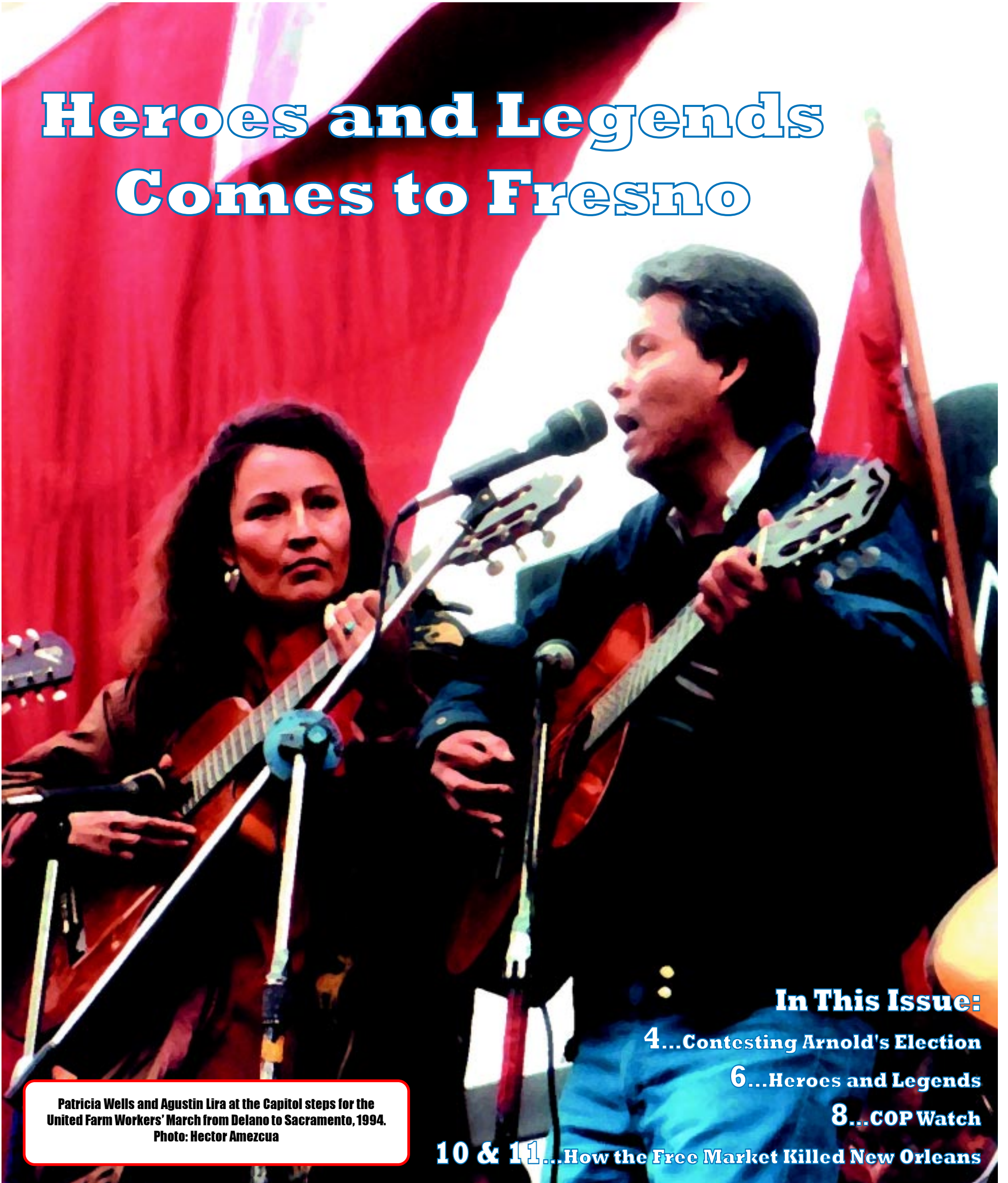


A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Progressive Culture, Politics, Art, and Entertainment Since 1996

Heroes and Legends Comes to Fresno



Patricia Wells and Agustin Lira at the Capitol steps for the
United Farm Workers' March from Delano to Sacramento, 1994.
Photo: Hector Amezcua

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OCTOBER 2005

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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The Community Alliance is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental, & economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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No Prison Academy in Stockton!

By Lani Riccobuono

Two years ago, the Northern California Women’s Facility in Stockton was shut down. This was an amazing occurrence given the rampant growth of prison building in California (20 new prisons since 1984); this was the first time in memory that a state prison was closed. Residents of the Valley and anti-prison activists have been working hard ever since to ensure that the prison stays closed. Community groups held a re-design forum last fall where people who live in Stockton could share their ideas about what the closed prison could be used for. While people had many positive ideas about new resources for Stockton—schools, community spaces, farmworker support centers—no one had envisioned what the state has in mind: a training academy for prison guards. While almost any use of the land is better than a prison, this idea is not that much better.

Building a guard-training center locks us into a long-term investment in prisons. It shows what the state’s plans for our future look like: more and more people in cells. If you take a look at the state budget, you can see very plainly that locking people up is the priority, not giving them an education, as funds for schooling get cut every year, and the money allocated for prisons always grows. Keeping prison facilities intact, rather than retrofitting them for a new purpose, reveals that they want to keep the option open of using it as a prison again in the future. Most important, the community was in no way included in the decision to use the former prison in this way.

The government officials who made these decisions are not accountable. If only they took the time to ask the people what they want for their town, they would get myriad different answers and ideas for positive additions to their home. No one benefits from furthering the incarceration of our friends and loved ones. And by pouring money into the training of people to watch over them in cages, the state is saying plainly that it believes the future of California is bleak.

Lani Riccobuono is an organizer with the California Prison Moratorium Project and a member of the AK Press Collective.

LETTERS & OPINIONS

Thoughts on 9/11

By Ira Glasser

As we’ve all heard a thousand times, this September 11 marked four years since the astoundingly successful attack on the WTC towers, an attack by foreign forces on American soil exceeded only by Japan’s assault on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. That assault, of course, began a much more serious conflict, one in which our very existence was at stake, a conflict in which the arrayed military powers of Japan and Germany outstripped our own and in which defeat would likely have brought worldwide domination by evil and totalitarian regimes.

Yet do you realize—I did not, until thinking about it this afternoon on the beach while gazing at the peaceful sea—that four years after December 7, 1941, World War II had been over for months, and both Germany and Japan had unconditionally surrendered and been completely subdued? Four years after Pearl Harbor, as 1946 dawned, we were on the brink of rebuilding both Europe and Asia, of forging Germany and Japan into democratic industrial nations allied with us. Our nation was about to enter a postwar period of unbridled optimism, economic growth and prosperity, and even the beginnings of a transformational racial justice movement.

Four years after 9/11—today, right now, this minute—where are we? What progress has been made against those who attacked us? What achievements mark this anniversary? What promise does the foreseeable future hold?

The accomplishments made in the four long years after Pearl Harbor were astonishing: a triumph of mobilized government and a nation united. What has been accomplished in four years after 9/11 to compare with that?

Four years after 9/11, our military effort looks hopeless: Osama bin Laden remains at large; the forces of

random and devastating military attacks remain unbridled; the causes of the terrorists’ desperate and brutal initiatives remain unaddressed; a misbegotten war in the wrong place against the wrong enemies for the wrong reasons, based on lies, hubris and misdirected missionary zeal, shows no signs of ending anytime soon, and has robbed us of our treasure, shed the blood of too many innocent young men and women, corroded and destroyed our moral standing in the world, and almost certainly increased the likelihood of the attacks the war was supposed to diminish, making us less safe than we were before 9/11.

Our economy is staggered, reeling under the combination of profligate spending on the Iraq adventure—\$15 billion every month—and a plundering of our tax base by the politics of greed and self-interest for the benefit of the super-rich. Our government is run by people whose only talent is for spin, propaganda, dissembling, and telling “the big lie” to a degree that would make Joseph Goebbels envious. These people subscribe to the oxymoronic notion—even as they seek and maintain the reins of government power—that government is the enemy and privatization and the free market our friend, that social planning is the road to serfdom, that spending tax-raised money to address the problems of ordinary people is an abomination—notions that exploded in New Orleans ten days ago in a hurricane of neglect, inattention, and incompetence more destructive by far than the physical hurricane. Four years after Pearl Harbor, our parents and grandparents looked back proudly on a victorious struggle and looked forward brightly to a new horizon of hope and progress. Four years after 9/11, we are deep in the big muddy, headed nowhere but down, with malevolence, selfishness, greed, authoritarianism, and incompetence in the saddle, and neither leadership nor grassroots revolt arising to unseat it. Four years, and no one seems to be getting impatient, angry, or upset. World War II always was described to me as long; who among us thinks four years since 9/11 is long, too long to continue to tolerate a government that has not been held accountable?

In Memory

Sandra Guzman-Johnson passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno from heart complications. She is survived by her loving husband, Ben Johnson, and their 10-year-old daughter, Sage Ghostwind Posada. Sandra was an active member of the Native American and progressive community. She will be missed.



The deadline to submit articles and calendar items to the *Community Alliance* newspaper is the 15th of each month. All articles and calendar items should be sent to AllianceEditor@comcast.net or PO Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755. Calendar listings are free and subject to editing and space availability. It is recommended that articles more than 250 words long be discussed with the editor before the deadline.

Classifieds

HELP! Desperately need permanent or foster homes for sweet, healthy, rescued cats. 266-1281

Need inexpensive room to rent in Tower, temporary basis. 266-1281

Greeting Cards for Prisoners

By Maria Telesco

Once again the Family Council at Chowchilla women’s prison (CCWF) is collecting greeting cards to give to the prisoners as a pre-Christmas gift, so they will have cards to send to their loved ones.

Last year’s donation of cards was fantastic, and the women were so thankful. It’s hard to believe, but for some of the women, this was the first time in their lives that anyone had done anything nice, kind or generous for them!

This year, we would like to collect mostly greeting cards (birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary, and blank inside). A few Christmas cards will be okay, but we have a lot remaining from last year. But the real need is for the general greeting cards and blank-inside cards.

The cards may be those that have been sitting in the drawer for a while, or they may be purchased. Or they can even be the kind that some organizations send out that you don’t care to use. A number of stores (Dollar Tree, Big Lots etc.) have inexpensive cards. Some supermarkets and general stores (Target, Wal-Mart) have packaged card assortments that are also inexpensive. Or, of course, we will gladly accept monetary donations so we can purchase cards—sometimes we have been able to get quantity discounts.

To make a donation of cards, you can call me, Maria Telesco, at 255-9492, or e-mail me at **maria.telesco@att.net**, or drop them off at the Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (south of McKinley), Monday through Friday 11 AM–3 PM (tell the person on duty to put them away for Maria.) If you call me, I will be happy to pick them up from you.

The gifts of cards and children’s books have been incredibly generous, and make a big difference in the lives of these women who have nothing.

Counter-Recruitment

By Scott Key

We are a nation at war. Afghanistan. Iraq. More than 2,000 service personnel have died, and thousands more have been wounded. Combat leads to a need for new enlistees.

Where does the government find them? High schools, shopping malls, community events, and wherever young people have gathered.

How does the government get them? Recruitment through false promises.

How serious is the government? The combined budget for FY 2005 was \$3 billion! While some of this money has been spent on increasing the military's profile in our communities through the media, the major thrust has been to increase the number of military recruiters.

Media advertising may pique interest, but the "selling" of the military is still entrusted to thousands of military recruiters who build on the ads to entice students to enlist. The military recruiters focus on high school juniors and seniors. Yet, military recruiters do not spend much time or resources recruiting students with multiple options after high school. Instead, recruiters focus their attention on high schools with large poor and minority student populations. With promises of money for college and job training, recruiters entice high school students who lack other good job or educational opportunities.

While patriotism and a sense of duty still motivate some enlistees, many are motivated out of economic need. This means that the promises made by military recruiters are very attractive. Some recruiters may make promises in good faith, but others simply lie to potential enlistees. Regardless, military enlistment contracts are one-sided: none of the recruiters' promises have to be kept:

"Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me. Such changes may affect my status, pay, allowances, benefits, and responsibilities as a member of the Armed Forces, regardless of the provisions of this enlistment/re-enlistment document." (DD Form 4/1, 1998, Sec. 9.5b)

This means that the military can change one's job field, pay status, or educational benefits without notice. This means that the guarantees in the enlistment contract could be worthless. Of course, this lack of honesty extends to other aspects of recruitment, such as neglecting to tell potential enlistees that first-time enlistees must serve a total of eight years or that their active duty can be extended without notice (as in the case of "stop-loss" measures).

As part of the Bush Administration's preparations for war, the government deepened the connection between schools and the military through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Buried deep inside this centerpiece of the Bush Administration's education policy, Section 9528 "Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruitment Information" requires school districts that receive federal funds to provide military recruiters with high school student contact information (name, address, and phone number) unless the student or parent "opts out" of this student directory.

In essence, the Bush Administration has given military recruiters unfettered access to millions of potential enlistees. With this student contact information, military recruiters are able to mail recruitment materials to students, call them at home, and even make home visits. The need for new recruits means that military recruiters are persistent. Simply saying no may not be enough. If students or parents do not want to be contacted by military recruiters, their best option is to "opt out" of releasing student contact information.

How do students and parents find out the truth about military recruitment? Several months ago, a coalition of concerned Valley residents emerged to form the Central Valley Coalition on Counter Recruitment. The coalition is a collection of civic and religious groups, along with many individuals who have come together to counter the aggressive recruitment of young people.

The early focus of the coalition has been twofold: to change Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) board policy to comply with the law, and to increase public awareness about the right of students and parents to opt out of releasing student contact information.

To change board policy, representatives of the coalition have met with senior administrators in FUSD to point out how the district has been out of compliance with NCLB, which requires school districts to notify students and parents of their right to opt out, and to work with district officials on new policies. To increase awareness, volunteers have handed out thousands of leaflets to students at Fresno City College and high schools in FUSD, and a march was held in downtown Fresno on Saturday, September 10.

Yet, counter-recruitment is more than opting out. While the coalition will continue to work to inform students and parents about opting out, there are many other strategies that military recruiters use to gain access to students and entice some to enlist. Students and parents must understand that if military recruiters are given information voluntarily, they have also been given permission to recruit.

One of the most insidious methods used by military recruiters is the use of the ASVAB (Armed Services Vo-

cational Aptitude Battery) that most school districts give to high school students. Often, students are told that they must take the test, but this is not true. Students can refuse to take this test. But, if students are intimidated into taking the test, they must choose "Option 8" in order to deny the release of information to military recruiters. The coalition is developing strategies to have a visible presence on high school campuses to offer students information about alternative ways to fund college and serve their community and nation.

Counter-recruitment is vital! Military recruitment is well researched and financed. Students and parents need to be informed about their rights and options. The military is not the only option for young people. Schools need to be places of learning. Schools need to encourage students to explore all options. Schools need to encourage students to serve others through activities that build up and strengthen others. The Central Valley Coalition on Counter-Recruitment is committed to being this alternative voice in Fresno and beyond. For more information, please call (559) 487-2515.

Scott Key is a professor at the School of Education at Fresno Pacific University.



Scott Key speaking at Opt-Out rally in front of military recruiters station in downtown Fresno. All photos on this page by Mike Rhodes



Peace Fresno and Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition sponsored this Opt-Out rally and march held on September 10, 2005



Participants at the march and rally said "Stop the Militarization of our Schools Now!"

Contesting Arnold's Election

By Mike Rhodes

Kevin Hall, local campaign manager for the Alliance for a Better California, is worried that not enough people are paying attention to the November 8 special election. "The governor is trying to push his right-wing agenda by holding an off-year election," Hall says. But organized labor and community activists are mobilizing their forces and have a strategy to win in November. The plan includes a door-to-door effort, a "Dog Arnold" campaign, and a big Get Out the Vote effort.

On a pleasant Saturday afternoon last month, more than 100 people came together to learn about the propositions and began walking precincts in southwest and southeast Fresno. Precincts will be walked each weekend until the election. The goal is to educate and identify likely voters, and get them to the polls on November 8. Hall believes this organizing model might be used in future campaigns. If successful, this could be a Paul Wellstone-like model that mobilizes the grassroots and empowers poor and disfranchised voters. (Wellstone was a senator in Minnesota who built a populist and progressive movement through grassroots organizing.

Hall says that with three elections coming up in the next year and a half, he is hoping this model will be successful: "If we can get union members and community activists to take responsibility for the precinct they live in, we can start to influence the outcome of this and future elections." You can hear the excitement in his voice as he discusses this strategy to build an alliance that will unite labor and community activists to win this November.

Randy Ghan, secretary treasurer of the Central Labor Council in Fresno, is also optimistic about organized labor's ability to unite to defeat the governor's propositions this November. Ghan says, "There is a very strong commitment by labor to work in solidarity . . . particularly where we have the corporate right coming after us to silence our voice; we are not going to let that occur."

Joining in the door-to-door campaign are members from a wide range of local unions, including the United Food and Commercial Workers, Fresno Teachers Association, Service Employee International Union, Firefighters, and the California Nurses Association. There are also community members from the Living Wage Campaign, the Democratic Party, and the Central Valley Progressive PAC working on the campaign.

The Alliance for a Better California campaign is asking voters to vote No on Propositions 74,75,76, and 78, and Yes on Propositions 79 and 80. To become involved with the local campaign, contact the office at (559) 226-0756. To find out more about the Alliance for a Better California, go to <<http://www.betterca.com/>>.

A Progressive Guide to the Propositions

NO on Proposition 73: Let's keep our teens safe

The Campaign for Teen Safety, which is opposed to Proposition 73, is a broad-based coalition of doctors, nurses, health care providers, educators, and civil rights and women's groups, including the League of Women Voters and millions of parents joining together to protect young women's safety. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and all parents want what is best for their children. But government cannot mandate good family communication. Parental notification laws don't protect teens; they hurt teens. Mandatory notification laws have resulted in teens—who for whatever reason can't go to their parents—resorting to dangerous measures, like back-alley or self-induced abortions—instead of getting the medical help and counseling they need. For more information see <www.noonproposition73.com/>.



NO on Proposition 74: The "Punish New Teachers Act"

This measure would do nothing to improve public education or deal with the real problems facing our schools. It unfairly attempts to blame teachers for the problems in our public schools, ignoring the realities of underfunding, overcrowding, and the lack of materials and resources needed for effective teaching and learning. If this measure passes, new teachers would serve a 5-year probationary period rather than the current two years, and would lose the right to even have a fair hearing on their dismissal for a full 5 years. Current law already allows for firing teachers who are not performing in the classroom, no matter how long they've been on the job. For more information see <www.betterca.com/>.

overcrowded classrooms and teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. Our schools lost \$2 billion when Governor Schwarzenegger broke his promise to repay the money he took from education, and if this initiative passes, the governor will never have to repay that money to our schools. It also overturns the voter-approved Proposition 98, eliminating the minimum funding guarantee for education. It also cuts funding for local government—cutting police and firefighters, as well as local health care services that protect children and the elderly. This initiative hurts our most vulnerable populations including the sick, the elderly, and the young. For more information see <www.betterca.com/>.

NO on Proposition 77: The Unfair reapportionment scheme

Every time they don't get their way, politicians cook up new schemes to change the rules. They've tried sneaking redistricting schemes past voters four times over the last 25 years, and each time, voters said no! This time, their plan will cost taxpayers millions, and three judges and two courts have ruled it was illegally qualified for the ballot. Don't be fooled! Read the fine print. This undemocratic and unfair redistricting scheme has huge loopholes. For more information see <www.noonproposition77.com/>.

NO on Proposition 78: The Drug Companies' "Bad Prescription" Initiative

The big drug companies are going to spend millions trying to fool voters and keep them from passing the real prescription drug relief contained in the Alliance-backed Prop. 79. This phony measure says only that drug companies can enter a "voluntary" program to reduce prices...but why will they? They have no real incentive to lower the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. A "No" vote on this measure is necessary to provide consumers with real relief from soaring drug prices, because whichever measure gets the highest number of votes becomes law. For more information see <www.betterca.com/>.

YES on Proposition 79: The "Cheaper Prescription Drugs for Californians Act"

Sponsored by consumer, senior, and health organizations, Proposition 79 would provide deeper, enforceable discounts to twice as many Californians than the drug industry-backed Prop. 78. Proposition 79 would use the purchasing power of the state of California to negotiate the best price for up to ten million Californians, who now pay more than anybody else in the world for prescription drugs. Prop. 79 saves taxpayers money by reducing prescription drug costs by 50% or more, and ensuring that more people can afford needed medications now, rather than get more expensive care later. Proposition 79 is supported by Consumers Union, Health Access California, Breast Cancer Action, Congress of California Seniors, the League of Women Voters of California, and many other organizations. For more information see <www.betterca.com/>.



Nix the Six:

Vote NO on

- Proposition 73.....Puts teenagers lives at risk
- Proposition 74.....The anti-teacher initiative
- Proposition 75.....Attacks labor unions
- Proposition 76.....Cuts school funding
- Proposition 77.....Unfair reapportionment scheme
- Proposition 78.....The big drug companies' scam

Vote YES on

- Proposition 79.....Guarantees deep discounts on prescription drugs and will save the taxpayers millions of dollars.
- Proposition 80.....Will make our utility bills more affordable by re-regulating the power industry and by encouraging renewable energy.

NO on Proposition 75: "Paycheck Deception Act"

Proposition 75 is a deceptive measure put on the ballot by the big corporations and out-of-state billionaires who support Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's destructive agenda for California. It unfairly targets teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, and other public employees with restrictions that don't apply to other groups or corporations, which regularly spend shareholder money on politics without permission. Prop. 75 is designed to reduce our ability to respond when politicians would harm education, health care, and public safety, effectively clearing the opposition to the governor's education and health care cuts. For more information see <www.betterca.com/>.

NO on Proposition 76: The "Cuts School Funding Act"

This measure would devastate our public schools and other vital services, cutting school funding by over \$4 billion every year—\$600 per student—leading to more



YES on Proposition 80: The “Affordable Electricity and Preventing Blackouts Act”

This is a common-sense consumer initiative that will help prevent energy blackouts and massive fraud by unregulated private energy producers like Enron. It will override the failed energy deregulation policies, put utilities back in the business of serving the public, and encourage development of more renewable energy sources. The ultimate result will be more affordable energy for ALL Californians.

Parental Notification Endangers Teen Safety. November 8th, vote NO on Proposition 73!

From the Planned Parenthood Web site

What is this initiative all about?

Proposition 73 is a harmful and ill-conceived initiative that would amend the state constitution to require health care providers to notify the parents of young women under the age of 18 before providing abortion services. Once a parent has been notified, a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours is required before the doctor can provide an abortion. Only those teens faced with a medical emergency or those who obtain a “judicial bypass” are exempt from the parental notification requirement. This initiative would serve as a blatant intrusion by the government into private, personal family matters and would place vulnerable teens in jeopardy of severe health consequences.

What’s wrong with parental notification laws?

Most parents’ top priority is to ensure that their teens are safe and healthy. Parental notification laws do nothing to keep teens safe or promote family communication. Ironically, the real outcome of these laws is delayed medical care and counseling for the most vulnerable teens. Parents need real tools to help them communicate openly with their children about healthy behaviors and sexual decision-making. What they don’t need is government intrusion laws.

Shouldn’t parents have a right to know if their teen is getting an abortion?

First and foremost, parents want to ensure that their teens are safe. Although many parents do a good job of communicating with their teens about sensitive issues like sexuality, some teens can’t or won’t go to their parents when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. Most parents agree that whether or not their children come to them, they should have timely access to medical care and counseling.

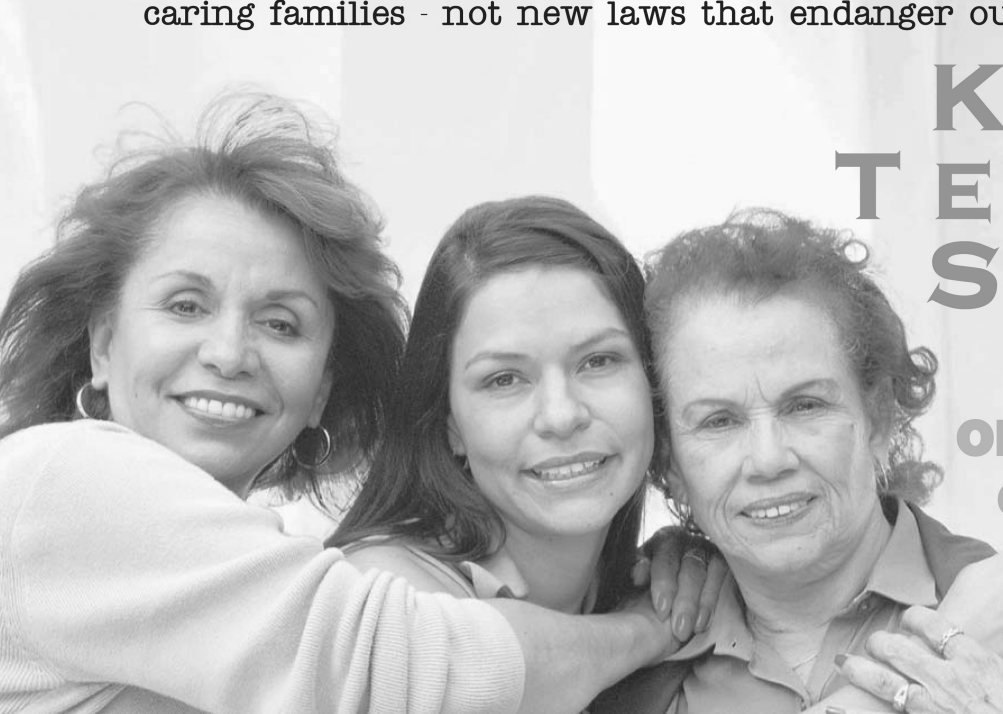
Do teens usually involve their parents in decisions about whether to have an abortion?

Yes. In fact, research shows that a majority of teens talk to their parents about their options when faced with a difficult situation like an unplanned pregnancy. Planned Parenthood works with parents and teens every day to promote healthy communication at home. But we also know from experience that not every family is able to communicate when it comes to sensitive issues like abortion or sexuality. We must do everything in our power to protect the health of young people by ensuring they can receive the medical care they need, when they need it.



Teachers, Nurses, Fireman and community activists are united to stop the governor's conservative agenda. This “Dog Arnold” demonstration was held in Fresno on May 11, 2005. Photo: Mike Rhodes

“My mother talked with me and now I’m talking with my daughter... the real answer to teen pregnancy is prevention, and strong caring families - not new laws that endanger our daughters.”



KEEP TEENS SAFE

VOTE NO ON PROP 73 ON NOV. 8

CAMPAIGN for TEEN SAFETY
NO on Prop. 73

www.noonproposition73.com
paid for by the Campaign for Teen Safety

What is a judicial bypass?

Proponents of Prop. 73 contend that because it contains a judicial bypass waiver—which allows a young woman to go before a judge to waive the parental notification requirement—teens in abusive homes are protected. In fact, judicial bypass offers little if any protection. For those young women who can’t talk to their parents about this issue, going before a judge is daunting and unrealistic. Many teens lack knowledge of court procedures or live in rural areas and cannot easily access a judge in a timely fashion. And some judges are anti-choice and will not grant a waiver to teens even under the most compelling of circumstances.

Who is behind Proposition 73?

James Holman, a San Diego millionaire known for his extremist anti-choice views—he opposes contraception and believes abortion should be outlawed in all cases, including rape and incest—has pumped hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own money in support of Prop. 73. Most of Holman’s money to date has gone to paid signature gatherers in an effort to qualify Prop. 73 for the ballot. Because Prop. 73 will be brought to voters in California, the most pro-choice state in the country, anti-choice donors from around the country are also backing the dangerous measure.

Who opposes Proposition 73?

Along with Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice California, and the ACLU, many other medical and civil rights organizations have come out in opposition to parental notification laws. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and many others have cited the risk to teens’ health in opposing these laws. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “mandating parental notification does not achieve the intended benefit of promoting family communication, but it does increase the risk of harm to the adolescent by delaying access to appropriate care.” Concerned parents across the state also oppose the initiative because they know that if their teen couldn’t come to them, for whatever reason, they would want her to be safe. They also don’t want judges making important life decisions for their daughters.

“My mother talked with me and now I’m talking with my daughter... the real answer to teen pregnancy is prevention and strong caring families— not new laws that endanger our daughters.”



KEEP TEENS SAFE
Vote No on Prop 73 Nov. 8

CAMPAIGN for TEEN SAFETY

NoOnProposition73.org

Planned Parenthood is looking for volunteers for the Campaign for Teen Safety, No on Proposition 73. They are phone banking every Sunday, 5–9 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Patsy Montgomery at (559) 488-4908 ext. 301 or patsy_montgomery@ppmarmonte.org.

Michelle Colvin is working on the No on 73 campaign at CSU-Fresno. Michelle is working with the Feminist Majority Foundation and can be reached by at mveritycolvin@sbcglobal.net or (559) 804-1660.



Ricardo Ornelas from the California Teachers Association is training precinct walkers at the Alliance for a Better California Fresno campaign kickoff held September 10, 2005. Photo: Mike Rhodes

Grassroots Profile

By Richard Stone

Valta Pointer, at age 81, is essentially an activist emeritus. She may have lost the stamina to do the marches and vigils, but she’s still writing those barbed “letters to the editor” and giving her legislators a piece of her mind; and she’s still attending meetings where she puts in at least 3 cents’ worth of analysis and indignation.

Valta’s intolerance of bigotry and narrow-mindedness comes, she says, straight from “Daddy and Mama.” Even in the overtly segregated town of Taft, where she was raised in the Depression years, her parents stood up for equal rights and fair treatment for all. And Valta learned the lesson well—you’ve never seen someone react so quickly and ferociously to any display of race-, education-, or class-based ill treatment.

Her other great bugbear is corporate capitalism and “the worship of money.” “I still recall being just a girl and seeing a cartoon with Uncle Sam kneeling at an altar worshipping a silver dollar. I knew even then that was the truth.” Get her started and she’ll recount the history of how corporate personhood was foisted on the American people by the Supreme Court and how we need to abolish that practice.

What’s “her work”? “I want people to be kinder. We live in a world of beauty, and I want others to enjoy it. I’ve never made it above the poverty line, but I feel blessed by how much I have—even materially. Look . . . books galore, a computer (though I do miss my old word processor!), a vacuum cleaner, my cat—so much. We need to appreciate what we have, not worry so much about getting more.”

Valta’s official profession was nursing. She earned the newly instituted (after World War II) LVN credential, which a poor single parent could complete; and she loved caring for people. But an auto accident led to disability, and her commitment to political agitation had time to thrive. Living in public housing, she saw first-hand the disrespectful treatment of her neighbors (especially those of color) by officialdom. She became active in organizing tenants of public housing to demand equitable and decent treatment.

This involvement, especially on the west side, led to many abiding (though sometimes not easily attained) friendships. She cites special regard for Art Jenkins, Myser Keels, Harlan Kelly, Eddie Mae Lomack, Pastors T. D. Adams and Caldwell. Valta also became deeply involved with Central California Legal Services, where the work of Leroy Cordova and Chris Schneider earned her deepest respect. (CCLS named Valta their “Volunteer of the Year” a few years back.)

In the last few years, Valta’s most active commitment has been to the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, where she is a founding—and is still a sitting—Board Member. She is the Center’s biggest cheerleader and has participated in many of its committees and projects, including being a pioneer in the first Pairs Project. “The Center is the first place I really felt I belonged,” she says. “People understand my anger . . . and I love so many of the members.”

IDENTITY BOX

Primary identity—Human
Political affiliation—Democrat (moving toward Peace & Freedom)
Religious affiliation—Unitarian Universalist
Inspirational figures—“My father,” FDR, and Eleanor Roosevelt (“who went to the worst places to see what was going on and made Franklin do something about it.”)
Non-political interests—cats and dogs; knitting
Mottoes—“You can’t be grateful enough” [for life]; “Impeach the bastards!”



Valta has recently distanced herself from the Catholicism she grew up with, largely because “Those old men in Rome understand nothing about sex, reproduction, and population growth.” She now goes to the Unitarian Universalist Church and has been involved in their campaigns to educate people about the “immorality of corporate capitalism.” She is infuriated by US foreign policy that seems only to do the bidding of those corporations, and she asks, “Why do we spend our resources killing people instead of building peace?”

Anyone meeting Valta knows at once her hard-earned loving-kindness (“I’m angry and spiteful by nature”) and her dismay when people willfully take advantage of or mislead others. Even in the face of the endless-seeming victories of “those sons-of-Bushes,” she says, “We are born with an obligation to make the world more loving. I’ll never stop.”

Heroes and Legends

By Mike Rhodes

Fresno can be an interesting city for a world-class artist, musician, writer, or poet to live in. I remember an older Armenian man that lived about a block from where I grew up in Northwest Fresno. He would oftentimes ride his bike down the street and most people didn’t have a clue who he was. William Saroyan was a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who was known all over the world but who passed largely unnoticed in his own neighborhood.

While Saroyan has some name recognition in Fresno, there are other heroes and legends that go unnoticed and underappreciated in their hometown. Agustin Lira and Patricia Wells Solorzano are some of the most talented musicians in town, but they seldom get the recognition they deserve. Even though they have performed all over the country, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, the Latin American New Song Festival in San Francisco, and the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island, it is possible that you have not heard them play in Fresno. Their musical group is called Alma and together they have produced six CDs.

Agustin Lira founded El Teatro Campesino with Luis Valdez during the Delano grape strike headed by Cesar Chavez. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, said “You always carry the memory of Agustin’s music with you; it is inspirational, visionary, and spiritual.”

Patricia Wells Solorzano joined El Teatro de la Tierra, a non-profit, Fresno-based theatrical group in 1975. She began singing and playing lead guitar with Lira in 1979, and they formed Alma shortly after. Together they have performed throughout this country and internationally.



Patricia Wells Solorzano, Agustin Lira, and Ravi Knypstra, 2000.
Photo: Piyanari

Lira has directed two new theatrical performances:

Heroes and Legends of the southwest and Mexico come to life through the stirring voices and songs of Lira, Wells Solorzano, and Merlinda Espinoza. El Teatro de la Tierra, Inc. (Theater of the Earth) is a musical journey that will evoke memories, past and present, of such outstanding, dynamic, and unique figures as Cesar Chavez, Gregorio Cortez, Dolores Huerta, Reis Lopes Tijerina, Emma Tenayuca, Emiliano Zapata, Angel Gutierrez, Juan Cortina, and more.

I Am Joaquin is a theatrical dramatization by Patricia Garcia, Teresa “Chiquita” Jewel, and Merlinda Espinoza of Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales’s epic Chicano poem *I Am Joaquin*, accompanied by live music and sound effects. Musicians: Patricia Wells Solorzano, Agustin Lira, Rosemary Montes and Elsa Castillo.

Performances will be at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N First, Fresno (southwest corner of First and Clinton), Saturday, October 1, 2005, 7:30 PM; Saturday, October 8, 7:00 PM; Sunday, October 9, 3:00 PM; Friday, October 14, 7:00 PM. For tickets and more information, call El Teatro de la Tierra, Inc.: (559) 237-3016.

Smithsonian CD Release

On September 13, 2005, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings released a new CD titled *Rolas de Aztlan: Songs of the Chicano Movement*, a compilation of 19 tracks recorded between 1966 and 1999 from a wide variety of labels and sources. A remarkable collection of powerful songs, it begins with the United Farm Workers’ strike in California’s San Joaquin Valley in 1965. Many of the artists and groups represented here are grassroots musician-activists and community icons. Here is a sample of these troubadours: Agustin Lira, (Patricia Wells Solorzano and Ravi Knypstra of musical group Alma also perform), Los Perros del Pueblo Nuevo, Los Reyes de Albuquerque, Danny and Luis Valdez, Jose Montoya, Flor del Pueblo, Los Peludos, Los Lobos, Los Alacranes Mojados, and so on.





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POETRY CORNER

This month's poet is James Tyner, whose article about pacifism and his newly-enlisted Marine brother appeared in last month's Community Alliance newspaper. We thank him for his passion and his eloquence.

Watching the News in Spain

A Basque bomb killed a family of six.
Their car was mangled,
Looking like a silver raisin,
As if some giant hand had pinched
Everything together. It was comical,
Funny. What wasn't funny was the man
Carrying a blue baby out of the smoking mess.
Its head was dusty, as if it had been
Baptized in dirt. The man holding it
Was crying, his face was muddy
Where the tears and dirt became one.
He turned to the camera, as if to give me
The child, as if to give it to all
Twelve of us monks in that room
Watching television. That was when
The baby's head opened like a flower.
The sides of its face falling open like petals.
I noticed the cross on my neck
And how heavy it was,
How goddamned heavy.

The World - October 14


Often you can perceive more about The Times from the fanciful film medium than from journalism or historical record. The filmmaker Jia Zhangke may tell us more about life in his contemporary China through the microcosm of an amusement park than from all the accounts of China you might read about or see on TV.

[Jia's three previous films] outline the contours of the spiritual vacuum created by the double whammy of the Cultural Revolution and the Deng-era blind lunge toward free markets. [The] hapless dreamers [in these films] embody a universal sentiment: We've got to get out of this place.

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Tickets: General Admission \$10.00 \$8.00 for Students & Seniors

www.fresnofilmworks.org



Bluesworks
a benefit for
Fresno
Filmworks
October 16
3:00 to 10:00 pm
20.00
featuring:
Deja Blues
MoFo Party Band
A.C. Myles Band
special guests:
Johnny Da-Doo Wilson &
Hosea Leavy "Granddaddy of the Blues"
Garfield Kenoross
www.fresnofilmworks.org

KFCF 88.1




Friday, October 28

6:00 pm • Social Mixer
7:00 pm • Dinner
8:00 pm • Program

Another World is Possible: Public Power in the Age of Empire, will be the talk given by David Barsamian at the Fresno Free College Foundation Banquet, which will be held at Love and Garlic, 5351 N. Diana Court in Fresno.

David Barsamian is the founder and director of Alternative Radio, the Boulder-based award-winning weekly series. AR is broadcast on various public radio stations all over California. See the AR website for details www.alternativeradio.org. He is the recipient of the ACLU's Upton Sinclair Award for independent journalism. Barsamian recently spent two months in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Egypt reporting for Deep Dish TV and giving talks. His latest books are Imperial Ambitions with Noam Chomsky and Speaking of Empire & Resistance with Tariq Ali.

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The Fox Is Watching the Hen House

By the Reverend Floyd Harris



Gloria Hernandez (center) leads the October 22 march against police brutality in downtown Fresno.

In mid-July 108-degree weather, 70 to 80 people attended a town hall meeting in West Fresno.

Many groups from all over Fresno—African Americans, Asians, Hmong, Hispanics, Native Americans—came out to see “Know Your Rights When Confronted by a Police Officer,” a presentation by Gloria Hernandez of San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrants’ Rights, and the Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr., State President of the National Action Network, who has been traveling around the country educating people of color about police accountability and procedures.

In addition to the Fresno Coalition for Civil Rights (the newly founded organization that sponsored the meeting), many other organizations were represented: Laura Talkington (Books Not Bars), Debbie Reyes (Prison Moratorium), Rebeca Rangel (Central California Criminal Justice Committee), Daryl Mohammad (Mohammad Study Group), Charles Taylor (National Action Network), Woody Miller, Julia Dudley Najib, Waldo Porter, Mel Sanders (KFCF 88.1 FM—where his show “Politics in the African American Community” is heard every Monday at 3 PM), Tou Long Lo (Hmong National Council), Mai Summer Vue (Native American community).

All these groups make up the Fresno Coalition for Civil Rights, a grassroots organization that was formed after the Fresno City Council, for the second time, refused to establish an independent police auditor (IPA) here in Fresno. Many people came to speak on behalf of an independent police auditor for Fresno—ministers, professors, lawyers, community leaders, and others.

The Central California Criminal Justice Committee (CCCJC) has been bringing this to the city council and to the community for more than seven years. They brought Teresa Guerrero-Daley, the IPA from San Jose, to Fresno twice to explain her function and answer questions. She was brought to Fresno twice again, by Chief Dyer and by Mayor Autry, to meet with the police officers and with the mayor’s study committee on an IPA. The CCCJC met with Chief Dyer and agreed on certain measures to improve relations and communication between the police and the public. Police officers were issued business cards to identify themselves when making a stop. The police complaint forms were updated and improved and were to be made available in 10 public locations, in four languages.

But when we checked out these places, some of the people in charge knew nothing of the complaint forms. We have repeatedly asked Chief Dyer to have someone meet with a representative at each location to make staff aware of the complaint forms and their usage.

Mayor Autry appointed a committee, which studied both the San Jose and Sacramento IPA models. The Sacramento IPA is appointed by and reports to the mayor, and this IPA is therefore not as independent as the San Jose IPA, who is appointed by the city council, reports to the city manager and the city council, and can only be dismissed by a 2/3 vote of the city council.

In any case, the mayor twice called for an IPA, put it into the budget, and was rebuffed by the city council, despite strong support from the community—with

more than 30 people speaking in support of the proposal. The city council voted it down twice with little discussion but had no trouble approving the Police Department purchase of an airplane at a cost of \$221,800 (plus insurance and maintenance)...

The CCCJC wanted to have a town hall-style meeting—anytime, anywhere—so we could have some understanding why the city council doesn’t want an IPA. CCCJC contacted the offices of Jerry Duncan, Henry Perea, Mike Dages, and Brian Calhoun to see if they would participate in such a debate—and received negative responses from each one.

Meanwhile, the lack of an independent police auditor in our city is being strongly felt. There are continued instances of what is widely perceived to be racial profiling (people being stopped because of their racial or ethnic identity). Fresno police have killed



The mother of Everardo Torres at a rally for justice in front of the Madera police station. Everardo Torres was shot through the heart by a Madera police officer as he sat in the back of a patrol car. The shooting was ruled as an accident.

to community members and a police officer and a former employee of the police department have sued the department for harassment by superiors.

A police officer previously involved in an incident of robbery from a suspect’s home, but retained in the department despite the fact that the officer reporting the theft, was harassed so badly by fellow officers that she had to leave the department and later won a claim for almost \$500,000. Recently the same officer was involved in a harassment claim by another woman and is being sued. The claim of a recycling Center owner who said he was abused by police officers, was denied by the Internal Affairs Unit of the Fresno Police Department, and is now being sued by the police officer involved in the incident for defamation of character.

In mid-October, Chief Dyer criticized police officers for their behavior, pointing out that these incidents were eroding the trust of the community. A long-time and well-liked police officer committed suicide while being investigated by the Internal Affairs unit. It is obvious that the Fresno Police Department is in disarray. There are charges of favoritism and unequal treatment within the department. There is frustration and anger on the part of Fresnoans who feel both that they have been maltreated by police officers and that they cannot receive fair consideration from the Internal Affairs unit.

There were people like Lonzy Armstrong III, age 40, an African American who says he is being constantly profiled and harassed by the Fresno Police Department. Armstrong says that he went out his front door when he was approached by a Fresno police officer, who drew a gun and pointed it straight at his head, then grabbed him and threw him to the ground. The Fresno Police Department and the ATF were pursuing a Hispanic male that they had apprehended. The officer threatened Armstrong and said that he was going to come back and do the same thing to him again. Mr.

Armstrong said he is a law-abiding citizen living in America, and as an African-American he shouldn’t have to be treated like a criminal if he hasn’t done anything wrong.

Mai Summer Vue, a leader of the Fresno Coalition and community activist, was interpreting for the Hmong community. She said that we as people need to come together and learn about what is going on in our community, and hold the police department accountable. Gloria Hernandez discussed what citizens can do when they are confronted by a police officer. During the meeting, many citizens shared stories about police abuse, profiling, and excessive use of force.

At the meeting, the Rev. Harris said, “During his election campaign, Fresno City Council member Mike Dages said that he would vote for an IPA.” Dages was quoted in the *Fresno Bee* on February 22, 2002: “I don’t think there’s ever anything to hide in government.” The Reverend Harris responded, “The truth of the matter is, when he won the seat in District 2, Mr. Dages changed his mind, and now he will not support us.”

The only thing that matters to a politician is votes. We must take charge of our community and send the message of accountability to the people who serve. We must come together as people and organize in each community and have one community, one voice, and one message. We must educate people on the issues and register young and old to vote in the 2006 election. We must go door-to-door, community to community and have meetings weekly and use every possible resource. There have been black and brown men who have been shot in the back and they were not armed. Why does the Fresno Police Department shoot a citizen who has not shot at them? Police are the only agency that has a license to kill and they have a system that will not hold them accountable for their action.

The Fresno Police Department, in its annual report about complaints, listed a total of 397 complaints 97 complaints came from the community and 300 complaints came from within the department. This shows that there are more problems within the department than outside the department. How do we expect police to investigate each other when they go to lunch together, go bowling together, play golf together, go fishing together and cover for each other when they see one of their fellow officers doing something wrong? The system we have is the FOX WATCHING THE HEN HOUSE.

Saturday, October 22 • 5:30 PM

Protest by families, friends, and supporters working together to stop police brutality. Meet at the corner of N Street and Mariposa in Fresno, across from the main library entrance. For more information call Gloria at (559) 268-2261; Comite No Nos Vamos 498-6033; 497-0206; or the National Action Network, 288-0828. Wear black, bring victims’ pictures, memories, ribbons, candles, music, song, poetry, etc. www.october22.org/



Rev. Floyd Harris, who has been active in the effort to bring an Independent Police Auditor and Copwatch to Fresno, speaks at a candlelight vigil in front of Juvenile Hall in Fresno. July 30, 2005. Photos this page by Mike Rhodes



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WILPF DATES:

Wednesday, October 5, Noon: Women in Black Fresno County Courthouse Breezeway

Thursday, October 13, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting 1584 N Van Ness

Wednesday, October 26, 3 PM: WILPF Stir It Up on KFCF 88.1 FM

New WILPF Intern, by Kris Smith: I am currently a master's student in the social work department at Fresno State, and I am doing my second-year field placement with WILPF. I am originally from Ohio, and I have spent some time in Florida, where I received my bachelor's in sociology from the University of Florida. (GO GATORS!) For many years I have been interested in social issues and injustices and have found social work to be an arena to advocate for change. Through WILPF I hope to continue to broaden my perspectives to practice and learn about social change.

My first assignment with WILPF was to attend the Leadership Institute and Triennial Congress in August at San Francisco State University. The Leadership Institute was a time for the younger WILPF members to come together to learn about WILPF as an international organization; to learn about some of the basic concepts that are institutionalized in our society and become barriers to doing advocacy work, such as racism, sexism, and ageism; and to network and get feedback from the members of the organization with more experience. As a small group, we were given the chance to practice being good leaders, and we were given the chance to be heard; as a larger group we were given the benefits and the blessings of all the dangerous women that came before us.

I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to begin my internship with such an empowering experience. For six days I was surrounded by well-rounded, independent women from diverse backgrounds who were full of energy and ideas and who were really interested in my perspective as a young adult member of WILPF. It felt good to be surrounded by a group of women (and a few good men!) who care about society and are actively seeking social change, and it made me excited about my work with WILPF over the next year. During my internship, I am planning on working on WILPF's "Save the Water" Campaign with some of my fellow WILPFers. I look forward to getting to know more about the progressive community in Fresno and what I can do to help advocate for change.

WILPF Membership: In our branch's quarterly packet from National in August, we received an updated membership list as of June 15. I am happy to report that it shows that 15 members have renewed their dues. Thanks! But I am sad to report that we now have a total of 41 members who have been dropped this past couple of years due to non-renewal of dues. We do hope those members will rejoin. Our new intern, Kris Smith, will be working on updating our membership database the next few months, so be on the lookout for letters requesting your help. We hope we can have a new updated membership directory available by the time of our crafts faire in December.

Another Young WILPFer on the Move: Morghan Young recently graduated from CSUF with a BA in anthropology and is now at Stanford working on a degree in education. This summer Morghan spent 10 weeks each in Mexico and Austin, Texas, thanks to the Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Fellowship out of the CSU Chancellor's Office. Below she shares her experience with us around ethnographic work in rural Mexico and community organizing in urban Texas:

I conducted interview, observation, and participant observation activities in a rural community outside the capital city of Guanajuato, Mexico. The community is composed of migrant workers who participate in the US labor force. Common experiences that were topics of most discussions with community members included mourning those who died during migration or laborious work; and fluctuating family dynamics exacerbated by family members living far apart most of the year. Also discussed was the history of the land rights surrounding the community.

In Austin, Texas, I worked with the grassroots organization Austin Interfaith (AI). AI is predominantly interested in public education reform; however, AI also contributes to affordable housing and immigration initiatives, especially insofar as these affect the experiences of schoolchildren, teachers, and parents. AI is composed of subscribing religious congregations, community groups, and local schools, all of whom are determined to transform the schools into dynamic centers for community empowerment.

In Mexico I was able to learn how to think about the observations I was making through regular discussions with the ethnographer. This particular aspect of the work took me beyond the "how to" teachings prescribed in the books that I read in my undergraduate education.

Working with Austin Interfaith gave me a chance to explore what is possible for me as a career other than working in a solely academic arena. I was inspired by the front-line efforts of parents, religious leaders, and concerned neighbors who were trained in leadership skills by AI and were taking on issues of concern to them in their neighborhoods. I met everyday people who use their resources and time to change their neighborhoods, and witnessed the progress they are making.

Raging Grannies: Raging Grannies is a project of WILPF; the first Raging Grannies group was established in 1986 in British Columbia to protest nuclear submarines. The Grannies sing their messages by creating new, humorous lyrics to familiar tunes, and convey their protest against federal policies that undermine our national security, environmental sustainability, and first amendment rights. They perform at peace rallies and other local events. You do not have to be a grandmother, and you do not have to be a good singer. You do have to have a lot of spunk and believe in progressive politics. They go to their closet or the thrift store and get crazy hats and a "granny costume." Raging Grannies have been in the news a lot in the western US. You can read about them in *USA Today* and the *LA Times*, as well as on Indymedia and all over the Internet. It seems the National Guard spied on the Raging Grannies along with other peace groups at a Mother's Day anti-war demonstration at the state Capitol. State Senator Joseph Dunn and US Representative Zoe Lofgren are calling for an investigation of the California Guard because of the spying. In July, Tucson Grannies were arrested for trespassing at a military recruiting station while asking to volunteer to join up so their children and grandchildren could come home. Peninsula Grannies helped expose the National Guard's blatant display of anti-Muslim literature at it



headquarters in Sacramento. Coming this November the Peninsula Raging Grannies will have a cameo appearance in the film, *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price* (from the producer of *Outfoxed*, Robert Greenwald).

The idea is spreading throughout the world. The Peninsula WILPF newsletter states that the Israeli peace publication *The Other Israel* recently carried an interview with Aliya Straus and Hava Keller, who started a Grannies group in Israel three years ago after Aliya returned from a trip to America. During her visit she heard a performance by the Grannies and found it "great fun." So she and Hava started writing songs. They were joined by half a dozen veterans of Women in Black, and they were off and singing. The lyrics quoted in the interview were not exactly zinger, but in Hebrew they probably sound better. To the tune of *There's a Hole in the Bucket* for instance, they sing "There's a hole in the morality." Another song goes, "Wonderful, wonderful, Hallelujah. The money goes to the rich and settlers ... We are all broke." When asked why they do it, "We want a very different kind of country to live in."

Raging Grannies really added spice at the WILPF Congress in August. We had members from all over the US perform together and many even went into town to demonstrate against torture at Union Square during the Congress. Marilyn Byrne of our branch was so impressed by the Grannies at the Congress she would like to start a group here in Fresno. If anyone is interested, please contact her at skippy41@csufresno.edu or 448-9144. You don't need to be a WILPF member to join, but it would be nice. You just need to believe in the cause.



Photos by: Granny Ruth and Bill

Quote of the Month:

Our sons made the ultimate sacrifice and we want answers. All we're asking is that President Bush sacrifice an hour out of his five-week vacation to talk to us, before the next mother loses her son in Iraq.

—Cindy Sheehan, August 12, 2005

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How the Free Market Killed New Orleans

by Michael Parenti

The free market played a crucial role in the destruction of New Orleans and the death of thousands of its residents. Forewarned that a momentous Category 5 hurricane might hit that city and surrounding areas, what did officials do? They played the free market.

They announced that everyone should evacuate. All were expected to devise their own way out of the disaster area by private means, just like people do when disaster hits free-market Third World countries.

It is a beautiful thing this free market, in which every individual pursues his or her own personal interests and thereby effects an optimal outcome for the entire society. Thus does the invisible hand work its wonders in mysterious ways.

In New Orleans there would be none of the collectivistic regimented evacuation as occurred in Cuba. When a powerful Category 5 hurricane hit that island in 2004, the Castro government, abetted by neighborhood citizen committees and local Communist party cadres, evacuated some 1.5 million people, more than 10 percent of the country's population. The Cubans lost 20,000 homes to that hurricane—but not a single person was killed, a heartening feat that went largely unmentioned in the US press.

On Day One of Hurricane Katrina, (29 August 2005), it was already clear that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Americans had perished in New Orleans. Many people had “refused” to evacuate, media reporters explained, because they were just plain “stubborn.”

It was not until Day Three that telecasters began to realize that tens of thousands of people had failed to flee because they had nowhere to go and no means of getting there. With hardly any cash at hand, and over 100,000 people without cars of their own, many had to sit tight and hope for the best. In the end, the free market did not work so well for them.

Many of these people were low-income African Americans, along with fewer numbers of poor whites. It should be remembered that most of them had jobs before the flood hit them. That's what most poor people do in this country: they work, usually quite hard at dismally paying jobs, sometimes more than one job at a time. They are poor not because they're lazy but because they are paid poverty wages while burdened by high prices, high rents, and regressive taxes.

The free market played a role in other ways. Bush's agenda is to cut government services to the bone and make people rely on the private sector for the things they might need. So he sliced \$71.2 million from the budget of the New Orleans Corps of Engineers, a 44 percent reduction. Plans to fortify New Orleans levees and upgrade the system of pumping out water had to be shelved.

Army Corps of Engineer personnel had started work to build new levees several years ago but many of them were taken off such projects and sent to Iraq. In addition, the president cut \$30 million in flood control appropriations.

It was not actually the hurricane that destroyed New Orleans. Katrina swerved and hit parts of Mississippi much harder. For New Orleans most of the destruction was caused by the flood that came when the levees broke, a flood that had long been feared by many.

Bush took to the airways (*Good Morning America* 1 September 2005) and said, “I don't think anyone anticipated that breach of the levees.” Just another untruth tumbling from his lips. The catastrophic flooding of New Orleans had been foreseen by storm experts, engineers, Louisiana journalists, state officials, and even some federal agencies. All sorts of people had been predicting disaster for years, pointing to the danger of rising water levels and the need to strengthen the levees and pumps and fortify the entire coastland.

In their campaign to starve out the public sector, the Bushite reactionaries allowed developers to drain vast areas of wetlands. Again, that old invisible hand of the

free market would take care of things. The developers, pursuing their own private profit, would devise outcomes that would benefit us all.

But the Louisiana wetlands served as a natural absorbent and barrier between New Orleans and the storms riding in from across the sea. And for some years now, the wetlands have been disappearing at a frightening pace on the Gulf coast. All this was of no concern to the reactionaries in the White House.

This brings us to another way that the free market helped destroy New Orleans. By relying almost entirely on fossil fuel as an energy source—far more expensive and therefore more profitable than solar, tidal, or wind power—the free market has been a great contributor to global warming. Global warming, in turn, has caused a drastic rise in sea levels. And rising sea levels have been destroying the protective fringe of barrier islands and coastal marshlands along the Louisiana coast.

“Every year,” reports the *New York Times* (5 September 2005), “another 25 square miles, an area roughly the size of Manhattan, sinks quietly beneath the waves. In some places, the [Louisiana] coastline has receded 15 miles from where it was in the 1920s.”

As for the widely criticized rescue operation, free-marketeers like to say that relief to the more unfortunate among us should be left to private effort. It was a favorite preachment of President Ronald Reagan that “private charity can do the job.” And for some time that indeed seemed to be the policy with the flooding of New Orleans.

The federal government was nowhere in sight, but the Red Cross went into action. Its message: “Don't send food or blankets; send money.” The Salvation Army also began to muster its troops, as did many other organizations. Pat Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Network—taking a moment off from God's work of pushing John Roberts' nomination to the Supreme Court—called for donations and announced “Operation Blessing” which consisted of a highly publicized but totally inadequate shipment of canned goods and Bibles.

By Day Three even the usually myopic media began to realize the immense failure of the rescue operation. People were dying because relief had not arrived. Especially victimized were the infants, the elderly, the infirm, and others needing special medical attention. The authorities seemed more concerned with the looting than with rescuing people, more concerned with “crowd control,” which consisted of forcing thousands to stay pent up in barren areas devoid of minimal amenities or proper shelter.

Questions arose that the free market seemed incapable of answering: Who was in charge of the rescue operation? Why so few helicopters and just a small force of Coast Guard crews? Why did it take helicopters five hours to lift six people out of one hospital? When would the rescue operation gather some steam? Where were the feds? The state troopers? The National Guard? Where were the buses and trucks? The shelters and portable toilets? The medical supplies and water? How is that newscasters could get in and out of flood areas but rescuers and supplies could not?

And where was Homeland Security? What had Homeland Security done with the \$33.8 billion allocated to it in fiscal 2005? By Day Four, almost all the major media were reporting that the federal government's response was “a national disgrace.” Meanwhile George Bush finally made his photo-op appearance in a few well-chosen disaster areas—before romping off to play golf.

By the end of the first week, as if to demonstrate that reality is irrelevant, various free-market bloggers were already claiming ideological victory. They argued that the failure to deal with the crisis is proof that “government is inept; it doesn't work.” It was private individuals, charities, and corporations that pitched in to help. It was Wal-Mart that sent in three trailer trucks loaded with water, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that turned them away. It was private families that took the refugees into their homes, while government herded them into the Superdome.

Overlooked here is that the great outpouring of aid from private citizens, as heartening as it was, does nothing to address the problems of flood and storm, evacuation, public safety, community security, long term individual care, rehabilitation, and infrastructure reconstruction.

To be sure, government doesn't work—certainly not when it's in the hands of reactionaries who have no desire for it to work. New Orleans was victimized by those right-wing ideologues who oppose the idea that government can be a salutary force in regard to social needs and human services.

The Bushites want to demonstrate that government is not to be counted on when it comes to helping communities (especially low-income and ethnic minority communities). For all their inertia, FEMA officials played a chillingly active role in sabotaging the delivery of aid, turning away supply convoys, and warehousing the many volunteer rescue units that poured in from other states. Meanwhile Washington took four days to respond to requests that National Guard units from other states be allowed into Louisiana.

Of course, it should not go unnoticed that the Bushite reactionaries are *selective* free marketeers. They want to dismantle human services, get rid of public schools, public housing, and public health facilities; and they want to abolish the government's regulatory role in the corporate economy. But they also want to *extend* government power into other areas.

They want more power to carry out surveillance, classify official information, control private morals, vaporize civil liberties, and suppress public protest. They want plenty of government involvement when it comes to massive public subsidies and contracts for corporate America, limitless expansion of armaments and military technology, and perpetual overseas intervention. It is the victory of empire over republic.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in a moment of touching irony, foreign aid was tendered by almost fifty countries, including many poorer ones such as the Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Pakistan, Russia, and Thailand. By Day Seven, Mexico had sent army convoys and a navy ship laden with food, supplies, and specialists. German cargo planes came in with ready-to-eat meals and a German officer who openly expressed his concern that the meals would eventually reach the people in need. (He must have been watching the news.)

Cuba—which has a record of sending doctors to dozens of countries, including a thankful Sri Lanka during the tsunami disaster—offered almost 1600 doctors and loads of medical supplies. Meanwhile Venezuela offered one million barrels of gasoline, \$5 million in cash, water purification plants, and 50 tons of canned foods and water.

Predictably, the offers from Cuba and Venezuela were ignored by the U.S. State Department. And as of Day Ten, the Bush administration had nothing to say about the vast array of supplies offered by all the other countries. America the Beautiful and Powerful, America the Supreme Rescuer and World Leader, America the Purveyor of Global Prosperity most certainly could not accept foreign aid from a Third-World communist “failure” such as Cuba.

And what a most deflating and insulting role reversal that America was taking aid from Mexico or anyone else. Nevertheless people throughout the world, having seen all the TV images, were beginning to think that perhaps America really was not paradise on earth.

In sum, the Bushite reactionaries have neither the desire nor the decency to provide for ordinary citizens, not even those in dire straits. I recently heard someone complain, “Bush is trying to save the world when he can't even take care of his own people here at home.” Not quite true. He certainly does take very good care of his own people, that tiny fraction of one percent, the super-rich. It's just that the working people of New Orleans do not number among them.

— — —

Michael Parenti's recent books include *Superpatriotism* (City Lights) and *The Assassination of Julius Caesar* (New Press), and *The Culture Struggle* (Seven Stories Press), all available in paperback. www.michaelparenti.org.



Sunday, December 4
4 PM

Michael Parenti will speak on “Eco-Catastrophe and Corporate Power” at the Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness. This event is sponsored by the Fresno Center for Non-violence.

Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover announce Vanguard Public Foundation's contribution of \$200,000 to the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund at nationally televised benefit concert



Brad Barker/Getty Images Entertainment/Getty Images

Danny Glover:

John Coltrane once said "the main thing a musician would like to do, is to give a picture to the listener of the many wonderful things he knows of and senses in the universe." When Miles Davis asked him why he played so long, Coltrane answered, "It took that long to get it all in."

New Orleans is the site of so many "wonderful things", the city being a great crossroads of diverse peoples, languages, architectures, cuisines, and rhythms through the centuries. But it has also been the site of shameful things - slavery, exploitation and neglect.

It is a tribute to jazz musicians that they sought to "get it all in". The music itself - vital, transformative, seductive, subversive and often improvised - provided the record that tied each generation to the next. Out of suffering and hardship, we have heard time and again jazz artists rediscover possibility. Such is the power of imagination. And hence, the critical importance of this evening's effort.

When the hurricane struck the Gulf and the floodwaters rose and tore through New Orleans, plunging its remaining population into a carnival of misery, it did not turn the region into a Third World country - as it has been disparagingly described in the media - it revealed one. It revealed the disaster within the disaster: grueling poverty rose to the surface like a bruise to our skin.

But the storm not only revealed the poverty of those most vulnerable, those left behind. It revealed the poverty of skewed priorities that put the shoulder of technology to the wheel of death rather than life, creating killing machines that are now called "smart" and surveillance systems that, in the words of the great Guyanese poet Martin Carter, "are watching you sleep and aiming at your dreams."

Mother Nature revealed the poverty of a mindset that narrowly views security as a military issue. That is blind to the role of culture in sustaining the mental health and social wellness of people, which is also the basis for economic productivity. Blind to the role of culture in education, through which we are prepared for our responsibilities in a democracy. And hostile to the role of culture in the search for truth.

Hurricane Katrina revealed, more than anything else, a poverty of imagination.

Harry Belafonte:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "True compassion is more than throwing a coin to a beggar. It demands of our humanity that if we live in a society that produces beggars, we are morally commanded to restructure that society."

Let us challenge what we have been told was inevitable: Katrina was not "unforeseeable", the loss of life and suffering was not "unavoidable". It was the result of a political authority that sub-contracts its responsibility to the private sector and abdicates responsibility altogether when it comes to housing, health care, education and even evacuation.

As New Orleans rebuilds, let us also ensure that reconstruction does not result in further victimization. Let us support the efforts of those people in the Delta who have stated that they "will not go quietly into the night, scattering across this country to become homeless shadows in countless other cities while federal relief funds are funneled into rebuilding casinos, hotels and chemical plants..." Let us ensure that those victimized by this tragedy will be empowered to actively participate in the reclaiming, rebuilding and improvement of their communities.

The gift of music is to bring people together, to create not only a shared identity, but to embrace a shared humanity. To truly know ourselves is to realize how we are connected to each other.

Many people this evening have described the beauty, the Creole and spice, the gumbo that is New Orleans; the African roots, blues, gospel and many other musical traditions that have come together to create that uniquely American art form: jazz.

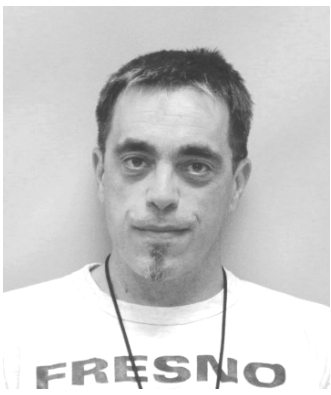
And the meaning of jazz, is life. Whether we receive it as a blend of many notes reflecting diverse traditions, or as John Coltrane might have it: as one note, played in endless variations.

Let us commit ourselves to the service of life.

The Vanguard Public Foundation, which Danny Glover and I serve, has a long history of social justice philanthropy and activism, and has established a People's Hurricane Relief Fund. And tonight, on the occasion of this inspiring benefit convened by Wynton Marsalis, the Vanguard Foundation is making a donation of \$200,000 to the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund.

"The Vanguard Foundation strives to eradicate racism in all its manifestations and promote civil rights, economic justice, gender equality and community empowerment." --**Hari Dillon**, President, Vanguard Public Foundation

To donate to the People's Hurricane Relief Fund, and/or for more information about Vanguard, call (415) 487-2111 or visit www.vanguardsf.org



QUEER EYE

Much Work Left to Be Done

By Dan Waterhouse

The Fresno Unified School District is taking a long, hard look at bullying on district campuses after settling a lawsuit for an undisclosed amount in early September. A parent sued the district after teachers, district administrators, and Fresno police did nothing to stop the bullying of her three sons. The boys were targeted by other students at their elementary school (Fremont School) because they were perceived to be gay.

The boys' mother said she complained to teachers, the principal, one of Fresno Unified's assistant superintendents, and then, finally, to police. No one responded. The police officer and the administrator's response was, "Kids will be kids." According to the mother, it took hiring an attorney before school authorities would listen to her and take action. Ultimately the three boys were moved to another school.

Obviously, the Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act hasn't worked.

The Act went into effect in January 2000. It prohibited harassment and other forms of discrimination on the basis of actual and perceived sexual orientation and gender in California schools.

A task force convened by the State Superintendent of Public Education issued recommendations for implementing the new law in April 2001. These recommendations included adopting and enforcing policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment, training all school personnel to prevent and respond to harassment and discrimination, providing guidance for students on how to report incidents, and developing anti-bias education programs. Almost none of these recommendations has been implemented.

During the 2002 school safety committee hearings, Carolyn Laub (the executive director of the Gay Straight Alliance Network) told legislators, "We have received disturbing feedback from students (from around the state) about their problems with the complaint process. Most students do not receive sufficient notice from their schools about the non-discrimination policies and the right to file a complaint. Even after learning about the right to file a complaint if harassed, most students we've worked with tell us they do not feel safe enough to do so. They fear retaliation from whoever harassed them. They are afraid that if they'd fought back against their attackers, they will be suspended and nothing will be changed about their school climate to prevent future incidents. Despite the often horrific and very serious nature of the abuse they have suffered, students fear their complaint will simply not be taken seriously, particularly if the school has a poor track record of responding to incidents or has yet to implement policies or programs designed to prevent harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity."

Laub added, "Many students who report harassment are routinely treated as the problem. Student complainants may be told that they brought the harassment on themselves by their behavior or appearance. Instead of remedying the problem, a student complainant may be transferred to a different school site or into an independent study program and told this is the only way a school can keep them safe."

Laub's comments could be a script for how Fresno Unified handled the harassment of the three boys at Fremont.

In January 2004, the California Safe School Coalition reported that harassment and violence against queer students continues to be "pervasive" in California schools. In 2001-02, the California Healthy Kids Survey asked questions about harassment or bullying at school. Almost 8 percent (17,815) of those surveyed (237,544) reported being harassed or bullied because "they are gay or lesbian or someone thought they were." Based upon the survey results, the Coalition estimates more than 200,000 California middle school and high school students are harassed every year on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

High-profile incidents in the Central Valley include George Loomis's 2000 lawsuit against the Visalia Unified School District after being harassed by fellow students and a teacher at Golden West High School. The district later settled the case out of court.

On the heels of the Loomis case, a student at Bullard High in Fresno committed suicide in January of 2001 because he could no longer cope with the taunting of other students. The first Gay Straight Alliance club in the district was established in the wake of the suicide.

After George Loomis filed his lawsuit in 2000, the Visalia newspaper investigated harassment of queer students in local high schools. The investigation revealed it happened frequently, and school authorities ignored what was happening. School administrators told the *Visalia Times-Delta* that harassment or bullying of queer students rarely or never happened and wasn't a serious problem. That contradicted the statements of the victimized students themselves. The students said they were threatened with physical harm, verbally harassed, or physically assaulted.

A former Clovis High School student testified in the School Safety hearing that she was raped on campus in 2001. She told committee members that she was beaten

and then raped by two boys from her class in a campus bathroom. She said the boys thought they were doing her "a favor by thinking they were turning" her "straight." She also said she had been hospitalized after being beaten for just walking into the girls' bathroom.

A 1999 study examining anti-queer harassment and violence in Washington State schools discovered violence against queer students occurred in more than 25 percent of the reported cases of harassment. In 22 of 111 incidents looked at in the study, students were assaulted. In another eight incidents of violence, 11 people were gang raped. Two of the 11 were sixth graders. Four of the 11 victims were boys or young men, raped in three incidents. In two of the incidents, all the attackers were male. The other case involved three young men and one young woman. The seven female victims also reported being raped almost always by males. Four women reported being raped by all-male groups. In another case, the victim was attacked by two young men and a young woman. In yet another incident, four young men allegedly coerced a woman teacher to have sex with a female student. The teacher also reported she felt she was raped. That incident was reported to authorities.

Here in Fresno, on the heels of the Fremont settlement, Fresno Unified is finally making changes. Fresno Unified's superintendent, Michael Hanson, hopes to make all schools a safe and welcoming place for all students.

Fresno Unified trustees changed the district's anti-bullying policy and approved contracts for consultants to train administrators, school safety coordinators, resource officers, and high school staffs in civility and anti-discrimination issues. The new anti-bullying policy added the promise to train school employees to recognize behaviors among students that would indicate when they are victims of bullying.

The revision requires reporting of suspected bullying. It also adds language covering incidents related to "a student's actual or perceived sex, gender, color, race, ethnic group identification, religion, national origin, and physical or developmental disability, age or sexual orientation."

Contracts have been drafted for Tides Center/Gay Straight Alliance Network to work next year with high schools and help with classroom instruction on anti-bullying, and for Kanwarpal K. Dhaliwal of Oakland to provide 12 staff training sessions for administrators district-wide.

In her complaint, the Fremont mother alleged that she felt Fresno Unified's staff lacked training to recognize bullying or its impact, that her sons were never provided counseling, and the bullies were never talked to or encouraged to correct their behavior. She said the Fremont principal promised to circulate an advisory to teachers saying: "Steven (name deleted) is having a particularly tough time. He is being called 'gay' and 'fag,' which is sexual harassment. . . . Please watch all students for these behaviors." The warning asks that teachers report incidents to her, keep the information confidential, and then sign it after they'd read it. Steven's mom said there was no proof teachers ever saw that request.

Fresno Unified already had been trying to address bullying, even in advance of the policy change, said district spokeswoman Susan Bedi. She said a mandatory training for administrators was held just before school started, on bullying and related topics. Bedi added, "It has been made very clear that remarks such as 'kids will be kids' are totally unacceptable."

Many queer students in Fresno Unified end up moving to DeWolf Continuation High to be in a nonjudgmental and safe learning environment.

Being in a safe school makes all the difference to learning, agrees Cindy Cruz, 16, a student at DeWolf. She lasted only a semester at her home high school, McLane, where she says other kids stared, whispered behind her back, or challenged her to fight because she wears boyish clothes and has a girlfriend. She didn't feel teachers noticed the harassment, and she felt there was no one to turn to.

DeWolf is different, says Cruz: "You enjoy going to school here. . . . We do have a teacher we can talk to. . . . And teachers here don't care if you like girls or boys." Her friend, Samantha Falcon, 17, adds: "At other schools, teachers preach at you: 'God didn't make you that way.'" Falcon said fighting at Fresno High drove her out. She's found DeWolf is a place to be herself, to join leadership classes, and to excel.

The DeWolf principal said that besides having more counselors and smaller classes, he arranges regular training for staff on harassment issues and how to get kids to resolve conflicts peacefully and with respect.

Mandy Copas, 17, just started at DeWolf this fall and already loves it. Bullying affected Copas so much at her old high school in Riverside that she dropped out for two years. This summer, she came to Fresno to live with her brother and start over. "You walk in here and you see gay people just like me," she said. "There is no sexual harassment here. . . ."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"And so many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this—this [chuckling slightly] is working very well for them."

— Former First Lady Barbara Bush, after visiting evacuees in the Astrodome

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THE WELCH REPORT

By Jack H. Welch, M.D.



A DECLARATION OF WAR

"The Bush administration has declared war on the world! The 450 changes that Washington is demanding to the action agenda that will culminate at the September 2005 United Nations summit don't represent UN reform. They are a clear onslaught against any move that would strengthen the United Nations or international law."

The upcoming summit was supposed to focus on strengthening and reforming the U.N. and address issues of aid and development, with a particular emphasis on implementing the UN's five-year-old Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was assumed this would be a forum for dialogue and debate, involving civil society activists from around the world challenging governments and the UN to create a viable global campaign against poverty and for internationalism. But now the US has issued an open threat to the 190 other UN members states, the social movements and peoples of the entire world, and the United Nations itself, which will require a quick and collaborative effort among these elements to challenge.

"The General Assembly's package of proposed reforms, emerging after nine months of negotiations before the summit, begins with new commitments to implement the MDGs, established in 2000 as a set of international commitments aimed at reducing poverty by 2015." In his reform proposals of March 2005, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on governments north and south to see implementation of the MDGs as a minimum requirement, without which even a strengthened U.N. would not be able to control future threats to international peace and security. This Bush administration's position was vetted and approved in a "thorough interagency process", meaning the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon and other agencies all signed off—a clear statement of official US policy.

The US proposal package is designed to force the world to accept as its own the US strategy of abandoning impoverished nations and peoples, rejecting international law, privileging ruthless market forces, sidelining the role of international institutions except for the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, and weakening the U.N. itself. The US package begins by systematically deleting every one of the 35 specific references to the MDGs.

PUTTING TREATIES AT RISK

The proposal puts at great risk treaties to which the US is already a party, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The U.N. Summit draft referred to the NPT's "three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy", meaning that states without nukes would agree never to build or obtain them, but would be guaranteed the right to produce nuclear energy for peaceful use. In return recognized nuclear weapons states, the US, Britain, France, China and Russia, would commit in Article VI of the NPT to move toward "nuclear disarmament with the objective of eliminating all such weapons". The proposed US changes deleted all references to the three pillars and to Article VI.

Further, the US deleted the statement, "The use of force should be considered as an instrument of last resort"—not surprising given the Bush administration's "invade first, choose your justifications later" mode of crisis resolution. Throughout the document the US demands changes that redefine and narrow what should be universal and binding rights and obligations. Much of the US effort aims to undermine the power of the U.N. in favor of absolute national sovereignty. (Source: Phyllis Bennis, fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, August 31, 2005 Tom Paine.com).



In Other News...

WELCOME to new Board member **Michael Black Bull**, who began service in August. Michael is a Native American activist who teaches American Indian Studies at Fresno City College, and minds our "shop" on Thursdays if you'd like to stop by and talk with him.

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!



As an extension of our annual book sale, the Center will be offering the works of Board members and Friends of the Center at **bargain prices**. Authors include **Dixie Salazar**, **Howard Hendrix**, **Dr. Jack Welch**, **Bob Vallett**, **Richard Stone**, and **Valta Pointer**. This special collection will be available at the **Book Sale on October 1**, at the Center through December 1, and at the WILPF Boutique on December 2.

Also at the Book Sale will be **Bette Peterson**, owner of two publishing companies: **Individualized Education** and **Poppy Lane Publishing** started in 1977. She began the business by self-publishing three books: *Beginning Reading at Home* (9 printings), *Beginning Math at Home* (3 printings), and *Christina and the Little Red Bird* (3 printings). Peterson only publishes book by local authors. You can visit Poppylane.com for more information on local authors.

REVIEW: "And It All Began in Taft," by Carol Bequette

Valta Pointer's touching memoir, encompassing the years from early 1930's to 1945, begins with her declaration that "the house on Kern Street was the place where I began to be aware of what lay beyond happiness, of what it means to be human." Then she proceeds to share with the reader some heartwarming examples of events and people who helped with that lesson as she was growing up in Taft.

Her life was enriched by a rescued cat, Highpockets, who lived with family 21 years. Her parents exemplified the best of family values which they pass on to Valta and her brother, Mikey. One of her most significant humanizing experiences involved Alvin, her best friend, who is still influencing her life. The book concludes with her horrified reaction to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This work is filled with wisdom, humor, history and insightful analyses of childhood experiences similar to those we have all had but yet unique. It's a book that I recommend to all.

-- 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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Gallo Boycott Over! Buy the Union Label!

By the United Farm Workers

The United Farm Workers and Gallo Vineyards Inc. have reached agreement on a new contract providing Gallo of Sonoma workers with many important gains. The workers voted nearly unanimously to ratify the agreement. The Gallo wine boycott has ended. Your participation and support of our campaign made a huge difference.

Hundreds of vineyard workers and supporters joined United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez on Wednesday, September 14, on the steps of San Francisco City Hall, three months to the day after the boycott of Gallo wine was kicked off and at the scene of the announcement.

This time they poured wine from Gallo of Sonoma bottles and toasted a new UFW contract with the winemaker that was overwhelmingly ratified by vineyard workers. Unionized waiters, members of Unite-Here Local 2, served the Gallo wine.

Many of the same people gathered at 12 noon on June 14, 2005, in front of city hall in San Francisco to launch the UFW's first major nationwide boycott in more than 20 years. The company, the leading US wine exporter, is one of the world's biggest wine producers and the largest in the US by cases sold. The new agreement covers all 310 Gallo farm workers in Sonoma County.

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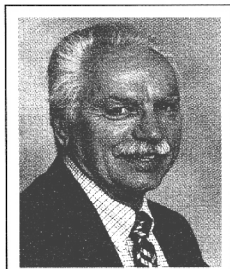


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Sat 10.01.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 5 PM–9 PM
cost: Free
details: “People, Places, Things” plus the music of Patrick Contreras

Dan Tedesco

Sat 10.01.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$5
details: Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Dan Tedesco Folk Rock
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

First Saturday Arts Market

Sat 10.01.05
where: Garden Street Plaza, Visalia
address: Main & Garden Sts.
when: 4–9 PM
cost: free admission
details: CALL TO ARTISTS!!! Booth spaces start at \$35, up to \$90 for primo real estate that will get your work seen.
Beer, wine, margaritas, food, live music, 2500+ people average attendance
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<http://www.saturdayartsmarket.org>

Good Company Players present *Our Town*

Sat 10.01.05 (also 10-2, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, 10-9, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, 10-16)
where: Second Space Theatre
address: 928 E Olive
when: 8:30 PM
cost: \$15; discounts for students and seniors
details: The Stage Manager (Dan Pessano) here takes on the role of the soda shop proprietor and serves Emily Webb (Emily Pessano) and George Gibbs (Andrew Walke). Wilder’s 1938 Pulitzer Prize–winner is the story of life as it’s lived in the turn-of-the- (20th) century town of Grovers Corners, New Hampshire. Our guide is the Stage Manager, who sets the scene and takes us on a trip through the world of *Our Town*. You’ll meet the genial milkman, the troubled choirmaster, the town historian, the local doctor and the newspaper editor—a whole community of people not so very different from the people living in America’s towns today. The story at the center of the play is about Emily Webb and George Gibbs, whom we follow from early teens through love and marriage and beyond.

The Fresno Celtic FalldéRal—a Music, Dance and Cultural Celebration

Sat 10.01.05 and 10.02.05
where: Fagan’s Irish Pub
address: 2039 Kern Street, Fresno
when: 11 AM–2 PM and 6 PM–10 PM
cost: \$25 per show
details: A Music, Dance and Cultural Arts Celebration. Featuring Kevin Burke, Liz Carroll and John Doyle and the Coulter/Phillips/Grosjean Ensemble, plus more local music and dance groups.
<http://www.fresnocelticfestival.org/>

Poetry Jam

Weds 10.05.05
where: Coffeehouse and Pub
address: California State University, Fresno
when: 7 PM–9 PM
cost: Free
details: You are cordially invited to participate. Beginning & experienced poets, singers, musicians, and dancers welcome.
The first Wednesday of each month, Fall 2005.
For information: (559) 278–4435
<http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/wrc/index.html>

Art Hop and Live Music

Thurs 10.06.05
where: art studio
address: 370 N Fresno St. (just south of Belmont)
when: 6 PM
cost: free
details: Artists Kurt Watson and Julia Dawn will be

showing their original work. Live music with Julia Dawn and Thomas Delgado. Refreshments will be available.
<http://www.kurtwatson.com>

ArtHop: Spectrum Gallery Annual Print Auction and Gala

Thurs 10.06.05
where: Spectrum Art Gallery
address: 1306 N. Wishon in the Tower District
when: 5 PM–8 PM
cost: Free
details: Preview an exhibition of 60 fine art photographs to be auctioned at Spectrum Gallery’s Annual Print Auction and Gala on October 22.
This year’s auction features the works of national and world–renowned photographers including Ruth Bernhard, Jerry Uelsmann, Christopher Burkett, Robert Glenn Ketchum, Steve Anshell, Merg Ross, and Stu Levy. Ruth Bernhard is one of the twentieth century’s most notable female photographers. Jerry Uelsmann’s work has been exhibited in more than 100 solo exhibitions around the world and his photographs are in permanent collections of museums worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Chicago Art Institute. Christopher Burkett is a nationally recognized expert in printing Cibachrome: using sophisticated and unique techniques, he meticulously hand prints large transparencies with impressive sharpness and rich tonality.
<http://www.spectrumphotogallery.org>

Salsa Thursdays

Thurs 10.06.05 (also 10-13, 10-20, and 10-27)
where: The Starline
address: 833 E Fern
when: 8:45 PM
cost: \$8
details: The evening begins with a dance class taught by one of Fresno’s most popular dance teachers, Phoebe Romero. The one-hour dance class starts at 8:45 PM. A partner is not required, because participants rotate partners. The class is designed for participants to learn the basic steps; learn to dance with a partner (leader/follower); and execute a few turns and spins. The dance class is an excellent way to meet people and make friends. After the class, the music adventure begins with Fresno’s best salsa DJs playing the best salsa, merengue, batchata, and reggaeton. Live percussion is played along with the music to add spice and emphasis with the tumbao and clave.
<http://www.starlinesalsaclub.com/>

OPEN MIC

Fri 10.07.05
where: The Revue
address: Olive St. across from Teezer
when: sign up at 7:30 PM
cost: free
details: Open mic with host Julia Dawn and Kevin. Open to all artists, poets, musicians, people who have drunk a lot of coffee and who have a lot to say... Come and play or just listen! Free.

BOUNCE 10

Fri 10.07.05
where: The Starline
address: 833 E Fern
when: 10 PM–2 AM
cost: \$5
details: Thanks to all who came to see DJ Mes rock the house. We finally decided to bring you the guys who put on the event for whole evening. Werd...
BOUNCE 10 – resident’s night:
Mario Macias – bounce
Ezra Osborn – voluptuous, bounce
Kristian Moua – voluptuous, bounce
eye candy by No:input & Nata, art show presented by local artists,
18 to bounce, 21 to swerve
flyer: <http://img393.imageshack.us/img393/3948/bounce51126yk.jpg>
<http://www.freewebs.com/kristianmoua>

DJ Dan

Fri 10.07.05
where: Club Casablanca
address: 2317 Tuolumne St
when: 8 PM
cost: \$15
details: DJ Dan is one of America’s most highly sought-

after DJ/producers, and he continually breaks new musical ground. Beginning as Los Angeles’s top techno DJ in the early 90s, he went on to inspire the breakbeat trend a few years later with the classic anthem “Loose Caboose.” Later DJ Dan reinvented the sound with “Needle Damage”—a fusion of all that is hard and funky. He has toured the world over, releasing numerous highly celebrated singles and popular CDs.

First Friday Films: Cameraless Animation

Fri 10.07.05
where: African-American Museum
address: 1857 Fulton
when: 9 PM
cost: Free
details: Bring your lawn chair and popcorn to the museum this fall for the second season of this cinematic program. First Friday Films showcases short independent films and videos, creating a unique setting unlike any other experience in Fresno. This month: Scratch animation.
Color Cry (1952, 3 minutes) by Len Lye was inspired by Man Ray’s “shadowcast” experiments. Lye discovered a whole range of new applications for this process in *Color Cry* and created the best and most elaborate “shadowcast” film ever made.
Particles in Space (1979, 4 minutes) by Len Lye grew out of the same calligraphic material as *Free Radicals* and is also is concerned with the energy of movement—of shaping light in darkness, by scratching on the film surface
Tal Farlow (1980, 2 minutes) by Len Lye was his last scratch film, completed posthumously by his assistant, Steven Jones.
Rhythm (1957, 1 minute) by Len Lye shows his remarkable sense of motion applied to the editing of live footage. The result is extraordinary—the footage becomes a kinetic composition, brilliantly synchronized to the rhythms of African drum music.
Free Radicals (1979, 4 minutes) by Len Lye put aside his interest in color and concentrated on a stark, black-and-white use of the “direct” method, by scratching on black leader. He has described the film as “white ziggle-zag-splutter scratches ... in quite doodling fashion.”
Lines Horizontal (1961, 6 minutes) by Norman McLaren and Evelyn Lambart is an experiment in pure design. Lines, ruled directly on film, move with precision and grace against a background of changing colors, in response to music specially composed for the film.
Mosaic (1965, 6 minutes) by Norman McLaren and Evelyn Lambart, is a picture of unusual movement, color and sound, created in an unusual way.
Excerpt from New York Lightboard Record (1961, 3 minutes) by Norman McLaren. Paper cutouts were used for McLaren’s single-frame animation of linear symbols in this Canadian tourism publicity clip. Projected in Times Square, New York, the large signboard was made up of thousands of light bulbs activated by the film images.
Begone Dull Care (1949, 7 minutes 7 seconds) by Norman McLaren and Evelyn Lambart is a lively interpretation, in fluid lines and color, of jazz music played by the Oscar Peterson Trio. Painting directly on film, the artists have created a visual expression of the music.
Mothlight (1963, 4 minutes) by Stan Brakhage, was made without a camera. He just pasted moth wings and flowers on a clear strip of film and ran it through the printing machine.
<http://www.fresnomet.org/fff.php>

Glen Delpit + Lonesome Jem Bluestein & the Lunatics

Fri 10.07.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 5:30 PM
cost: Free until 8 PM; \$5 after
details: Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Happy Hour with Glen Delpit, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM and Lonesome Jem Bluestein & the Lunatics at 8:00 PM
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Meatball Magic

Fri 10.07.05
where: The Red Lantern
address: 4618 E Belmont
when: 10 PM–2 AM
cost: FREE, FREE, FREE. Jesus, it’s FREE.
details: Oh my god. We’re at it again, only this time,

we’re dragging you into it. That’s right. It’s Meatball Magic. Come dance with us. We miss you already. Electro, new wave, 80s, whatever...You name it and if it's fun to dance to, we'll play it. Love, Meatball.
<http://www.myspace.com/meatballmagic>

Reedley Fiesta—A Family Party

Fri 10.07.05
where: G Street at Pioneer Park in Reedley
when: Noon–10 PM
cost: Free
details: Great family fun! Over 30 food booths to eat from. Craft booths with handcrafted items as well as commercial vendors. Informational booths and much more. Kids area with over five different bounce houses and activities and games. Live tntertainment. Kings River Arts Council Show and Reedley College Horti-culture Show.
<http://www.reedley.com>

ABWA Annual Rummage Sale

Sat 10.08.05
where: Hill Residence
address: 705 E San Jose
when: 8 AM–3 PM
cost: Free
details: American Business Women’s Association Ponderosa Chapter’s annual rummage sale raises money for local scholarships.
<http://www.abwa.org/>

Brothers of the Baladi

Sat 10.08.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$10
details: Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents “Brothers of the Baladi”
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Reedley Fiesta–A Family Party

Sat 10.08.05
where: G Street @ Pioneer Park in Reedley
address: G Street @ Pioneer Park
when: 10am – 7 PM
cost: Free
details: See October 7 listing.

ABWA Annual Rummage Sale

Sun 10.09.05
where: Hill Residence
address: 705 E San Jose
when: 7:30am – 1 PM
cost: Free
details: See October 8 listing.

Creative Economy Council Summit

Tues 10.11.05
where: UCSF Fresno Medical Education and Research Center
address: 155 N. Fresno St.
when: 6pm
cost: Free
details: The goal of the summit is to provide a forum to gather public input on ideas and actions regarding projects and policies that impact our region's ability to attract, develop, support, and retain creative profes-sionals. Facilitated by Tom Jones. Additional informa-tion to follow, including registration information and agenda.
<http://www.fresnocec.org>

System of a Down

Tues 10.11.05
where: Save Mart Center
address: 2650 East Shaw Avenue
when: 8 PM
cost: tba
details:
<http://www.savemartcenter.com>

FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES

Weds 10.12.05
where: Big Game Studios
address: 1533 E Belmont
when: 7 PM
cost: \$8 advance; \$10 day of
details: FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES, Circle Takes The Square, Bear vs Shark. Tickets: Ticketweb. Plus Fall of Troy. All Ages
<http://www.bgemusic.biz>

Juan Gabriel

Weds 10.12.05
where: Save Mart Center
address: 2650 East Shaw Avenue

when: 8 PM
cost: tba
details:
<http://www.savemartcenter.com>

Wayne Damron + Mother Jones

Fri 10.14.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 5:30 PM
cost: Free before 8 PM; \$5 after
details: Happy Hour with Wayne Damron 5:30 PM–7:30 PM; Mother Jones, 8:00 PM
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Blues & Crab Festival

Sat 10.15.05
where: Valdez Hall
address: 700 M Street
when: 6 PM–11 PM
cost:
details: Spirit of Woman of California, a nonprofit substance-abuse treatment program for women with children, presents the 3rd Annual Blues & Crab Festival! An evening of dining, dancing, and delight under the stars! Entertainment by Papa Bear & Company. Festivities include a silent auction and raffle prizes galore! For more information, please call (559) 233–4353 or (559) 227–7477.

Coheed and Cambria, Blood brothers, Dredg, mewwithout you

Sat 10.15.05
where: Rainbow Ballroom
when: 6 PM
details: Tickets on sale Saturday, September 3 at 12 PM at all Vallitix outlets including SBI & Valentino’s in Fresno and Boo Boo Records in SLO, Vallitix.com, and charge by phone (888) 825–5484. All ages.
<http://www.numbskullshows.com>

Open Mic with Jim Rust

Sat 10.15.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 4 PM
cost: Free before 8 PM; \$5 after
details: Open mic with Jim Rust 4–6 PM. Central California Songwriters Association “Songwriters in the Round” at 8 PM
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Orquesta Timbalero

Sat 10.15.05
where: The Starline
address: 833 E Fern
when: 9 PM
cost: \$12 before 10 PM, \$15 after
details: Starline Salsa Club presents Salsa de la Valle Central
<http://www.starlinesalsaclub.com/>

The Inner Ear Poetry Jam

Thurs 10.20.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$3
details: Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents “The Inner Ear Poetry Jam”
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Fall Artist in the Garden Day

Fri 10.21.05
where: Shinzen Japanese Garden at Woodward Park
address: Audubon Drive and Friant
when: 9 AM–3 PM
cost: Free
details: This event is held each year specifically for artists of all kinds. Photographers, painters, even musicians wanting a quiet place to practice, find the garden a “piece of heaven’.’ This day is for any artist with equipment and the admission to the garden is free. (The garden is closed to the public.)
<http://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org>

Glen Delpit + Flute Music of the Andes

Fri 10.21.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 5:30 PM
cost: Free before 8 PM; \$5 after
details: Happy Hour with Glen Delpit 5:30–7:30 PM; “Flute Music of the Andes” at 8 PM
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Anette Butler Band

Sat 10.22.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$5
details: Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents “Anette Butler Band”
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Spectrum Gallery Annual Print Auction and Gala

Sat 10.22.05
where: Fresno Art Museum
address: 2233 N. First Street
when: 6 PM to 9 PM
cost: Free and open to the public
details: A truly magnificent and valuable collection of more than 60 fine art photographs will be sold at auction during Spectrum Gallery’s Annual Print Auction and Gala.
<http://www.spectrumphotogallery.org>

ZooBoo

Sat 10.22.05
where: Chaffee Zoo
address: 890 W Belmont Ave
when: 5 PM–8 PM
cost: \$8–\$12
details: Bring your little ones for trick-or-treating, carnival games, and fun galore. Older kids and adults enjoy the spine-tingling frights of the “Haunted Jungle” haunted house adventure. Member: Adult \$10, Child (2–11) \$8. Non–member: Adult \$12, Child \$10
Tickets sold online for this event.
<http://www.chaffeezoo.org/>

Branching Out: Poetry for the 21st Century

Mon 10.24.05
where: Woodward Park Library
address: 944 E Perrin
when: 7 PM
cost: Free
details: The Branching Out series aims to present accessible and engaging talks by distinguished poets and scholars about celebrated and classic poets in five American cities: Fresno, Houston, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Kansas City. The national program is put on by Poets House and the Poetry Society of America. Locally, the program is hosted by the Fresno County Library and the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Fresno State. This month E. Ethelbert Miller speaks on Langston Hughes.

Mercury Blues Band

Fri 10.28.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$5
details: Happy Hour with Wayne Damron, 5:30–7:30 PM; “Mercury Blues Band” at 8 PM
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Belly Dancing Halloween Party

Sat 10.29.05
where: Full Circle Brewery
address: 620 F Street
when: 8 PM
cost: \$5
details: Belly Dancing Halloween Party with Cory Zamora and the music of Tip the Velvet
<http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com>

Central California Fall Wine Cornucopia 2005!

Sat 10.29.05
where: Grizzlies Stadium
address: Tulare and H Street
when: 2 PM–6 PM
cost: \$30 advance, \$35 day of
details: Fall Wine Cornucopia 2005 is a festival unlike any held in the San Joaquin Valley. Central California wines, cheeses, and olive oils; top quality baked goods; specialty fall crops; local artists; and live jazz will all be featured at this event. We are inviting people from all over the Valley to discover, sample, and enjoy the CORNUCOPIA of delicacies produced in our own back yard. It is a celebration that we’d like you to be a part of. FWC ’05 is the primary event supporting Central California Winegrowers, the nonprofit association that promotes the marketing and improvement of both Central California wine grapes and our wines, for the benefit of our region and economy. For more information, please contact Peterangelo Vallis by phone at (559) 905–7748, by email at fwcinfo@ccwinegrowers.org, or visit our Web page. <http://www.ccwinegrowers.org/fwc.html>

Mexico 2006: The Elusive Change

Next year’s presidential elections in Mexico have new seasonings that make them highly anticipated. And very worrisome, too.
By Eduardo Stanley, Pacific News Service

FRESNO, CA—From the distance it looks like the 2006 elections in Mexico will be like the previous ones, when Vicente Fox became the candidate that defeated the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) after 71 years in power. In part, the 2000 triumph of the National Action Party (PAN) occurred thanks to wide support from a public seeking change. The message of then-candidate Vicente Fox was “change” and a “stop” to corruption.

With only a year left of Fox’s presidency, his achievements are limited. For example, the social gap has continued to grow—as has immigration to the United States. Because of widespread frustration with the PAN, it is understandable and almost certain that the election will not result in a repeat of the 2000 outcome. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the changes initiated in previous years were consolidated during Fox’s presidency, and citizens can now express themselves more freely.

The political vacuum left by the PAN—or the lack of leadership, as some commentators say—could be filled by... the PRI! Yes, in spite of all that was said and written about the incredible levels of corruption of this

party during the seven decades that they governed Mexico, a PRI candidate might well regain the presidency next year.

But isn’t it Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), who leads the surveys? Yes, but... .

The former mayor of Mexico City has met with opposition from many of those who were expected to support him. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, founder of the PRD and initiator of the 1988 “libertarian” process in Mexico that generated an important democratic opening in the country is expected to be a presidential candidate. Until 1988, Mexico was a “closed country” dominated by the PRI. That year, well known leader Cardenas broke away from the PRI and initiated the movement to create a more open political environment in the country and to push for democratic reforms, aiming to end the dominance of one party. Later, his movement created a new political party, the PRD and he insists on being a presidential candidate. Having lost the elections of 1988, 1994, and 2000, Cardenas says that he renounces the PRD internal campaign but flirts with becoming a candidate by joining with “independent forces of the left.”

This would weaken Lopez Obrador and Mexico’s leftist option.

And yet Lopez Obrador faces another challenge: No one less than Subcomandante Marcos, who after criticizing him harshly, said he intends to create a leftist movement in the country. Marcos compared AMLO to Salinas de Gortari and asked his followers not to vote for him—or the PRD, of course.

Worldwide, the left has shown an incredible incapacity both to organize to win elections and then to govern without major internal conflicts. This incapacity is mainly generated by a powerful self-destructive tendency—almost as if the left is accustomed to opposing to the government, but not to governing.

Both Cardenas and Marcos are weakening the possibilities for Mexico to have its first president “from the left.” It is important to clarify that AMLO represents a very moderate left, something like social democracy. Or maybe capitalism “with a human face.” Perhaps because of this, many radicals feel uncomfortable with his political platform. In any case, AMLO’s educational, humanistic, and budget-control proposals—already practiced in Mexico City—could be implemented on a national level

to generate an urgently needed social and economic recovery.

Marcos surprised many analysts. Though nobody expected his support for AMLO, his grandiloquent attacks on the PRD’s pre-candidate are at least divisive.

And why now? Wasn’t his role simply to write funny articles and make the occasional provocative statement, so as to remain in the public eye?

The rise of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) in 1994 pushed Mexico’s administrations to pay attention to the indigenous issue. Therefore, its historic importance is unquestionable. Nevertheless, after years of inactivity and after losing superb opportunities to initiate a serious democratic movement in the country, it is difficult to understand the reasoning behind Marcos’s bombastic statements against AMLO. His new attitude is paralyzing.

It remains to be seen if—notwithstanding his admirers among the middle class and students in the United States and Europe—Marcos has the capacity to mobilize Mexican society; to motivate it to participate; and eventually, to fight for the power, to gain it, to keep it, and to govern and administer in the interests of society and the world market. Of course, there is a difference between pretty talk and the actual knowledge and skill needed to run a government—especially while avoiding the same vices now so widely criticized, such as corruption and abuse of power.

In both the theater and the movies—as well as in soccer—there are “pauses”: moments of calm in which spectators re-compose themselves in the wake of intense emotional situations. In soccer these pauses, or time-outs, enable players to ration their energies and keep control of the play. One can’t help worrying and wondering whether the PRI’s defeat in 2000 was only a historical time-out for this party. It remains to be seen what side Cardenas and Marcos are on: Will their efforts enable a PRI rally or a social change?—a change that, however modest, could be crucial for millions of people who need something more than a PRI time-out.



Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former mayor of Mexico City is a frontrunner in the race for the presidency.

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www.fresnolibrary.org
www.poetrybranchingout.com

*Two Nights with
Ethelbert*

E. Ethelbert Miller on the poetry of Langston Hughes
Monday, October 24, 2005
6:30 pm jazz music by Morris/Potikian Duo
7:00 pm Langston Hughes lecture

E. Ethelbert Miller reading his own poetry
Tuesday, October 25, 2005
7:00 pm

Woodward Park Regional Library
944 E. Perrin, Fresno

For programming and parking information, call (559) 488-3856.

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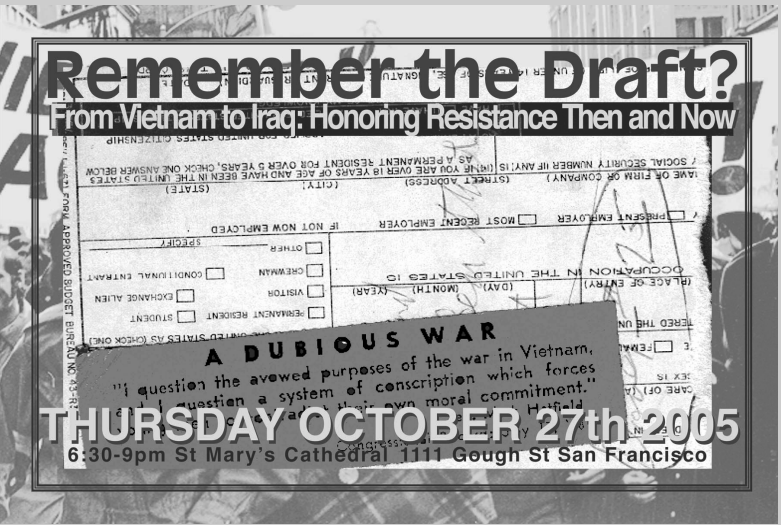


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COMMUNITY ACTION

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 1 • 10 AM-4 PM

Solar Homes Tour: Experience the Solar Solution! Learn directly from the innovators who have adopted solar technology how it works, what it costs, and why its time has come. Registration is at the Municipal Services Center, 2101 G Street in Fresno. For more information contact Liz Merry: (530) 852-0354, info@norcalsolar.org, <www.norcalsolar.org>.

Saturday, October 1 • 8 AM-3 PM

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence ANNUAL USED BOOKS SALE will be held in the parking lot at the SW corner of Olive and Van Ness. CDs, tapes, and videos will also be sold. To donate and/or help with the sale, call Angela at 435-6383.

Saturday, October 1 • 10 AM-Noon

The Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition is meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness at the corner of McKinley, near Fresno City College. For more information call 432-3445.

Saturday, October 1 • 3-5 PM

Women of Spirit meet at 7319 N Fourth, Fresno. Topic: Using Spirituality to Empower Yourself— How to Access Our Inner Strength and Wisdom. Learning and developing our inner potential can give us new tools for enhancing peace and harmony in our lives and others'. Participants will learn to develop their own "wheel of resilience" for use in their own lives. The event is free; for details call (559) 435-2212.

Saturday, October 1 • 7:30 PM

I Am Joaquin. Heroes & Legends of the Southwest and Mexico come to life through the stirring voices and songs of Agustin Lira, Patricia Wells Solorzano, & Merlinda Espinosa. This theatrical dramatization will be at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N First, Fresno. Tickets are \$8 general, \$5 seniors and students; kids 9 and under are free. For more information call (559) 237-3016.

I Am Joaquin will also be performed on Saturday, October 8, at 7 PM; Sunday, October 9, at 3 PM; and Friday, October 14, at 7 PM. All performances will be at the Fresno Art Museum.

Sunday, October 2 • 6:30 PM

"The Social, Physical, and Spiritual Costs of War." Forum will be held at the Mennonite Brethren Seminary at the corner of Chestnut and Butler in Fresno. This event is sponsored by Mennonite Peacemakers. Panelists: Sheri Wiedenhoefer, Ruth Buxman, Marvin Hein, and Steve Ratzlaff.

Sunday, October 2 • 6:30 PM

Peace Fresno is one of the cosponsors of a "Peace Vigil" to commemorate the 136th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Vigil will be held at the Peace Garden at CSUFresno

Wednesday, October 5 • Noon and 7:30 PM

Embedded/Live. This taped version of the play by Tim Robbins is a ripped-from-the-headlines satire of the madness surrounding brave men and women on the front lines of a Middle East conflict. It skewers lapdog embedded journalists, scheming government officials, and the media's insatiable desire for heroes. This show is a part of the Second Wednesday Video Series sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. The FCNV is located at 1584 N Van Ness. For more information call (559) 237-3223.

Friday, October 7 • 6:30-8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents speaker Sri Prasad, a development worker with the Gandhian movement in India. He has worked extensively in villages of Mahaboobnagar and Rangareddy districts for rural development for two and a half decades. His work's goals are sustainability, respect for human values, and dignity for all members of society. He was formerly a teacher at New Science College in Bhavan before devoting his life to rural development.

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

Tuesday, October 11 • 8 AM-5 PM

First Annual Diversity Conference - Culture and Community Building: Transformative Practices will be held at the Satellite Student Union at CSUF. For more information contact Francine L. Oputa, Conference Coordinator at francine@csufresno.edu or visit their Web site at <www.csufresno.edu/tapestry>.

Wednesday, October 12 • 9 AM-4 PM

The Fresno Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council in conjunction with the Fresno City Office of Emergency Services will conduct a day-long workshop focused on Disaster Relief and Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities. The workshop will take place in the Convention Center, Exhibit Hall 2. Members of Fresno City, Fresno County, and Clovis disaster relief teams will discuss their plans and issues with members of the disabled community. Among the presenters will be representatives of police and fire departments, citizen volunteer groups, the American Ambulance Service, and the American Red Cross. Ample opportunity will be provided for audience members to raise their concerns with agencies developing plans to cope with large-scale emergencies and disasters. For more information call Erin at (559) 621-4152.

Wednesday, October 12 • 12 Noon-6 PM

Smart Food, Smart Kids. Join teachers, farmers, administrators, and parents at the Central Valley Regional Farm to School Summit hosted by Fresno Metro Ministry, the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and the Center for Food and Justice at the UC Merced building in Fresno (on Shaw Avenue across from Fashion Fair) For more information call (559) 485-1416 or e-mail jeremy@fresnometmin.org. Also see <www.fresnometroministry.org>.

Thursday, October 13 • 7 - 9 PM (doors open at 6 PM)

The Mystery of Water and Humans, a presentation by Dr. Masaru Emoto at the Tower Theater. Dr. Emoto is the author of *The Hidden Messages in Water*. As seen in the movie *What the Bleep Do We Know*, Dr. Emoto's groundbreaking research reveals that crystals formed in frozen water change in response to written words, pictures, music, thoughts, and other types of vibration. Water found in clear springs and water exposed to loving words and intention create beautiful complete symmetrical crystals. In contrast polluted water and water exposed to negative words or thoughts form dull, incomplete, asymmetrical crystals, or no crystals. Our planet and our bodies are 70% water. How do our words and thoughts impact us? For more information go to www.hado.net or call Carol Sedano at 779-1927.

Friday, October 14 • 5 PM and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents The World at the Tower Theatre. Acclaimed Chinese director Jia Zhang-ke, in his first "above-ground" film, studies the effects of globalization on contemporary Chinese society. Set in an actual Beijing theme park, The World flamboyantly mixes the real and the surreal, the comic and the tragic. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door: \$10; \$8 for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>.

Saturday, October 15 • Deadline for articles and calendar items to the November 2005 Community Alliance newspaper. Send information to AllianceEditor@comcast.net.

Saturday, October 15 • 9 AM-3 PM

Fresno Housing Alliance invites you to the People's Housing Summit. Raising the renter's voice to understand the local housing crisis. Renters occupy 50% of Fresno's housing units. Please bring your stories and concerns so we can begin to build a shared vision and voice for what we want our community to look like. Together we can create a plan to make our vision for a healthier community of safe, decent, accessible, and affordable housing a reality. This summit will be held at the Valley Christian Center, 4649 E Shields, Fresno (between Maple and Chestnut). Multilingual translation available! Everyone welcome! Some childcare available: call Tony at 237-4102 to reserve care.

For more information on the People's Housing Summit contact: Relational Culture Institute (RCI) at 276-2304 (Spanish and English); Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) at 487-1500 (Hmong, Lao, Russian, English, more).

Persons needing accommodations should notify the Center for Independent Living, Jose Luis Barraza at 276-6777 or TTY at 276-6779.

Saturday October 15 • 7:30 PM

SUZY & ERIC THOMPSON, Featuring Suzy singing & playing the Blues. A powerful blues singer in the styles of Memphis Minnie and Bessie Smith, Suzy is unique in her ability to fiddle and vocalize at the same time. Fresno Art Museum \$15 advance; \$20 at the door.

Sunday, October 16 • 10 AM-Noon

World Meditation Day will be observed at 6292 N Millbrook, Fresno. Program includes guided meditation and discussion on "Awakening Our Innate Virtues." When we can spread our inner radiance like a "fragrant rose," we will give the world peace, hope, and love. Event is free; for details, please call (559) 435-2212.

Sunday, October 16 • 2:30 PM

Fresno/Clovis Crop Walk leaving from the Westside Church of God, 1422 W California, Fresno. For more information call 431-8193 or 435-7439.

Sunday, October 16 • 3 - 9 PM

First Annual taste of the Nations event at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno. Taste of the Nations is a multicultural celebration with live music, art, food, wine, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit homeless women with children and the hurricane relief effort. For more information call 559 360-2326 or email serenityhomes@vesselsforhonor.com

Sunday, October 16 • 3-10 PM

Bluesworks: a benefit for Fresno Filmworks. Featuring: Deja Blues, MoFo Party Band, A.C.C. Myles Band and special guests Johnny Da-Doo Wilson & Hosea Leavy "Granddaddy of the Blues." The benefit will take place at Fagan's Irish Pub, 2039 Kern St, Fresno. Tickets available at: Tower Theatre, The Movies, and Fagan's Irish Pub: <www.fresnofilmworks.org>

Tuesday, October 18 • 11:30 AM

Proposition 79 "\$80 Million Can't Buy My Vote!" Rally / Press Conference, State Building, 2550 Mariposa Mall, Fresno

There are lots of ways your organization can help us educate voters, no matter how big or small you are. We don't have \$80 million like PhRMA does, but we have YOU! Please join us and find out how your organization can help spread the word and ensure the passage of Prop. 79, Cheaper Prescription Drugs More Californians Can Count On, on November 8th. For more information contact Jessica Rothhaar, jessicar@health-access.org , 510-873-8787 ext. 107

Saturday, October 22 • 8-10 AM

Fourth Saturday Tower Cleanup/Beautification. Meet at the Wishon side of the Chicken Pie Shop, Wishon and Olive. Bring hat, gloves, pruners, broom. We supply vests, bags, grabbers, other tools. Quit promptly at 10 AM to visit, have coffee, celebrate.

Saturday, October 22 • 5:30 PM

Protest by families, friends, and supporters working together to stop police brutality. Meet at the corner of N Street and Mariposa in Fresno, across from the main library entrance. For more information call Gloria at (559) 268-2261; Comite No Nos Vamos 498-6033; 497-0206; or the National Action Network, 288-0828. Wear black, bring victims' pictures, memories, ribbons, candles, music, song, poetry, etc. <www.october22.org/ >

Friday, October 28

The Fresno Free College Foundation annual banquet. For more information go to <www.kfcf.org> or call (559) 233-2221 or see the ad on page 15.

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

Legendary Goth-Rock Icons Gene Loves Jezebel - Live on Stage @ Futureshockk! Friday Night, October 7th, 2005!

Yes, the rumors are true! And this is the official announcement many of you have been waiting for! It has been confirmed, GLJ are coming, and we are the First club in California to book this legendary act for their 2005 tour! So mark your calendars and get ready for one hell of a show! You have danced to many GLJ songs on the Futureshockk dance floor, now see them live, in the flesh!

NTC - the North Tower Circle • 2777 N. Maroa Ave.
(right up/down the street from the old club Dance next to the railroad tracks)

9PM-2AM
\$8 cover, 21+
Rockin' Drink Specials all night!
call (559) 778-1313 or visit <http://www.myspace.com/futureshockk>

University Theatre Presents Proof By David Auburn - Directed by Kathleen McKinley

Performance Dates: October 1 & 4-8 @ 8 p.m. • October 2 @ 2 p.m.

Tickets:
\$15 - General Admission
\$13 - Fresno State Faculty/Staff (Must Show ID), Seniors, Members of the Alumni Association (Must Show ID) Students at other Schools (Must Show ID) \$ 8 - Fresno State Students (Must Show ID)

Location:
John Wright Theatre - Speech Arts Building
California State University, Fresno

Tickets on sale September 14th.
Buy on line at <http://www.csufresno.edu/Theatre>
Box office is open weekdays from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. and one hour before curtain on performances dates.
Advance ticket purchase is recommended. Phone orders accepted with Master Card or Visa.
FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CALL (559) 278 - 2216

Big Game Studios 1533 Belmont Ave • Fresno, CA 93704

Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM
Numbskull Productions presents

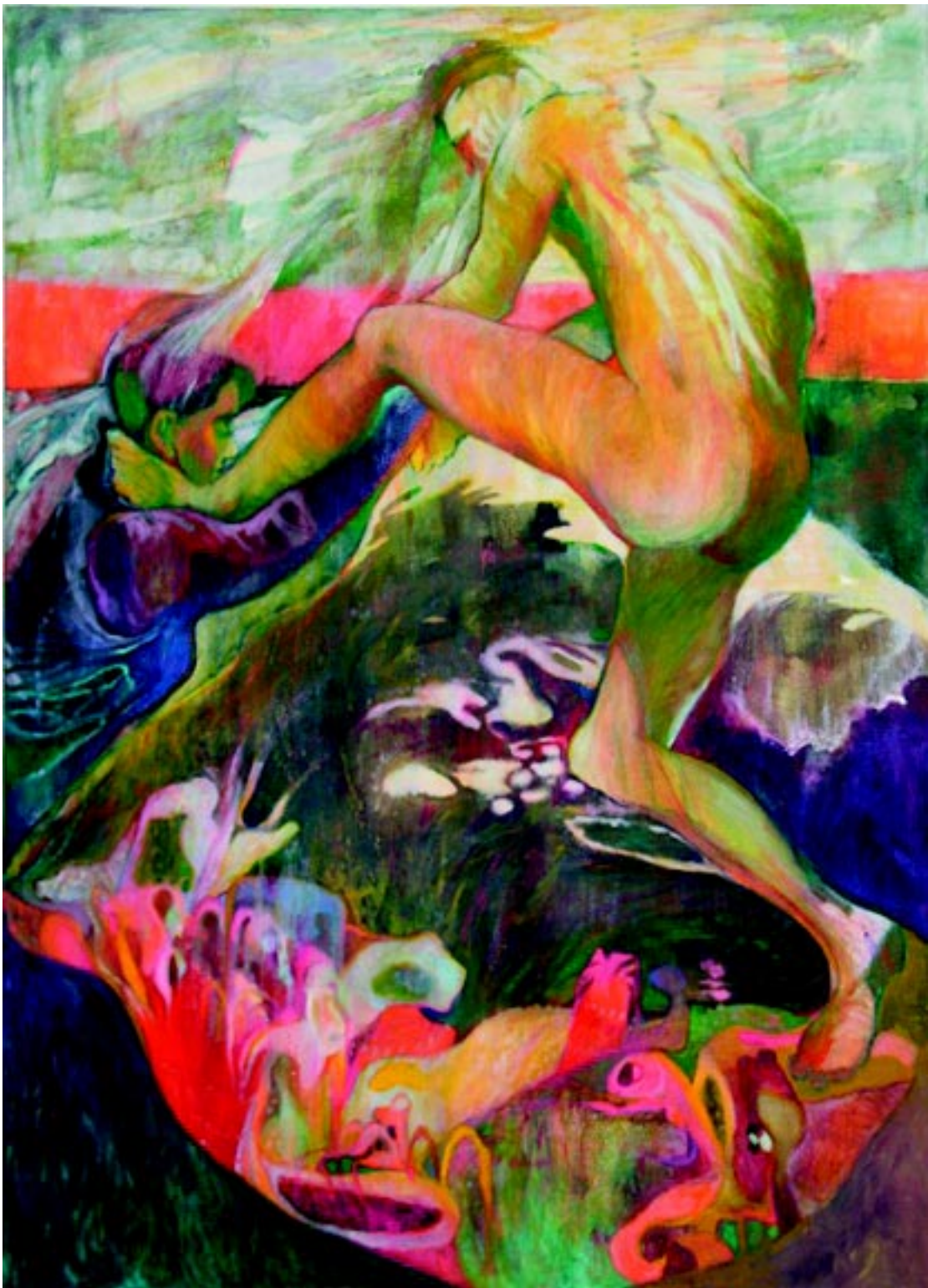
FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES, Bear vs Shark, Since By Man, Fall of Troy

NUMBSKULLSHOWS.COM • U.S.\$9.00

Downtown Art Show

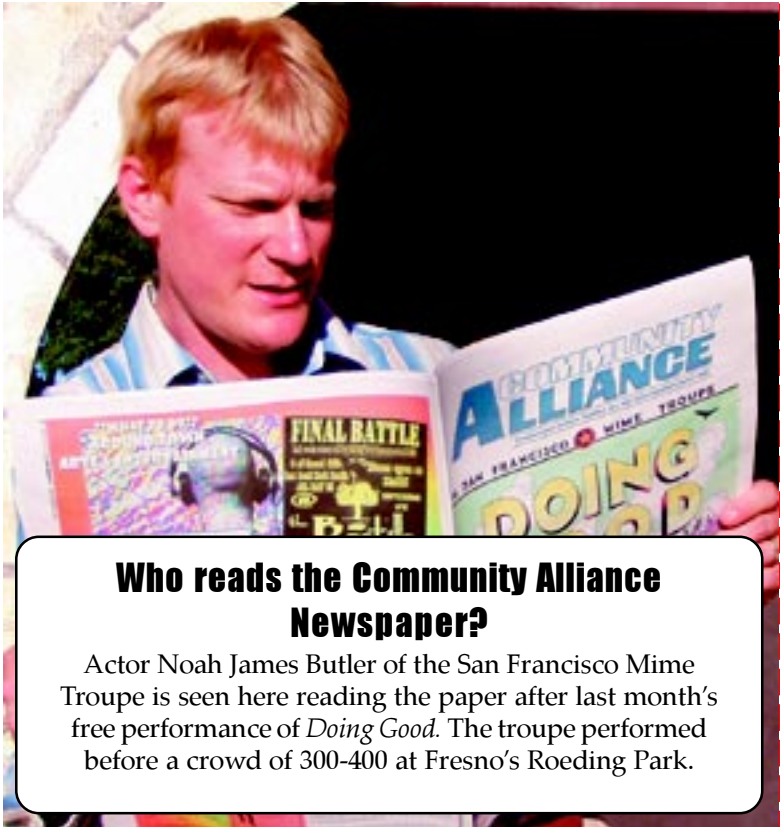
A special showing of a body of large oil paintings by Dixie Salazar will be shown at the T. W. Patterson building on the Fulton Mall, October through November 2005. In these oils, the figure in movement (sometimes under water) is used as a metaphor for the human condition. A layered, multi-dimensional surface blends various techniques to achieve a rich, tapestry-like painted effect at times; at other times pure, vibrant pigment dominates. Postures, gestures, and relationships of forms are ambiguous and mysterious, while obvious associations with the rituals of birth, baptism, death, drowning, survival, and a strong sense of spirituality are evident.

The show opens October 6 for Art Hop (5-9 PM) and will be open from 12-2 PM on weekdays to be announced. A reception will be held on Sunday, October 9, at 2:00 PM with music and refreshments. For more information contact The Fresno Arts Council at 237-9734 or mfranco@fresnoarts.org.



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Who reads the Community Alliance Newspaper?

Actor Noah James Butler of the San Francisco Mime Troupe is seen here reading the paper after last month's free performance of *Doing Good*. The troupe performed before a crowd of 300-400 at Fresno's Roeding Park.

Please cut out this page and send it, along with your check or money order to:

Community Alliance
PO Box 5077 • Fresno, CA 93755

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