conflicts. It will educate communities to policy dimen-

sions seldom discussed regarding Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. What economic interests underlie the power struggles in the region? What US policy changes will end violence and promote justice? The campaign will work to bridge gaps, engage diverse groups in developing a women's vision for US foreign policy, and join with women in the region to claim UN Security Council Resolution 1325's promise that women's active participation can bring peaceful, democratic resolution to the conflicts. To get involved in this campaign you can contact the co-chair Odile Hugonot Haber of Ann Arbor, Michigan: (734) 761-7967 or OD4life@aol.com.

The second is *Save the Water Campaign*. Water is the earth's most precious resource. Access to safe and affordable water is a human right. Local, democratic control of water is essential for food security and peace. Everywhere accelerating privatization threatens public control over access to water while scarcity looms from overuse and pollution. WILPF's campaign starts with developing water literacy and awareness that the protection and use of water is a community issue. WILPF-fostered local water research and planning groups empower communities to take responsibility for their own water quality and availability. The campaign seeks to be a catalyst for a national mobilization to "take back the water" and move this vital resource for all life into the Public Trust. To get involved you can contact the co-chair Laura Santina of San Ramon, California: (925) 828-8184 or Lindey89@aol.com. Of the five

**Statewide Elective Executive:** In 2005, 81 women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold 25.7% of the 315 available positions (35 Democrats, 43 Republicans, and 3 nonpartisan).

**State Legislature:** In 2005, 1,662 or 22.5% of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women, (1044 Democrats, 603 Republican, 12 nonpartisan, 2 progressives, and 1 independent). Women hold 401, or 20.3%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,261, or 23.3%, of the 5,411 state house seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased more than fourfold.

Women turned out to vote in the 2004 elections at a notably higher rate than men, according to official figures released in early June by the US Bureau of the Census. The rate of voter turnout was 60.1 % for women, compared with 56.3% for men. In terms of numbers, 67.3 million women reported voting in 2004, compared with 58.5 million men, for a difference of 8.8 million. This figure is up from 2000, when 7.8 million more women than men voted. (Note: Above statistics from Center for American Women and Politics)

If women make up 51% of the population, we should be holding 51% of the public offices, not 14-26%. If in almost all areas Democrat women outnumber Republican women, we should be able to vote in more Democrat women. If 8.8 million more women voted in 2004 than men, we should be able to vote in more

women. If we want peace and social justice for all, we need to work on getting more women elected to public office. To learn more about women and politics, check out Center for American Women and Politics

<[www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu)>; The White House Project <[www.thewhitehouseproject.org](http://www.thewhitehouseproject.org)>, Emily's List <[www.emilyslist.org](http://www.emilyslist.org)>, National Women's Political Caucus <[www.nwpc.org](http://www.nwpc.org)>, American Association of University Women <[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)>.

### Time Tested Beauty Tips by Sam Levenson:

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.

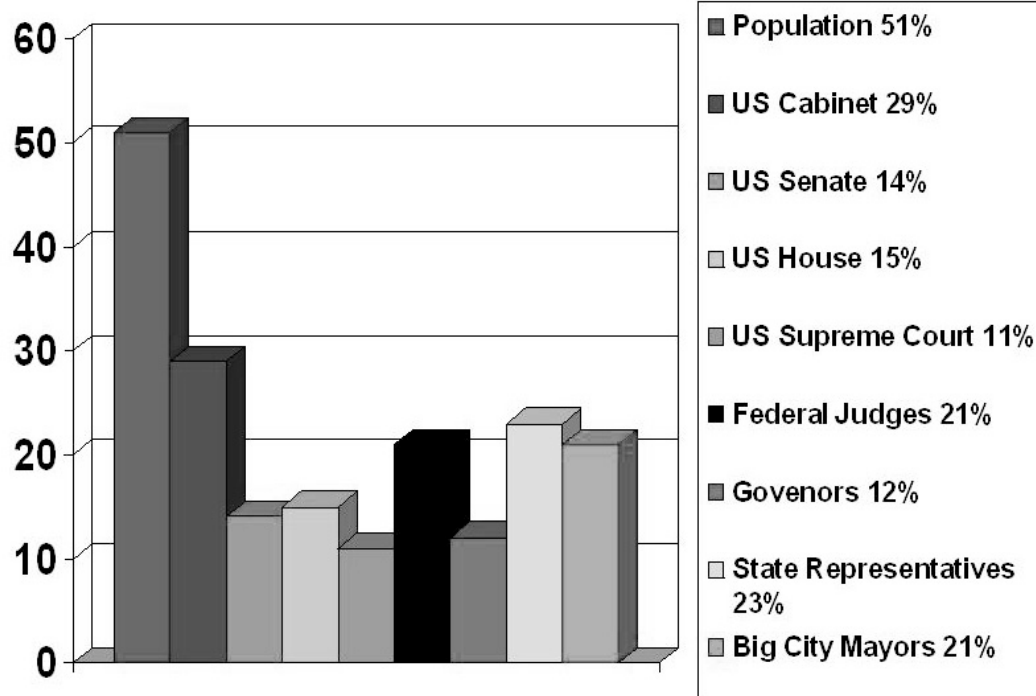
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

## Women In Politics 2005



co-chairs, two are from California. Hooray for California WILPFers.

### Women in Elected Offices 2005:

In 2005, 80 women serve in the U.S. Congress. Fourteen women serve in the Senate, and 66 women serve in the House. The number of women in statewide elective executive posts is 79, while the proportion of women in state legislatures is at 22.5 percent.

**Congress:** women hold 80, or 15.0%, of the 535 seats in the 109th US Congress:

14, or 14.0%, of the 100 seats in the Senate (9 Democrats and 5 Republicans) and 66, or 15.2%, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. In addition, three women serve as Delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC (43 Democrats and 23 Republicans).

### Quote of the Month:

The continuing wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and onward are not only about 'blood for oil': as they unfold, we will see that they are about 'blood for food,' 'blood for genes and biodiversity', and 'blood for water.' —Vandana Shiva, human rights activist, from *India Divided: Diversity and Democracy Under Attack*



# Fresno Center for Nonviolence

1584 N. Van Ness Ave., 93728 ~ [www.centerfornonviolence.com](http://www.centerfornonviolence.com) ~ email: [info@centerfornonviolence.com](mailto:info@centerfornonviolence.com)



**dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through  
SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY**

## THE WELCH REPORT

By Jack H. Welch, M.D.

### WHAT TO DO ABOUT IRAN

Winston Churchill reportedly said, "The Americans will always do the right thing, after they've exhausted all the alternatives", he could have been describing the US approach to the problem of Iran. Revelations over the past two years about Iran's nuclear program shocked the international community. The Europeans chose to engage Iran in the hope of heading off a nuclear weapons breakout strategy whereas the Bush administration remained deeply divided about how to respond.

Administration hawks favored a policy of regime change. Moderates believed that Washington should negotiate with Tehran, or support European efforts to do so. This division translated into policy paralysis for much of the Bush administration's first term.

The Bush doctrine of the pre-emptive use of military force ran into problems in Iraq where our forces are now spread so thin that a similar military option in Iran is not viable, even if it were advisable. US or Israeli air strikes to neutralize Iran's nuclear program have received much attention in the press. But Iran is beyond the reach of Israel's longest-range bomber, and, although the US is better positioned to carry out such an operation, good intelligence on the presence of WMD-- associated facilities can be elusive, as we have learned in Iraq. Iran's nuclear infrastructure is well distributed, hardened and redundant, which may now limit the ability of an air campaign to retard it.

### OTHER COUNTERPROLIFERATION MEASURES

The sophisticated nature of Iran nuclear facilities and recent revelations about the nuclear black market network run internationally by Pakistani A.Q. Khan suggest that technological denial is no longer a suitable strategy. Iran is not likely to follow the path of Libya, and simply disarm on terms favorable to the US. The US has not succeeded in fostering international support for referring Iran to the UN Security Council for sanctions. For now the Europeans are content to negotiate. Iran has insulated itself on the Security Council by extending lucrative economic opportunities to both Russia and China.

In March 2005 the Bush administration declared its support for European efforts to achieve a bargain with Iran. Washington agreed to drop its objections to Tehran's application to the World Trade Organization and to the sale of spare parts for Iran's aging commercial airliners in return for which the administration expects Iran to give up aspects of its nuclear program that can be employed to make a nuclear weapon. This decision has been hailed as a major shift in the direction of US diplomacy.

What drives Iran's WMD ambitions is the belief that only a nuclear deterrent will preserve the Islamic Republic in the face of US threats of regime change. It Iran becomes willing to trade away elements of its nuclear program, it will be in return for the kind of economic incentives and security guarantees that only the US can provide. Engagement may succeed in convincing Tehran to limit its nuclear program to the civilian realm; it may also strengthen the hand of moderates in Iran who favor liberalizing reforms. "And if Iran rejects a good faith effort at negotiation, the Bush administration will find it much easier to persuade the rest of the world that Iran's nuclear program is a threat. And in the end, engagement has something else to recommend it: it's the only alternative left." (Source: The Defense Monitor, Newsletter of the Center for Defense Information March/April 2005).

### ENCOURAGING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

"One thing the US military has no use for is a new line of nuclear warheads being designed at the US's three nuclear weapons laboratories to replace the roughly 10,000 still on hand from the overbuilding of the cold war." This is essentially a make-work project for weapons designers that risks triggering a new worldwide nuclear arms race; US nuclear creativity should be focused on convincing nations like Iran and North Korea that nuclear weapons will not enhance their own security, not on setting a contrary example. Nuclear weapons are extremely ill-suited for most battlefield situations; there are almost always more efficient ways to destroy purely military targets. The US arsenal no longer serves its cold war purpose of deterrence. Now is an era of conventional combat against lesser military powers, of counterinsurgency operations against terrorists. US technological supremacy flow finds its most effective military expressions in "smart" conventional weapons.

Since late last year our nuclear labs have been instructed to design a new line of heavier nuclear warheads that would be more rugged and long lasting than those now available; for now the programs limited to design, not construction and testing. But once the designs are complete the pressure to test the bombs is sure to mount, then calls to spend trillions of dollars for new missiles to carry these heavier nuclear warheads. "This program sends a clear message to the rest of the world; Now that the superpower arms race has ended, Washington sees nuclear weapons as an important military strategy against small and midsized states. It should be no surprise if those nations conclude that they must develop nuclear weapons of their own." (Source: Editorial, The New York Times Feb. 10, 2005).

**This report reflects personal opinion but is consistent with the agenda of the FCNV. It is based upon mail from peace and justice centers around California, and at times upon other print sources.**

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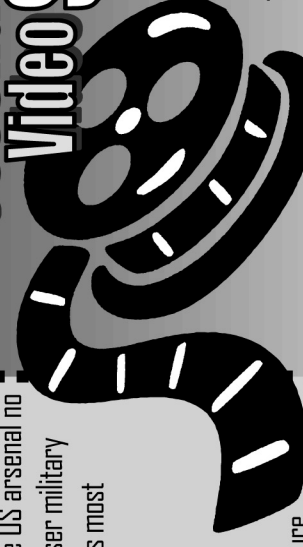
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## Host Organization

**to many non-profit groups in the Fresno community. We provide a safe meeting place and media resources to the groups using our facility, including:**

- Youth Link
- Rondalla
- CHAANGE
- MECA
- Death Penalty Focus
- Central California Institute
- Peace Fresno
- WILPF
- FACTS
- Prison Moratorium Project
- CCCIC

## Fresno Center for Nonviolence Second Wednesday Video Series:



Independent, original documentaries. Learn what you're missing from mainstream media.

**SHOWING AUGUST 10:  
"Witness"**

"Growing up in Brooklyn, there was a lot of blood and guts, a lot of machismo.... Kids grew up to learn violence." With humor and sincerity, Eddie Lama tells the story of his remarkable change in consciousness, sharing realities of the meat and fur industries. In this award-winning documentary, Eddie explains how he feared and avoided animals for most of his life, until the love of a kitten opened his heart, inspiring him to rescue abandoned animals, become a vegetarian, and ultimately, to bring his message of compassion to the streets of New York. 43 min.

**7:30 PM - Discussion to follow - 1584 Van Ness**



# Parental Notification Puts Pregnant Teens at Risk: VOTE NO ON PROP 73

By Michelle Colvin

The November 8 special election brings with it a potentially deadly ballot measure that threatens the privacy and safety of young women in California. The Parental Notification Initiative, otherwise called "A Parent's Right to Know," is a proposition that seeks to amend the California Constitution, forcing desperate pregnant teens to notify their parents before they are allowed to obtain their constitutionally given rights to seek abortion services. It would also mandate a 48-hour waiting period before the abortion can be performed, even after the parents of the young woman have been notified. Further, it would criminalize young women who misrepresent their age in order to obtain an abortion.

Proponents of this initiative say that parental notification and consent laws "help foster family unity" by encouraging "greater communication between parents and their daughters." Evidence from other states with similar laws indicates that this couldn't be further from the truth. Research has shown that 50 percent of teenage girls who get abortions already seek counsel from their parents. However, the other half aren't going to tell their parents anything, whether or not this draconian stricture is in place.

Do we really want a constitutional amendment that will tell a 16-year-old girl who was raped by her father that she has to tell him before she has an abortion? Do we honestly think it's in a girl's best interest to tell the mother who has been beating her unconscious since she was five that she's pregnant and needs an abortion?

Young women who do not feel that they can tell their parents have very good reasons not to. They are afraid of the disapproval, rejection, and often abusive situations that they will encounter should they do so. This law is not only irresponsible and unsafe: it's criminal. So criminal in fact that the California State Supreme Court overturned a similar law on the books in 1997 as unconstitutional, a violation of the right to privacy, and a threat to safety.

For that 50 percent who will avoid informing their parents no matter what the consequences, the only other legal option is a "judicial bypass." Obtaining a judicial bypass is a daunting, unrealistic and humiliating process for young women, who during the process must share the most intimate details of their personal lives with dozens of strangers. The young woman is then forced to prove that she is mature enough to decide the fate of her own body. If it is decided by this judge (most often a white male, which definitely brings in race and gender issues) that she is not competent enough to make decisions for herself, her request is denied, and her only option (or rather, her option in other states) would be to appeal. However, because this ballot measure would be an

amendment to the California Constitution, there is no appeal process on the state level. Just the time involved in getting this bypass can also endanger the lives of the women, as delays from days to sometimes weeks can push a woman into the second trimester of her pregnancy, where abortions become more dangerous to her health.

The chances of even getting a judicial bypass depend on the judge and the district. A young woman's chances of being confronted by an anti-choice judge are great, and the humiliation of being denied her petition can be overwhelming.

Of course there are the girls who are so desperate to end their pregnancies that they will go to any lengths they can find to do it. This means back-alley and self-induced abortions, which can in many cases leave a woman incapable of bearing any future children, and which also have the potential to kill them. Botched abortions kill a woman every three minutes in countries around the world where abortions are illegal. In parts of Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia where abortion is illegal, at least 50 percent of the beds in hospital wards are filled with women who either seek deadly back-alley methods or have taken crochet hooks, knitting needles, and coat hangers to their uteruses to end their pregnancies.

We'd like to happen again

We'd like to be just a part of our history, fully in our still in our it will most our futures if legislative at-

trol women's decisions. Parental notification initiatives are the first step to overturning Roe v. Wade. With the retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor from the Supreme Court, and the nomination of another pro-life Bush judge on the horizon, the threat of losing our constitutional right to safe and legal abortion is barreling towards us like a bullet train. This is not something we can wait for someone else to take care of, and it is our responsibility to stop it now.

Not one progressive organization in California supports this initiative. In fact, it is opposed by groups like Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice California, the ACLU, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and many more. The three major donors behind this initiative are hard-core conservative, big-business Catholics who spent more than \$1.5 million to get this measure on the ballot. Some say that they're



think this can't in our country.

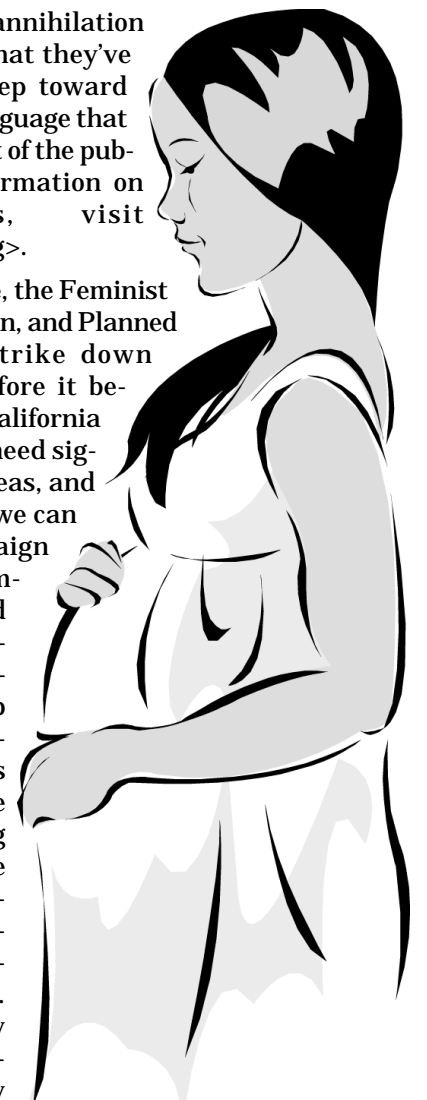
think that it dark spot on but it isn't past: It is present, and likely be in we don't stop tempts to con-

personal decisions. Parental notification initiatives are the first step to overturning Roe v. Wade. With the retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor from the Supreme Court, and the nomination of another pro-life Bush judge on the horizon, the threat of losing our constitutional right to safe and legal abortion is barreling towards us like a bullet train. This is not something we can wait for someone else to take care of, and it is our responsibility to stop it now.

looking for a total annihilation of Roe v. Wade; what they've drafted is first step toward that goal, using language that is palatable to most of the public. For more information on these donors, visit <[www.ppaction.org](http://www.ppaction.org)>.

Please join with me, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and Planned Parenthood to strike down Proposition 73 before it becomes part of the California Constitution. We need signatures, bodies, ideas, and donations so that we can spearhead a campaign on the CSUF campus to get the word out about the dangers of this proposition. We can stop this and keep California, the nation's most pro-choice state, from being flattened under the steamroller of religious fundamentalism and right-wing-dictated morality. Of course healthy and open communication in the family is the best possible scenario. But many families fall short of this ideal, and this truth must be acknowledged. The government cannot legislate communication, nor should we let them get anywhere close to trying. The basic truth is this: women, no matter their age, will get abortions if they need them. They will seek them out and have them performed regardless of the risk. There is no law that can regulate or mitigate a women's desperation when she is carrying a pregnancy that she doesn't want or feels she cannot have.

If you can help, or would like to start a campaign on your own campus, please contact Michelle Colvin at [mveritycolvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mveritycolvin@sbcglobal.net) or (559) 804-1660. All information obtained from the Feminist Majority Foundation <[www.feministmajority.org](http://www.feministmajority.org)> and Planned Parenthood <[www.ppaction.org](http://www.ppaction.org)>. To view the initiative for yourself, you can see the pdf version at <[www.parentalnotification.org](http://www.parentalnotification.org)>.



## Continued from page 3

Obviously, such a no-parole policy means that no murder offender can get a fair hearing as the law requires. If you can deny a prisoner "suitability" solely on the basis of the crime, you can deny him forever. The crime won't change. The parole law is based on the idea that prisoners can change, and possibly are no longer a danger to public safety. It is well established that a murder offender rarely repeats a crime, once released.

In fact, a statistic that is never released to the media by state government or the Department of Corrections is the recidivism rate for old-school lifers: less than one half of one percent. The recidivism numbers usually proffered to the public are the (much higher) numbers for crackheads and an assortment of petty thieves who are constantly in and out of prison. State government, prison officials, and the California Correctional Peace Officer's Association (CCPOA) have mastered the art of deception when it comes to informing the public of the truth regarding old-school lifers and the Board of Prison Terms.

In a recent San Francisco Chronicle editorial (July 1, 2005), it was written that "[Governor] Schwarzenegger, by contrast, has released 96 lifers on parole since taking office — 77 in 2004 alone. His decision to break with his predecessors represents a courageous political act."

This has provoked scorn from the guard's union and some victim's groups. Schwarzenegger's actions are a step in the right direction but his focus should also be directed to the BPT and why they continue to deny paroles for old-school lifers.

Willie Thomas has stepped up in an attempt to shed some much-needed light on the illegal practices of the California Board of Prison Terms, which have been condoned and perpetuated for fifteen years, and justified as being harmless or of little importance.

You'll have a hard time convincing Willie that there has been no harm done. On December 27, 2004, he was once denied parole for the fourteenth time. Willie has long since stopped pleading for a release date. Like the remainder of the aging TLPs, Willie only pleads for a fair parole hearing before he becomes part of a statistic that never had a shot at a fair and impartial parole hearing. Willie's next appearance will be in 2008. He will have been behind bars for 37 years.

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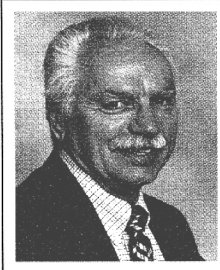
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# THE KIDNAPPING OF A NEWSPAPER

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As we go to press, 31 people—many of them journalists—have been trapped in their offices at a Oaxacan newspaper for more than a month. Pacific News Service contributor Eduardo Stanley explores the standoff. Stanley hosts the bilingual *Nuestro Foro* weekly radio program every Wednesday at 7 PM on KFCF in Fresno, California.

**BY EDUARDO STANLEY, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE**  
**Translated by Daffodil Altan and Peter Micek**

FRESNO, California—Since 2000, 16 journalists have been assassinated or “disappeared” in Mexico, according to the organization Journalists Without Borders. Five of those cases have occurred this year. But on the morning of June 16, a new wave of aggression against the press took shape when a Oaxacan newspaper was violently taken over by a mob of people pretending to be striking workers from the paper.

“More than 100 plainclothes police officers, street-fighters, and others participated in the assault,” said journalist César Morales, a reporter for the besieged newspaper *Noticias*.

The takeover trapped 31 press workers—among them reporters, graphic designers and administrators—inside their newspaper’s building. The group has been stranded inside for a month now, without permission to leave or to receive visitors or food.

“This is a unique situation worldwide—not even Al Jazeera lived through something like this after the North American invasion of Iraq,” Morales said by phone. “The extraordinary part about this is that the people who have taken over the building are protected by the state police and they are constantly threatening that they will set the building on fire.” Many believe that the mob is taking orders from a local politician who is both a representative in the state legislature and union boss.

*Noticias* is Oaxaca’s biggest newspaper, publishing nearly 20,000 copies a day and employing 102 unionized workers in addition to dozens of administrative positions. Employees of the paper and human rights groups say action against the paper was taken because of the independent outlet’s critical reporting on local and state government, which is comprised largely of members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Fox’s party defeated the PRI in the 2000 election, but the PRI remains powerful in many parts of Mexico.

“In Oaxaca, perpetual repression against organizations and activists is common, and what is happening with *Noticias* is part of the PRI’s political coercion,” said Leocencio Vásquez, a member of the Coalition of Binational Organizations, headquartered in Fresno.

“There is no doubt that this is the school of the PRI—repressive and brutal,” said Mireya Olivera, who is Oaxacan and the editor of *Impulso* magazine in Los Angeles.

Oaxaca is one of the poorest states in Mexico. It is also marked by a massive migrant exodus. Waves of people leave Oaxaca yearly in search of work in other parts of Mexico or in the United States. With nearly 3.5 million inhabitants and 16 indigenous groups, Oaxaca has the highest rate of illiteracy in Mexico, and 95 percent of the state’s budget comes from the federal government. The state government rarely publicizes its management of federal funds.

The decisive attack against *Noticias*—and the murky sequence of events following—began when a PRI congressperson intervened during the paper’s labor negotiations. After negotiating a new labor contract, where workers had accepted a 5 percent salary increase, the PRI’s Oaxacan state congressman, David Aguilar, said he represented the workers and denied the agreement. He demanded an immediate 25 percent increase and staged a strike, but none of the “strikers” work at the newspaper. A few days ago, Aguilar announced that he would let the *Noticias* workers go if the paper stops publishing.

“The Mexican federal government refuses to intervene, arguing that it is a local problem,” Morales says. “Nevertheless, the assailants have high-caliber weapons and this is kidnapping.”

On June 19, the newspaper’s electricity and telephones were cut, but services were later restored.

“This is an attempt to silence a critical, independent media, something that the dominant PRI bosses cannot accept,” said Genaro Altamirano, sub-director of *Noticias* and one of the sequestered journalists.

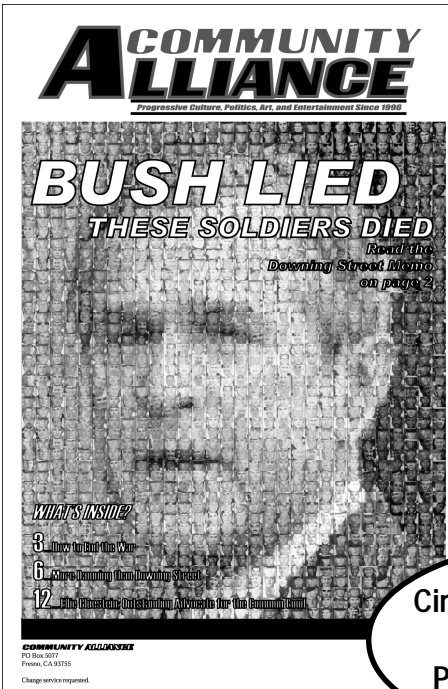
Surprisingly, *Noticias* is still publishing daily. “We work from inside and those on the outside also do their work,” Morales said. “Everything is sent to another place where it is printed and distributed.” He did not give any more details.

“In Oaxaca, journalists feel a lot of pressure, and the government wants to control what is said,” says Olivera, who worked in print and radio in his home state before immigrating to California. “In many cases, the press censors itself—it’s part of our culture of ideological dependence.”

In last year’s elections, *Noticias* supported candidate Gabino Cué of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), who lost under suspicious circumstances—the votes were not tabulated, and a local judge decided the result. This, critics said, accelerated the PRI’s attempts to eliminate the newspaper. In Oaxaca, traditional political bosses still dominate, and the PRI’s hierarchy is part of the intimate circle of the party’s 2006 presidential candidate, Roberto Madruzo, who has been criticized for corruption and manipulation.

On June 22, almost 10,000 people marched in Oaxaca City in support of the sequestered journalists. The following day, the Inter American Press Association asked Mexican national and state authorities to guarantee the security of the workers. On June 27, Amnesty International sent a global Urgent Action request with the same objective. But the federal government has not responded. On June 30, the Committee to Protect Journalists called on Oaxacan Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz to end the newspaper blockade.

“This is not a simple political skirmish, it is an attempt by the [state] government to erase the independent and critical press,” Olivera said. “It is a war.”



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# ??WHAT TO DO?? AROUND TOWN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Yah Mon! It's time once again to kick off your shoes, relax on the lawn and listen to an evening of music under the stars with family and friends!

It's the Tower District's 8th Annual Jamaica My Weekend - Caribbean Music Celebration!

This wonderful family event will be held across from St. Therese Church on the Southwest corner of Maroa and Floradora in Fresno, California.

Jamaica My Weekend Co-promoter Wendy Russell has searched the world of reggae for the finest musical acts available. We know you will not be disappointed!

**Don't miss out!**

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Admission price is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the gate, children 9 and under free with paid adult admission.

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Please, No Outside Food or Drink  
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Tickets are available at:  
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## FULTON PLAZA THURSDAYS

Music Calendar For August

**August 4 - Arthop Night**  
• Armen Nalbandian

**August 11 - Irish/Celtic Music Night**  
• Roscanna  
• McTeggart's Irish Dancers  
• Fresneaux Ramblers

**August 18 - FPT Goes Country**  
• Running Iron

**August 25 - Classic Car Show**  
• Deja Blues  
• 3 Guys Playin' the Blues

**September 1 - Art Hop Night & The Grand Finale!**

• Fulton Plaza Thursdays Allstars -  
Featuring the best bands of the Summer.  
List of bands and soloists to be provided.

For more info contact:  
Ruth Saludes, Fulton Plaza Thursdays  
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The Downtown Association of Fresno  
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**Wednesday, August 10, 2005**  
**ADOLESCENTS,  
THE BRIGGS,  
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DEK**

Big Game Studios • 1533 E Belmont  
8pm • cost: \$8

ADOLESCENTS, The Briggs, Angel City Outcasts, DEK. Legendary Orange County old-school punks hit Fresno for the 1st time. All Ages <http://tinypic.com/643tld>

**Monday Nights in August**  
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A showcase for up and coming local talent and an opportunity for budding musicians, writers and other performers to take the stage in front of an appreciative audience. 12 to 15 performers per night, 2 songs or 5 minutes for each performer. Sign-ups start at 9:30 and fill up quickly. Cash prize (a portion of the door) is awarded each week to the outstanding performer. All Ages/Full Bar open to 21 and over with ID!  
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[sunmt.org/july16chron05.html](http://sunmt.org/july16chron05.html)

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Futureshockk is held on the Last Sunday of every month at club Dance in addition to random Futureshockk / fresnogothevents on other nights of the month. Check the website and sign up for the news letter for updates and announcements.

club info line: (559) 778-1313  
<http://www.fresnogothevents.com/nightlife.htm>

**See BUSH forests**  
[sunmt.org/july8chron05.html](http://sunmt.org/july8chron05.html)

# COMMUNITY ACTION

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday, August 4 • 5 - 8 PM

As Terry Allen, former Fresno artist and musician, says in a song, "The Art Mob's Out Tonight"— and that night would be the first Thursday of every month, at various locations around Fresno.

You can see a variety of styles, perspectives, and media: contemporary expressionist, abstract expressionist, conceptual, painting, collage, assemblage, sculpture, photography, and more.

Some of our local talented artists include Robert Ogata, Dal Henderson, and Jane Whitehurst at the Bus Barn Studios, at 701 L Street; Steve Dzerigian, Sally Stallings, and others at Corridor 2122, at 2122 Mono; Richard Silva and Dixie Salazar at Silva/Salazar Studios, at 654 Van Ness; and a number of featured artists for July at Gallery 25 at 660 Van Ness, including James Hawks and Carol Takijian; Manuel Vesare, Glenn Delpitt, Brianna Johnson, and Stephanie Pearl at Fig Tree Gallery, at 644 Van Ness. Come out and join the art mob on First Thursdays; enjoy some wine, a cracker or two, and a "Truckload of Art" (Terry Allen again). Many other studios are also taking part in Art Hop in Fresno. For more information contact Maria Franco at [mfranco@fresnoarts.org](mailto:mfranco@fresnoarts.org) or (559) 237-9734. Also see: <http://www.fresnoarts.org/>

### Friday, August 5 • 6:30-8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents singer/songwriter Travis Oberg in a concert of his peace and justice music. Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 PM. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on L Street between 12th and 13th Streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen at [dfriesen@telis.org](mailto:dfriesen@telis.org).

### Saturday, August 6 • 3-5 PM

"Eight Levels of Self Mastery—from Hatha Yoga to Meditation." Sister Mary Friedland from San Francisco Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center will speak at the monthly meeting of Women of Spirit. The group meets at 7319 N Fourth, Fresno. Sister Mary is a certified yoga instructor from the Iyengar Yoga Institute in San Francisco, and is also a meditation teacher and facilitator. For details call (559) 435-2212.

### Wednesday, August 10 • 7:30 PM

FREE—Monthly video series, second Wednesday of every month at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, southeast corner of McKinley and Van Ness. The documentary *Witness* will be shown. Growing up in Brooklyn, for Eddie Lama there was a lot of blood and guts, a lot of machismo. Kids grew up to learn violence. With humor and sincerity, Eddie tells the story of his remarkable change in consciousness, sharing realities of the meat and fur industries. In this award-winning documentary, Eddie explains how he feared and avoided animals for most of his life, until the love of a kitten opened his heart, inspiring him to rescue abandoned animals, become a vegetarian, and ultimately, to bring his message of compassion to the streets of New York.

43 min. Discussion to follow. Free admission but donations are welcome. For more information call the Center at 237-3223 or Angela at 435-6383. \*NOTE: There will be one showing only, at 7:30 PM. There will be NO noontime showing during summer months.

### Friday, August 12 • 5 PM and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents the French comedy-drama *Look at Me* at the Tower Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theater Box Office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door: \$10; \$8 for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org).

### Sunday, August 14 • 5-10 PM

The 8th Annual Jamaica My Weekend will take place on the St. Therese Church lawn. St Therese is located at 855 E Floradora at Wishon. The headliner is Prezident Brown from Jamaica; other bands include Elijah Emmanuel and the Revelations from SoCal; King Sugar, Reggae, Rock Steady, Ska band from Fresno and MC Red I from Santiago, Chile. Tickets are \$12 advance and \$15 at the gate; children 9 and under are free with paid adult admission. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair. Tickets should be on sale at local nightspots and restaurants by the end of July. You can also get your tickets at The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness.

### Monday, August 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the September 2005 *Community Alliance* newspaper. Send information to [AllianceEditor@Comcast.net](mailto:AllianceEditor@Comcast.net).

### Thursday, August 18 • 5:30-7:30 PM

The National Women's Political Caucus of Fresno County will host an annual fundraising dinner at Pardini's in Fresno [DNS Mike, we need the address. -BJ]. State Attorney General Bill Lockyer, the keynote speaker, will honor four members of law enforcement for excellence and innovation. Tickets cost \$75 and are available at the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, Fresno; or mail a check payable to NWPC to 5200 N Palm, Suite 202, Fresno, CA 93704.] The event dovetails with the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Call 225-3116 for more information.

### Friday, August 19 • Sunset

Noches in the Plaza: Lyquid Amber & Tocanto (a Brazilian group) will perform at Arte Americas, la casa de la cultura, 1630 Van Ness, Fresno. \$10 tickets; call (559) 266-2623 for credit card purchases. Food and beverages available.

### Sunday, August 28 • 5 PM

Fresno Food Not Bombs volunteers and supporters from all corners of the community will hold a special event full of musical surprises for friends and family members. In the relaxing environment of the Full Circle Brewery all ages will find themselves amused, astonished, and inevitably gratified by an interesting oppor-

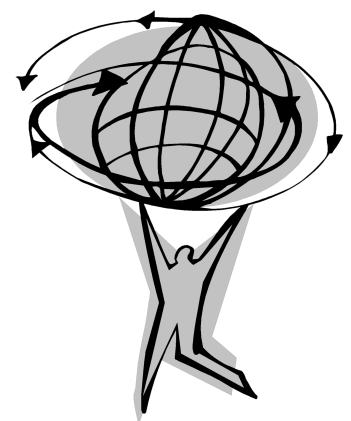
tunity to watch Fresno artists, musicians, activists and the community collide with truly exciting results. Full Circle Brewery is located at 620 F St, downtown Fresno.

### Saturday, September 10 • 11 AM

Peace Fresno is sponsoring a march called "Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone!" The group will march in downtown Fresno from the Fresno Unified School District Office, at the corner of Tulare & M Streets, to the military recruiter office at 2020 Tulare (less than a mile). Marching from the school district office to a military recruiter office symbolizes the schools' role in filling the ranks of the military. Suggested signs are Opt-Out Now!, Protect Your Privacy from Recruiters!, Books Not Bombs!, and, of course, Military Recruiters, Leave My Child Alone! As students are the focus of NCLB we are hoping they will be a focus of the march. So students, get your school involved, make your signs, plan your street theater, bring your drums, and get in front, because we don't want to "leave any child behind." For more information contact [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org).

### Sunday, September 11

The San Francisco Mime Troupe comes to Roeding Park and performs their show *Doing Good*. Admission free, donations welcome. *Doing Good* was inspired by the recent book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. Dan Chumley, actor and principal director with the collective from 1968-2000, provided a scenario based on the book's descriptions of the author's work in foreign countries. Perkins' job was to persuade countries that are strategically important to the United States to accept enormous loans for infrastructure development and then contract these lucrative projects out to US corporations. With that as the backdrop, the Mime Troupe writing team set off on its script creation. The writing team is led by collective members Keiko Shimosato and Ellen Callas, with Erin Blackwell and Jeffrey Morris. Collective members Bruce Barthol and Amos Glick are the lyricists. Designers are Callie Floor, Amber Miller and I Made Moja. Victor Toman directs actors Christian Cagigal, Michael Carreiro, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Keiko Shimosato, Michael Sullivan, Noah James Butler, and Brian Rivera. "The collective worked hard to find the kind of story we felt was relevant to who we are as Americans in the world today," said the Mime Troupe's general manager, Peggy Rose. "We wanted to tell a larger story of how America has earned the reputation it now has. It wasn't enough for us to focus on Washington and the White House. That was too easy." For more information see [www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org).



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## Ozomatli Coming to Fresno

By Tudor Stanley



On August 4, Ozomatli, a band known for their blend of salsa, jazz, funk, hip-hop, and even Middle Eastern music, will bring their diverse music to the Rainbow Ballroom. This concert is guaranteed to be a night of shaking and moving.

Ozomatli, meaning "God of Dance" in Aztec, formed in Los Angeles in the mid 1990s. Starting out with performances at small music clubs, word soon got out about their eclectic live shows, which usually end with the members jumping into the crowd and starting a conga line. It wasn't long before the band released their self-titled debut in 1998 to praise from critics and music fans alike.

However, there is more to Ozomatli's rhythmic music: Many of their lyrics can be as politically conscious as Rage Against the Machine's. Ozomatli's latest CD, *Street Signs*, released in 2004, features songs such as "Who's to Blame," criticizing the Bush Administration and corporate America's involvement in the Iraq war.

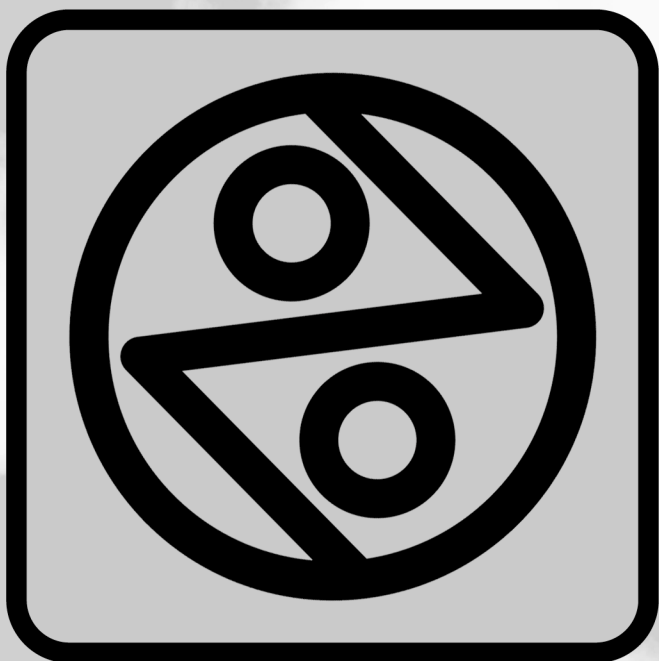
The band has also performed for numerous benefit shows and has supported causes such as the Immokalee workers' Taco Bell boycott. Through their concerts and Web site <[www.ozomatli.com](http://www.ozomatli.com)>, the band tries to get their fans to be more politically active.

The year 2005 marks Ozomatli's 10-year anniversary. In that time they have recorded three records and one EP, won two Grammys, recorded and toured with the likes of Carlos Santana and Los Lonely Boys, and performed around the world. Yet, they have never made a stop in Fresno.

This is your chance to see the band that perfectly reflects the multiracial and multicultural One World demographics of the twenty-first century. Ask anyone who has ever attended an Ozomatli show, and they will tell you with enthusiasm what a great time they had. Whether you are a fan of reggae, jam bands, rock, or Latin music, there's no reason for you to miss out on this cultural block party.

Tickets are only \$20 and may be bought wherever Ticketmaster is available. Be sure to listen to *Nuestro Foro* (Wednesdays, 7 PM) and *Move on Up* (Fridays, 7 PM), both on KFCF 88.1, for your chance at winning ticket giveaways.

The writer can be reached at [vanillaeye@yahoo.com](mailto:vanillaeye@yahoo.com).



# OZOMATLI

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### Continued from page 11

under federal marijuana laws. On June 9 the Attorney General's office issued a bulletin to law enforcement clarifying that the Supreme Court decision did not affect state law, and that California law enforcement agencies should continue to not arrest nor prosecute individuals acting legally under the Compassionate Use Act.

Americans for Safe Access is developing lawsuits against other localities that they say are restricting safe and legal access to medical marijuana patients. In addition to the six existing cities that have permanent bans—Fresno, San Rafael, Lincoln, Rocklin, Murrieta, and Yuba City—Amador County passed an ordinance on June 21, 2005, which permanently bans dispensing, becoming the first county to enact a dispensing collective ban. Three other locales are reported by ASA to be illegally restricting patient access under state law: Lafayette, Costa Mesa, and Roseville. Lafayette has never enacted a moratorium and has never passed an ordinance, though the city manager says they will deny any request for permit for a medical marijuana dispensary. According to a June 24 article in the *Contra Costa Times*: "Federal law trumps state law, and federal law prohibits the use of marijuana," said City Manager Steve Falk. Any applications to start a medical marijuana dispensary would be denied on those grounds, he said. Costa Mesa, which did not have a moratorium, was scheduled to vote July 5 on whether or not to permanently ban dispensing. Roseville, which had a dispensing ordinance, recently repealed it, and is now considering enacting a permanent ban.

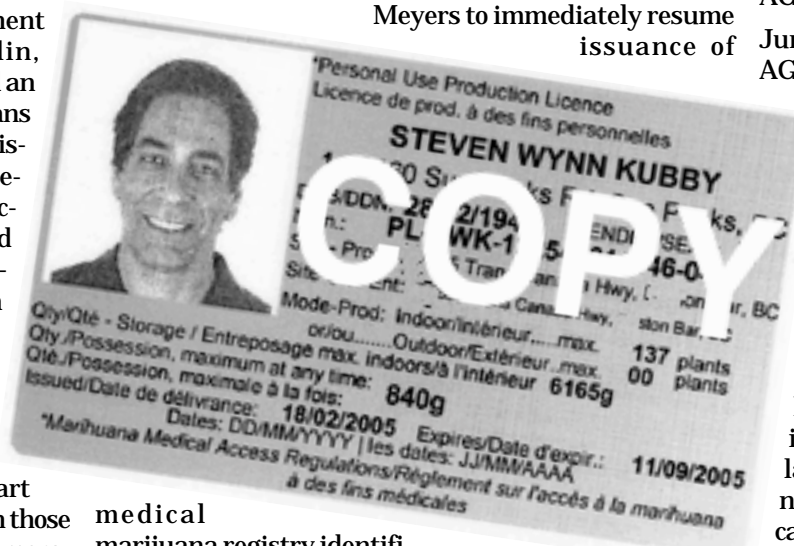
### July 8, 2005: State Officials Order MMJ ID Program Halt Despite Legal Opinions—Advocates Are Confident It Will Only Be Temporary

Medical marijuana patients and supporters across the state called in protest to Governor Schwarzenegger, after learning that the California Department of Health Services (DHS) suspended implementation of the long-awaited voluntary ID program for patients and caregivers.

A letter sent by the Department of Health to county health departments cites the Raich decision as the reason, stating, "Although California's Compassionate Use

Act and SB 420 were not directly affected by the Court's decision, the ruling raises questions whether the State can lawfully conduct an identification card program that facilitates violation of the Controlled Substances Act." DHS has suspended the program until California Attorney General Bill Lockyer issues an opinion.

Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) suspended its mandatory medical marijuana ID system after the Raich ruling on June 6, and ten days later was instructed by Oregon Attorney General Hardy Meyers to immediately resume issuance of



medical marijuana registry identification cards to qualified applicants. AG Meyers stated that, "The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act remains valid state law. As a result, DHS continues to be responsible for maintaining a program for the issuance of the cards pursuant to the terms of the Act."

Advocates say they are confident that the law is on their side, and are calling on California officials to move quickly. "The governor should order DHS to resume the ID program," said Steph Sherer, director of Americans for Safe Access, the nation's largest medical marijuana rights group. "The ID card system is just an extension of verifying doctors' recommendations, which was already determined in the Conant decision to not constitute 'aiding and abetting.' DHS needs to get up to speed on the law."

Attorney General Lockyer has now issued at least three official statements since the Gonzales vs. Raich ruling,

all affirming that state laws, including the one that mandates the voluntary ID program, remain unchanged by the ruling, and that California officials may not use this ruling to ignore the protections afforded qualified medical marijuana patients by the Compassionate Use Act and SB420. To read these, go to the Web sites:

June 6 statement—<http://caag.state.ca.us/newsalerts/2005/05-040.htm>

June 9 bulletin—[http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/AG\\_Raich\\_Bulletin1.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/AG_Raich_Bulletin1.pdf)

June 22 bulletin—[http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/AG\\_Raich\\_Bulletin2.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/AG_Raich_Bulletin2.pdf)

The voluntary medical marijuana ID system was mandated in the passage of SB 420 in September 2003, and was designed to alleviate ongoing tension between law enforcement and patients. The program was slow to receive funding, and had only started a month ago in just a few counties. All counties are scheduled to commence their programs by the end of the year.

Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and Oakland have long had independent ID card systems, and these remain in operation. [Editor's note: ID cards from the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative are widely recognized by medical cannabis dispensaries and many local law enforcement officials throughout California. For more information, go to <<http://rxcbc.org>>.]

**California NORML** <<http://canorml.org>> (415) 563-5858

California NORML is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to reforming California's marijuana laws. Our mission is to establish the right of adults to use cannabis legally.

**Marijuana Policy Project: California** <<http://mpp.org/CA>>

With more than 17,000 dues-paying members and more than 150,000 e-mail subscribers, the Marijuana Policy Project is the largest marijuana policy reform organization in the United States.

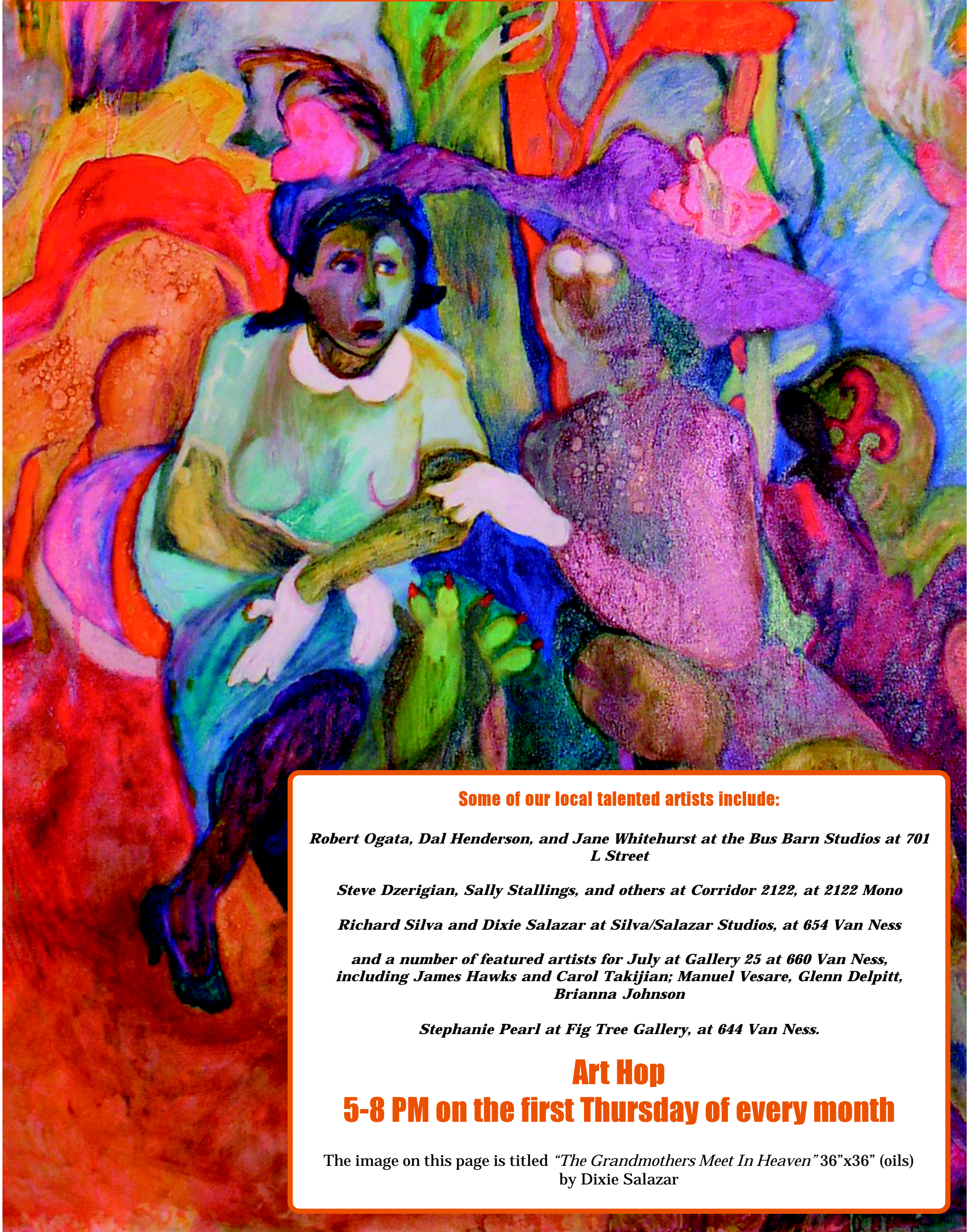
## "The Art Mob's Out Tonight": First Thursdays

As Terry Allen, former Fresno artist and musician, says in a song, "The Art Mob's Out Tonight"— and that night would be the first Thursday of every month, at various locations around Fresno.

You can see a variety of styles, perspectives, and media: contemporary expressionist, abstract expressionist, conceptual, painting, collage, assemblage, sculpture, photography, and more.

Come out and join the art mob on First Thursdays; enjoy some wine, a cracker or two, and a "Truckload of Art" (Terry Allen again). Many other studios are also taking part in Art Hop in Fresno.

For more information contact Maria Franco at [mfranco@fresnoarts.org](mailto:mfranco@fresnoarts.org) or (559) 237-9734.



### Some of our local talented artists include:

*Robert Ogata, Dal Henderson, and Jane Whitehurst at the Bus Barn Studios at 701 L Street*

*Steve Dzerigian, Sally Stallings, and others at Corridor 2122, at 2122 Mono*

*Richard Silva and Dixie Salazar at Silva/Salazar Studios, at 654 Van Ness*

*and a number of featured artists for July at Gallery 25 at 660 Van Ness, including James Hawks and Carol Takijian; Manuel Vesare, Glenn Delpitt, Brianna Johnson*

*Stephanie Pearl at Fig Tree Gallery, at 644 Van Ness.*

### Art Hop

**5-8 PM on the first Thursday of every month**

The image on this page is titled "The Grandmothers Meet In Heaven" 36" x36" (oils) by Dixie Salazar