

AUGUST 2001

Labor/Community

ALLIANCE

© SunMt all rights reserved photo: George Elfe Ballis



WE ARE RISING UP!
¡NOS ADELANTAMOS!
page 3



OUR PEOPLE SPEAK

Great reading & hell raising

First let me compliment you on your great mag. It not only looks sharp but is full of interesting stuff! I'll send in my \$35.00 today — money well spent here in Fresno, that's for sure!

I was especially interested in the piece by Scott Moore and hope you pass along my comments to him and his co-toilers on this story. Also, much special gratitude to Chris Schneider for his wonderful photos and the work of CCLS and Maria Elena Martinez Gutierrez in this little-known but very important area.

Unusually inspired by the story, I wrote (e-mailed) to all the state senators re AB 1675 as suggested and got an answer right back purportedly from "Tom", to my surprise. Flattering, Tom, but the proof will be in the pudding! First time I've gotten a personal-seeming e-mail from an official, except occasionally from City Council folks.

Again, thanks for some great reading and hell-raising — keep up the good, much needed work!

Gene Tuck, Fresno

The mission of a people's publication is to tell the truth and raise hell

photos, cover and this page: George Elfie Ballis

Labor/Community ALLIANCE

This monthly magazine is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. We support the struggle for social and economic justice and believe all workers should be paid a living wage. We are affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. Our monthly meetings on are the last Monday, 6:30 pm, at Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.

Editor: Mike Rhodes
Editorial Board:
Carol Bequette, Greg Fletcher,
Leonal Flores, Nancy Marsh, Jeffrey Paris,
Ed Perez, Diane Scott, Richard Stone,
Pam Whalen


Design by: SunMt, Maia and George Elfie Ballis
Proofing by: Carol Bequette and Dixie Salazar

Labor/Community Alliance
Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755

(559 233-3978 • fax 559 226-3962
e-mail: LCAeditor@mediaone.net
fresnoalliance.com/home/

For advertising rates:
fresnoalliance.com/home/ad%20rates/htm

Funded in part by Unitarian Universalist Fund
for a Just Society



THE RIGHT STUFF FROM THE LEFT

Saturdays
10:30 pm



**2 evenings of
Irish genius
for Right Stuff
\$\$\$**

For two nights in August, Fresnoans will have chance to indulge their taste for Irish culture while helping keep the Valley's only liberal/progressive TV show on the air.

Thursday, Aug. 16, 7 pm, Kevin Hall and friends will lead participatory Irish song and dance, followed at 8:30 pm by Vince Lavery performing excerpts from "The Importance of Being Oscar."



Vince Lavery

Friday, 7 pm, Vince will do the full "The Importance of Being Oscar."

The two evenings of entertainment will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow (just east of First St.). Tickets (sliding scale \$5-10) will be available at The Movies (in the Tower district) and at the door. All proceeds will go to underwrite the continuance of The Right Stuff from the Left.

"The Importance of Being Oscar" is a biographical theater piece following the career of Irish wit and author Oscar Wilde through his rise to fame (as writer of fabulously successful plays such as The Importance of Being Ernest, stories and poems; and as lecturer/celebrity); his precipitous descent into infamy as defender of "the love that dare not speak its name;" and a resulting spiritual awakening. Vince brings his own passion and acting skills to this moving, provocative story.



Kevin Hall

Kevin Hall, besides being an ardent defender of the Valley's ecology, is a noted local musician. He and his friends will lead the Thursday night audience into the infectious rhythms and gaiety of Irish song and dance. *Be prepared to join in.*

Dear Norma Rae: My daughter Nicola (not her real name) is an employee of the Silco Vending Machine Co. In the Fresno Bee business section on July 6 there was an article about how a local firm, MEPCO, is working on buying Silco. The employees have known this was in the wind for some time. Nicola tells us that the employees have been informed that they will be paid for their benefits (vacation, etc.) for the present year. After that and when the reorganization takes place, they will be treated like they are starting from anew with a new company--one week of vacation, for instance. Can a company do this?

Thanks for any light you can shed on this, or direct us to someone who can.
Nicola's father

Norma Rae answers: The first question is: "Is there a Union at Silco?" If there is a union, then the employees would be protected by the terms of the Union contract until that contract expires. Even after the expiration date of a Union contract an employer would be required to bargain on any changes in the wages, hours and working conditions.

In the case of a new owner of the company there exists some possibility for the management to circumvent these obligations, however, workers always have a better fighting chance when they join forces and can act collectively.

Okay. What happens if there is no Union on the scene? Well, basically whatever the boss wants. Contrary to popular myth, business owners, absent a Union, have little or no obligation to treat workers fairly. Management can hire, fire, and change salaries and benefits at will.

That said, what are Nicola's options -

1. If there is a Union, she should call the Union office, get as much information as possible and get active in all Union activities, and decisions.
2. If there is no Union, I would suggest calling the Machinist Union (264-2815) and talking to an organizer. Organizing a Union can help these workers protect their wages and benefits and save their jobs. A union representative can also help the workers assess whether or not there are any labor law violations.

*In Unity,
Norma Rae*

Norma Rae was a legendary organizer in the southern textile sweatshops. Her gutsy exploits against oppressive working conditions was dramatized in a Hollywood movie with her name as title.

WE ARE RISING UP! ¡NOS ADELANTAMOS!

The Amnesty Coalition of the San Joaquin Valley is holding three important events that commemorate the August 9, 1999 accident which killed 13 farm workers.

We need to remind legislators of the contributions that immigrant farmworkers make to the economy of this state and show that they deserve total protection, whether it be transportation, a fair wage, or drivers' licenses.

The first event is a public forum on Thursday, August 2nd from 6-8 pm at the T.W. Patterson Building at the corner of Tulare Street and the Fulton Mall in downtown Fresno. We are inviting farmworkers, politicians, and the general public interested in these problems to get together and discuss ways to find feasible solutions that will favor farmworkers.

The second event is commemoration on August 9th - the anniversary of the crash - at 10 o'clock in the morning at the place of the accident two miles east of Lassen (Highway 269) on Oakland Avenue in Five Points.

The third event is a vigil to be held the evening of August 9th at the Kingswood Apartments (Winery and Balch Avenues in Fresno) where most of the victims of the accident lived. For additional information please contact the Amnesty Coalition at (559) 498-6033 or 499-1178.

On the morning of August 9, 1999 fifteen farmworkers were coming home from picking tomatoes all night when the van in which they were riding crashed into a truck. 13 were killed and the other two were seriously injured. The van lacked even the minimal safeguards of secured seats or seatbelts.

This horrible accident caught the attention of many people, who responded with anger to the fact that there were few laws to protect farmworkers, the least powerful among us.

There is a long history of countless accidents every year that have been ignored because after all the victims are "only illegal immigrant farmworkers". Raiteros, the people who provide transportation to the workers, are often the foreman or labor contractors who control who gets work.

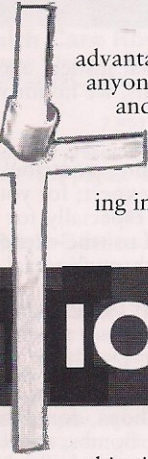
They can take advantage of the workers because they can refuse to hire anyone who prefers to use his own transportation and they charge high prices for the rides they provide. They used old vans or trucks with camper shells, without secured seats or seatbelts, squeezing in as many people as possible.

After the August 9th accident there was pressure from community-based and faith-based organizations and the general public to change this situation. Assemblyman Dean Flores introduced the bill that became a law which was supposed to protect farmworkers in their transportation to and from work. It dictates that all farmworker transportation be inspected and that it contain fixed seats and seatbelts rather than the benches that had been used. However this weak law does not protect the workers from the demands of the raiteros.

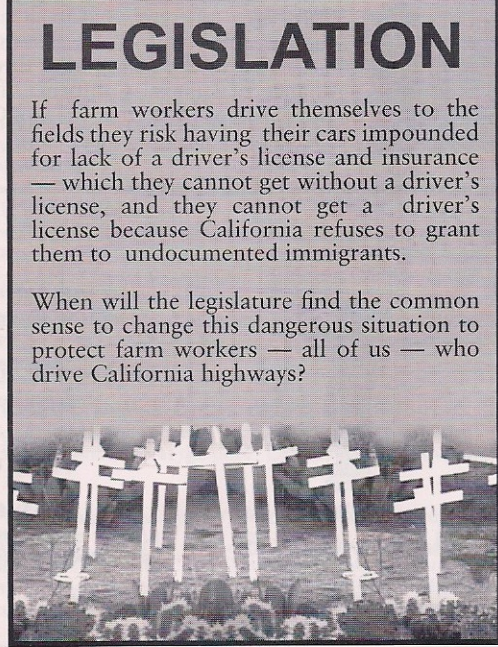
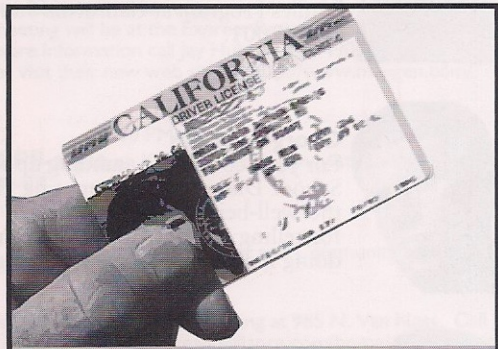
The result is that farmworkers themselves have to pay for these improvements through higher fees to the providers of transportation, even though their wages have not gone up.

Recently the number of police and highway patrol officers was increased during the picking season; they line up along the fields to make sure that people are obeying the law, arresting those who do not.

A pat on the head is not a handshake



COMMEMORATION



Labor/Community ALLIANCE

Build connections
Get this magazine every month
by mail • \$35/year • \$10/low income

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

mail to:
Labor/Community Alliance
Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755

LEGISLATION

If farm workers drive themselves to the fields they risk having their cars impounded for lack of a driver's license and insurance — which they cannot get without a driver's license, and they cannot get a driver's license because California refuses to grant them to undocumented immigrants.

When will the legislature find the common sense to change this dangerous situation to protect farm workers — all of us — who drive California highways?

Way of Peace awards for 2001

Lucille Wheaton (right) receives her award from Ray Ensher and Valta Pointer.



Lucille Wheaton

You are highly organized; you stay true to your values; you are a sympathizer, a well-wisher, and a formidable champion of peace and social justice, and yet you still make time for your friends. For all of this, we honor you.



George Elfie Ballis

For your outstanding contributions as community activist and media expert; for your loving care of Big Mama Earth; and especially for your role as family storyteller for all of us who express our dignity, courage and creativity through social action.



Lauren Ferber

For your efforts on behalf of people in our community and beyond, for your involvement in the struggle to end sweatshops, for your dedicated service through Food Not Bombs, and for your enthusiastic commitment to peace and social justice.



Dr. Robert Fischer

For your ceaseless efforts and unwavering commitment to peace and social justice issues, and for your leadership as coordinator of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at California State University Fresno, 1996-2001.



George Loomis

For your courage in standing up to the Visalia Unified School District, for promoting changes to safeguard the well-being of all students in our public schools, for telling truths that both hurt and liberate, and for doing it all with composure and grace.



Vinh Ngo

Dedicated to his efforts for a woman's right to choose, his service to the community through the Interfaith Alliance of Central California, and as an Honorary Board Member of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

photos: Mike Rhodes, George Elfie Ballis, Fresno Bee

by Richard Stone

Since 1993, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence has been giving Way of Peace Awards at its anniversary celebration in June. The general criteria have been 1) long-time service to the Fresno community in accordance with the principles of the Center's Peace Agenda; 2) personal association with the Center; 3) timeliness (or over-duedness) of recognition.

The Awards are not given for a particular association or action, but from long, affectionate interaction between the awardees and many of the individuals who comprise the Center's Board, and who select those they know and truly appreciate.

This year's first-time Youth Awards are a happy inspiration arising from one of the Center's marathon (but always lively) Board Meetings. These Awards are intended to highlight the courage and creativity of Fresno's innovating young people as they make the break with social convention and begin their adventures on the long road of nonviolent living. A new, and hopefully long-lasting, "tradition" has been born.

A listing of Way of Peace Awards given since 1993 can be found at the Center's website, <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/> along with the Peace Agenda mentioned above.

This is the way of peace: overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.
—Peace Pilgrim

Marc Lasher, D.O., MSW
Physician

Chanah Cossman, CNM, NP
Midwife and Nurse Practitioner

Chinatown Family Medicine and Midwifery Medical Office

Se Habla Español

829 F Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Phone: (559) 266-0444
Fax: (559) 266-7745



PRE-PAID
LEGAL SERVICES®, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES

Serving America's families since 1972



Jeffrey W. Eisinger, Esq.
Independent Associate

286 N. College
Fresno, CA 93701

(559) 496-0919
Jinfresno@aol.com
www.prepaidlegal.com/go/jeisinger

Volunteers
needed



to help collate, mail and get
subscriptions and ads for
this community magazine

call Mike
559 233-3978

Dooley Selling out to Bush & Corporate Greed

by Laura McSpedon,
field organizer
Jobs with Justice

FAST TRACK?

In the coming weeks, Congress is going to be considering whether or not to give President Bush Fast Track - or "Trade Promotion Authority." *Fast Track is a procedure through which Congress gives away its constitutional right to decide the terms of international trade agreements, and gives George Bush the power to enter into trade negotiations without input or amendments from Congress.*

In late June, Rep. Phil Crane (R - Illinois) introduced a bill that would grant the president Fast Track authority, and Republican leaders and the Bush administration are pushing for a vote on this bill by early August. The Crane bill does not even mention protections for workers and for the environment, even though trade agreements like NAFTA that were passed while the president had Fast Track authority have severely harmed workers and the environment.

It is unlikely that the Crane bill will pass without any mention of workers' rights and the environment, and that is why Fresno's Cal Dooley and his New Democrat cronies are designing a Fast Track bill that would be more appealing to moderates, but still unacceptable to those who genuinely care about workers' rights.

The language favored by Dooley and other moderates is not strong enough to truly protect workers and the environment from the negative impacts of "free" trade agreements.



The bill that Dooley is helping to craft is in many ways more dangerous than the heinous Crane bill, because it will allow many to support Fast Track, knowing that they can hide behind its false promises to protect workers and the environment.

While other representatives from the Central Valley, like Pombo and Condit, recognize that NAFTA has been disastrous for the region and publicly reject Fast Track, Dooley is helping to craft a bill that will allow George Bush to trade our future away.

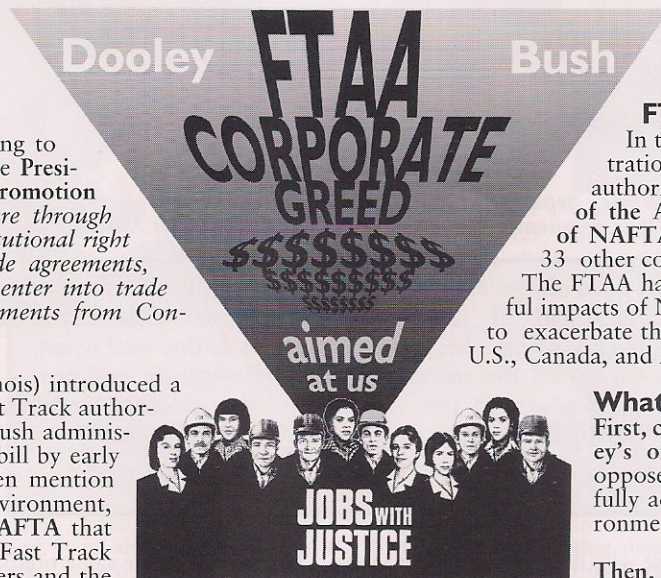
Why Oppose Fast Track?

Giving the president Fast Track negotiating authority means that the needs of working people and the environment are certain to be forgotten in future trade agreements. The last time a president had Fast Track authority was in 1994, when NAFTA was passed, and Congress rightfully rejected the measure in 1997 and 1998. NAFTA was extremely damaging for workers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. It cost U.S. workers more than 700,000 jobs; in Mexico, wages have actually fallen and poverty increased; and the wages of Canadian workers have dropped below U.S. standards.

NAFTA is a case study in why Fast Track negotiating authority is bad policy, and why Congress should meet its responsibility to

JOBS WITH JUSTICE Annual Meeting
September 6-9 • 2001 • Cleveland OH
Join hundreds of labor, community, religious and student activists from around the country working to build powerful coalitions for workers' rights and economic justice.

REGISTRATION: 202-234-1106 or
www.jwj.org



carefully consider trade deals to make sure that they are in the best interest of American workers.

FTAA

In the next few years, the Bush administration will need Fast Track negotiating authority to hammer out a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) - an expansion of NAFTA to the entire hemisphere - with 33 other countries in North and South America. The FTAA has the potential to spread the harmful impacts of NAFTA to the entire hemisphere and to exacerbate the problems caused by NAFTA in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

What you can do

First, call/email/send postcards to Cal Dooley's office and let him know that you oppose any form of Fast Track that doesn't fully address workers' rights and the environment.

Then, bring together the groups in your area that oppose the Fast Track: groups,

community organizations, and student activists. Dooley will be back in Fresno between August 4th and September 4th, and plans are being developed to make sure he gets the message that we will not tolerate him betraying workers and the environment again. August 13 is the tentative date for an anti-FTAA action calling on Dooley to change his position on this important issue.

For more information or to get involved, contact Mike Rhodes at (559) 233-3978. For more information on Fast Track or the FTAA, contact Laura McSpedon at laura@jwj.org.

Call Dooley: 585-8171

Editor's Note: Dooley is also Dupe for Biotech Industry

Genetically Engineered (GE) seeds are touted as the way to feed the world, but give market control to a few biotech corporations whose copyrighted seeds can easily contaminate non-GE neighboring crops. Non-GE farmers are the losers, with organic growers losing their markets. According to the August issue of Sierra Magazine, Cal Dooley is one of four chairs of the House Biotech Caucus, a 65 member "forum for advocacy that educates fellow members of Congress on the positive implications of biotechnology."

The Caucus was set up by Michael Phillips, now executive director of the 1,000 member Biotech Industry Organization, but previously director of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Agriculture and natural Resources. In Autumn of 1999, Phillips set up weekly "Biotechnology School" educational (read lobbying) meetings between BIO staff and House Committee on Agriculture members and staff. Did BIO opponent citizen groups get equal time? No way!

ADMIT ONE FRONT ROW



The MOVIES

VIDEO FOR THE FILM CONNOISSEUR

1559) 233-8346
Jeff & Jayne, Proprietors
1435 N. Van Ness, Fresno, CA 93728

FRESNO

Mirror of a Nation Separated

by Nona Harris

In "Two Nations — Black and White, Separate, Hostile and Unequal," Andrew Hacker writes, "It is frequently remarked that many black men, and women lack the kinds of skills that modern employment requires. However, these charges are hardly new.

They are also common in the past, when blacks were shunted to the end of the line even for laboring jobs. And for today, whites who barely make it through high school continue to get the first openings in the building trades. Moreover, black who do stay in school soon learn there is not assured payoff. Those who finish college have a jobless rate 2.24 times that of whites with diplomas, an even greater gap than that separating black and white high school graduates."

He further states, "Exacerbating the situation today is the fact that millions of jobs are being filled by legal and illegal aliens....Few positions they take call for special skills, so the question arises as to why these places haven't been offered to native-born black Americans....

"This issue is not new, since it has long been argued that immigrant labor takes bread from the mouths of citizens."

It is a known fact throughout the African American community that many of our men have given up. They have resigned themselves to the fact that no matter how qualified they become, they will never be able to obtain and keep that dream job. These people Mr. Hacker calls "discouraged workers."

Many of our men and some women, spend most, if not all of their adult life working two or three, part-time or temporary jobs regardless of their qualifications, just to keep from starving and a ghetto roof over their heads.

History has shown us that there was never any intent for the African slaves to be free, and if freed, never be able to compete with whites for housing, education and employment. Well, most of it is true.

The majority of us who refuse to accept American ideology, that we are inferior, and are not capable of doing anything but menial labor

are trapped in poverty. It is all part of America's plan, to keep the descendants of African slaves dependent.

I have always been struck with Fresno's special form of Apartheid. It is so blatant. The North of the city is mostly white. Southeast Fresno is Latino and Asian. Go across the railroad tracks in Downtown and past the freeway to the West Side. It is another world! Mostly Black, lots of Latinos and everyone is poor.

— Editor Mike Rhodes

Some of us have managed to break through the barriers. We have had to give up our identity, our culture, language and history (all that wasn't destroyed during slavery). Our doctors have to prove themselves over and over on a daily basis. Teachers have to accept the white-oriented curriculum they are forced to teach our children if they want to remain employed. The same goes for lab technicians. Even African American

lawyers are in the same predicament.

Many African Americans have managed to obtain employment in upper government or public service, but obtaining positions in the private sector is almost impossible. Mr. Hacker states, "Business Week's 1991 roster of chief executive of America's 1,000 largest corporations had only one black chairman....Unfortunately there is no serious sign that the other 999 are grooming black executives for eventual top jobs."

Though we have what it takes to start and operate our own business, we are denied the opportunity because of 'redlining' by banks and other lending institutions. Even the Small Business Administration, yes, the Federal government has a part in this form of racial discrimination, because of its requirements.

The few African American owned businesses are usually owned by one person (who does everything) or family-run firms, that cater to our needs.

"Even now blacks remain underrepresented in the professions of engineering, law and medicine, as well as architecture and journalism. Until lately, black students felt little incentive to train for these fields, since there were few if any prospects of obtaining a job....

While virtually, all professions are saying they would like to have more blacks on their payrolls, it still remains to be seen whether they simply want a few faces for showcase purposes or if they mean jobs with real responsibilities." (Hacker).

Source: "Two Nations-Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal." Hacker, Andrew, 1992, Ballantine Books, New York.

Jobless rate of Black college grads is 2.24 times greater than Whites

Speak Your Truth to Community Power

Advertise here: 559 233-3978



A COMPLETE OFFSET AND LETTERPRESS FACILITY

MIKE RHODES

SALES REPRESENTATIVE & INTERNET PROJECT COORDINATOR

2115 MONO • FRESNO, CA 93721
PH: 559-233-6174 • FAX: 559-233-6175
EMAIL: HUMEPNL@PACBELL.NET



1 man's foreign aid program

by Pat Young

For 16 years, the Wheelchair Project has been working with groups struggling for social justice and human rights in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chiapas (Mexico) and recently Haiti. The project has shipped an estimated 75,000 lbs of aid to sister groups in these four countries, along with aiding other groups sending humanitarian relief to Cuba, and supplying buses, motorcycles, trucks, generators, metal shops, wood shops, and thousands of pounds of medicines and medical supplies, and mechanical help for environmental groups, Latin American solidarity organizations, and international efforts such as the breaking the blockade against the Iraqi people.

Chiapas & Haiti this year

This year's projects will be working with the FZLN to support groups in Chiapas, and with Father Aristide's movement in Haiti. For the next 15 months, both projects will go on simultaneously, and we would welcome the help of Valley folk in the following areas:

- \$5000 to ship a bus to Haiti.
- fill this bus and others with tools, steel, medicine, medical supplies, school supplies, flashlights, tubing/hoses, pipe and PVC and wire. Any kind of wire. We need to put up guide wires for a 200 feet radio antenna, and also need wire (heavier the better) to electrify buildings and the like, and transmit 110v from our generator to different parts of the town.
- Help inventory and load the buses.
- Solicit likely donors such as hospitals, clinics, etc.

We are going to both raise a radio tower about 100 feet higher thereby we need 2 inch pipe or larger (in long sections) and we're also going to electrify a small town (literally.....maybe figuratively??) and we will need pipe to go down in the well. Plumbing fittings are needed also.

Hey, we got 3 generators brand new.... 2 for Haiti, 1 for Chiapas!

These projects are very direct. A box of syringes, a table saw, a wheelchair donated in Fresno go directly to Chiapas or Haiti.

A volunteer is with the cargo at all times to assure its arrival. Beforehand, groups within the country are asked exactly what they need, instead of collecting items that inappropriate for their circumstances.

Fresno

Want to Help?
Call Pat 559 251-3814
or e-mail:
wheelchairbusproject@junio.com

16 years on this road

Chiapas

El Salvador

Nicaragua



By Valta Pointer

This illuminating experience began at the Olive Avenue entrance to the park. I had been told that if you entered there it would be very easy to locate The Fresno Free Clinic. The first large number of people seen, men, women, and children, appeared to be part of one of those big family reunion get togethers. They were all dressed in casual clothes; tee shirts, shorts, khaki pants.

People were hugging, greeting each other with "Oh, haven't seen you for a long time. So glad you are here today." Scattered across the lawn were towels or other personal belongings that appeared to me to be reservations for groups of people to share a picnic site to eat their meal together. The festive air to this gathering seemed to confirm the "Family Reunion," and, as I approached closer, the FRESNO FREE CLINIC sign signified that this was what I had come to see and not a family reunion.

The area looked like a movie scene of life in a rural village of the 13th or 14th century. Of course the doctor of that time would have been a barber with a red and white "barber pole" that signified "blood letting done here." Instead, the doctor was a 21st century Marc Lasher, dressed in jeans with a stethoscope, thermometer, and other modern medical equipment. A large, hand lettered sign said, "FREE TETANUS SHOTS TODAY - HEPATITIS 'C' TESTING!"



Valta Pointer

to 3:00 p.m. The County Nurse said the van is equipped so Dr. Lasher can do minor surgery, lance a boil or an abscess, etc. She also told me they see eight to twelve clients each visit, giving at least fifteen minutes of counseling for each client to test for HIV/aids.

FOOD NOT BOMBS, a volunteer group that feeds the homeless, was dishing out food for the crowd. HARM REDUCTION, a group whose goal is to educate clients how to avoid sexually transmitted diseases, was dispensing condoms and education. They are also volunteers.

"How do any of us reconcile the paradox of living in the richest nation in the world with hunger and homelessness?"

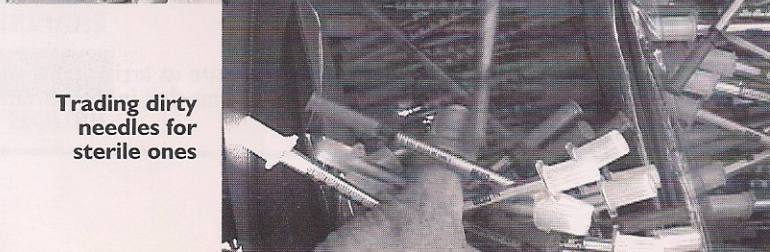
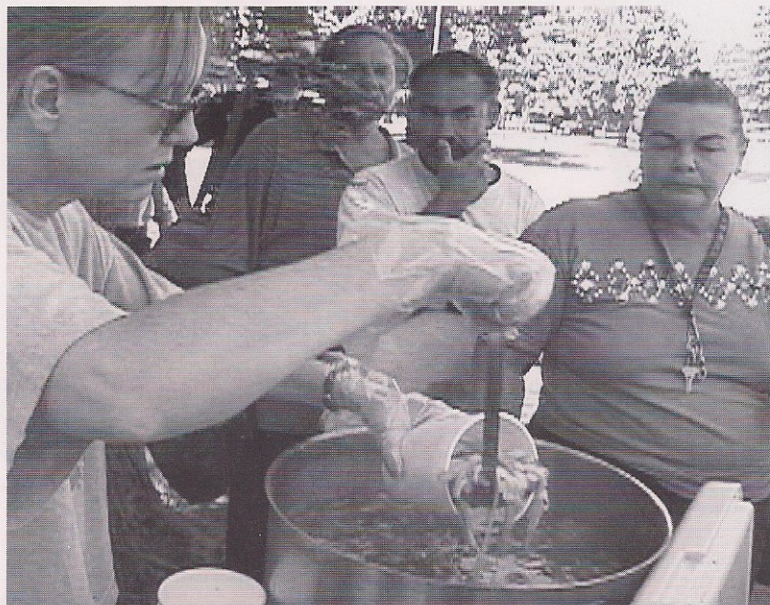
NEEDLE EXCHANGE

was exchanging sterile needles for dirty ones, all the while watching for police. While many policemen see the positive health value in needle exchange, it is still against the law in Fresno County.

Dallas Blanchard, the young man who was in charge of FOOD NOT BOMBS, said "We serve 100 or more people here on Saturdays. Then on Sunday we serve meals to fifty or more folks here." He also

Healing social wounds

Picnic of Services in R



Trading dirty needles for sterile ones



Roeding Park

stated, "The food is all donated; most of it is organic - no Franken food here!"

It was impossible to count the number of people served by these three organizations. People were moving here and there in a quiet, orderly manner. The only line was at the FOOD NOT BOMBS location: it was an open air cafeteria. Nowhere did I see anyone pushing or demanding that their needs be met instantly.

At the line, as well as at the other services, people were patiently waiting their turn for whatever they needed, be it food, medical attention, condoms, or sterile needles.

The scattered possessions I had thought at first to be staking out sites for special groups to share their food were, instead, the plastic bags homeless folks use to carry their belongings about with them. Only two people seated themselves at a picnic table to eat, an elderly man with a young, disabled man. I wondered if they were grandfather and grandson.

Homeless people are used to eating while they walk. I know, we often see people walking about as they devour fast foods while doing errands during their lunch break from work. They do this by choice.

For the homeless, walking about and eating becomes an ingrained habit. They have no settled place where they can sit down to a meal.

This was a street fair for the homeless accompanied with the acceptance, kindness, and the attention all humans need.

The festivity and joy that seemed so evident to me at first glance could be proof of human adaptability, or, more likely, the joy of not being harassed or subjected to censoring attitudes. For the homeless, it is being as comfortable as is possible for several hours on a Saturday afternoon.

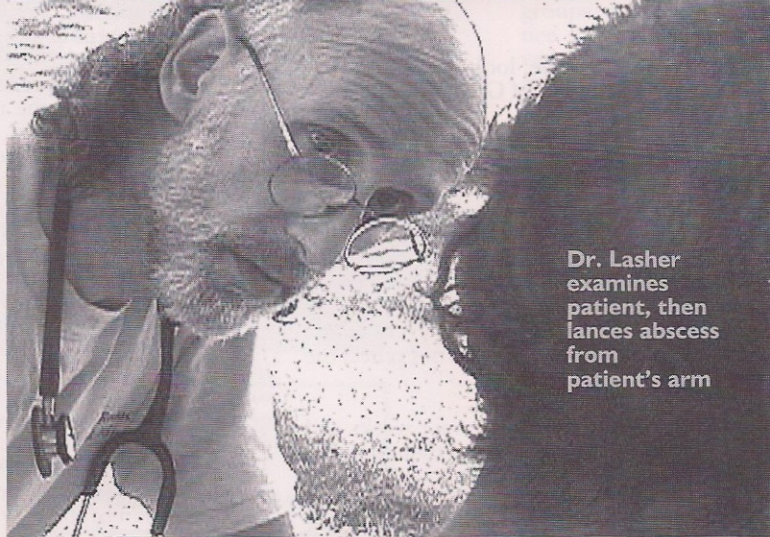
All the professionals and volunteers treated everyone with respect and kindness. Not one judgmental statement was heard from any of those serving these poor, homeless people.

Suddenly I realized something was missing from this gathering. After a few minutes of reflection, I realized that, from the large group of children here, there was no sound of the gleeful laughter of exuberant children at play.

These children clung to their parents, not taking advantage of all the open space to run and play.

The parents didn't discourage this clinging behavior as most parents would with remarks such as, "Why don't you go out and play while Mama cleans, gossips with a friend, or whatever."

The joy of three hours of freedom from censure, harassment, and the other impediments that are part of being homeless didn't signify safety to either the children or their parents here in the park. With children being snatched from safe front yards, homeless parents have even more fear for their children's safety.



Dr. Lasher examines patient, then lances abscess from patient's arm



Food Not Bombs



Harm Reduction Task Force



Sponsored by:
**Parents,
 Families
 & Friends
 of Lesbians
 & Gays**
 Fresno Chapter
 PFLAG

Valley Greens elect new reps

by Michael Feliciano

Here is the lineup of new reps:

Jeffrey Eisinger (Fresno) Regional Representative, Dallas Blanchard (Fresno) Alternate Regional Representative, Brad Coehn (Merced) Alternate Regional Representative, Brian Strong (Merced) Alternate Regional Representative.

The "election" came after a wonderfully moving and affirming process of negotiation, between the three voting Counties, it was decided by consensus that all four candidates would serve!

The process of government by consensus can be a slow, painstaking process, and indeed, the meeting did not adjourn until 4PM - The gathering was scheduled to end at 2pm, but it was worth every minute to witness a sincere effort at achieving harmony and balanced representation for the entire region.

Green Party members met in Merced on Saturday, June 30th for the annual Regional Gathering, which featured a fabulously vegan potluck picnic and a presentation by members of the Grassroots Organizing Workgroup (GROW).

The Green Party Regional Representative is responsible for integrating the local Green agenda with the statewide platform and working to organize those counties in this region that have not quite congealed into full-fledged chapters.

The counties of Fresno, Merced, and Stanislaus are the three organized counties in the region and the three counties that participated in the election of the new Regional Representative.

We have working groups established to address some pressing issues, such as the California Power Crisis, the proposed Dinkey Creek Hydro-project, and local police practices. If you are registered Green and want to get involved and need to learn more, check out the website at www.greens.org/cal/fresno, or call us at 265-3647.

by Robin Greiner

If you are driving south on Blackstone Avenue, look on the east side of the street, 3966 N. Blackstone at the corner of Griffith, above Aca-pulco Restaurant, and read the above message.

Several recent studies indicate that people are less understanding and accepting of gay people when they claim they do not know anyone who is gay or lesbian, so they only recognize the stereotype.

The message Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) is expressing is that all of us know someone gay, whether or not we are aware of it or willing to admit it. Gay and Lesbian folks are in every profession, every church, every political party, every ethnic group and every socio-economic class. The majority do not reflect the stereotypes as portrayed on TV.

The billboard will remain on Blackstone for a few more weeks and then be moved to another location for two months and then to a final location for the remainder of the six months contract.

The going rate for a billboard this size is in excess of \$1000 per month. Three "angels" have generously stepped forward to cover a large portion of the cost, but the balance must come from the very limited treasury of PFLAG.

Tax deductible donations (I.D. #77-0405225) may be made to PFLAG Fresno Chapter P.O. Box 27382 Fresno, Ca 93729-7382

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Central California Region

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- ◆ Birth control
- ◆ Annual exams
- ◆ Breast, cervical & testicular cancer screening
- ◆ Pregnancy testing & counseling
- ◆ Prenatal care
- ◆ STD testing & treatment
- ◆ HIV testing & counseling
- ◆ Emergency contraception ("the morning after pill")
- ◆ And other reproductive health care services....

PLUS HEALTH CARE FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY AT OUR FAMILYFIRST HEALTH CENTER

- ◆ Physicals for all ages
- ◆ Immunizations
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Headaches
- ◆ Sore throats
- ◆ Rashes

....and much more

CARING, PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL STAFF

ALL SERVICES CONFIDENTIAL

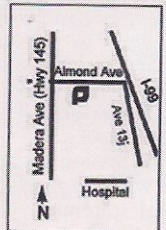
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

LOW OR NO COST SERVICES

MEDI-CAL WELCOME

DAY AND EVENING HOURS

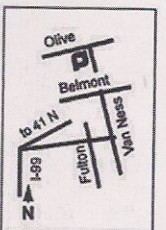
Madera
 500 E. Almond, #3
 (559) 675-1133



Family First
 5727 N. Fresno St. #101
 (559) 446-1515



Van Ness
 633 N. Van Ness
 (559) 488-4900



GAP
sweatshop
protests

Fabiola Valdez, Pedro Nava, Maria Delgado

ence?" The demonstrators quickly responded "Yes," and gave proof — a difference that is changing the way Fashion Fair treats protestors, a difference in loss of sales for the GAP and a difference for the laborers who hear about the fight we are waging.

It was then that he shared his own story. He said, that he had stood up to a company (his former employer) who was exposing their employees to harmful chemicals. The man recalled turning the company into authorities, which ended

up in the company's demise. Although, this man knew of the change that people could initiate and carry out, he still doubted.

Each person has a story that explains why he or she is out there on the first Saturday of each month.

"I am out here because of my involvement with WILPF, which gives me the [opportunities] to better the world for my kids and educate them about treating people fairly," said Lauralee Carbone, WILPF treasurer.

Carbone went on to talk about the unfair actions of firms that sell a shirt for \$30, when the worker is only paid 15 cents. "That's not fair; the workers should get paid \$15, not 15 cents," said Gus Carbone, Lauralee's son. There were several young children who were present holding signs and balloons.

As two young children handed out balloons near the entrance of Fashion Fair, a security



truck came to a screeching halt next to the sidewalk. The guard hopped out of his truck and told the young girls that they couldn't hand out balloons on the property because it wasn't in the contract.

So the girls stopped and compromised by tying a big colorful bouquet of balloons that read "Stop GAP sweatshops; the GAP can afford to pay workers a living wage" to a pole in the front parking lot that disappeared 10 minutes later.



Gabrielle Kirkland

The brave girls also walked up and down the mall, each carrying a bouquet of balloons, which caught the eyes of several children.

Marsha Bluestein brought her friend Maya Kratzer to join the other demonstrators. oth seven and attend Bullard Talent School. "I tell my friends at school about protesting [against GAP]," said Marsha. "It's not fair [that workers are treated unfairly] and this is the third time I remember demonstrating."

Saturday was representative of people and groups who join in harmony to fight against unfair and unjust practices.

By Gabrielle Kirkland

The anti-GAP and free speech demonstrations held monthly at Fashion Fair symbolize a meaning that goes beyond standing up for justice.

Each individual who stood on the sidewalk July 7th participated in using their rights and freedoms to stand for what they believe in. When the group stood together it brought change, a change to individuals and the community.

Corporate America wants people to feel insignificant and without options, but the protests at Shaw and Angus banish that ideal. The group of Fresnoans — of all ages — felt strength as a group and then change seemed possible. The table inside Fashion Fair was represented by The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) members.

As a man waited in a rusty brown car in the left-hand turn lane on Saturday, he popped the question to demonstrators on the median, "Can you really make a differ-

Cop exposes Police State at Fresno State

by Bob Fischer

Court testimony Tuesday (7-17) revealed that a Fresno State police officer spied on GAP protesters and funneled information to the Fresno City police who passed it on to Fashion Fair security.

Fresno Police Captain Rene Martin testified that Fresno State officer Melinda Guerra got on the Students against Sweatshops e-mail list, attended at least one meeting and relayed the e-mails and other info to the police.

Here's the ugly truth: University police spied on a lawful, peaceful, authorized student group. Fresno State ought to be called Fresno Police State.

Based on Guerra's spying, Fresno police and Fashion Fair security planned to arrest 200 demonstrators. Nineteen were arrested.

Martin's damning revelations came as the remaining 14 GAP of the 19 demonstrators

who were arrested May 6 of last year, (3 had to plead out for various good reasons, 2 were juveniles) watched as our attorneys Patience Milrod, Jacob Weisberg and Bob Hirth tried to convince Judge W. Kent Hamlin that Macerich Company, the owner of Fashion Fair, should be ordered to turn over its security officer's incident reports that were written about our arrests.

They should be made to do this, our attorneys argued because Fashion Fair security personnel and the Fresno Police had worked check to check — two police officers and one security officer to make each arrest.

Nevertheless, the judge ruled that since the command structures had remained independent, the Fashion Fair people had not acted as agents of the state.

So, we don't get to see what Macerich Company security people said about why they arrested us, and we don't get to see if there is any exculpatory evidence in the reports.

Our lawyers, Patience Milrod, Jack Weisberg and Bob Hirth, confer before court.



KFCF studio move stalled

by Vickie M. Fouts

At the June 19 KFCF board meeting, Program Director Randy Stover reported that the owner of the Wishon building in which the KFCF office is located recently died, leaving things in the air regarding moving the studio to that location. Stover also said the satellite company is giving KFCF more power for the same cost. What a deal!

Both last month and this month Dr. Su Kapoor mentioned the need for board training. Board members failed to respond both times.



Vickie M Fouts

President Rych Withers reported that the Inter-Mountain Nursery Cultural Festival on May 20 raised about \$500 and included food, music, Native American dancers and a tour of indigenous plants.

Executive Director Vic Bedoain reported he had not yet received a check from the last marathon because checks are now coming directly from Pacifica instead of KPFA.

Several ideas were advanced for ways to honor Robert Munce. One was naming the Free Speech Award after Robert at the next banquet and the presenting of a plaque in his memory to his wife. Another idea was to donate Bill Mandel's latest book to local colleges.

There was much discussion around the possibility of raising the dues for FFCF membership. One member of the audience suggested doing more outreach to bring in more members instead of raising dues which could be hard on those with low incomes.

by Vickie M. Fouts

A framework for restorative justice in Fresno is now being circulated seeking active participation in a pilot project and asking folks to adapt the practices within their own groups. It was presented at a recent local conference.

The framework is a 17-page document explaining the program and seeking community participation.

Enter Framework for Restorative Justice



Restorative justice is when the victim, offender, and community come together with the aid of a mediator to resolve conflict. The goals are: a) restitution and healing for the victim b) healing of the relationship between victim and offender c) accountability and healing for the offender d) healing for the community.

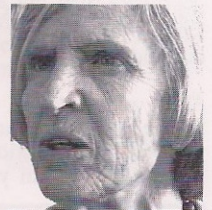
I highly recommend that you ask the progressive groups to which you belong to consider endorsing the Framework. Fresno Probation and Sheriff's Department are actively involved.

A copy of the Framework can be found at: <http://www.fresno.edu/pacs/rjp> or you can call the Center of Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, Fresno Pacific University at (559)455-5840 for more information.

Want to know?!

Fish genes in your strawberries; frankenburg bosses fight labeling

Fresno Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticide (FRESCAMP) has undertaken to support a Greenpeace-inspired campaign to have genetically modified food (GMO's) appropriately labeled. The petition they are circulating states that consumers have the right to know about genetically modified ingredients and the right to avoid gene-altered food.



Joan Poss

Americans typically do not know that "genetic engineers have produced foods such as strawberries with fish genes, potatoes with chicken genes, and other combinations that could never have occurred through natural breeding. There are foods on our supermarket shelves with engineered crops but no labeling or notice...and no evidence that these foods are safe."

European branches of companies like Kellogg's, Pillsbury, and Kraft have stopped using GMO's, but these same companies continue to use engineered crops here in the U.S. The petition calls on all food companies to take immediate steps to avoid GMO's in the foods they sell us.

For more information, to sign a petition, or better yet to help circulate petitions, call Joan Poss at 227-6134.

photos: George Elfe Ballis

PATIENCE
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844

North Van Ness

Fresno, California

93728

559/442-3111

pm097@csufresno.edu



Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D

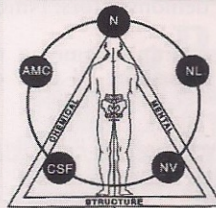
Psychologist Lic. #13852

Marriage and Family Therapist Lic. #23370

Feminist Therapy

Sexual Orientation Issues

1642 E. Herndon, Suite 106 - Fresno, CA 93720 (559) 447-1400



Member ICAK-USA

Phone/Fax (559) 248-9527

E-mail: lbassman@pacbell.net

Larry F. Bassman, D.C.

- ◆ Natural Health Care
- ◆ Applied Kinesiology
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Chiropractic

4905 N. West Avenue, Suite 108

Fresno, California 93705

August 2001 Events

SEE YOU THERE

Wednesday, August 1 3:30 PM

Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 with your host Pam Whalen from the Labor/Community Alliance focusing on labor organizing, workplace issues, and immigration.

Thursday, August 2 6 PM

A forum on the issue of **Drivers License's for everyone**, regardless of their legal status, will be held at the T.W. Patterson Building in downtown Fresno. See Page 3 for details.

Saturday, August 4 9 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting at Denny's restaurant at Willow and Shaw. Speaker at 10 AM on "Globalization - is it a Dirty Word?" by Dr. Sasan Fayazmanesh, Economics professor at CSUF. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

Saturday, August 4 10 AM - 12 Noon

Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will gather at Fashion Fair (Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center). For more information: United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) USAS_FSU@yahoo.com, email or visit website: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USAS_FSU Call Gabrielle Kirkland for more information: 875-0057

Monday, August 6 7:30 PM

Monthly meeting of the **Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides** (FresCAMP). Call 439-0280 or 227-6134 for further information.

Monday, August 6 7 AM

HIROSHIMA DAY will be remembered with a vigil at Livermore Lab, at the corner of East Ave. and Vasco Road, Livermore. Speakers include Dr. Robert Bowman, Pres. of the Institute for Peace and Security, and Dial Keju, an activist from the Marshall Islands.

Wednesday, August 8 3:30 PM

Fresno Center For Nonviolence radio show on KFCF, 88.1 FM. Vincent Lavery hosts the FCNV radio show on the second Wednesday of each month.

Thursday, August 9 10 AM

A memorial, **commemorating the 13 farm workers killed** in a 1999 accident, will be held at the site of the accident, two miles east from Lessen (Highway 269) on Oakland avenue in Five Points. A vigil is scheduled at Kingswood Apartments (at Winery and Balch) later in the day. See the story on page 3 for more details.

Thursday, August 9 7:00 PM

Fresno County Green Party Council Meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness Ave (S. of Olive). The Fresno County Green Party invites you to its regular monthly County Council meeting. The four pillars of the international Green movement are Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, and Ecological Wisdom. Call 265-3647 for details or go to <http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>.

Friday, August 10

Deadline for submissions to the September issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to LCAeditor@mediaone.net.

Saturday, August 11 9:30 AM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their web page at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/> or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).

Tuesday, August 14 7:30 PM

KFCF/Fresno Free College Foundation Board of Directors meeting at the Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook For more information: <http://www.kfcf.org/> or call (559) 233-2221.

Wednesday, August 15 3:30 PM

Stir It Up! - **"The Green Scene"**. Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM for a Green perspective on local environmental and social justice issues and events and a monthly look at each of the Green Party's 10 Key Values. Please call 265-3647 to give suggestions for future shows.

Thursday, August 16 6 PM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley first fund raiser **"Dinner with John**

Muir" performed by Frank Helling at the Ramada Inn (Freeway 41 and Shaw). \$30 for dinner and show; \$15 for show only. An auction will also be held for JFK memorabilia. For more information call Peggy Pack at 439-1413.

Thursday, August 16 7:30 AM

Community Health Care Roundtable sponsored by Metro Ministry meets at Trinity Lutheran Church 3973 N. Cedar (between Ashlan and Dakota). For more information: call 485-1416 or email metromin@qnis.net.

Thursday, August 16 7 PM

The Center for Nonviolence presents **"An Evening of Irish Genius,"** featuring Vincent Lavery. See page 2 for details.

Friday, August 17 7 PM

"An Evening of Irish Genius." See page 2 for details.

Saturday, August 18 3 PM

JOIN CRITICAL MASS ON THEIR MONTHLY RIDES THROUGHOUT FRESNO to educate motorists that bicyclists exist, that we are entitled to an equal share of the roads, that the politicians need to work to assure our safety with bike lanes. When we ride in large groups, people DO notice and the more people see us, the more aware they will be of our rights and less likely to sideswipe us next time they pass us on the streets. But this ride is not a grind - WE HAVE FUN - sharing stories, going new places, finding the best routes, just riding together with fellow cyclists. We'd love to see you out there with us. **BRING YOUR SQUIRT GUNS!** Every third Saturday, Fresno City College, grassy area by the Administration Building, where Van Ness turns into Maroa. Your fellow bikers will be waiting for you. Decorated bikes (and riders) are welcome, as are kids - bring helmets for anyone under 18 and lights if it's likely to be dark before you head home. Let the drivers know we exist!

Tuesday, August 21 7:30 PM

Fresno Stonewall Democrats meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The August meeting will be at the Express Restaurant, 3075 N. Maroa, Fresno. For more information call Jay Hubbell 292-4905, e-mail: hubbell@online.no, or visit their new web site at: <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Wednesday, August 22 3:30 PM

"Stir It Up" WILPF-style on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

Friday, August 24 5 PM

Street Heat on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring Labor and Community activists.

Monday, August 27 6:30 PM

The Labor/Community Alliance meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. Call 226-0477 for details, or see <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/> Celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter! YES, we have been publishing for 5 years.

Mark your calendar for:

Saturday, September, 22, 2001 6 PM at Pat Wolk's Home. Come and share food, drink, music and good times with Fresno and Valley activists, trouble makers and agitators. Help us "Build a Movement for Social and Economic Justice" for the San Joaquin Valley.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Saturday 1-2 PM **Food Not Bombs** feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. Volunteers are needed to help cook food Saturday mornings, 9:30 AM at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, corner of Maple and Illinois. Donations of good or almost good produce can be dropped off also. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 Or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Every Saturday 8 PM **Centro Bellas Artes dance** at 1048 E Street. Merengue, Salsa, Rock, Cumbias and more. This is a fund raiser to save the Centro Bellas Artes cultural center. \$5 at the door Call 237-2783 for more information.

Every Saturday 10:30 PM A reason to watch TV! A locally produced progressive show is now on the air. **THE RIGHT STUFF FROM THE LEFT** is broadcast on channel 43 (no cable needed). If you have cable in Fresno it is on channel 10. Vincent Lavery is the host, with guest panelists, guest editorials, call-ins and lively discussion. Tune in and show your support for a progressive presence on local TV.

HOW TO SPEND \$\$\$?

So, we have \$12,000 in newly-raised "matching grant funds." And we still have two more in our series of house parties for supporters to help us decide how best to use it.

Join the discussion of priorities and sustained underwriting of community needs — Wed. Aug. 1 at Angela Princes' home (just north of Valley Children's Hospital) or Thurs. Aug. 14 at Margaret Hudson's in Old Fig. Call Angela at 435-6383 to RSVP and get directions.

SANE LIVING FOR TEENS?

The original \$1200 grant from the Whitney Foundation for "Sane Living for Teens", to educate teens about the meaning and practice of non-violence, has been utilized, primarily through sessions at EOC's Teen Connection and Unity House group homes. Additional funding has been promised if a need can be shown, but the obvious places (Boys & Girls Clubs, Juvenile Hall, House of Hope) have been unresponsive to written and/or verbal communication. A new initiative has been made through the school system, but unless there is a response in the next couple of months we will close down the project. If you have connections with any groups of kids (neighborhoods, school, church, etc.) please put us in contact with them. Call Richard Stone at 266-2559.

UPDATING WEB SITE AND AGENDAS

We are up-dating the website created for us by Mike and the LCA. Check it out for our revised brochure and Peace Agenda, the listing of all Way of Peace awardees, and listings from our video and print libraries.

<http://www.fresnoallicance.com/centerfornonviolence/>

2 MINUTES FOR NONVIOLENCE

As part of our sponsorship of The Right Staff From The Left (Sat. nights, 10:30m p.m., ch.43/cable 10) we have instituted a series of brief commentaries on nonviolence, part of the on-going effort to bring this "unamerican" idea to the public. The show, of course, needs continuing support, either by direct donation or by way of the up-coming fundraiser (see separate listing) in August, An Evening of Irish Genius.

QUELLING THE SPARKS

Our backyard neighbor Stephan Taylor has completed 80% of the repair work on the electrical problems that could easily have burned us down. That done, we have been able to re-install the copy machine and phone answering machine which were out of commission. We are also getting montly cleaning services from the women of NOW (in exchange for space use), helping us keep the facility much more presentable. Better living through neighborliness (not chemistry)!

The Welch Report July 16, 2001 by Jack H. Welch, M.D.

MISSILE RUSH FACES ?? OF FRAUD, WEAK SCIENCE AND PROVOKING NEW ARMS RACE

The Bush Administration intends to break ground in Alaska next month on a missile defense test site and to develop within four years a multi-layered shield that will include ground-based interceptors, ship-launched missiles and lasers mounted on airplanes, senior Pentagon officials said on July 11th. (The Navy has yet to develop a missile fast enough to hit an intercontinental ballistic missile.)

"The Administration is moving as fast as possible to build at least rudimentary missile defenses by 2005, regardless of probable objections by Moscow that the US is violating the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty." Further, the Administration intends to proceed regardless of the outcome of a flight test in mid July.

The State Department has said the Administration's missile defense program could soon -- within months -- violate the ABM Treaty,



which allows each side to build one land-based anti-missile system to protect a single

city or field of missile silos but prohibits the development, testing or deployment of a system intended to defend the entire nation against missiles." (Source: the Fresno Bee July 12)

California Peace Action Education Fund provides four reasons for not spending \$240b on Missile Defense: 1. leading scientists, including fifty Nobel Prize recipients, and non-partisan physicists, say NMD (National Missile Defense) won't work 2. the FBI is investigating the NMD program for fraud (faked tests, "censored" data, etc.) 3. NMD violates the ABM Treaty (1972) and the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 4. the CIA warns that NMD will launch a new arms race with China and Russia.

ASHCROFT TRYING TO EXPAND GUN RIGHT

"In a step that experts believe opens gun-control laws to legal attack, Attorney General John Ashcroft is changing the federal government's long-standing interpretation of the Second Amendment to assert that it covers individual gun-ownership rights."

Most presidential administrations in recent times have stuck by a more narrow interpretation of the language, holding that it grants only a collective right to militias to bear arms. The federal government thereby can pass restrictions on who can own guns and what kind of guns. "Ashcroft asserts that the language extends those rights further to 'the people'."

A Second Amendment expert says it is impossible to say which gun-control statutes would be challenged in court under the new interpretation, but he believes it could have sweeping effects. (Source: the Fresno Bee July 12)

DEATH PENALTY — RACIST, ARBITRARY

The recent execution of Timothy McVeigh gave rise to increased public consideration of the death penalty. In January 2000 Illinois governor George Ryan declared a moratorium on executions in Illinois until an appointed commission finishes its review of the death penalty in that state; since its reinstatement in 1977, 12 death row inmates have been executed and 13 have been exonerated.

Amnesty International has consistently found that application of the death penalty in the US is racist, arbitrary and unfair. The UN High Commission on Human Rights has called for a moratorium on executions, which action sixty-eight percent of the American people support.

The extent of charity measures a society's injustice

Raise hell & conserve

(continued from back page)

times 10 million or 2 gigawatts. A typical power plant has a 500 megawatt capacity. This means we can eliminate 4 power plants. There are many energy saving ideas. Go to PG&E's web site or get PG&E's handouts. Go to www.energy.ca.gov.

What if? - Suppose we assume that 20% of California's households can afford to install PV solar on their homes. Using gross calculations, we can assume that it reduces our reliance on fossil fuel plants by 20%. With 12 million homes (1 megawatt supplies 1000 homes) California households use about 12,000 megawatts or 12 gigawatts of electricity. 20% of 12 gigawatts is 2.4 gigawatts which represents 4.8 500mw-power plants we can eliminate.

With the proliferation of PV systems, economies of scale will bring down its price so that it becomes more affordable for an additional 20% of the households. This reduces our reliance on power plants by another 5 fossil fuel power plants.

Economies of scale of 4.8 million households using PV will bring the price of PV so low that the power generators will voluntarily provide renewable energy at low cost in order to retain their already diminished customer base. The National Renewable Energy Labs has stated that if every state had 17 square miles of PV arrays, we would be able to service 100% of the electrical needs of the U.S.

**Subsidize
sun & wind,
not
gas, coal, atoms**

What is the impact? This one simple action will automatically trigger actions, which will cause renewable energy development to proliferate, substantially

reduce air pollution and alleviate the threat of global warming.

The huge amount of our tax money that has been going to oil and gas exploration subsidies and tax incentives can be put to better use (let's see? How about a living wage and health-care for all, etc.?). Just imagine how many more fossil fuel/nuclear power plants we can eliminate by conserving and adopting energy efficiencies in building design.

Now expand this concept nationally, and what do you get? — problem solved. To Vice-President Cheney, I ask, "Do we really need 1300 power plants by 2020?" Do you really want to put 5.4 fossil fuel power plants per month on in the U.S. over the next 20 years? Just who do you think is going to have to pay for the consequences of the pollution and global warming being introduced by these plants? 1300 fossil fuel/nuclear power plants won't solve our problem. They only create more problems and make windfall profits for Enron (Bush) and Halliburton (Cheney).

Stay tuned for the last installment of this series on the symbiotic relationship between corporations and politicians with respect to California's deregulation and the perpetuation of price gouging.

SOURCES for solar oven kits and plans:

(continued from back page "Maia cooks with sun")

KERR-COLE
PO BOX 27417
Tempe, AZ 85285

SCI
1919 21st Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814-6827

Solar Cookers International is a non-profit that works internationally to educate low-income people about wood conservation with solar ovens. Women who used to spend many hours collecting increasingly scarce fire wood now have more time. SCI also sells cookbooks, plans, various ovens & more.



photo: George Elie Ballis

by George Elie Ballis

A baker's dozen of SunMt members (SF to Santa Barbara) came up the hill late March to perform a magical trick — make SunMt's PG&E meter run backward. May simple. We took the 12 panel array from a solar pond (No longer operative because raccoons punctured the plastic lining.)

We lugged the array down the mountain to an 8' pole we had cemented into the ground. This array was wired into our other 23 panels. All were hooked up to a new controller under the direction of our solar expert and president of SunMt directors, Don Loweberg.

Now when the sun is bright, and we are not operating any high powered equipment or pumping water, our PG&E meter runs backward.

SunMt - lightly on the earth

by Maia Ballis

Sun Mt Environmental Center is based in The Sun House, a non-profit research & education facility about living more lightly on the Earth. Sun House is a passive solar-solar electric structure built in Tollhouse in 1983 with approval from the Fresno County Building Department. Our mission is to test its many innovative conservation features for possible inclusion in the building codes. Many of these features can now be used in more conventional house designs. See details on web pages at: <http://www.sunmt.org/embracing.html>

Insulating doors & windows

Since the energy crisis began in winter of 2000, Maia has been experimenting with 5 different methods of insulating doors and windows in one room.

We have observed that over 17 years, our super insulation has kept this ground level room about 10 degrees cooler in summer than the upstairs, which gets hot and stuffy after 3:00PM. The added insulation has kept it about 15-25 degrees cooler than the outside temperature in the heat of the day. As we have hit above the century mark, the room stays at about 73-83 degrees.

As long as the nights stay cool, we expect to be able to maintain this indoor-outdoor relationship. This is a major relief. We felt lucky to have our one low voltage swamp cooler. It helps the whole house a little in dry heat, but does nothing in humid heat. Now there will be a cool place to hang in the heat of the day, in humid or arid air.



Offline Independent Energy Systems
PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN, INSTALLATION & SALES

18 years of inspired service

Don Loweberg
Cynthia Loweberg

Box 231
North Fork, CA 93643

offln@aol.com
559 877-7080

<http://www.psmw.com/~offln>
License #661052

ESCAPE THE ENERGY PIRATES

turn this meter backwards

Mary redefines "too hot"

by Mary Hilpert

Here's what we've done to cut our monthly PG&E bill from \$300 to \$75.

Most important: we have changed our perception of what is "too hot."

We converted all our lights to fluorescents. We reduced the temperature on our hot water heater and raised the temperature on our refrigerator/freezer. I filled the empty spaces in the freezer with containers of water to freeze.

I use the stove as little as possible (sandwiches, salads, and fresh fruit) and turn the electric burners off 5 minutes before cooking is over (our morning 5-minute oatmeal).

I let the dishes air dry in the dishwasher. I hang the clothes outside on a retractable clothesline.

To reduce air conditioner usage we dress cooler; we open and close windows and blinds as needed; we use ceiling fans.

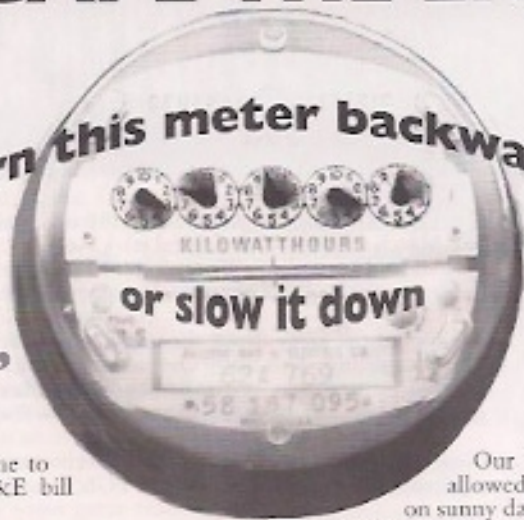
We have not had the AC on for over a month. I also pour a little water on the top of my head to more completely take advantage of the cooling effect of the ceiling fans.

My house is 2400 sq ft. I live West of Cedar and North of Nees. The bill I received from PG&E for 5/22/01 to 6/21-01 was \$74.49. (\$300 year before)

This year we used 10 therms of gas and compared to 15 last year. This year we used 557 Electric Kwh compared to 1704 last year. This June was cooler than last year, which also helped.

It seems many people in California are more conserving this year, and that is good.

There are just two of us in this house, so we can choose to be in the cooler rooms at the height of the heat (downstairs, east side of the house). The warmer upstairs works to our advantage in winter time. We have a TV and couch upstairs also.



Maia cooks with sun

by Maia Ballis

Our Solar Box Oven has allowed us to cook without fuel on sunny days since 1985. We use it the most in the heat of summer. It reduces cooking with gas heat in the kitchen, which keeps the house cooler. See our web site: sunmt.org/embracing.html

Our unit was a Kerr-Cole wooden test model that was later metal clad. It has required some aluminum foil patching on the interior (a simple task with white glue) and needed replacement of worn hardware.

This is low maintenance for something I use every sunny day.

A solar box oven will cook anything that can be prepared in a lidded pot.

We cook grains & breads, potatoes, summer/winter squash, meats, desserts and more. It will hold 4 standard 8" black enamel pots, or ovenproof covered glass casseroles. Nothing burns at the low heat, usually 150-200 degrees depending on outside temperatures.

You need less water in solar cooking because moisture stays sealed under the closed lid. Example: 2 cups rather than 3 cups of water to 1 cup of rice. I bring the water to a boil on the gas range, move it to the solar oven, and 45 min. later we have perfect rice!

You can also start with tap water & cook longer. How much longer depends on the weather. Once you get used to this, it is an easy way to cook. If you need more specifics, try one of the cookbooks from SCL.

(see page 15 for sources of plans and books)

Alan counsels raise hell and conserve

by Alan Cheah

Activism! Activism! Activism! Participate in local or state protests. They do more good than you might think. Call and write your councilperson, state representatives, congresspersons, and the President. Make your voice be heard.

Our actions have inspired criminal investigations into power generators, put pressure on the FERC to cap prices, and renewed interest in energy conservation - all of which has contributed to the recent drop in electricity rates. Join our Energy Working Group here in Fresno, or just get on our e-mail list to find out where protests are being held. Write to TerraV2001@aol.com.

50% rebates on solar electricity

There is a generous statewide rebate program for retrofitting your home with a photovoltaic solar system. The rebate amounts to \$4.50/W or 50% of the system, whichever is less.

It costs approximately \$25,000 for a 2500W PV system.

At \$4.50/W, you will get back \$11,250. Your actual cost is \$13,750. A 2500W system will supply you with 12.5kwh/day. Your effective cost for a system like this should be about \$.10/kwh which

is less than the average current inflated rate of \$.35/kwh.

Look at your PG&E bill for you average daily usage. Go to: www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid for more information.

fluorescent bulbs, insulated curtains
Retrofit your homes with energy saving fluorescent bulbs. Instead of using your air conditioner, open your windows in the evening and close them in the early morning to capture the cool air.

Cover windows with thermal curtains or a thermal tinted film sold at hardware stores. Turn off unnecessary lights. Did you know that there are 12 million households in California? If 10 million households turn off two 100 Watt light bulbs that represents 200



photos: Maia & George Ebe Ballis

See page 15 for details on how to run your PG&E meter backward — legally

(continued on page 15)