# THIS IS NOT THE COVER THE COVER WILL BE PAGE 24-25

# WHATS INSIDE

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Devoya Mayo gets in touch with her roots and shares her recent experience in Africa.

## THE CENTRAL VALLEY SAYS NO TO WAR!

On the second anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, people from throughout the Valley and around the country protested the ongoing war and occupation.

#### **ARMY JOBS SUCK**

A list of lies army recruiters tell high school students to get them to enlist.

## FCC INSTRUCTOR FACES HEARING IN APRIL

Solwazi and two other board members of the Gateway Academy charter schools face preliminary hearings at 9 AM on April 7, 2005, at the Fresno County courthouse, on charges of mismanagement of public funds and income-tax evasion.

#### WAHALLICH REVISITED

No to RMC; no to the mining project; no to tearing up a mountain and a community for the profit of a multipational corporation.

## 3 EARTH DAY

RESIST, RESTORE, REJUVINATE

APRIL 24 NOON TO SUNSET @ AVOCADO LAK

#### **VEGANISM**

Maybe it's time you gave meat and the rain forest a little break.

## 7 MONEY AND POLITICS IN CLOVIS

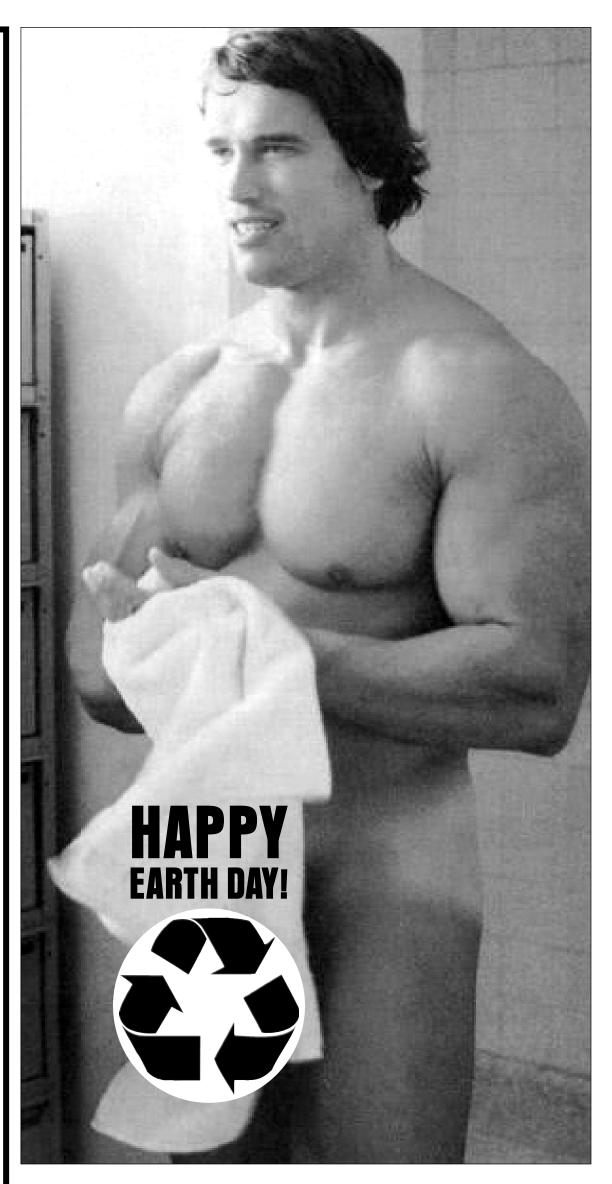
Running a campaign on minimal funds.

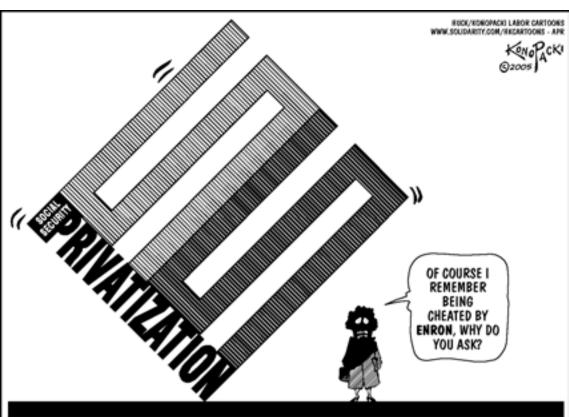
## 21 COMMUNITY GROUPS IN FRESNO

You're monthly calendar of events



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he 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 work-

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## From the Editor

#### LAST MONTH'S COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER WAS ONE OF OUR MOST

controversial issues ever. I received numerous phone calls, e-mails, and had many conversations with readers about everything from the unique cover to the image of our governator (showing that the emperor really doesn't have any clothes) on the back. The one thing that is clear is that our readers care passionately about this publication and have a sense of ownership. In fact, they believe that this is their newspaper. They are correct.

The Community Alliance has been published since September 1996. Our purpose has always been to build a progressive movement for social and economic change. The articles and pictures appearing on these pages validate the work being done in the community to build a progressive movement. By including a wide variety of groups who are working on different issues, we have successfully linked and unified the progressive movement. The progressive movement in Fresno is now stronger than it has ever been.

This publication also exposes problems in the community that the corporate media will not cover. We first realized that the Community Alliance had some special power when Scott Moore wrote his awardwinning story for us about sheepherders in this area. The story shined a light on the appalling living conditions of these immigrant workers. Through the information that came out, legislation was passed in Sacramento to improve wages and other working conditions. The Community Alliance was recently awarded another honor by Project Censored: we won the story of the year for exposing the infiltration of Peace Fresno by the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Because of our coverage, that infiltration became national news with the story being told on Democracy Now!, in an article by Jim Hightower, and in Michael Moore's documentary, Fahrenheit 9/11. If it was not for our front page story on the Measure Z (Zoo) initiative, there would not have been a debate about privatizing the zoo or taking over Roeding Park to turn it into a safari world. Alternative and independent media does make a difference, but we can always improve.

In an effort to move beyond "preaching to the choir," the Community Alliance newspaper has made some significant changes in the last few months. We have more than doubled our circulation, have full color on several pages, and are working with a collective of young activists who are now designing the publication. The youth collective is also writing most of the arts, culture, and music articles.

We are working to create an attractive newspaper that will be enjoyed by young and old. If we occasionally produce an issue that is different from what you are used to, we hope you will stay with us as we work through these growing pains. The reward will be that we will have more young activists at progressive events, there will be a cross-generational sharing of knowledge, and the choir will have a new rhythm section.





#### **BUILDING A UNIFIED PROGRESSIVE ELECTORAL STRATEGY IN FRESNO**

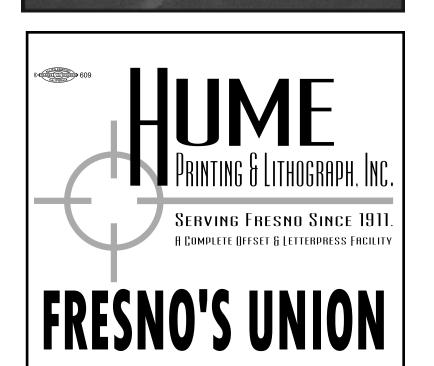
The Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee (CVPPAC) is building a coalition of groups in Fresno to elect progressive candidates in the upcoming elections. If organized labor, ethnic groups, organizations focused on women's issues, progressive Democrats, the Green Party, and others can unite at the local level, they can elect candidates that share their core values. Want a living wage, independent police auditor, more green space, and bike paths? Then it is time to join a coalition that has a strategic plan for taking power from the neo-cons that currently run this city and electing progressive candidates to political office. For more information see <www.cvppac.org>.

#### WE DEMAND MONEY FOR SCHOOLS. NOT WAR

As the Bush administration was requesting another \$82 billion for the ongoing war and occupation in Iraq, 300 Parlier students walked out of class to protest financial cutbacks at the school. Students were upset that many of their teachers were being laid off and that sports and music classes were being targeted for cuts. Holding a meeting in the school library, which has almost no books on the shelves, the students voiced their frustration. Why is there plenty of money to pay for war, more police, and prisons, but not enough to educate our youth?

#### MEDIA DEMOCRACY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CABLE ACCESS

Progress in the struggle for public access television is moving slowly in Fresno. The current franchise agreement expired on December 31, 2004. Since then, the City of Fresno and Comcast Cable, our local cable provider, have been renewing the agreement month-to-month and negotiations are just now getting under way. What is at stake? A multi-year contract that can provide the community with a community media center; public, education, and government (PEG) channels; and an institutional network that will provide connectivity throughout the community. A board of conveners has been set up. That board will establish a 501C3 nonprofit organization, which will oversee the programming and community media center. While things are going in the right direction on this project, it is moving very slowly. The payoff will be that community groups and individuals will have the resources to produce and broadcast programs of public interest. With a potential of multiple channels that are on seven days a week, 24 hours a day, think of PEG as being the biggest soapbox Fresno has ever seen. For more information see <www.buskegroup.com>.



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PRINT SHOP

## PROFILES OF LOCAL ACTIVISTS

EVOYA MAYO IS A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A MISSION: TO DISCOVER WHO SHE IS, TO LIVE HER LIFE EXPANSIVELY, TO HELP OTHERS GAIN RESPECT AND CREATE THEIR OWN SFIF-AFFIRMING LIVES

Devoya was raised in West Fresno, but her desire for breadth and learning have already taken her far afield of her neighborhood. After taking the first jump to CSUF, she spent a year in Africa, and more recently was on a six-week tour of the United States with visiting Africans—

both trips being under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

These two trips have opened for her a deep connection with "things African," and an awakening identity not confined by American history and culture. In earlier work, done locally with the Pan Valley Institute, Devoya had contact with refugees from other parts of the world who touched her with their sense of "home" (now mostly held in memory) that she did not find within herself. But after her trip to can admix this burning curiosity with the kind of community organizing she has been accustomed to.

"Popular Education"—a way to raise consciousness and activate people through a combination of the arts, personal dialogue, and mutual empowerment.

Devoya began her "public life" by organizing spoken-word venues, and she has integrated this work with her political perspectives by hosting a weekly radio show on KFCF



focus of Move On Up as "overcoming creative stagnation, negate the crushing debts to the International Monetary and merging art with activism."

Working on the program has been like a door opening Africa, Devoya says she is intent on finding out more about onto a longer-range vision. Devoya envisions being part of not only by the lack of financial resources (and personal inwhat her African ancestry might mean for her, and how she an emergent independent media network bringing a "womanistic bent" to the public. She says, laughingly, she'd like ships with individuals who share at least in part the range of one day to have as much popularity and influence as an her interests. (She also admits that she sometimes feels "not For the time being, she calls this just-coalescing work Oprah...but with a more politically aware agenda.

Meanwhile, Devova continues her association with AFSC is in several different directions.) as a cultural organizer, working on events like a Juneteenth celebration, which included an educational component. She These phrases translate into several specific enterprises. is also ("forever") working on a book of poetry, and is pre- blue invitations by AFSC to work with them, and by KFCF paring a presentation about her African experiences.

She is especially concerned with communicating the imfeaturing interviews and music. She describes the program working with the Life after Debt program, which aims to important, find a way to become part of it."

#### **IDENTITY BOX**

Birthplace: Fresno

Ethnic/primary identity: Black American ("at this time") Political affiliation: liberal

Parts of Fresno most frequented: West Fresno, the Tower, downtown

People who have inspired you: Ntozake Shange (playwright, author of "For Colored Girls..."); Rose Hall (mother); Savanah (grandmother)

Non-political interests: acting as liaison with the arts **Unlikely pleasure:** crafts (like making things from old LP's)

CONTACT INFO: deepharcyde@yahoo.com Move on Up-every Friday on 88.1 FM, 7-8 PM Aftersessions—monthly gatherings at The 609 Grill (Olive & Echo), the first Thursday of each month after ArtHop, starting

Fund imposed on African countries in the past decades.

Devoya says she sometimes feels frustrated in her work, come), but also with the slowness in finding lasting partnerserious enough" in following any given cause, pulled as she

But she is still buoved by an inborn optimism that has been reinforced by such unexpected blessings as out-of-theto do the weekly show.

Asked what she might want of our readers, she says, "See portance to African-Americans of their roots in Africa, and yourself in the picture. If the work someone is doing seems

## The View from West Fresno

ODAY WE, AS AFRICAN PEOPLE, would like to say thank you to the pioneers who have sacrificed their bodies, minds, and souls. African American people living in the twenty-first century still face the same struggles that our ancestors into the store, bought some candy were faced with in slavery. There and as he was leaving, Emmett were laws like Jim Crow to keep said, "Bye, baby." black people from using public fathe bus, using bathrooms, or at- half-brother, J. W. Milam, drove to effects of injustice: poor education, tending integrated schools. It was Mose Wright's cabin and dragged not until 1954 on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court that a woman by the name of Nettie Hunt, hugging her daughter Nickie, looked at her daughter, happy that the his forehead was crushed on one fire hoses. The KKK went from a court ruled in Brown vs. Board of Education that segregation in skull public schools was unconstitutional—a decision that sent shock Bradley, demanded that her son's waves throughout the South. Black body be sent to Chicago immepeople saw the court decision as a diately. When she saw the brutalvictory and welcomed integration ized corpse, she ordered an openin the public school system, but casket funeral, and the world had whites were very upset with the a chance to see the injustice. The decision and still treated black people as second-class citizens.

smart dresser, brash and a practi- ing them to get involved. cal jokester. Emmett was staying with his grandfather Mose Wright want to hide something from a

near Money, Mississippi. Mose believed Money was "a great place to raise a boy.'

at a local general store, Emmett took a dare to speak to a white woman, Carolyn Bryant. He went

husband, Roy Bryant, and his Emmett into Bryant's car. Three days after that. Emmett's body was found in the Tallahatchie River. One of his eyes was gouged out, from voting, police dog attacks, side and a bullet was lodged in his

Emmett's mother, Mamie two accused murderers were tried In August 1955 there was a an all-white, all-male jury. The so we could educate ourselves to boy by the name of Emmett Till, two men accused were found not keep the flame lit for those who fourteen years old, who grew up guilty. The brutal murder, the pho- come after us: Thank you and may on the south side of Chicago. tograph, and the gross injustice of God bless your hard work and Emmett Till was an only child, a the trial infuriated many, prompt- courage. Here are some names we

There was an old saying: "If you

Negro, put it in a book." As a civilrights leader, I understand that history is the food for our mind, One evening while hanging out body, and soul. If African American people had the same opportunity as white people, we would achieve equality with whites. Black women, men, children had to survive through a time of humiliation because of the color of their skin. Three days later the woman's Today, living in the twenty-first unemployment, poor housing, discrimination in bank loans, racial profiling, police use of excessive force, church bombing, exclusion white sheet to a three-piece suit. The oppressors are lawyers, police, doctors, politicians.

Negroes had to have faith that one day God had to change their living conditions. Negroes knew that one day they would be treated with respect, not disrespect. To the Black Pioneers of Black History, whom we salute today for taking in a segregated courtroom before the time to write down the history salute today.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### In Literature

James Baldwin Paul Lawrence Dunbar **Langston Hughes** James Weldon Johnson Carter G. Woodson Richard Wright

### Mary McLeod Bethune

In Education

Benjamin Mays Samuel Nabrit Booker T. Washington

#### In Politics

**Edward Brooke** Ralph Bunche Shirley Chisholm Richard Hatcher Adam Clayton Powell Jr Hiram Rhoades Revels **Roberts Weaver Andrew Young** Charles Rangel

## Benjamin Banneker

**Mathematics** 

In Science and

Guion S. Bluford Jr George Washington Carver Charles R. Drew Garrett A. Morgan Daniel Hale Williams

#### **Civil Rights** Leaders

Frederick Douglas W.E.B. Dubois Marcus Garvey The Rev. Jesse Jackson The Rev. Al Sharpton The Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Fannie Lou Hamer Rosa Parks Julian Bond

(What about Paul Robeson, Ossie Davis, Harry Belafonte?) There are too many to name, aren't there?

## LOVE WEIGHT A

DEMOCRACY By Dan Waterhouse



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HE WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S Committee on Reconciliation and a community group, will be presenting the "Love Welcomes All" conference during the weekend of April 22-24. "The conference will present," according to Robin McGehee of Love Welcomes All, "another loving alternative to religious intolerance." McGehee went on to say, "Sadly, too many

people unjustly suffer because of the conflicts

that they believe exist between their sexuality and spirituality. Our goal is to offer a loving alternative to the many voices of religious persecution that are heard, sometimes on a daily basis. Religious persecution of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community creates self-hate, self-violence, and hate crimes."

The conference starts at 6:45 PM on Friday, April 22, with a welcome and celebration in the church's Fireside Room. The night will include a preview of the weekend's workshops and opening remarks by Dr. Mary A. Tolbert of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley and by Mary Lou and Robert Wallner of Little Rock, Arkansas.

There will also be a no-host catered dinner that same evening at 6 PM, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Tolbert. She is also scheduled to speak the next day.

Saturday's workshops will begin with a discussion of the ethical responsibilities of interpreting the Bible. The workshops will address how to offer support for the queer community, examine the issue of gay marriage, and focus on sexuality and spirituality; the workshops will also provide opportunities to build connection and coalition.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto will moderate a working session on Saturday discussing how progressive churches

can continue the work of sharing "God's love with all." The Rev. Oliveto will also give the sermon at both the 8:30 the 11 AM

Sunday services at the church. A special question-and-answer session is scheduled to

follow the first service at 9:30 AM.

A special lunch fellowship

Robert have created TEACH Minis-"My transformation has occurred through a wonderful gift given me by God: getting to know, understand, and love gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders and allies."

catered dinner. Pre-registration for the Saturday workshops is \$15 before April 15, and \$20 after April 15. Child care will be available, but is only available by pre-registering.

McGehee added that student or special-need pricing and scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. She urged that anyone with questions or a request, contact her at speechadvice@yahoo.com.

The Friday speech by Tolbert is free. There is a \$20 charge for the

will follow the 11 AM service.

Dr. Tolbert has been the George H. Atkinson Professor of Biblical Studies at the Pacific School of Religion since 1994. Since the fall of 2000, she has been the founding executive director of the school's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry. She is considered one of the foremost authorities on the interpretation of the New Testament. She has written numerous articles and book chapters and is currently teaching and writing on lesbian and gay liberation, queer theory, and the ethics of reading the Bible in the twenty-first century.

The Wallners will be addressing the conference about the suicide of their daughter.

For years the Wallners were fundamentalist Christians and, in Mary Lou Wallner's own words: "I used to think that the only way to relate to gays was to confront them. I had no use for them. I didn't understand them, and I was judgmental and arrogant."

Then, in 1988, their daughter Anna came out as lesbian to her parents. They were devastated by her news, and eight stormy years followed. In 1996, Anna told Mary Lou that she wanted nothing to do with her, "that I had done colossal damage to her soul with my shaming words (about Anna's sexuality)." A few months later, Anna

Anna's death ultimately forced Mary Lou to examine her attitudes. "Her death has also brought me face-to-face with the untruth I have been taught throughout my life by the church," Wallner says. "Mv transformation has occurred through a wonderful gift given me by God: getting to know, understand, and love gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders and allies."

She adds, "This new awareness has been supported through intense study of biblical passages, as well as continued dialogue with individuals on both sides of the issue." She and her husband

> tries, and travel the country carrying their inclusive message.

Dr. Oliveto has been an effective community and church leader in the effort to open the United Methodist Church to everyone, including queers and their

## "THOSE WHO DO LEARN FROM HISTORY..."

take the actions we do. Our patriotism is questioned, we wrong, or we are told that what the United States is i nvolved in now is unique.

What Peace Fresno offers, however, is a it. very public presence of all that is right in our society. I wish to submit a history lesson of sorts, one that shows that both dissent and discussion over war have had a presence in

During a congressional debate some time ago, the question of United States expanion into other countries was hotly discussed. Some of the comments made, from both sides of the aisle, included the following: war presence in this country. "This . . . will make us a vulgar, commonplace empire controlling subject races and vassal states in which one class must forever rule and other classes must forever obey."; "Providence has given the United States the duty of extending Christian civilization. We come as ministering angels, not despots"; and "Every used language that portrayed Spain as brutal fought against the colonial system of Europe. as childlike. Civilians, primarily in Iraq, who No power is given to the federal government to acquire territory to be held as colonies."

The members of the US Senate who serving. Indeed, they are no longer alive. tout that American superiority, militarily and Peace is a powerful force. The statements (of George Hoar of Mas-politically, will continue to bring peace and sachusetts, Knute Nelson of Minnesota, and democracy to the region. After all, we are Fresno.

ANY TIMES MY COLLEAGUES IN PEACE George Vest of Missouri) were made as this Fresno and I are asked why we country was debating whether to ratify the Treaty of Paris and officially end the Spanish-American War. The comments reflected

While that war was ostensibly declared in ous walks of life who carry on a tradition of the war was also promoted as a way to protect American business interests in Cuba and pand US economic interests in Asia. Many gain momentum, even in defeat. of the rationalizations for that war, and later to keep vanquished islands as US colonies, sound very similar to argum put forth by this administration to explain the continued presence and use of force in Iraq and Afalso acknowledged the existence of an anti-

There is one major difference today: The Bush administration has been extremely adept at using semantics and emotion to portray those who oppose its decisions as the vicious, ungodly enemy. William McKinley (and the "yellow media" of the time) simply "terrorists" or "insurgents" instead of people who do not desire to live under a foreign ad-

the most powerful nation in the world.

Does this sound familiar? The world's most powerful nation is caught up in a war against a small, fluid rebel force. The superare accused of having our facts the concerns over whether the United States power must resupply its troops from thouhad the authority, moral and political, to take sands of miles away, a costly action, and supcontrol of other countries and benefit from port for the war at home is declining and divides the nation's people and leadership. The rebels also receive financial and military society. It is a group of people from vari- response to the sinking of the USS Maine, support from the superpower's military and political opponents. As the war drags on and fect change in government to the benefit of (through the use of the Philippines) to ex- to explain unexplainable losses and the rebels

This describes well the British loss of the American colonies in the eighteenth century. But the parallels are also there for the US in Vietnam, the USSR in Afghanistan, Britain and France with their African and Asian ghanistan. The debate at that time, however, colonies...in each of these cases, there were active antiwar movements among the populations of the superpowers (well, not a real public one in the USSR), and over time they were successful in changing the policies of their governments.

We, too, still have opportunities and momentum to change the policies of the current administration. This movement for peace and social justice continues, despite a lack of corschoolboy knows the Revolutionary War was and the citizens of Cuba and the Phillippines porate media coverage; the movement grows as casualties continue to rise, the flag-draped oppose the US presence are portrayed as coffins are brought home, and domestic social programs continue to be reduced.

Let us remember our past, and work to presented those sentiments are no longer ministration. President Bush continues to remind our leaders of its failures and success.

Lisa Solomon is a board member of Peace

## The Central Valley Says No to the War and Occupation

By Mike Rhodes

# **Rally In The Valley**

the Central Valley to demand an end to the war in Iraq. On the second anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, people from throughout the Valley and around the country are protesting the ongoing war and occupation. Peace Fresno and dozens of groups in the Central Valley have focused their organizing efforts on the Rally in the Valley, held in downtown Fresno's Courthouse Park. It was at last year's Rally in the Valley that Peace Fresno activist Ken Hudson was arrested. Charges were later dropped.

The Rally in the Valley is one of more than 700 antiwar events being held in this country. United for Peace and Justice announced that this is more than twice the number of events that were held last year. Dan Yaseen, president of Peace Fresno, estimated the crowd at this year's event at over 500. Even the intermittent rain did not keep participants from attending and having a good time. The musical group Green Machine started the day off with their psychedelic, blues, reggae, punk, and avantgarde music. Nadia McCaffery, whose son died in Iraq, gave a moving talk about the immorality of the war and shared her personal loss with the audience. She has been to Iraq and says, "They want the same thing that we do—peace." McCaffery says she has had enough of war and that her "son's life is not gone for nothing." She will continue to speak out against the war and go wherever she is invited to share her story.

The anti-authoritarian group RANCOR held a creative fund raiser at the Rally in the Valley. Rancor members sold raffle tickets giving everyone the opportunity to "smash Bush Lies!" The winner got to smash a TV set playing a scene with George Bush droning on about the weapons of mass destruction. The gimmick attracted both those who hate TV and George Bush. A fun time was had by all.

Back on the stage, Patricia Wells-Solorzano and her musical group entertained the rain-soaked crowd with songs from the struggles of farmworkers, the civil rights movement, and Central America. Sabrina Worsham, a graduate student at CSU Long Beach, told the audience about her high school sweetheart and close friend Casey Sheehan, who was killed in Iraq. Worsham called on the crowd to "stop the war and support the troops by bringing them home now." Another speaker at the Rally in the Valley was Sean O'Neill, who served two tours of duty as a US Marine. He was wounded in Iraq and told the audience of the horrors of the war and occupation. He too called for an immediate end to the war.

In addition to local antiwar events in Fresno, Bakersfield, Reedley, Modesto, Davis, Sonora, and Sacramento, there were hundreds of activists who attended the big march and demonstration in San Francisco. Students at CSUF organized a bus to the San Francisco demonstration. Michelle



An estimated 500 people attended this year's Rally in the Valley.

Colvin, who was on the bus from CSUF, said, "I fully support the local antiwar efforts that are happening in the Valley. However, this is a unique opportunity for me to be able to attend my first massive demonstration in San Francisco."

Ruth Obel-Jorgensen was active in organizing the CSUF bus to San Francisco. She said the "Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition voted to take a bus to San Francisco because we felt it was important to give students at Fresno State the opportunity to feel the solidarity and power of a huge protest like those held in San Francisco. We support the Rally in the Valley fully and have several members who have chosen

Doug, a member of the Direct Action Anti-Authoritarian (DAAA) Collective of Modesto, explains why he was not attending the local antiwar rally: "We have chosen to engage in the protests in San Francisco because we would like to use the event as an opportunity to train some of our younger collective members in un-permitted, antiauthoritarian street protest. We support the local Modesto rally, and other members of and help keep stability and promote a more the collective will be lending solidarity to peaceful transition of sovereignty to the

The war in Iraq has now cost this country over \$150 billion, with the Bush administration requesting an additional \$82 billion this year. To see how this money could have been used to meet human needs, go to help the Iraqi people. This transition to < http://costofwar.com/ >. You will see, could be concluded within a relatively short for example, that instead of war, we could period, say three to six months." Rosenberg have eliminated homelessness or provided adequate resources for our school system. Recently, 300 students in Parlier walked out of their classrooms protesting the district's plan to lay off teachers and cut back music

After two years of war and occupation, the Republicans and Democrats in Washington DC are now debating the pros and cons of where to go from here.

The Republicans, of course, are saying that the way out of Iraq is through Iran. In the Republican Party's vision of the world, there will be endless wars to maintain the

The Democrats in Congress are debating the issue, and there is no clear consensus that they are even opposed to the war. Senator Ted Kennedy proposed that George Bush and the new Iraqi government negotiate a schedule for a "drawdown." At least 12,000 US troops, maybe more, should leave at once, Kennedy said, "to ease the pervasive sense of occupation." Representative Marty Meehan released a white paper urging adoption of a specific timetable for a phased

withdrawal over twelve to eighteen months. Meehan does not support immediate withdrawal. "The chaos that would result," he says, would undermine US credibility and destabilize the entire region. John Kerry refused to even endorse Kennedy's plan.

Locally, there are very few people in the progressive community that believe that US troops should be pulled out slowly. Michael Becker, an active member of RANCOR, said, "The Iraqi invasion should end March 18, 2002—yes, before it began." Bruce Morris said, "The day before the invasion!" and Fresno County Peace and Freedom Party chairperson John Crockford was even more succinct, simply saying, "Immediately." He to stay here in to be a part of it, including added, "Holy, cow! I can't believe this is even being debated."

> But, at least one local progressive Democrat argues for a withdrawal of U.S. forces that might take several months. Dan Rosenberg, who ran against Representative George Radanovich in the 19th Congressional District in November 2000, said, "Should the US announce a planned complete withdrawal from Iraq, the other nations in the world would rally to the cause new Iraqi government. This would yield many other benefits as well. It would shift the focus (of hatred and blame) off of the US. Other nations would have much more credibility in claiming that they were there concluded by saying that we should support our troops by bringing them home.

> Central California Institute board member and author of the booklet Central California: Transition from Blight to Delight Phil Erro said, "The government of the United States needs to get out of Iraq this week. It needs to invoice the oil companies, Halliburton, Bechtel, and the other oil/infrastructure companies for the cost of the seizure of Iraq up to this point. The oil companies, GE, Boeing, and the other defense contractors need to take control of the fourteen military bases and hire the personnel to staff their war machine. This is a war for private gain. Let private companies finance it, staff it, and above all, take the consequences when foreign nationals object to the theft of their resources." Erro finished by saying, "The Democrats are obviously beholden to corporate interests. Out of Iraq now!!"

> Sheryn Todd, who works with CHAANGE, a group that provides grassroots advocacy on behalf of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, says, "I believe the war in Iraq should end now, since it

never should have begun in the first place. We are losing our civil rights here—now for the sake of Bush's attempt to colonize Iraq. As far as leaving Iraq in a state of confusion, this war is the cause of the confusion."

Isabell Lawson of Fresno says, "The US should not have gone into Iraq. But of what avail belaboring a moot point. The dilemma is, when and how can the US get out of Iraq? Taking into account the mentality of the Capitol Hill triumvirate—Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld—an early withdrawal of the military from Iraq is as likely as the freezing over of hell. Karl Rove, the shadowy power behind the throne and reputedly the president's brain (an oxymoron) adds nothing positive to the faulty equation IRAQ. Representative Marty Meehan's white paper asserts that to immediately withdraw from Iraq would undermine US credibility, and chaos would result. How much more chaos can there possibly be? What US credibility would be undermined?" But Lawson still has some faith in the Democrats. She points out that "Senator Ted Kennedy is proposing the only workable, realistic, and moral solution: End it now! Get out of Iraq now! And let it be with honor!"

Liz Maury says, "The US occupation should end as soon as possible." According to Maury, "'As soon as possible' forces the American occupying force to create the structure under which withdrawal can occur, it acknowledges the untenable moral position of our troops in Iraq, provides a clear message to the Iraqi people that America will not be occupying Iraq indefinitely, and gives the international community a criterion of accountability for the American

There is not much of a debate among grassroots progressive activists in this community about ending the war and occupation. Everyone agrees that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home. The majority of antiwar activists want the troops to be removed from Iraq immediatey. If there is a discussion about a timeline for withdrawal, it is always viewed as a very short period of time—that is, a transition intended to ease the suffering of the Iraqis. The Democratic Party is considerably to the right of grassroots activists in the Central Valley on this issue.

Peace Fresno, which is the most visible antiwar group in the Central Valley, is always looking for new members. If you are interested in working to stop the war and occupation of Iraq, you can find out how to get involved by going to <www.peacefresno.



The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 threatens the federal funding of any school refusing to turn over all students' personal contact information to military recruiters upon demand. Written into law is the requirement that schools must notify parents and students of their right to "opt-out". Many schools, however, are not complying with the privacy clause or are burying the privacy notice within start-of-school info packets without a thorough explanation to parents and students of the packet's contents. Legislators slipped a single clause, Section 9528 in funding benefits, into President George W. Bush's nearly 700 page education policy, No Child Left Behind.

#### AT REEDLEY HIGH SCHOOL:

- All sophomores are expected to take the ASVAB. It is a free vocational aptitude test. Counselors are required to counsel sophomores about career planning.
- The only way not to take it is with a signed note from parents, or by being absent.

#### DISCONTENT AMONG THE RECRUITED:

- 31 RIGHTS HOTLINE
- The number of people calling in for help has almost doubled from 17,000 in 2001 to
- The majority of these calls are from persons in the military who want to get out.

#### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR DISCHARGES

- Military regulations today provide for discharge or transfer to noncombatant status for people who object to "participation in war in any form."
- These requests take, on average, a year and a half to process, and then are quite often

- The number of desertions from the army has climbed from 1,509 in 1995 to 4,739 in
- 12,000 soldiers deserted between 1997 and 2001

• RECRUITER: "I mean, where else can you get paid to jump out of airplanes, shoot cool guns, blow stuff up, and travel seeing all kinds of different countries? I put on the green Army uniform, and everywhere you go in the world wearing that uniform as a soldier, you're representing every man, woman and child."

#### RECRUITERS LIKE TO TALK ABOUT:

- The job training you receive
- Military helping to pay for your education
- The military gives you direction in life
- The military is the way to serve your country Being in the military is an adventure a chance to see the world

- Two-thirds of recruits don't get any college money, according to the Central Committee
- Most people in the military do not have time to attend college while in the service.
- To qualify for college money recruits have to pay \$100 per month for a year. • The unemployment rate for veterans is three times higher than the national average.
- People who sign up with the Delayed Entry Program are told they can't change their minds, but getting out is as simple as writing a letter
- The enlistment contract is for eight years
- There are other ways to finance college, like federal financial aid, private scholarships, going to community college or joining AmeriCorps.

 "One of the most common lies told by recruiters is that it's easy to get out of the military if you change your mind. But once they arrive at training, the recruits are told there's no exit, period, and if you try to leave, you'll be court-martialed and serve ten years in the brig, you'll never be able to get a good job or a bank loan and this will follow you around like a felony conviction." HARPERS

#### **OUESTIONS RECRUITERS DON'T WANT YOU TO ASK**

- Why do veterans earn less than similar non-veterans?
- Why are veterans imprisoned more often?
- Most skills learned in the military are NOT easily transferred to civilian life.
- The opportunity to be harassed? Discriminated against? • Why do people of color represent 1/3 of all enlisted personnel but only 1/8 of the
- Why are 1 out of every three homeless people veterans? Many combat veterans are
- haunted by their war-time experiences for the rest of their lives.
- Why do 65% of recruits who pay the required \$1200 into the Montgomery GI Bill never get a dime in return?
- How does getting yelled at and ordered around provide self-discipline?



#### Peace Vigil and Counter-Recruiting in a Rural Central Valley Town By Mike Rhodes

HE REEDLEY PEACE CENTER HELD A VIGIL ON THE EVE OF THE SECOND anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. The group stood in a circle at Pioneer Park in downtown Reedley, held hands, and sang songs of peace. The regular members of the Peace Center were joined by a group of students from Reedley High

After the vigil, the students accompanied the group to a local church, where they made a presentation about military recruiting practices on their campus. Victoria Benavides said that military recruiters have a huge presence at her school and believes that they are targeted because of the school's large number of minority, primarily Latino, students. She said that the school has planned a Military Day on May 20 and that the group she is a part of, Students for Peace, wants to provide counter-recruiting information. The students were seeking feedback from the Reedley Peace Center on their plans.

The Students for Peace want to hold a series of educational events, hand out fliers, and perhaps have a table on Military Day at their high school. The students said they believe it is important to tell students about some of the deceptive practices that recruiters use and to inform them about alternatives to paying for college. Because of the poverty and lack of opportunities for students at Reedley High, many feel that the military is the road to a better life. Students for Peace have been told by the school administration that they can distribute at dfriesen@telis.org.

information as long as all of their events are organized by students. Several nonstudents at the meeting wanted to help the group

and complained that it was unfair that military recruiters could be on campus, but not peace activists from the community. The students appreciated the offer to help but said they were just happy that they were being allowed to share information with their fellow students. They realized that the situation was not fair, but did not want to push the issue. Reedley Peace Center members said they would help, in any way they could, and encouraged the students to let them know what they needed.

The Reedley Peace Center is a faith-based antiwar group, and the people involved seemed to gain strength from the sense of community at the vigil, potluck, and presentation by the students. The group holds educational events and a potluck every Friday evening. Their next event will be March 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Reedley Peace Center presents the movie: Mindwalk. Three vacationers meet by chance on the Island Abbey of Mount St. Michel in France and encounter a magical excursion into the world of ideas.

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 e-mail



The group held hands and sang songs of peace.



Gg Fajardo said that students need to know about deceptive recruiting practices of military recruiters and understand that there are other ways to get money to go to college.

NVESTIGATION OF THE HISTORY AND NATURE OF THE MODERN CORPORATION seem to confirm my previous impressions; we must focus on the overarching problem, which is the fundamental reality about corporations: Every positive human value is anathema to the corporate structure. Qualities such as integrity, truthfulness, and honesty, or values such as sustainability, fairness, or altruism are not only ignored but are incompatible with the goal of corporations, which is the quickest possible extraction of short-term profit, for maximum shareholder value (and maximum "officer-plundering-potential"). The use of genocide, slavery, and mass rape (of every kind) are not merely tolerated by corporations but are required by the very corporate structure. These ugly truths are the nature of the beast, and it therefore seems of highest priority to pull the corporate plug. True, a daunting and quixotic project, but you've got to identify the monster first...

Throughout history there were other mechanisms of oppression—religions and empires and kingdoms—and 'twas ever thus, with the workers living and dying for the convenience of the privileged. Of course, there are non-capitalist models of society in which the greatest value is placed on giving to the community, with stability, cooperation, and social bonding resulting in entirely different perspectives. But if we pull the plug on corporations, there will be other means of global piracy and oppression.

Tell me if my May Day Initiative seems like a worthy goal, one that might clean up a lot of problems if it could be achieved.

## **ENOUGH'S ENOUGH:**

#### **WHEREAS:**

Obscene concentration of wealth is incompatible with democracy (consider the price of a presidential run, the price of a Senate seat, the power of Halliburton, a foreign and national policy driven by oil-profiteering strategy, issues of conflict of interest and corporate influence trading, etc.)

There is no way to legitimately earn billions of dollars (especially when so many slave their lives away)

The only legitimate use of extreme wealth is to give it away to worthy

Billions of dollars do not make a person more happy or healthy than much

The argument that massive salaries and profits are needed to attract the most talented leadership is countered by the clear evidence that we are attracting the most talented liars, thieves, pirates, and murderers,

The working peoples of the world possess ultimate power and should exercise ultimate control to humanely allocate and protect human and natural

#### BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the peoples of the world:

HAT NO PERSON SHALL (PROFIT? CONTROL?) MORE THAN (ONE MILLION DOLLARS?)

in cash or resources (per year) or a maximum of (10 million?) / lifetime. All wealth in excess of caps will be instantly and continuously transferred to a United Nations fund for the restoration of areas/peoples devastated by irresponsible extraction of human and natural resources for short-term corporate or personal profit.

Note that this is not anything like socialism or communism, since anyone is free to be a millionaire if they are able to do so honestly and ethically. It might be called "limited capitalism." Whereas the corporate model requires ever more slavery, piracy, ecocide, and genocide to feed infinite growth, this approach removes all such incentives. It would be more conducive to sustainable and regional/local management of human

As to the instituting of these limitations, the first step is to discuss and distill the message. It should be simple and elegant enough for people everywhere to grasp readily. The working people are of course the power behind all capitalist or imperial accumulation, so clearly the workers have the power, either through global consensus and centralized mechanism, or through local or regional action, to force the issue and enforce the cap. Anyone refusing to cooperate will be shut down and isolated. Let them

Another really nice thing about this approach is that no one needs to die over it. They will of course try to kill us but there will be too many of us and it will not help them anv...

Nations, groups, and individuals around the world could go on record as supporting the global initiative. When enough people have chimed in, the changes can be initiated with a giant May Day celebration!

#### **Slogan: Enough's Enough!**

Feedback: jem222@cvip.net



### International Workers Day event. See the movie - The Take. Sunday, May 1 @ 6 PM

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

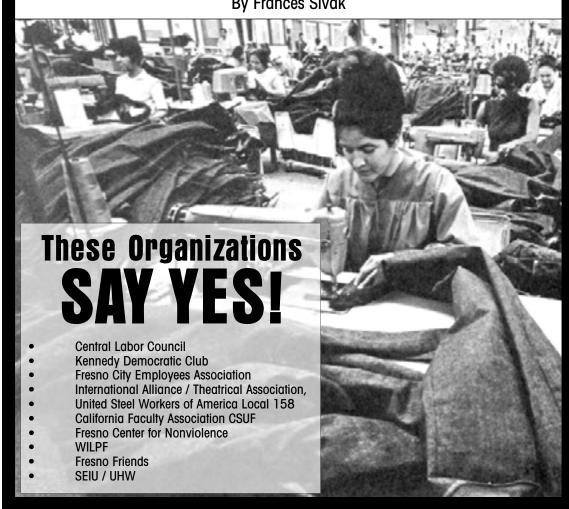
Director/producer Avi Lewis (Counterspin) and writer/producer and renowned author Naomi Klein (No Logo) take viewers inside the lives of ordinary visionaries, as they reclaim their work, their dignity and their

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

Also, Jan Slagter will speak about her experience with Argentina workers who re-opened their factories after the "owners" shut them down.

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

## IS FRESNO READY FOR A **LIVING WAGE?**



The Living Wage Campaign is officially on the calendar. We have a timeline! We will present a resolution to Fresno City Council in February 2006. The union support has been strong. Now we must continue to build the community support. As the city moves to contracting for more and more of its services, it is imperative that there be a floor for wages of contracted employees.

The real challenge is to uncover the facts and figures in the labyrinth of the city's business. It seems that the city does not have a department that monitors and administers all its existing contracts. No one knows the exact number of contracts existing between the city and other parties. One has to ask, Who is minding the store?

## FCC Instructor Faces Hearing in April:

Pleads not guilty to "meritless" charges

YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT THE FORCES OF FASCISM ARE ALIVE and well in Fresno, prepare to have that doubt dispelled. Dr. Kahinde Solwazi—a gentle and sensitive 64-year old-father and the husband of Kemisole Solwazi, who has represented Fresno City College in international track events earning numerous awards. An education icon in Fresno, he is a life-long teacher and activist—whose name has never known the slightest blemish. He is also scheduled to appear in Superior Court in response to felony charges of theft of public funds and tax evasion, according to Solwazi's spokesman, Mark Armstrong and the Fresno Bee.

Solwazi and two other board members of the Gateway Academy charter schools face preliminary hearings at 9 AM on April 7, 2005, at the Fresno County courthouse, on charges of mismanagement of public funds and incometax evasion. Solwazi was arrested and charged in November 2004. His attorney, Howard Moore, sees absolutely no (Vol 8, Issue 2, Oct 2003). merit to the charges, Armstrong said.

The arrest grew out of two years of investigation following the seizure of records and computers less than four months after the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. In the anti-Muslim climate that swept the country after 9/11, virtually any institution that included a Muslim among its administrators came under sharp scrutiny, said Armstrong. Khadijah Ghafur, superintendent of the school system, is a Muslim, although Solwazi is not.

Solwazi teaches African-American studies at Fresno City College, a program he personally developed. He has taught at FCC for more than 35 years, during which time he has been a close friend of Gerry Bill, sociology teacher at the school. "Kahinde had a hand in developing our American Studies at City College. I know him to be a very focused, passionate, and sensitive man and he is a very honest per-

On the board of directors for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, he is a prominent and very well-respected activist in local organizations advocating peace, freedom, and social justice, said Richard Stone, who has been an associate of

His activism led him to become one of the founders of was promptly dismissed by the academy's administrators.

the Gateway Academy. His reputation has been unblemished by any allegations of wrongdoing until now, Arm-

Gateway was a Fresno-based charter school system designed to draw underachieving students back into an effective education program. Its philosophy was to involve the student's family, bringing them into the process. It was successful from the start.

The idea behind charter schools is to meet needs of students when conventional schools are unable to help. In July 2003, a study by RAND, a nonprofit think tank said, "Charter school students are keeping up with their peers at conventional public schools in math and reading—and sometimes [even] outperforming them—despite less funding and less experienced teachers," reported California Educator, a publication of California Teachers Association

There was a national wave of anti-Muslim sentiment after 9/11, the like of which has not been seen since the days of Joe McCarthy's Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and Richard Nixon's House Un-American Activities Committee. The paranoia was, and is still, at a fever pitch.

This presented an opportunity for those whose feathers were ruffled by Dr. Solwazi's activism to launch an attack on him. One of those was Dr. Marilyn Sheppard of the Fresno Unified School District, which had granted Gateway its charter and was responsible for supervising the administration of the school system.

Shortly after 9/11, Sheppard had been transferred from disability services over to a position where she was responsible for Gateway oversight. She was antagonistic toward the academy from the beginning. She compiled a list of infractions and issued complaints, which became the basis for the warrants that allowed the seizure of Gateway's records and computers, Armstrong said.

She made representations that Gateway schools sanctioned the teaching of the holy Koran, when in fact there had been but one isolated instance in which a new teacher had discussed it with students outside of class hours. That teacher



The Fresno Unified School District had oversight responsibility for the finances of the charter school, for which the district was paid one percent of Gateway's revenues. Prior to September 2001, no great alarm had been raised by the district. If there was some wrongdoing with the funding, Fresno Unified would have to shoulder the responsibility. The timing of their complaints raises serious questions about the motives behind them.

A nationwide study released in June 2003 by the Fordham Institute asserted that California school boards are doing a poor job of overseeing the charter campuses they are supposed to monitor. The study gave California an overall grade of D plus for charter oversight and ranked California 22 out of 23 states that were studied, reported California

The Fresno Unified School District itself has not fared well in the estimation of many education professionals,

Friends, students, and concerned citizens are invited to

## FOREIGN DEBT, MODERN COLONIALISM:

#### Young African activists are seeking to reverse the extreme poverty of the continent by confronting the problem of its foreign debt

By Eduardo Stanley, Pacific News Service

## FRESNO. CA

T IS NOTHING NEW: FOREIGN DEBT SUFFOCATES poverty (and the attendant problems of unemployment and lack of education and health care), which affects a large percentage of the world's population, especially children.

In Africa, activists from various countries decided to confront the problem, hoping to open a dialog with those who can influence international decisions. The United States is the richest nation in the world and exerts influence over world financial institutions. Aware of this influence, three young activists from South Africa, Burundi, and Zimbabwe are now visiting several cities in the United States under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) on a tour called "Life over Debt."

On Tuesday, February 22, these activists participated in a dialog with their local counterparts at the Pan Valley Institute in Fresno. The topic for discussion was the foreign debt of developing nations.

"Our people are tired of poverty, tired that their situation never changes," said Nomasonto Mthimkulu, of South Africa, a member of Youth for Work. "Thirteen percent of our national budget is destined for payment

and at the same time, we suffer from unemployment and poverty." Part of this debt was ncurred during the rule of the Apartheid its own interests as well as the country's ar-

Africa, whose population exceeds 680 million, bears a foreign debt of \$300 billion. The shameful way in which interest rates on international loans are calculated ensures that debtor nations stay perpetually in debt. For example, consider the case of Nigeria, which obtained a loan for \$5 billion from international lending institutions and has already repaid \$16 billion: in spite of these payments, Nigeria still owes \$32 billion on the same debt!

"The fate of our countries depends on our working together. It's nearly impossible to confront this situation on our own," said Iean Claude Nkundwa from Burundi, a member of the religious organization Reconciliation under the Cross. "Internal strife and conflicts with neighboring nations have been devastating, but even more serious is that thousands of children are dying year after year because we don't have vaccines for malaria." He added that the privatization of health services does not promote the population's well-being, either.

Promoting internal divisions—a tool used

of the foreign debt, which does not decrease, by powerful nations to more easily dominate others—has been one of the fundamental precepts of colonialism, which to this day national financial organizations to forgive is practiced, although in more subtle ways. Iraq's external debt, which was close to 200 government (the South African segrega- Financial institutions, controlled by the billion dollars," commented Jahahara Alkethe poor nations of the world, sustaintionist government, which came to an end same powerful nations, impose very strinbulan-Ma'at, member of the AFSC and cong and accelerating the vicious circle of in 1991), which used the money to subsidize gent economic policies on those countries ordinator of the tour. "The African external that request loans. These policies include the elimination of expenses in areas such as health, education, and social services. In this way, the policies favor privatization and an accelerated concentration of private capital, which in general run counter to the interests erty level is based on earnings of less than a of social policy.

> "Colonialism has led us to fight among ourselves. Our nations go into debt to obtain more and better arms, and as a result, our foreign debt continues to grow," commented Briggs Bomba, the national coordinator of Students against Privatization in Zimbabwe. "And, to top off this situation, and poverty continues to rise. In the 1970s each time our money is devaluated, the debt increases even more, reaching levels that are impossible to sustain." According to Bomba, the future of African youth is already mort-

But Bomba assures us that there still is some hope: "If we organize and if our populations participate, we can change some things." And one of the changes that these young people want to effect is to convince the African external debt. Among their arpends on such participation. guments is that, as in the case of Nigeria, the

debt has already been paid, and much more.

"The Bush government asked the interdebt should be canceled in the same way."

Poverty levels in Africa are alarming. For example, in Zimbabwe, 41 percent of the population lives in poverty; in Guinea, 87 percent; and in Kenya, 50 percent. The povdollar per day!

Briggs Bomba affirmed that some African countries are on the verge of defaulting, as Brazil did in the 1990s and Argentina did in 2000. Evidently, similar foreign-debt issues affect both Latin America and Africa: Latin American nations owe \$650 billion. there were 120 million poor people in Latin America, and by the 1990s, the number surpassed 190 million.

The participants in this multi-city tour are seeking support among American activists to put pressure on their members of Congress to support a project to cancel the African foreign debt. And members of the Fresno audience suggested that representatives from Latin America join in this movecountries such as the United States to cancel ment. The future of the world's children de-

# Valalich Revision Valalich Bouls III Burner von Bernard von Bernar

Author's note: I recognize that the word "white"—a mistake of racism--is just as mistaken as the word "Indian", a mistake made by that ur-racist Colombus who thought he had found India. Someday these mistakes and others, like "first" and "third" worlds, really will be mere "things of the past." There is only one world, one people, and one Mother Earth.

# "History as Tragedy: the real Goliath"

ARL MARX ONCE SAID "HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, FIRST AS tragedy, then as farce." There is little farce and a numberless repetition of tragedies in the history of engagement between Euro-American colonizers and the indigenous people of turtle island. The dramatis personae of these tragedies vary little: government and corporations bent on the expansion of territory, technological culture, and profit; indigenous people subject to the policy of "divide and conquer" and riven by traditional and modern factions; and relatively poor and powerless whites on the border of Indian land with all manner of motives, interests, and sympathies.

The latest and most nearby performance of this tragedy is at Wahallich, also known as Jesse Morrow Mountain. Wahallich is one of our most beautiful and powerful nearby foothills. Visible from Fresno, it lies immediately to the north of scenic Highway 180 at Frankwood Lane, just across from the old schoolhouse, now known as Sherwood Inn. Last month I reported on RMC Pacific Materials' proposal for converting this mountain, sacred to the traditional Choinumni people, into a gravel pit.

Not much in the RMC story has changed in the last month. Goliath has gotten a little bigger. Cemex—a Mexican construction materials multinational—recently completed its \$5.8 billion acquisition of RMC Pacific's parent company, RMC Group plc of London England. Cemex/ RMC becomes the world's largest provider of cement, ready-mix concrete, and other "materials," operating in more than fifty countries and producing 97 million tons of cement annually. It also appears that Goliath has followed the tried and true historical path of exploiting divisions within the Choinumni. According to an e-mail from RMC Pacific president Eric Woodhouse, RMC's consultant, Greystone,

hired two California State University anthropologists to begin the cultural studies portion of the Environmental Impact Report. But according to traditional Choinumni tribal member Angie Osborne, there has been no contact made with the traditional Choinumni regarding studies of sacred and cultural sites on Wahallich. But after all, what is Wahallich to Cemex/RMC/RMC Pacific? What is nature to any corporate giant (and

to many white people)? A source of natural resources and potential profit. It is a number on a ledger. It is a marker of profit at a moment in time.

Nevertheless at a more fundamental level, at the grassroots level, at the sedimentary level of history there are rumblings of change. David is starting to fashion a slingshot. (For those of you lacking faith, apparently a few weeks ago an RMC official went to Wahallich to check "the company's land" and was bitten by a wild pig. Take that!) On the evening of Wednesday, March 9, at Sanger High School, more than 150 people from all walks of life stood together in opposition to Cemex/RMC.

The occasion was a public scoping meeting for the proposed Jesse Morrow Mountain project. At a scoping meeting, the public is advised of the elements of the proposed draft Environmental Impact Report and informed that they may submit questions and comments to be considered in the report (the public comment period closed March 31). Representatives from Greystone, a consulting firm hired by the county but paid by Cemex/RMC, presented the ele-



ments of the project and an overview of matters to be taken up in the draft EIR. The response was emphatic: NO. No to RMC; no to the project; no to tearing up a mountain and a community for the profit of a multinational corporation.

It was one of the most extraordinary political unions I have ever witnessed: ranchers and Earth Firstlers; conservative Republicans and immigration rights activists; a winemaker/bed and breakfast owner promoting agri-tourism standing with a lady who grows hay; suburbanites standing with traditional indigenous people. When Fresno RAN-COR/Sierra Nevada Earth First! activists carried a giant black and green banner reading "A MOUNTAIN NOT A MINE" onto the auditorium stage, the whole crowd erupted in sustained applause. It's true that the most hardcore conservative, free-market Republican will become an instant environmentalist when the methodical destruction wrought by Goliath comes to his backyard. But what's happening with Wahallich is more than a NIMBY phenom-

Fresno is beginning to wake up to what it means to be the colonized rather than the colonizer. The story of "first world" governments and corporations moving in to monopolize the "natural resources" of "third world" countries is as old as capitalism. It is what drove the near total destruction of the Choinumni people in the first place. It is what is driving the destruction of indigenous people in the

for resistance against corporate capitalism, restoration of land, rivers and the plant and animal nations, and a rejuvenation of Life.

Cemex/RMC proudly boasts that it will provide necessary "aggregate" for the next hundred years of growth in this area. But the Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain-both "conservative" and "liberal"—like citizens throughout this area, are beginning to wonder whether 100 more years of unchecked suburban sprawl is really what this valley needs. The friends of the mountain don't want a mine in anyone's backyard. Is that naïve? Only if you think that unchecked growth is inevitable. It is not. Except for a few isolated islands scattered here and there—in places like Wahallich, for instance—the last 100 years has seen one of the most vibrant, verdant, fertile, magical natural places on this mother Earth converted into a vast agribusiness, suburban wasteland. What would 100 more years of global capitalist expropriation bring? No, whether some would like to admit it or not, the friends of the mountain are saying the same thing as the Zapatistas—ya basta! Enough.

"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present, now, controls the past."

A different future is as possible as a different telling of history; in fact, one demands the other. A history of the Valley appropriate for resistance to Goliath might begin

> with Thomas Jefferson Mayfield, known to his contemporaries as

Thomas Jefferson Mayfield was born in 1843 in Brazos County, Texas. His father, William, had fought with Colonel Andrew Jackson against the British in the Battle of New Orleans and with Sam Houston in the Mexican War. (Do you feel the tragic ripples of historical repetition—Jackson, Indian killer,

signer of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and architect of the trail of tears? The Spanish and then the Americans fueled by greed masked in religion stealing land from indigenous people?) Having helped annex half of Mexico, William Mayfield decided to try his luck in the newly acquired territory of California. The Mayfields started along the Santa Fe trail in 1849 but were turned back by government agents fearful of attacks by Mescalero Apaches defending their homeland. The government offered transport around South America, and the Mayfields landed in San Francisco in 1850. Traveling by horse and pack mule, the family made its way south through San Jose and across Pacheco Pass along the route of the current highway 152. Of the family's first glimpse of the San Joaquin Valley, Mayfield writes,

The whole plain was covered with great patches of rose, yellow, scarlet, orange, and blue.... Some of the patches of one color were a mile or more across.... Several times we stopped to pick the different kinds of flowers, and soon we had our horses and packs decorated with masses of all colors. My daddy had traveled a great deal, and it was not easy to get him excited

## last few remaining wild and free places on the planet—in "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present, now, controls the past."

the rainforests of southeast Asia, in the Amazon basin, in southeastern Mexico. Many people naively wonder why "we" continue to extend loans to countries that can never pay those loans back. But that is precisely the point. Mired n debt, these countries fuel global capitalism by providing a steady supply of cheap resources and cheap labor. (For an eloquent statement of this relationship, see EZLN sub-comandante Marcos's statement on the eve of the Zapatista rebellion—"The Southeast in Two Winds: A Storm and A

By this logic, the logic of capitalism, Fresno has what powerful multinationals and corporate builders need: cheap land and cheap "resources." From the perspective of multinationals, Fresno looks much the same as rainforest tracts on the islands of Sulawesi and Maluku, or Anapu Para in Brazil or Chiapas. And by the same logic, Fresnans are forced to stand in a resistance struggle for their land in much the same way as do Demetrio do Amaral de Carvalho in Indonesia or Chico Mendes and Dorothy Stang in the Amazon or the Zapatistas in Chiapas. The only real hope is that all of these movements coalesce in a struggle

about wild flowers or pretty scenery. But he said that he would not have believed that such a place existed had he not seen it himself. Mother cried with joy and wanted to make a home right there in the middle of it all. For my own part, I have never seen anything to equal the virgin San Joaquin Valley before there was a plow or a fence within it.

From the Pacheco Pass and in the marsh lands of the valley Mayfield reports great numbers of elk, antelope, deer, badgers, foxes, ground squirrels, and sand hill cranes as well as abundant evidence of the great grizzly bear. As in so many settler accounts, the valley is described by Mayfield as simply "teeming" with life.

The Mayfields first headed to the Fremont Mines at Las Mariposas. But, finding the land all staked and claimed and a bedlam of ferocious activity, the Mayfields moved south, first to Fort Millerton on the San Joaquin river and then to the junction of Sycamore Creek and the Kings River near present-day Centerville. The family was in constant contact with local, peaceful indigenous people. In fact, to help stop the Mayfields from hunting with guns, a practice that was scaring off game animals, the Indians (who hunted with bow and arrow and snare) regularly provided meat to the family.

Uncle Jeff's mother, Maria Curd Mayfield, died shortly after their arrival at the Kings River. His father and much older brothers were gone for long periods, running cattle in the south valley, and, after much discussion, it was decided that seven-year-old Thomas would be taken care of by the local Choinumni Indians. Over the next ten years, Uncle Jeff saw his father just three times, and for two three-year periods he saw no white people.

In the face of intense racism and violence against "Digger Indians," Uncle Jeff was able to achieve something very rare among "whites": a faithful transmission of some of the ways and wisdom of the Choinumni people. He relates much of their language, their generosity and scrupulous honesty, and their extraordinary facility with mathematics in which they could easily keep an accurate record of numbers into the millions without writing. He tells of their trips by tule raft down the Kings River to stay with the Tachi Yokut people on Tulare Lake and the clam bakes that the people enjoyed there. He relates their gatherings and their games and describes their simultaneously exquisitely beautiful and ruggedly durable basketwork. For a young boy it is not surprising that he found their storytelling and music around the fire after dinner a highlight of daily life. He describes the anarchical nature of their decision-making process with the chief being simply the most adept person at helping others settle any disputes and who, in failing this, would simply no longer be recognized as chief. Still, as is necessary in any anti-authoritarian, decentralized group, Mayfield observes

On the whole the Indians I was with quarreled very little. An Indian can say less longer with more grace than anyone you will meet. The adult Indians very seldom quarreled or even



When Fresno RANCOR/Sierra Nevada Earth First! activists carried a giant black and green banner reading "A MOUNTAIN NOT A MINE" onto the auditorium stage, the whole crowd erupted in sustained

argued with each other. In general they did very little useless talking. They were not so speechless as many people suppose, but they were not inclined to talk or gossip carelessly.... The Indians I lived with were great to joke among themselves, and they all enjoyed themselves. The [women] were well treated by their husbands. Before they got whiskey, I never saw an Indian man strike an Indian woman.

Mayfield remarks further that, in disciplining children, corporal punishment was never used. Of their ceremonies Mayfield knew very little, because he was restored by the Choinumni to his father's care before coming of age for initiation into one of the ceremonial paths.

Mayfield is recounting a way of life and a way of wisdom that was the culmination of millennia. It is simplicity, a sense of balance among human beings and our mineral, water, plant, and animal relations with whom we are companions on this Earth. It is something extraordinary, difficult and imperative for restless people like us. When this begins to sink in, one realizes that something has to give. More commercials on more TVs used to get us to drive more cars on more freeways to more shopping malls, to buy more useless stuff to put in more Derell's mini-storages is not compatible with life in the full sense of the word. Something

Our possible future will begin in part with this possible history which helps to remind us how life once was in this valley. In remembering we can begin a deeper, more meditative thinking, one which embraces all of the mystery of life in which we are a part. And in remembering and thinking we can begin to restore some of what has been lost in the mad rush for money, a heedless and ultimately futile mad rush, which has captured our past and our future for far too

In the meantime the least we can do is work to preserve the center of the Choinumni's world and a vestige of the original San Joaquin: Wahallich/Jesse Morrow Mountain. In a mad rush, Greystone plans to have a very extensive, underfunded draft EIR out in June of this year. Public opposition will be necessary then and as this project moves forward. Many groups and individuals are working to stop this project. Please feel free to contact any of them to get involved. Traditional Choinumni people, call Angie Osborne 787–3336; the Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain, call Jim Van Haun at 787–9412; the Reedley Peace Center; Fresno RANCOR, <www.rancor.info>; and Sierra Nevada Earth First! at <www.sierranevadaearthfirst.org>.



The view from above Jesse Morrow Mountain.

Photo By Stephen Gamboo



# FRESNO EARTH DAY '05: RESIST, RESTORE, REJUVENATE!

time for the Earth, and in the great tradition of the contemporary environmental movement, it is time for Earth Day.

This year the Fresno Earth Day Festival will be held Sunday, April 24 from noon to sunset at Avocado Lake—23 miles east of Fresno. Follow Highway 180 east and take a left on Piedra Road, a few miles beyond Centerville. (See information below for bicycling and car-pooling.)

The theme for Earth Day this year is "Putting the Earth First: Resist, Restore, and Rejuvenate." We are taking our cue in part from the recent World Social Forum in Porto Allegre, Brazil (the counterpoint to the World Economic Forum), where activists and organizers from all over the planet proclaimed that "Another World Is Possible."

Let's all dream that, envision that—and dedicate ourselves to making a world in which our economy, society, and politics and our everyday lives are guided first by the well-being of the Earth. Nonprofits, activists, government agencies, artists, musicians, and you are invited to inspire and inform.

#### RESIST

politics and economics that put profit first, and RESIST the urges that advertising has generated in you to do what is convenient, popular, and destructive, rather than what is conscientious, healthy, and life-giving.

the air, water, and land so badly damaged by centuries of "development," and RESTORE the sense of community responsibility that keeps the people happy and the local environment healthy.

#### REJUVENATE

the rivers and the life of the rivers; the marshlands and the life of the marshlands; the foothills and mountains and the life of the foothills and mountains. REJUVENATE in each breath your own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, which is only as strong as the environment with which we are all always connected. Resist, restore, rejuvenate! It's Earth Day. Except for a \$4 charge to enter the park, the event is totally free.

Earth Day actually will begin Sunday, April 24, at 9 AM with a walk to save Wahallich

/ Jesse Morrow Mountain—a beautiful and majestic foothill between Highway 180 and Tyvee Valley that is threatened by RMC Pacific's plan to turn it into a gravel quarry. Local Choinumni people and neighbors will guide a walking tour and discuss the history and flora and fauna of the mountain. Follow the directions to Avocado Lake and watch for signs from Piedra Road. All are welcome to participate in the walk.

Ska/dub, folk, indigenous, and blues music from a solar-powered stage will be featured throughout the day. Music will be interspersed with messages from powerful speakers who have dedicated themselves to the struggle for a healthy environment. Free vegetarian and vegan food from sponsors of the event and from Food Not Bombs will be provided. This year there will be no vending though groups, and individuals will be presenting their crafts, artwork, and food for donation. In this spirit a really, really, really free market is being organized. Everyone is encouraged to bring out items to give away, to swap, or to barter. So dig out that stuff from your garage, attic, or Derell's mini storage, and see if someone else can use or enjoy it. Maybe you'll find something you can use or enjoy. This is shopping the old fashioned way, by mutual aid! If you get tired of shopping for free stuff, there is swimming at Avocado Lake, and there will be a drum circle at dusk to close out the event.

There will be info tables from dozens of local groups, experts, and agencies. But this year you will be asked to give information as well as receive. What will the Earth First source of energy be? How much energy do we really need, and how can it be produced in an ecologically sound way? How about water? Are dams really necessary? How many? How about land? What if people changed their diets? How much land could be saved by cutting down on or eliminating junk food and meat? What about transportation? We all know that the internal combustion automobile is the most destructive technology in the history of the human race, but what is a sound alternative transportation system to auto-mania? And how about population and housing?

As a culmination of the day's event, we will bring together all the insights and information in a follow-up meeting, and construct a framework for (un)developing an ecologically

We agree that the distance to Avocado Lake is a problem both for the environment and for the pocketbook. We are currently seeking to secure bus service from Fresno FAX to the mountain. In any event, we will have carpooling available. Also, a bike ride to Avocado Lake is being organized by the Fresno County Bicycle Coaltion. To access information about transportation or to get more information about Fresno Earth Day 2005, check us out at <www.fresnoearthday.org>.

We look forward to seeing everybody at Avocado Lake. One peace, one planet.

by tabling at this years Earth Day festival! This year we must challenge ourselves to no longer think of profit, comfort, or convenience before we think of the environment. If we don't buy into the sprawl and freeways we wont need to mine for more cement. This year lets help people drop their wasteful habits and see what a livable and sustainable society looks like. Lets discover ways to ditch our cars and convenience stores to think of the Earth first. We encourage organizations to bring exhibits, examples, information, and encouragement for people to not just think green but live green.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS DETAGHABLE FORM TO PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY 2005.

TABLING IS FREE NO VENDING! FOR EXHIBITOR GUIDLINES PLEASE VISIT «WWW.FRESNOGARTHDAY.ORG»

## PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION OUR MOTHER EARTH APRIL 15 2005 BY MATHER THIS FORM TO

	FRESNO EARTH DAY	PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR BOTH OR ENHIBLY AS WELL AS THE GROUP YOU ARE REPRESENTING:
	6659 N. CLARK	
	FRESNO, CA 93710	
	CONTACT PERSON	
	CONTACT NUMBER	
,	CONTACT NOWIDER	
	MAILING ADDRESS	
	EMAIL	
	ORGANIZATION	
	I WILL NEED A TABLE (\$1 O RENTAL CHARGE)	

-Teresa Hele

Carnivorous adj. Living chiefly on flesh. **Environmentalist n.** One dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment.

If you think of yourself as an environmentalist take one step forward.

If you think of yourself as an environmentalist and you still eat, buy or support animal products, take ten steps back and reassess your dedication to the preservation of this planet.

HOOSING TO EAT MEAT IS THE SINGLE MOST DESTRUCTIVE choice a human can make against the environment, et it remains the most common. Each year, our land, water and air falls prey to more destruction at the hands of cattle farming than from any other source, and still countless people remain either ignorant or indifferent to their direct role in the demise of our natural resources. The basic fact is that human carnivores are primarily responsible for the swift destruction of our natural environment.

Today's factory farms leave behind an environmental toll that generations to come will be forced to pay. Whether it's excessive water use or contamination, excessive soil use or erosion, excessive resource use or pollution, (our) meat addiction is steadily poisoning and depleting our water, land and air. (worldanimalfoundation.com)

Over 260 million acres of US forests have been leveled to raise crops for animals that will end up on our tables, and 87 percent of America's agricultural land is used for farming animals. Worldwide, rainforests disappear at a rate of 125,000 acres per year for meat production alone, which has also claimed responsibility for the majority of Amazonian deforestation. Animal farms constantly destroy forests, wetlands, natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats. One report from the US Government Accounting Office claims that "livestock grazing has threatened or eliminated more plant species than any other single factor". The obvious amount of land that is crippled or destroyed for meat production is hard to ignore and even harder to restore. After recognizing the positive correlations between land destruction and meat consumption, it is obvious why true environmentalists are beginning to embrace the vegan diet. Each person who abandons the meat industry can accept credit for one acre of trees spared each year.

This gross waste of land is mirrored by a gross waste of water. Over half of the water used in America each year goes to farm animals and their crop-intensive diets. In this manner, each person who maintains a carnivorous lifestyle indirectly uses 4,200 gallons of water per day. In contrast, each vegan uses under 300 gallons per day. By adding up the water required to keep farm animals hydrated and to sustain the crops that feed those animals, it is easy to see how 1 pound of beef alone can claim 5,200 gallons of water, from production to plate. In contrast, one pound of wheat can reach the table having required only 25 gallons of our precious water. When comparing the efforts that carnivorous environmentalists make to conserve resources with the actual results, the vegan choice becomes even clearer. For instance, a water-saving de- a tractor into the Brazilian rainforest and proceed to vice installed on a kitchen faucet spares 6,000 gallons gouge out an acre of trees, undergrowth and hundreds

beef wastes more water than was saved in that entire them into extinction? Would you back a dump truck year. The figures point anyone who cares about this planet toward veganism. Each person who abandons the meat industry can accept credit for 4,900 gallons of water saved per day.

Animal farming is not only consuming the earth's clean water at an alarming rate, but also polluting the water systems on which we all rely. One report from the Senate Agricultural Committee stated that "animals raised for food produce 130 times as much excrement as the entire human population (roughly 68,000 pounds per second), all without the benefit of waste treatment systems". Animal waste, chemicals and animal crop fertilizers end up in our water, comprising around you swiftly deteriorates. the main source of water pollution in the US. The Environmental Protection Agency noted that "factory farms pollute our waterways more than all other industrial sources combined". This contamination not only inhibits our water resources but also has a severe effect on aquatic ecosystems, causing 60 percent of America's rivers and streams to become "impaired". A clear example of the meat industry's major impact on natural ecosystems lies in the Gulf of Mexico, where animal waste runoff damaged a 7,000 square mile zone so completely that it no longer supports aquatic life. "Dead zones" like this are becoming more common with the spread of pfiesteria – a bacteria (believed by many scientists to be linked to cattle manure) that kills fish and sickens humans.

Unfortunately, the havoc that the meat industry wreaks on the environment doesn't even end there. Animal farming exhausts every resource on this planet and pollutes not only our land and water, but also our air. Leather tanneries use a variety of dangerous substances, including mineral salts (chromium, aluminum, iron and zirconium), formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives and various oils and dyes that are often cyanide-based. The vast majority of US tanneries use chrome-tanning, which the EPA has determined to be a process that produces hazardous waste. Other pollutants such as protein, hair, salt, lime sludge, sulfides and acids find their way from leather tanning factories and into our soil and water. In addition, none of the products produced are biodegradable since the process of tanning actually stabilizes collagen and protein fibers, inhibiting the ability to biodegrade. The leathermanufacturing industry was grouped with steel and petroleum industries as a "gross consumer of energy" by the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, and the greater animal farming industry claims more than one-third of fossil fuels used in the US. As far as fossil fuels go, the production of 1 hamburger is equal to driving an economy car 20 miles. Cattle also emit large amounts of methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, which are three of the four gasses that trap solar heat in our environment. Consequently, our massive cattle production can be directly tied to global

After understanding the adverse effects that a meat-centered lifestyle has on the environment, you have to either redefine your dietary choices or your commitment to environmentalism. Would you drive

of water per year, but the purchase of just 2 pounds of of thriving species from their natural habitat, forcing filled with pesticides and cattle manure up to the edge of an aquatically diverse stream that supplies water to your family and neighbors? Would you carelessly contribute to the toxicity of the air we breathe by driving your car an extra 20 miles just to get a hamburger? Of course vou wouldn't! But would vou sit down to enjoy a teriyaki chicken stir-fry, host a tri-tip barbeque, or share a stuffed, roasted turkey with your family? If the answer to that is ves, then you might as well buy a tractor and head for the rainforest, start loading a dump truck with manure, hop in your car for a 20 mile hamburger run and watch as the natural environment

Once you have the information, the responsibility of choice lies in your lap. So do yourself a favor and stop ignoring your role in the care of our precious planet. Do the land a favor and let 55 square feet of rain forest thrive rather than one Big Mac. Do the water a favor and let one last stream run clear, free of waste and refuse. Do the air a favor and let the sky be a little bit bluer and the rain a little bit cleaner.

For Earth Day 2005, give your favorite planet the gift of regeneration. And for Earth Day 2005, give yourself the gift of veganism!

For more information on veganism, the meat industry, the environment, or how they are all connected, please check out the following sources

#### Websites:

"http://www.goveg.com" www.goveg.com

"http://www.idausa.org" www.idausa.org

"http://www.milksucks.com" www.milksucks.com "http://www.madcowboy.com" www.madcowboy.com

"http://www.vegsource.com" www.vegsource.com

"http://www.vegfamily.com" www.vegfamily.com

"http://www.curedisease.com" www.curedisease.com

"http://www.adaptt.org" www.adaptt.org

"http://www.stopanimaltests.com"www.stopani-

"http://www.furisdead.com" www.furisdead.com

"http://www.worldanimalfoundation.com"www.worldanimalfoundation.com

"http://www.factoryfarming.com" www.factoryfarm-

"http://www.kentuckyfriedcruelty.com" www.kentuck-

"http://www.cowsarecool.com" www.cowsarecool.com

"http://www.veganforlife.org" www.veganforlife.org

"http://www.peta.org" www.peta.org

"http://www.peta2.com" www.peta2.com

Diet for a New America – John Robbins The Food Revolution – John Robbins **Eternal Treblinka** – Charles Patterson Dying for a Hamburger - Dr. Murray Waldman **Dominion** – Matthew Scully

Fast Food Nation - Eric Schlosser Mad Cowboy - Howard Lyman

**Medical Doctors:** Dean Ornish at UCSF

**Caldwell Esselstyn** at the Cleveland Clinic

William Roberts with the American Journal of Cardiology

William Castelli with the Framingham, Mass. Heart Study

## Why Vegan? - An Introduction to a Series

By Teresa Hele

Vegan n. & adj. One who does not eat, wear, buy or support animal products.

O, WHY VEGAN? THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS NOT A SIMPLE ONE. VEGANISM, LIKE ANY other controversial topic, is filled with various facts, theories, ideas, opinions, reasons and, of course, positives and negatives.

Albert Einstein once said, "Nothing will benefit human health and increase the chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet." Well, vegans have taken that idea and gone one step further. Veganism, unlike vegetarianism, is not just a dietary decision. It is a lifestyle. Making the choice to become vegan affects every aspect of life, from what you pour over your cereal to what you put on your feet. After deciding that animals are not ours to eat, wear, exploit or entertain ourselves with, we are faced with stepping outside of a culture that has conditioned us to do just that.

With mega-corporations pushing slogans like "Milk: It does a body good" and "Beef: It's what's for dinner", we are not likely to question the reasons, morality,

health or environmental issues that lie within a carnivorous diet. And with our reliance on a plethora of material possessions and products, it is hard to notice the part that animals play in our everyday lives. Each year, approximately 25 billion animals are bred and slaughtered for the sole purpose of human consumption and many more meet their beginning and end to provide us with various other products. The majority of us are raised from birth to accept an animal-reliant diet and lifestyle as normal, functional, humane and even necessary. We are saturated in an animal-exploiting society from the very beginning of our lives.

However, more and more people are beginning to grow tired of the destruction and depression that "civilized" society has created. Many people are looking for answers to questions that had previously been unasked and are consequently realizing that a different life is possible and a different world is possible. Veganism is a growing trend in response to the search for a healthier body and planet. Making the switch from carnivorous consumer to scrutinizing vegan is difficult at first, and although it seems awkward to give up many of the plates and products with which we are so familiar, it is important to realize that exploiting animals for personal comfort is a choice and not a necessity. Unfortunately, the majority of people in this country rely on tradition and norms rather than educated decisions, oftentimes without even being aware of the possibilities. Through education, we can begin to see our options within this meat-centered society. And through education, we can help to spread an awareness that is essential to the health of the

## Morte 2010:

y day, her room held a finite emptiness within its four walls. At night, the walls dissolved and the darkness opened to infinity. If she remained still, dancing pinpoints of light would the empty space and a rushing sound would fill up the silence, the sound of air particles moving against her ears, she had been told. And if

she remained still even longer, sleep would come and dreams of home. In her dreams, she walked the chaparral-covered hills above her old home, smelling again the resinous fragrance of sage. The sky always blazed intense azure and the air felt warm. She sensed but did not see the presence of someone hiking with her, perhaps Clara, her daughter, when Clara was much younger and not herself a mother, or perhaps, her husband, Paco, as he used to be, full of energy and a masculine mischief, throwing lavender

She would awaken then choking on her grief. A pale daylight sifting through the window shade at a lower angle than at home reminded her immediately of her environs in someone else's home, in a northern land where the sky never lacked clouds and the rain never left.

That Tuesday, she arose from the narrow guest-room bed and dressed hurriedly. A splash of cold water from the lavatory in the adjoining bathroom served both to shock away her grief and wash any saliva that may have adhered during sleep. Cold water, she thought, a cheap mood-altering drug, something to make her a fit employee for the family that hired

I am a housekeeper, she told her reflection in the bathroom mirror, smiling slightly, but I could not keep my own house. Her old house had to be worth, well, maybe half a million now. Still, it was the least of what she had forfeited leaving her country.

When the Neelys came to breakfast an hour later, the aroma of bacon and coffee filled the kitchen. Mrs. Neely looked surprised once again to find the toast toasted and the coffee brewed and breakfast orders taken the night before executed as though she had not hired a housekeeper for the express purpose of working as one. Mrs. Neely always seemed half in denial of her housekeeper's status in the household. ("Call me, Sandra, please, and I'll call

"Oh, my, how nice this is," Sandra said, looking at the table laid out. "I could get quite

Her husband, Alan, already at the table, smiled indulgently "Let's hope Rosa gets her political refugee status then, so that

Rosa knew that Mr. Neely did not entirely approve of the arrangement. She recalled the hiring interview with him. "What evidence does the government have that you aren't here just for economic reasons?" he asked

Her face no doubt had reflected her puzzlement. Didn't he read the paper? Couldn't he

He let an impatient sigh escape. "Rosa, look, in your country, jobs are like hen's teeth, and what's available pays peanuts, and the situation doesn't look to improve. I understand your coming here for work. In your place, I'd do the same. But I keep thinking of the cost to us taxpayers of all the illegal immigrants. You folks are straining our social services."

"My husband was killed by the police during a demonstration," she had responded. "People fighting against the regime are imprisoned without trial for indeterminate sentences. If I stayed I would have been imprisoned. I have a daughter and grandchildren I may never see again. I owned my own home, which was forfeit, when I applied for asylum." She had begun to weep at that point and could not speak clearly. "I love my country and would stay

"But had you no recourse? What about the laws, the courts . . . ?"

"The courts are packed, the elections are rigged, the newspapers corrupt . . . " She shrugged

"Oh, Al,"—Sandra had intervened then—"let's keep her. She can't go back. You can see

Alan Neely shrugged his acquiescence. "It's on your head, Sandra. I give up." He'd turned to Rosa then. "Taking in all you Yanks is likely to cause us in Canada some problems, you

Not happiness, but relief came from the grudging acceptance—too many losses.

#### The Little **Bottle of Death** From FresCamp<sup>4</sup>

sage blossoms in her hair.

ROUNDUP'S ACTIVE INGREDIENT IS

glyphosate, which is also available in other Monsanto products such as Rodeo and Accord. Also contained in that little bottle of death are "inert" ingredients such as surfactants, which help the active ingredient penetrate the cells of its victims and are often comparably toxic. Glyphosate is the most popular pesticide in the United States, partially because of the persistent rumor that it is safe to use.

Roundup is in Toxicity Category III (caution); the categories are established by the US Environmental Protection Agency via

Glyphosate and/or Roundup are harmful to aquatic insects, have widely varying half-lives in soil, and have been associated with damage to the nervous system, reproductive system, respiratory system, and skin. Your Roundup usage is probably endangering your health and damaging your garden crops. Although Roundup will most likely bind to the soil particles where it is applied and stay there for months or years, it can also migrate from those particles to adjacent soil or water, where it will damage seeds, worms, ladybugs, etc.

Depending on your method of application, it may await you in vour salad. In Monsanto's own tests, Roundup was found on lettuce five months after it was applied. Not the most healthful salad dressing—although it may be fat-free.

Roundup is not the only or best response to weeds. Alternatives are available, like a weed-eater, a tiller, mulch, or a hoe.

\*Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCamp) 227-6134 \*Information was taken from Natural Home and Garden Magazine, March-April 2005, article by Umbra Fisk



(partial and full scholarships available)

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Growing Communities Workshop

\* Leadership training on community building, leadership and organizational development through community gardening

www.fresnometroministry.org

RESNO UNIFIED RETIREES LEARNED THROUGH THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA THAT THE FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL District and the Fresno Teachers Association had been formally negotiating since August of 2004, and that retirees' health benefits were on the bargaining

Eight retirees met informally to discuss the issue in early November. From that initial meeting, the Fresno Unified Retirees' Association (FURA) was launched, which now boasts hundreds of members. Under advice of counsel, FURA has learned that FUSD and the FTA cannot legally negotiate for retirees.

Retirees also took issue with the fact that the district plans to break a promise made in 1977 for lifetime health benefits. Currently, the agreement is as follows:

- (1) FUSD provides health insurance for retirees who have reached the age of 57 1/2 with 16 years of continuous service to the district.
- (2) At age 65, retirees are required to enroll in Medicare, and the district provides supplemental gap insurance.

The district now plans on breaking that agreement by capping retiree health benefits and charging a monthly premium.

Many of the retirees researched existing court cases and found that Richmond USD, West Contra Costa USD, Contra Costa Community College District, San Leandro school district, the Hollister school district and other retirees engaged an attorney from Oakland, California, who is an expert in labor law. Retirees from those districts prevailed in court to retain their benefits that were promised in previous years of collective bargaining and in written promises by their employers.

FURA was formed to represent all FUSD employees and is in the process of filing for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. FURA believes that under both federal and state law, an employer cannot unilaterally reduce or eliminate the vested or promised medical/health benefits of retired personnel.

Of particular interest to the retirees is that the district-imposed monthly premiums will increase as the number of retirees grows. Because both the District and the FTA have attorneys who are their chief negotiators, FURA believed that it, too, needed legal advice and counsel to preserve the vested right of more than 3500 FUSD retirees. FURA has retained Robert Bezemek from Oakland, who won the above-mentioned

Retirees may request further information by writing to FURA, PO Box 1717, Clovis, CA 93613-1717.

After three requests, FUSD has provided FURA with a list of retirees—but without phone numbers or addresses, necessitating a request to the community to assist FURA in locating retirees. The names, mailing and e-mail addresses, and phone numbers can be sent to the above address.

Anyone interested in contributing time or money to the legal defense fund can also contact FURA.

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#### CHAANGE: **One Year and Counting** By Gary Dennis

HAANGE / SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY is celebrating its first anniversary. On April 1, 2004, this group of advocates appeared at Fresno City College to talk about HIV/AIDS and the importance of lobbying Sacramento on the subject.

While CHAANGE had been around in some form since 2000, CHAANGE didn't officially set up shop until a year ago when we decided this community needed to get up to speed on HIV/AIDS aware-

It's 2005 and most folks still think AIDS is a disease for gays, who deserve what they get. We obviously still have a lot of work

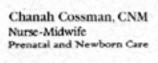
Most HIV service providers still are without community input when it comes to making decisions about funding, care, and treatment. This is why it is so important to educate people and CHAANGE / San Joaquin Valley is here to help. Our group is available to speak on these issues at colleges, health fairs, legislative forums, city council meetings,

Remember, while there still is no cure, this disease can be prevented, and the only way that's going to happen is through education. We must offer hope to those men, women, and children unfortunate enough to contract this disease but who feel abandoned by a so-called God-fearing (and otherwise-caring) community.

One of our recent successes is providing information that now allows Fresno City College nurses to provide HIV testing on their campus.

Also, we are lobbying for the Minority AIDS Initiative (AB1142), which would ensure proper funding for African-American patients in California. This group is heavily impacted by the disease, a fact that is largely ignored by authorities, the public, and the medical community. Call your state lawmakers and encourage them to support this much-needed legislation.

See you all at our next meeting, 2–4 PM, April 6. For information call (559) 268–1969 or e-mail Gary. Dennis@CHAANGE.org.



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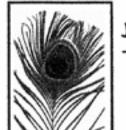


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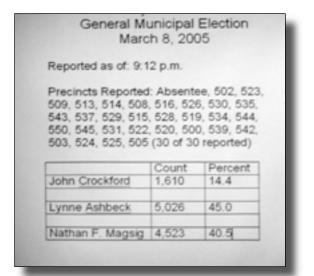
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## MONEY AND POLITICS IN CLOVIS

### **CLOVIS IS OFTEN** REFERRED TO AS A "WAY OF LIFE."



HIS CITY OF 81.000 RESIDENTS. JUST EAST OF FRESNO. HELD elections for the city council on March 8, 2005. Out of 40,382 registered voters, only 6,237 people voted, for a total voter turnout of 15.4%. Of those voting, 4,444 voted by absentee ballot.

There were three candidates running for two seats on the city council. Two of the candidates, both Republicans, Lynn Ashbeck and Nathan Magsig, were the incumbents. The challenger was John Crockford, a member of the Peace and Freedom Party. Crockford received 1,610 votes for 14.4% of the total. He believes that the election was not held on a level playing field. Speaking after the results were in, Crockford said, "Money was the determining factor in the race."

The incumbents had the backing of the traditional sources of power in Clovis: developers, the Chamber of Commerce,

and special interests. One of the special interests in this race was the Clovis firefighters. The firefighters, who were given a generous salary increase in their last contract with the city, rewarded each of the incumbents with 46 donations of \$100

While Crockford may have received the endorsement of the Fresno County Central Labor Council, their support was no match for the well-funded campaigns of the incumbents. In the most recent figures available from the elections department, Crockford had raised about \$7,700, whereas Lynn Ashbeck had \$73,000 and Nathan Magsig had \$88,000 to spend on the campaign.

Money matters. Just ask Clovis political consultant Mark Scozzari, who said, "It would take about forty to fifty thousand dollars to have a chance to win a city council race in Clovis." Scozzari added that "a lot would depend on name recognition" and that you have to have a significant amount of money to run a viable campaign.

With voter turnout so low, Crockford's campaign strategy was to get out the vote in the poor and working-class neighborhoods of Clovis. Crockford estimated that "there are eight to nine thousand people who live in these areas and who voted in the last election."The strategy was to reach out to these voters and to get them to vote for a candidate who would represent their interests. Those issues included a plan to increase affordable housing, improve public transportation, and support for a living wage. Crockford also sought to build an alliance with small business owners in downtown Clovis who are being threatened with the development of a Wal-Mart Supercenter in the area.

Without money, it was hard for Crockford to get his message out. He organized volunteers to go door-to-door during the last two weekends of the campaign. Volunteers also phoned prospective voters during the last two days before the election. It was not enough to move voters to the polls.

One of the reasons for the low voter turnout could be the scheduling of the elections so they are not in sync with other state or national elections. Even the winner in this election, Lynn Ashbeck, said in an interview with the Fresno Bee that it might be time to look at a different way to run the



council elections. With 71.3% of voters using an absentee ballot in this election, it would be crucial for a campaign to develop a strategy to get out the vote for people using this

Crockford said he had problems getting the absentee pallot list from the City of Clovis. "I spoke with city officials about the list of voters receiving absentee ballots and they said they would give me a copy when the ballots were mailed out. I specifically asked for the list but did not receive it until two weeks after the other two candidates got the list." In a race where the vast majority of voters cast their ballots by mail, this put the Crockford campaign at a disadvantage.

"Another problem was that I paid for a billboard to be put up during this race. First, it was late to go up and then they took it down before the election was over. What's up with that?" Crockford did not say that there was a conspiracy against his campaign, "but there certainly was not a level

What's next for Crockford? In an election-night interview, after the results were in, he said he was interested in running again in two years. He will also be working to build the Fresno County Peace and Freedom Party and, as chairperson of the Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee, he will keep involved in electoral politics. You can reach him at john@crockford.org.

## Students of English Studies Association Presents SESA SPRING CONFERENCE 2005 California State University, Fresno



## April 22-24, 2005 Disciplining the Disciplines: Interdisciplinarity, Transdisciplinarity, Antidisciplinarity

Tricia Rose, UC Santa Cruz professor of American Studies, will present this year's keynote address on Saturday, April 23 at 5:30PM. Professor Rose is the author of Longing to Tell (2003) and Black Noise (1994). Her fields of interest include 20th century African-American culture and politics, social thought, popular culture and gender issues. For more info about Tricia Rose, visit www.triciarose.com

Admission is free. Parking is available for a modest fee in any of the CSUF lots. Follow the signs from Shaw & Maple and Shaw & Woodrow entrances. Conference presentations are also free and open to the public Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

Visit conference website at "http://www.csufresno.edu/StudentOrgs/SESAConference/ 2005conference.htm" http://www.csufresno.edu/StudentOrgs/SESAConference/ 2005conference.htm or contact SESA at: sesaconference@hotmail.com" sesaconference@hotmail.com for more information.

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

## WILPF DATES:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, NOON: Women in Black Fresno County Courthouse Breezeway

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 7 PM:

WILPF Business Meeting, 1584 N Van Ness

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 8 AM-5 PM:

WILPF Tax Day Leafleting, Cardwell Post Office, 1606 East Griffith Way

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 3:30 PM:

WILPF Stir It Up KFCF 88.1 FM.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 11 AM-2 PM:

WILPF 90th Anniversary Program, Margaret Hudson's Barn, 4247 N Thorne Ave

TAX DAY: As always, dedicated WILPFers will be providing educational leaflets on Tax Day. We have flyers showing where our tax dollars are spent—mainly the military-industrial complex! If you would like to volunteer your time for this important annual event on Friday, April 15, please contact Vickie. (Contact information listed above).

WILPF'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Social work interns Lupe and Rick are co-coordinating a spectacular celebration for WILPF's 90th birthday! The theme for this event is "WILPF Past, Present, and Future." Past presidents of the Fresno branch will be honored. Last year's interns, Ruth and Catherine, will share stories about their WILPF co-sponsored trips to Costa Rica and South Africa. The party includes a potluck, so bring your favorite dish, some snacks, dessert, or drinks! Volunteers are also needed to help plan and run the event, so contact Rick at rkasha71@yahoo.com or 259–3240, or Lupe at **TELEPHONE TREE**: Our telephone tree chair has had to step down due to illness and go009@csufresno.edu or 859-2854.

**PEACE CAMP:** One of our most notable yearly projects is Peace Camp, also known as Camp Harmony. This year, the camp will be held from Monday, June 13, to Friday, June 17 at O'Neill Park, located on the north end of CSU Fresno. If you or someone you know would like to donate time or money to this important peace education for children, please contact Vickie or Marilyn Byrne at skippy41@csufresno.edu or 448–9144.

MARCIA MCLANE MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE: Thus far members and friends have contributed \$2,600 in honor of Marcia McLane. Thank you for this outpouring of love and appreciation for Marcia! A large and rather special donation was made by Vic McLane, to whom we extend our deepest gratitude and sincerest condolences. We felt that since Marcia so enjoyed working internationally, the money would be best given to the WILPF International Ballantyne Fund that helps WILPF members from the contact Vickie. Southern Hemisphere travel to international WILPF events.

WILPF CONGRESS WORKSHOP PROPOSALS: WILPF National is calling on proposals for workshops you would like to present at our Congress in August in San Francisco. If you have an idea and want to send them a proposal, please contact Vickie for

WILPF AND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION: For Women's Herstory Month, Vickie Fouts was asked as WILPF president to give a 40 minute presentation at the monthly meeting of the Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention. The topic was how the social

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

injustices done to a single mom making a minimum wage could lead to child abuse. The presentation was well received by the group. WILPFer Howard Watkins attended and



#### WILPF HELP WANTED:

we also don't know if she had volunteer callers. We often need to call about 60 people who do not have e-mail. Would you be interested in becoming the telephone tree chair or a regular caller? **TAX DAY:** We need a volunteer coordinator and volunteer leafletters for April 15 leafleting at Cardwell Post Office, 1606 E Griffith, Fresno 8 AM-5 PM, 1 1/2hr shifts, three people per shift. WILPF'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY: April 28 is our 90th Anniversary and our interns are planning a special program for us sometime during the month. If you can help them it would be appreciated. **PEACE CAMP:** Peace Camp this year will be June 13-17 at O'Neil Park, CSUF. We have need for tons of volunteers before and during camp. WILPF NEWSLETTER: Would you be interested in becoming editor of the WILPF page in the Community Alliance or just providing a paragraph or two now and then? **WILPF RADIO**: Would you be interested in being co-host, back-up host, or engineer for the WILPF Stir It Up Show on KFCF 88.1 FM on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 3:30-4 PM? If you are interested in any of the above, please

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "To those who have called me a coward I say that they are wrong, and that without knowing it, they are also right. They are wrong when they think that I left the war for fear of being killed. I admit that fear was there, but there was also the fear of killing innocent people, the fear of putting myself in a position where to survive means to kill, there was the fear of losing my soul in the process of saving my body, the fear of losing myself to my daughter, to the people who love me, to the man I used to be, the man I wanted to be. I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had abandoned me."—Sgt. Camilo Mejia, who served one year in prison for refusing to return to fight in Iraq. He was released from prison February 15, 2005.

### **POETRY CORNER**

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This month, a poem for poetry non-readers. The anonymous poem was sent by Jay Hubbell, who professes little familiarity with poetry but found it on the Internet and was so struck by it he forwarded it to others, including Diane Corbin, who forwarded it to us. Diane, of course, is herself a writer of poetry and a past contributor—but she evidently liked it, too, despite its literary shortcomings.

This is the story that must be told Of an Iraqi baby, not very old Lying in her crib on a starlit night How could she know of those planes in flight?

She lies there quietly touching her nose Watching her mobile, wiggling her toes Oohing and cooing, so sweetly is she Talking to someone, who could it be?

An angel is standing with her in the room. The baby is smiling, unaware of her doom. The crib starts to shake and the mobile goes

Then suddenly comes the most deafening sound The ceiling drops in, in a second or two... On her crib so she ceases to coo... No one knows how long she lies there Who thought about it? Doesn't anyone care? Is she alive?

Is she dead? Is she in pain? Now that you mention it, who knows her name? Her name is Amel, in English we say Hope Crushed between the rubble, her tiny fingers start

Where is my Mommy? I love her so dear. Come get me Mommy! It's dark in here! I'm scared and hungry and I can't see my feet, There's blood in my mouth! Give me something to eat!

to grope!

Where is Daddy? Where's my big brother? It hurts when I breathe! Where is my mother? How long have I been here? Is this just a dream?

I open my mouth, but I can't even scream!

They appear again by my side. This time with a tear I plead...Why have I died? Am I alone in my suffering? NO, there are many

In our grief and misery, we are all sisters and broth-Who are we, I ask you.. for what crime did we

They're throwing a party! Doesn't anyone cry?

Is it true? Am I nothing?! How could it be? Don't they also have babies, just like me? It is war they say, of which death is a part. How blind they've become, how hardened of

Did someone say hero? To whom do they speak?

A VICTORY CLAIMED FOR KILLING THE WEAK?

Why are they happy? Why are they proud? Don't they know that I'm cold in my burial

No war has been won; no ifs, buts or maybes For Saddam still lives: they've only killed babies.

## FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

#### LAST IN. FIRST OUT:

Our newest board member, Kenley Neufeld, will be moving to Ojai in July, to a new job and to the proximity of wife Leslie's family. We wish them happiness, but we will surely miss them. In the few months he's been with us, Kenley has made numerous important contributions, including arranging the showing of The Future of Food, and upgrading our computer linkages. We often wait a long time to find new board members with both willingness and aptitude: we can only hope another such soon appears.

Meanwhile, Kenley will be featured on our next Stir It Up (April 13, 3:30 PM on KFCF). He will report on a journey to Viet- Alliance, and so forth, please let us know. If nam with his teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Tune in to hear a compelling story.

#### YARD SALE:

We will have a table at a community yard sale sponsored by the Imperial Dove Court

when we had space) that can be easily handled and transported (not sofas and loose clothing). Donations can be brought to the Center during open hours.

#### FCC OUTREACH:

We continue to look for ways to make contact with Fresno City College students now that we're neighbors. We have been able to do some leafleting, and to attract some students to our noon video showings on the second Wednesdays. Starting this month, we will be experimenting with an ad in the school paper, the Rampage. If anyone has other contacts on campus for making announcements, distributing flyers and the anyone has other ideas how to connect with students, please talk with us.

#### PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE:

When it's Thanksgiving, you know you'll soon be receiving our annual appeal letter, de Fresno in the Tower District on May 7. the fund drive that pays most of our basic We are asking for decent intact items (not bills for the coming year. We have just comthe boxes of bric-a-brac we used to accept pleted our winter drive, and thanks to your bers.

generosity we again brought in over \$6000. We are still open and at your service.

It is, amazingly, a year now since we moved. At that time we made a special appeal for 2-year pledges to help with the increased rent/utilities. Some of that expense is being offset by income from space use by other organizations, but we also face a pre-arranged rent increase. So we indeed still need that second installment of pledges made last year--and any other help that

#### PARTNERSHIPS:

We are pleased to report we will again be the fiscal agent for Fresno's Earth Day Committee, being coordinated by Stephen Gamboa. We also welcome back to the Center the group campaigning for reform of Three Strikes (FACTS), currently chaired by Rebecca Rangel. And we proudly supported the Eyes Wide Open exhibit, contributing both financially and with the coordinating efforts of several Board mem-

#### **BUSINESS HOURS:**

One of the successes of our move has been the ability to maintain regular open hours. We would very much like to have a roster of subs available to fill in when regular staffers can't make it. If you are willing to get an hour of training and be on call, please

#### PEACE CHALLENGE:

Due to lack of response this year, we have discontinued our full Peace Challenge process involving mini-grants, a conference, and recognition event. However, we still have some money remaining from past years ear-marked for youth programs. We have just made a \$250 grant to John Fletcher's Urban Roots Project, providing leadership training and violence-prevention education to young people in West Fresno.

John is the proprietor of the coffee shop at 930 Fresno St. which serves as an informal community center. We will be displaying FCNV-related literature there, and hope to collaborate with John in other ways to spread the word about nonviolence.

## THE WELCH REPORT

#### By Jack H. Welch. M.D.



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

#### THROWN TO THE WOLVES

In the fall of 2002 Mr. Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, suddenly found himself caught

up in the cruel mockery of justice that the Bush Administration has substituted for the rule of law in the post-Sept. 11 world. While attempting to change planes at Kennedy Airport on his way home to Canada from a family vacation in Tunisia, he was seized by American authorities," placed in handcuffs and leg irons, "interrogated and thrown in jail." He was not charged with anything, nor would he ever be charged.

Mr. Arar was flown out of the United States to Jordan and then driven to Syria, where he was kept in an underground cell the size of a grave. From time to time he was tortured. He signed whatever confessions he was told to sign, and he begged not to be beaten anymore. The pain from some of his beatings lasted for six months, he said.

The Justice Department has alleged, without disclosing any evidence, that Mr. Arar is a member of, or linked to, Al Qaeda. The Syrians, who tortured him, however, have concluded that Mr. Arar is not linked in any way to terrorism.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police seems to have helped set this entire fiasco in motion by forwarding bad information to the US authorities. Official documents in Canada suggest that Mr. Arar was never the target of a terror investigation there. Whatever happened in Canada, Hundreds of men remain imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in defiance nothing can excuse the behavior of the United States in this episode. Mr. of two Supreme Court decisions. American soldiers hold thousands of Arar was deliberately dispatched by US officials to Syria, a country they knew practices torture. And if Canadian officials had not intervened, he most likely would not have been heard from again.

"Mr. Arar is the most visible victim of the reprehensible and extremely secretive US policy known as 'extraordinary rendition,' in which individuals are abducted by American authorities and transferred without any legal rights whatever to a regime skilled in the art of torture." A lawsuit on Mr. Arar's behalf has been filed against the United States by the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York; a lawyer with the Center has noted that the government is arguing that none of Mr. Arar's claims can even be adjudicated because they "would involve the revelation of state

**QUAKERS** 

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secrets." Ours, apparently, is a government that feels it is answerable to no one. (Source: Bob Herbert, op-ed columnist, New York Times, Feb.

#### **TORTURE AMERICAN STYLE**

"Extraordinary rendition is the name given to the policy of seizing individuals without even the semblance of due process and sending them off to be interrogated by regimes known to practice torture...Our henchmen in places like Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Uzbekistan, and Jordan are torturing terror suspects at the behest of a nation, the US, that has gone through a national election in which the issue of moral values was supposed to have been decisive." How did we become a country in which gays getting married is considered an abomination, but torture is OK?

These detainees are not provided with lawyers, and many families are not informed of their whereabouts. Mr. Arar was seized because his name had turned up on a watch list of terror suspects, and he was reported to have been a co-worker of a man in Canada whose brother was a suspected terrorist.

"Any government that commits, condones, promotes or fosters torture is a malignant force in the world. And those who refuse to raise their voices against something as clearly evil as torture are enablers, if not collaborators."There is the mistaken notion in the United States that everybody seized by the government in its so-called war on terror is in fact somehow connected to terrorist activity. Jettisoning the rule of law to permit such acts as kidnapping and torture is not a defensible policy for a civilized nation. (Source: Bob Herbert, New York Times, Feb. 11, 2005)

#### TIME FOR AN ACCOUNTING

"Nearly a year after the Abu Ghraib scandal broke, the administration still drags its feet on public disclosure, stonewalls Congressional requests for documents, and suppresses the results of internal investigation. Afghan and Iraqi prisoners under rules that remain unclear. American intelligence is still secretly detaining prisoners, and the administration continues to insist that the president has an imperial right to sweep aside the law and authorize whatever he wants, including flouting treaties that prohibit sending prisoners to other countries to be tortured. The American Bar Association has urged that President Bush appoint an independent, bipartisan commission with subpoena power to look at this

"Only a full accounting can begin to heal the nation's image in the world, clarify the rules, and punish those found responsible." (Source: Editorial, "Time for an Accounting," New York Times, Feb. 19, 2005.)



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#### April 7: **CONTROL ROOM**

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#### **May 11:** PEACEABLE KINGDOM:

Do you know where your meat comes from? Do you want to know?

## Saturday, April 9 7:30 PM

During the past two decades, Berkeley, California-based band leader singer / songwriter / fiddler / guitarist / bass player Laurie Lewis has quietly established herself as one of the finest, most diversely talented artists in traditional music. Laurie is highly regarded as a singer (twice voted International Bluegrass Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year; her album Love Chooses You won the 1989-1990 Country Album of the Year designation from the National Association of Independent Record Distributors), lyric interpreter (her compelling reading of Kate Long's "Who Will Watch the Home Place" led to the song being named IBMA "Song of the Year in 1994), duet partner (she has recorded wonderful duet albums with fellow Good Ol' Person Kathy Kallick and Grant Street bandmate Tom Rozum; that album, The Oak and the Laurel, was nominated for a Grammy as Best Traditional Folk Album in 1996), instrumentalist (she is an award-winning fiddle player and one of the best flat-out breakdown fiddlers around and has lent her instrumental talents to countless recordings by her peers, including a recent appearance on Peter Rowan's Bluegrass Boy, on which both her fiddling and harmony singing fit hand-in-glove with Peter's efforts). Almost incidentally, Laurie is also known as one of the finest acoustic bassists on the West Coast, occasionally taking time out from her busy schedule to nail down the rhythm on other artists' recordings.

Their concerts sell out so get your tickets early. \$18 in advance; \$20 at door. Info, 431–3653 Tickets available at The Movies; Patrick's Music; and National Hardware.

## NOTED CIVIL LIBERTIES **EXPERT COMING** TO FRESNO MAY 8

ANN FAGAN GINGER. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MEIKLEJOHN CIVIL LIBERTIES INSTITUTE IN BERKELEY, AND NATIONALLY RENOWNED AND LONGTIME ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL LIBERTIES, WILL BE SPEAKER AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FRESNO ON MAY 8. 2005.

She will be talking about a just-released book she has edited, which documents civil and human rights violations throughout the United States since 9/11. The book includes a section on the infiltration of Peace Fresno. Ginger will be speaking at both the 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM services. The UU Church is located at 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno (1/2 block south of Ashlan). Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase between services and after the second service. Noted historian Howard Zinn wrote the Introduction to the book.

Ginger has spent more than 70 years fighting for social justice and human rights in the United States and around the world. She is a lawyer and expert on human rights treaties and covenants. For more information on the book or the MCLI, go to <www.mcli.org>. For more information on her Fresno appearance, call 435–1992.



# (559) 264-MEAD (6323)

#### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Steve Ono & Eddie Gordon CD release Guitars & Harmonicas 8 PM \$5 cover Happy Hour with Wayne Damron 5:30-7:30 PM 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264-6323

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Deja-Blues 8 PM \$5 cover 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Art Hop Reception for Autumn S. Lencioni "Broken Spirit' a photographic exhibition in black & white Plus! the Music of Joel Pickford & Dean McDonald 5-9 PM no cover 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### FRIDAY. APRIL 8

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Chris Plays Guitar" Contemporary Rock & Blues 8 PM \$5 cover Happy Hour with Glen Delpit 5:30-7:30 PM 620 F St Historic Chinatown

#### (559) 264–6323 SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Lance "Fluteman" Canalas & Benjamin 8 PM \$5 cover Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Chain Reaction" Classic Blues 8 PM \$5 cover Happy Hour with Wayne Damron 5:30-7:30 PM 620 F St Historic Chinatown

(559) 264-6323

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Drumagic" ancient rythm in a new world 8 PM \$5 cover 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Inner Ear Poetry Jam poetry-art-music-fun 8 PM \$3 cover Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Full Circle Band" Blues-Rock-Folk-World Music 8PM \$5 cover Happy Hour with Glen Delpit 5:30-7:30 PM 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264–6323

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Trey Tosh," the Valley's youngest blues guitarist 8 PM \$5 cover 620 F St Historic Chinatown

#### (559) 264–6323 **SUNDAY. APRIL 24**

Full Circle Brewing Co. & Glen Delpit Present "A Tribute to Robert Johnson" A celebration of his life and music 3 PM No charge: a family event 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264-6323

#### FRIDAY. APRIL 29

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Live Bait" Rock & Blues 8 PM \$5 cover Happy Hour with Wayne Damron 5:30-7:30 PM 620 F St Historic Chinatown (559) 264-6323

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents "Bellydancing" with Cory Zamora Featuring Diva Lakishia and food by Queen of Tarts catering 8 PM \$5 cover Historic Chinatown

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## PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE FRESNO AREA:

3636 N First #139 Fresno, CA 93726 (559) 222-9013Fax (559 222-9159 caacornfrro@acorn.org

Beyond War (559) 438-4486 gma4us@aol.com

**Black Political Council** PO Box 11716 Fresno, CA 93774-1716

**Books Not Bars** 344 40th Street Oakland, CA (510) 428-3939 x231 (510) 428-3940 (fax) Local contact: (559) 709-5831 www.booksnotbars.org

Californians for Justice 2014 Tulare Avenue Suite 718 Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 443 - 1394Fax (559) 433-1343 bernardo@caljustice.org www.caljustice.org

California Prison Moratorium 623 N Harrison Fresno, CA 93728 (559) 444-2188pmpvalle@pacbell.net www.prisonactivist.org

California Rural Legal As-2115 Kern St. Ste370 Fresno, CA 93721-2100 (559) 441–8721 www.crla.org/

Center for Immigrant and Workers Rights 280 N Van Ness Ave Fresno, CA 93701 (559) 443 - 1317Fax (559) 443-1318 nancymarsh@yahoo.com

Central California Alliance PO Box 16422 Fresno, California 93755 (559) 265-7117 speechadvice@yahoo.com www.ccafresno.ora

The Central California Institute 1584 N Van Ness Fresno CA 93728-1941 (559) 455-0821

Central California Criminal Ellie Bluestein, 4414 E Alamos Fresno, CA 93726 Gloria Hernandez, 3232 E Hedges, Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 229–9807 www.fresnoalliance.com/

Central California Legal Services 1999 Tuolumne St Suite 700 Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 570 - 1209fresno@centralcallegal.org www.centralcallegal.org

Central Valley Progressive PO Box 5845 Fresno, CA 93755 (559) 226-1416info@cvppac.org www.cvppac.org

Centro AzteCA de Información en Fresno

Franco Duarte 2203 Norris DR W Fresno, CA 93703 (559) 485-0944 Fax (559) 459-0744 centroaztecafresno@hotma il.com

Centro La Familia Advocacy 2014 Tulgre St., #717 Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 237-2961 Fax (559) 237-2968

CHAANGE / San Joaquin The California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network Grassroots **Evolution** 1584 N Van Ness Fresno, CA 93728-1941 www.chaange.org/

Coalicion por los Derechos de los Immigrantes del Valle de San Joaquin 328 N Fresno Fresno, CA 9370 (559) 498-6033Fax 497-0206 leonflor5@aol.com

Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.) PO Box 4496 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 445-0887 nancymarsh@yahoo.com

Community Alliance news-PO Box 5077 Fresno, CA 93755 (559) 978-4502 Fax (559) 226-3962 AllianceEditor@Comcast.net www.fresnoalliance.com/ home/

Community Link PO Box 4959 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 266-5465 or 226-5377 Fax (559) 486-3464 clinkinc@aol.com www.communitylinkfresno.

Death Penalty Focus Families & Friends of Prisoners Support Group 1917 S Chestnut Ave, #13-G Fresno, CA 93702 Phone/Fax: (559) 255maria.telesco@att.net www.fresnoalliance.com/fo-

Fresno Earth Day Committee (559) 229-5804ieremy@fresnoearthday.org www.fresnoearthday.org

El Colegio Popular Cathedral Education Center 2839 Mariposa Street Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 441-7131 Fax (559) 441-7155 www.citizenship.net/about/ orgs/partners/ecp.htm

El Comité No Nos Vamos 328 N Fresno Fresno, CA 93701 (559) 498-6033 IWAPGH@aol.com

El ComPara Bienestar de Earlimart; Californians for Pesticide Reform, Central Valley PO Box 10725 Earlimart, CA 93219 (661) 849-0669 Fax (661) 849-2205

El Concilio Immigration 1532 Fresno St Fresno, CA 93706-1627 (559) 485-0679 www.fresnoalliance.com/El-Concilio/

Fresno Area Congregations Together (FACT) (559)456-9392 factorganizer@yahoo.com

Families Against California to Amend California's Three Strikes (FACTS) (559) 960-5300

Food Not Bombs (Saturday) 2925 N Jackson Fresno, CA 93703 452-0277 (ask for Dallas) fresnofnb@yahoo.com www.fresnoalliance.com/

Food Not Bombs (Sunday) Mark/Miriam at (559) 442-0966

Binacional 2014 Tulare Street, Suite Fresno, CA 93721 (Mailing Address) PO Box 106 Fresno, CA 93707-0106 (559) 499–1178

Fax (559) 268-0484

lvasquez@sbcglobal.net

www.fiob.org/

Fresno Barrios Unidos 4403 E Tulare Ave Fresno, CA 93702 (559) 453-9662 Fax (559) 453-9548 ssfbu@aol.com barriosunidos.net/

Fresno Center for New Americans 4879 E Kings Canyon Road Fresno, CA 93727 (559) 255-8395 Fax (559) 255-1656 silascha@fresnocenter.com www.fresnocenter.com

Fresno Center for Nonviolence, dedicated to peace and social justice 1584 N Van Ness Fresno, CA 93728-1941 (559) 237-3223 info@centerfornonviolence

Fresno County Bicycle Coali-P.O. Box 218 Clovis, CA 93613-0218 Ph. (559) 277-2693 Fresnocobike@aol.com http://www.fresnobike.com/

www.centerfornonviolence.

Fresno County Green Party PO Box 4501 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 265-3647 fresno@greens.org www.fresnogreens.org

Fresno Folklore Society P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 229–8808 ckjohns@pacbell.net cki12@csufresno.edu home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/

Fresno Metro Ministry 1055 N Van Ness Suite H Fresno, CA 93728 (559) 485 - 1416

Fax (559) 485-9109 metromin@fresnometmin.

www.fresnometmin.org/

Fresno Free College Founda-

tion/Radio station KFCF PO Box 4364 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 233-2221 Fax (559) 233-5776 Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 266-8888 office@kfcf.org www.kfcf.org

Habitat for Humanity

2219 San Joaquin Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 237 - 4102Fax (559) 237–1451 www.habitatfresno.org/ Health Care for All c/o Larry Trullinger 2070 S Willow #3 Fresno, CA 97327-5139 (559)252-5662

also contact: lynnj@csufresno.edu, (559) 434-0427 or Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno edperez57@yahoo.com,

(559) 261–2423

The Interfaith Alliance of Central California PO Box 9122 Fresno, CA 93790 (559) 225-1438iaccfresno\_1@hotmail.com

www.healthcareforall.org

**KNFS (A Progressive Low** Power FM radio station in the South Valley) 693 E Kern Ave. Tulare CA 93274 knfs@comcast.net www.knfs.org (Under construction)

Latino Issues Forum (LIF) Fresno Regional Office 550 E Shaw Ave, Suite 240 Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 241-6561 Fax (559) 241-6563 Maria Leon (559)241-6572 rleon@lif.org www.lif.org

League of Women Voters 1345-A East Bulldog Lane Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 226-8683 Fax (559) 268–1930 info@fresno.ca.lwvnet.org fresno.ca.lwvnet.org/

League of Mexican Ameri-PO Box 686 Fresno, CA 93712-0686

The Living Room 601 E Belmont Fresno, CA 93701 (559) 485–3667 Fax (559) 485-3669

Living Wage Committee PO Box 4496 Fresno, CA 93744 (559)222–5240 fsivak@msn.com

Mexican American Political Association: Fresno Chapter Chapter Chairperson: Ben Benavides (559) 442-0380

Madera Chapter Chapter Chairperson: Guadulupe Guiterrez (559) 673-4033

Migrant Photography Project

PO Box 651 Three Rivers, CA 93271 (559) 561–4610 ssturdevant@mindspring.

www.migrantphotography project.org

National Association for the

Advancement of Colored

Fresno, CA 93775-1811

People (NAACP)

Fresno Chapter

PO Box 11811

(559) 485-5778

Fax (559) 485-5783

naacp41038@aol.com

**National Action Network** 

1630 W Kearney Blvd

Fax (559) 266-5828

www.nancalifornia.org/in-

1440 W Shaw Ave, Suite A

Fresno, CA 93706

(559) 265-3652

xyfloyd@aol.com

Pan-Valley Institute

Fresno, CA 93711

(559) 222-7678

mnateras@afsc.ora

www.afsc.org

1343 E Barstow

(559) 434-6540

Peace Bakersfield

ans/Gays

field.html

Monte

(PAR)

4516

box#2

Peace Fresno

PO Box 5115

Fresno, CA 93755

president@peacefresno.org

Planned Parenthood Mar

www.peacefresno.org

(559)487-2515

633 N Van Ness

Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 488-4913

1720 S Maple

Fax (559) 488-4940

www.ppmarmonte.org

Plant a Row for the Hungry

UC Cooperative Extension

Fresno, California 93702-

(559) 456-4151/mail-

Proyecto Campesino

Visalia, CA 93291

(559) 733-4844

Fax (559) 733-2360

www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/

5005 E Belmont Avenue

www.radiobilingue.org/

**RANCOR** (Radicals Against

**Neo-Cons Organized Resis-**

gmartinez@afsc.org

visalia.htm

KSJV 91.5

Radio Bilingue

Fresno, CA 93727

(559) 455-5777

208 W Main St Suite U-2

Fax (559) 222-7682

Parents & Friends of Lesbi-

Fresno, CA 93710-6399

1906 18th Street, Apt. 24

peacebakersfield@sbcglob

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Ph. (661) 633-2930

dex.html

The Sleeping Bag Project 4618 N First St, #183 Fresno, CA 93726 (559) 226-1356 jeanchipp@sbcglobal.net www.fresnoalliance.com/

The Relational Culture

3485 West Shaw Ave

Fax (559) 276-2304

Fresno, CA 93711

(559) 276-2304

Institute

Service Employees International Union Local 250 1279 N Wishon Fresno, California 93728 (559) 265-4890 (559) 459-0520 (fax) pwhalen@seiu-uhw.org http://www.seiu250.org/

South Valley Peace Center 17206 Avenue 296 Visalia, CA 93292 info@svpc.info http://www.svpc.info/

St Benedict Catholic Worker 4022 N Cheryl Fresno, CA 93705 (559) 229-6410 Cell 977-3648 PaxOSB@aol.com www.sbcw.org

Stone Soup 1345 East Bulldog Lane, Suite 4 Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 224-7613 Fax (559) 224-2981 stonesoupfresno@yahoo.

http://www.geocities.com/ bakproactnet/peacebakerswww.stonesoupfresno.org Stonewall Democrats c/o Chuck Krugman

1530 E Vassar, apt S. Fresno, CA 93704 (559) 226-3717 ckrugman@sbcglobal.net fresnostonewall@manaen

www.mangen.com/stone-

Sun Mt 35751 Oak Springs Dr Tollhouse, CA 93667 (559) 855–3710 mail@sunmt.org www.sunmt.org

Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club PO Box 5396 Fresno, CA 93755 www.sierraclub.org/

United Black Men 1929 E. Church Ave Fresno 93710

**United Farm Workers** P.O. Box 62 Keene, California 93531 (805) 822-5571 (805) 822-6103 (fax) http://www.ufw.org/

The Wheelchair Project 5205 E Washington Fresno, CA 93727 (559) 251-3814 wheelchairbusproject@juno. mariax@radiobilingue.org

> Women's International League for Peace and Freedom PO Box 5114 Fresno, CA 93755 (559) 658-8260 socialjustice@sti.net www.fresnoalliance.com/

PO Box 4438 Fresno, CA 93744 email@rancor.info www.rancor.info

keith@relational-culture.com www.relationalculture.org

Ness (southeast corner Van

Ness and McKinley). Control

Room is a rare film that is both

timeless—because it explores

the ancient and complex rela-

tionship between the Western

and Arab worlds—and timely,

because it reveals how satellite

television has changed the way

wars are reported from news

providers, driven by the patrio-

tism of their audiences, to Army

information officers, driven by

military objectives. A discussion

will follow the evening showing.

Event is free, but donations are

Join Richard Stone from the

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

on the KFCF 88.1 FM "Stir It

Up" show as he talks with Ken-

ley Neufeld about his recent

trip to Vietnam with the Ven-

erable Zen Master Thich Nhat

Hanh, who recently returned to

ile. Hear about this historic trip

that brought together people

worldwide with the renowned

monk, poet, scholar, and hu-

man rights activist. A discussion

of what Vietnam is like today

Wednesday. April 13

Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter,

general meeting at the Univer-

sity of California Center, 550

E Shaw (across from Fashion

Fair). The speaker will be Keith

Sauer, who will talk about the

North Slope to North Fork. For

more information go to <www.

The Middle East Forum at CSUF

presents Middle East Lecture

The Struggle with Modernity

(1994, 50 minutes) looks at the

tensions within Islamic societies

as they attempt to make their

laws and practices compatible

with the twenty-first century

while remaining true to the

spirit of the faith. This event will

be held in room SS 203.

and Film Series: Spring 2005.

tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Thursday, April 14

6:15 PM

will also be included.

his homeland after a 39-year ex-

Wednesday, April 13

3:30 PM

#### Friday. April 1 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Social Security is Under Attack! Protect It \* Preserve It \* Pass It On. Americans should not gamble what they can't afford to lose. Stop social security privatization. A Social Security Town Hall Meeting will be held at the IAM Local 653 (Machinist Union), 544 W Olive in Fresno. This event is sponsored by the California Alliance for Retired Americans and the California Labor Federation. Call Gene Roza at (599) 905-3521 for more information.

## Friday, April 1

Vigil to honor Cesar Chavez at the CSUF Peace Garden. For more information contact Lucia at (559) 498–6033. This event is sponsored by the Co-Ce-Cha Comite Cesar Chavez of

#### Friday, April 1 6:30 PM

As part of a celebration of 30 years in community radio, KFCF 88.1 FM is hosting an April Fool's Day Party with Scoop Nisker in North Fork. The event is a benefit for listener-sponsored, free speech radio in Central California and takes place at the North Fork Town Hall, located at 33060 Road 228 in the mountain community of North Fork, an hour north of Fresno. The party begins at 6:30 PM with food and beverages and the music of the local group Good Medicine to warm up the crowd. Then Scoop will have you simultaneously rolling in the aisles and thinking deep thoughts about the universe and our place in it. Tickets are available at The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness (559) 233-8346 and KFCF

## Saturday, April 2

Radio (559) 233-2221).

March in honor of Cesar Chavez begins at Holmes Playground (212 S First, between Tulare and Ventura). Following the march there will be food, music, and folkloric dancing starting at 11 AM. For more information contact Lucia at (559) 498-6033. This event is sponsored **Friday-Sunday.** by the Co-Ce-Cha Comite Cesai

#### Saturday, April 2 1-5 PM

Mad Town Street Thang, celebrating the life of Cesar Chavez. Sponsored by the Madera Youth Leaders and the Madera Coalition. At D and Sixth in downtown Madera.

#### Sunday, April 3 2-4 PM

Celebration in honor of Cesar Chavez at the Martin Luther King School in Madera.

#### Tuesday, April 5

The 6th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Conference at CSU Fresno. For more information call (559) 278–2891 or e-mail matthewj@csufresno.

#### Tuesday, April 5 4:30-6 PM

Building bridges and tackling be shown at the Fresno Center ganizational fears, a panel series coordi- for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van nated by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), will be held at CSUF. The issue discussed will be Islamaphobia. The event will be held at the Renaissance Room on campus. If vou would like further information or would like to participate on a panel, please contact Ruth at 278–6946. NCBI is a project of the President's Commission on Human Rights & Equity and is coordinated by the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Insti-

#### Tuesday, April 5 No-host cocktails, 5:30 PM: program, 6 PM

The National Women's Political Caucus of Fresno County will feature Assistant Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims as the guest speaker. This event will be held at Toledo's Restaurant banquet room, located in Mission Village on Shaw Avenue just east of Highway 41. The dinner program costs \$15. For more information call (559) 252-4812 or e-mail lauraslmares@sbcglobal.

## Wednesday, April 6

Spring into Words—Free Poetry Jam . . . Express yourself with words at the CSUF coffeehouse and pub. Open mic for beginners & experienced poets. First Wednesday of every month. Further info, contact Marylee at

## Thursday April 7

Full Circle Brewing Co. presents Art Hop Reception for Autumn S. Lencioni: "Broken Spirit," a photographic exhibition in black & white. Plus! the music of Joel Pickford & Dean McDonald. No cover. 620 F St, Historic Chinatown, (559) 264–6323.

#### Friday-Sunday. April 8-10

Peace Centers Conference. Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa. Call the FCNV for info if you wish to attend: 237-3223.

first World Film Festival at the

#### April 8-10 Fresno Filmworks presents its

Tower Theatre: from Germany and Turkey, Head-On; from the US, Tarnation; from Senegal, Moolaade; and from Germany and Hungary, Gloomy Sunday. Festival passes can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door: \$30; \$25 for seniors and students. Individual tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office and at the door for \$10; \$8 for seniors and students. For details about times, call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go

#### to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>. April 15 & 16 Wednesday, April 13 12 Noon and 7:30 PM

Free Monthly Video Series, second Wednesday of every month. The Control Room will

through community gardening. Attendance both days strongly suggested. \$20 per individual. ACGA members free, scholarships available. For more information see <www.communitygarden.org/training.php> or <www.fresnometmin.org/fmm/</pre> gardens.html>.

### 6:15 PM

presents Middle East Lecture and Film Series: Spring 2005. Paradise Lies at the Feet of the Mother, (1994, 50 minutes) explores the position of women under sharia law in Egypt and Iran and asks how much is laid down by the faith and how much is added by local custom. Compares some contrasting cases, such as Indonesia, where fewer on women. This event will be held in room SS 203.

#### Friday, April 22 Sunday April 24

The Wesley United Methodist Church, the Committee on Reconciliation, and a community group will be presenting the "Love Welcomes All" conference at the church during the weekend of April 22–24. See story on page 05 for details.

## Wednesday, April 27

The American Society of Vic-

and Film Series: Spring 2005.

The Last Crusade (1994, 50

minutes) looks at the revolu-

tionary and reforming spirit of

Muslims in an era of Islamic

revival. Locations include Jeru-

salem, Cairo, Kadvna, and Teh-

ran. This event will be held in

5:30 PM social gathering; 6:30-9

Welcome to new Hmong fami-

lies. Stone Soup is sponsoring

this event, which will include tra-

ditional Hmong Qeej and dance

at Hope Lutheran Church, 364

stow & Fresno). For more in-

formation, contact Jessica Jones

Steed at (559) 224–7613 or jjon

essteed@stonesoupfresno.org.

room SS 203.

Friday, April 29

PM dinner and program

#### Friday, April 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the May 2005 Community Alliance newspaper. Send information to

## Friday, April 15

Tax Day: The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Fresno is looking for volunteer leafletters for their annual tax day event at Cardwell Post Office, 1606 E Griffith, Fresno, 1 1/2hr shifts, 3 people per shift. For more information contact WILPF at (559) 658–8260, socialjustice@sti.net

ties," 1944 N Winery. Leadership training on community building, leadership, and or11 AM-2 PM

### Thursday, April 21

The Middle East Forum at CSUF restrictions are generally placed

## – Saturday, April 30

timology is hosting the Third American Symposium on Victimology, "Victimology across the Americas" at CSU Fresno. The symposium will feature expert practitioners, educators, and researchers that have been instrumental in increasing understanding, providing better service for victims, and increasing victim's rights. Their goal with this symposium is to expand their partnership throughout the Americas. One of the speakers will be Esther Chavez Cano, director of Casa Amiga in Juarez, Mexico. She has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the feminicide occurring in Juarez. For more information contact Dr. John Dussich, CSU Fresno: jdussich@csufresno.

## Thursday, April 28

The Middle East Forum at CSUF AllianceEditor@comcast.net. presents Middle East Lecture

<www.fresnoalliance.com/</pre>

## Friday and Saturday,

Fresno Community Garden E Barstow (NW corner of Bar-Summit: "Growing Communi-

## Saturday, April 30

Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 90th anniversary program, Margaret Hudson's Barn, 4247 N Thorne Ave.

#### Tuesday, May 3 4:30-6 PM

Building bridges and tackling fears, a panel series coordinated by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), will be held at CSUF. The issue discussed will be Xenophobia. The event will be held at the Renaissance Room on campus. If you would like further information or would like to participate on a panel, please contact Ruth at 278–6946. NCBI is a project of the President's Commission on Human Rights & Equity and is coordinated by the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute.

#### Wedensday, May 4 7-9 PM

Spring into Words at CSUF Henry Madden Library. Free poetry jam...Express yourself with words. Open mic for beginners & experienced poets. First Wednesday of every month. Further info, contact Marylee at 278–4435.

#### Saturday, May 7 9:30 AM

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

### Sunday, May 8

9:15 & 11:00 AM services Ann Fagan Ginger will be the Sunday service speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Church. She will be speaking about the new book she has edited entitled, Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11. For more information see article on page 20.

### Saturday, May 7

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

#### Wednesday, May 11 **12 Noon and 7:30 PM**

Free monthly video series, second Wednesday of every month at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness, (southeast corner Van Ness and McKinley): Peaceable Kingdom: Do you know where your meat comes from? Do you want to know? A discussion will follow the evening showing. Event is free, but donations are wel-

## Wednesday, May 11

Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter, general meeting at the University of California Center, 550 E Shaw (across from Fashion Fair). The speakers will be John

talk about a trek to the top of Mt. Rainier. For more information go to <www.tehipite.sierra- at www.peacefresno.org.

#### **Every Sunday** 12:30 PM; 3 PM

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to help call Mar Miriam at (559) 442–0966 to arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 PM at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 PM at Courthouse Park near the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue. Donations of plates, bowls, spoons, and forks made of recyclable material are greatly appreciated.

### **Every Monday**

1 PM Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition wants you to find a voice and get active! Join our weekly group meetings at the Women's Resource Center, or stop by our table in the Free Speech Area, Mon/Wed/Fri, 11 AM-1 PM. Be a part of the planning, the action, and the fun of activism!

#### **Every Tuesday** 6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Fresno River Zen group meets in Horsley Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. MIllbrook, Fresno. Recognizing that there are many ways to express Buddhist practice, this group welcomes all who seek clarity and compassion though following the Buddha Way. Teaching and practice in the spirit of the Suzuki Roshi Lineage is led by Grace Schireson, an ordained Zen priest. For more information, call Grace at (559) 877–2400 or email her at grace@emptynestzendo.org.

#### Every Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 P**M**

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets). Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229–6410 or liza. apper@sbcw.org; or visit their Web site: < www.sbcw.org >.

#### **Every Tuesday** 7 PM

Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. endless war against the world, come to this meeting! For an up-to-the-minute listing of all peace actions in the Fresno area, call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at (559) 23PEACE

and Marcia Rasmussen, who will (237–3223). For more informanorthwest corner of Mooney and Walnut in Visalia. Come tion about Peace Fresno, call 487–2515 or visit their Web site out and demonstrate for peace. Bring a sign with your favorite peace message.

#### **Every Friday** 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month

Reedley Peace Center holds it weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley's First Mennonite Church, 1208 L Street, Reedley. Programs vary, but the focus is always on peace issues: local, state, national, international. The contact is Carol Krehbiel: (559) 637–9098 or krehbiel@cvip.net. The meeting is free, open to the public, and accessible to the handicapped.

### 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park. The location for cooking on Saturday is at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E Barstow, between First and Cedar, starting at 9 AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call Dallas: 452–0277, or e-mail fresnofnb@vahoo. com. Visit the Food Not Bombs Web site at <www.fresnoalliance. com/FNB/>.

**Every Saturday** 

#### **Every Saturday** 1 PM until the last patient is served

Medical clinic for the homeless, actively injecting drug users, and prostitutes. You can find them near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park. Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers. Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266-0444.

#### Every Saturday 1-3 PM

Fresno Free Bicycle Repair Clinic. Most Saturdays. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes, and blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Ave entrance to **MONIN** Roeding Park, beside Food Not 6 PM Bombs. For more info and to arrange donations, e-mail fresnof reebikeclinic@yahoo.com.

#### ONGOING MONTHLY **ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS**

## 1 st Sunday of every month

The South Valley Peace Center <a href="http://www.svpc.info/">has</a> peace demonstrations at the

Jacob M. Weisberg

Attorney at Law

LAW OFFICE OF JACOB M. WEISBERG 844 N. Van Ness Ave. Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 441-0201 FAX (559) 442-3164 EMAIL: JMW@JWEISBERGLAW.COM

#### 2nd Thursday of every month

HRC staff at 621–7770.

#### 2nd Thursday of every month

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

#### 2nd Monday of every mon

South Valley Peace Center meets

at the Visalia Friends Meeting

House, 17208 Ave. 296, Visalia.

Contact: info@svpc.info http://

2nd Monday of every

www.svpc.info

month

5:30 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting, 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information e-mail socialiustice@sti.

## 4th Monday of every

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) meets at the Barn at Margaret Hudson's house, 4230 N Arthur. For more information e-mail ilsasso2003@yahoo. com, call (559) 227–6134, or visit the Californians for Pesticide Reform Web site at <www.1000friendsoffresno.org/</pre> pesticides.html>.

## 1st Tuesday of every

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights meeting at 328 N Fresno Street. For more information call (559) 498-6033.

1st Wednesday of every month 7:30 PM

Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook,

The Human Relations Commission meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are usually scheduled on the second Thursday of each month in Meeting Room 2165N of City Hall. Any person who wants to place an issue before the Commission should first contact the

**7 PM** 

Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Green Party, County Council, at the California State Building in downtown Fresno. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave., and is located between O and P streets and Fresno and Tulare. Enter through the main door along the pedestrian mall just off P Street. Call (559) 265-3647 or go to www.cagreens. org/fresno for more informa-

#### 3rd Thursday of every montn

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicvclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike-friendly, you are invited to join this group. We meet at the Revue Café, 620 E Olive (at Lucerne) in the Tower District. Please call (559) 444-2065 for more information.

#### 1st Friday of every month 4:30-6:30 PM

Peace Fresno is at Shaw and Blackstone Avenues to protest the occupation of Iraq and oth-

er harmful domestic and foreign □ policies of the Bush administra- 2 tion. Peace Fresno advocates alternatives to war and social and environmental justice. For more information go to <www. peacefresno.org>.

#### 1st Friday of every month

Dances of Universal Peace. Sacred Circle Dances from Around the World at the First Congregational Church, Van Ness and Yale.

## 1st Saturday of every

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meets at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisidero. Call 439-8140 for more

## 1st Saturday of every

Women of Spirit—a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. You are invited to join the circle of women the first Saturday of each month, at 7319 N Fourth St, Fresno. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity, light refreshments after closing. The event is free. Both men and women are welcome. Contact: Veena Kapoor, (559)

#### 2nd Saturday of every montn 9:30 AM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley.

For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their Web site <www. centerfornonviolence.org> or call 559-23PEACE (237-3223).





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