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## ***BIG BROTHER EYES THE TOWER DISTRICT***



**JUNE 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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# CONTENTS

Page 3 ..... Big Brother is Watching - Video Surveillance Comes to Fresno

Page 5 ..... June 6 Primary Election - Voting Recommendations from Progressive Groups

Page 7 ..... My Life as an Immigrant

Page 10 ..... Arthrop

Page 11 ..... A Message from the Imam

Page 12 - 14 ..... Special Spanish Language Section on the Immigrant Rights Movement

Page 24 ..... River of the Dammed! Do we really need a new dam at Temperance Flat?

## Letter to the Editor

HR4437 and the current anti-immigration issues are not just issues for the Latino/a communities. They must also be an issue for the other communities of color such as Asians, Blacks, Muslims and Arabs since if this type of legislation is passed it will be used against all people of color.

It should also be an issue for the middle-class white progressive community. First, the progressive community should stand up to such legislation just because it is the right thing to do if they believe in social justice. Second, they must consider that if immigrants are going to be considered felons and put in prison who is going to pay the price for new prisons, prison guards and the upkeep of the new large community of immigrant felons if not the middle-class tax payer. Also it will be the middle-class who could be arrested as a felon for just employing an undocumented gardener, housekeeper, nanny, etc. It could even cover those who stand up for and help the oppressed. That means you and me.

All of us must stand up to the current wave of anti-immigrant

sentiment, not just those from across our southern border. It is just the right thing to do for all of us.

Vickie Fouts

////////////////////////////////////

Dear Editor

When I was a teenager in the 1960's, dabbling in politics, my mom and dad left the Democratic party. They'd had enough of street protests and flag burnings, and made for the shores of the party of Eisenhower and Nixon. They'd seen Democrats try to solve all problems by throwing away money, but government, they reasoned, should conserve. They were Conservatives. They didn't like the idea of government being in debt, and were aghast at this new thing called a "trade deficit." The 1994 "Republican Revolution" would've especially thrilled them. Small government and Welfare limits would've been right up their alley.

But they were true Conservatives. Yes, keep government out of your pocketbook, but also out of unnecessary wars, your

bedroom, and your telephone records. If they were alive today, they'd be appalled at the number of Republican congressmembers under investigation for corruption. They'd have just called it stealing. They would have found the Republicans' trillion-dollar boondoggle in Iraq just as offensive as the useless Democrat-led government agencies of their own day. And the idea that a Republican President would move America from a surplus to this yawning, endless deficit would've made them furious. After all, isn't that what "tax and spend" Democrats did? But Democratic spending was drop in the bucket compared to current Republican pilfering. No wonder commentators like George Will and have long claimed that Bush and the current Republican crop, with their mounting legal bills, are not Conservatives at all.

Me, I'm a flaming liberal, a bit homeless in the current climate, but if my parents were alive, they'd feel just as adrift in today's "Party of Abe Lincoln."

Lawrence Mings

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# This Area is Under Surveillance

By Mike Rhodes

Fresno is on the verge of installing and implementing one of the most sophisticated video surveillance systems in the country. Fresno Police Department Captain Al Maroney says “I hope to have at least a ‘seed’ system operational before the end of calendar year 2006.” The system Maroney is talking about would vastly increase video surveillance in this community with at least 256 cameras and the ability to connect with private sector cameras in locations like River Park, Fashion Fair, convenience stores, and other local businesses. A large part of the funding for this project will come from a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, administered by the County of Fresno.

The Fresno Police Department (FPD) plans to spend over a million dollars in the first phase of the project. Their vision is to have state of the art high resolution cameras interconnected with video surveillance cameras in businesses all fed into a central downtown location. When a crime takes place and a

“not a crime deterrent.”

Deirdre K. Mulligan, Director of the Samuelson Law (Technology & Public Policy Clinic) at the UC Berkeley’s Boalt Hall, is not entirely opposed to utilizing the technology. Mulligan says “Video Surveillance Technology, accompanied by appropriate policies, and installed after a thorough consideration of whether the technology is well suited to addressing the problem and capable of doing so in a manner that is fiscally sound and consistent with protections for civil liberties and civil rights may be a useful tool in a very limited set of circumstances.” Mulligan continues, “Unfortunately, cities like Fresno are adopting surveillance systems without any form of public oversight and little attention to whether the technology is likely to address the problem it’s being thrown at.”

The Fresno Police Department has already begun the permanent installation of video cameras at several locations. This has been done without a community dialog about the need for the equipment or a discussion about alternatives that might be available. Mulligan says “It is unconscionable to adopt a system like this without public review and without policies to protect the rights of citizens. Policies to protect individual rights, and limit and monitor system use must be in place to guide the design, implementation, use and oversight of the system.”

The FPD does not have a policy manual that would determine who has access to the recorded images, how long the images are stored, prevent racial profiling, or other abuses of the system. The FPD is not alone. Fresno City Hall, which has 15 cameras watching people at City Hall does not have a policy either. Brian Terhaar, Fresno City Hall Site Security Supervisor, who gave me a tour of their system says his training includes telling operators to “imagine your grandmother is standing over your shoulder.” In other words, don’t use the pan, tilt, and zoom features to zero in on attractive members of



Fresno Police Department Captain Al Maroney and Police Chief Jerry Dyer presented the proposal for increasing video surveillance to the City Council in January 2006. The title of their Power Point presentation was “Video Policing Project, Combining Technology with Trust.”

911 call is received a camera in the area of the crime will be put on alert. The signal from that camera will be sent directly to squad cars in the crime scene area. The camera can be zoomed in and focused on the activity taking place. The responding officer can see, in real time, what lies ahead. Meanwhile, the entire incident is being recorded on a hard drive that stores the information at police headquarters.

The system the FPD wants to purchase is called Endura and is being manufactured by Pelco, one of the largest manufacturers of video surveillance equipment in the world. Pelco’s world headquarters are located in Clovis. The pilot cameras in this system are currently being installed. You can see them at the Fresno Area Express bus hub at Manchester Center. Maroney is using this installation to work the bugs out of the system. The first complete system will likely be in the Tower District and downtown Fresno.

If Fresno gets the Endura system, it will be only the second installation of this technologically advanced system in the US. The first Endura system was installed in New York City. The system has the capacity to network hundreds of analog cameras, convert the video to a digital signal, and store the data for future use. Maroney says “we are not planning on having someone watching each of these monitors for a crime in progress.” The police will utilize the cameras if there is a crime in progress, like in the case of a 911 call, but most of the time they will save the video and only retrieve it if there is a criminal investigation.

But, the technology has its critics. The American Civil Liberties Union is opposed to video surveillance and doesn’t believe the technology has a place in our society. Mark Schlosberg, police policy director of the ACLU in Northern California, says “Public video surveillance systems are incredibly intrusive and sacrifice valuable privacy rights without any improvement in public safety. Study after study shows that blanketing large areas with surveillance cameras does not reduce crime. Scarce tax dollars are better spent on community policing programs rather than expensive big brother schemes.” Studies in Europe, where video surveillance technology is widely used, seem to back up Schlosberg’s contention that it does not stop crime. A 2005 British study showed video surveillance didn’t reduce crime or make people feel safer. A BBC article about that study is available here: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/leicestershire/4294693.stm> . An earlier study (see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2192911.stm> ) also showed that video surveillance is



Big Brother is watching. This is one of the cameras at the Manchester Center bus stop. All photos by Mike Rhodes.

veillance equipment at FUSD, it is unclear whether anyone could be held accountable and disciplined if they misused the equipment.

As the technological capabilities for video surveillance expands it will become even more important to have guidelines. Will Fresno City Hall, FUSD, or the FPD be allowed to buy and install video surveillance equipment that can look for weapons under your clothes? How about equipment that will allow the police to see through the walls of your house? There is biometric software that looks for suspicious patterns of behavior. This biometric technology will also identify “persons of interest” that the police are looking for. Should public agencies be allowed to use this technology, just because it is available and could aid in crime prevention? A policy manual, written with public input, would answer these questions.

Without safeguards in place, problems can and do occur. For example, in Washington DC, a police employee monitoring video surveillance cameras, recorded video of a man entering a gay bar. Using police computers, the employee researched the licence number of the car the man was driving and used the information to extort money from him. In London an operator was caught selling voyeuristic videos from the cameras he was monitoring.

According to Deirdre Mulligan “At the very least the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should be requiring localities using DHS money to install and deploy these systems to complete a ‘Privacy Impact Assessment’ as federal agencies must when adopting new systems to handle personal information. The lack of transparency about new police and intelligence systems and tactics, combined with a lack of careful consideration of the utility and costs of the systems is a recipe for fiscal irresponsibility and substantial incursions on individual rights and democratic values.”

With the crime rate going down, social services being cut back, some Fresnan’s wonder if this is the most effective use of public money. Would increasing the number of officers on the street be more successful in preventing crime than

***“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”***  
***Benjamin Franklin***

the opposite sex.

The Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) has over 100 cameras on at least 15 campuses and they don’t have a policy manual to protect students from the misuse of the video surveillance equipment either. Without guidelines for the use of video sur-



This camera is monitoring activity at the Manchester Center bus stop in Fresno. It is being used to test the hardware and software in preparation for a huge video surveillance project in this community.

video surveillance? In a recent discussion about this issue on a Tower District listserv several writers said they were uncomfortable with the proposal to be monitored when they were in the area. One writer asked why there weren't more bicycle patrols and officers in the neighborhood on foot. Other writers proposed boycotting the Tower District if the video surveillance cameras were installed.

Catherine Campbell, a local civil rights attorney and one of the writers on the Tower District listserv, wrote that the negative reaction to video surveillance cameras "is an overreaction borne of our experience of hyper-illegal surveillance by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies over the years. Many stores have video cameras to help them protect their businesses and we hardly notice it and are grateful they were there when they help in the apprehension of someone who has stolen property or injured someone." She continued, "The public sidewalks are free space for us and for the police too; we don't have a right to be private when we're walking the street, it's simply not conduct that is protected. If the cameras came into our homes, that would be an entirely different issue but the FPD is not proposing that."

While Catherine Campbell and Captain Maroney seem to agree that the public have few privacy rights in public spaces, not everyone thinks that is true. A report, just released by The Constitution Project, says that "Privacy and anonymity rights are clearly imperiled by public video surveillance systems, if misused. Cameras could routinely capture footage of individuals engaging in activities in which most expect anonymity, such as entering an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, a psychiatrist's office, or the headquarters of a fringe religious or cultural group. Similarly, cameras might capture things most people would seek to keep private, such as the label on a vial purchased at a drug store or an intimate conversation between two family members on a stroll."

Freedom of speech and association could also be at risk. If video surveillance cameras, monitored by armed government agents, are able to keep a record of who you talk to, what you say, and what you read, it could have a "chilling" effect on your free speech rights.

In weighing the balance between privacy rights and the desire for greater security, Campbell concludes "Personal discomfort with police surveillance of this sort is warranted, however, not because it violates our rights but because it tells us that the police cannot handle our streets by being personally present. Video surveillance is an alienating form of protection, one that

creates an 'us vs. them' mentality and is a very poor substitute for the community presence of known and respected officers."

In January 2006 captain Al Maroney and police chief Jerry Dyer made a presentation about the video surveillance project before the Fresno City Council. Council president Jerry Duncan introduced the presentation by saying that the purpose of the hearing was to bring the council up to speed on the project. Duncan made it clear that there was no opportunity at the January meeting for public comment on this issue. Duncan said "It is my expectation that in the near future we will have a more formal process for adoption and action and at that point we will hopefully get feedback from the public from those who think this is a good idea and those who think it is not a good idea." That public hearing has now been scheduled - it will take place on Wednesday, June 14th at 6 PM at Bullard High School.

In an email to me about this hearing, Duncan wrote "We are having our budget hearings outside of City Hall this year, in the evenings, to make it easier for people to attend if they are interested. During that meeting FPD will present their plan for any dollars requested in the new budget (including surveillance cameras) and there will be a chance for the public to speak and the Council to ask questions. So the budget process is very much a public hearing and since that is the time funding is requested, a very appropriate venue."

With the FPD moving forward with installing and testing surveillance equipment, phase one of the project scheduled for completion by the end of the year, and a June 14th meeting

about this issue before the City Council, the public will have to get engaged if they have concerns and want to have input into the process.

For more information about video surveillance, contact:

The Constitution Project  
1025 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Third Floor  
Washington DC, 20005  
202 580-6920  
[info@constitutionproject.org](mailto:info@constitutionproject.org)  
[www.constitutionproject.org](http://www.constitutionproject.org)

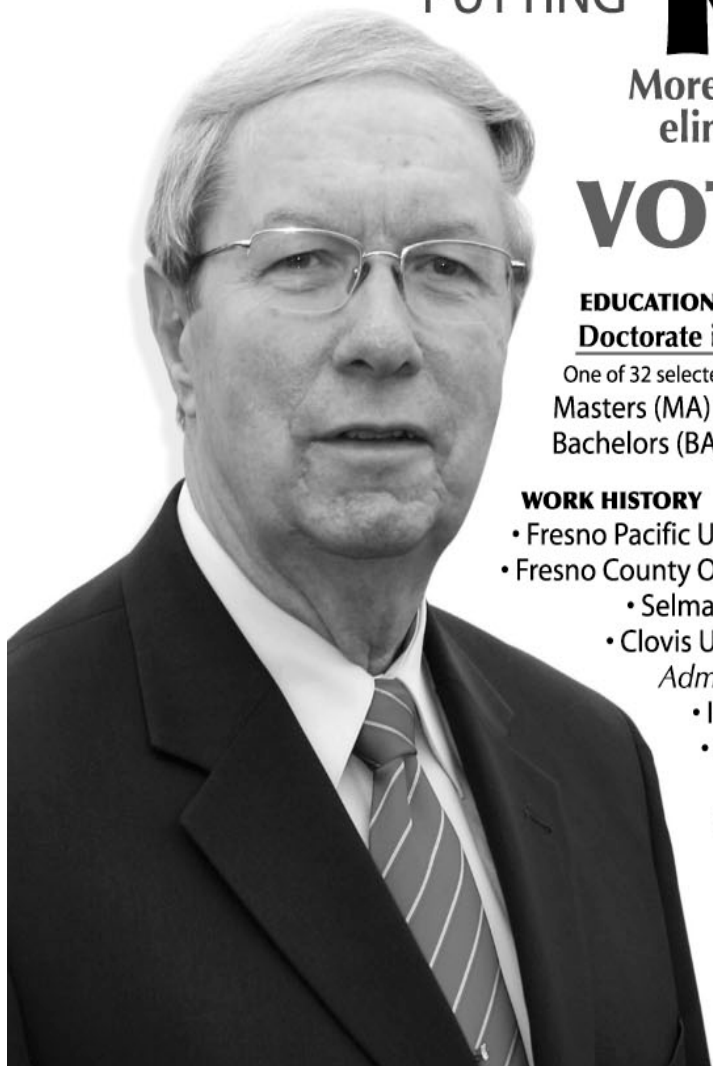
American Civil Liberties Union, Northern California  
1663 Mission Street - Suite 460  
San Francisco CA 94103  
415 621-2493  
<http://www.aclunc.org/>

**Wednesday, June 14  
6 PM**  
**The Fresno Police Department's video surveillance proposal will be discussed at a meeting which will be held at Bullard High School, 5445 N Palm. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal at this meeting.**

## Connecting the Dots... and Follow the Money

Why is mayor Alan Autry pushing for Fresno to be the second city in the nation, right after New York City, to get the most sophisticated video surveillance system on the market? Could it be because fellow Republican and one of President Bush's major backers is David McDonald? McDonald is the president of Pelco, which is one of the worlds largest manufacturers of video surveillance equipment and one of the largest private employers in this area. In a major public relations campaign to connect Pelco to the events of 9-11, national security, and the need for video surveillance, the company has constructed a major memorial at their world headquarters in Clovis. Pelco has paid for hundreds of New York fireman, policemen, and their families to visit the memorial. Even New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani visited Pelco and had his picture taken with Autry and McDonald.

With millions of dollars of Homeland Security money being given to law enforcement it is not surprising that Fresno, the hotbed of terrorism that it is, would get its fair share of this money. It is the perfect storm - you have the Fresno Police Department who wants new high tech toys, the right wing that wants to convince everyone to be scared of each other, Republicans with close connections to the Bush administration, and a local industrialist who is making money on fear and the war against terrorism. McDonald is a war profiteer, much like Haliburton is in Iraq, just on a local scale.



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- Fresno County Office of Education – *Assistant Superintendent 19 years*
  - Selma Unified School District – *4 years as Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Curriculum*
  - Clovis Unified School District – *6 years total, Learning Director, Coordinator of Special Projects, Administrator of Personnel*
  - Immanuel High School – *5 years Superintendent/Principal, Teacher*
  - Reedley City Council Member 16 years – Mayor for 10 years – balanced budget every year

### HONORS

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- Cum Laude Graduate, Who's Who in California,
- 1993 Reedley Man of the Year
- Life Member Fresno State Alumni Assoc.
- Member of Bulldog Foundation
- Fresno State President's Advisory Commission
- and more.

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Fresno City Council District 1	Charles "Chuck" Riojas	Charles "Chuck" Riojas	Charles "Chuck" Riojas		Charles "Chuck" Riojas	Blong Xiong			
Fresno City Council District 3	Cynthia Sterling	Cynthia Sterling	Cynthia Sterling		Cynthia Sterling	Cynthia Sterling	Cynthia Sterling		
Fresno County Sheriff	Margaret Mims	Colleen Mestas	Colleen Mestas	Margaret Mims	Margaret Mims	Colleen Mestas	Margaret Mims		
Fresno County Coroner/Public Administrator	Loralee Cervantes		Loralee Cervantes			David Hadden	Loralee Cervantes		
Superintendent of Schools, County of Fresno		Larry Wilder	Larry Wilder			Larry Wilder		Larry Wilder	Larry Wilder

## Vote *NO* on Measure A

By John Crockford

Measure A - City of Fresno Charter Amendment: This measure will repeal Section 1504 of the Charter of the City of Fresno which was adopted by the voters in 1993 as part of the City's change to a Mayor-Council form of government. Under Charter Section 1504, the City Council membership will increase from seven to nine when the population for the City of Fresno reaches 540,000 - estimated to occur in approximately 8 years.

An increase in the number of City Council members will preserve the ratio of one Council member per 60,000 residents. If Measure A is adopted, City Council members will be representing an ever-increasing number of residents resulting in less effective representation and a reduction in the accountability of politicians to the people. A vote for Measure A is a vote against the democratic principle of proportional representation. The Peace and Freedom Party of Fresno County recommends that you vote NO on Measure A.

For more information about the upcoming elections - including candidates' responses to questions from the Peace and Freedom Party - visit the San Joaquin Valley Peace and Freedom Party website at <http://peaceandfreedom-sjv.org>

*John Crockford is the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for the 29<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District.*

### THIS MODERN WORLD



## HOWARD'S HOPEFULS

Here are my voting recommendations for contested races in the June 6, 2006 primary election. Most are clear choices, a few are close calls. I hope you find this list helpful. Thank you and please vote!

Howard K. Watkins  
Fresno, CA

### STATE

Governor .....ANGELIDES

Lieutenant Governor ..... SPEIER

Secretary of State ..... BOWEN

Controller ..... DUNN

Treasurer ..... LOCKYER

Attorney General ..... DELGADILLO

Insurance Commissioner ..... BUSTAMANTE

State Board of Equalization #2 ..... OPEN

State Supt. Of Public Instr. ....O'CONNELL

STATE PROPOSITIONS ..... YES on 81 + 82

### FEDERAL

US Senator ..... FEINSTEIN

### FRESNO COUNTY

Public Administrator/Coroner ..... CERVANTES

Sheriff ..... MIMS

Supt. of County Schools ..... WILDER

Board of Supervisors #4 ..... GONZALEZ

### CITY OF FRESNO

City Council District #1 .....RIOJAS

City Council District #3 ..... STERLING

City Measure A ..... YES

**VOTE JUNE 6th!**

*This is a paid political ad.*



# Prison Illiteracy: Addressing the Problem

By Boston Woodard

Prison illiteracy is a problem of tremendous proportions with ramifications for the entire nation. According to some calculations, illiteracy in American prisons is as high as 75%—about three times higher than the level of the general population. Most educators do not know about it, and most corrections professionals are unprepared to deal with it. Most politicians do not acknowledge that prison illiteracy is a problem and that most taxpayers resent having to pay for prison education.

A research study by the Friends Committee on Legislation showed, however, that addressing this problem is a proven and cost-effective way of slowing the rising tide of crime in the United States.

Recently, the California Department of Corrections (CDC) changed its title to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The CDCR has been making a lot of noise that it will finally focus on rehabilitating prisoners as opposed to the punishment and retribution it has been laying on its wards for decades. Most prisoners understand that the new focus on rehabilitation was enacted as a direct result of pressure on the department's ineffective punitive policies.

Since there is a strong correlation between criminal behavior and educational insufficiency, greater literacy can be one way out of criminality. The right kind of education in prison has been shown to reduce recidivism. This suggests that participation in prison literacy programs increases prisoners' chances of staying on the outside and living a more satisfying, profitable life after they have been released, thus cutting back on the tremendous waste of human potential fostered by our current prison system. By reducing the prisoner population, prison literacy programs can reduce long-term prison costs, thus lightening the taxpayers' financial load and building a stronger tax base.

### Insights on the Problem

A direct relationship exists between insufficient literacy and unsocial, often criminal, behavior. Education is a proven catalyst for change, and a majority of studies report a correlation between greater education and lower recidivism (instruction is particularly successful with juvenile prisoners). How the offender thinks is associated with his or her criminal behavior and thus with his or her rehabilitation. Consequently, programs that use cognitive training were found to be most effective in reducing recidivism because they encourage critical thinking on the larger issues of literacy, self, life, and society.

Success in prison literacy programs, however, should not just be measured in lower levels of recidivism. Education also has a socializing effect on many prisoners' personalities. Better educated prisoners tend to be more tractable, thereby making prison life more bearable for all involved. Prison literacy programs are cost-effective. Fewer offenders who have participated in prison literacy programs recidivate, thus slowing the rise in prison population and costs. The country benefits as well from the earning power of those who go on to become responsible, taxpaying citizens. Furthermore, prison industries that incor-

porate workplace literacy programs can pay for themselves and even turn a profit, as well as teach prisoners skills that will be in demand after their release from prison.

To be rehabilitative, correctional education must (a) be responsive to the particular learning needs of the offender; (b) include content that focuses specifically on changing criminal values, beliefs, and attitudes; and (c) integrate its activities with other correctional initiatives. The content of successful prison literacy programs must provide skills and information needed by prisoners on their return to society. Basic skills development should be integrated with life skills development.

The educational paradigm for prison literacy programs includes (a) social education, (b) moral education, (c) the experience of democracy (creating a sense of social responsibility), (d) humanities education (learning the traditions, heritage, and norms of society), (e) a cognitive moral approach (stimulating the prisoner's own efforts to identify and correct those errors in thinking that cause criminal behavior), and (f) teaching methods geared toward adults, not children. A curriculum needs to be developed for prisons that blends basic academic skills with material that stimulates social learning.

Studies also point toward the need to recognize that specific groups in prison have particular needs, such as an alternative education program for the learning disabled or an ESL (English as a second language) program for non-English-speaking prisoners. Prisoners tend to have a high incidence of learning difficulties and peer tutoring and teacher-student contracts for learning goals are especially effective with prisoners. Experience has shown that prisoners favor a more hands-on learning style, rather than the more passive, traditional lecture style.

### Research Directions

There is a real need for more conclusive, controlled research as well as carefully designed evaluative studies that would encourage analysis within the field of prison literacy. Specific research needed includes studies on (a) the educational needs of non-English-speaking prisoners, (b) conditions and populations in local jails, (c) the cognitive educational identity of prison populations, (d) the effectiveness of peer literacy instruction, (e) the long-term, general effectiveness and cost effectiveness of privatization of prison literacy services, and (f) the non-educational actors that impinge on the post-release success of literacy program participants.

### Teaching Suggestions

Some of the best ways to teach prisoners include making the most of their hands-on learning style, exploring teaching methods that involve cognitive training (thus deriving the full benefit of education's ability to effect change in established thinking patterns), and utilizing peer tutoring and group learning experiences.

In order to make the most of the available educational opportunities, the literacy needs of the prisoners (accommodating learning disabilities, non-English language, etc.) must be assessed so that the prisoners can be encouraged to participate in the appropriate programs. Technology can be useful in specific instances, but it should be remembered that prisoners can best profit from the social interaction with their human teachers, thus working on needed social and academic skills simultaneously.

### Managing an Effective Program

Hiring educators to develop and run the programs is most desirable, although input from educators based at local colleges and universities is also helpful. Prison literacy programs that coordinate courses with local community colleges can provide needed direction for released prisoners and contribute to the success of their continuing education. Peer programs organized for post-release also foster the long-term effectiveness of prisoner literacy programs.

Soliciting prisoners' input on program development is important, but even more important is acting on that information and including the prisoners themselves in the continuing management and evolution of the literacy program. Prisoner participants often have an idea of the kinds of skills that would be in demand after their release, and they readily drop out of programs that load them down with useless or trivial information and so-called skills. Vocational programs need to be assessed according to these same criteria—are the skills being taught marketable?

### Policy Recommendations

Official correctional policy at all governmental levels should demand a strong, rehabilitative education program for prisoners. Legislation should encourage educators to be more involved in prison literacy programs so that the major focus is learning rather than punishment or security concerns. A national strategy for expanding prisoners' literacy is vital. Vocational training to acquire marketable skills is needed and even demanded by prisoners. Combining this with other kinds of more academic learning is particularly beneficial for lifetime literacy acquisition.

Industry cooperation with prison literacy/vocational programs could be encouraged by tax incentives. A properly educated prison work force could replace inactivity and boredom with productivity, decrease taxpayers' corrections cost, increase offenders' restitution payments and simultaneously develop prisoners' real-world job skills.

###

*Boston Woodard is a prisoner/journalist who has written for the San Quentin News and the Soledad Star, and edited The Communicator. The Department of Corrections has pulled the plug on all three publications.*



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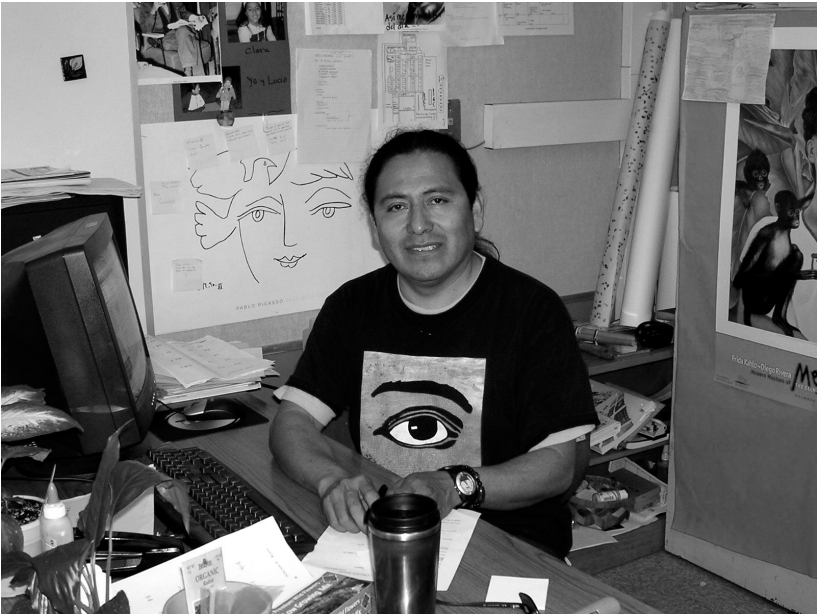
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# My Life as an Immigrant

By B. Roque Hernández

Migration is the failure of the roots. Displaced men are ecological victims. Between them and the sustaining earth a wedge has been driven. Eviction by droughts or dispossession by landlords, the impoverishment of the soil or conquest by arms – nature and man, separately or together, lay down the choice: move or die. Those who are able to break away do so, leaving a hostile world behind to face an uncertain one ahead.

## MI CASA, AQUI NO ES MI CASA

Living in a crowded apartment, sleeping on the floor and dreaming, I have become a prisoner guarded by my hovering soul. My dreams are heading back home. Down there in the south, somebody is expecting them, to embrace them, to make them hers and keep them until midnight because they have to get back to me before dawn. On their way back, my dreams will catch the early refreshing winds of the failing night and gently wake me up.

This is my house but I do not call it mine yet. It is too cold and dark. It smells like rotten rugs and the walls are peeling. It has two bedrooms. In each one there are four men asleep. My soul and I are sharing a corner in the living room. Tomorrow, another brother will arrive and he will be my living room mate. Among us, the immigrants, it is like that. We help each other. We make space for the newcomers until they get another place. This is my house, and only God knows how long I am going to be here.

The bathroom faucet is leaking and nobody here cares a damn about it, because nobody seems to be emotionally attached to this place. There are cockroaches parading around being our companions. We are survivors, but they have been here longer than us. This is their house. We humans are the intruders. How many people have lived here before? Where are they now?

The kitchen’s shelves are empty. There are a few old plates that somebody bought at a flea market. There is a big pot to cook beans in. It used to be shiny. Now it is dull outside and dark inside. There are a few spoons in one of the drawers and, of course, a bottle opener. The sink in the kitchen is also leaking but none of us living here cares a damn thing about it because, again, this is not our home, it is only a brief stop on our journey.

There is an old onion in the refrigerator. I do not know who left two spoons inside. They have been there since I arrived two weeks ago. Nobody is going to take them out because nobody cares about them. Nobody is going to say I did it. Nobody is here to notice those details, but there is always beer waiting, just waiting.

I am here. I made it. And as soon as my dreams get back to me, I am going to step outside and continue my journey of survival because I do not know where this is going to take me. Only God and the Virgin of Juquila know. I do not.

Tomorrow, because for us every day is about tomorrow, I will get up, stretch my body, and after silently praying I will leave this place, head to the Chino’s shop, get me a greasy doughnut and a vinyl cup full of horrible coffee, and go hunt for a job. What type? It can be practically anything. I will be the dishwasher. The apple picker. The lettuce harvester. The strawberry collector. The car washer. The gardener. I will be any manual, low-paid, silent worker anywhere in California. I will be the cook hidden in the kitchen of a luxurious restaurant. I will be the drug dealer, the lover, the despised one. I will be claiming a spot on a corner to wait for a gringo to pick me up to go dig some holes, break

up a cement floor, or just hold a STOP sign on a road where repairs are being made.

Tomorrow, because for us there is always a tomorrow, I will go out claiming my spot in this nation. Today, it is only a small dot in a place that apparently is my home. But I still do not call it that.

Right now my body is resting, lost in the deepest part of the enchanted night, our night. And, my dreams? Far far away...

## LA INTERNACIONAL, 14TH AVENUE...

It is Tuesday or Thursday or any other day but Saturday or Sunday. The weekend days are crucial for me to survive in this to me, still odd world. I got out into the street to see what life will hand me today

I am walking toward my favorite intersection. The city is alive. There are people going everywhere. There are parents going to drop their children at their schools. Music is exhaled from the cars that are rolling with style on the International Boulevard. It is like a competition between the Blacks and the Mexicanos. Hip hop and musica de banda, rancheras, salsa, and musica romantica. These two ethnic groups with their colorful culture are among those keeping Oakland alive in many ways.

Pinche Oakland es un desmadre.

I am going to get my doughnuts and daily cup of chocolate from the coffee shop of los chinos. Then I'll go and get my burrito from one of the loncheras. In case I get a job today, I'll have my food. Oh! My poor stomach has to be strong enough to digest this Mexican food that has nothing in common with the food I used to eat back at home.

I am so tired today, and it's all because pinche Gerardo did not let me sleep well last night.

Another day. How many since I got here? It has been a little more than three years. I am still very much in the same situation. For all this time I've been walking every morning to my corner, my favorite spot, the one on Thirty- third and La Internacional. I am a laborer. A good one the gringos say. I get jobs almost daily. Sometimes I get hired for a long period and when I am done, I always go back to the corner. I like it. There, we are a sort of a family. We know each other. We protect each other, and when somebody new arrives, we try to help him. Recently more have arrived so that makes the competition harder. Lots of Guatemalans have gotten here in the last year.

The corner is not only a place to gather and wait to be hired. Lots of things happen there. We share different types of information. The ones who come from the same places in Mexico share news. It is interesting to listen to them passing on the latest gossip from their little towns. I like to bet on the soccer games with los chilangos. From the corner one can see many things. Standing there, it is easy to see the life passing. I remember seeing this prostitute. She approached us many times, but since we were there doing very much the same thing, selling ourselves, she understood the whole picture, and saw us as comrades instead. Some times, I did not see her for days or weeks. Then suddenly one day, she appeared looking like shit. I never asked where she had been because it was obvious that she went through hard times. I could only imagine what had happened to her.

When it's slow, some days I like to stay away from my buddies, and just sit there and play some mental games. Some times, for lapses of ten minutes, I count the types of cars passing by on the avenue. I keep a mental record of the models, colors and drivers. But my favorite time pastime is looking at people. I imagine who they are. I make suppositions about their life, the

type of job they do, their ethnicity and several other things.

Something else that I notice is that apparently everybody is in a hurry. People do not have expressions on their faces. Then, I think about myself and how I look when I walk on La Internacional. Yeah, me too, I try to show no emotions. I can't show weakness. It is hard to be sensitive. I have learned to shield my heart to keep him safe. I am in Oakland by myself. My family is back in Mexico. I have one brother in Nebraska, but we barely call each other. It is better like that I think. And if I started missing my people who are back home, the fucking nostalgia would kill me. Therefore, I play my own mental games to keep myself safe and sound. Sometimes I wish I had the ability to write and put on paper part of this life, and my fantasies while looking for a job on the corner.

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On Saturdays, I get my health education sessions from Benito, a cool Indian with long hair and a friendly smile. He is very well known in el barrio. He works for a non-profit, and does street outreach to prevent people in the Fruitvale district from getting infected with HIV or any other sexually transmitted disease. I imagine him as an angel because he saves lives; an angel with a long beard, an Indian face, a wide smile and long gray hair. I do not know if God would take that type of angel into his Kingdom.

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On Sundays, I go to Saint Elizabeth to attend the midday mass. I listen to the punishing sermon given by el Padre Marcos until I get so tired and wish I hadn't gone to the church. It is good to do it anyway. After all, I feel a kind of protection like I have a halo floating around my head during the week. La fe, la fe hace que el Diablo salga de mi cuerpo. Padre Marcos is an excellent mediator between God and the devil. Each side, Dios y el Diablo, gets the souls according to the amount of fear and/or forces of liberation embedded in the minds of the mortals. Pero, when I am in the presence of God, I think about my friend Gerardo. I silently ask to the eternal father to protect him and love him. Forever.

Sundays are sacred for me. It is the day when God cleanses me of the sins committed during the week. I receive my communion, and He absolves me. How can I mix these beautiful days of my life with others in between?

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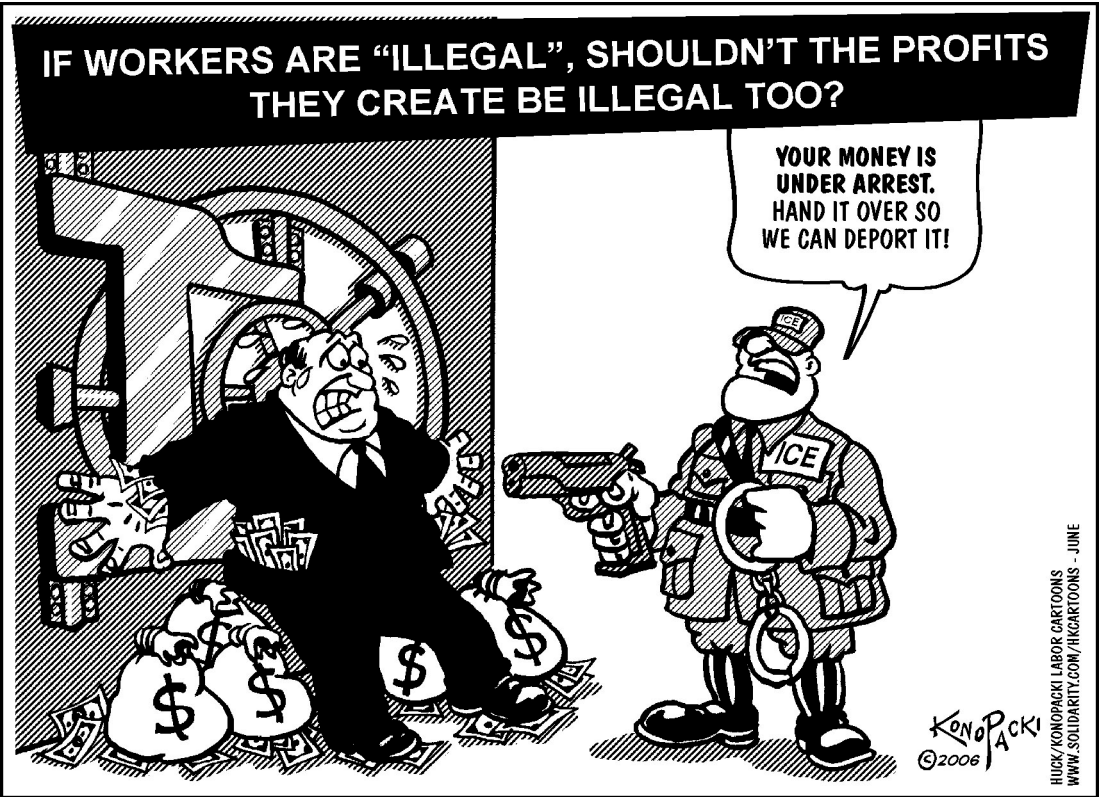
Well, here I am walking again to my favorite corner. If I do not get a job today, I am going to walk this crazy avenue for the rest of the day. I just want to walk into the stores and look, just look for anything. I enjoy doing that because it gives me the chance to pretend being somewhere else than in el Norte.

Oh Virgensita, another day, and here on this part of the world the same thing as everyday... pinche Oakland man, es un desmadre...

Oaxaca, Semana Santa del two thousand and four...

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B. Roque Hernández is from Oaxaca, Mexico, currently living in Oakland. You can contact him at [cartasacrispina@hotmail.com](mailto:cartasacrispina@hotmail.com)





# Grassroots Profile

By Richard Stone

Agustin Lira and Patricia Wells have been fixtures of Fresno’s Latino/Hispanic “movement” for decades. Yet, while their work is much appreciated, they feel it is not well understood. “People ask if we are political or are we artists. That isn’t the question. For us, our artistic expression is political, even when the subject isn’t about politics. Our work is to preserve the culture and history of our people through music and theater. We want to support the growth of dignity and the demand for justice through an understanding of who we are, what we have endured.”

Agustin began his career as a volunteer for the nascent Farmworkers Union in 1965. He met another organizer, Luis Valdez (later of “Zoot Suit” fame) and together they founded Teatro Campesino. In their efforts to mobilize workers, they had discovered the power of humor, music and theater to engage everyday people and build strength.

After a time in Los Angeles, Agustin returned home to the Central Valley in 1975 to organize; and for the past thirty years he has devoted himself to grassroots work motivating immigrant people to live lives filled with the vitality of artistic creation based on their own culture and experience.

Patricia became hooked on ‘the work” as a college student.

Growing up in Brawley, CA (“a stereotypical border town, racist and controlled by growers”), she was fortunate to have an Anglo high school teacher with the courage to create a Chicano Literature class, with the intention of giving students a sense of their own potential. Among the books they studied was a collection of the plays of Teatro Campesino, including pictures of Agustin and Luis, which Patricia went through over and over.

Then, in 1974, she encountered her heroes performing in Northridge. Their performance stirred her more than anything in her college studies. She quit school to work with the secondary boycott the UFW was then organizing; and soon afterwards, she recalls, “I invited myself to join Teatro.”

After independent sojourns and adventures, including time in Mexico City, Patricia re-joined Agustin in Fresno to study with him. “I had to learn to play guitar almost from scratch, and about theatrical performance...not easy for a shy young woman. Luckily, my experiences on picket lines and demonstrations had given me practice at least to stand up in public and be visible.”

Both as a team and individually, Agustin and Patricia have involved themselves with countless endeavors related to “la movamiento”. With bassist Ravi Knypstra, they are the trio Alma. With a group of immigrant women, novice musicians, Patricia leads Coro Nuevo Mundo. Agustin directs the Immigrant Theater Group. And under the non-profit rubric Teatro de la Tierra,



**Emma Tenayuca, Gilbert Padilla, Hugo Chavez, Mother Jones (P)**  
**Motto: “Better to die on your feet than live on your knees” (A); “Pray for the dead and fight I like hell for the living” (P)**  
**Non-political interests: Reading, walking (both), gardening (P)**  
**Unexpected pleasures: playing Japanese (shakuhachi) flute (A); astrology (P)**

## IDENTITY BOX

**Birthplace: Torreon,Coahuila, Mexico (A.); Brawley, CA (P.)**  
**Ethnic identity: Chicano (A); Chicana (P)**  
**Political identity: Human rights advocates**  
**Most frequented part of Fresno: the Tower**  
**Inspirations: Zapata, Villa, Castro, Ho Chi Minh, Mao, Che, Cesar Chavez, Reis**  
**Lopez Tijerina, Corky Gonzalez (A.);**

## Fake Family Planning Clinics – Could It Happen Here?

**Patsy Montgomery, Director of Public Affairs, PPM**

So-called “crisis pregnancy centers” are proliferating across the nation — a deceitful new tactic of the anti-choice movement to keep women from getting the accurate education and health services they seek. According to a January 2006 article in The New York Times, there are currently more of these centers in the U.S. than there are actual abortion providers. The worst part? Your tax dollars are funding them to the tune of \$60 million.

A recent alert from Planned Parenthood Federation of America called national attention to this growing concern of deceptive practices. These fake “clinics” often masquerade as health centers when their only real purpose is to keep women from exercising their right to choice and family planning.

The following story happened in Indiana but could be a foretelling of things to come in the valley:

An Indiana mother recently accompanied her daughter and her daughter’s boyfriend to one of Indiana’s Planned Parenthood clinics, but unwittingly walked into a so-called “crisis pregnancy center” run by an anti-abortion group, that shared a parking lot with the real Planned Parenthood clinic.

They took down the girl’s confidential personal information and told her to come back for her appointment, which would

be in their “other office” (the real Planned Parenthood clinic). When she arrived for her appointment, Planned Parenthood staff had no record of her, and the police were there. The “crisis pregnancy center” had called them, claiming that a minor was being forced to have an abortion against her will.

The “crisis pregnancy center” staff then proceeded to wage a campaign of intimidation and harassment over the following days, showing up at the girl’s home, calling her father’s workplace & urged school classmates to pressure her not to have an abortion. The clinic director reports that the girl was “scared to leave her house.”

While the case above is an extreme example, everyday in the valley women of all ages seek a free pregnancy test (and free ultrasounds at some locations) from more than a dozen similar facilities between Merced & Tulare counties. Although not medical providers, they are often viewed as such by concerned women & teens seeking the free tests. The goal of these facilities is to save the “unborn,” and not to provide medically accurate, unbiased information.

The anti-choice movement is setting up these “crisis pregnancy centers” across the country, often next door to a Planned Parenthood or other family planning provider. In Madera, a “crisis pregnancy center” has just moved into the same office complex that houses the local Planned Parenthood Health Center whose staff are working diligently to protect the confidentiality & safety of its clients.

A bill in Congress, entitled the “Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women’s Services Act” (H.R.5052), would stop “crisis pregnancy centers” from deceiving women. Call your representatives to support this bill.

Ask them to take a stand and stop the fraudulent practices of

the two have taught and performed for schools and unions, for celebrations and rallies, in countless venues.

For both—but especially for Agustin, whose family suffered directly through forceable deportation and disenfranchisement during the Depression years— political rage is a ferocious driving force. “For me..” Agustin adds, “there is enough anger from the recent past to keep me fighting three or four lifetimes,” even without the current wave of insults arising from another round of economic fear and xenophobia. “I saw my uncle, a decorated war hero, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, be treated as garbage. That memory does not fade.”

As mature artists, Agustin and Patricia have refused to be “just performers”, or to be engrossed in the agenda of any particular organization. They struggle to make ends meet in the tradition of the starving artist, true to the creative spirit that works through them. They have managed to find support and recognition from several immigrant rights groups, and from such embracers of diversity as the Unitarian Universalist Church, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, KFCE, the Community Alliance, and the California Arts Council (“until the Bushies killed the funding.”) But their on-going allegiance to what might be called “the not-yet gentrified” part of the population often leaves them financially and politically embattled.

“Why”, Agustin and Patricia ask, “ is the whole society seemingly devoted to getting the rich richer while the poor suffer. We don’t need more rich people, we need the poor to be true members of society and live without fear. If we gave all people basic rights to live decently, without stigma and threat, if we ended the apartheid, we could have a humane society—not one based on exploitation and proving superiority.”

Their current work includes producing a forthcoming CD, with several new songs written by Agustin; a play based on the life of Emma Tenayuca (called “La Pasioneria” for the intensity of her organizing efforts in Texas); and a book commemorating the history of Agustin’s family. To support their work, go to their website for information—and by all means come to the July 21st event Patricia is coordinating for Arte Americas...”a mini-Chicano music festival,” she says, “that should be special.”

*Musical group ALMA - Lira, Wells & Knypstra:*  
*<http://home.earthlink.net/~almas2/>*  
*Classes in Music & Teatro/theater*  
*Teatro Inmigrante/Immigrant Theater Group*  
*Nuevo Canto & Latin American Folklore*  
*CD sales - please see website for order form/CDs available @ Arte Americas*  
*For more information call or write:*  
*(559) 237-3016*  
*[almas2@earthlink.net](mailto:almas2@earthlink.net)*

fake clinics. To find out how you can help locally email Patsy Montgomery at [fresnopa@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:fresnopa@ppmarmonte.org).

*Patsy Montgomery is the Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in the Central Valley. Patsy has worked as an advocate on behalf of women & children for more than 25 years. You can contact her at [patsy\\_montgomery@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:patsy_montgomery@ppmarmonte.org) or call her at 559.488.4908 x 301.*



# Exit Exam Lies to the Public

By Rog Lucido

Parents, business and community members want to know whether or not a high school graduate has satisfactorily completed their preparation for the next step in their life. Michael H. Kean, Ph.D., Vice President of Public and Governmental Affairs for McGraw Hill, maker of one of the California state tests says, “No single test can do it all. A diagnostic test to determine a car’s emission level will not tell you if the tires need air. A different procedure will provide the mechanic with that information. The same goes for tests in education. No single test can ascertain whether all educational goals are being met. A variety of tests—or, “multiple measures”—is necessary to provide educators with a well-rounded view of what students know and can do. Just as different tests provide different information, no one kind of test can tell us all we need to know about a student’s learning. This ‘multiple-measures approach’ to assessment is the key-stone to valid, reliable and fair information about student achievement.”

The California State Department of Education joins with the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and National Council on Measurement in Education Standard 13.7 of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing and states, “In educational settings, a decision or characterization that will have major impact on a student should not be made on the basis of a single test score. Other relevant information should be taken into account if it will enhance the overall validity of the decision.”

In response to this truth, both houses of our legislature voted in favor of AB 1531 which would have permitted districts to develop alternative means of assessment for graduation. SB 385 would have required the Department of Education to develop a modified version of the high school exit examination for English learner students that eliminates unnecessary linguistic complexity. Despite the will of our representatives both were vetoed by our Governor.

On top of this the Exit Exam is replete with errors in reliability and validity. Passing is 350 on both portions of the exam. The error at passing is approximately equivalent to being given a 2 question leeway. That is, a student could miss 2 more questions than what the passing raw score requires and still have a probability of passing. This means that if this error were applied to a student’s score of 342 there is a probability that their score could be 350 and pass. This information is not reported to either parents or students in order to give the impression of perfect score reporting. Also, recent research shows that two-

thirds of the Exit Exam test items have technical/validity problems were reported by the state’s own independent CAHSEE evaluator, HumRRO.

To make things worse on the only two occasions where the scores for passing were established, the State Board of Education disregarded the recommendations of its own chosen committees and selected passing scores that were politically motivated and had nothing to do with sound researched-based psychometric validity.

Ed code 60856. states:

After adoption and the initial administrations of the high school exit examination the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall study the appropriateness of other criteria by which high school pupils who are regarded as highly proficient but unable to pass the high school exit examination may demonstrate their competency and receive a high school diploma.

For 5 years this legal mandate had been ignored. Facing at least three lawsuits over the Exit Exam on December 15, 2005, just 6 months before graduation, the State Superintendent of Schools convened a public forum for suggested alternatives for those who do not pass the Exit Exam. He did not attend.

With only one test administration left with sufficient time to determine passing and a diploma, with questions of error, validity, department of Ed’s refusal to follow State education code 60856, Standard 13.7 of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, legislative passage of alternative means of evaluation and language issues, a significant benefit of the doubt needs to be afforded to students who have completed all district requirements for graduation. Some school districts have already alerted school sites that Exit Exam failure may affect student’s mental health leading to potential depression and increased suicide risk. And if this isn’t bad enough, California Dept. of Education will consider any student who does not pass the exam as a high school dropout.

One all or nothing fallacious test should not ruin futures and ignore all accomplishments and skills gained from 13 years taking dozens of courses with projects, presentations, assignments, tests, portfolios and the like from a myriad of teachers in California classrooms- a multiple measures assessment.

Fixation on one test score should not cloud the psychometrically sound ethical judgment that the Exit Exam does not tell the truth.



## QUEER EYE Of Consolidation and Response Times by Dan Waterhouse

There’s been hardly the coverage it truly deserves. No one’s really talking about it. There’s only been a few items buried in city council consent calendars—which are acted on with no discussion and a single vote. Quietly, the City of Fresno is moving to consolidate fire protection in the greater Fresno area.

A blogger on a local fire service website claims that he, another citizen and a County Supervisor were all told in March by county management that the city created a 5-minute dispatch delay for instant aid, supposedly to justify its consolidation efforts. According to the blogger, if the closest fire apparatus isn’t a city rig, its dispatch would take 5 minutes in order to give the city engine a head start.

What is “instant aid?” Boiled down, “instant aid” means that the closest fire apparatus to an emergency call rolls, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Instant aid was controversial in the 1970s after several homes burned to the ground because the “wrong” fire department was on scene, and several people died—possibly due to extraordinarily long response times. The city initially didn’t want to negotiate agreements; but the city was forced into signing agreements by public opinion.

It must be said that bloggers on the website, The Rumor Mill 3 Forum, often vent the intense dislike (bordering on hatred in some cases) by members of the city and the county fire agen-

cies for one another. Personal attacks and charges and countercharges of incompetence and laziness endangering public safety are rife on the site.

Another blogger (a city firefighter) retorted that he had checked with the dispatch supervisor (in late April) and the delay in requesting instant aid was “only” 3 minutes, 15 seconds, not 5 minutes. A notion was advanced by a third poster that the county management person and the Supervisor “did not get to where they are now without knowing how to stir the pot a little and how to kiss a little ....”

“The allegation is simply absurd,” says Fresno fire spokesman Ken Shockley. “But I’m glad you brought this to our attention, because the allegation actually makes a strong argument for regional dispatching.” According to battalion chief Tim Henry, any delay in dispatching instant aid is caused by the multiple dispatch centers in Fresno County.

“Fact is, the delay is closer to the 3 minutes, 15 seconds figure than 5 minutes. The city is the primary answering point for 911 in the metropolitan area,” Henry said. “What happens is, our dispatch center gets a call. The computer identifies another agency’s engine as the closest. Under the terms of the agreements, we dispatch our apparatus also. As our engine gets on the road, the city dispatcher has to pass the call information via intercom to the other agency’s communications center where they then make up the call and dispatch their engine or truck.”

Henry says, “We did a run analysis several years ago in northeast Fresno. What we found was, we were arriving ahead of Clovis’ Engine 33 most of the time on instant aid calls. We discovered that geographically closer was not necessarily faster—due to the quicker dispatch time.”

Henry added that response times have been reduced by at least a minute since the city contracted with Fresno County emergency medical services for fire dispatching last year. The county assumed responsibility for dispatching at the beginning of January. “We were experiencing dispatch delays with the police department, because they had to pass the call to us.”

City fire chief Randy Bruegman said that having all Fresno county fire agencies in the same communications center would improve the level of protection for residents. The city presently is in discussions with the county and several of the other fire departments.

Bruegman also admits he would like his department to handle all emergencies within the city’s sphere of influence. “The current system of relying on automatic or mutual aid is neither effective nor does it provide for a coordinated or consistent response to those who live in the several county islands,” according to Bruegman. “The Fresno Fire Department can reach all the county islands with a first-alarm assignment within 8 minutes.”

The standard first-alarm assignment is three engines, two truck companies, and a battalion chief—or 16 firefighters. Bruegman proposes to provide this level of service in exchange for the tax revenue generated in the areas served. This is what he is proposing to the North Central Fire Protection District board. He also proposed the same arrangement to the County fire district last September; he says that, so far, no one from the county agency has responded.



# ArtHop

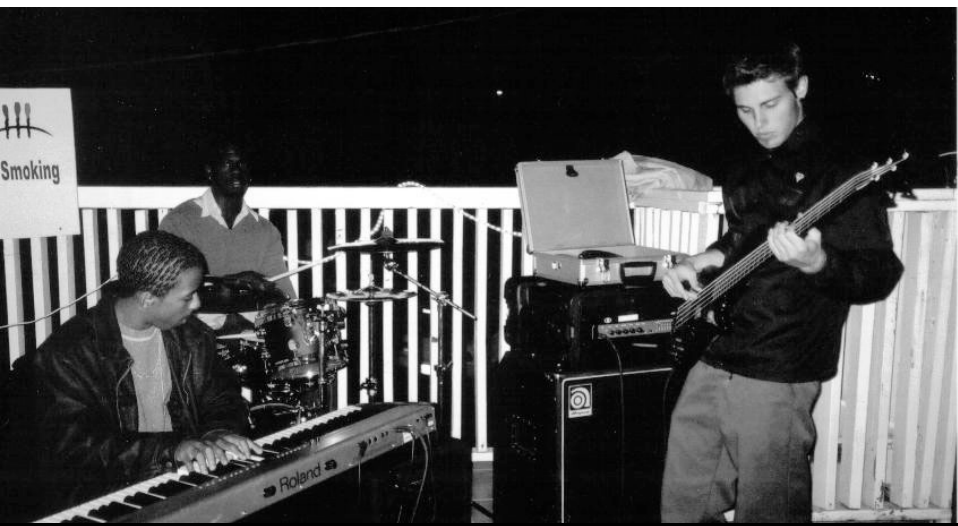
By Joyce Aiken

No one could have guessed ten years ago that ArtHop would become the phenomenon that it is today. Is it a party, a cultural evening out, a place to meet friends or a chance to network with like-minded people? It has become all of those things and more. We have seen a great upsurge of interest in all the arts and ArtHop plays an important role in that. There is an energy around ArtHop that has fueled a growing interest in the arts in Fresno.

Thanks to artists Jane Whitehurst and Frank Arnold, ArtHop was born and named in October 1996 for the purpose of showcasing local art and artists in downtown Fresno. Their art studio was in the Bus Barn located on Mono and "L" streets, a warehouse district with little or no foot traffic. Also in the Bus Barn were the studios of artists Robert Ogata and Sharon and David Alexander who joined the small group of participants on Thursday, October 3, 1996, and established the first Thursday of each month as ArtHop night. The Fresno Arts Council (FAC), under the leadership of Kathy Lustig, was called in to take over the organization and promotion of ArtHop. The first participants were located in the downtown Fresno area and the Tower District and advertising was by way of copied handouts given out by the artists involved.

In the last ten years, ArtHop has grown to include over 50 venues and expanded to cover northern and eastern Fresno, Clovis, and some foothill communities. In 2004, FAC received a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) consortium grant to promote ArtHop. Their partners included the Fresno Art Museum, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Arte Americas, and the African American Museum. FAC increased the number of ArtHop brochures from 20,000 printed in 2004 to 60,000 printed in 2005 and

"The Great Eight" exhibition at the T.W. Patterson Building, curated by Stan Bitters, brought five hundred people to the opening reception and an overall count of one thousand people during its two month stay. Evidently these people did not find trouble parking in downtown Fresno. Other galleries have seen similar numbers of viewers on ArtHop night. The Door Gallery in Northern Fresno recently reported between four hundred and five hundred visitors on their opening night while the Mono & Van Ness Ave. galleries see that many every month.



The band Variation performs at the 3 brush gallery during Arthop.  
Photo by Kirk De Verteuil



Arthop is held on the first Thursday of each month.

More and more people from out of town visit ArtHop. Guests at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno can easily walk to the Mono and Van Ness cluster of seven galleries. In April of this year, a visitor from Bakersfield took the train to Fresno to see what ArtHop was all about. She came to the FAC, spoke to Maria who coordinates ArtHop for FAC, and spent the evening with Maria seeing the galleries she couldn't walk to.

The success of ArtHop has brought inquiries from other valley cities on how they can establish an ArtHop night and an increased interest in scheduling one morning a month for additional openings in Fresno. The FAC acts as an advocate for all the arts in Fresno and ArtHop has proven to be a great vehicle for the visual arts.

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Participants enjoy art and socializing at this Arthop event.

Reza Assemi, artist and developer, believes in downtown Fresno and has turned a building on the corner of Broadway and Tuolumne streets into the "Broadway Studios" with twenty five 11'x15'spaces for artists. While most artists do not use the spaces for their studios, it gives them a place to show their work and network with other artists. ArtHop night finds the place buzzing with activity.

In the second year of the Fulton Plaza Thursdays, the Fresno Downtown Association has chosen to hold the event only on ArtHop night rather than weekly during the summer months. They found their busiest nights were when people were coming downtown on the first Thursday of each month.

Joyce Aiken is a retired Professor Art from California State University and the executive Director of the Fresno Arts Council. You can contact her at jaiken @fresnoarts.org or by phone, 237-9734.



Joyce Aiken is the executive director of the Fresno Arts Council. Photo by Carol Hartman

distributed them to113 different locations between Visalia and Lodi. These included hotels, car rental agencies, airports, travel agencies, and tourist centers as well as each ArtHop exhibition space.

What started out as an opportunity for artists to open their studios for one night a month has exploded into exhibitions of art in coffee shops, restaurants, grocery stores, hair salons and spas, and a variety of places that want to be a part of this popular event. Interest in ArtHop increases every month with the FAC getting about fifty phone calls during the week before the first Thursday of each month. While Maria Franco handles personal calls requesting information about ArtHop, there are a number of websites that provide up-to-date information and maps to the various venues: [www.fresnoarts.org](http://www.fresnoarts.org) and [www.famousfresno.com](http://www.famousfresno.com). This year, KVPT, Channel 18 was awarded a grant from the FAC to expand the advertising of ArtHop. They recently produced two short videos that will be aired 4 times a week for the next year.

Downtown Fresno has been the recipient of the increased interest in the arts. In 2004,

## Sisters in Law June 9, 2006



Friday, June 9, 2006 - 5 & 8 pm

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# Are Islam and the West enemies to one another?

By Imam Seyed Ali Ghazvini

One of the things politics teaches in practice is: if you don't have an enemy, create one. Creating a "culture of fear" is a powerful business tool. Many firms adopt this tool to generate more sales, and it works. In politics, however it's more than a business tool; it is a strategy for survival.

Are Islam and the West enemies to one another? You'll get different answers depending who you are asking. According to extremist on both sides the answer is yes. Should the mainstream accept this answer as a fact and submit to the agenda of war?

As a Muslim American I'll try to provide an answer to the above question according to what I have learned from my faith.

When Islam was born in Mecca, a city west of the Arabian Peninsula fourteen centuries ago, the society of that city was culturally and religiously homogeneous and lacked plurality. This fact did not prevent the faith of Islam to swim against the current and promote diversity and pluralism. Therefore, when Muslim migrated from Mecca to Madina, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) shaped a pact between different ethnicities, tribes and faiths promoting the culture of diversity and pluralism.

As a matter of fact, the Prophet Muhammad considered differences in opinion a source of mercy and a motivation for healthy competition. The divine book of Muslims, the Quran, approves diversity and pluralism in many chapters. Therefore, Islam and the west share this value.

Another character of Islam is its rationalism. Islam considers reasoning as the inner prophet, making it one of the main foundations of religious principles. Based on this aspect, Islam has

displayed its extraordinary capability to take advantage of the constructive aspects of other civilizations and incorporate it in its political, social and cultural stricture. Examples: many Muslim countries have adopted the western systems of elections, separation of powers, monetary systems, etc.

Many of so called "radical Islamic groups" played the western game called elections and won. If we don't like Hamas being elected, should you hate the players, the game or both?

Having said this introduction, these two great characteristics of Islam: diversity and rationality, along with other aspects, can be used as a foundation for discourse, understanding and cooperation between Islam and the western world.

Unfortunately, in the recent years, we have witnessed many voices relying on negative presumptions and stereotyped analysis; have attempted to create an environment of confrontation between Islam and the West. Using their pessimistic dogmatism, they portray animosity between the two civilizations as unavoidable.

My question is: have these two civilizations, after a long history of mutually benefiting from each others cultural heritage and scientific creations, reached a point in their history in which there is no other choice but confrontation?

Another paradox is also remaining unsolved for me. How is it that we in the west celebrate the culture of relativism and always questioned those who have a dogmatic culture, but accept the emergence of determinists who with great dogmatism declare the unavoidable future of clashes between civilizations?

Yes! In history, probably, no two civilizations have exhibited more enmity than the Western and the Islamic civilizations. But it is also known that no two civilizations have shown more cooperation and mutual benefiting as well.

In my view, civilizations act in civilized manners. It is politics that behaves uncivilized some times.

It is the responsibility of scholars and intellectuals, Muslims or Westerners, to warn against these opportunistic confrontations. In addition, provide a path for a voiding mutual hostility and create an environment of peace for future generations through enhancing the level of knowledge and mutual understanding about one another.

I truly believe that there is one enemy to both sides: ignorance. Both sides have to fight this common enemy by understanding each other well through dialogue and discourse. We should put an end to the attempts of uniforming the world culturally and religiously. We also should respect the national and sacred values of others and abstain from ridiculing and insulting others people beliefs.

###

Imam Seyed Ali Ghazvini is the religious leader of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno. He can be reached by email at: imam@icfresno.org or by visiting ICCF website at www.icfresno.org



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## EL MOVIMIENTO MIGRANTE Y SUS ALIADOS

Varias comunidades étnicas enriquecen el movimiento inmigrante con su participación. Eduardo Stanley, New America Media nuestroforo@kfcf.org

FRESNO, CA marcharon por las calles exigiendo ser escuchados. Una multitud que ya no siente el temor por el cual se pretendía dominarla y que parece conectarse por invisibles conductos. Y que no sólo dice “aquí estamos y aquí nos quedamos” sino que hace sentir ahora su presencia en parques, calles y frente a edificios que antes le decían que no merecían.

En Fresno, ciudad rural ubicada en el medio del inmenso Valle Central de California, casi 20,000 almas se reunieron frente al ayuntamiento municipal para participar de un acto político organizado por una coalición que, al igual que en otras ciudades, se siente sólo “intermediaria” entre la energía de la gente y la burocracia oficial.

El evento trascendió el aspecto político. La asistencia creó varios foros de discusión, se hizo lugar para bailar y cantar, exhibió carteles originales y carriolas decoradas con banderas y colores y hasta un pequeño mariachi interpretó temas clásicos. Una banda de música oaxaqueña animó durante horas el evento, mientras en el escenario otros músicos aportaron vibrantes ritmos latinos a una audiencia sedienta de expresarse y escuchar.

S por sueños de paz  
por sueños de libertad  
por sueños de humanismo  
por sueños de un hombre cuya  
visión no sabía de límites  
un hombre que eligió educar en  
lugar de simplemente influenciar  
un hombre que sabía que el ayer era  
simplemente el inicio  
y que hoy  
hoy podría ser AHORA!

Cuando la poeta afroamericana Devoya Mayo leía la última estrofa de su poema Ayer fue Sólo el Inicio, la multitud comenzó un largo y emotivo aplauso. La conexión del presente con el movimiento de los derechos civiles liderado por Martin Luther King en los 60s había sido expresado no como discurso político sino con la magia de las palabras y el ritmo de la poesía. Y la audiencia parecía estar agradecida por ese respeto y sutileza.

Más tarde, el reverendo Floyd Harris, de National Action Network, pondría ese condimento político. Y otra vez la audiencia

sorprendía al orador: la mención del nombre de Rosa Park generó una emotiva respuesta. El diálogo entre las comunidades afroamericana y latina fluía como nunca antes.

Síntoma evidente de los nuevos vientos que soplan, no hubo presencia en la concentración del sindicato de campesinos (UFW), fundado por César Chávez a mediados de los 60s, precisamente en el Valle Central de California. Entonces, el boicot económico fue arma fundamental para forzar a los agricultores a negociar mejoras en las condiciones de trabajo de los campesinos. Esta ausencia política es importante y muchos la asocian con la actitud poco clara de la dirigencia actual del sindicato respecto al paro del 1ro. de mayo y su histórica relación negativa con los inmigrantes.

“Los inmigrantes latinos se levantaron por una causa que también interesa a la comunidad asiática”, dijo Mai Vue, maestra de origen Hmong. “Hay miles de indocumentados asiáticos”. Al hablar a la concurrencia, dejó claro su respeto por quienes expresan su voz ante la injusticia. “También quise decirle a los políticos, Oesta gente son familia y están construyendo el país.” Vue, quien se mostró emocionada por la recepción que tuvo su presentación, dijo también que los primeros colonos blancos que llegaron a estas tierras fueron en realidad invasores.

Y finalmente dijo que este movimiento ha creado una fuerte disyuntiva moral al poder, “esta sociedad deberá redefinir a qué le llama Ohumanidad”, porque no puedes pedirle a la gente que haga el trabajo sucio por poco dinero y después acusarlos de criminales.

### Para mas informacion:

Comité Pro-Uno (559) 497-0206  
Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) (559) 499-1178  
Pan Valley Institute (PVI) (559) 222-7678  
Unión de Ex-Braceros e Inmigrantes (UNEI) (559) 260-9506

“El mensaje del Islam es un mensaje de justicia, que pide un trato justo para los trabajadores”, explicó Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, director del Centro Islámico de Fresno, ante aplausos y gritos de aprobación. “En nuestra comunidad también hay indocumentados”, comentó después, durante una entrevista. Y agregó que su comunidad ha participado del movimiento aunque no sea muy visible. “La contribución de los inmigrantes a esta sociedad es indiscutible.”

De acuerdo a Abu-Shamsieh, el Congreso debe buscar una solución amplia pero reconoció que “la burocracia no funciona adecuadamente.” Ante esto, las comunidades étnicas e



Familias enteras se unen a la causa. Photo por Marino Gonzales

inmigrantes deben acercarse y trabajar juntas, dice. Y alertó que las soluciones temporales no funcionarán.

Se estima que existen entre ocho y once millones de indocumentados en el país. Y siguen llegando. Si la capacidad de Estados Unidos para absorber este flujo está llegando a su límite mercado laboral las propuestas de ley actuales no servirán porque no contemplan el desarrollo de las comunidades que expulsan trabajadores, algo que hasta ahora funciona de acuerdo a los intereses estadounidenses.

Estas contradicciones económicas actuales están agudizando una crisis moral que el gobierno se niega a reconocer. Pero los actores de este drama sí lo ven. Y lo dicen. Esta participación de comunidades inmigrantes, unidas a sectores sociales como los afroamericanos, son un fenómeno nuevo y original. Y serán estas comunidades quienes marcarán el norte de una sociedad tan rica economicamente como pobre moralmente, proyecto histórico que, de tener éxito, beneficiará a sociedades a ambos lados de la conflictiva frontera.

## El Impacto Moral

Por Marino González.-Especial para Alianza Comunitaria.-  
*Un inusitado actor hizo escena en los Estados Unidos el pasado histórico Primero de Mayo del 2006.*

En grandes y medianas ciudades, como en algunas consideradas pequeñas, la voz del gigante dormido se hizo sentir desde el mismo vientre del imperio.

Toda expectativa fue rebosada y el mundo supo de un modelo de presión que dará tema de que hablar. La movilización promovida por el espontáneo movimiento inmigrante, liderado a su vez por la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos, y rodeado de la simpatía de la mayoría del pueblo norteamericano, es un precedente histórico de invaluables repercusiones en el futuro político al mediano plazo en la situación continental.

Hay mucho de que analizar en la fenomenología que presenta el movimiento: desde una explosión también inusitada de lideres, hasta el vínculo entusiasta del estamento familiar, en donde el orgullo de ser inmigrante tiene el sello de nuestras queridas comunidades latinoamericanas de variadas denominaciones, con un imponente ingrediente mexicano de hondas raíces en la vida, la historia y la realidad actual de Norteamérica y el continente.

Esta oportunidad no da mas espera. El clímax puede aun no haber llegado y la luna de miel que producen en el ambiente de la opinión mundial las demostraciones pacíficas, impecablemente disciplinadas, cívicamente conducidas y debemos reconocer que respetadas por los cuerpos represivos, llegando hasta los mas altos elogios como en el caso de las declaraciones del jefe de la policía de Fresno, probablemente son solo el principio de un movimiento de grandes proporciones, producto del nuevo aroma que se respira en el Istmo.



Asistentes del evento en Fresno prometían tomar acción política. Photo por Mike Rhodes



El impacto moral de tan histórico hecho, sienta un precedente merecedor de ser evaluado y tratado con el debido interés para sacarle su mejor legado en beneficio de los derechos de un monumental grupo de desheredados en la primera potencia militar y económica del mundo, capaz de alistarse en un proceso de cambio al interior mismo del país, como potencia civil con un alto poder de convocatoria.

Es necesario fundirnos con el sentir pro-inmigrante y seguir creciendo al fragor de esta batalla, que podría correr el riesgo de ser manipulada al servicio de intereses faranduleros, defraudadores del formidable entusiasmo con que le han prodigado los hispano-hablantes de todas las nacionalidades así como indiscutibles líderes de distintas razas, pensamientos políticos e intereses democráticos variados.

Fue una alegría tener el enorme privilegio de vivir tan notable fecha en el área combativa de Fresno. La historia que escriben especialmente los inmigrantes agrícolas, al lado de su chiquillada valiente y sus sueños sencillos, ha merecido toda la atención en favor del derecho al trabajo sin fronteras y a ser retribuido con respeto y justicia por el sistema social al que se sirve.

Sin embargo, es de pronostico reservado los vientos xenófobos de racistas consumados, quienes escondidos bajo el ropaje de un falso nacionalismo, vinculan como maniobra grotesca en sus filas a miembros de la comunidad afro-americana (expoliada y discriminada centenariamente por sus nuevos asociados), como a algunos Caínes de nuestra propia raza.

Es previsible la exacerbación de los sentimientos anti-inmigrante, que urgen una batalla comenzada por nuestra parte hace algún tiempo desde el Centro Cultural Latinoamericano de Canadá (www.centrolatinocanadiense.com), en pro de la tolerancia, la diversidad, la inclusión, la compasión, el respeto y la hermandad entre los habitantes del planeta sin distingos de raza, nacionalidad, credo o condición social.

A ver si nuestros artistas continentales de renombre y nuestro liderazgo progresista criollo, dan una mano oportuna a la avanzada civil estadounidense, que urge ser rodeada de la mas entusiasta colaboración. Hablará la burocracia paquidérmica, cuando algunas veces duerme y deja pasar los “momentums” para rodearse de disculpas? O hablará el activismo diligente que no espera dictados para hacerse camino al andar.

Pero lo que más nos hizo felices ese día, fue haber encontrado un panfleto impreso para ver “La Revolución no será transmitida”, documental que testimonia la opresión mediática de los sirvientes pro imperialistas dueños de los medios en Venezuela durante el golpe de estado orquestado desde Washington, ocasión perfecta para recordar que los pobres del mundo estamos en una sola causa y siempre defendemos lo mismo: un poco de justicia social y económica y, al menos, un poco de decencia moral.

Grato placer el “bonus” de haber conocido a los queridos Mike y Pam, como a su dulce hija Simone, bravos luchadores desde organizaciones estudiantiles y Alianza Comunitaria en California por un mundo mejor que si es posible.

Lo que sigue dependerá de la capacidad de liderazgo, negociación, entendimiento y conciliación de los variados intereses y metas al interior de este movimiento. Darle perfil continental y mundial, continuidad y metas claras, es una responsabilidad de los pensadores comprometidos y de

Continúa en al página 14



# Cuatro mil almas en Porterville

Por Miguel Ángel Báez, Noticiero Semanal

Fue la manifestación más grande en la historia de porterville. Las filas de gente abarcaron gran parte de la calle Main y se prolongaron hasta la avenida Olive.

Al frente del grupo una pancarta que decía: “Si ser ilegal es un crimen entonces todos nosotros somos culpables”. Detrás, una masa humana de alrededor de 4 mil almas.

Todos marchando armoniosamente, ondeando banderas mexicanas y estadounidenses; vociferando las ya tradicionales frases como “sí se puede”, “hoy marchamos, mañana votamos”, entre otras. Todo con gran orden, gran organización pero sobretodo gran disposición.

Conforme la gente seguía llegando, Pablo Espinoza y Roberto de la Rosa, miembros del Comité de Comunidades Unidas, utilizaban un altoparlante para dar instrucciones sobre la marcha, pidiendo a los manifestantes no hacer caso a las provocaciones y marchar en forma segura, pacífica y ordenada.

”La participación fue muy amplia, sin distinción entre ciudadanos de tercera generación, residentes, chicanos, gente recién llegada”, comentó De la Rosa. “Vimos profesionistas, maestros, obreros, agricultores, mayordomos, contratistas. Muchos patrones estaban allí”, agregó.

Esa fue una de las características de la marcha. Gente que usualmente no participa en este tipo de movimientos no dudaron en hacerse presentes. Por eso no sorprendió ver a personas de todas las edades, niveles sociales y culturales. Había gente del campo, deportistas, intelectuales, artistas, líderes comunitarios, gente de negocios, amas de casa y niños como Miguel Palafox, de 4 años de edad, quien portando una gorra gris para cubrirse del intenso sol gritaba sin miramientos frases como “sí se puede” o “el pueblo unido jamás será vencido”.



Miles attenden eventos en Fresno. Photo por Mike Rhodes



Oranizador Leonel Flores habla con la muchedumbre. Photo por Mike Rhodes

Hubo quienes no solamente se tomaron el día libre sino que le dieron el día a los empleados para acudir a la manifestación. Gonzalo Elías, de 34 años, es un contratista de Porterville. Tiene 17 años residiendo de forma ilegal en este país. Elías se dio cuenta de la marcha por los volantes que se repartieron en los remates. “Vine para exigir justicia y los derechos que nos merecemos la gente que estamos en este país con ganas de superarnos. Yo soy mayordomo y le dije a mi cuadrilla que no íbamos a trabajar para venir a apoyar”, dijo.

Continued on page 14





# Lo advirtieron y lo cumplieron

Por Benito Ortiz, Noticiero Semanal

Las marchas de protesta, las manifestaciones y el boicot programados para el primero de mayo por los miles de inmigrantes en todo el país se cumplieron tal como se habían anunciado.

En las grandes ciudades como Nueva York, Chicago y Los Ángeles, entre muchas otras, el poder de convocatoria superó a la asistencia esperada. Pero no solo en las grandes ciudades hubo protestas, marchas, manifestaciones y boicot. A nivel local residentes de ciudades como Fresno y Bakersfield, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, Lindsay, Delano entre otras, también se manifestaron. Tanto adultos como menores pusieron su granito de arena en la solidarización de un frente colectivo de ayuda y apoyo a los millones de indocumentados que viven escondidos en las sombras.

En Delano, ese día, negocios establecidos como la Taquería Janitzio hicieron causa común y sus dueños cerraron sus puertas. Y lo prueba el letrero que dejaron en la puerta más cercana al estacionamiento que decía: “La Janitzio se una a la causa. Estaremos cerrados el próximo 1ro. de mayo en apoyo a nuestra gente”.

Lo propuesto en el Senado sobre la reforma migratoria ha despertado al gigante dormido. “Nomás le hacen al cuento los políticos”, señaló Arturo García, residente de Delano, “ellos necesitan que nosotros hagamos este trabajo y nosotros necesitamos el trabajo, para qué le dan tantas vueltas”.

En Lindsay la Carnicería El Progreso cerró sus puertas contribuyendo con ello al boicot anunciado que sus dueños y empleados decidieron tomar parte en la marcha que se llevó a cabo en Porterville. “Estimado cliente estaremos cerrado el lunes 1ro. de mayo. Los esperamos.

Hoy marchamos. Mañana votamos”. Así decía el letrero que colocaron en la puerta de entrada y otro más abajo recalcaba: “¡MARCHA! Por la Justicia. NO a la HR 4437. Lunes, 1ro. De Mayo, 2006. Porterville.”

“Que bueno que estamos haciendo todo esto”, dijo por su parte Antonio Herrera, un trabajador agrícola que en ese momento pasaba por ahí y agregó que: “de una forma o de otra los que hacen las leyes nos van a tener que escuchar y si no, pues vamos a seguir protestando, aquí estamos y no nos vamos”, sentenció burlón pero firme en sus convicciones mientras se despedía dirigiéndose a la manifestación de Porterville.

En la escuela elemental Jefferson de Lindsay, en los campos de juego, varios niños aprovechando la hora del recreo pegados al cerco de alambre que da a la calle Hermosa, jubilosos mostraban sus pancartas a los motoristas que a esa hora transitaban por la calle mencionada. ¿Por qué están haciendo esto?, preguntó a los niños este reportero refiriéndose a su pequeña manifestación. “Porque no quiero que se lleven a mis papás”, mencionó uno de ellos que portaba una pancarta y que por su corta edad se omite su nombre. “Porque yo no me quiero ir a México”, contestó otro pequeño a su vez con la misma inflexión.

Hay que decir que el caso de estos niños no es aislado. Por todo el país cientos, quizá miles de pequeños elevan sus voces en el mismo tono temerosos de que sus familias puedan ser deportadas.

Como se ve, hubieron marchas, hubieron manifestaciones, hubieron protestas, hubo boicot, y hay solidaridad y por ende hay unión por y para una causa común; pero por encima de todo esto. En Porterville establecimientos como El Progreso, Cortez Market, Cielito Lindo, El Gallito, El Futuro Credit Union, entre otros no abrieron en señal de apoyo. Lo mismo sucedió en otras comunidades, donde el espíritu de solidaridad estuvo presente.

## Moral continuado de página 13

los demócratas auténticos.

###

Opiniones y comentarios:  
reporterosdelcamino@hotmail.com

## Porterville continuado de página 13

Había también políticos como el alcalde de la ciudad Pedro Martínez, quien fue uno de los oradores durante el rally que puso punto final a la manifestación. “Mi familia está participando: mis hijos, mi mamá, mi tía ya están marchando y yo pienso participar”, dijo Martínez a Noticiero Semanal cuando la marcha apenas comenzaba.

De acuerdo a las autoridades hubo un saldo blanco y no se presentó ninguna clase de incidentes. “Todos coinciden en lo mismo, de que estuvo muy bien organizado. No hubo ni una sola queja, ni de falta de limpieza ni de falta de respeto”, dijo De la Rosa.

Al final todos se retiraron en forma pacífica, guardando sus banderas y con un rostro de satisfacción tras haberse demostrado a sí mismos que la unión realmente es posible.



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## THE WELCH REPORT

By Jack H. Welch, M.D.



### MILITARY FANTASIES ON IRAN

"Iraq shows just how badly things can go wrong when an administration rashly embraces simple military solutions to complicated problems, shutting its ears to military and intelligence professionals who turn out to be tragically prescient. That lesson has yet to be absorbed by the Bush administration, which is now reportedly honing plans for air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities."

Congress and the country need to ask the administration just what it hopes to accomplish by this latest saber rattling. If the administration's real goal is to change minds in Iran and energize diplomacy, its strategy is not very smart. If it intends to proceed with a bombing campaign when and if diplomacy fails, "Congress and the public need to force the kind of serious national debate that never really took place before the American invasion of Iraq."

Routine contingency planning goes on all the time in the Pentagon, but the discussions on Iran have progressed beyond this level, with high administration officials dropping indirect hints of possible future American military action in language that sometimes recalls statements made before the invasion of Iraq.

"The Washington Post reports that two main options are being seriously considered—a limited strike against Iranian nuclear-related sites or a broader campaign against a wider range of military and political targets." The planners also are looking at ways America could use tactical nuclear weapons to penetrate an Iranian heavily reinforced underground uranium enrichment complex. The British government is said to have worked out security arrangements for its own diplomats and citizens in the event of American air attacks.

"War with Iran would be reckless folly, especially with most of American's ground forces tied up in Iraq, where they are especially vulnerable to retaliation from Iran and its Iraqi Shiite allies." There is no guarantee that such a conflict would remain limited to air strikes. Bombing alone probably cannot destroy all of Iran's nuclear facilities, some of which are underground and fortified, and others in unknown locations.

It is known that Iran already has much of the material and know-how to make nuclear bombs, and is believed to be about 10 years away from building them. "The best hope for avoiding a nuclear-armed Iran lies in encouraging political evolution there over the next decade. It is important to make clear to the Iranian people that they have no need for nuclear weapons and would be better off without them."

Years of frustrating diplomacy have not managed to deflect Iran's nuclear ambitions, but American air strikes are not likely to do so either. The best they could hope to achieve is delay, but that result would be far outweighed by the likely consequences. "An American bombing campaign would surely rally the Iranian people behind the radical Islamic government and the nuclear program, with those effects multiplied greatly if the Pentagon itself resorted to nuclear weapons in the name of trying to stop Iran from building such weapons." (Source: Editorial The New York Times April 11, 2006)

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- Peace Fresno
- WILPF
- FACTS
- Prison Moratorium Project
- CCCJC
- Community Alliance



Eight Center friends have become our August Rose. We want to thank our latest "rosebuds" for joining our bouquet of nine roses. They are: Gail Gaston, Robin Greiner, Joan Hughes, Patience Milrod and Paul Pierce, Alice and Frank Powell, Ellis Vance, Howard Watkins and Jason Weisberg.

WILPF has challenged everyone to join them in becoming our December rose. We need five more rosebuds at \$70 each (or any combination thereof!) Call Angela at 435-6383 if you can help

### PASTORS for PEACE 17<sup>th</sup> Friendshipment Caravan Destination: CUBA!

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Hundreds of volunteers from the U.S. and from other nations will challenge the U.S. blockade and travel restrictions against Cuba at the U.S.-Mexico border on July 21. They expect to collect 200 tons of humanitarian aid during a two-week caravan which will converge in McAllen, Texas before going on to Cuba. They will try to deliver school buses, computers, medicines, and medical supplies gathered in communities throughout the U.S.

**Please join us. Learn about Cuba and what the U.S. government doesn't want you to know, connect with the activists who will be coming through Fresno, challenging the immoral US foreign policies against Cuba.**

**Cuban pot-luck at 6 p.m. Cuban music by Patricia Wells at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. For information call the FCNV at 237-3223**



### Coming Attractions

- June 14<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Video – "System Failure"
- Caravan to Cuba – June 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- July 16<sup>th</sup> - FCNV Anniversary Celebration, 4 – 6 p.m.



June 14<sup>th</sup>

### System Failure:

**Violence, Abuse, and Neglect in  
the California Youth Authority**

followed by a talk given by Laura Brady and  
her son

**7:00 pm - FCNV**



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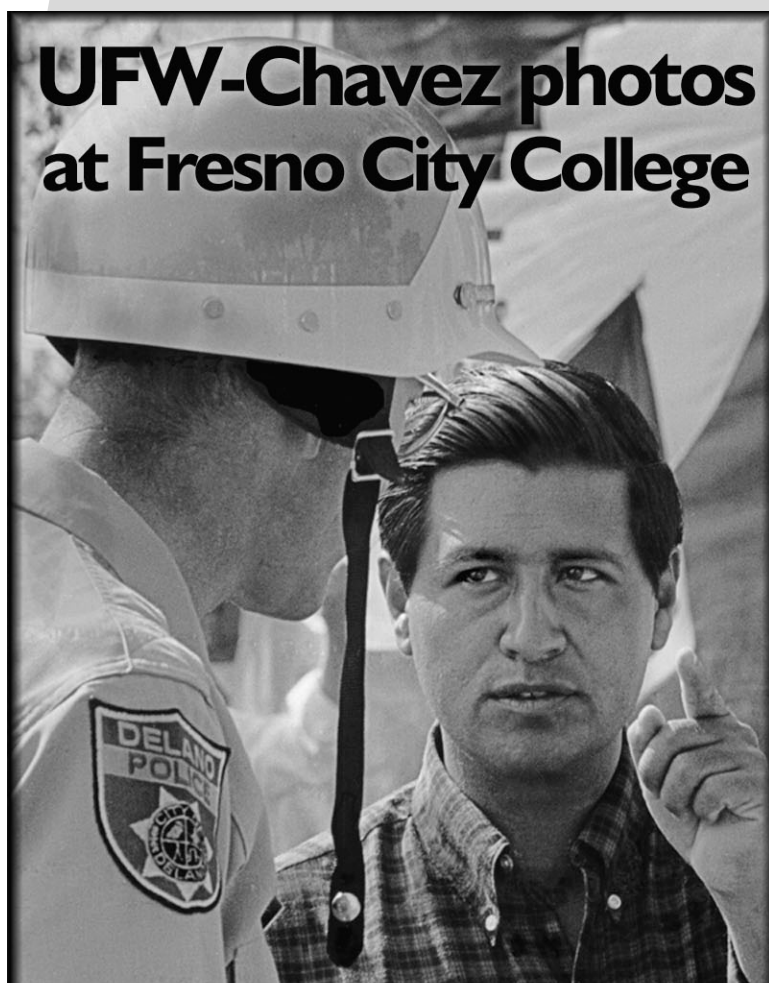
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## UFW-Chavez photos at Fresno City College

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### PHOTOGRAPHING TAP ROOTS OF "SÍ SE PUEDE"

**Until July 1, 2006**  
**FCC Student Lounge**  
Mon-Thurs. 8am-6pm  
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See 10 large banners plus 40 other photos of farm worker life and organizing — tap roots of current Chicano cry for social justice. Student lounge and other venues of Fresno City college.

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**Please Vote June 6th 2006**

Endorsed By:  
Central Valley Progressive PAC, Central Labor Council,  
SEIU, Fresno County Sheriff's Association,  
Fresno County Probation Association, Black Political Council,  
M.A.P.A., H.A.P.A., Fresno Democratic Women's Club,  
National Women's Political Caucus, I.B.E.W.,  
Stonewall Democrats and more.



# 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, June 8, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting** 1584 N Van Ness

**Wednesday, June 28, 3 PM: WILPF Stir-It-Up** on KFCF 88.1 FM

**July 20-23, 2006: Save the Date - WILPF-WEST Gathering** - Portland, OR

**WILPF Elections:** At our May meeting we discussed nominations for the next WILPF board who will take office at our annual retreat in August. Joan Poss has been busy asking members if they would be interested in being on the board with no takers so far. The positions for officers are: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. There are also committee chairs of: Program, Legislative, History/Herstory, Membership, Literature, Publicity, Newsletter, Telephone Tree, and Fundraising with designated members at large. If you are interesting in volunteering for any of the position please let Joan know at ilsasso2003@yahoo.com or 227-6134. We can't be a viable organization without a full board. We need your help to be successful. **PLEASE** think about volunteering for one of the board positions.

**Community Alliance & WILPF:** One of the benefits of being a WILPF member is getting a free subscription to the Community Alliance newspaper. We pay \$150 monthly so our WILPF newsletter is a page in the paper and then they mail a copy to our members monthly. Recently I found nine of our members have not been receiving the paper as they should. They have been added with the last issue and I apologize for the oversight. I hope they will enjoy the paper as I hope all of you do. Not only are you getting WILPF news but news about the whole peace and social justice community.

**Tax Day:** Thanks to all who came out for Tax Day on April 17th at the Tower District Post Office to hand out leaflets telling people where most of their tax dollars go - to war and the military industrial complex over the social justice needs of the people.

**Uprooting Racism:** On May 13th 34 women met to discuss the first two parts of *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel. Part I was *What Color is White?* and Part II was *The Dynamics of Racism*. First we met as a large group to do some relationship building exercises and then we broke up into five small groups lead by trained facilitators from CSUF's National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) and ended with an excellent lunch.

We met at the African American Church, Witness of Jesus Christ, Inc. on S Elm Ave. We wish to thank Pastor Marion Sanders and his congregation for the use of their church. We also wish to thank Mel Sanders, Pastor Sanders' son, for working with Kris Smith, in making all the arrangements. Thanks also to Stephanie Mitchell of Sumtin Ta' Eat Catering for an excellent ethnic meal. Thanks to Kris for making the arrangements with Mel and Stephanie, doing sign-in, shopping and so much more. Thanks also to the five members of NCBI for volunteering their time to facilitate the small group discussions.

We now have a total of 41 women signed up for the book discussion, with 23 WILPF members and 18 non-WILPF members. We have a diverse group of women with six African American, two Japanese Americans, four Jewish, one Hmong, five Latina, and 23 White members. We also have a list of 19 women who have shown interest but were unable to attend the first two meetings. This concept has been so well received we would like to do it again next year if we can find a funding source for about \$1000. **If you have any ideas of grants we can apply for to help us continue this project next year please let me know.**

Our next session will be July 22 with a location to be determined. We will be reading Part III *Being Allies* and Part IV *The Effects of History*. Our Uprooting Racism group has been mentioned a few times in emails on the National WILPF campaigns and committees list-serve as part of WILPF's Building the Beloved Community Issues Committee. We should feel proud.

**WILPF and Immigration:** Below is a statement by me that can be found at <www.wilpf.org> on the home page under "What's going on in the world of WILPF Campaigns and Issue Committees". Fresno WILPF is getting noticed.

"I was one of the speakers at the Fresno May Day - A Day Without Immigrants event, representing WILPF. I told the crowd I was mainly there as a white woman, a social justice activist and a white ally to all people of color. I told them that HR4437 etc isn't just a brown issue, but must also be a white issue, especially for white progressives who say they are for social justice, just because it is the right thing to do. I told them that if undocumented workers are to become felons, the new prisons, prison guards and cost to house the prisoners will mainly be paid for by white middle-class tax payers. The white middle-class who employs undocumented gardeners, housekeepers, nannies could also become felons. I asked my white brothers and sisters to join the struggle. I did forget to say that it is a human rights issue, not a race issue. But we often think of better things to say afterwards.

My speech was interrupted several times with rounds of cheers and applause. When I returned to the crowd several people thanked me. It warmed my heart and brought tears to my eyes.

There were few progressives and whites in the crowd. As some have said this was an event for immigrants and not for white progressives, but I feel it was important for me to be there as an ally. Maybe next time there will be thousands of us who attend as allies.

I believe that WILPF was one of the very few progressive groups who endorsed the event. I believe I was asked to speak because I have worked hard the past few years to work with communities of color and have attended their events and have tried to be a good white ally as much as I can and personally knew most of the planners. We must walk our talk when we talk about working for diversity and with the working-class. It has been hard work but talking to a sea of 15,000 people made it all worth it. I felt proud, honored and strong to have been called to speak. You can check out pictures of the event at <www.indybay.org/news/2006/05/1819583.php> and see what I saw as I stood on the 2nd floor balcony of our City Hall and addressed the crowd. It was awesome! I guess what I am saying is that doing the hard work to be a white ally does work and is noticed. It is worth the time and effort."

**Intern Report on Fundraising - By Kris Smith:** On April 3rd I attended a grassroots grant writing and fundraising workshop in San Francisco. The workshop was attended by grassroots groups throughout CA and was hosted by the Rose Foundation in a beautiful location over-

looking the San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

The conference began with a 3 hour workshop led by Stephanie Roth who is the co-author of a book that was distributed in the workshop called *The Accidental Fundraiser* as well as editor of the *Grassroots Fundraising Journal*. The presentation began with an overview of fundraising, including the current climate for nonprofits, sources of funding for nonprofits, and the politics of fundraising. She also reviewed principles for successful fundraising, the main one being...ask, ask, and ask. Other successful principles included creating an effective message, building relationships, choosing the right strategy to fundraise, and building a fundraising team. The culture of money was discussed and there were small group discussions on the values of money that we learned growing up where we explored personal, cultural, and organizational attitudes towards money and asking for it. Finally asking for money was discussed with a focus on whom to ask, the process of personal solicitation, and getting over the fear of asking for money.

The next workshop I attended was about maintaining a volunteer base. This was interesting and seemed so basic, but I have a feeling it is rarely how volunteers are managed. The main point in this workshop had to do with allowing volunteers to be creative and work on what they want to work on rather than what we need them to work on whenever possible. The speakers shared interesting personal experiences about volunteerism in their own organizations and the benefits of remaining flexible with a volunteer base. When asked what her secret was, the facilitator of this workshop said "one hour once a year is all I ask for".

The final portion of the conference was on putting it all together. An overview of the three afternoon workshops was given since participants could only choose one to attend. These included the volunteer workshop, the media workshop, and the strategy workshop. The media workshop gave a review of two books called *Making the News: A Guide for Nonprofits and Activists* and *Don't Think of an Elephant: Progressive Values and the Framing Wars* a Progressive Guide to Action. The workshop reviewed ways of getting the attention of the media and reviewed the basics of preparing for the media. The strategy workshop reviewed steps for planning including creating a mission statement, analyzing internal and external strengths and weaknesses, identifying issues, grouping and categorizing issues, analyzing issues, finding key results, noting indicators of performance, noting operation objectives, and creating a plan of action.

Following the overview of all three workshops, feedback was solicited by the Rose Foundation to improve upon the conference for next year. Facilitators asked specific questions and suggestions were given. There was a reception that followed.

**Intern Receives Award on her Masters Thesis - by Kris Smith:** In May I was awarded a \$1000 Research Merit Award by the CSU Fresno Graduate Studies office for my thesis, *A Needs Assessment of the Fresno, California Needle Exchange Program*. Needle exchange programs allow intravenous drug users to exchange used needles for new ones to protect themselves, their family, and members of their community from blood borne pathogens like HIV and Hepatitis C. Although it is a controversial method of prevention, needle exchange programs are successful in reducing the spread of pathogens and protecting the health of the public.

According to a recent Fresno County Grand Jury Report, Fresno has the highest rates of IV drug use in the nation, making the local needle exchange an important program to evaluate. Through my research, I found that although the local program is successful at providing quality services to its clientele, issues of legality, funding, and limited service hours and location compromise the delivery. Suggestions that were made based on this study include the development of policies that support the legal operation of an exchange, fiscal support for programs, and the development of a harm reduction based drop-in center to serve a variety of needs for program participants. The drop-in center would use a client-centered approach to meet the true needs of participants and would offer individuals things such as food, medical services, clothing, showers, lockers to keep personal belongings, a laundry facility, use of computers, and a friendly ear and advocate, to name just a few. Please support the development of this program.

**Membership Update:** We wish to welcome a new member, Gail Mitchell. Gail has been a member of our WILPF list-serve for some time and has finally joined us as a WILPF member. Our intern, Kris, has been busy contacting members who have email and were not on our list-serve and has been able to add a few to our list-serve. She also contacted people who are on the list-serve and not members asking if they would like to join, such as Gail above. Kris has also been contacting the 22 members who are behind in their dues and the 29 members who have recently been dropped from WILPF's National rolls. If you wish to bring your dues current or to rejoin please fill out the below membership form and send it along with your dues to WILPF - PO Box 5114 - Fresno, CA 93755.

## Yes! I want to join WILPF!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> New Member      | <input type="radio"/> Renewal          |   |
| <input type="radio"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="radio"/> \$40 Family      | <input type="radio"/> \$15 Limited income   |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50 Supporting | <input type="radio"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="radio"/> \$500 Life membership |

☐ Please send me information on becoming a monthly pledge member.

Make checks payable to WILPF (membership dues are not tax deductible.)  
Mail to: Fresno WILPF - PO Box 5114 - Fresno, CA 93755



# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NOW THROUGH JULY 1**

”Photographing the Tap Roots of “Si Se Puede” at the Fresno City College Student Center. 10 4’ foot banners + 40 smaller prints of farm worker conditions and UFW organizing by 50+ year movement photographer-film maker George Elfie Ballis. Open to public — Monday-Thursday 8am-6 pm, Friday 8 am-3pm. For free guided group-class tours with Elfie 855.3710.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

The Reedley Peace Center presents speaker: Eric Field will relate his experiences administering aid to victims at the World Trade Center on September, 11, 2001

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 by email at [dfriesen0@gmail.com](mailto:dfriesen0@gmail.com)

**June 3, 4, 5, and 6**

Get out the Vote (GOTV). SEIU - United Healthcare Workers will run a GOTV operation on the 4 days up to and including election day. Volunteers are invited to help out with precinct walking and phone banking to remind voters to go to the polls. For more information call Pam at (559) 226-0477 or 994-9390.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3 • 10 AM - 12 NOON**

Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition general meeting.

Come work with us to reduce the influence of the military on our school campuses:

- Campus visits- Talk with high school students during lunch hour once a month, providing handouts about alternatives to the military and countering military propaganda.
- Adopt a High School - Work with school officials, students and parents to promote CVCRC activities on high school campuses.
- Campus visit training for new members.
- Flyer distribution

Student conference - “The Military and Our Schools” - scheduled for October, 2006. The June 3 meeting will take place at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness. For more information, call 487-2515

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3 • 10 AM**

16<sup>th</sup> GLBT Pride Parade & Festival will start with a parade along Olive Ave (starts at 10 AM) in the Tower District. The festival starts at 11 AM in the parking lot of the Tower Theater. For more information see [www.fresnoRainbowPride.com](http://www.fresnoRainbowPride.com)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 • 5:30 PM REGISTRATION • 6 PM DINNER 7 PM PROGRAM (MUSINGS AND MUSIC)**

The second annual Carl and Esther Robinson Award for the Outstanding Advocate for the common good.

This year, the Rev. Walt Parry, long-time director of Fresno Metropolitan Ministry, will be honored. The idea of the Common Good has roots in virtually all of the world’s major religions as well as in the founding documents of this nation. However, there are many strong social, commercial, and political forces that have seriously eroded concern for the Common Good. The aim of the sponsoring organizations - the Interfaith Alliance of Central California and the Fresno Ministerial Association - is to refocus our community’s attention on this most important value. For more information email [fma@fresnoministerial.org](mailto:fma@fresnoministerial.org) or call (559) 435-7835 ext 12.

**Tuesday, June 6**

Primary election. For progressive voting recommendations in local races, see page 5.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9 • 5 PM AND 8 PM**

Fresno Filmworks presents “Sisters in Law” at the Tower Theatre. An award-winnng documentary from Cameroon, this crowd-pleasing film profiles two women—a prosecutor and judge—who use compassion and wisecracks to combat marital abuse in their village. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door, for \$10; \$8, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org)

**Friday, June 9 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

The Reedley Peace Center presents the movie: The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill is the true story of a Bohemian St. Francis and his remarkable relationship with a flock of wild green-and-red parrots. Mark Bittner, a homeless street musician in San Francisco, falls in with the flock as he searches for meaning in his life, unaware that the wild parrots will bring him everything he needs. The film celebrates urban wildness, Bohemian and avian, and links the parrots’ antics to human behavior.

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 by email at [dfriesen@telis.org](mailto:dfriesen@telis.org)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10**

8 PEOPLE NEEDED to WORK & LEARN with sun on SunMt  
Learn about solar electricity with solar expert Don Loweberg who will direct panel moving project. The 12 solar panels must be moved off the array onto roof of main SunHouse. The array now sits in the center of the site of our Straw Bale Demonstration House, coming soon.  
We need about 8 workers, and one of these to help Maia prepare meals. Please plan to come the Fri. night before with sleeping bag for an early start in the cool of the day. Then enjoy the amazing natural display after all our winter water. RSVP required. Meals: organic as possible. Please indicate if vegan or if you have food allergies.

No coffee is provided.  
We will email a map to those who need one.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10 • 3:30 PM**

Central Valley Progressive PAC will be reviewing the results of the June 6th election. Evaluation of what was done will be the topic. Taking inventory of our membership efforts is also in order. Come share your thoughts. Meeting will take place at the Center For Non Violence, 1584 N. Van Ness at Mc Kinley. [www.cvpjac.org](http://www.cvpjac.org) or 435-7360 Lydia Flores.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10 • 7 - 9 PM**

Contra Dance at Severance Dance Studio—1401 N. Wishon at Floradora. From Evo Bluestein -We have been given the chance to use this wonderful dance facility again for our dance in June.  
Special thanks to Chris and Julie Anne (of Cynthia Merrill Dance School). Bring some friends. There’s lots of room.

Don’t worry if you don’t know how! If you are new, please try to come at 6:45 pm. • Saturday, June 10, 7 - 9 PM  
\$5 donation, \$12 family maximum  
All dances taught, come alone or bring a friend!  
Questions: call Evo 297-8966 or email [evo@evobluestein.com](mailto:evo@evobluestein.com)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11 • 2 - 3 PM**

BUSH-OUT Demonstration  
Petitions to IMPEACH PRESIDENT BUSH  
Corners of Blackstone & El Paso - All Four Corners - at River Park

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 3 - 3:30 PM**

Radio Show, “Stir It Up” — Second Wednesday of each month, 3 to 3:30 PM, Station KFCF, 88.1 on the FM Dial Host: Michael Black Bull Topic: Israel-Palestine Conflict

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 6 PM**

The Fresno Police Department’s video surveillance proposal will be discussed at a meeting which will be held at Bullard High School, 5445 N Palm. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal at this meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 7 PM**

Second Wednesday of each month free Video Program at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N. Van Ness, Fresno, CA 93728, Across from Fresno City College \* SE Corner Van Ness & McKinley \* Entrance on Van Ness

Note time changes: No noontime showing during summer; evening showing now at 7 PM Short Film and Presentation on Juvenile Justice System by Laura Brady and her son

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 6:30 PM**

The San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club (SJVDC) is working in conjunction with KFPT-AM 790, to host talk show personality Stephanie Miller in Fresno. Stephanie will be speaking at an event that evening sponsored by the SJVDC. The event will be at La Ryan Event Center. 4277 N. West Ave (West and Ashlan) beginning at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6). There will be a no host bar and heavy Hors D’oeuvres. Cost of the evening is \$30, which includes membership in the SJVDC. Tickets are available by contacting Gary Alford, at 559/ 224-8430 or [gary@fresnoteachers.org](mailto:gary@fresnoteachers.org)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the July, 2006 Community Alliance newspaper. Send information to [AllianceEditor@Comcast.net](mailto:AllianceEditor@Comcast.net)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15 • 6 - 9 AM**

KFPT AM 790 (Air America in Fresno) has re-scheduled the cancelled April 21 Fresno-based broadcast of nationally syndicated The Stephanie Miller Show, at La Ryan Event Center in Fresno. The April broadcast was cancelled due to the death of Miller’s beloved pet, Chester, a Saint Bernard.

Since its September 2004 debut, The Stephanie Miller Show is one of the fastest growing shows in Progressive Talk, now heard on more than 40 stations, including major market stations in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Boston. New affiliates, such as those in Fresno, Rochester, Sacramento, Minneapolis, and Seattle, are signing on at a rapid pace. Miller attributes her ratings success to the fun of her daily show. “It’s almost not fair,” said Miller. “The Bush Administration gives us so much material every day; I should send THEM my ratings bonuses.”

The June 15 live broadcast event is free, however, advance tickets are required. These tickets can only be obtained at Radio City (1071 W. Shaw, at Palm in Fresno) during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm). Tickets from the postponed April 21 event will be honored at the June 15 event. Miller will be available for press interviews immediately following the live broadcast at 9 a.m., and will then sign autographs and take pictures for all those in attendance.

**THURSDAY JUNE 15 • 8 PM**

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents  
Inner Ear Poetry Jam  
\$3.-cover  
620 F St.  
Downtown Fresno  
559-264-6323  
[www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 • 7:30 PM**

An Intimate Evening with 2006 Grammy Award winners Randy Sharp and Jack Wesley Routh with Craig Caruthers and a very special guest. Rotary Theater in Visalia Mineral King Avenue one block west of Giddings. A Benefit for Community Radio KFCF 88.1 FM and the South Valley Peace Center. Information - 559.233.2221 - Tickets \$25



Randy Sharp will be in Visalia on June 17 for a KFCF 88.1 FM benefit performance.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22 • 8 PM**

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents  
Rogue Review hosted by Marcel Nunis  
\$5.-cover  
620 F St.  
Downtown Fresno  
559-264-6323  
[www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

**SATURDAY JUNE 24**

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents  
Saturday Afternoon Blues Jam  
3:00-7:00pm \$3.-cover  
Everyone Welcome  
Rosebud Blues  
8:00pm \$5.-cover  
620 F St.  
Downtown Fresno  
559-264-6323  
[www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25 • 6:00 PM POTLUCK; 6:30 PM MUSIC; 7:00 TO 8:30 PM - PROGRAM**

Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N. Van Ness, Fresno, CA 93728, Across from Fresno City College \* SE Corner Van Ness & McKinley \* Entrance on Van Ness

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27 • 5:30 - 8 PM**

The Second Annual Ida B. Wells /Frederick Douglas Reception will be held at the African American Museum and Cultural Center at 1857 Fulton, enclosed parking available. Sponsored by the National Women’s Political Caucus of Fresno, the reception honorees are Dr. Jacqueline Hodge, long time Fresno activist; Dr. Paula Cottrell, Program Coordinator for Migrant Education; and Les Kimber, Publisher of the California Advocate newspaper. Carol Bequette is Chair of the event.

A remembrance and celebration of the lives of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King will also be a part of the program. Last year’s honorees were Juanita Stevenson, Channel 30, and Jack Noldon, Channel 24. The public is invited to attend and the donation is \$25 in advance with reservation and \$35 at the door. Students \$10. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Reservations may be paid by check or credit card. Call Mary Stanley at 268-5756 and/or mail check payable to NWPC at 1361 N. Del Mar Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728.

**For up-to-the-minute information about what is happening in Fresno’s progressive community, join the Community Alliance email alert network. We send out an updated calendar of events once a week and alert you when there is an emergency rally or demonstration. This is a free service. You can join by sending your email address to <AllianceEditor@Comcast.net> and say you would like to subscribe to this service.**



# Colleen Fernald

Progressive  
Democrat

U.S. Senator

Make your checks out to "Friends of Colleen"

[colleenferald@earthlink.net](mailto:colleenferald@earthlink.net)

PO Box 30 Sebastopol, CA 95473

## Running for Peace

Greetings community,

I have taken up the challenge of running for US Senate in an effort to inspire people to let Dianne Feinstein know that they will not give her their vote, unless she makes a top priority of creating and end to current, and future preemptive military invasion

As a leader in the Sustainability movement, I'm dedicated to optimal personal, and environmental well being. My goals are: define our mutual best interests, restore trust in government, ensure adherence to the Constitution.

### Priority issues

- Restore our military for defense, not optional conflict. Return the National Guard now; our troops next. Disallow nuclear weapons.
- A trustworthy voting system
- A sustainable United States - promote the local economy, universal healthcare, environmental and climate protection.

I appreciate your participation and support.

Please let me know if you'd like to get involved in my campaign.

*"Paid for by Jay Hubbell (559) 292-4905 as an in-kind contribution to "Friends of Colleen Fernald for U.S. Senate."*



# Who is to be “Detained?”

by Jim Hightower

Look out – here comes Halliburton again! With its own personal sugar daddy occupying the the vice president’s chair, this giant government contractor keeps getting multibillion-dollar, no-bid contracts from the BushCheney regime, despite having been found guilty of shoddy work, massive cost-overruns, and fraudulent billings.



Its latest windfall, however, should not merely be worrisome to tax payers, but also to anyone concerned about the Bushites’ anti-democratic penchant to extend ever-more police and military power over We the People. Halliburton has been granted a \$385 million contract for a most unusual project: building a network of detention centers across our country. Up to 5,000 people could be “detained” and held in each of these centers, which are to be run by homeland security authorities and possibly located on unused military bases.

“Detain,” of course, is a euphemism for “incarcerate” – or “lock up.” And “center” is a gentle term for “prison.”

So, why does America suddenly need to spend a third-of-a-billion dollars to establish a new mass prison complex in our country? The feds and Halliburton cryptically say that the detention centers could be needed for “some kind of mass migration” or for “the rapid development of new programs.” When asked what is meant by the ominous term, “new programs,” a Halliburton spokeswoman said she could provide no additional information.

Another curious aspect is that the Bushites refer to this as a “contingency contract,” saying that the detention centers might never be built, but that Halliburton will have the cash and authority to move quickly if and when given the go-ahead. The corporation’s executive vice president says that Halliburton is “gratified,” because the deal “builds on our extremely strong track record in the arena of emergency management support.”

This is Jim Hightower saying... But who is to be managed, and in support of what policy?

Sources:  
“Halliburton Subsidiary Gets Contract to Add Temporary Immigration Detention Centers,” The New York Times, February 4, 2006. “KBR awarded Homeland Security contract worth up to \$385M,” www.marketwatch.com, January 2, 2006. “Homeland Security Contracts for Vast New Detention Camps,” February 6, 2006. “Report Adds to Criticism of Halliburton’s Iraq Role,” The New York Times, March 29, 2006.



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# Caltrans and the Fresno Police Department Destroy Homeless Encampment

By Mike Rhodes

On a small strip of land, next to highway 99, and next to some small trees, the homeless constructed a few tents and temporary shelters. One day last month, Caltrans and the Fresno Police Department (FPD) descended on the area with bulldozers, gave residents a couple of minutes to get out, and then proceeded to destroy everything in their path. One resident told me that when she resisted, an undercover police officer pulled a gun on her.

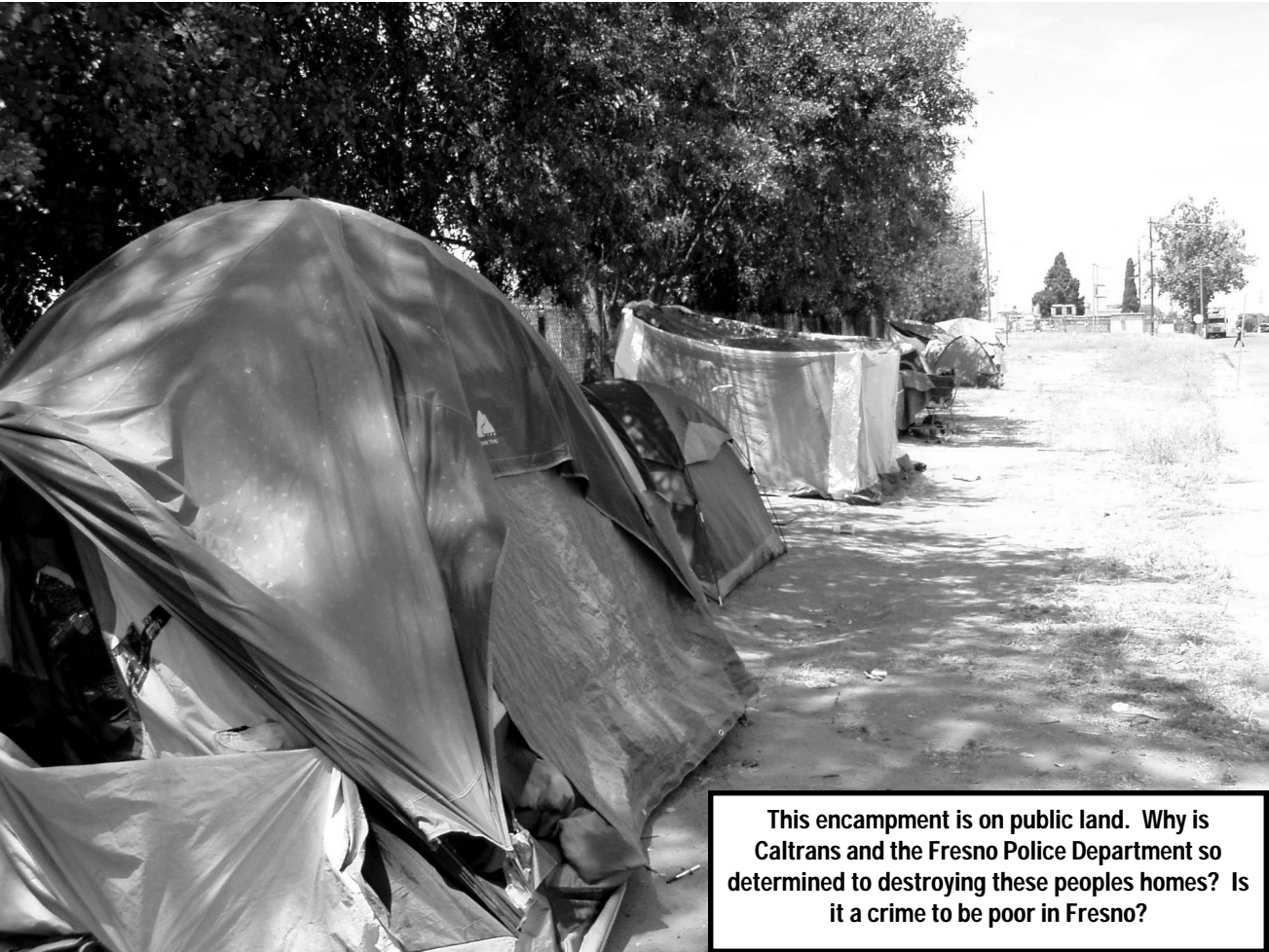
Jane (not her real name), said the police and Caltrans workers came at dawn and with little warning began scooping up the tents with the bulldozer and dumping them in garbage trucks. “What these people don’t understand,” Jane said, “is that everything we own in the world is right here. All of our clothes, papers, everything is in the tent and they just threw it away.”



Scene from the 2004 destruction of the homeless encampment on Santa Clara. This photo, by Dallas Blanchard, shows the Fresno Sanitation Department putting poor peoples homes in a garbage truck.

When the city of Fresno did this about two years ago, the Community Alliance was there to document the attack. That report can be seen at: <http://sfbay.indymedia.org/news/2004/02/1669522.php>

Jane said she has been homeless and in this area for about five years. She said “if you don’t have a home and you can’t live on ‘public land’ (in this case land owned by the State of California) what are you supposed to do?” When Caltrans workers moved in to destroy these poor people’s homes, Jane said she was confronted by an aggressive undercover police officer who told her to get out. Jane asked the officer how she was doing and was told “better than you! At least I have a home.” Jane said the officer was laughing at her and the plight of the homeless as the bulldozers moved in.



This encampment is on public land. Why is Caltrans and the Fresno Police Department so determined to destroying these peoples homes? Is it a crime to be poor in Fresno?



E street and Santa Clara - the epicenter of the conflict

Jane and her friends grabbed their tent and tried to get it out of the path of the bulldozer. They were largely successful, except for a gash she points to saying, “well, at least it is not raining this time of the year.” About a week after the bulldozing, there were about 20 - 30 tents and other structures back on E street near Santa Clara.

Chuck (also not a real name) says he has only been there for about 4 or 5 days. Chuck has applied for disability and while he waits for his claim to get processed he has no income. He said “people should not judge you by the circumstances you find yourself in.” He said he had a job until recently, but with a permanent leg disability, he has no way of making money. He is able to walk over to the Poverello House, with the help of a cane, for three meals a day, but that is about it.

The Poverello House has a “City of Hope” which consists of a handful of tool sheds where a couple of dozen people can spend the night. Down the street, the Rescue Mission has beds for a hundred or so homeless people. That leaves thousands of homeless on the streets of Fresno each night with nowhere to go.

Gloria Rodriguez, the Public Information Officer for Caltrans, told me that the homeless were in violation of Caltrans policy, were illegal, and had to be removed. According to her it was a public safety issue. Jeff Cardinale, Public Information Officer for the FPD, said his department was just supporting Caltrans. As this story goes to press, it is not clear what prompted Caltrans and the FPD to clear this strip of land in public space, inhabited by some of this community’s most vulnerable citizens - the homeless.



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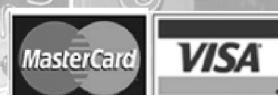
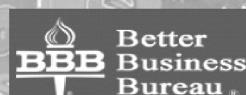
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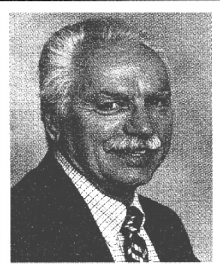


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# River of the Dammed!

By Lloyd G Carter

Unlike the Valley politicians who have spent months cheerleading for a new dam at Temperance Flat, I have actually read most of the federal interim feasibility study on the project which came out last year and discovered a number of major questions that remain unanswered. The final report on the costs and benefits of any dam in the Temperance Flat area won't be completed until 2009 and the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which will ultimately build any project approved, admits the current price tag of \$1 billion is only "preliminary" and excludes some significant, and as yet, uncalculated costs.

Of course, the lack of a cost-benefit analysis hasn't stopped the evangelizing of Fresno Mayor Alan Autry, all Valley legislators save one, or the editorial support of the Fresno Bee and Bee columnist Bill McEwen. Assemblyman Juan Arambula has declared he would rather have the Temperance Flat dam built than repair Highway 99, telling Channel 30 on May 10 "we will die of thirst a lot quicker than we will driving on a bumpy road." Mayor Autry claims the "survival" of the Valley is at stake.

State Sen. Dean Florez of Shafter is the only Valley legislator with the political courage (and common sense) to publicly state he won't endorse any Temperance Flat Dam until a feasibility study shows it is an economically reasonable proposition. Florez, as do many dam critics, support groundwater storage as much cheaper. Ed Sullivan, retired manager of the U.S. Bu-

reau of Reclamation office in Fresno, said in a recent letter to the editor of the Fresno Bee that he, too, supports waiting to see what the Temperance Flat feasibility report shows.

It's certain that the final cost of a Temperance Flat dam will be much higher than the \$1 billion preliminary figure. Completion of any dam is at least 10-15 years and with inflation driving up construction costs 10 percent a year or more, that factor alone will double the \$1 billion. An interim report issued last year said the currently favored Temperance Flat dam option will actually result in a NET LOSS of 216 gigawatt/hours of electricity per year generated by upstream PG&E facilities (and possibly Southern California Edison facilities) which will be flooded out by a new reservoir.

How much is 216 gigawatt/hours a year? It's enough to meet the annual electricity needs of 21,600 homes. The wholesale value of that much power is \$13 million a year currently, and expected to rise. The retail value of that much power (your PG&E bill says you're now paying about 11 cents a kilowatt hour) is around \$25 million a year. PG&E, naturally, will want to be compensated not only for its lost power-generating capacity but the powerhouses that will be flooded out by a dam. Bottom line: PG&E will be expecting somewhere between \$13 to \$20 million a year in perpetuity, or forever. For the next 50 years, at \$15 million a year, that comes out to \$750 million. So tack those costs on and your final dam expense comes to around \$3 billion. And, of course, PG&E will have to make up that power from sources other than hydro-power, which has no impact on air quality.

Continued on page 23



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