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Progressive Culture, Politics, Art, and Entertainment Since 1996



BOB MARLEY'S ORIGINAL BAND **THE WAILERS**

AT THE TOWER THEATRE ON FEBRUARY 22

Wendy Russell Presents along with Renegade Productions proudly bring back Bob Marley's original band, the Wailers, in celebration of Marley's birthday. After successfully completing a sold-out 2005 tour led by Aston "Family Man" Barrett, the Wailers plan to carry on the spirit and musical dominance that was created by Bob Marley and the Wailers with another tour. Their Fresno date is Wednesday, February 22, at the Tower Theatre. Doors open at 7:30 for this all-ages show and music starts at 8:30. Advance tickets are \$23 and can be purchased at the Tower Theater Box Office, the Brass Unicorn, or through Wendy Russell Presents (209) 556-9676. Credit-card purchase can be made at <www.renegadeshows.com> and <www.jambasetickets.com> or by calling (530) 583-2801.

Recognized throughout the world as the architect of reggae, "Family Man" created a music genre that rose to world domination when he teamed up with Bob Marley as his bassist and musical director to form Bob Marley and the Wailers. "Family Man" and his band, the Wailers, continue to tour the world leaving no doubt that the musical legacy he and Bob Marley created would continue.

As the Wailers embark on their 34th tour of the world, "Family Man" has pushed the limits of the Wailers, by assembling original band members that toured with Bob Marley making this reunion an unprecedented musical event. The 2006 world tour will be one of the most defining events since music fans have discovered the soul-stirring magic of reggae.

The name Wailers first applied to groups led by Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, and Bunny Livingston in the mid-sixties, when ska was the ruling sound in Jamaican music. By the end of the decade this triumvirate had teamed up with the Barrett brothers and begun to dominate the early reggae scene, recording untold hits for producer Lee "Scratch" Perry. After signing to Island Records in 1971, the name Wailers referred to Bob Marley's band. When Peter and Bunny left the group two years later, the position of musical director was officially passed onto Aston "Family Man" Barrett and his brother Carlton, who died in 1987. Bob Marley and the Wailers would then go on to break musical history by selling well over 250 million records worldwide. Clearly, "Family Man" is the sole beneficiary of the Wailers' mantle and whilst other long-standing members still record and tour with the band, it is Marley's former bassist and musical arranger, "Family Man," who continues to spread his musical legacy. The lead singer is former City Heat vocalist Gary "Nesta" Pine, who is widely regarded as the Wailers' best front man since the late, great Bob himself.

In summary, the Wailers band remains the world's ultimate roots rock reggae outfit. No other aggregation can match them for either the depth or quality of their hit songs, or their widespread appeal. The cap still fits, and yes, the crowd still wants more.

For more information contact (209) 556-2676 or (530) 583-2801.

FEBRUARY 2006

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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The Community Alliance newspaper reserves the right to edit all articles for space and clarity.

Los Angeles Times Articles Attack the United Farm Workers Union

(from a UFW press release)

Last month (January 2006) the *Los Angeles Times* ran a series of inaccurate, dishonest, and untrue articles by reporter Miriam Pawel. The farm worker movement's side of the story was frozen out of her coverage despite the union supplying extensive, detailed information and unparalleled access over many months refuting specific inaccuracies and distortions she ended up writing. The UFW's limited resources mean the union can't be every place where there is need in California. So it focuses on the Central Valley and Central Coast, the [areas with the] greatest concentration of farm workers in America.

Thousands of farm workers benefit daily from the United Farm Workers' efforts:

- 32 election union victories, most in California, since the current organizing drive began.
- Dozens of UFW contracts including the largest strawberry, rose, winery, and mushroom firms in California and the nation plus victories in other states.
- Over the last decade, the UFW has dedicated up to 50% of its resources to organizing, among the highest of all unions. Donations provide key support for organizing.
- Ongoing UFW organizing faces stiff resistance, as evidenced by the state of California ruling in November that last summer's election at the giant Giumarra table grape vineyards could be thrown out because of the grower's illegal actions.
- The UFW has helped tens of thousands of farm workers through recent legislative gains: the 2005 regulation to prevent heat deaths; the 2002 binding mediation law; seat belts in farm labor vehicles; remedies for workers cheated by farm labor contractors; new pesticide protections; and AgJobs, the historic immigration reform bill to aid hundreds of thousands in farm labor.

The farm worker movement is continuing the legacy of its founders, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, who believed the movement had to go beyond the work place through nonprofit, independently run groups with distinct missions and staff.

- The nine-station, three-state Radio Campesina network mixes Mexican music with extensive educational programs for 300,000 daily listeners. Radio Campesina blankets the highest concentrations of farm workers in the nation.
- More than 1900 of 3500 amenity-rich affordable housing units serving about 10,000 people are in farm worker areas in the Central Valley, Arizona, and Texas.
- Community organizing efforts where farm workers live are improving the lives of thousands in the Salinas and Central valleys and in South Texas's Rio Grande Valley.
- The Cesar E. Chavez Foundation empowers and equips tens of thousands of young people.

Less than a dozen of 400 committed movement employees are family members; just four hold policy-making positions. Many spent decades as full-time volunteers and work hard for modest pay. They all serve without compensation as board members. Arturo Rodriguez is elected UFW president directly by farm workers.

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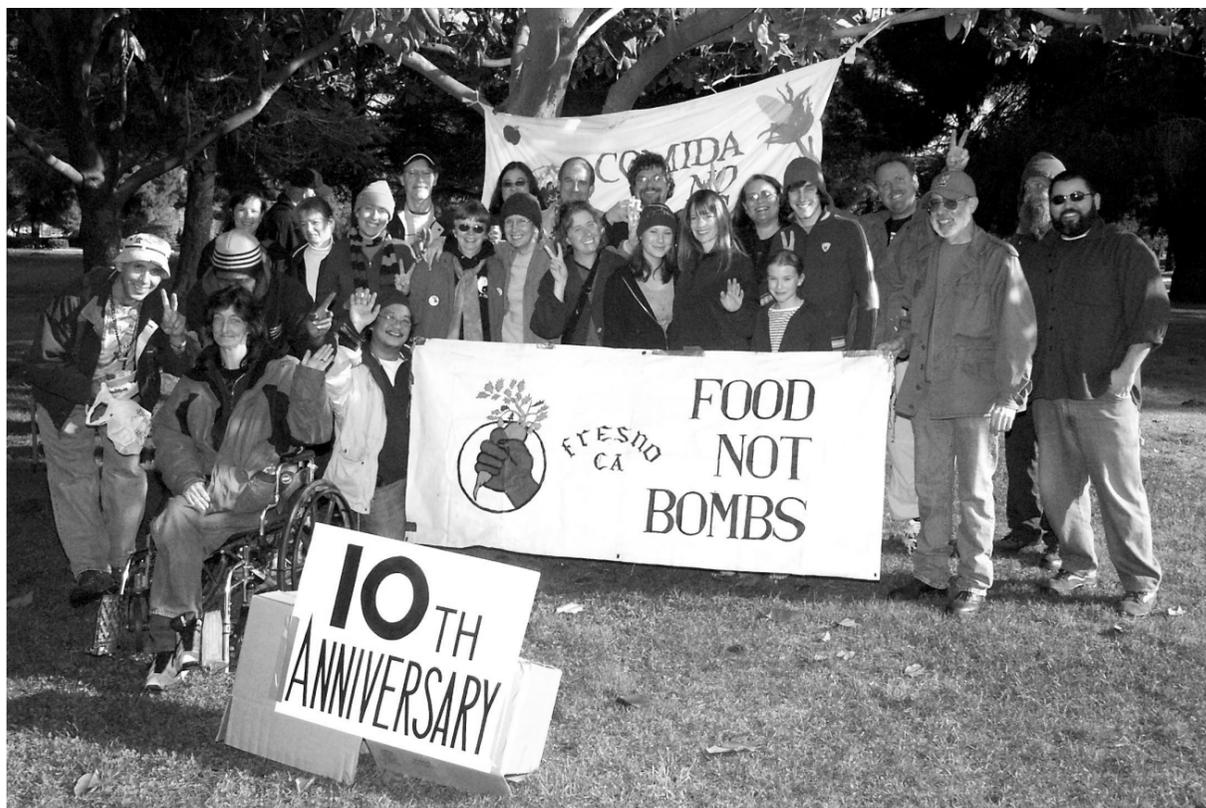
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Look who reads the *Community Alliance* newspaper - Fresno City Council member Jerry Duncan, who says he really enjoys our publication.



Food Not Bombs Celebrates Ten Years in Fresno

By Stefanie Monahan

Abundance fills the air every Saturday in Fresno's Roeding Park when the community organization, Food Not Bombs, provides free vegetarian meals for the needy from 1 PM to 2:30 PM. The organization celebrated its 10th anniversary at Roeding Park on January 14 with a hearty meal and sheets of carrot cake, which fed approximately 100 people.

"I feel I'm called to seek and serve the poor," said Tom Machado, who has been a member of Food Not Bombs since its local inception in 1996. "On average we serve 75 people and we have a lot of regulars. Most everyone lives in the Roeding Park area and we serve the homeless and people on government assistance who have a hard time making ends meet."

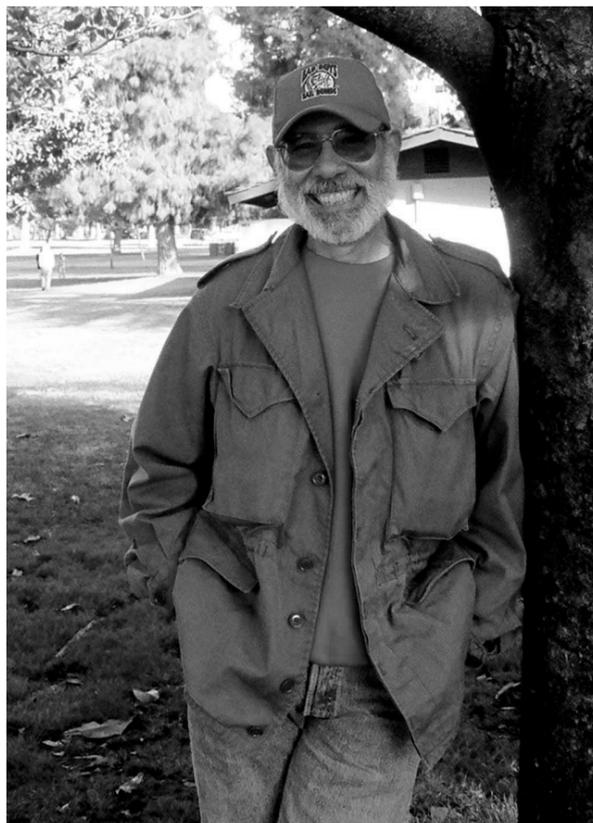
A typical meal includes rice, beans, soup, salad, fruit, tea, and pastries and breads, which are donated by local businesses. The donors include Whole Foods, La Boulangerie, and local farmers Tory Farms, Marghini Sisters, Sprout Queen, Savage Island Farms, Angel Farm, and KMK Farms.

Al Fry became aware of Food Not Bombs seven years ago through other people living on the streets. "At first I just came for the food, but then I decided I also wanted to volunteer as a food server," Fry said. "It gives me satisfaction to help feed the homeless and give relief to hunger. I'm a former food service worker and volunteering gives me enjoyment."

Preparation and distribution of meals is done by a core group of dedicated local volunteers. Wesley United Methodist Church allows Food Not Bombs to use their kitchen to prepare meals every Saturday morning and food serv-

ers meet near the entrance of Roeding Park to serve the community.

"The church is very critical to our organization and Roeding Park has been very cooperative with us. They expect us to be here," said Alvin Valeriano, who has volunteered for 10 years. "This is a worthwhile weekly activity that means something. I have also met many kindred spirits through the organization."



The organization also distributes clothing and sleeping bags at Roeding Park every Saturday. A truckload of good quality, clean, and sorted clothing is donated by the New Community United Methodist Church of Oakhurst, and



the sleeping bags are collected by volunteer Jean Chipp.

"We rely on a base of people who donate money so that we can purchase sleeping bags," Chipp said. I have also asked for donations through the radio at local stations K-Jewel and KFCF."

Alphonso Williams and his wife, Sherri, have been enjoying Food Not Bombs meals since the first day a meal was served. "If they did not come it would be very hard to get clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and food," Williams said. "If you are homeless you count on Food Not Bombs. The food is great and getting vegetables is important because many of us eat cheap fast food because it's the only thing available and it's what we can afford."

Jose Pulido has been relying on the weekly meal for more than a year. "The food is good and it really fills me up," Pulido said. "This is also a way to connect with others. This helps people who are lonely. The volunteers provide love and acceptance."

Food Not Bombs is an international movement and the local chapter was formed by former Fresno resident Tonie Mellow and a group of Bay Area students. They recognized a need to assist the needy in the Fresno community and organized a group of volunteers to form the local chapter.

Food Not Bombs began in 1980 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by anti-nuclear activists who were committed to nonviolent social change and providing vegetarian meals to anyone without restriction. The grassroots organization now includes more than 200 autonomous chapters throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia.

Stefanie Monahan is pursuing her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at CSU Fresno.





Big Brother and Video Surveillance in Fresno

By Brandon Hill

The Fresno Police Department unveiled a plan last month to widely expand video policing (also known as "public video surveillance") to the Fresno City Council. Accompanied by a Pelco representative, Captain Al Maroney and Police Chief Jerry Dyer gave a presentation January 10 regarding the proposal.

Unfortunately the presentation itself provided few specifics to the public on some of the most important issues such as the costs, effectiveness, privacy safeguards, and oversight policies for such a system. Despite the vague nature of the presentation the City Council did not seem eager to pry for details. Several council members inquired not about the pros and cons of increased surveillance but about the No Neighborhood Left Behind grant money that had been spent on a surveillance camera in Trolley Creek Park. Even worse, the inquiries were primarily regarding the lack of similar cameras in their own districts, rather than addressing the possible misuse of public money. Nearly all council members stated their support for the proposal as they concluded their questions and comments. None openly voiced opposition.

Among the council members, only Mike Dages asked specific questions pertaining to the costs and possible abuses of an expanded surveillance system. In response to questions about cost, Dyer gave what he called a ballpark figure of \$6000 per camera and \$45,000 for setup of 48 cameras.

In response to questions about the abuses of surveillance systems, Dyer remarked that some cameras have built-in controls and that safeguards must be in place but did not go into details.

In response to privacy concerns Dyer cited the unanimous support of the Police Chief's Advisory Board. "We had a very lengthy discussion and the advisory board is very diverse and it was interesting hearing the feedback...there was no one in there that was opposed to video cameras being used." Interestingly enough, Dyer's assessment differs from that of several board members. When informed of Dyer's statement, Advisory Board member Gail Gaston replied, "There was no consensus or vote on whether the group did or did not support it. The full board wasn't even present."

Throughout the presentation both Dyer and Maroney lauded video surveillance as a force multiplier and an

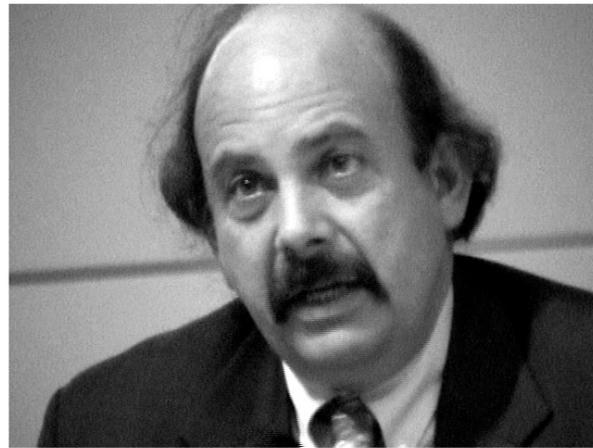


effective tool to reduce, deter, and investigate crime. The pair also sought to reassure the council and the media that surveillance technology is already in wide use throughout the world and that local law enforcement can and should be trusted with expanded surveillance powers.

Many of the assertions made by Dyer and Maroney during the workshop are debatable. For example, the premise that video policing is an effective tool to reduce and deter crime has yet to be proven. While the pair continually cited wide use of video surveillance in Europe, and London in particular, the facts show that video policing has met with mixed results in these locations.

Two reports have concluded that British surveillance systems either did not reduce crime or only reduced it to a small degree. Researchers in the British studies also pointed out that manpower in the video control room is an important determinant of system effectiveness.

Although Captain Maroney commented in a later interview that real-time monitoring coupled with a sufficient number of cameras would be a necessity for an effective video policing system, both Dyer and Maroney mentioned several times throughout the workshop that they did not foresee being capable of monitoring the cameras on a continual basis. Maroney stated that "the number of cameras would depend on demand and necessity" but said an approximate number would be 200-250 cameras minimum.



Studies on the effectiveness of video surveillance in American cities are generally inconclusive. A study done by the Government Accountability Office on video surveillance programs in Washington D.C. characterizes evaluating the effectiveness of surveillance as difficult but further emphasizes that available studies show that results are mixed in terms of effectiveness.

The California Research Bureau echoes both the British reports and the GAO report but notes that video policing systems have demonstrated effectiveness, but only on an anecdotal basis (i.e.: An auto theft is caught on camera; therefore the system is effective.)

Captain Maroney was uncertain of how the Fresno Police Department would measure effectiveness but he suggested two possible means. "One way to measure effectiveness would be to measure service calls for certain crimes." Maroney mentioned that another gauge of effectiveness could be to calculate the conviction rate for suspects caught on tape.

News of a proposal to increase surveillance inevitably conjures up images of George Orwell's novel *1984*: "There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment... You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized."

The proposed expansion of police surveillance won't usher us into a scenario identical to that depicted in *1984*, but those concerned about privacy and possible abuse of surveillance powers are justified in their concern. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, several forms of abuse have been cataloged in the United States and Britain.

In Britain researchers found that African Americans were disproportionately watched by law enforcement. An investigation done by the *Detroit Free Press* found that Michigan law-enforcement officials had used surveillance databases to stalk estranged spouses and other women, and also to harass motorists after traffic incidents. British researchers found that roughly 10% of women under surveillance were viewed for merely voyeuristic purposes. Another investigation found that a high-ranking law-enforcement official in Washing-

ton D.C. was caught using the police surveillance system and database to blackmail patrons of a gay club.

Captain Maroney admitted that any system with a human component can be abused. However he emphasized that the Police Department intends to use the system in a wise manner. "We absolutely should make it as open as possible," he said. "We don't want the public to think that we are spying on people. Those concerned about privacy should understand that we are not putting cameras in private places." Commenting further on those who object to surveillance on the basis of privacy concerns, Maroney said, "I don't want to call them ignorant but they just don't know enough yet, we need to educate them."

Maroney pointed to "window blanking" technology that would make the screen go black when the camera lens passes over a window as a necessary privacy safeguard. According to Captain Bob Keyes of the Clovis Police Department, which currently utilizes over 100 surveillance cameras, "window blanking" is standard on all new cameras and noted that their particular system logs what cameras are looked at by what user and when.

Even with the aforementioned safeguards, abuse is still possible. The officer charged with extortion in Washington D.C. was a high-ranking officer who had the capability of bypassing safeguards such as "window blanking" because of his rank, while the Michigan law enforcement officers were seldom reprimanded for their transgressions despite regulations.

Maroney indicated that no policy to prevent misuse has been written yet but said that the public should have a hand in writing it. He made no indication of when this process would begin or when a draft of the regulations would be available for the public.

Donna Hardina, a Fresno State faculty member who is assisting in authoring a policy for the University's surveillance system, noted that one aspect of any adequate policy would be a mechanism that would allow citizens to "petition for removal of cameras if they had an objection to them." Hardina also suggested that policies should be implemented that control who has access to old tapes and that oversight should be conducted by the city council.

Many civil liberties advocates have argued that expansion of surveillance powers has a "chilling effect" on the exercise of first amendment rights. In the case of *The United States vs. Cuevas-Sanchez*, the Fifth Circuit Court opinion states that "this type of surveillance provokes an immediate negative visceral reaction: indiscriminate video surveillance raises the specter of the Orwellian State."

Jacob Sullum, senior editor of the right-wing *Reason Magazine*, points out in his column, "Knowing that you are being watched by armed government agents tends to put a damper on things. You don't want to offend them or otherwise call attention to yourself, so you are not quite as free as you would otherwise be. After a while, people may learn to be careful about the books and periodicals they read in public, avoiding titles that might alarm unseen observers."

Hardina believes that surveillance activities at Fresno State (undercover and otherwise) are possibly deterring students and faculty from engaging in political action on campus, particularly if their views are controversial.



It's Time for Some Action

The West Fresno Democratic Club is on the move. The Reverend Floyd D. Harris Jr. has taken the lead to organize, energize, mobilize, and educate the next generation. Harris says, "We will no longer take new wine and put it in old bottles." The time has come for us to understand that we need to step up and be counted. Politicians will no longer suck the wealth and resources out of the West Fresno community. WFDC club will strongly push for voter registration and education to the community. Harris's vision is to expose young people to local, state, and national issues. WFDC will train our young people in the community to take the front lines to have a voice for their future.

Meeting Date: The second Saturday of each month
 Time: 2 PM
 Location: 1131 F Street Fresno
 Phone: (559) 264-0253
 Fax: (559) 254-0190
 Web: <www.FCDCC.org>



The Green Party

The Green Party of California has spearheaded an effort to raise the minimum wage in California and has created an organization called Californians for a Fair Wage (CFW), a coalition of many community groups from around the state working on the project together. We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help us collect signatures. Everyone is welcome and needed! Anything you can do to help us in this effort is important and appreciated!

The initiative has a \$7.75 minimum hourly wage with an annual cost-of-living adjustment for all workers in California. There is also an \$8.75 version coming out later.

Anyone interested in circulating petitions and gathering signatures should contact Larry Mullen at (559) 227-0293.

Peace Fresno

By Lisa Solomon

In November 2005 the *Fresno Bee* presented an opinion piece stating that Bush and his critics owe the American people "substantive answers" regarding the situation in Iraq. In early December, members of Peace Fresno took up that challenge and drafted a proposal for withdrawal. We are submitting this draft to the readers of the *Community Alliance* for your information, and we ask that you submit any comments to Peace Fresno via <www.peacefresno.org> or thirdgennajjar@yahoo.com. It is Peace Fresno's hope that a final document can be achieved sometime in March and submitted to the *Bee* as a response to its challenge.

WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

Most theologians and philosophers who study questions of morality say that preemptive war, such as was claimed for our invasion of Iraq, is immoral. We agree with them. Otherwise, there is no stable basis for relationships between nations. As it turns out, there was no threat at all and the war was totally unprovoked, an even more clearly immoral situation.

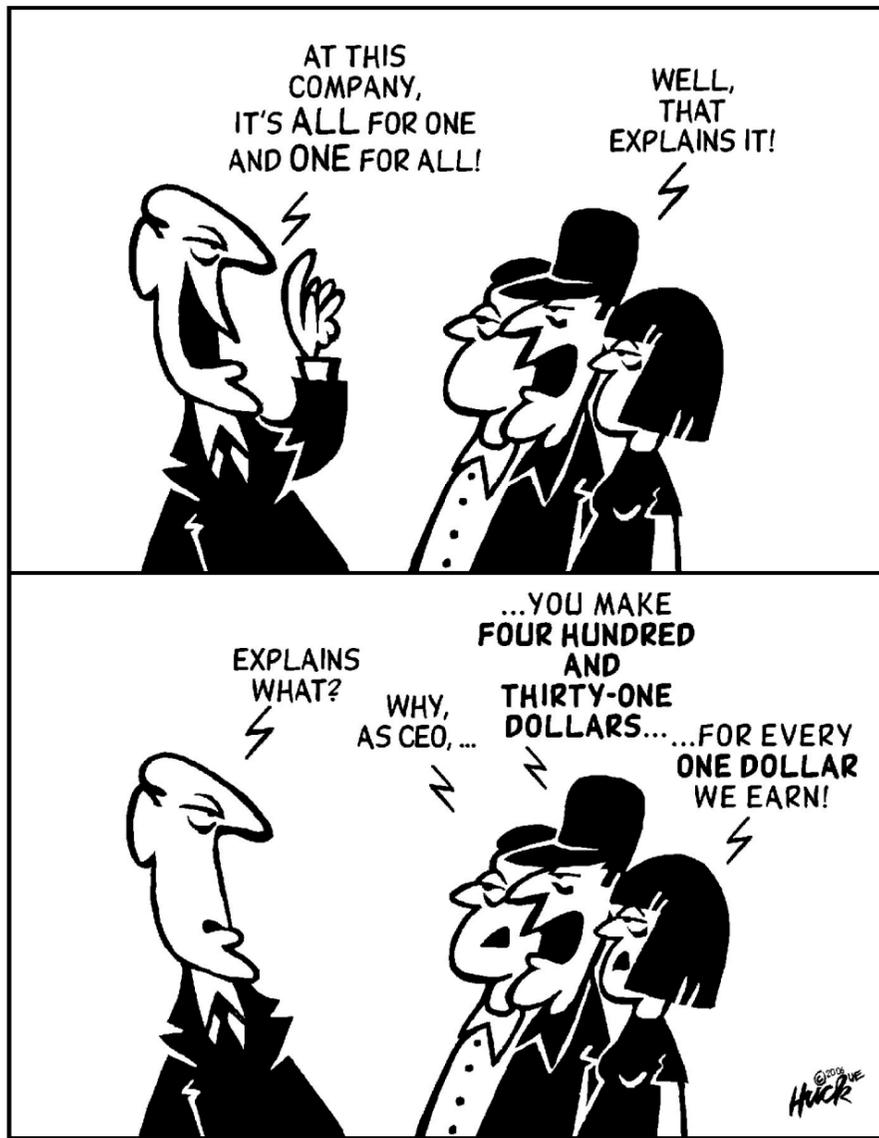
Our invasion of Iraq was an illegal action, contrary to the UN Charter, which our nation signed, and contrary to our own constitution. The Iraq war, therefore, is an international crime. If it is immoral and illegal to declare war on Iraq, the war remains illegal and immoral. No matter how badly we have botched the operation, that fact doesn't change. Since this action is illegal and immoral, we have a responsibility to leave Iraq. Because our presence in Iraq is illegal and immoral, George Bush has no right to set long-term US objectives in Iraq. There cannot be any long-term objectives for a US presence in Iraq.

Nevertheless, we have caused untold suffering and damage to the people of Iraq. We have a moral, and probably a legal, obligation to make reparation to the Iraqi people. As Representative John Murtha and an increasing number of leaders in our own country and around the world are saying, it is our very presence in Iraq that is the major cause of instability and of anti-American sentiment in Iraq. For that reason, we cannot make reparation by staying in the country and supervising the peace process and the rebuilding efforts ourselves.

Instead, we must arrange for and finance a UN and Organization of Islamic Countries effort to supply a peacekeeping force and to supervise Iraq's rebuilding. As soon as we can arrange for that change we must withdraw, certainly within six months. That force should be provided primarily by Arab and Muslim nations and should not include anyone from the United States, Britain, or other members of the coalition.

Unfortunately, unless we want to leave our children and grandchildren with the responsibility of paying for our mistakes and wrongdoing, this responsibility will preclude any extension of or additional tax cuts.

This statement is very similar to the statement of the American Friends Service Committee of March 20, 2003, and that of the Unitarian Universalist Church in 2004. Specific suggestions for withdrawal from Iraq are as old as the war.



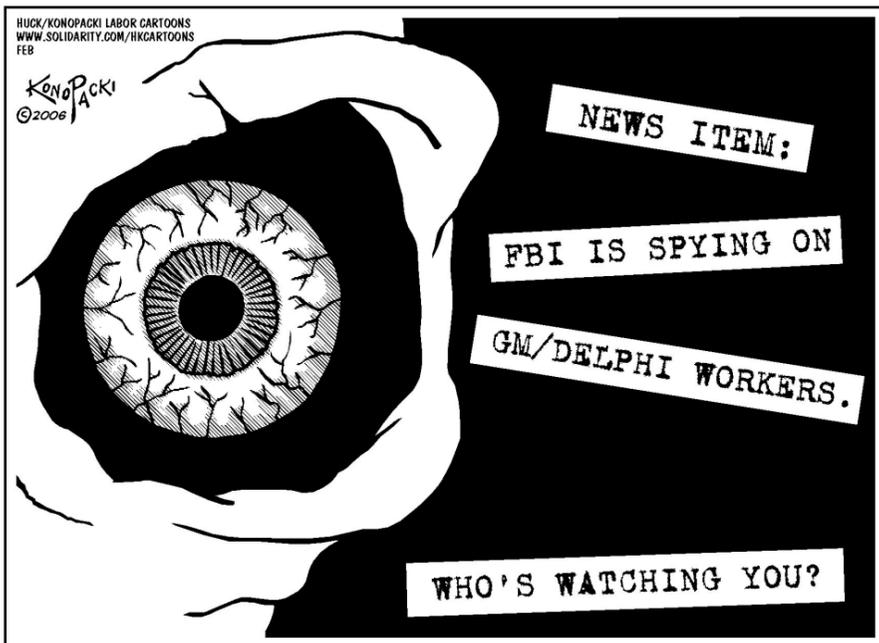
Raise the Minimum Wage

The Peace and Freedom Party is circulating petitions in support of a California initiative to raise the minimum wage in California by \$2 to \$8.75, and to index it to the cost of living. This initiative was endorsed by the party's State Central Committee in December. Though we demand that the minimum wage be doubled, the State Central Committee voted to endorse and circulate this petition as a step in the right direction, the first governing body of any party in the state to do so.

We expect to have a full slate of Peace and Freedom Party candidates on the ballot in the 2006 election giving Californians a rare opportunity to vote for a socialist / feminist candidate in each of the statewide races.

Locally, we continue to work as members of a number of community groups fighting for labor rights and social justice issues throughout the San Joaquin Valley—including Journey for Justice and VOICE, a grassroots coalition for a greater voice in the city of Madera.

For more information, please contact us through our Web site at <<http://peaceandfreedom-sjv.org>>.



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE Calendar of Events

February 1–April 15

Free Tax Service Centers, or VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) sites exist, so that individuals may file their taxes and claim their EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). Fresno ACORN will be operating these sites at their office until April 15, 2006, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4–8 PM and on Saturday 10 AM–2 PM. Fresno ACORN is located at 3636 N First, Suite 139, in Fresno. Phone: (559) 222-9013, Fax: (559) 221-0704, Web: <www.acorn.org>.

Thursday, February 2 7–9 PM

“Health Care for All”: a conference at CSUF Peters Auditorium at the Craig School of Business at CSU Fresno. The conference will have a keynote speaker from Senator Shelia Kuehl’s office, who is lead author of the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA). Other speakers will discuss problems solved by legislative passage, an overview of the legalization, and a local campaign in support. There will be a Q&A session. Details: Ray Ensher, 439-8140 or Devin Caroll (co-chair), 439-6368.

Thursday February 2 5–11 PM

Full Circle Brewing Co. presents Art Hop reception plus the music of Joel Pickford, 620 F St, downtown Fresno, (559) 264-6323, <www.fullcirclebrewing.com>.

Saturday, February 4 6 PM–12 Midnight

The African American Historical & Cultural Museum fundraiser: “The Harlem Renaissance” Gala at the Convention Center’s New Exhibit Hall, featuring fine dining, music by Papa Bear & Co., comedian Andre Covington, and a silent auction. For further information, call Paul Copeland at 681-9005.

Saturday, February 4 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents TSYGANKOV & SHEVCHENKO—From Russia with Love in the Fresno Art Museum’s Bonner Auditorium: Tickets: \$15 advance; \$20 door. For more information see page 8.

Tuesday, February 7 6 PM

The National Women’s Political Caucus of Fresno County will feature Diana Dooley, vice president and general counsel of Children’s Hospital Central California. The monthly meeting is held at Toledo’s Mexican Restaurant, 367 E Shaw, Fresno, (just east of Highway 41 on the southwest corner of Shaw and Fresno). The dinner meeting begins at 6 PM and costs \$15. RSVP is required by noon, Monday, Feb. 6. Call (559) 252-4812 or e-mail lauraslmares@sbcglobal.net.

Wednesday, February 8 12 Noon–1:30 PM

Fresno Metro Ministry Community Hunger & Nutrition Forum: “Creating Healthy School Environments in Fresno.” Healthy School Environment Wellness Policy Committee members will unveil the FUSD Wellness Policy recommendations to be presented to the FUSD Board of Trustees. This document has taken over a year to produce and is a comprehensive approach to improving nutrition and physical activity on Fresno’s school campuses. When adopted, FUSD will be a leader in the Valley addressing the health environment of our kids, and take the lead in addressing the obesity epidemic in a positive and comprehensive way on all FUSD school campuses. Also “Farm Fresh Wednesdays” Report and Recommendations—ways to link farms to school classrooms and cafeterias. At Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 N Cedar, Fresno. RSVP to 485-1416 or edie@fresnometmin.org.

Wednesday, February 8 12 Noon & 7:30 PM

The Greening of Cuba, a video about agriculture in the island nation. Second Wednesday of each month a video is shown at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness, Fresno (across from Fresno City College, SE corner of Van Ness & McKinley, entrance on Van Ness), (559) 237-3223. A discussion will follow the 7:30 PM showing.

Friday, February 10

5 PM and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till* at the Tower Theatre. A product of ten years of research, Keith Beauchamp’s documentary reveals new information about the infamous murder of a 14-year-old African American boy in 1955, prompting the US Justice Department to reopen the 50-year-old case. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door; for \$10 general, \$8 for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>.

Friday, February 10 7:30 PM

Langston Hughes Jazz Concert—Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance. As part of the Fresno City College 2006 African American History Month Celebration, FCC and Jazz Fresno will present “Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz,” a multimedia concert based on a poetic masterwork by poet-playwright Langston Hughes, at the FCC Theatre. For more information see page 9.

Saturday, February 11 8:30 AM–4 PM

The National Women’s Political Caucus of Fresno’s Leadership Fund presents Campaign Skills Training at Smuggler’s Inn, at the SW corner of Blackstone and Dakota, Fresno. The major presenter will be Dottie E. LeMieux, Northern California campaign consultant. Other presenters include Victor Salazar, Bryn Forhan, and Dan Rosenberg. Tuition is \$45 (\$60 after Feb. 4), which includes workshops, lunch, and materials handouts. For more information call Carol Bequette, 229-9661; or Mary Stanley, 268-5756.

Tuesday, February 14 2 PM

The Fresno chapter of Equality California (EQCA) will lead the community in an activity designed to focus on marriage discrimination against loving, committed same-sex couples. Please join marriage-equality supporters to bring visibility to marriage discrimination. The event begins outside of the Fresno County Clerk’s office, 2221 Kern Street, Fresno. We’re looking for couples as well as supporters to join us. RSVP to Jason Scott, EQCA co-leader, at fresno@eqca.org. Sign making will be completed the week prior to the event.

Wednesday, February 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the March 2006 *Community Alliance* newspaper. Send information to AllianceEditor@comcast.net.

Thursday February 16 8 PM

Full Circle Brewing Co. presents “Inner Ear Poetry Jam”, \$3 cover, 620 F St, downtown Fresno, (559) 264-6323, <www.fullcirclebrewing.com>.

Friday, February 17 7 PM

Erin Rogers, of the Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org) will be speaking on “Global Warming Impacts on the San Joaquin Valley.” She will also discuss the related lawsuit with the major automakers. Rogers will be speaking at the College of the Sequoias Lecture Hall, Room 350, 915 S Mooney, Visalia.

Saturday, February 18 Registration: 6:45–8:00 AM

Race Judicata Fun Run for Charity: featuring a 5K run, a two-mile walk/run, and a quarter-mile kids run. San Joaquin College of Law, 901 Fifth, Clovis. Contact: info@proracegroup.com or (559) 324-8993.

Sunday, February 19 3:30 PM

Bill Tapia, the Duke of Uke, Mihana, Davies, & Tana are coming to the Fresno Art Museum, sponsored by the Fresno Folklore Society. Ukulele legend Bill Tapia continues to grow as a concert draw, defying the odds and delighting audiences with jazz chops and sharp wit—both intact at age 98. “You might (and boy, you’d be wrong) dismiss this as a novelty, considering his age. But Tapia is a master communicator with precision

and his own brand of pizzazz.” —*Honolulu Advertiser*. Tickets for this concert may be purchased two weeks prior to the event at The Movies Video Store, Patrick’s Music, National Hardware, the gift shop at the Fresno Art Museum; or by phone at 431-3653.

Tuesday, February 21 7 PM

Polly Victor will be presenting a report on the recent national meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). This report will take place during Peace Fresno’s nonbusiness meeting, which is held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness. The public is invited to hear this presentation. There is no admission charge, although seating is limited. For more information, please call Peace Fresno at 487-2515.

Wednesday, February 22 8:30 PM (doors open at 7:30 PM)

BOB MARLEY’S WAILERS at the Tower Theater.

Friday, February 24 7 PM

A traditional Armenian concert program of songs and dances by the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble (14 musicians) and Zvartnots Armenian Folk Dancers from Los Angeles. (30 folk dancers) will be at California State University Fresno’s Satellite Student Union–Whitfield Hall. For details see page 9.

Saturday, February 25 12 Noon

The National Action Network (NAN) California chapter has opened its doors in Fresno. There will be a grand opening celebration at 1131 F Street in Fresno. The Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr. (the state president under the leadership of the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York) will be addressing guests. There will also be local speakers, entertainment, and refreshments. For information call 264-0097.

Saturday February 25

Full Circle Brewing Co. presents Saturday Afternoon Blues Jam with Russ Allen (everyone invited), 3–7 PM, \$3 cover; Belly Dancing with Cory Zamora, 8 PM, \$5 cover; 620 F St, downtown Fresno, (559) 264-6323, <www.fullcirclebrewing.com>.

Saturday, February 25 3:30 PM

The Central Valley Progressive PAC meeting at the Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (at McKinley). For information, see <www.cvppac.org>.

Saturday, February 25 8 PM

Mardi Gras Dance/Concert! Blues, Cajun and Zydeco. Bad Boys Zydeco, Mardi Gras Dance! at Fagan’s Irish Pub, 2039 Kern and Van Ness, Fresno, (559) 266-0225 or call Evo at 297-8966. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Evo Bluestein leads Bad Boys Zydeco on the Saturday prior to actual Fat Tuesday. The band includes Evo on button accordion and fiddle, drummer Chris Millar, A.C. Myles (guitar), Kevin Hill (bass) and John Shafer on scrub board. Cajun and zydeco dance lessons will be offered as part of the ticket price.

Monday, February 27 2 PM

The First Annual Community Rosa Parks Day. Join Senator Dean Florez and Councilwoman Cynthia Sterling as they officially dedicate the Rosa Parks Highway Interchange (Highway 99 and Highway 41). For more information, or for the exact location of this event, call (559) 264-3070.

Saturday, March 25 6 PM Reception; 7 PM Dinner; 8 PM Speaker

The Reverend Al Sharpton will be the keynote speaker at the first annual Scales of Justice Awards Banquet at the Radisson Hotel (Ventura & M in Fresno). Theme: Taking “Justice for All” to another level. Sponsored by the National Action Network and the West Fresno Democratic Club. For more information call (559) 264-0097.



FRESNO FAMOUS FEBRUARY EVENTS

Barefoot in the Park

Now - February 19 2006 - 2:00pm

Location: 2nd Space Theatre, 928 East Olive, Fresno

Cost: \$15

Community theater production of Neil Simon's 1960s romantic comedy. Show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through Feb. 19.

Event website: <http://www.gcplayers.com/2ndspace.html>

Valley Performing Arts Council Presents the Sacramento Ballet

February 1 2006 - 7:00pm

Location: Saroyan Theatre, 700 M St, Fresno

Cost: \$25, \$35, \$45

Event details: Carmina Burana February 1, 2006 7:00 p.m., Graduation Ball February 2, 2006 7:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for the spring performances of "Carmina Burana" and "Graduation Ball". Prices for the February performances are \$45, \$35, and \$25. The Sacramento Ballet will perform both ballets in Fresno's Saroyan Theater. Call 222-7100 for more information.

"Local Color" Del Ryder Photography Exhibit-February 2 arthop

Feb 2 2006 - 5:00pm through Mar 15 2006 - 5:00pm

Location: Del Ryder Photography Gallery & Studio, 619 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno

Free!

Event details: "Local Color" is an exhibit of photographs that were taken over a two year period mostly in Southern California. As a photographer, Del Ryder is interested in photographing those unique events that unfold everyday; events that can add real meaning to our

lives but are seldom noticed because we are caught up in our daily routines. Local Color is a collection of Del's social documentary photography, street photography, and photography of the human condition.

Del Ryder has said that photography, for him, is a way of knowing and some of the most valuable lessons he has learned have come out of the process of making photographs.

Fresno Poets' Association

Feb 2 2006 - 7:30pm

Location: Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First, Fresno

Cost: \$4-\$5

Event details: John Hales, a creative writing and literature professor at Fresno State, will read from his first book, Shooting Polaris: A Personal Survey in the American West. Hales, a Utah native, has published essays in Creative Nonfiction, Fourth Genre, Southern Review, Hudson Review, Ascent, and in the anthology On Nature: Great Writers on the Great Outdoors. His work has been cited numerous times in Best American Essays and in Best American Science and Nature Writing, and has twice been a finalist for the Missouri Review Editors Prize. "Line," an essay that first appeared in The Georgia Review, won a prestigious Pushcart Prize.

Event website: <http://www.fresnopoets.org>

Using the Web to Shape Social Change

Feb 16 2006 - 6:00pm

Location: Fresno Memorial Auditorium, 2425 Fresno St, Fresno

Cost: \$15.00. Event details: Tiffany Shlain, Founder of

the Webby Awards, Filmmaker, and Good Morning America's Internet Expert.

How to use the web as a vehicle to create social change in your community, at your school, for your cause. In addition to her work with filmmaking and The Webby Awards, Tiffany regularly appears on television and radio as an expert commentator on Internet issues. She discusses an array of topics focusing on the web's effect on the way we work, play, love, learn & live.

Event website: http://www.lylescenter.com/events.php?event_id=28

Portable Dance Troupe

Experience the delight of innovative new works Portable Dance Troupe reinvents itself to synthesize diverse theatrical forms.

February 17-19 & 21-25, 2006

John Wright Theatre, Speech Arts Building, 5201 N Maple Ave, Fresno

Event website: www.csufresno.edu/Theatre

The Venom of the Blood of the Lamb

Feb 24 2006 - 11:00pm

Location: Vini Vidi Vici, 1116 N. Fulton, Fresno

Free!

Event details: An exhibition of dark satire and morbid humor... A caustic brutal inditement of modern culture... A callous gut laugh at the expense of sensitivity... A vengeful discourse casting stones at sacred cows and eating them.

The best kind of laughs are the guilty ones..

Event website: RedTriangleProductions.com

For more local events, visit

www.fresnofamous.com



QUEER EYE

Wanted: One Arsonist!!

by Dan Waterhouse

A lone man is being sought by fire investigators as the prime suspect in a series of arson fires in Fresno's Tower District. Two of the blazes damaged queer-owned businesses.

Deputy fire marshal Don MacAlpine released video of a man and an older white pickup truck, possibly four-wheel-drive, that was captured by a surveillance camera at one of the arson scenes. The truck has what looks to be lettering or striping on the passenger side door.

The surveillance video shows the truck parked in front of the Bail-U-Out bail bond office on North Wishon Avenue. A man is seen coming from the direction of the driveway and then getting into the vehicle. The man has been described as white with a thin build.

As the truck is driven away, what appears to be the glow of flames can be seen in the video. A \$1000 reward for information in the case is being offered by Crime Stoppers. "If anyone has information on the vehicle or driver," MacAlpine said, "they can call me at (559) 621-4446 or Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-STOP."

The early-morning fire that gutted the NTC at Maroa and Princeton Avenues September 26, 2005, was originally classified as "suspicious" in origin. Forensic investigators determined the fire had been deliberately set. MacAlpine made the announcement at a press conference on January 9.

MacAlpine said investigators believe the man shown in the video is responsible for several other fires in the area. The other fires include a second early-morning fire on October 1, 2005, at the shuttered, gay-owned Dance nightclub, where an outside wall was set ablaze. Damage was minor. That fire was at 3075 North Maroa Avenue, three blocks up Maroa from the NTC.

Another fire, in the early evening on October 16, 2005, occurred at the Bail-U-Out bail bond office at 2908 North Wishon Avenue, one block from the NTC. The wood-frame office building was leveled. The last fire was at a home—near the other three blazes—on Simpson Avenue.

MacAlpine said the man is believed to be responsible for even more fires in the Fresno area.

MacAlpine emphasized that callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous. He said the Crime Stoppers phone line is answered 24 hours a day.

The two-alarm fire at the NTC was reported at approximately 4 AM by a

motorist driving past. According to NTC owner Virgil Wigley, the bartender had finished cleaning up and left shortly after 3 AM. The fire centered on an outside wall near the stage area. The wall behind the stage collapsed during the fire. Flames spread throughout the north side of the building and heavily damaged the roof, interior, and the patio area. Investigators estimated damage to be at least \$375,000.

MacAlpine said there was no evidence linking any of the fires to anti-gay hate. Investigators had considered that as a motive for the fires at the NTC and Dance. "We're treating it as the most serious possibility, which is a serial arson targeting the gay and lesbian community," MacAlpine had told the local media at an October 5, 2005, press conference. The October media conference was organized by Equality California and local queer leaders to alert the community to what was happening.

The motive for setting the fires is currently unknown.





THE ROGUE IS COMING!

2006 Rogue Performance Festival Runs March 2-11
Eclectic Arts Festival Will Feature Over 150 Performances at 15 Tower District and Downtown Venues

The Rogue is coming, and this year it will be huge. Festival organizers say the upcoming 2006 Rogue Performance Festival will be the largest arts festival ever held in Fresno, with over 150 performances by 70 different companies at 15 separate venues.

The Rogue Performance Festival will be held March 2-11 at venues throughout the Tower District and downtown Fresno, including the Starline, Dianna's School of Dance, Veni Vidi Vici, Ashtree Studios, the Spectrum Gallery, the Tower Theatre, Javawava, Artes Americas, and Fagan's Irish Pub.

Now in its fifth year, the Rogue Performance Festival is a non-juried annual festival of independent theater, music, film, dance, visual art, and other performance genres.

This year's Rogue performances range from the traditional (Middle Eastern bellydance, for example) to the avant-garde (Internet art and found object puppetry) to just plain different (Australian didgeridoo music and a personal memoir of working in a porn store).

The Rogue will feature artists from the Central Valley, Northern and Southern California, the Midwest, Canada, and England.

For more information (including a performance schedule), see <www.roguefestival.com>.

FRESNO FOLKLORE SOCIETY CONCERT NEWS

By Pat Wolk

Tickets for our concerts may be purchased two weeks prior to our concerts at The Movies Video Store, Patrick's Music, National Hardware, and the gift shop at the Fresno Art Museum; or by phone 431-3653.

Are we having fun yet? FFS does its best to bring you joy and make your heart sing. In these days of intense political maneuverings, grandstanding of senators, and dealing with our frustrations with commercial media—will they or won't they do their job and cover the real stories?—we continue to appreciate Mike Rhodes and the *Community Alliance* newspaper and to bring the community live music at affordable prices into the lovely intimate Fresno Art Museum's Bonner Auditorium.

I'm sorry if you missed **John McCutcheon**, a social and political activist who keeps on top of political and social shenanigans by turning the irony and hypocrisy into memorable songs. Maybe next January. In the meantime check out the two performances we have coming to the Fresno Art Museum in February: The Russians, and a 98-year-old touring ukulele jazz musician. I kid you not. Read on.



Saturday, February 4, 7:30 PM: The Russians Are Coming: Alexander Tsygankov and Inna Shevchenko return for their second year. Tickets are \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. They came to us last year at this time and wowed us. Local Russians filled the audience and taught us how to receive quality musicianship—with bouquets of flowers and standing ovations. Tsygankov plays the domra, a diminutive Russian three-stringed instrument, a sweet-sounding relative of the mandolin. Tsygankov has been described as the Paganini of the instrument as well as the "domra king." We're in good company; in addition to performing at the Fresno Art Museum, Tsygankov has performed at the White House and has been a featured performer in concert at Carnegie Hall as well as the Lincoln Center in New York City and has thrilled enthusiastic audiences in Washington DC's famed Kennedy Center. He is accompanied by his Ukrainian-born pianist wife Inna Shevchenko. Together they will charm and delight you with their talent and presence.

Sunday, February 19, 3:30 PM: Bill Tapia, the Duke of Uke, Mihana, Davies, & Tana are coming to Fresno. Ukulele legend Bill Tapia continues to grow as a concert draw, defying the odds and delighting audiences with jazz chops and sharp wit—both intact at age 98. "You might (and boy, you'd be wrong) dismiss this as a novelty, considering his age. But Tapia is a master communicator with precision and

his own brand of pizzazz." —*Honolulu Advertiser*.

"Duke of Uke" Tapia's first CD reached #4 on the Amazon.com Early Adopter Indie chart. In-stores at Tower and Borders, with over 250 attending and 70 CDs sold at Borders Sacramento.

* ON RADIO: On over 120 stations—"Duke of Uke" reached #10 on the CMJ Jazz chart.

* ON TV: Performed live on K-Five TV Honolulu for the Hoku awards June 3. Featured on Huell Houser's *California Gold* this July on KCET-28 Los Angeles PBS.

* ON FILM: *To You Sweetheart, Aloha*, a documentary getting festival awards and great press.



Tapia's youth was spent performing and jamming with the top names of the day, including Charlie Barnet, Billie Holiday, Fats Waller, and Bing Crosby. While in Hawai'i he led his own big band and also worked with Island luminaries like Sol Hoopi'i and Johnny Noble. After World War II, Tapia and family settled in the San Francisco area, where he largely abandoned performing for the greater stability offered by teaching guitar full time. Rediscovered several years ago, "Tappy" has embarked on perhaps the unlikeliest career resurgence ever, 98 and hotter than ever. Working with award-winning Hawaiian singer Mihana and California jazz aces Ruth Davies and Akira Tana, the latest leg of the "Duke of Uke" tour logged nine dates in 10 days in September from Monterey to Seattle. Now in early 2006 his plans include a live album release, completion of a new documentary and more touring on the West Coast. When not on the road, Bill continues to teach 24 ukulele students each week.

At the invitation of the Guinness Book of World Records, Tapia is submitting documentation to cement his status as the world's oldest professional musician for a possible new record category. Come, be inspired and be a part of this historic evening.

Poetry Corner

Changing the format a bit, this month we are featuring a photomontage by Avigdar Adams called "My Little Red Purse". It is actually a self-portrait, as all the images are Adams: at center as a 5-year old, and the rest taken during his war-time service in Viet Nam as a medic.

Commentary--taken from the song "Whoever Invented the Fishfinger" by English radical songwriter Leon Rosselson.

WHOEVER INVENTED THE PO-LICEMAN
OUGHT TO BE LICKED INTO SHAPE
TOUGHENED AND TRAINED...
TILL THE ARMS ARE A CHAIN
TILL THE NERVES FEEL NO PAIN
TILL OBEDIENCE RULES AND ENCIRCLES THE BRAIN
WITH WALLS SO HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE

because

WHO'D DO THAT TO A CHILD
JUMPING WITH JOY AND DESIRE
FLOATING IN FANTASY, DROWNING IN DREAMS
BURNING WITH FEELINGS OF FIRE...

(p.s. "fishfinger" is Brit talk for fishstick.)



Langston Hughes Jazz Concert Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance

As part of the Fresno City College 2006 African American History Month celebration, FCC and Jazz Fresno will present "Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz," a multi-media concert based on a poetic masterwork by poet-playwright Langston Hughes, at the FCC Theatre on February 10 at 7:30 PM. Internationally recognized scholar Dr. Ron McCurdy will perform Hughes's insightful, wise, poignant, funny, and soulful poem, accompanied by a live jazz quartet and video images of the Harlem Renaissance by African American artists and photographers including Jacob Lawrence, Gordon Parks, and Romare Bearden. Ticket prices are \$15 general, \$10 students.

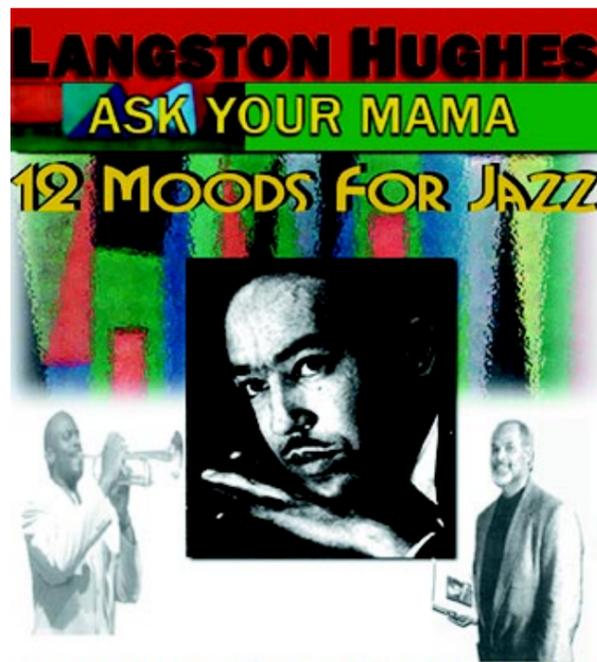
"Ask Your Mama" is an 800-line, twelve-part poetic suite written by noted African American Langston Hughes in 1961. This work is described as a multimedia presentation that recreates Hughes's vision of the global struggle for freedom in the coming, turbulent

decade. The piece itself is an original work conceived by USC professor and chair of jazz studies Dr. Ron McCurdy, and Dr. John S. Wright, Morse-Amoco Distinguished Teaching Professor of Afro-American Stud-

ies & African Studies and English at the University of Minnesota.

A scholarly exploration of the original work by Dr. Wright revealed that Hughes had originally included musical cues to accompany his poem, intending to work with musical contemporaries on a full production; regrettably, Hughes died in 1967 before a production could be developed. Dr. Wright felt that the unrealized work had enormous potential, not only to entertain, but more important, to introduce modern audiences to the power of Hughes's words and the eloquence of his political discourse.

A collaborative effort between Drs. Wright and McCurdy expanded on Hughes's original concept, adding images from the Harlem Renaissance gleaned from Dr. Wright's work at the Schomburg Research Center in Harlem, and an accompanying jazz suite based on Hughes's original notes, composed and arranged by Dr. McCurdy and Eli Bruggeman. As the McCurdy/Wright Consort, these two gentlemen have presented "The Langston Hughes Project" in both performances and master classes on the college circuit and for African American heritage celebrations throughout the nation. Information about "The Langston Hughes Project" is available at www.ronmccurdy.com/about_hudges_project.



Langston Hughes Project Media Kit

Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble & Zvartnots Armenian Folkdance Ensemble to perform at CSU Fresno

The award-winning Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble will be presented in a unique concert at California State University Fresno in a masterful performance of traditional Armenian song and dance, on Friday, February 24, 2006, at 7 PM.

Composed of the finest conservatory graduate musicians from Armenia and the United States, the Chookasian Ensemble will afford Fresno the rare opportunity of hearing incomparable performances on traditional folk instruments used by the Armenians for many centuries.

Over the years, the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the prestigious National "Gold Medal Award" of Armenia. They are known for their stunning showcase performances encompassing the full spectrum of Armenian classical, troubadour folk song, and folk dance music. Both the Eastern and Western traditional Armenian venues are featured in the ensemble's authoritative performances of music from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, and Armenian folk dance tunes, some dating as far back as two millennia.

Led by Fresnan John Chookasian, director and premier clarinetist, the roster of performers features Barbara Chookasian, principal vocalist; Vergine Alemian, kanun (72-string lap harp); Hendrick "Hindo" Avoyan, d'hol, (cylindrical hand drum); Vladimir Gregorian, kemenche (folk violin); Andranik Mouradian, accordion and keyboard; Haig Nalbandian, dumbeg (hour-glass-shaped hand drum) and deff (large frame drum); Surik on tarr and saz (lutes); Garen Sarkissian, shvi (high-pitched flute); Albert Vardayan, duduk and zurna (flutes); and Peter Dorian, guest performer on the oud (fretless lute).

The evening's line-up will also feature the award-winning, high-energy Zvartnots Armenian Dance Troupe from Los Angeles, which is recently home from a repeat festival tour of Armenia and Europe.

Under the direction of Vartan and Armine Aghajanyan, the 24-member Zvartnots dance troupe is known to mesmerize audiences with their beautiful costuming and their incomparable, high-energy performances of traditional Armenian folk dance.

The Chookasian Armenian Ensemble's CD *Passage to Armenia* has received the honor of being selected in the centerfold of the 2006 Musicians Atlas, "Independent Music Awards" 1st Place Winners, in the "Traditional World Music" categories:

1. "Best Traditional World Music Album;

2. "Best Traditional World Music Single Song";
3. 2nd Place Winner in the "Traditional World "Best Live Performance."

This is the first time that any performing group from Fresno has won these very prestigious Musicians Atlas, Independent Music Awards in the Traditional World Music Categories.

The February 24 concert, which is partially funded by the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation, will take place at CSU Fresno's Satellite Student Union, Whitfield Hall, 2485 E San Ramon, (enter from Barstow Ave). Tickets: \$8 advance, \$10 door; CSUF student admission is free. The CSUF concert performance will begin at 7 PM.

Passage to Armenia will be offered for sale at the CSUF concert. It is also available at Tower Records of Fresno, Hye Quality Bakery, Nina's Bakery, IZI's Deli, and Masis Armenian Restaurant.

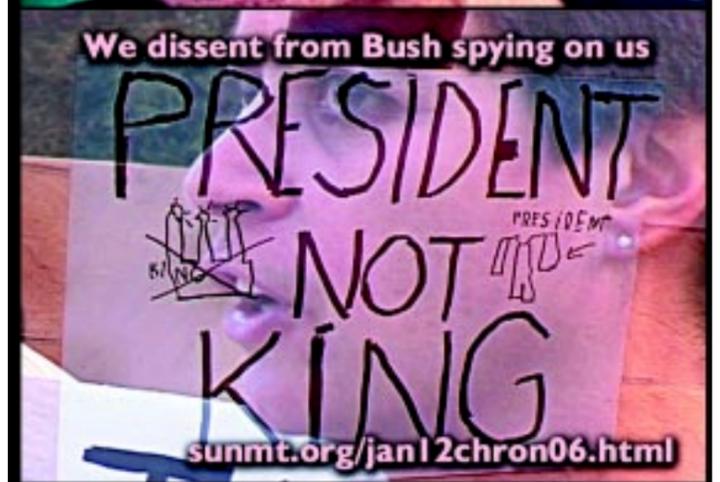
For further information, please refer to the Chookasian Ensemble Web site at www.chookasian.com or call (559) 449-1777.

For advance tickets, call (559) 278-2078. The CSUF Box Office, (559) 278-3970, will have any remaining tickets for sale on the day of the concert only. Advance ticket purchase is suggested.

The general public is cordially invited to attend this unique Armenian cultural event!



CHOOKASIAN
ARMENIAN CONCERT ENSEMBLE



Fresno Center for Nonviolence



1584 N. Van Ness Ave., 93728 - www.centerfornonviolence.org - email: info@centerfornonviolence.org

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



The
FCNV
 presents...

A
Valentine
 for
Angela

This month we choose to honor the "heart" of the Center for Nonviolence: Angela Price.

Though her official title is "Development Director," in truth, the Center would be lost without her constant attention. More than just a formidable leader in the quest for funding, she plays an integral part in everything we do. She schemes year-round to bring relevant speakers and cutting-edge documentaries to Fresno; she is ever vigilant in keeping tabs on the Center itself, making sure it is safe and clean for everyone who uses the space. And although Angela is the picture of quiet elegance as she plans and executes with polish events such as the Anniversary celebration, she is never afraid to get her hands dirty, whether to clean up after caravanistas or if there are used books to sort! Angela, you're a source of inspiration to all.

"If you want it done, with perfection, ask Angela!"

-Vincent Lavery

What's to be said?

"This Price is Right?"

"A scone by any other name wouldn't taste as sweet?"

"Ditto."

-Anonymous

"...We have our special Angela here to watch over us"?

-- FCNV Board & Staff

"May God (or whatever higher power there may or may not be), save our Queen!"

- Maria Telesco

"Nonchalant mistress-of-all, I salute your omnipotence (and your perfect smile)!"

-Libby

"Thanks for all you do!"

-Richard Stone

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR THAT

Special Someone WITH A GIFT OF

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE, COFFEE AND TEA!

- Decaf -- French Roast --
- Ethiopian -- Nicaraguan --
- Colombian -- Green Tea --
- Earl Grey -- English Breakfast --
- Dark, Milk, Dark Coconut & Milk Hazelnut Chocolate
- Drinking Cocoa -- Baking Cocoa --

CALL THE FCNV MON-FRI 11-3 P.M. FOR PRICING AND AVAILABILITY.

559/237-3223

The FCNV is a Host Organization

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

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

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Second Wednesday Video Series:



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

February 8:

The Greening of Cuba

Cuban farmers and scientists are working to reinvent a sustainable agriculture, based on ecological principles and local knowledge rather than imported machinery and chemicals. When trade relations collapsed in 1990, Cuba lost 80% of its pesticide and fertilizer imports and half its petroleum - the mainstays of its highly industrialized agriculture. Challenged with growing food for 11 million people in the face of the continuing U.S. embargo, Cuba embarked on the largest conversion to organic farming ever attempted. It is told in the voices of the *campesinos*, researchers, and organic gardeners who are leading the organic agriculture movement. 38 min. Discussion to follow.

12 Noon and 7:30 PM - 1584 N. Van Ness



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:

Thursday, February 9, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting 1584 N Van Ness

Wednesday, February 22, 3 PM: WILPF Stir It Up on KFCF 88.1 FM

Saturday, March 4, 7 PM: A Single Woman - A play on the life of Jeannette Rankin (see below)

Fresno WILPF Receives Racial Justice Grant: We recently were awarded a \$500 racial justice grant from National WILPF. WILPF members and women from the diverse communities in Fresno will be reading and discussing *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*, led by a trained facilitator. We are hoping to meet quarterly at different cultural centers on a Saturday, followed by lunch. We hope this will lead to alliances or coalitions to work on systemic, institutional racism in Fresno. If you are interested in participating, contact Vickie Fouts at socialjustice@sti.net or 658-8260.

New Horizons for Raging Grannies by Marilyn Byrne: The Craft Faire's successful performance of the Raging Grannies and their December 25 performance, singing at the peace demonstration at Shaw and Blackstone, will be followed by a Valentine demonstration at local military recruiters' offices. This activity is part of the Fresno Grannies' involvement in the larger National Raging Grannies Peace Movement that will be taking place that day all over the country. Our local growing group of women will be entertaining and demonstrating their commitment to peace. Anyone wanting to join and lend their support can contact a WILPF member, or contact the organization directly at socialjustice@sti.net. We welcome and encourage all groups interested in peace to join us on that day of love.

A Note from India: In the January issue of the *Community Alliance*, former WILPF intern Catherine Garoupa had an article about her fellowship in India. At the end of the article she asked some important questions of the Fresno progressive community. I thought her ideas and questions were so important that I am including them again here. Recently Catherine and I have had a wonderful e-mail conversation on the subject. Please consider starting your own conversation about WILPF or any other group with Catherine.

From Catherine: "Recently, I began to ponder the Fresno progressive community, and would like to start a discussion about our weaknesses. First, we must come from a place of openness and understanding, one where we recognize that any "criticism" is actually feedback that can help us become stronger, to prevent entrenchment and corruption. Bearing that in mind, I would like to pose a few questions. What ways can our actions be heard more, felt more, become more effective? What issues are the most pressing and need to be dealt with now? How should we focus our energies within those efforts? What more can we do to reach out, network, and collaborate? What things as individuals can we improve upon, to bring more to our work? How can we work, within our organizations, as more of a cohesive team? How can we communicate with each other better? What can we all do, individually and collectively, to improve? Please feel free to send any and all comments to valaaradia@hotmail.com. I look forward to hearing your thoughts!"

Women Challenge US Policy; Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East—Part II:

Our branch has educational materials on the Middle East that we can loan to our members. At the Congress we purchased two books from the Middle East Committee: *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* by Phyllis Bennis and *Reframing Anti-Semitism: Alternative Jewish Perspectives* from Jewish Voice for Peace. The Committee also gave everyone a resource packet at the Congress full of information. We also have a video, *On the Ground: Witness, Resist, Rebuild* from the Rebuilding Alli-

ance (www.rebuildingalliance.org), which works to rebuild homes in Palestine.

I have three books by Muslim women I am willing to loan. They are *The Resurgent Voice of Muslim Women* by Rasha al-Disuqi, Ph.D. (who was at CSUF a couple of years ago), *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society* by Famita Mernissi and *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith* by Irshad Manji. I just read a review of a new book, *Living Islam Out Loud: American Muslim Women Speak*, and hope to get a copy soon. For books about Jewish women a WILPF member sent me these recommendations: *A Price Below Rubies: Women as Rebels & Radicals* by Naomi Shepherd, *Her Works Praise Her: a History of Jewish Women in America from Colonial Times to the Present* by Hasia Diner & Beryl Benderly, *The Plough Woman: Memoirs of the Pioneer Women of Palestine* by Rachel Katznelson Shazar, and *The Blessing of a Broken Heart* by Sherri Mandell. She also sent me the below regarding a dialogue group.

PALESTINIAN AND JEWISH RECIPES FOR PEACE

is a delightful 100-page volume of recipes for the table and for relationship-building at home, on campus and around the world. Generous illustrations accompany the 25 human stories behind 71 of the best ancestral dishes of participants in the 13-year-old Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group in San Mateo, CA. More description and many reviews are at <http://traubman.igc.org/recipes.htm>.

On another note, Barbara Tate of the Women Challenge US Policy Campaign was in Fresno on December 14 and talked about the campaign with three members during dinner. It was very informative and it was nice to meet with a WILPFer from out of town and break bread together.

Mimicking marshes and trimming our forests to secure water—Part 3

by Phil Erro

If everyone in the San Joaquin Valley contributed Bring Your Own Water (BYOW) funds, we'd have the capital to invest in waste water cleanup and forest thinning to obtain water for future urban, environmental, and agricultural uses.

Marshes purify brackish water by using native wetland plants, bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa, fish, and other life forms to process the water. We can mimic marshes by constructing wetlands at our sewer facilities, food-processing plants, and dairies. After the microbes, algae, and fish of these engineered wetlands clean up our various waste effluents, the resulting sanitized water can be used for irrigating landscape or crops, flushing toilets, cooling tower influent, or recharging our aquifers. Using bio-mimicry technology,

Valley cities could clean up their treated waste water and percolate cleansed water into their groundwater supply. This would yield enough potable water throughout our region for more than 700,000 new households. Food processing and meat packing plants could also use designed ecological systems to purify their process water to use it in cooling towers and for wash down activities, a practice that could free up enough river and ground water to supply tens of thousands of new households from Stockton to Bakersfield. And, unlike conventional waste water facilities that are unsightly and often malodorous, well-designed biological systems enhance the beauty of ponds and do not emit bad odors. Flowering plants as well as microbes reduce fecal coliform levels, remove pathogens, and even sort out heavy metals. They also consume nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus and dismantle targeted pollutants silently, without the whine of electric motors. Usually polluted water contains the essential elements of life—carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, etc.—which natural processes reassemble into benign substances. These biological processes, moreover, are largely self-managing, self-seeding, and self-repairing. For more information on bio-mimicry water treatment technology, go to www.oceanarks.org.

Another way we can acquire more water for future growth is to take better care of our forests. By using controlled fires to clear excess brush in our foothills and thinning our forests at higher elevations, we could reduce the amount of water consumed by our forests and increase soil infiltration of rain and snow water. Additionally, we could remove invasive plant species from streams, rivers, and sloughs, which could yield huge quantities of water. Simply by implementing these two measures, it is estimated we could increase the amount of water we obtain from the San Joaquin River and Kings River watersheds by 20%, enough to provide water for 1,480,000 new households. If we combine these increases with similar increases from other Valley rivers, we could acquire enough "new" water in the next 20 years to sustain 2,000,000 region-wide. For more information on forest hydrology, you can visit www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry. Between taking better care of our forests and mimicking marshes to clean up our waste water, we could generate enough water to supply water nearly 3,000,000 new households in the San Joaquin Valley. Let's rethink our water.

The final article in this series will explain the effects of climate change on our local water supply and what we can do about it.

Crafts Faire Update: As some may know the proceeds from the raffle were designated as a donation to Kashmir earthquake victims. We have sent a check for \$374 to the UN'S UNICEF-USA South Asia Earthquake Relief.

Women's Herstory Month!

In honor of Women's Herstory Month WILPF and CSUF's Women's Studies Department are hoping to co-sponsoring the play, *A Single Woman*, on the life of Jeannette Rankin. Details were not finalized by deadline for printing of this issue. We hope it will be performed March 4th at CSUF at 7 PM. Tickets will be \$8 general/\$5 students and may be purchased at The Movies - 1435 N Van Ness Ave or from Carol Bequette 229-9661 Cbequette@aol.com

Audiences in Fresno will be able to experience a passionate, timely play about a unique advocate for peace, free speech, women, children, labor, immigrants, Native and African Americans, and Holocaust refugees. Jeannette Rankin was elected as the first congresswoman, even before national suffrage. She voted against US entry into both world wars: in 1917, and again in 1941 when hers was the lone dissenting voice, (as was Rep. Barbara Lee's, against the Iraq invasion in 2002). In 1968 she led the Jeannette Rankin Brigade of 5000 women on the Capitol in Washington DC against the Vietnam War and demanded unilateral disarmament, nuclear and otherwise. She once said, "You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."

With the original cast, *A Single Woman* creator, Jeanmarie Simpson, performs the role of Rankin: "It's vital that people meet Jeannette Rankin, her words, her actions and her remarkable character. The more people involved, the more of an impact Jeannette's voice can make on contemporary culture." Critics have broadly acclaimed the play: "Simpson cleverly portrays Rankin's fury by violently kneading bread—a dual task women often perform...When (she) speaks, the air is electrified; her words are surely filled with as much power as Rankin's ever were...timing and emotion are intense and flawless."

—Miranda Jesch, *Reno News and Review*.

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The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till

February 10, 2006



It has been over 40 years since the death of Emmett Louis Till, a fourteen-year-old black Chicago youth who was slain in Money, Mississippi in 1955. Emmett Till who was visiting family in the Delta had the great misfortune of finding what Southern Hospitality means. In this documentary directed by Keith Beauchamp, a family's agony will finally be told revealing the truth surrounding the Till case by the people who were there.



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Tickets are on sale now at The Tower Theatre Box Office, at the Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., and at The Fig Garden Bookstore,
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Alfred Brown: "People should be educated as to the truth."



Mary Washington: "We need it to be graphic, it will bring the reality home to people."



Kevin Kelley: "They should go in. If you don't, people won't know."



Harlan Kelley: "If you can back up the photos, show them. But if you can't, you know they'll sue you."

Speaking Up

Photos and interviews by Richard Stone and the Reverend Floyd Harris

As part of the discussion about the appropriateness of printing horrific photos of white phosphorus victims in Fallujah (see January 2006 *Community Alliance*), we took to the streets, interviewing people in the area of Fresno Street and C Street (Kelley's Barber Shop and Sal's Donut Shop in particular). Here's what they said.

Name Withheld: "It's no worse than those video games out there."

Rosemary: "People choose what's in the home; it's different to put them out in public."

Name Withheld: "That's deep...I don't know if people want to see that."



Nugene Trotter: "If it's education, do it. Those who need to know, should know—it's "need to know" basis. At the age of 51, I can take more than that."

Grassroots Profile

By Richard Stone

You may have seen Ed and Toni Eames around town, with their cool shades and team of golden retrievers. It might have been at a restaurant or folk concert, or at a meeting in City Hall. You may have seen Toni calmly knitting, or Ed "parking" the guide dogs on a grassy patch, and wondered, "Can they be blind?"

Yes, Virginia, they are. But not having sight is different from not having vision, and not having sight doesn't stop the Eameses from leading remarkably active lives while serving as outspoken advocates in the disability movement.

Toni and Ed are transplanted New Yorkers who moved to Fresno about 18 years ago after retiring from full-fledged professional careers, Ed as an anthropology professor and Toni as a rehab counselor. Toni has been blind since childhood, and when Ed met her she was living alone in a Manhattan apartment and commuting to work by train. He was just losing his sight to disease, and was referred to Toni as he was deciding whether to try life with an assistance dog. Toni, with her amazing independence, was more than convincing...and they were married not too long after.

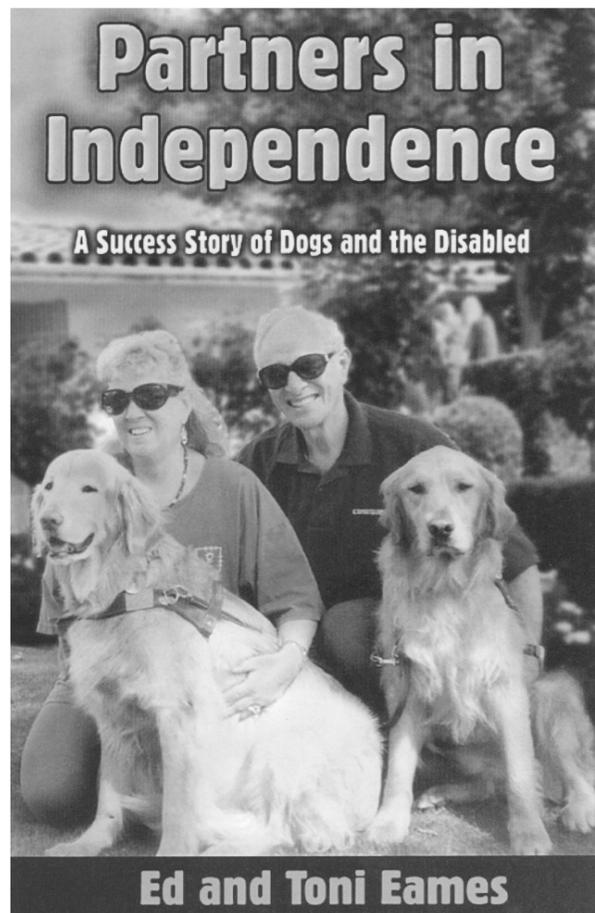
They chose Fresno for retirement because they had friends here and they loved the milder climate and quiet. And it was in Fresno that they discovered their passion and ability for political work. They transformed themselves into a dynamic duo whose life, as they put it, "went to the dogs." They began writing articles for *Dog World* magazine and speaking to groups about the possibilities—and realities—of having assistance dogs. In this latter role, their eyes were opened to the challenges of differently disabled people, such as those in wheelchairs or with profound hearing impairment. (And, not to worry: it is all right to use vision metaphors. They themselves typically speak about "seeing friends.")

From their new associates, Toni and Ed became aware that in such vital aspects of living as employment, transportation, and housing, the disability community was a severely discriminated-against minority group. Together they then jumped into the fray on behalf of the rights of the disabled with all 12 feet (counting, of

course, both dogs).

It began, as they recall, when the city called one of "those meetings" when community input is legally required for some grant or process. In this case it was the privatizing of the handi-ride service. If you've been to one of these affairs, within five minutes everyone knows that nothing said will be paid attention to. But this time the "window-dressing" participants decided to keep meeting on their own as an ongoing oversight committee...and Ed-the-political-animal was born. He has since become a leading figure in the local Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) advisory committee, and the Measure C group that has successfully lobbied to include things like mass transit and pedestrian needs in the transportation sales tax initiative that will soon be voted on.

Ed sees his work as based on the principle of inclusive-



Rosemary Sambrano: "Those are pretty graphic, for little kids it's pretty strong and you're putting it out in public. Show them to government higher-ups, they need to be educated."

ness, that idea that all citizens with whatever special needs be heard and accommodated proportionately. "The amazing thing," he says, "is that when we take care of special needs, it usually turns out to be to the advantage of everyone. When we got curb-cuts for wheelchair users, suddenly all kinds of people began thanking us—mothers with baby carriages, kids on skateboards, bicyclists, older pedestrians who have trouble stepping up from the street. And the larger bathroom stalls we called for began to be used by parents with children; in fact they led to the new practice of having 'family restrooms' in public spaces."

Toni, for her part, has focused on issues related to assistance dogs, but not only for the blind. Dogs can be "the ears" for deaf people, "hands" for the wheelchair- or bed-bound, warning systems for people subject to seizures. (Toni and Ed have published a book on the subject, *Partners In Independence: A Success Story of Dogs and the Disabled*.) With Ed as Toni's colleague and travel companion, the Eameses have traveled around the country and the world, advocating legal and social changes to

Continued on page 16

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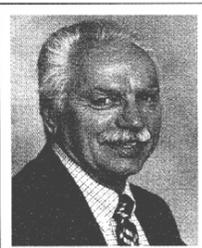
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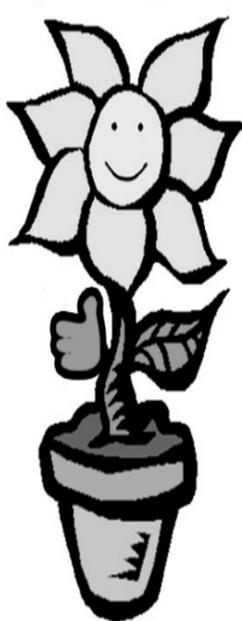
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allow assistance dogs to be viewed as extensions of the person, not as pets. They are fierce opponents of those taxi drivers, air carriers, restaurateurs and landlords who restrict access of people with assistance dogs. And they have spoken to dozens of classes at veterinary schools about the special considerations needed for working animals: "For example, you need to avoid medications that create drowsiness in an animal that's helping someone cross streets!"

Individuals and groups that Toni and Ed would like to recognize include Mary Savala and the League of Women Voters, for their Measure C work; The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners; The American Council of the Blind and the National Federation for the Blind; and ADAPT, whom they call "the heroes we've never met"—the group that provides "street heat" for the disability movement. "They show

up to picket in blizzards in their wheelchairs, and if they can do that, we can at least keep speaking and writing."

Toni and Ed also acknowledge the corps of helpers (mostly from the Unitarian Universalist Church) who read for them regularly, drive them everywhere, dogs and all, and check on their well-being. "It's been wonderful to realize how, literally, what goes around comes around, that people help us so we can help others. And, then miracle of miracles, out of nowhere may come an Ed Kashian. He's the developer whom so many of our acquaintances have had political fights with; but now he comes to us and says, 'Tell me what I need to do to make my new development disability-friendly.' You never know what's next!"

P.S. Ed and Toni want it specially known that Fresno is the most assistance-dog-welcoming place they've ever

been. Here it is commonplace for people to approach and ask about the dogs and if they can pet them, whereas in most places the four-legged companions are met with fear and suspicion. A story they tell: "On a recent trip to New York, the only person out of thousands we passed who came up and inquired about the dogs told us she was leaving the next day to go back home...to Fresno!"

P.P.S. The Eamses say, "If you want to help the movement, vote for Measure C. And try to see the human behind the disability: maybe ask yourself, 'How do they do this differently than I would?' And don't be afraid to offer help, only ask first if it's needed and how. It's empowering to be seen, but only if you're seen as someone capable of making decisions."

[Author's note: and it also helps to bring fresh tangerines when you visit.]

FEBRUARY 2006 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



IDENTITY BOX

Place of birth: Bronx, New York
Identity: Jewish and Unitarian
Political affiliation: Democrat
Frequented parts of Fresno: Manchester Mall area, City Hall...and recently ("as we get older") St. Agnes Medical Center
Inspirations: for Ed, Werner Lipton who champions livable communities for Fresno; for Toni, Ed for his wholehearted commitment to the causes he takes on.
Motto: "Nothing about us without us!"
Nonpolitical interests: folk music, knitting and reading (Toni), writing (Ed)
Unlikely pleasures: travel and theater

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Martin Luther King Jr.—In His Own Words

compiled by Mike Rhodes

Each year the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. is honored with a series of events in Fresno. On this page we feature pictures from the garlanding ceremony, the awards ceremony, breakfast, candlelight vigil, and march. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group in this community that puts these events on to remind us of what Dr. King worked for in his life: peace, civil rights, and social and economic justice.

His words ring just as true today as when he spoke them four decades ago. When he died, Dr. King was actively engaged in the struggle to stop the war in Vietnam. Today, we are faced with the war in Iraq. Here is Dr. King, in his own words:

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death..."

"...I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours.

"... Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of

America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over.

"... Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours.

"In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. ... I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

