



A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Progressive Culture, Politics, Art And Entertainment Since 1996

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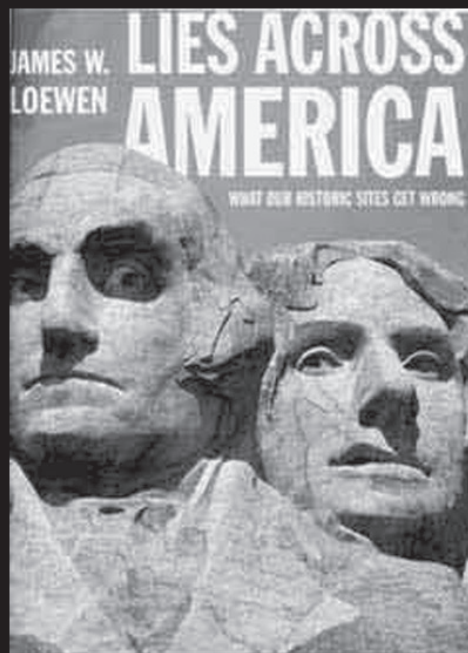
Chronicles

We always stand for Our beloved country in our spirit of peace & justice

sunmt.org/nov12chron04.html

WE TAKE BACK NIGHT TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

sunmt.org/oct31chron04.html



Some damning truths around holiday turkey

sunmt.org/nov11chron04.html

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

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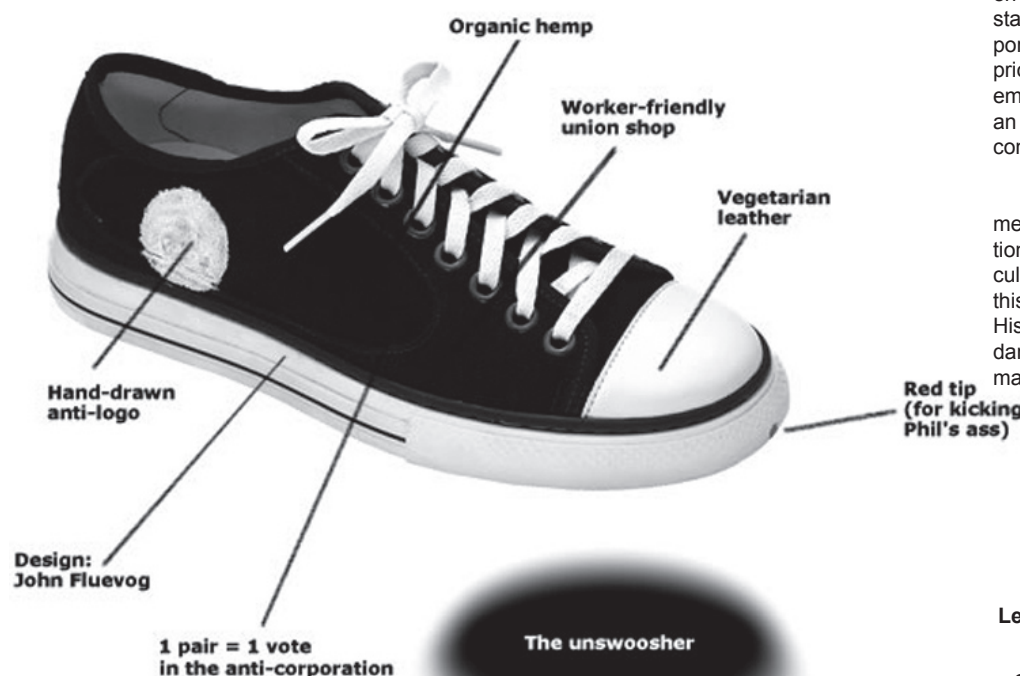
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BLACKSPOT SNEAKER



Enter the world's first global anti-brand:

The Blackspot sneaker. A shoe and a message and a vision of the future. We've produced an environmentally friendly sneaker that's a bold statement against sweatshop labor. Our anti-corporate campaign is a bottom up enterprise that prioritizes ethical consumerism and grassroots empowerment. Join us in this quest to create an authentic, non-corporate cool and reassert consumer sovereignty over capitalism.

The Blackspot is an alternative to the commercial, pseudo 'culture' of the mega corporations. Nike has always been the champion of logo culture, its swoosh an icon of global cool. Despite this, Phil Knight flies the flag of a fading empire. His swoosh has been hurt by years of "brand damage" as activists fought against his mega marketing and dirty sweatshop labor.

It's time to rethink the cool.

Let's turn shoes into a counter branding tool.

Let's buy shoes from an anti-corporation where customers have a say.

Let's pit the swoosh against the anti-swoosh. **Which side are you on?**

WWW.BLACKSPOTSNEAKER.ORG

From the Editor

After eight years of publishing the Community Alliance as a newsletter/magazine, we have made a big change. As you can see, our new format as a newspaper allows us to print some pages in full color. In addition, we have twice as much space for articles and photos, and we have expanded our content to include more music and cultural information. It is our hope that the new format and content will attract new readers that will swell the ranks of the progressive movement.

There were many factors that went into our decision to change the format and content of this publication. At a retreat, held last summer, the editorial board and friends of the Community Alliance realized that we hit a plateau at around 2,500 readers a month. The significance of this realization was that we became aware that we were not reaching beyond the same group each month. Did someone say "preaching to the choir"?

At about the same time, a group of young activists were looking for a way to get information out about music and cultural events that are ignored by the mainstream media. They wanted a vehicle that would get the word out about the diverse music and cultural scene in this community.

Stephen Gamboa and Frank Sanchez, who previously published *The Vernacular* newspaper, have organized a collective to work on the youth section of this newspaper. This newspaper will continue to publish articles to help build a progressive political movement but will also include more information about music and culture. Stephen is now the co-editor of the Community Alliance and Frank is in charge of layout and graphic design. We have doubled the circulation and expect to get the Community Alliance into the hands of many new people in the coming months. If you would like to help, give us a call at (559) 978-4502 or e-mail AllianceEditor@Comcast.net.

Public Comment

We have excerpted comments sent to us by readers in response to the election results. We are focusing on remarks that point us in a positive direction and give hope, though a little room has been reserved for venting.

Teresa Espana: I maintain hope because progressives have networked and built strong organizations in recent years. . . . I would caution against feeling intellectually and morally superior to those we disagree with. That will solve nothing. We need to find a cultural language that is better suited for talking about change. And Democrats need to redefine themselves in opposition to—not in concert with—the Republicans.

....

Michael Becker: The Democrats cannot continue to run campaigns "against the Republicans." As painful as it may be, the Democrats eventually will have to be "for something." I suggest a living wage, a pristine environment, public transportation, excellent education for all children and universal health care. . . . What to do? Resist corporations and all their lackeys. Join RaNCor (www.rancor.info) in Washington D.C. for the Jan. 20 counter-inaugural. . . . From the ashes of the Republicans' destruction and the activists' resistance will come a voice for working people and the natural world. 1111

....

Mira Minton: . . . The more I consider the situation we are in and how Bush was voted in on "moral considerations," the more I understand that it is our job to show what is truly moral to others by our actions (peace rallies, community service, consumer activism, letters, e-mails, etc.). Our dreams will always be bigger than any ballot box, so why base our fate on one election?

....

Jim Compton-Schmidt: I registered Green several years ago and voted Green in the two Clinton elections. Then I changed my registration so I could vote for Dennis [Kucinich] in the Democratic primary. I changed back to Green afterwards but got cold feet at the last minute and voted Kerry. NEVER AGAIN!! If I put that in writing, maybe I will stick to it this time. A progressive has to find a home and help build it. I will do that next time, I promise.

....

Phil Erro, Board Member, Central California Institute: We can celebrate our Fresno Unified School

Board victory . . . we progressives put two people on the board. This proves we can concentrate our effort on local offices and have victories. We need to work on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Fresno and Clovis. We can make a difference in those governing bodies. With a few more progressive votes in local government, we can start seeing Live Streets that put people before cars, Procession lanes to celebrate our ethnic and religious traditions, and Healing gardens to grow our traditional medicines.

....

Wendy Russell: Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential liberty for temporary security deserve neither liberty nor security." The repressed and the fearful simply outnumbered us voting.

....

Jeff Eisinger: Fresno's own Larry Mullen challenged Republican George Radanovich, and his 6% share of the vote was one of the highest in the state for a Green in a congressional race. This shows the power of the incumbency in combination with gerrymandered districts where there is no real competition. . . . If Californians are ever to have a truly representative legislature at the state or federal level, the manner in which our districts are drawn will have to be changed to eliminate partisan advantage.

....

Dr. S.D. Todd: Because I have faith in a higher power and in divine justice, I have hope for the future and I hope the progressive community will have the wisdom, knowledge,

and understanding needed to effect a change. Personally, I humble myself and pray for this country and its leaders because I do believe in karma.

....

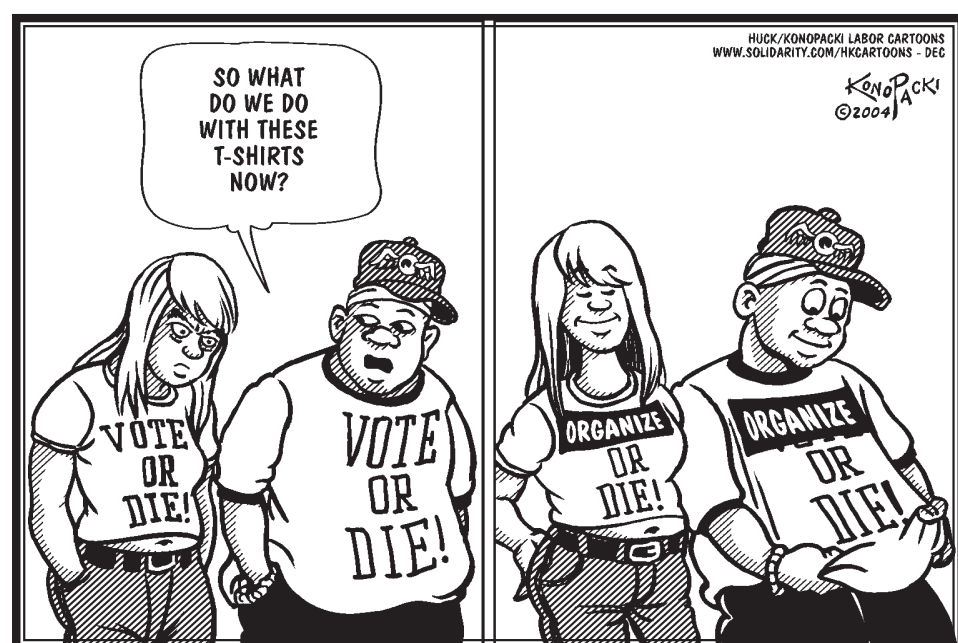
Lydia Flores: . . . I am hopeful of the future for the number of activists that were working to get out the vote. I believe we can be more effective if we took a survey and synthesized the issues that are of utmost importance. One issue must be that everyone's vote is counted. It can include the end of the electoral college and jobs for everyone.

....

Diane Corbin: I didn't want to get out of bed . . . something had died . . . the everlasting promise that had always been there. My country has been taken away and I want it back.

....

Aurelio Ortiz: Presidential elections generally don't fire up a whole lot of community involvement as this last one. I went my usual voting place and was surprised to see young persons running the ballots and unusual types of persons voting. I live in Reedley, traditionally a very conservative city where mostly the elderly are out voting. This time I saw all sorts of people voting. I said to myself: "Surely all these new faces are to vote for Kerry." By 9 PM that Tuesday, while listening to Pacifica Radio broadcasting I almost heard that it was official: Bush had won again. By Wednesday morning all I could think of doing was dressing in black and going to work. Solution: Organize, Organize, and Organize at every minute and every level.



GRASSROOTS



Profiles of Local Activists

Floyd's demonstrations begin wherever injustice begins, whether it's in the form of a protest, a rally, or a meeting of minds. --from Floyd Harris's vita

By Richard Stone

FLOYD HARRIS HAS BEEN VISIBLE TO US in the progressive community when he represents Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) as the California state president. We've likely seen him at anti-war rallies, at demonstrations supporting in-home caregivers, at City Hall testifying about police abuses. The Rev. Harris understands the importance of these issues, and of building political coalitions to oppose "business as usual."

But as I talked with him, it became clear that some of his less-visible (to us) roles are of even greater importance to him. His work as assistant youth pastor at Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene on West Meyers St. is the most recent of a line of positions that brings him into direct relationship with black youth. Likewise he has put in years of service in such venues as the Edison Southwest Advisory Committee, and Southeast Fresno Neighborhood Watch, trying to create livable conditions and community spirit. His heart is with the people of West Fresno.

The Rev. Harris speaks of himself as "an educator for justice." Over the years—as he has studied the history of slavery, Jim Crow, and the civil rights movement; as he has learned about Frederick Douglass, Dr. King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and the Black Panthers; as he has read such books as *The White Problem in America* and *The Miseducation of the Negro*, he has gained historical perspective on the situation he lives

in. He says, "Knowledge is power," and he has dedicated himself to giving others the tools to understand the impact of corporate racism and institutional prejudice in the running of government. He not only talks about "The Tale of Two Cities"—as Mayor Autry calls it—he inhabits the two cities.

The Rev. Harris says his political involvement was gradual, almost inevitable. His grandmother, Bertha Harris, was an activist throughout the 1960s and 1970s, and his father was on the West Fresno School Board. Young Floyd was taken to meetings all the time, and eventually what was being discussed sank in. The lack of respect given to his neighbors and lack of responsiveness to basic civic needs by city officials, brought on initial disillusionment but then anger. He couldn't not act, especially when he looked at the next generation. He asked himself who they could turn to for advice and trust—who would speak on their behalf when they couldn't? He felt impelled to try.

The Rev. Harris says he has found strong

support and allies with organizations such as Service Employees International Union, the Central California Criminal Justice Committee, the Black Political Council, the Nation of Islam, the California Advocate, and the American Civil Liberties Union. He has special gratitude to Les Kimber, Ellie Bluestein, Gloria Hernandez, and Darryl Mohammed in his local work. This work, long-range, he defines as "motivating people to consistent involvement," noting the difficulty of many folks to get past fear of retaliation by those in power and the fatigue of supporting self and family. He is sustained in this difficult work, he says, by such things as looking at his grandmother's hands, visible signs of the effort and pain incurred for him and his generation, reminders of the wisdom of perspective and the obligation to keep the ball rolling.

His vision is to see the children around him educated about their history, with the courage gained from this knowledge to speak and act boldly. "But this," he says, "is our task—not something we can expect from the government."

Along with this, he envisions economic self-sufficiency for his community—not meaning isolationism, but self-generated economic activities and cooperative endeavor for community welfare. Yet we agreed as we talked that it is clear, too, that the history of disfranchisement and oppression has created social deficits that demand

reparation—perhaps in the form of funds for self-directed educational and entrepreneurial enterprises.

Activities that the Rev. Harris is currently involved in include creating a more issue-oriented remembrance of the legacy of Dr. King (and Malcolm X); and the creation of chapters of NAN throughout the state, along with "Little NANS" for youth, emphasizing personal responsibility and social activism.

The Rev. Harris invites any who would like to assist with his work to come to a monthly NAN meeting (the third Thursday of the month, 6 PM, at the downtown library), to contact him, or—of course—to contribute financially. He can be reached by e-mail at xyfloyd@aol.com or by phone at (559) 288-0828.

IDENTITY BOX

- Place Of Birth:** Fowler, but grew up in Fresno
- Ethnic Identity:** Sometimes African-American, sometimes just African: "I'm still working it through"
- Religious Affiliation:** Christian, non-denominational
- Political Affiliation:** Democrat, "for now"
- Parts Of Fresno Most Frequent-ed:** West Fresno
- Non-political Interests:** Raising a family
- Unlikely Pleasure:** Golf

Thanks to Community Alliance Supporters

Vickie Fouts – Circulation Director

Thank you to all who sent in donations and subscriptions in response to our recent outreach campaign. On October 5 we mailed out over 300 letters to our current and previous subscribers and to those who receive the magazine as members of Fresno Center for Nonviolence and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

So far we have received a total of \$1345 from 43 individuals: 30 new or renewal subscriptions, 10 gifts, and 5 prisoner gift subscriptions—and some of you gave in multiple ways. Clearly you believe as we do that that free and independent media voices are among the most impor-

tant underpinnings of our democracy. It is only through the support (monetary and otherwise) and hard work of community members like you that we can publish the Community Alliance and bring you important news and information that you are often unlikely to see anywhere else.

Thanks to Barbara Price, our copy editor, for writing the outreach letters and helping us get them mailed out.

Thanks to death-penalty and prison-reform activist, Maria Telesco, for getting us names and addresses for some of the prisoner subscriptions. Maria says all four were very happy to receive their November issue and look forward to others. Maria also sent us a short bio on each person:

S.O. is a political prisoner. Her college roommate at Santa Barbara was acquainted with some people who belonged to the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), the group that kidnapped Patty Hearst. One weekend she and her roommate went to LA to visit, not knowing what the people they were visiting were involved in. She went back home to Minnesota, married a physician, and lived as a housewife and mother for a quarter century, unaware

there was a warrant out for her, until she saw herself on America's Most Wanted. The rest is history.

K.D. is on San Quentin death row, where he has been for nine years, for a series of crimes his family and Maria believe he did not commit. He's a local Fresno man, now age 32. Because his case is in the appeal process, Maria is not permitted to discuss the facts of the case.

S.A. spent 23 years on San Quentin death row, until his sentence was revised two years ago to life without parole. He's a brilliant writer and artist, talents he developed while in prison. He is slowly going blind from cataracts, and is awaiting surgery to restore his sight.

M.M. is on women's death row for a crime of which Maria believes she is innocent. She is a former nurse—they used to work together in Los Angeles. She has been in prison since 1985. She and several of the other women do beautiful cross-stitching craft work. Maria can't discuss her case because it is in the appeal process.

Again, thank you for your support of the Community Alliance and keep those donations coming in.



MEASURE Z STAMPEDES TO VICTORY

By Kevin Hall



Ignorance is strength, Orwell wrote, and an uninformed electorate has delivered \$95 million of redevelopment muscle to those who seek to expand the Chaffee Zoo over most of Roeding Park.

In the campaign newspeak this proposed destruction was called investment; those who used the public record to document it were labeled liars, and the largest giveaway of public assets and revenue in Fresno County history through privatization was termed a community service.

This one goes directly into that thick file labeled "Only in Fresno."

Our local newspaper and biggest "Measure Z or Die" myth-maker, the Fresno Zee, reported the week after the election the Fresno City Council had voted to raise developer fees for traffic lights for the first time since 1989 and noted that in July the development fee for roads, bridges, and parks had been increased for the first time in 15 years, too.

No estimates were offered as to the amount of lost revenue, but consider the fee for parks, frozen all that time, and the impact on the city's parks and recreation department, which includes the zoo. Maintenance and operations were underfunded. Staffing cut back. Capital improvement needs ignored. For all facilities.

The first zoo tax effort, Arts to Zoo, was made in 1992, undoubtedly due to the pinch in funds, which would eventually grow to a stranglehold. The impact was compounded by

a shift in the city's general fund away from social services such as parks and into the ever-increasing police state . . . uh, department.

The city offset the loss of traffic signal fees by raiding the federally funded Congestion Mitigation Air Quality account slated for air pollution reduction efforts—damaging public health in the process—but the parks had no such option. They suffered, too.

A to Z tried and failed again a few years later. The zoo-backers went it alone and flopped in 2002 with Measure E (yes, for elephant). It was only when they hit on the privatization scheme that community "leaders" got interested. They crafted a campaign based on fear and deception, wrapped in an emotional appeal, and window-dressed with children.

Fittingly, Fresno's north-enders who skated by with those unfairly low impact fees when they moved to The Sprawl were the effort's most enthusiastic supporters. These are the folks with a 311-acre Woodward Park (twice the size of Roeding Park) complete with bird sanctuary, horse riding area, and river bluff views, not to mention their park's connections to the five-mile-long river-park trail and the city's only major pedestrian and bike trail.

Just as \$300 million of Measure C funds were unjustly reallocated to build Freeway 168 to Clovis and a disproportionate \$8 million share of Measure B funds went to build the opulent Woodward library, Measure Z supporters loved the idea of the kind of zoo they want and can afford to visit, provided the rest of the community foots the real bill for construction. They're used to it. It's their world; you're just paying for it.

Lead with a Right (Wing)

The real suckers in this effort were those left-leaning citizens who were fooled by the campaign. While many smelled flamingo pond fumes behind the too-slick campaign, most fell for it. And it's hard to blame them, given the corporate media's complicity and outright pro-Z campaigning.

From reports from inside more than one newsroom, it's clear that pressure was being exerted by media owners to employees. Their message: this is and will remain a feel-good story. It was Fres-YES time!

Manipulating the liberals, moderates, and media was the easy part for the pro-Z crafters. It was the anti-tax types they had to win over to assure victory. So they turned to a local icon of the far-right, David McDonald of Pelco.

McDonald put five of his full-time Pelcoids to work on the sales effort and quickly raised enough cash and donations to run a \$1.3 million campaign (at last count). Local big money fell into what became a competition of sorts in this boosterism effort, vying for the title of FOD (Friend of David).

It's also necessary to pitch in if one hopes to share in the \$95 million sales-tax booty to be shared through privately awarded contracts.

As a manufacturer of video surveillance equipment, McDonald knows one thing for sure: fear sells. He didn't limit himself to the false fear message of "save our zoo." He indulged in the kind of right-wing rhetoric that sends direct messages to his brethren, such as the statement aired on Channel 30 on Sept. 19 in an interview with reporter Santoya Rose.

"We need to invest in Roeding Park," said McDonald, "to prevent it from becoming an East L.A.-type of park overrun by homeless people and overrun by gangs." Charming fellow. Not a racist bone in his body.

Such candid reporting quickly ended, with the notable and highly commendable exception of Channel 21. Every other major media outlet joined the campaign. Channel 30 began running a series of Chaffee Zoo public service announcements. Clear Channel's bevy of broadcast outlets did a series of special events at the zoo and offered the pro-Z pitchmen repeated appearances on talk radio. Free radio ads began running on KJWL without any campaign disclosure statements. It was a media parade.

A LITTLE VIRUS HAS STARTED IN TOWN. RED DOTS ARE POPPING UP ON SNEAKERS, I WONDER WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT?



Peace Fresno Opposes the Bush Agenda

ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004, GEORGE W. BUSH received a green light from one-half of the American voters to continue the US war on Iraqi civilians. The British medical journal *Lancet* recently reported that more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians—mostly women, children, and the elderly—have died since March 20, 2003, from the US bombing of Iraqi cities and civilian infrastructure.

Within hours of Bush's election, US forces intensified bombing of the city of Fallujah and a few days later 15,000 to 20,000 troops—from the US marines, US army, and Iraqi army—began a massive assault in an effort to take control of the city from a few hundred Sunni resistance fighters. This resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties and the devastation of a city of 300,000.

Bush campaign strategists, with the help of mainstream media, including right-wing talk show hosts, were able to convince the majority of their voters that one of the most important issues of the campaign was to deny gays and lesbians the same rights they themselves take for granted. They voted as if they are more offended by two gays or two lesbians kissing than by the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians, who were killed as a direct result of an illegal, immoral, and unjust war on Iraq.

Bush's agenda for the second term will be "more of the same." Bush supporters must think that he had a successful first term. Let's see what he accomplished:

- A war on our civil liberties exemplified by the Patriot Act and Homeland Security Act
- Over \$2 trillion in tax cuts for the rich the most jobs lost by any US president
- An increase in corporate welfare and corporate crime an increase in poverty, unemployment, and number of uninsured
- The waging of two illegal wars (with the most dead and injured US soldiers since Vietnam).

Peace Fresno vehemently opposes Bush's agenda. We support peace, social and environmental justice, a democracy, health care for all, immigrant and gay rights, a living wage, and equal pay for men and women. We oppose preemptive war on any country, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, tax cuts for the rich and corporations, a theocracy, and an American Empire.

Peace Fresno meets every Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence located at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. (the southeast corner of Van Ness and McKinley). All are welcome.

We protest every Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the southeast corner of Shaw and Blackstone to end the occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home. We are getting many encouraging honks of support and friendly hand signs from motorists. We generally have between 20 and 30 protesters. We need you to join us for some part of the protest. One hundred protesters would send a powerful message to the community.

Please visit our Web site
<www.peacefresno.org>
or call (559) 487-2515.

Fresno: November 2004 Election Analysis

By Mike Rhodes, Editor

THERE IS MOUNTING Evidence that significant voting irregularities took place nationally in the November 2, 2004 election. In this month's issue of the Community Alliance, we include articles and charts documenting this fraud. Eighty million eligible voters did not even cast a ballot and we have George W. Bush and his minions claiming a mandate. The razor-thin victory he is claiming does not give him a mandate.

Here in Fresno County, the heart of the Central Valley, voters cast their ballots for Bush by a wide margin. Voting more like they were in Kansas City than San Francisco, Fresno County voters supported Bush over Kerry by a margin of 58% to 41%. The Green Party candidate, David Cobb, received only 475 votes for .2% of the vote. Leonard Peltier of the Peace and Freedom Party got 275 votes or .1% of the vote.

The year 2004 marks the first time that the Fresno County Green Party has run candidates in Fresno. Larry Mullen, who ran in the 19th District for the House of Representatives, received 13,362, or 7% of the vote. John Crockford, running in the 29th Assembly District, received 4,401, or 3% of the vote. But, as Crockford pointed out, there are only 1,129 Greens registered in that district. He received almost four times the number of votes than there are registered Greens. What would happen if the Democrats did that?

The Fresno County Green Party did not make a conscious decision to run local candidates. The decision was made by the candidates themselves—and the party, while supportive, did not decide who should run or in which races to run candidates. If the Fresno County Green Party had discussed an electoral strategy, would they have selected a very conservative Assembly District in predominantly white, middle-class Clovis? There was another Green Party member who ran in a non-partisan school board race: he received 15% of the vote. If Green Party efforts had been focused on one race that they had a serious chance of winning, would we have an elected Green Party member in Fresno today?

The Fresno Unified School District race was watched closely in this community. Mayor Alan Autry and other conservative forces backed a slate of candidates who signed on to a "contract on kids." The slate of candidates supported by the mayor pledged to support the contract, which would weaken unions and impose conservative values in the school district. The Fresno Teachers Association ran an alternative slate of candidates. Most progressive groups in Fresno were pleased that two of the three FTA candidates won and that the mayor succeeded in electing only one of his candidates. The fourth candidate elected was not supported by either the mayor or the FTA. Manuel Nunez, the independent school board candidate in Southeast Fresno, was endorsed by the Central Valley Progressive PAC, a new progressive political force in Fresno.

A New Measure C: This Time for All the People

By Werner Lipton

What Is Measure C?

Each time you buy anything in Fresno County, except food or medicine, half a cent for each dollar you spend ends up in the Measure C kitty. This transportation-purposes tax was approved by Fresno County voters in 1986 and became effective in 1987. Over its 20-year life, the tax is expected to raise about \$800 million. The tax will expire at the end of 2006.

How Have Your Dollars Been Spent?

A full three-quarters of the money has financed expressway construction, including construction of Highways 168, 180, and 41. A quarter of the money has been allocated (both to the cities in Fresno County and to the County itself) for transportation-related projects: mostly fixing streets and roads, adding road capacity, subsidizing public transit—whatever the elected officials decided was most important for their jurisdictions.

Who Has Spent Your Dollars?

The Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) was formed and authorized to spend the money under the enabling legislation. It has seven members: two county supervisors, the mayor, one council member from the City of Fresno, one council member from Clovis, and one council member from a small city. The seventh member, the so-called public member, is chosen by the other six. For the most part, the public member has not been an independent voice for the public at large because he or she is picked by the other six members of the FCTA. While the FCTA has held nearly monthly public meetings, these have received little public notice in the media. Therefore, only a few citizens have attended the meetings with any regularity, with the result that most Fresno County residents have no idea what the FCTA is or does.

The Crucial Election of 2002

The FCTA did not attempt any public outreach until the renewal of Measure C became an issue in 2002. A steering committee of about 40 voting members appointed by the Policy Board of the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) and the Board of Supervisors set the agenda. Some of the voting members were administrators and employees of the agencies that would have

administered the measure. A majority of the committee wanted voters to approve an extension with the same major focus as the current one: freeways. Only about 16% of the revenue was designated for public mass transit and other people-friendly ways to move around.

A group of individuals and organizations, among them the League of Women Voters, the American Lung Association, the Sierra Club, Fresno Area Citizens for an Effective Transportation System, the Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee (ADA) and some bicycling enthusiasts, rebelled at this proposal because it would have perpetuated sprawl and, most important, would have further aggravated the serious air pollution problem that besets our area.

An army of volunteers and an intensive campaign, financed mostly by small individual donations, helped to defeat Measure C. The proposal garnered 54% of the vote, far short of the required two-thirds vote.

Where We Are

The opponents of Measure C (2002 version) have expanded and organized as the Coalition for Livable Fresno County Communities, which now consists of more than a dozen diverse civic groups. Partners of the Coalition have met almost weekly ever since November 2002 to hammer out a proposal for a successor to Measure C. The Coalition strongly favors the renewal of the tax so that all sections of Fresno County and all segments of Fresno County residents can benefit from well-maintained streets and roads, greatly improved public transit systems and safe pedestrian and bike connections for all ages, regardless of physical ability.

The Coalition recognized early that voter approval of a successor to Measure C could be obtained only by paying attention to the diverse needs of the many communities of Fresno County, urban and rural, from the Sierra Nevada to the Coast Range, prosperous and poor. To this end, Coalition partners met with elected officials and/or staff of nearly all cities of Fresno County and of Fresno County itself. We solicited suggestions on provisions that would help meet the transportation infrastructure needs of their communities and of the whole county for the near future and for decades to come. [Cont. on 7]

Janet Ryan, the mayor's candidate who won in District 6 (Hoover High), did so with only 31.4% of the vote. The reason she won is that there were six candidates in the race. There was a strong FTA candidate, Bill Brewster, who received 27.2%, and Democratic Party activist Michael O'Hare (the incumbent) who received 17.1%. The other candidates included Sean Radbill, a refreshing young voice for change, and Peace Fresno member Diane Kallo. With so many good progressive candidates to choose from, the result was a divided vote that gave the election to the most conservative candidate on the ballot. If there had been only one candidate running against Ryan in District 6, the outcome would have been a whole lot different. This is something that should come up in a strategy discussion among left/progressive candidates before the next school board election.

Measure Z was a ballot initiative that received a lot of local attention. Many Fresnoans first noticed Measure Z when a stampede of knee-high, blue-eyed elephants appeared. Seemingly on the verge of tears, these heart-tugging little darlins were, of course, the Yes on "Z" campaign yard signs. They were cute. They were everywhere. But people started to ask if they were also trampling the truth.

The Yes on Z campaign said that they were just trying to save the zoo. They claimed that because of past neglect the zoo was in need of significant infrastructure work. With all of the media on their side, 95,000 yard signs, and a budget big enough to choke an elephant, just about everyone supported Measure Z.

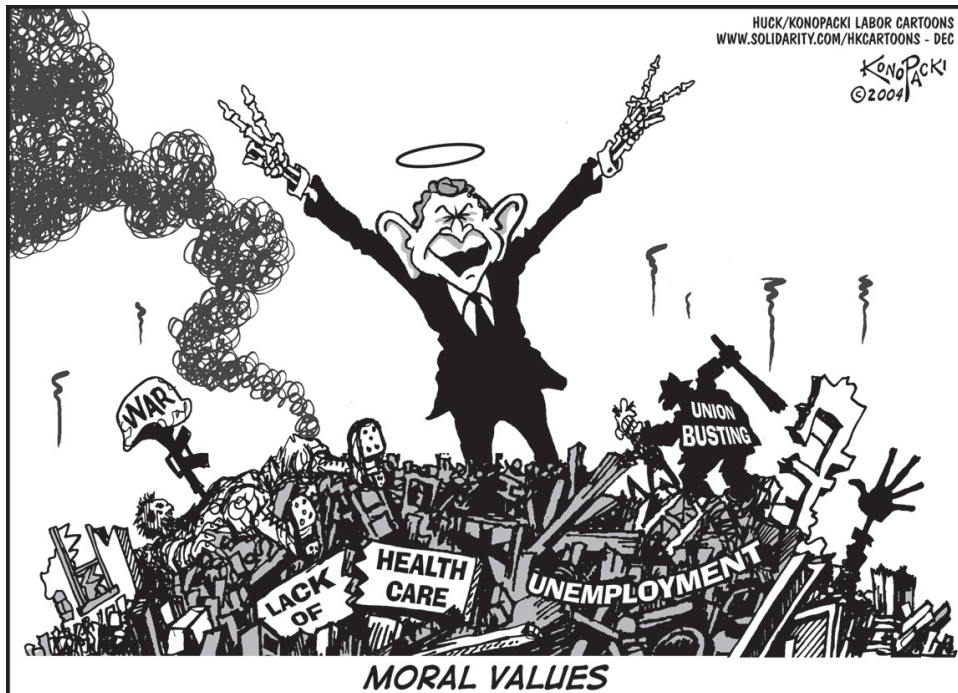
Local community activist Kevin Hall was not convinced. For some reason he decided to look at the public record. What he found created a huge public debate about the privatization of Roeding Park, hidden expansion plans for the zoo, and questions about the sources of the Yes on Z campaign funding. The problem was getting the message out to the public. With all of the corporate media in lockstep with the Yes on Z campaign, Kevin could not get the information out. That all changed with a front page story in the October Community Alliance magazine and interviews on community radio station KFCF 88.1 FM.

The map detailing massive zoo expansion was printed in the Community Alliance. The map was re-printed and handed out door to door. The details of a safari world

taking over central Fresno's only public green space came out. The right-wing Republican agenda of cutting funds for Parks and Recreation and social services was told. After they cut critical funding for the zoo, they sell us a tax that will privatize the little green space we have left. Union jobs would be lost, parking lots would be expanded, and the people would lose the park. Why raise \$95 million in tax for infrastructure work that requires \$3.5 million? The answer was simple: the real reason for Measure Z was to expand the zoo, privatize the park, enrich the business that will finance the work, and funnel most of the money to the building and construction industry.

Unfortunately, the Save Roeding Park campaign, which had less than \$10,000 to

[Cont. on 7]



[A New Measure C - Cont. from 6]

The Coalition also has participated in mediation efforts under the auspices of Supervisors Arambula and Anderson to get the pro and con 2002 groups to agree on a new measure. We also are working with elected officials within the framework of the Council of Fresno County Governments, the body charged with transportation planning in Fresno County.

The community needs to arrive at a plan that will meet the transportation needs of Fresno County while it substantially reduces air pollution, alleviates traffic congestion, and improves public safety. Rail consolidation (having the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe relocated to the Union Pacific corridor) is expected to be an integral part of these improvements.

Whatever the measure envisions, it must find favor with two-thirds of Fresno County voters. If the extension, proposed for the November 2006 election, fails again, no one gets anything. We hope that this realization will spur everyone to arrive at a generally acceptable, forward-looking measure.

Coalition Proposals

The Coalition proposes two major changes in the authority that will administer the renewed measure. We want to assure more open governance, wider representation, the presence of independent voices, and formalized public oversight.

(1) The FCTA should be enlarged by two members. One additional member is to be from one of the small cities, so that the west side and east side of the county each have a voice. The other addition will be a public member. Crucially, the two public members shall not be appointed by the other seven members of the authority (various elected officials), but one each by the Board of Supervisors and Fresno City Council. Alternatively, the Coalition could support a directly elected authority, as proposed by Supervisor Arambula, as

long as it guarantees representation for eastern and western rural Fresno County areas, in addition to the densely populated urban center.

(2) The Coalition also proposes the establishment of an Oversight Committee consisting of private residents that represent diverse civic and professional organizations. This committee would be charged with assuring that the Authority spends the tax moneys in accordance with provisions of the measure approved by the voters.

Both of these proposals require enabling legislation to be approved by the California state legislature. Once negotiations start regarding the provisions of a new measure, the Coalition will present its consensus position on the percentages that should be spent for public mass transit, street/road repair and maintenance, non-motorized transportation, pedestrian and ADA compliance facilities, and road expansion.

How You Can Get Involved

The COG Policy Board is expected to assemble a steering committee that represents a diversity of interests to work on a new measure. These meetings will be open to the public. Once they are publicized, attend. Inform yourself about the issues. Have your say. Silence gets you nowhere. To find out where and when the committee meetings will be held, check the Fresno Bee or the Community Alliance; call COG at 233-4148 or check its Web site at <www.fresnocog.org>; or contact the League of Women Voters at 268-8683. Meetings are unlikely before January.

[2004 Election Analysis -Cont. from 6]

spend, could not overcome the momentum of the monolithic Yes on Z campaign and their \$1.2 million budget. The measure, which needed two-thirds to pass, passed with 72.9% of the vote (142,651 votes to 52,997).

Some opponents of Measure Z have suggested that the Save Roeding Park campaign was at least somewhat successful. In addition to making privatization and expansion of the zoo an issue, they forced the Yes on Z campaign to make public statements limiting zoo growth. Mayor Autry and several proponents of the measure promised that the zoo would not expand to

to put that comment in print. McEwen did not say the action of McDonald was that of a bully or that it was wrong—just that McDonald should think twice before hitting that Send button.

Voting irregularities in Fresno included a large number of absentee voters who did not receive their ballots. Peace Fresno, Fresno Area Congregations Together (FACT), the National Action Network, and the Save Roeding Park campaign held a press conference on November 2 to bring this problem to the attention of the community. “People who ask for an absentee ballot do so for a reason,” said the Rev. Floyd Harris of the National Action Network California Chap-

“The county’s nonchalant attitude is an insult to the voters in our community who are the most marginalized,”

more than 25% of the park. While most No on Z activists don’t trust the mayor’s “recommendation” that no more than 25% of the park will be taken over, it is a statement that can be used in the future. Many of the voters that supported Measure Z did so because of assurances that the park would not be taken over by the zoo. At least we have a tool to hold zoo-expansion advocates’ feet to the fire if they try to grow beyond 25% of the park.

David McDonald, president and CEO of Pelco, was the primary force behind the Yes on Z campaign. Pelco, which is a Fresno-based corporation that manufactures video surveillance equipment, ran the campaign from their corporate headquarters.

In a development that reveals a lot about the nature of politics in this community, the Fresno Bee reported on November 10 that McDonald contacted Board of Supervisors chairperson Susan Anderson, telling her to remove Kevin Hall from the planning commission. McDonald, after talking with Anderson, sent an e-mail to supporters saying, “You will be pleased to know that I have now spoken with Supervisor Anderson, and there is NO chance of Mr. Hall being re-appointed.” In a follow-up article in the Bee the next day, columnist Bill McEwen complained about the e-mail, saying that McDonald should have known better than

ter. “They are often elderly and unable to drive. The suggestion that they can simply go down to the county clerk’s office or to their usual polling place to ask for a provisional ballot ignores the reality of the situation. It shows that the county either doesn’t get it or just doesn’t care.”

“The county’s nonchalant attitude is an insult to the voters in our community who are the most marginalized,” said Manuel Toledo of Fresno Area Congregations Together. “It’s a non-response. The county must do much, much more to contact these voters and make sure they have a fair opportunity to vote.”

There were also reports of people who were paid by the Republican Party to register new (Republican) voters, who did not turn in the registration forms if the person registering didn’t join the Republican Party. The Republican Party was paying \$7 per Republican Party member, but nothing if you registered Green or Democrat, giving registrars little incentive to turn in non-Republican Party forms.

Perhaps the most serious attempt to interfere with our voting rights came from Pappas Telecasting. Pappas owns the Fox TV affiliate in the Central Valley and KMPH FM, a talk radio station in Fresno. Pappas tried to give \$325,000 of free advertising to Republican Party candidates. The FCC,

prompted by public complaints and Democratic Party lawyers, ruled that the attempted giveaway was unfair and ordered Pappas to halt the practice. The FCC ruling was a windfall to several Democratic Party candidates in the area including Nicole Parra, who was running against Republican Dean Gardner. Parra, who won her race for the 30th Assembly District, was presumed to be one of the targets of the Pappas free advertising giveaway.

There were other significant local developments in the local November 2004 election. For example, Measure B (the library tax) passed. In addition, FACT conducted a successful get-out-the-vote campaign in Southeast and Southwest Fresno to empower poor and working people. There will be more analysis about that development in a future article. Also, progressives are already developing a strategy for the 2006 City Council and Board of Supervisors elections. Even though the national elections were not what progressives had hoped for, progress has been made on the local level. The progressive movement in Fresno is as strong and vital as ever. To see a list of progressive groups active in the Fresno area, go to <www.fresnoalliance.com/home/community.htm>.

Important Links For Further Reading

<http://sfbay.indymedia.org/news/2004/10/1701778.php>

<www.saveroedingpark.com/>

<sfbay.indymedia.org/news/2004/10/1697549.php>

To see the details about the incredible amount of money (over \$1.2 million) spent on Measure Z, see

<sfbay.indymedia.org/news/2004/10/1699618.php>

The article “Operation Rezone Roeding” can be found here:

<www.indybay.org/news/2004/10/1702322.php>

You can read more about missing absentee ballots here:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/politics/story/9365417p-10272660c.html>



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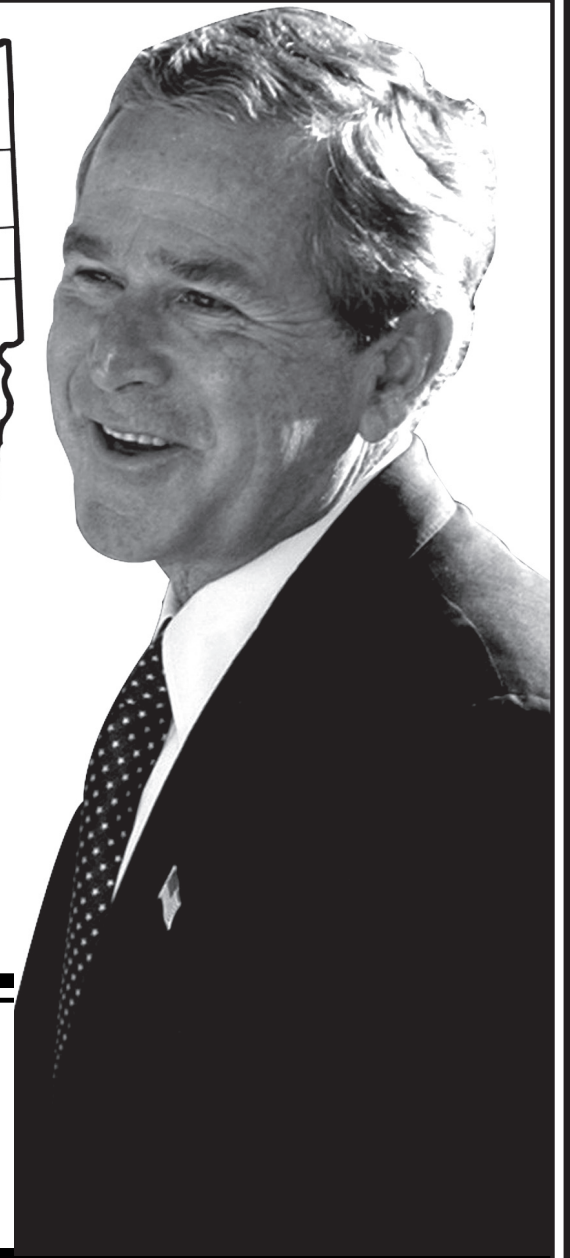
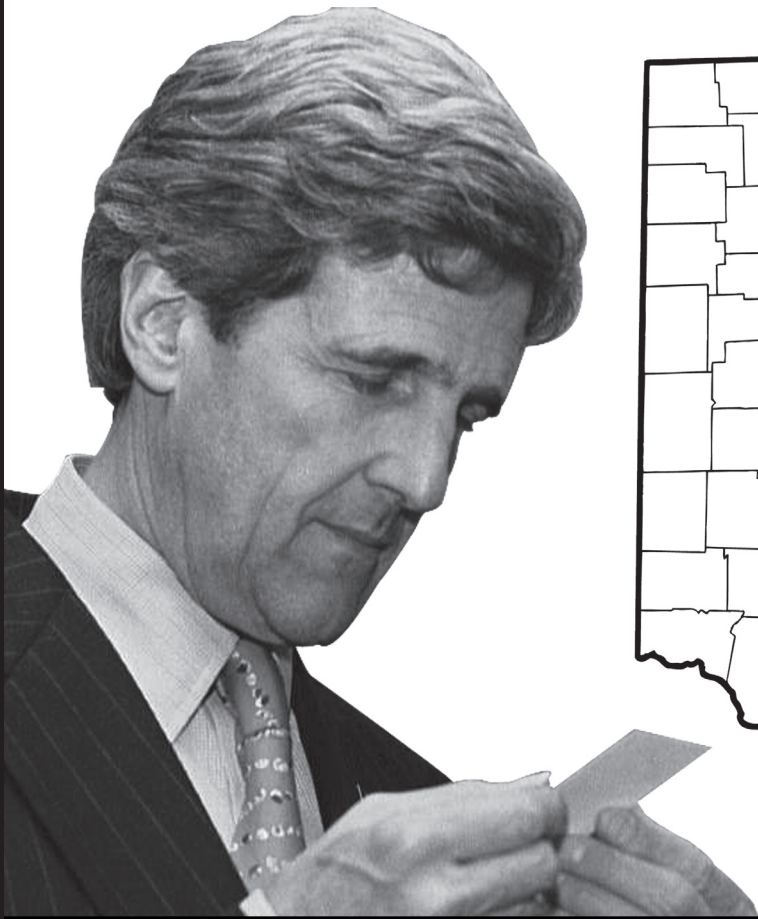


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Most voters in Ohio chose Kerry;
here's how the votes vanished.



THE BALLOTS AT THE BACK OF THE BUS

By Greg Palast

THIS PAST FEBRUARY, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE KEN BLACKWELL told the president of the State Senate, "The possibility of a close election with punch cards as the state's primary voting device invites a Florida-like calamity." Blackwell, co-chair of Bush-Cheney reelection campaign, wasn't warning his fellow Republican of disaster; he was boasting of an opportunity to deliver Ohio for Team Bush no matter what the voters wanted. And this past Election Day most voters in Ohio wanted JFK, not GWB. But their choice won't count because their votes won't be counted.

The ballots that add up to a majority for John Kerry in Ohio are locked up in two Republican hide-holes: "spoiled" and "provisional."

spoiled punch cards not, as is generally believed, by halting a recount.

Federal investigators determined that in the 2000 Florida race black voters' ballots spoiled 900 percent more often than white voters, mainly due to punch card error. This year, Ohio was the only one of 50 states to refuse to eliminate or fix these vote-eating machines, even in the face of a lawsuit by the ACLU.

Apparently, the Ohio Republicans liked what the ACLU found. The civil rights group's expert testimony concluded that Ohio's cussed insistence on forcing 73 percent of its electorate to use punch card machines had an overwhelming racial bias, voiding votes mostly in black precincts. Blackwell doesn't disagree; and he hopes to fix the machinery ... after George Bush's next inauguration. In the meantime, the state's Attorney General Jim Petro, a Republican, postponed the trial date of the ACLU case until after the election.

Fixing the problem is easy. If Ohio had placed a card-reading machine in each polling station, as Michigan did this year, voters could have ensured their vote would tally. If not, they would have gotten new cards.

Blackwell knows that. He also knows that if those reading machines had been installed, almost all of the 93,000 spoiled votes (from overwhelmingly Democratic areas) would have closed the gap on Bush's lead of 136,000 votes.

JIM CROW'S PROVISIONAL BALLOT

Add to spoiled ballots a second group of uncounted votes, provisional ballots, and the White House would have turned Democrat blue. But that won't happen because of the peculiar way provisional ballots are counted or, more often, not counted. The

This year, Ohio was the only one of 50 states to refuse to eliminate or fix these vote-eating machines, even in the face of a lawsuit by the ACLU.

OHIO SPOILED ROTTEN

In a typical presidential election, 2 million ballots are marked "spoiled" and then chucked in the garbage, uncounted. But a dive into the electoral dumpster reveals something special about these votes. In a precinct-by-precinct analysis of the Florida 2000 race, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission discovered that 54 percent of spoiled ballots were cast by African-Americans. Florida is typical. Nationwide, the number of black votes "disappeared" into the spoiled pile is about 1 million. The other million in the no-count pit come mainly from Hispanic, Native-American and poor white precincts, a decidedly Democratic demographic.

Vote spoilage comes in two flavors. "Overvotes" are where there are too many punches in the cards. And "undervotes" are where the hanging, dimpled and "pregnant" chads created by old punch card machines hang on. Machines can't these kinds of undervotes, but we humans, who know a hole when we see one, have no problem ... if we're allowed to. This is how Katherine Harris defeated Al Gore: by halting the hand count of the

provisional ballot, introduced by federal law in 2002, was proposed by the Congressional Black Caucus to save the rights of those wrongly scrubbed from voter rolls. In Republican-controlled swing states, however, these were twisted into back-of-the-bus ballots unlikely to be tallied. These provisional ballots are counted only at the whim of a state's top elections official; and in Ohio, that gives a virtual ballot veto to Bush-Cheney campaign co-chair Blackwell.

In Ohio, more than 155,000 voters were shunted to these second-class ballots. The election-shifting bulge in provisional ballots (more than 3 percent of the electorate) was the direct result of the national Republican strategy that targeted African-American precincts for mass challenges on Election Day.

And Blackwell has a few rules to ensure a large proportion of provisional ballots won't be counted. For the first time in memory, the secretary of state banned counting ballots cast in the "wrong" precinct, though all neighborhoods shared the same slate of presidential candidates. [Cont. on 9]

KERRY CALLS THE GAME EARLY

[Cont. from 8]
 This is the first time in four decades that a political party systematically barred tens of thousands of black voters.

While investigating for BBC Television, we obtained three dozen of the Republican Party's confidential "caging lists," their title for the spreadsheets that list the names and addresses of Ohio voters they intended to block on any pretext. Every address of the thousands on these Republican hit lists was located in black-majority precincts. You might find that nasty and racist. It may also be a crime.

Before 1965, Jim Crow laws did not bar blacks from voting. Minor technical voting requirements were applied only to African-Americans. That year, Congress voted to make profiling and impeding minority voters a criminal offense under the Voting Rights Act. But that didn't stop the Republicans of 2004. Their mass challenge to black voters is not some low-level dirty tricks operation of local party hacks. E-mails show the lists were copied directly to the Republican National Committee's chief of research and to the director of a state campaign.

Many challenges center on changes of address. On one Republican caging list, 50 addresses changed from Jacksonville to overseas—African-American soldiers shipped "over there."

Blackwell has said he will count all the "valid" provisional ballots. However, his rigid regulations are rigged to knock out enough voters to keep Bush's skinny lead alive. Other pre-election maneuvers by Republican officials—late and improbably large purges of voter rolls, rejection of registrations—maximized the use of provisional ballots that will never be counted. For example, a voter wrongly tagged as an ineligible felon voter (and there are plenty in that category, mostly African-Americans), may lose his ballot even though wrongly identified.

During the campaign it was heartening that John Kerry broke the political omerta that seems to prohibit public mention of the color of votes not counted in America. "Don't tell us that in the strongest democracy on earth ... a million disenfranchised African-Americans is the best we can do." The Senator promised the NAACP convention, "This November ... we're going to make sure that every single vote is counted."

But Kerry waited less than 24 hours to abandon more than a quarter million Ohio voters still waiting for their provisional and chad-spooled ballots to be counted.

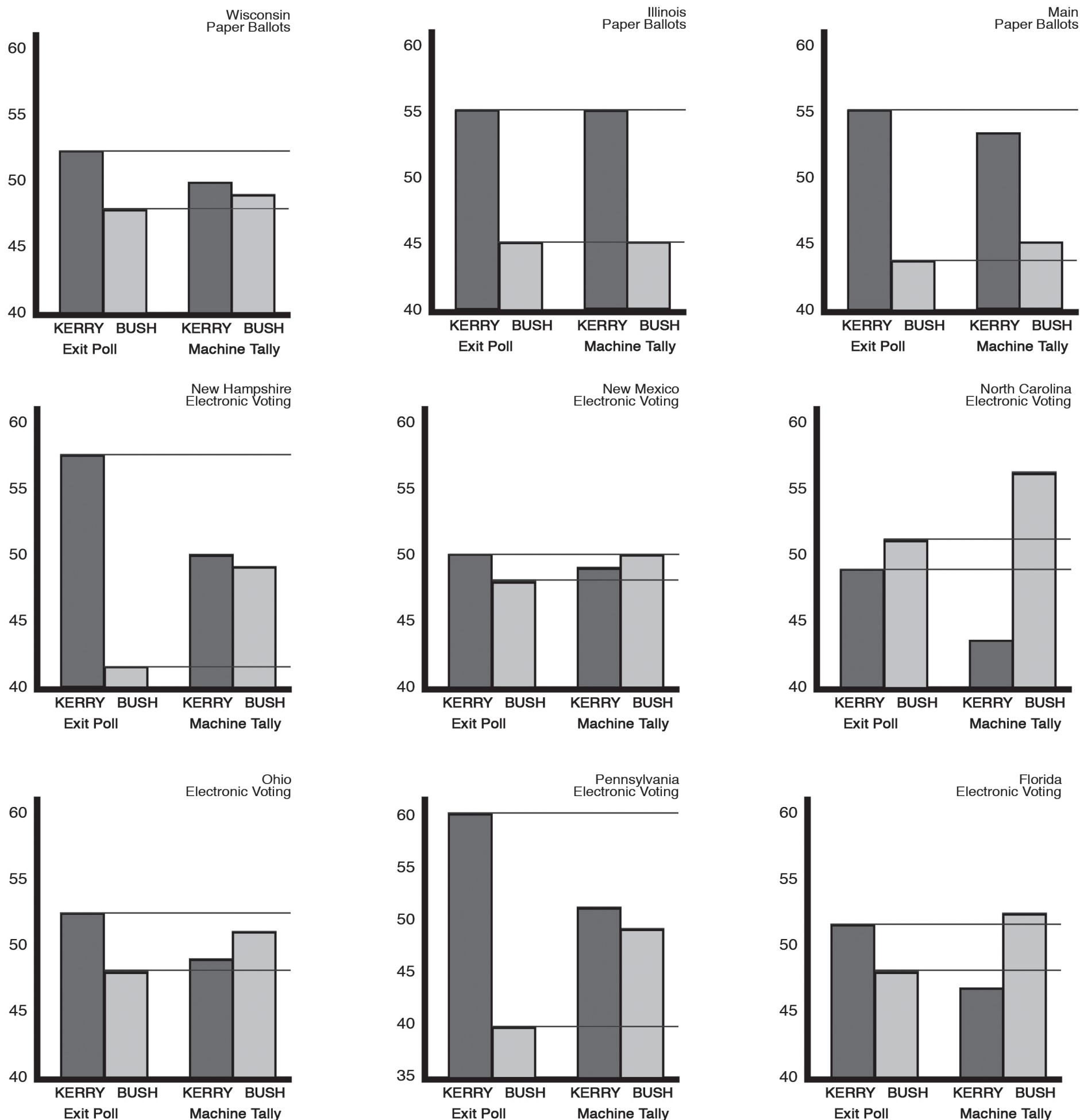
While disappointing, I can understand the cold calculus against taking the fight to the end. To count the ballots, Kerry's lawyers would first have to demand a hand reading of the punch cards. Blackwell, armed with the Supreme Court's Bush v. Gore diktat, would undoubtedly pull a "Kate Harris" by halting or restricting a hand count. Most daunting, Kerry's team also would have to litigate each rejected provisional ballot in court. This would entail locating up to a hundred thousand voters to testify to their right to the vote as Blackwell challenged each. Given the odds and the cost to his political career, Kerry bent, not to the will of the people, but to the willpower of the Ohio Republican machine.

We have yet to total the votes lost in missing absentee ballots, in eyebrow-raising touch screen tallies, in purges of legal voters from registries and other games played in swing states. Undoubtedly, Kerry also took New Mexico. But why dwell on these things? Our betters in the political and media elite have told us to get over it. Move on.

To the victors go the spoils of electoral class war. As Ohio's politically ambitious secretary of state brags on his own Web site, "Last time I checked, Katherine Harris wasn't in a soup line, she's in Congress."

Greg Palast, author of *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, has released a new CD, *Weapon of Mass Destruction*, available on <www.GregPalast.com>.

Below Is A Series Of Graphs Which Compare Exit Polls To Actual Voter Machine Tally's In Several States



FOOD NOT BOMBS

Continues To Feed The Homeless, Poor, and Food Challenged in Fresno

By Paul Thomas Jackson



WHEN NEWT GINGRICH CAME TO town on January 11, 1996, a few dozen Fresno progressives who possessed a flair for the culinary arts decided to greet him by serving a free vegetarian meal across the street from the conference at which he spoke—a visible reminder of the social injustice that exists outside the halls in which society's powerful and privileged hold their meetings.

But the activities of Food Not Bombs (FNB), a movement that began in Cambridge, Mass., in 1980 and is now in many parts of the world, are not merely symbolic. To anyone who joins Fresno FNB for lunch, served Saturdays and Sundays, it's obvious most of the lunch guests are quite hungry.

The volunteers of FNB recover vegetables, bread, and fruit that would otherwise be thrown out and then prepare and serve this food to hungry people—whether they are homeless or food-insecure. Everyone who shows up and is willing to wait in line will be served, but most fall into one of these two categories. That either category should exist among the population of the world's richest society is surely a scandal. And that undernourished people can be found in the bountiful Central Valley is a tribute to the ruthlessness of an economic system that prioritizes profit over people.

Valuing every individual as fundamentally equal, FNB is opposed to business and government decisions that result in homelessness, hunger, and militarism. Its volunteers also believe that food is a right. "Feed people—not the military-industrial complex," says Dallas Blanchard, one of the handful of volunteers who've been volunteering for FNB since it began in Fresno.

FNB volunteers address lunch guests warmly and respectfully, and serve them on a "first come, first served" basis. Often, lunch guests respond with "God bless," either expressing their own beliefs or mistaking FNB for a church group. Fresno FNB has counted Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, two agnostics, and one atheist among its volunteers, and welcomes those of all faiths and belief systems compatible with its founding

principles: nonviolence; preparing and serving vegetarian food; food recycling (composting); and decision making by consensus.

FNB is not affiliated with any church or religious group. Those who volunteer in preparing and serving the lunch on Saturdays at Roeding Park would like to thank the Wesley United Methodist church once again for the ongoing use of its kitchen.

Alongside the Fresno Bicycle Clinic, which does free repairs on the grass lawn to the north of Storyland, Fresno FNB (Sat.) serves lunch at 1 p.m. One Saturday per month, Tom Machado, another long-time volunteer, drives his full-size pickup truck there, delivering a load full of clothing for free distribution. To hundreds of recipients, the warm clothing is essential during these winter months.

FNB imposes no message on its guests, except the FNB logo itself, consisting of a purple hand clenching a carrot. Volunteers who serve food for Fresno FNB (Sat.) also wear purple latex gloves while serving food. As the box of gloves goes around, a few homeless people each grab a pair of purple gloves and help serve food.

Nearby, a picnic table has a sign saying "Chess Not Bombs," a tradition started by one of FNB's regular lunch guests who teaches beginners at chess, mostly young children, how pieces move. While he plays the game, other children come with their families to eat lunch. The ages of lunch guests range from toddler to great-grandparent, and many of them compose entire families—an alarming recent trend in US homelessness.

Under pressure by the City of Fresno (which of late has had its eye on Roeding Park), the Fresno Free Clinic, run by Dr. Marc Lasher, and the needle exchange, coordinated by Dallas Blanchard, now serve people at a location just outside the park, carrying on the battle against the epidemics of AIDS and hepatitis C.

Although FNB imposes no message on its guests, conversations do occur over lunch. Those volunteers who espouse a faith always can, and sometimes do speak with guests about spiritual matters. But FNB offers hungry people an invaluable alternative to virtually all other free

meals served around town, which are served on the condition that people hear a religious message of one kind or another.

The atmosphere that FNB seeks to create is one in which all people are respected as fundamental equals. The act of sharing food—a necessity of life—is a simple, effective way to show such respect.

"Food Not Bombs is healing," says Becky Asami, a recent high school graduate who has assumed primary responsibility for coordinating Fresno FNB (Sun.). It was in January of 2001 that local high school students like Asami, who'd already developed a social conscience, decided to expand Fresno FNB to Sundays. As the City of Fresno began "revitalizing" downtown areas, the young, idealistic group of volunteers chose to serve lunch at Courthouse Park.

Although about 100 people join Fresno FNB (Sat.) for lunch, only about two dozen, mostly homeless, people have lunch on Fresno FNB (Sun.), served at 2:30 p.m.

While having chats over lunch on Sundays, a couple of these people have recounted their experiences as non-beneficiaries of "revitalization."

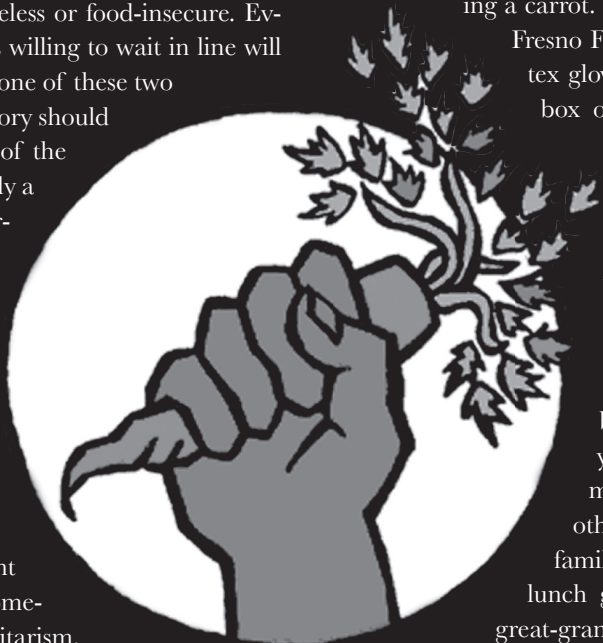
Pedro, a 63-year-old man, and two other homeless men each had a couch of his own in an alley near the Grizzlies Stadium. For eight years, the three lived there without any complaint or incident until one night when a patrol of six Fresno P.D. officers on bicycles showed up and warned them that it would be their final night at that location. The men went about their usual recycling activities the following day; and upon returning to their couches that night, found them burned to ashes.

Fresno FNB (Sun.) serves the nutritional needs of homeless people like Pedro. Its volunteers express solidarity with people whose needs the City has overlooked while making its plans for downtown. The simple act of sharing food—uncluttered by messages of any kind—is a refreshing alternative to the norm. (Another exception to the norm is the St. Benedict Catholic Worker, serving dinner outside the detention facility at 7 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays).

But, unlike Fresno FNB (Sat.), which gratefully receives financial support enabling it to purchase spices, dry rice and beans, and plastic servingware, Fresno FNB (Sun.) is now struggling to make ends meet.

Please donate financial support, if you can, to Fresno FNB (Sun.)'s account at Smart & Final. A one-time donation, even as small as \$5 or \$10, will be greatly appreciated. Your donation will go directly for the supplies necessary to serve our Sunday lunches. Please mail your donation to Becky Asami, 562 East Vassar Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704-6026.

In the words of Lynn Graham, another volunteer with this visionary movement since it came to Fresno in 1996: "Food Not Bombs forever! Or as long as there are bombs!"



FOOD NOT BOMBS

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Old Fashioned Apple Crumb Pie ...Naturally Vegan

Pie Filling:
1 Pre-Made Pie Crust
2/3 Cup Unbleached Sugar
2 Tb. Unbleached Flour
1/4 tsp. Cinnamon
1/4 tsp. Nutmeg
4 Cups Firm Apples (peeled, cored, and sliced)
3 Tb. Red Wine (optional)

•In large bowl, mix sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
•Toss in apples and mix until evenly coated.
•Pour into pre-made pie crust.
•Sprinkle with red wine for a bolder flavor.

Crumb Topping:
1/4 Cup Flour
1/4 Cup Dairy-Free Margarine
1/4 Cup Natural Brown Sugar (firmly packed)
1/4 tsp. Cinnamon

•In medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, and cinnamon.
•Cut margarine in with a fork until mixture is choppy.
•Sprinkle over apples.
•Place dish on a baking tray to prevent drips, and bake at 400f for 30 to 40 minutes, or until crumbs are golden brown.
•Remove, and let pie cool for 1 hour.

Makes 8 servings.

Twenty-first Century Marxism

By John Crockford

Wage Labour and Capital was originally published in 1891 as a pamphlet. Written by Karl Marx and later translated/edited by Frederick Engels, it is offered here in a form that attempts to bring this work forward into twenty-first century America while remaining true to the original ideas put forth by the author. This is the last of three parts in this series. It includes a comment by the editor, John Crockford.—

The Relationship of the Price of Commodities

In the first two installments, we have seen how the changing relation of supply and demand causes increases and decreases of prices. If the price of a commodity rises considerably owing to a failing supply or a disproportionately growing demand, then the price of some other commodity must have fallen in proportion, for of course the price of a commodity only expresses in money the proportion in which other commodities will be given in exchange for it. If, for example, the price of a winter coat rises from \$20.00 to \$25.00, the price (or value) of the dollar (the commodity used to purchase the product) has fallen in relation to the coat. In order to buy that coat now, you would have to have an additional \$5.00 in your pocket. Whereas you previously had 100% of the money needed to purchase the coat, with the rise in the price of the coat you now have only 80% of the price.

Since the amount of money you have in your pocket is wholly dependent upon your wages, the price (or value) of your wages has been reduced. In order to gain the money needed to purchase your coat, you have to increase your wages (society's exchange-value for a worker's labor).

Remember what we discussed in the first chapter of this essay:

The worker's commodity (labor-power) is exchanged for the commodity of the employer (money) and at a certain ratio: so much money for a period of use of a worker's labor-power. For eight hours of work, eight hours of pay. And the eight hours of pay (money) represents all the other commodities that can be purchased (at a certain ratio) with this money. In essence, by giving the worker money, the employer has given the worker an amount of food, an amount of clothing, and so on, in exchange for his or her work. The money therefore expresses the relation in which labor-power is exchanged for other commodities. This is the exchange-value of labor-power.

The determination of the price of a product by its owner is equivalent to the determination of the cost of production—of raw materials, tools, and labor-time (the labor-power that is measured by its duration). The same general laws—laws that regulate the price of commodities in general—naturally regulate wages, or the price of labor-power. Wages will rise and fall, according to the relation of supply and demand, according to how competition shapes itself between the buyers of labor-power (the capitalists) and the sellers of labor-power (the workers).

Editor's Comment

If the determination of the cost of any element of production is removed from the influence of the general laws of supply and demand, then balance is no longer present. If that element of production is labor-power, then an injustice arises.

As it stands now, the need for profit determines the price of labor-power (a worker's wages) that the capitalist is willing to pay. Bolstered by laws that protect and encourage the accumulation of wealth by a few at the expense of the many, the capitalist is free (and all too willing) to deny the basic human rights to which all are entitled in furtherance of that pursuit.

The struggle for the empowerment of the working class as rightful owners of their labor-power (and its exchange-value) is, therefore, a struggle for human rights.

The Green Machine

Don't Funk With Petroleum

BY SHAWN PUTNAM



I FIRST SAW THE GREEN Machine, a progressive band from Hanford with a natural roots sound, last March, when they played at the "End the War and Occupation of Iraq" rally in downtown Fresno. Recently, I had the chance to see them at the Starline, where once again they had the audience moving and grooving to their sweet sounds all over the dance floor. Later that week, I was able to interview Chris and Tina to get the full story behind where the Green Machine and their music come from.

In 1992, Chris Avina, Tina Avina, and Jeff Wagner joined together to create good music and good vibes. Later on, they met Craig Manges

and earth-toned themes, they have created a unique base for their well thought-out, politically charged lyrics.

A few years back, Chris and Tina met Issac Halie Selassie who "taught us how to create true roots music." They also learned a lot about Rasta roots music through their friendship with Issac. Chris and Tina both explained that he brought them a lot of new and interesting spiritual outlooks on life. Tina learned about fasting and enhanced her knowledge on meditation from him as well. "People do different things for their spirituality. I go by what I've learned and have been taught. I use different ways of meditating and fasting." For Tina, meditation is necessary in her life. "Meditation is prevention from the war inside of me." Tina also fasts at the beginning of each year to maintain a healthy life. "You always have to be meditating; otherwise you lose all your energy and go down to the bottom and have to start over again." Issac Halie Selassie taught her that meditation is the best way to remain healthy.

Chris and Tina also believe that their style of music is what people need to help dance away their cares, since the music of the Green Machine has been infused with spiritually uplifting tones and many positive themes of the Rasta movement.

The lyrics of The Green Machine are filled with underlying political themes. To get more specific on where the group stands on certain issues, I asked Chris some questions.

The Patriot Act is something everyone is always criticizing

for its injustices. What are your thoughts on the Patriot Act?

C: It's absolutely the worst thing out there. It literally keeps me up at night. The Patriot Act 2, as well as the Rave Act, are totally wrong and will only bring more problems for the people.

What do you think about the States's priority of prisons over the expansion of education?

C: In Hanford, so many people work at the prison. It's just an absolute prison-industrial complex. Things like prisons are exactly what are wrong with our country. I saw a good friend of mine serve five years in prison for drug charges because of the Three Strikes law. Privatization is making it worse for everyone. I thought prisons were for rehabilitation, but that's not what I've seen.

How do you feel about the strictness of current drug laws, as well as legalization?

C: California is going in the right direction. People should have the right to use drugs responsibly. Most drugs could be legalized with little or next to no problems involved. People should at least have the right to use marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes! (Chris is an active member of his local Medicinal Marijuana Awareness and Defense chapter.) Until I recently obtained my medicinal marijuana license, I was unable to live life under normal circumstances. Now that I have my medicinal license, I feel like a normal citizen instead of a criminal. It is unfair for people to have to live under these circumstances.

So Tina, on "Chemical Nation," I found particular interest in the lyrics "because of corporate greed, their disease we can't see." Could you elaborate on what this means to you and enlighten us on where you drew from to get this particular message? Also, what exactly do you mean by the phrase "Chemical Nation"?

T: "Chemical Nation" is what we are doing to ourselves and the environment. We are killing the species and killing everything around us. We are creating an aura of negativity around us. What I mean by "corporate greed" is the bigger corporations are searching for money with no cares as to how they get it, especially in America. We use so much oil, and we permanently damage the environment while getting it. There are so many other sources of energy out there, like solar, and they don't care. They just want money and don't care about the environment or how they get it.

On "Property of the State," you make the statement, "It seems we live our lives in hate, we are not property of the state."

[cont. on 14]



and formed the Green Machine, producing their first album together in 1998. The Green Machine continues to make great music, constantly moving into new directions that capture the attention of their audience. Using a versatile mix of high-energy Rasta jams, spacy jazz loops, and natural



[Cont. from 11]
Could you elaborate on what types of hate you are referring to exactly?

T: All types. Everybody hates something. People should stop living in such hate, killing each other. We are all one people until we die. When you die, that's when you become property of the state.

How do you think we can change these things in America?

T: We should go back to the roots and live as one with the earth. I believe in traditional times. People really don't realize how much we have in America. Everyone hates us because we waste so much while they have so little.

On "Drop the Bomb" you say, "Terrorism attacks new defense. New world order in affect. New world order is a dangerous place." You also say "leaders of an Afghan race." Could you give some insight as to what this "new world order" is under your definition?

T: It goes back to when I heard George Bush Senior say something about his "world order." This all happened while I was watching them drop bombs onto Afghanistan during Ramadan. I just remember thinking, "What type of person would do such a thing?"

S: Also, what do you think about the whole Afghan situation?

T: All I know is the little bit the mass media allows me to see. They dropped a lot of bombs over there, and people were getting leukemia. I just want to cry when I think about it.

While we are on the subject of the mass media, what are your feel-

ings on corporate-owned media and especially on how it affects people in America?

T: People don't have a chance to express themselves because people are always turning around telling them what to do and what to think. Our government wants us to just keep looking through rose-colored glasses instead of seeing people dying.

Tina, what do you think will need to take place for a real world revolution or world peace?

T: I think it would take everyone to go on a planting spree, living on their own resources, living off food people planted themselves. People should go back to traditionalism. Why should we work so hard in life only to get the bare minimum?

Although this interview delved into some of the deeper themes of Green Machine's music, you must see them live to get the full experience. Be sure to catch their next show for a chance to hear positive, progressive messages, groovy roots beats, earthy melodies, and funky synthesized tunes that will have you moving to the rhythms in no time! Hopefully I'll see you there.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

- December 11. Frog-Peach, San Luis Obispo. 10:00 PM-1:00 AM. Ages 21+.
- December 18. Old Firehouse Brew Pub, Hanford. 9:30 PM-1:30 AM.

www.greenmachine.nu

December Take-Action Report

By Vickie Fouts

IMPEACH BUSH: JOIN FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY Clark in calling for the impeachment of President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and Attorney General John D. Ashcroft for high crimes and misdemeanors, and to have the case prosecuted and tried in the US Senate. Sign the petition at <www.VoteToImpeach.org>.

VotersUnite! Join in to unify all Americans in a single call for transparent and verifiable elections—to brainstorm and then take consolidated action to support each other's efforts, inform other Americans, and convince government to comply with the will of the people. Take action at <www.votersunite.org>.

No Stolen Elections! (1) Support efforts to make every vote count in Ohio. (2) Hold public hearings in your community. (3) Wake up the media. Learn more at <www.nov3.us>.

The League of PISSED OFF Voters: Their mission is to engage pissed off 17-35 year olds in the democratic process to build a progressive governing majority in our lifetime. Learn more at <www.indyvoter.org>.

Investigation of the Efficacy of Electronic Voting Machines: Urge your representative to join Representatives Conyers, Scott, Nadler, Watt, Wexler, and Holt in calling on the Government Accountability Office to immediately undertake an investigation of the efficacy of electronic voting machines. Take action at <www.workingforchange.com>.

Pass Meaningful Election Reform: Urge your representative and senators to make meaningful election reform a top priority in the November special session and, if necessary, in the new session of Congress. Take action at <www.workingforchange.com>.



A Second Dose of Edutainment:

KRS-ONE returns to CSU Fresno for USU Lecture Series

by Rick Petinak

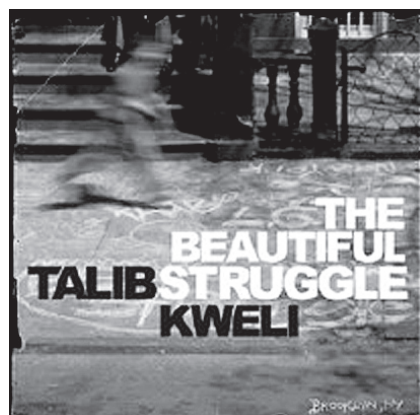
ABOUT TWELVE YEARS AGO, KRIS PARKER—BETTER KNOWN to hip-hop aficionados as rap artist KRS-ONE (which stands for Knowledge Reigns Supreme Over Nearly Everyone)—visited the Fresno State campus to deliver a highly anticipated lecture on a wide variety of topics, ranging from racism to religious hypocrisy to metaphysics. I was there, along with a diverse audience consisting of everyone from young fans mistakenly expecting a concert to suspicious professors ready to confirm their preconceived doubts about a rapper billing himself as a self-taught philosopher, activist, and metaphysician.

Indisputably, KRS had an amazing personal story. After leaving home at 14, he lived in shelters on the unforgiving streets of New York's South Bronx for five years before finally scratching his way into the early rap scene. Now keep in mind, this lecture was given in 1992, when hip-hop was still in the midst of its "cultural renaissance," if you will, a time when the focus was on lyrical content, cultural pride, and the questioning of authority. The atmosphere was tense and the lecture powerful. Attendees left the auditorium either inspired or enraged, but certainly not ambivalent. Such was the nature of the time.

Fast forward to November 3, 2004; KRS returned to CSUF with a new lecture and a new topic: "the promotion, preservation, and protection of hip-hop as a strategy toward health, love, awareness, and wealth for all who declare 'hip-hop' their lifestyle." Now, certainly this sounded like a respectable theme and worthy of discussion. But during these desperately divided times, in a political climate of such contention and despair worldwide, surely one of hip-hop's most vocal and historically radical thinkers would come prepared with a more timely and dynamic presentation . . . wouldn't he? My thinking exactly. I must admit, I was somewhat disappointed. However, this has been the criticism of the legendary Blastmaster KRS-ONE as of late . . . changing philosophical stances like J-Lo changes fiancés, softening his once-revolutionary image and abandoning the role in which he was self-cast for so many years, along with Public Enemy's Chuck D, as the most recognizable political rap artist in the genre's history.

Just a week earlier, I had watched Kris receive a well-deserved lifetime honor at VH1's Hip-Hop Honors Award show. His place in the music's history and role as a pioneer of both style and substance is cemented for all time. Unfortunately, in an era where style is dictated by the average MTV consumer, and where substance rarely equals commercial success (e.g., The Roots, Common), a dynamic voice of protest is what we need most. Hopefully, the next KRS-ONE is picking up a pen and pad somewhere for the first time. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

ALBUM REVIEWS



- Mos Def's *The New Danger* (Geffen)
- Talib Kweli's *The Beautiful Struggle* (Rawkus)

by Rick Petinak

THE ARTISTS FORMERLY KNOWN (COLLECTIVELY) AS BLACK STAR have each released a sophomore solo LP. After producing the already classic self-titled collaborative effort in 1998, Brooklyn's Mos Def and Talib Kweli penned their first solo efforts: Mos Def's *Black on Both Sides* (1999) and Talib Kweli's *Quality* (2002). Each album was a powerful introductory statement for artists who have been a breath of fresh air in the recent era of pre-packaged materialism and misogyny that have permeated the hip-hop landscape.

Mos Def (born Dante Beze in 1973, a Broadway-trained actor with an already impressive film and critical resume), has emerged as a man of many talents in an often one-dimensional genre. On *The New Danger*, Mos continues to explore and push the boundaries of the music and his own artistry, fusing rap and singing in addition to a splash of rock, courtesy of his newest side-group, Black Jack Johnson. This bravely experimental foray into a multitude of musical disciplines could not easily have been pulled off by a lesser artist. Mos adeptly delves into stark introspection during his soulful laments while lashing out at a corrupt social and political system and ripping skillfully through rhyme after rhyme. On *Champion Requiem*, Mos explains his sense of urgency... "and my work is personal, I'm a workin' person, I put in work, I work with purpose..." Some fans may balk on their first listen, as this is not the type of album that is easily digested and absorbed. Just as soul crooner D'angelo's second album *Voodoo* and Erykah Badu's *Mama's Gun* were panned by critics but felt by many others to be ahead of their time, such may prove to be the case with *Danger*. Mos Def continues to prove he is a solitary figure among a homogeneously stagnant crowd producing mindless drivel.

Talib Kweli means "student of truth" in Arabic. Truly, Kweli (the son of two educators, born Talib Kweli Green) stands out among a handful of current artists willing to broach the topics of racism, social injustice, and imperialism. *Struggle*, in contrast with *Danger*, is more easily accessible on first listen and yet it is equally inspiring, and in this case, it is exactly what fans might expect. Talib has staked his claim as the Derek Jeter, if you will, of hip-hop: dependable, durable, consistent, and always rock-solid. He has quickly commanded the respect of his peers, allowing him to recruit an impressive roster of supporting talent that includes Mary J. Blige, Common, Anthony Hamilton, and Faith Evans. Kweli is a master of conveying the melancholy and despair of the oppressed, as is evident on the standout "I Try," where he cries out... "I try to navigate the treacherous waters of... America's... ghettos that's... set up to slaughter us." This kind of empathy and insight is unfortunately harder and harder to find, as the music industry has decided that content should take a back seat to image.

The New Danger and *The Beautiful Struggle* ultimately prove to be worthy companion pieces of contrasting style yet equal importance. I highly recommend both.

The New Danger: The Beautiful Struggle:
 (Rating system: "fist in the air" 1—lowest to 5—highest)

The Winds of CHANGE!

By Gary Dennis

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER kept lingering on as some major changes were on the horizon. CHANGE Makers met at Fresno City Hall to present their case for support of the billboards to be put up here in Fresno. An African American woman who is a great-grandmother gave a moving testimony of how HIV has touched her life and how something like this billboard campaign would be so helpful and beneficial to our community. Cynthia Sterling urged her fellow council members to give support to this cause. She even presented a letter of support to Gary Dennis, the Program Director of CHANGE/San Joaquin Valley, for all the hard work that he and the CHANGE Makers were doing to make Fresno a better and more accepting environment in which to live for HIV positive people. But alas, Fresno City Council did not budge and told the advocates that we will contact you on how to apply for the city's community service funds. Well, CHANGE never did get that call! And then to make matters worse, Gary Dennis was in a car crash a week later. The crash totaled everything but Gary. He, by the Lord's grace, was able to walk away from it alive and not broken. Considering the damage that was done to the car, it's a miracle that Gary came out without a scratch on him.

With CHANGE/San Joaquin Val-

ley's leader down, it looked hopeless for this organization, but the CHANGE Makers have risen to the occasion to keep CHANGE going. They told Gary at the November 8 meeting that they will continue on, no matter what. Gevorg Cholakyan, the program assistant, has been working with other community groups to find resources to keep CHANGE alive, but he could use any assistance to help him in this endeavor! Donations and financial support are always needed to keep this program going to provide the desperately needed support to the HIV/AIDS community. A gift of \$10, \$20, \$50, or even \$100 would be helpful at this time. A new computer would be helpful too. The one we have is old and is on its last leg. You can make checks out to CHANGE/San Joaquin Valley and mail them to 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. Any and all support is welcomed!

On a more positive note, CHANGE is looking to have a Holiday/End of the Year Party here at the office. We're thinking of having it potluck style. Come share in the fun and joy of the holidays and bring your good cheer and a good dish as well. Meet new friends or bring yours to mix and mingle with others. Come see Gary and know that he is doing fine! We're looking to have this event Friday, December 10, 2004, from 1 PM to 3 PM. If you would like more information or want to help out call (559) 268-1969. Take care—Happy Holidays



Vegan menu options in Fresno?

That's almost an oxymoron...almost.

By Teresa Hele

IF YOU LOOK HARD ENOUGH (OR GET A GOOD tip), you can find a few places around town that make eating out enjoyable for the animal lovers among us. Luby Chinese Restaurant is one of those rare finds.

The secret of this hole-in-the-wall Chinese take-out spot lies in its "vegetarian chicken." Through a unique process, tofu is transformed into a main course that contains the juicy texture and full flavor of meat, mixed in with the spices and veggies that make up the best of classic Chinese dishes. All the common favorites, from kung-pao "chicken" to broccoli "beef" (to name just two), are available in 100% vegan form. Luby Chinese serves up tofu in a way that makes carnivores rethink their dietary options and has vegetarians praising the miraculous diversity of the soybean. Of course, Luby

still offers a wide selection of beef, pork, seafood, and chicken for those who prefer real meat to the cruelty-free option. Whatever your choice is, you will always get a quality meal that has been cooked without MSG, artificial flavors, or animal oils.

While this is mainly a take-out restaurant, there is a small, informal dining area, with a relaxed family-operated ambiance. The few plastic tables are often filled with regular customers who have discovered the Luby secret and keep coming back for more. The walls are decorated with original framed art for sale by various guests, and you can often catch the proprietor's young son practicing music lessons in the dine-in room while his father chats with customers. If you go, you can expect fast and very friendly service and, above

all, a delicious meal that will put Luby Chinese among the best of progressive eats in Fresno. (Check the front window for positive food reviews from numerous local publications that have been recommending this place since it opened in 1989.)

Luby's selection is far more diverse than your average Chinese take-out joint, with savory dishes ranging from appetizers to desserts, soups to specialties. Meals are priced from around \$5 to \$12, and portions are generous enough to satisfy (at least) two appetites.

Luby Chinese Restaurant is located on the north side of the Albertson's shopping center at First and Bullard and is open until 9:00 PM seven nights a week.

Luby Chinese Restaurant • 1075 E. Bullard, Suite 103

HOMOPHOBIA MET HEAD-ON

By Dan Waterhouse

THE FRESNO QUEER COMMUNITY MET HOMOPHOBIA AND HATE RHETORIC HEAD-ON SATURDAY. THE FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S LOVE WON OUT CONFERENCE AT PEOPLE'S CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 6 WAS GREETED BY MEMBERS OF FRESNO'S QUEER AND STRAIGHT-ALLY COMMUNITIES PROTESTING THE ANTI-GAY MESSAGE.

From 7 AM to 7 PM, at least 50 picketers manned posts at the church driveways, passing out pamphlets to conference attendees and letting them know there are differing views. Estimates were that as many as 120 people participated at various times throughout the day.



"We're not protesting the right of people attending to believe the way they do," protest organizer Robin McGehee said. "We just want them to know there's a different view."

Conference presenters claim such views as "there's an emotional source of homosexuality that occurs at 2 or 3 years of age." One woman who attended the conference claimed to have been shown "the truth" by the church about her lesbian partner. She said the conference helped her realize that she turned to homosexuality because her abusive father had turned her against men.

Several conference representatives came out throughout the day to argue their views. They said that the conference's message was for Christians to "love" gays "regardless" of their choices. Their motto of "hate the sin, love the sinner" was promoted in varying forms to protesters all day. The Love Won Out website, located at <www.LoveWonOut.com>, clearly indicates that the conference's mission is not so loving or inclusive. Their mission, as stated on their own homepage, is actually the "prevention and treatment of homosexuality."

Mainstream counseling organizations say homosexuality is

neither "preventable" nor "treatable."

Fresno State faculty member Judith Scott attended the conference. She said the church auditorium was filled by people "filled with despair over the condition of the homosexual. Biased pieces of scripture and carefully selected pieces of 'research' were presented to the audience as truths, and those in attendance seemed to accept, as delivered, Focus on the Family's rationale for change."

Scott added, "The only positive outcome from a conference like this one is that Focus on the Family finds its financial business booming, while the pockets of the desperate and deprived shrink. The monetary gain by Focus on the Family can only be achieved on the backs of others' vulnerabilities and fears, and if this isn't a good enough reason to go to hell, then no one is going."

Protesters were subjected to slurs of "faggot" by passing cars and to churchgoers condemning them to hell. One car passed by while a small rock was thrown out the window.

A representative of Exodus, a group that claims it is possible

to become an "ex" gay, said that "just showing one side, that you're born that way, is hateful." Which is precisely what Love Won Out itself was doing: showing just one side.

The Exodus representative was visibly upset by a sign saying "this conference promotes suicide." He told organizer Baltimore Gonzalez the sign was "phony." Gonzalez, who works around teen suicide locally, disagrees. He says for teens struggling with issues of sexual identity and orientation, hearing all day from conferences like Love Won Out that you are sick, dirty, or need to change promotes self-hate.

Gonzalez, co-chair of Fresno County's Marriage Equality California chapter, said the community was mobilized to picket the conference when "we learned that several kids, Gay Straight Alliance members, were being forced to attend this event against their will by their parents."

Protest organizers will be sponsoring the Love Welcomes All conference in April of 2005 at Wesley United Methodist Church. The conference is aimed at offering participants alternative perspectives on what the Bible says about homosexuality.

Diana Bohn — and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network

(Part 3 of 3)

By Dan Waterhouse

IN THE EARLIER INSTALLMENTS, I REPORT that Diana Bohn, who led the Gay Straight Alliance efforts in Central California for the last four years, returned to ministry in August. Bohn became involved in the GSA after being asked to talk with a self-identified gay youth in a local hospital after he attempted suicide. GSA clubs exist in high schools up and down the Central Valley—even in Clovis. This installment talks about GSA's future, Bohn's return to ministry, and her replacement, Ome Lopez.

"The GSA Network in Central California is moving forward with a number of things," Bohn said. "A small group of students in the Network submitted a proposal that was funded by Youth Venture and GSA Network to train adults as allies in their struggle to create safer school environments for glbt youth. Our annual Expression Not Suppression conference will continue and the Closet Project will go on tour outside of Fresno."

Bohn went on, "We will be doing training of school district people in San Luis Obispo this November about

the peer education curriculum developed for Visalia as a result of the flagship Loomis case settlement."

And, the GSA Network continues to grow. "There's a growing group in the north Valley," Bohn said. "Fifty youth who are members of United GSA Youth met recently in Stockton."

"There's change." Bohn is now pastor of New Community church in Oakhurst.

"There's a strong pull towards a church community for me," she said. "New Community has a welcome for me. Being identified as one of the pastors in town will bring with it some interesting things with the community there."

"My heart is always with an open community that's ready to struggle to make change," Bohn said. "GSA Network has been that for me. And the students have inspired me by their courage. They are truly the future of the glbt community."

GSA Network announced in early August that Omé Lopez will be replacing Bohn. López was born and raised in the Central Valley. Her youth leadership development

began when she was surprisingly elected A.S.B. president of her junior high and continued to be re-elected class president until finally gaining the position of A.S.B. president at Sanger High School.

Her youth activism began during her sophomore year when she played a key role in stopping the implementation of uniforms at her high school. At that time she began to have an interest in health education. She's worked as an HIV/AIDS peer outreach worker for Fresno County Health & Human Services and as a health educator for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. During her involvement with Planned Parenthood she came out as queer and continued to co-coordinate a glbt and homeless youth drop-in center in Fresno. She just recently received her B.A. in social work at San Francisco State University. Lopez's other passions in life include the sport of futbol, playing the guitar, and spinning soulful Latin-influenced house music at home and in the clubs.

FRESNO CENTER FOR NON VIOLENCE

WEAVING OUR WEB:

Our Web site has now been revised, updated, expanded, and liberated to its own domain: <www.centerfor-nonviolence.org>. Our brochure, Peace Agenda, video catalogue, Peace Challenge and Pairs Project information and much, much more is now at your fingertips. Welcome to the domain of peace and justice. The web address can also be used for sending us e-mail.

Many thanks are due to Mike Rhodes of the Community Alliance for hosting our Web site at no charge for a number of years. We'd like to thank both Ciera Bolin for designing the new Web site for us, and Kris McNew at Hume Printing for staying on top of the many revisions we requested. We are also most grateful to Kenley Neufeld, who has agreed to be our Webmaster.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

Our annual elections were held in November. As is our custom, directors are re-nominated annually unless they resign or special problems have come up. We had two resignations this past year: Margaret Hudson and Kehinde Solwazi. Also, our treasurer, Ron Vineyard, and our secretary, Fran Saunders, were added to the Board. Otherwise our Board remains the same, with Maria Telesco as president and Dr. Jack Welch as vice president. Our talent scouts are still looking for additional Board members. If you are interested, let us know.

VIDEO WEDNESDAYS:

We will continue reserving the second Wednesday of each month for special video showings. On December 8 we will be screening Unconstitutional: The Bush/Ashcroft

Assault on Civil Liberties, by the maker of Outfoxed. If you haven't seen it yet, note that this is a beautifully produced documentary. If your motivation has been dampened by the election, come get your fire re-lit—12 noon and 7:30 PM.

Also remember that films in our video catalogue can be rented for \$2, including Outfoxed and (after December 8) Unconstitutional. If you have suggestions for future showings, or have videos you'd like us to consider acquiring (better: that you'd like to acquire for us), please give us a call.

PAIRS PROJECT:

After our November orientation session, we have five pairs in process. You could be next to join this experiment in overcoming the stereotypes and ignorance conditioned

into us. Call Richard at 266-2559 or Libby at 435-4891; or check our Web site for information and an application. This is a chance for you to meet someone from a world apart, and make Fresno a better community.

WISDOM FROM MAXINE HONG KINGSTON:

"In a time of destruction, create something. A poem. A parade. A community. A school. A vow. A moral principle. One peaceful moment." from The Fifth Book of



THE WELCH REPORT

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

THOUGHTS FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 2, 2004

EXIT POLLS DONE ON 2 NOVEMBER REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER-one issue of concern to voters was "moral values," cited by 22%. The first concern of 20% was the economy; of 19%, terrorism; and of 15%, the war in Iraq. For conservatives, core moral values included stands on gay marriage, stem cell research, and abortion.

From this election campaign it is clear that the Democratic Party's first priority should be to reconnect with the American heartland. Democrats are effective on bread-and-butter issues like health care, but they come across in much of the United States as out of touch when the discussion shifts to values. "Democrats peddle issues, and Republicans sell values." A starting point would be for Democratic leaders to shed their inhibitions about talking about faith, and work more with religious groups.

(Source: Nicholas D. Kristof, columnist for the New York Times, 3 November 2004)

Moral values were crucially important to the religious conservatives who voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Bush. Opposition to gay marriage probably played a significant role in Mr. Bush's victory, especially in drawing voters to the polls in Ohio, where a referendum against gay marriage passed easily. Abortion is less clear. The Republican Party platform endorsed a constitutional amendment defining human life as beginning at conception. Mr. Bush signed the late-term abortion ban, which affects less than 1 percent of all abortions.

"Moral values," I believe strongly, include addressing such issues as illegal war and occupation; an increasing number of children living in poverty in the United States; the widening income gap; and US indifference to sufferings of the Global South (e.g., Darfur, Sudan). There is need for common-ground conversation where there might be agreement on the problem, such as economic injustice, worker exploitation (but disagreement on the "cure"), engaged in with a non-judgmental and caring spirit.

(Source: "Voting Morality" New York Times, 4 November 2004)

Why did evangelical voters support Mr. Bush in such large numbers? First,

many believe that God put him in office for a reason. A series of films and faith biographies distributed in churches during the campaign argued that Mr. Bush was "called" to the presidency; they also emphasize "his journey of faith from party boy to good husband, and president . . . he needed to be lost before he could be found." That journey enabled him to connect with many people who struggle with their own wrongdoing. Mr. Bush's willingness to call terrorists "evil" resonated with evangelicals, because they believe that mainstream media and culture have lost the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Further, the "values voters" believe that God needs to be more present in public life: for example, they believe in prayer in school and keeping "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Source: Steven Waldman, editor-in-chief of Beliefnet.com and op-ed contributor to New York Times, 6 November 2004)

"We are aghast at the success of a campaign based on vicious personal attacks, the exploitation of strong religious feelings, and an effort to create the appearance of strong leadership . . . We are alarmed that so many of our fellow citizens could hold Bush not accountable for utter incompetence in Iraq and for untruths spoken in defense of the war. We are amazed that a majority was not concerned about heaping a huge debt burden on our children just to give large tax breaks to the rich. And we are disgusted that an effort consciously designed to divide the country did exactly that, and won."

What is required on the part of Democrats is a sustained and intellectually serious effort by religious moderates and progressives to insist that social justice and inclusion and war and peace are dealt with as moral values. Also, no one political faction can be allowed to assert a monopoly on "family values."

Democrats should never fear to negotiate, but negotiation must not be confused with capitulation. The independent media must not be intimidated by trumped-up charges of liberal bias. Kerry said on 3 November that we should now be united. "We are united against terrorists, in support of our troops, and in the hope of a decent outcome in Iraq. But the burden for achieving national unity is on a president who could manage a narrow victory only by . . . trashing his opponent."

(Source: E.J. Dionne, Jr., Washington Post, 5 November 2004)

This section is paid for by Fresno Center for Nonviolence, who has complete editorial control of the content

devojamayo & sonicfoundation present

Get Fresh

With Sounds and Atmosphere provided by
DJ 4am (San Francisco: 26 Mix/ Hush Hush Lounge)
Soulfulfunkybeatsandgroovestomoveto

Saturday December 18th 2004
609 grille/ 609 e olive (tower district)
10:30pm/ 21+

\$ 5.00

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

WILPF DATES:

- Wednesday, December 1, Noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway
- Thursday, December 2: NO WILPF General Membership Meeting due to the holidays
- Saturday, December 4, 10 AM-4 PM: WILPF Peace Community Crafts Faire
- Monday, December 13: NO WILPF Business Meeting due to the holidays
- Wednesday, December 22, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir It Up. Hosted by Vickie Fouts

Take Back the Night: WILPF had a wonderful presence at this year's Take Back the Night at CSUE. We started the night with tabling and our Clothesline Project of shirts with written comments by women who have been abused. The Clothesline Project was well received, as it has been the past two years. The program opened up with a skit called the Rape of Mr. Smith where a mugging victim is treated on the witness stand the way rape victims often are. WILPFer Natasha Fouts played the role of the defense attorney and Larry Levy of Peace Fresno played the victim. WILPFer and women's studies Chair Loretta Kensinger gave a powerful speech. Jan Slagter was seen tabling at the Women's Studies Department table. WILPFer Ruth Obel-Jorgensen organized a special Women in Black. Ruth gave a passionate speech on how war affects women. Several WILPFers took part in WIB: Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, Natasha and Vickie Fouts, Catherine Garoupa, Joan Poss, and Jan Slagter, with others from the community.

Jane Addams Peace Association: Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) recently sent out an e-mail stating that they are ranked third out of "10 of the Best Charities You've Never Heard Of" by Charity Navigator. JAPA is the educational affiliate of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and was founded in 1948 "to foster a better understanding between the people of the world toward the end that wars may be avoided

and a more lasting peace enjoyed." Charity Navigator is a nonprofit organization that helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing information on more than 3200 charities and by evaluating the financial health of each of these charities. (See <www.charitynavigator.org> for more information). JAPA was given a rating of 69.59, with the number-one ranked charity having a rating of 69.82.

Interns Report: Lupe has been busy reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community on behalf of WILPF and making great inroads. Rick has been reaching out to Peace Fresno, Community Alliance, and KFCF. He is also doing research on the steps WILPF can take regarding the possibility of a military draft and conscientious objectors' documentation. Both are working on contacting and setting up a meeting of community members to address getting peace education back into the schools.

New Board Member: At our October board meeting Marilyn Shelton agreed to become a member-at-large representing Peace Camp. The past two years Marilyn has been the co-chair for Peace Camp and she is also the writer and editor of the peace camp manual used nationwide. Welcome aboard, Marilyn!

WILPFers on the Move: WILPF members Susan and Joe Arpad have moved to Joe's small hometown of Wadsworth, Ohio. They will be greatly missed and we wish them the best of luck in their new home. Right before moving to Golden, Colorado, Gail Abbott and Sue Ammen joined WILPF. We have tried for years to get Gail to join, and I feel Fresno WILPF should feel honored that one of the last things they did before moving was to join. What a wonderful way to keep up with the happenings in Fresno by becoming new WILPFers. If you wish new contact information for either family, please contact Vickie Fouts.

Women in Black: With the sad results of the election and the increased fighting in Iraq, WILPFer Joan Poss asks that more WILPFers become active in Women in Black, held the first Wednesday of each month at the Courthouse breezeway. Come join these powerful women as they state their message of peace in silence.

WILPF's New Campaigns: The November issue of Peace and Freedom will contain a ballot asking members to choose two future campaigns out of a field of five. They are Save the Water; Campaign for a Sane National Budget Consistent with International Law; Women Challenge US Policy—Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East; Building the Beloved Community; and WILPF Cuba Campaign. In our quarterly packet from National, we have the full proposals for all five campaigns. If you wish to see them in order to make a more informed vote, please let me know. The ballots aren't due until January 31, so we will be discussing the options at our January meetings. Everyone's input is needed in order to have campaigns that will be successful the next three years. Please be sure to return your ballots by January 31.

Education Fund: At our November board meeting it was agreed to give WILPFer and former WILPF intern Ruth Obel-Jorgensen \$500 from our education fund. Ruth will be attending the Language and Cultural Immersion School for Social Workers in Grecia, Costa Rica. This two-week program in January is designed to increase social work students' Spanish-language skills, enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Latin culture, and help them better understand the role of social work as a profession in Central America. This program will not only help Ruth as a social work graduate student, but her increased knowledge will be an asset to Fresno WILPF as we continue our outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. Thanks also to WILPFer Lynn Jacobson for giving an additional donation to Ruth through the Jane Addams Peace Association.

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

Quote of the Month: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end, they always fall—think of it, ALWAYS." —Gandhi

Poetry Corner



Diane Corbin has contributed another poem for us. We can rely on Diane to respond with passion to the situations we are forced to live with.

Clarion Call

Old Glory does not wave
 above the heads
 of those who died.
 It drapes their coffins,
 its bright stars dripping
 dead white sobs into the ground,

that soon will cover
 their brittle remains
 which never more can speak
 or think or call to mind
 the overwhelming fear,
 the all encompassing
 pain, the one last keening cry
 for family, loved ones
 to enfold their broken bodies,
 kiss their blood-stained faces,
 lean close to catch last whispered words.

This flag no longer flies for honor
 but only beckons innocents to take
 the place of fallen comrades
 in the kill, kill, kill of gory war.
 It does not hear the youngsters
 clad in army khaki as they beg
 to know the answer
 to why we kill and kill again.
 These red stripes soak the ground
 with blood that will not nurture
 the soft and urgent shoots of peace.

*Women's International League for
 Peace & Freedom*

**Peace Community
 Crafts Faire**
 Saturday, December 4th, 2004
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



*Enjoy Free Music & Entertainment
 Visit Old Friends & Meet New Ones
 Find Unique Handmade Holiday Gifts
 Amazing Arts & Creative Crafts
 Fill Your Tummies with Great Yummies
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 Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction &
 Many More Wonderful Surprises!*

**First Congregational Church
 (The Big Red Church)
 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd, Fresno
 between McKinley & Clinton**

For further info contact Ellie 229-9807 or geneb@csufresno.edu or
 Joan Poss 227-6134 or ilsasso2003@yahoo.com
 Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Fresno Branch



Fresno Filmworks showcases

First-Run International and American Independent Feature Films Every Second Friday of the Month

5:00pm & 8:00pm
at

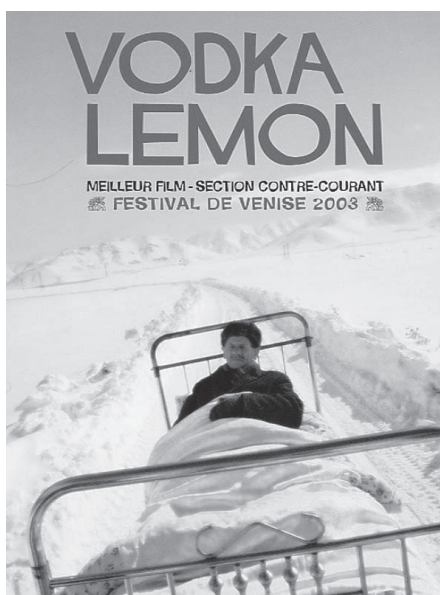
The Tower Theatre

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For more information call:
The Tower Theatre at
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(559) 221-0755



VODKA LEMON

Friday, DEC 3, 2004

An Armenian comedic drama about a town dying an economic death in the wake of the end of the Soviet Union.

Not Rated.



Lightning in a Bottle

Friday, JAN 14, 2005

A one night, one time only concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York City

Tickets are on sale now in the Tower District at The Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., and at the Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., and in Fig Garden Village at The Fig Garden Bookstore, 5094 N. Palm Ave.

FREESPEECH TV

By Mike Rhodes

The franchise renewal process between Fresno and Comcast Cable is proceeding—slowly. The slow pace is the result of a complicated process and is not unexpected or unusual according to Sue Buske, the consultant working for the City of Fresno in these negotiations.

The new franchise agreement will determine the future of cable TV in this area for the next 10–20 years. The goal is to have public, education, and government (PEG) access channels, a community media center, and an institutional network (the I-Net).

PEG access provides a channel or multiple channels on the cable network for public, education, and government programming. The cable company provides the channels at no cost. They do this because they are given access to public rights-of-way (roads, easements, etc.) to run cable throughout the community. They agree to provide PEG channels to compensate the community for the use of public space. The public access channels typically provide programming produced by community groups and individuals. A program on the public channel could be about tenant rights and produced by Central California Legal Services or it could be a cultural presentation of Hmong dancers. An individually produced show about local politics or Amy Goodman's Democracy Now might be shown on public-access TV. In short, locally produced, independent, and alternative video will have a home on the cable network.

The education channels will be used primarily by the schools for education and distant learning purposes. If you tune in to channel 96 you will see the beginning of the local education channel. Channel 96 is the forerunner to PEG. In an agreement reached earlier this year between Comcast and the City of Fresno, it was agreed to set up this channel. Right now, it is mostly broadcasting the Annenberg education channel. It is expected that local education and government programming will be on this channel soon.

The government channels will have the capacity to broadcast the complete City Council, Board of Supervisors, and planning commission meetings, and more. The government channels will be the community's window into what is happening in government. There will likely be permanent video cameras in government spaces, which will be turned on when public meetings are taking place. Interviews with elected officials, city-sponsored events, and more will be available on this channel.

A community media center is where much of the programming for PEG channels is produced. It is also a place where residents can come to learn to use sophisticated computers and software and to learn basic media skills. Funding to operate such a community media center will come from the cable company as a part of the franchise agreement. Included will be video cameras, computers, editing equipment, studios, and training. Ideally, all of this will be provided to the community at no cost.

The institutional network or I-Net is a part of most franchise renewal agreements. An I-Net provides a high-speed connection between government, educational, and community entities. This connection can be used for accessing the Internet, providing two-way video, and point-of-origin TV production. The I-Net can establish locations throughout the community where live TV production can take place. Some examples would be to have an I-Net site at City Hall so we can see what is going on in local government; at a school so we can see musical or theatrical productions; or at a community center where a live cultural event could be shown throughout the community.

While the process is moving slowly, progress has been made. In October 2004 the Fresno City Council adopted an ordinance defining the minimum requirements for a new or renewed cable franchise agreement. This ordinance says the new agreement will include PEG access and an I-Net, and it authorizes a community media center. The ordinance, which replaces the agreement negotiated nearly 30 years ago, is the foundation upon which the new franchise agreement will be built. Those actively involved in the process expect the new franchise agreement to include PEG channels, a community media center, and I-Net.

The community is already beginning to receive benefits re-



lated to the impending negotiations with Comcast.

Check out cable channel 96. This channel is being jointly run by the City of Fresno and several local educational institutions. Look for locally originated programming on channel 96 soon. Right now, in addition to the Fresno City Council meetings on Tuesday they are broadcasting a lot of programs from the Annenberg Educational Channel. Another change you might have noticed is that Comcast channel 14 has been recording and broadcasting more local events. Just before the elections they ran a number of electoral forums that gave viewers an opportunity to see local candidates as they discussed important issues affecting the community. This is an example of unfiltered and in-depth coverage of local issues that will be expanded when PEG access comes to Fresno. But, with PEG access, there will be a much wider variety of opinion available, and Comcast will not determine the content.

Buske says that actual negotiations will start in four to six weeks. It is unclear how long the negotiations process will take, but it will probably be about one year before an agreement is reached. In the meantime, a board of conveners is being established. The board of conveners will be composed of community leaders representing all sectors of the community. This board will appoint the first members of a Board of Directors, which will oversee a 501c3 nonprofit organization, which will cablecast the programming on the PEG access channels, and manage the community media center and I-Net.

To find out more about this issue, go to <www.alliancecm.org> or visit the Buske Group's Web site at <www.buskegroup.com>.



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**HOW CAN YOU
UNDERSTAND THE
WORLD IF YOU NEVER
LEAVE HOME?**

THE VIEW FROM HERE

By Bruce Morris


15 November 2004 Stockholm, Sweden

YES, THE DEPRESSION HAS PASSED, BUT I'M STILL IN MOURNING. A sense of *deja vu* lingers. After graduating from FSU/CSU Fresno in 1972 and running the McGovern campaign there, the International Graduate School at Stockholm University was the siren call that beckoned. The phone in my dorm enabled me to serve as McGovern coordinator, helping American expatriates register and vote during that fateful '72 election when election rules and results were tougher (McGovern took only Massachusetts and Washington, DC). Parallels abound, particularly the arrogance of the incumbent war president.

This year, Democrats Abroad Sweden (DAS), bolstered by Internet access, voting rights laws after the disaster of 2000, and great coverage throughout the media, led thousands of the 10,000+ Americans of voting age living in Sweden through the maze of barriers to voting abroad. We encountered punch card absentee ballots! Hope ran high. Nearly everyone was rooting for Kerry. One Swede responded to the Kerry campaign by making over 75 calls to GOTV volunteers in the States in the last three days of the election! There is no question that if the world voted, we would be planning our trips to the inauguration rather than licking our wounds. "Bush Bucks" (fraudulent reserve notes distributed by Peace Fresno), Fahrenheit 9/11, and political chats that always led to condemning Bush war policy are still received with gusto. Will everyone who worked so hard this year pick their battles and be ready for the big show in two years? We are and we will be ready.

Bruce Morris began a new life in Stockholm this year after reigniting an old flame after 30 years. He married Birgit Lilja on 13 October and has a start-up waste audit and recycling consulting group in Stockholm, TT-konsulter (Trash Talk consultants). Contact Bruce at brucemorris_catalyst@fresnomal.com.

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH
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Fiddle Player of "Tempest"
8:00 pm \$5.-Cover

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH
"GOOD MEDICINE"
8:00 pm \$5.-Cover

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH
"Zambra"
World Fusion
8:00 pm \$5.-Cover

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH
BELLYDANCING
CORY ZAMORA & Friends
featuring
GLORIA VERDUGO
\$5.-Cover 8:00 pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH
"BOOT JACK"
Blues & Classical Rock
8:00 pm \$5.-Cover



FRIDAY DECEMBER 31st
NEW YEARS EVE BASH
With
"GLEN DELPIT"
and the
SUBTERRANIANS
Food-Fun 8:00 pm
Champagne Toast! \$5.-Cover

ART-HOP RECEPTIONS
THURSDAY DEC 2nd
"Holiday Gift Show and Sale"
5:00-9:00
plus
Coffeshop Rock
with
"Avoiding Strangers"
6:00-8:00
Art-Hop Jan. 6th The Artwork
of Lisa Reeves

QUAKERS
FRESNO FREINDS MEETING
Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM
ALL WELCOME
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Jacob M. Weisberg
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GREY TANK RECORDS

BAND LIST:

No Cello
Bel & The Dragon
Pinkeye

Shows in December:

Dec. 2nd @ 9pm

Bolex Rex. Rademacher, It'll Grow Back at Tokyo Garden. Bolex Rex will be headlining this show. They have an indescribable sound that will hook you.

Dec. 14th @ 9pm

Greytank Records and Fresno Famous present Earlimart, Midnight Movies, Pinkeye at Starline. Earlimart headlines the show. This show is going to be big...and sell out quickly.

Dec. 18th @ 9pm

"The Appendix Sessions" South Valley Release Show (Visalia) Bel & The Dragon, Pinkeye, No Cello will be rockin the f**k out of Howie & Sons Pizza & Beer Parlor. This venue has attracted the likes of Dios, Earlimart, and so many other great bands on tour. A lot of effort has gone into this show, so it will definitely be worth the drive.

Dec. 26th @ 9pm.

This show is nearly confirmed. It will be a reunion show to reunite all reunion shows. Montecore will be assembling one last time to thrill the stage of Tokyo Garden. With them... Free Dirt has agreed to once again get up on that stage and make you rethink your musical views. The Gris Gris (San Francisco) will be there playing in between them. If you haven't had a chance to hear The Gris Gris, you must now. Great to listen to, but even better to watch. This show will not disappoint.

Sales:

The first release from Greytank Records is "The Appendix Sessions." It includes 12 local bands doing 2 songs each on this 2 disc set. I would love this album even if I wasn't a part of it. It is available at Tower Records, Ditrec Records, Sound Stage, and at www.greytank.com. Of course the CD's are always available at Greytank shows as well as T-shirts, stickers, and buttons.

Contacting greytank can be done at www.greytank.com

RED ROAD POW-WOW

Michael Glenn

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING to do this New Year's Eve, you might try out the 15th Annual New Year's Eve Powwow at Fresno's Selland Arena Exhibit Hall. It is an event open to the public on the evening of New Years and on New Year's Day. This is an annual celebration of Native American dance, culture, and living a life free of drugs and alcohol. The Native American people give honor to all creations and beings of Mother Earth and invite family and friends of all ages and nationalities to join together at the New Year's Eve Powwow.

BACKGROUND OF POWWOWS: NATIVE CULTURE SUPPRESSED

At the end of the nineteenth century, both the United States and Canada were waging a war of cultural genocide against the Native American population. Both nations had been engaging in Native child theft for some time; forcibly removing Native children from their parents and families and placing them in boarding schools. At these schools, children were rarely allowed to see their families and were beaten if they spoke their own language. At the same time, Native religion was ironically made illegal in a country that prides itself on religious freedom. (Natives would not have full freedom of religion until 1996, when President Clinton passed the Religious Freedom Act.) Since dancing is an essential component of Native American religious practice, it was also outlawed. Native Americans were not allowed to congregate in large numbers to practice their religion or dance. These were all policies put forth by the United States to force Native Americans to assimilate or disappear, and were roughly summed up by both government officials and churches as "kill the Indian and save the man." This was a very hard and bleak time for Native Americans and their culture. The fear and misunderstanding of non-Natives toward Native peoples eventually escalated into the Wounded Knee Massacre, which took place in the 1890s in South Dakota.

Despite the oppression placed on Native Americans during this time, they did not stop practicing their religion or dancing. They simply took it underground and observed their traditions in secret. Ceremonies and dances were held in remote places or under cover of night, so as not to be discovered. Sometimes, on national holidays such as the Fourth of July, Native Americans would hold traditional dances in public so

that authorities would simply think they were celebrating a national holiday. This kind of activity was carried out in many ways across the United States and Canada. It is said that the first powwow was started in the 1930s by the Omaha Nation in Nebraska when the ban on dancing was finally lifted. That would be the beginning of the powwow as it is known today.

POWWOWS OF TODAY: IN THE TIME OF NATIVE RENAISSANCE

Many of the Native American cultural traditions, such as language and dance, are now being revived and taught to new generations. Although much has been lost, there is determination to undo the damage of the past. Some Natives speak of these times as being a revival of their ways and a new birth of Native culture and people.

Today, powwows can be found across the United States and Canada, in every state and province. Powwows often have dancers from all across North America to represent every tribe, with participants traveling many miles and attending that respective powwow from state to state. Like the diversity of the dancers, the dances themselves have origins from many tribal nations. For instance, a popular dance known as the "grass dance" came from the Omaha people of Nebraska, and the "jingle dance" came from the Ojibwa of the northeast. The dances are fun to watch, with all the heart and spirituality that is poured into each presentation. The regalia of the dancers, who are adorned with feathers, beads, and paint, is very beautiful and always a pleasure to observe. Another pleasing sight is the young toddlers who start dancing in the arena when they barely old enough to be walking. The Native community has always been ready to share life harmoniously with others, and the powwow is a wonderful demonstration of the peaceful union between Natives and non-Native alike.



sonicfoundation & devoya mayo present

afterSessions

musicdrinksfoodart

December 2nd 2004

after arthrop indulgence

609 grille

609 e olive (tower dist)

9:30pm-?

host: devoya mayo music: mykal powell
dj transparent & dj big b art: mykal powell

COMMUNITY ACTION

Calendar Of Events

Wednesday, December 1

7 - 9 PM
Reflections of the Mind, presented by CSUF Poetry Jam 4th Year Anniversary CSUF Coffee House & Pub Open Mic, Beginning & Experienced Poets Welcome Free & open to public
<http://lennon.csufresno.edu/~marylee/poetryinmotion.html>

Thursday, December 2

Social Hour 5:30 PM & Dinner and Program at 6:30 PM
Fresno Metro Ministry 34th Anniversary Honoree Dinner and Program will be held at the Hope Lutheran Church at Barstow and Fresno Streets.

Friday, December 3

5 PM and 8 PM
Fresno Filmworks presents Vodka Lemon at the Tower Theatre. This portrait of a remote Armenian village, impoverished since the end of Soviet rule, blends whimsical humor with mournful pathos. The Armenian Studies Program at CSU, Fresno, is co-sponsor. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to <http://fresnofilmworks.org/>

Friday, December 3

6:30-8:30 PM
The Reedley Peace Center presents Gail Harder and the program - WALKING ALONGSIDE TEEN MOMS IN REEDLEY. She will share her experiences as a mentor, mom, how she got involved in the program and what she has learned and experienced. She will also share some of the girls' stories. Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen@telis.org

Friday, December 3

7:30 PM
The Fresno Folklore Society presents Holly Near at the First Congregational Church (the Big Red church) at 2131 Van Ness Blvd. Near's music chronicles the times - great love songs of the 30's, civil rights songs of the 50's, feminist classics of the 70's, bold realities of the 90's. A folk singer by content, a cabaret singer by style, a humorist by contrast, a healer by spirit and a humanitarian by nature. A Holly Near concert is a musical delight. Ticket info 437-5397. \$20 advance and \$25 at the door. For more information go to: <http://home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/> and <http://www.hollynear.com/>

Saturday, December 4

10 AM - 4 PM
Peace Community Crafts Faire: at the First Congregational Church, 2131 Van Ness Blvd for the yearly WILPF Peace Community Crafts Faire. Fun, food, music and the best holiday gifts you can find will be available. This is WILPF's major fundraiser of the year and a great place to meet old and new friends

who believe in PEACE.

Wednesday, December 8

12 Noon and 7:30 PM
The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will show the video "Unconstitutional", by the maker of "Outfoxed". If you haven't seen it yet, this a beautifully-produced documentary about the Bush/Ashcroft assault on civil liberties. If your motivation has been dampened by the election, come get your fire re-lit. The FCNV is located at 1584 N. Van Ness (southeast corner of Van Ness and McKinley just south of Fresno City College). For more information, see their new web site at <http://www.centerfornonviolence.org/>

Friday, December 10

5 PM
El Comite NO NOS VAMOS annual candlelight vigil at the federal building honoring the International declaration of Human rights. Bring candles, poetry, drums, and people to combat the on going human rights abuses in the world and here at home by the United States Government. Call Comite No Nos Vamos at 498-6033 for more information.

Friday, December 10

6:30-8:30 PM
The Reedley Peace Center presents TERRA MADRE: A report on the Slow Food conference in Italy attended by six of our members. Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen@telis.org

Saturday, December 11

3:30 PM
The Central Valley Progressive PAC will meet at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information call (559) 978-4502 or email info@cvppac.org Also see: <http://www.cvppac.org/>

Monday, December 13

6 PM
The Fresno County Democratic Chicano Latino Caucus meets at Bobby Salazar's 2839 N. Blackstone for Election of Officers. Call Jose Luis Barraza at 276-6777 for Program details.

Thursday Dec. 30

8 PM
Lyquid Amber Concert, Fresno Art Museum, Bonner Auditorium, Tickets \$15 at The Movies, Patrick's Music, National Hardware or send SASE to Doghill Productions, 10691 N. Madsen Ave, Clovis, CA 93619-9704, credit card payments call (559) 299-8001, (\$1 per card transaction added) Evo Bluestein-banjo Hannsjorg Scheid-guitar Eva Scow violin Kevin Hill-bass A few changes from the past 3 years: Eva Scow joins on violin, now on December 30 so there is no conflict with New Year's events, and we are in the comfortable and acoustically ideal Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum. Come celebrate with the innovative and original sounds of Lyquid Amber!

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to help call mark/miriam at (559) 442-0966 to arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 p.m. at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 p.m. 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 Tuesday and Thursday 7 - 9 PM

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 liza.apper@sbcw.org or visit their web site at: www.sbcw.org

Every Tuesday

An ANTI-WAR Demonstration every Tuesday S E corner of White Lane and South H st. Bakersfield California. For info: call (661)366-9003

Every Tuesday

7 PM
Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world - come to this meeting! For an up to the minute list-

ing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno call 487-2515 or visit their web site at: <http://www.peacefresno.org>

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 other Wednesday

3 and 7 PM
Video Series at CSU Fresno sponsored by Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition and Peace Fresno, will include videos on the Iraq War, Women's Rights, Mother Earth among others. There will be two showings, one at 3pm in the Student Union Rm. 309, the other at 7pm in McLane 161. They are free and open to the public. For more information call Shawn or Khara at 224-1218

Every Friday

9 AM - 5 PM
Stone Soup cultural art store featuring authentic Hmong Cultural Arts is open at 1345 Bulldog Lane in Fresno. Call (559) 224-7613 or email stonesoupfresno@yahoo.com for more information

Recent Works



Autumn Sky Lencioni

Dec. 20th - Jan. 28th

ART-HOP RECEPTION JANUARY 6TH, 2005 5-9PM

Chris Sorensen Studio

Mon-Fri. 9am-4pm
2205 S. Van Ness, Fresno CA
one mile south of freeway 41

Every Friday

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Peace Fresno returns to Shaw and Blackstone Avenues to protest the occupation of Iraq and other harmful domestic and foreign policies of the Bush administration. Peace Fresno advocates alternatives to war and social and environmental justice. For more information go to: www.peacefresno.org

Every Friday

7 PM

Reedley Peace Center, holds its weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley's First Menonite Church 1208 "L" Street, Reedley, Ca ... Programs vary but the focus is always on peace issues local, state, national, international... the contact is Carol Kraebel 559-637-9098 or email kraebel@cvip.net. The meeting is free and open to the public and handicapped accessible...

Every Saturday

1-2 PM

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

Every Saturday

1 PM until the last patient is served Medical Clinic for the homeless, active injecting drug users and prostitutes. You can find them near the Olive Avenue 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, 1:00 - 3:00ish. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes & blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park, beside Food Not Bombs. For more info and to arrange donations, fresnobikeclinic@yahoo.com

Every Saturday

2 - 3 PM Peace Bakersfield meets every Saturday at 2:00 pm at the Beale Library in downtown Bakersfield. They will wait for people in the front of the library near the front doors before going inside for the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Your ideas are the basis for our action. Beale Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield. For more information call (661) 633-2930

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/ PROGRAMS

1st Sunday of every month

The South Valley Peace Center <http://www.svpc.info/> has peace demonstrations the first Sunday of each month at the Northwest corner of Mooney and Walnut in Visalia. Come out and demonstrate for peace. Bring a sign with your favorite peace message.

2nd and 4th Sunday of every month

1 PM

South Valley Peace Center meets on every second and fourth Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at the Visalia Friends Meeting House, 17208 Ave. 296, Visalia. Contact is: info@svpc.info

3rd Sunday of every month

10 AM to 12 noon

World Meditation Day is observed to promote peace within and harmony in the world and is held at 7319 N. Fourth St., Fresno. Program includes guided meditation followed by discussion and light refreshments. Call Veena Kapoor at (559) 435-2212 for more information.

2nd Monday of every month

5:30 PM

The Living Wage Committee will meet at the SEIU 250 office, 1279 N. Wishon. Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.) 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, fsivak@msn.com

1st Tuesday of every month

6 PM

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

1st Tuesday of every month

7:00 PM

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

2nd Tuesday of every month

7 PM

Fresno Stonewall Democrats meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Kingsmen Cafe, 1495 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. The dinner hour is from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. followed by the meeting which is open to the public. The Cafe is a faith based business that employs youth dealing with substance abuse issues. They offer inexpensive sandwiches and salads and fair trade coffee. Fresno Stonewall Democrat's focus is on social and political issues of interest to progressives in general and progressive and liberal Democrats in particular. For more information contact Jay Hubbell at (559) 292-4905 e-mail fresnostonewall@mangen.com or visit the website <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

1st Wednesday of every month

12 Noon

WOMEN IN BLACK - Silent Vigil at the Fresno County Courthouse-Entrance. Show your support for PEACE and for negotiated settlements of US current military actions! Meet downtown at the Fresno courthouse, from 12-1:00 PM and stand silently, advocating PEACE. For more info: 278-7140 or 225-2850.

1st Wednesday of every month

7:30 PM

Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter at the Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue in Fresno.

2nd Thursday of every month

7:00 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 St. and Fresno and Tulare Ave. 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 information.

1st Friday of every month

4:30 PM -- 6:30 PM

A demonstration to Stop the Bush Administration's war against the world is held at Shaw and Blackstone in Fresno. For information call Peace Fresno 487-2515 or visit their web site at <http://www.peacefresno.org>

1st Friday of every month

7 - 9 PM

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

2nd Friday of every month

7 PM

Vigil to protest the murder of immigrants at the border and by the police in this country. This vigil is organized by El Comite No Nos Vamos. 328 N Fresno Street. Call (559) 498-6033 or 497-0206 for more information.

1st Saturday of every month

3 - 5 PM

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. Questions, call Veena Kapoor (559) 435-2212.

2nd Saturday of every month

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 page at: <http://www.centerfornonviolence.org> or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).



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SOMETHING Pt. 2 #30

PROPER

I sit doors locked,
windows shut,
phone off the hook.
I was waiting
for something.
my fear grew
I didn't go outside for
something
would surely come for me.
all around me were signs
that something
had been there...
but I cant find anything
now here I sit no ties with
family or friends
all things
around me
shut off.

all this time
being afraid
of something
has made me NOTHING...

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559.681.8886

THE JEWEL OF THE CITY

Visionary art has found its home at the Econno Inn

By Carmela P

Downtown

REVITALIZATION IS BECOMING A MORE NOTEWORTHY cause lately. With the success of Grizzly's stadium and the building of a new Federal courthouse, many are hopeful that new business, and of course revenue will follow. Seemingly, revitalization is synonymous with gentrification. Build a Starbucks and they will come. Too often is art forgotten in these grandiose plans for downtown development. As an afterthought, after the Gap and a few four-star restaurants, we can begin to consider art. Then again, there are those who can think of little else. The vitality of a city is greatly contributed to and depicted by its artists. What better way to exercise this fact, then with a massive mural project?



JOSH WIGGER

EATCHO

AN ALWAYS POPULAR STOP ON ART-HOP NIGHT IS THE PEARL Building, Downtown. It is peopled with and frequented by artists and art enthusiasts and shares an alleyway with the Econno Inn. That building is the site of the first of hopefully many murals to come. Created by local artists Eatcho and Josh Wigger, it brightens up the alleyway behind the Econno Inn; located between Broadway and Fulton, just south of Divisadero.

Q&A

How did the project start? Why the Econno Inn?

Josh: The people at the Pearl building got to know their neighbors. The owners complained about graffiti and how bad the alleyway looked. Reza Assemi came up with the mural idea. He told Creative Fresno we needed a mural project, and that we wanted to start.

Why Creative Fresno?

Josh: Because they're creative.
Eatcho: Because they're from Fresno.

How much did they give you?

Josh: \$500 for the whole mural. You'd think that's cheap.

You spent \$500 just on paint?

Josh: We didn't even spend all of it. I'd give them my gas receipts and they'd pay me for 'em though.

How long did it take?

Eatcho: Three months.
Josh: That includes prepping.
Eatcho: Three months total, it was kinda off and on for a while.



What took so long? Why the starts and stops?

Eatcho: I was working and then moved. It was hard to find time.
Josh: Some of my family came to town for a while; I spent a lot of time with them. And then there was my heroin addiction and dating Paris Hilton for a while.
Eatcho: She says 'hi', by the way.

The characters in the mural are vivid and unique but may at first seem random and unrelated. What was your theme and how do those characters illustrate your message? How did your characters develop?

Josh: The mural is the start of something and that's what it's about: momentum. Artists coming out and creating locally and drawing attention to local culture. Fresno's growing and art is blowing life into it.
Eatcho: The bird-men on horseback with art tools represent that. Artists, creative force, movement.
Josh: The woman on the right is the young-

er of the two. She's the city. New and full of hope. The woman on the left is older and knowing, giving life. She creates movement.
Eatcho: We started with the little girl holding a balloon. That lead to the business man, then girl was holding the string tied to him instead. No character isn't related to another. It's always connected to the character before it.

What was your favorite part of the piece or what do you think best represents what you were trying to get across?

Josh: For me it was the woman on the left. That was mine. I had that in mind all along and spent a lot of time getting her the way I wanted. After we were done I was still adding to the headdress. She's the catalyst for the piece.
Eatcho: I liked the hills, the faces in the hills. People would come out while we were painting it and tripping out on the faces. 'Is that a face?' It was kinda like free association. People would see faces in the different hues.

Do you have more murals lined up for yourselves?

Eatcho: There's one we're planning for spring, another big one.
Josh: And then two smaller ones. We haven't planned them out yet. We're still working on this one.

What's left?

Josh: We're still touching things up. And the clear coat can't go on until the weather warms up. If we do it now moisture will get captured in the piece.

Do you feel pretty confident about your murals in the future?

Eatcho: We'd never done paintings that big before. The whole thing was a learning process. How to do the grid, how to get things to scale.

Josh: It's a lot of work. We had to learn how to adjust to living that way; that was the hardest part. Eventually we got the hang of it. Party at the Pearl, go out and work, 10 am pack it up, sleep. I think the next ones will be harder.

Eatcho: Nothing's ever gonna be like your first one.

So do you think the mural's proximity to the Pearl Building helped?

Josh: There was a lot of support and inspiration going back and forth. Drink beer, make paintings.

Where there other people in particular who were inspiring?

Josh: Earl.
Eatcho: The maintenance guy for the Econno Inn. He was always telling us how great we were doing and to keep it up. He told us to not lose confidence or faith.

Josh: He was our angel.
Angel?

Eatcho: He told us he was our 'Angel in the sky'.

Josh: He was the maintenance guy so, he'd be on the roof fixing something and he'd look down at us painting. He said he was our angel watching over us.

Eatcho: And Bob.

Josh: Our friend Bob came down and threw some images up on the wall. His Burning Man footage was awesome.

Bob Warkintine does projection montages and presented at Veni Vendi Vechi in the Tower District for last month's Art Hop in conjunction with graffiti artist Drane.

Who's up to do the next mural?

Josh: Brianna Johnson is talking to Creative Fresno right now. They're trying to see if they can pay her for it. That's cool. If artists are going to do this, they need to get paid. If we would have asked to get paid I don't think the mural would have happened.

Eatcho: Now that's the project is gotten more attention, they'll pay the artists.

Josh: Brianna is the only one lined up for sure. Lots of people want in, though.

Speaking of attention: did you guys expect to get this much?

Josh: Not really. That whole 'unveiling' and ribbon-cutting thing came up half way through the mural.

They've exceeded their own expectations. Our artists are starting to draw more than crowds. Artistic recognition has spilled out from the constraints of galleries in to the streets.



Reza Assemi, artist and a member of Creative Fresno—a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting and sustaining local art—pitched the idea to the group to get support for a mural project and funding for Josh Wigger and Eatcho to start.