

# Labor/Community ALLIANCE

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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7



JULY / AUGUST 2000

## BIG DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Dallas Blanchard

Fresno area activists are forming a coalition of groups and individuals to go to Los Angeles to demonstrate during the Democratic National Convention. Join us and thousands of concerned people in Los Angeles to let the Democratic Party know that business cannot continue as usual. Join us in a series of marches, nonviolent direct actions and events leading up to and during the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, August 14-17.

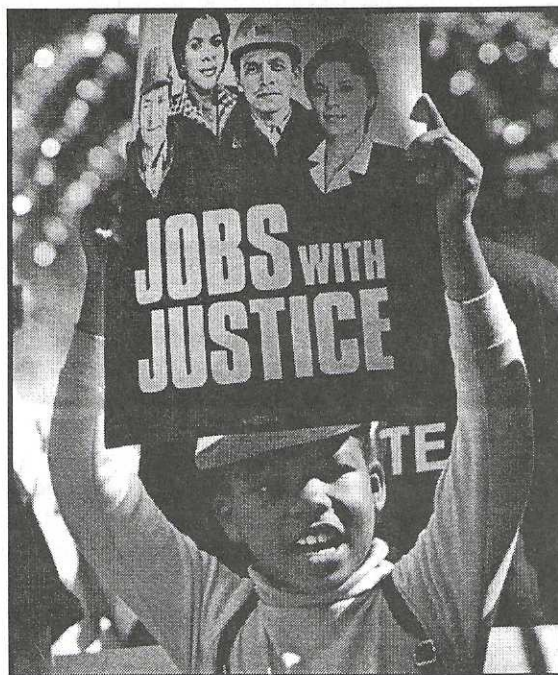
### Why Protest the Democrats?

The harsh reality is that we do not live in true a democracy- but rather a Democracy of illusion, of theater. It is a democracy for the few, those who have the money and power to buy political campaigns. The Democrats and Republicans are running a show, entertaining us all while real decisions are being made behind closed doors. Al Gore, for example has such strong ties to Occidental Petroleum, that he works vigorously to keep the issues of the U"WA\* people at bay so that his vested \$500,000 in stock will remain safe. People are suffering in Columbia, and Al Gore remains silent. This is a man who claims to be an environmentalist? This is a leader that is a puppet for corporations.

The Democrats in the first 15 months of the 1999-2000 election received \$76.1 million in soft money contributions. The Republicans raised \$84.3 million. That's \$160.5 million in illegal contributions reported by Ralph Nader's Common Cause. These two parties, over the course of the last decade have merged into compromise with one another. This being the case, this "moderacy" leaves no room for strong political stance on any subject. In August, the people in the streets will be involved in a movement like no other. A movement that moves beyond any one war, any one civil movement. This is not a protest that is focused on one point but rather a move to address a corrupted economic and political system. A lot of damage has been done during the Clinton/ GOP years, so there are many betrayals to address :

**THE POOR** by practically eliminating welfare, crippling public education, imposing police states in their communities, and ignoring their voices. On an international level, by supporting

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## VALLEY RESIDENTS SAY "AMNESTY NOW!"

By Pam Whalen

The room was overflowing, the black and red flags were waving, as the crowds poured into the Industrial Arts Building of the Fresno County Fairgrounds on the afternoon of June 6. It was one of a handful of events held throughout the country to hear testimony from undocumented immigrant workers about the impact of current immigration policies on their lives.

A blue ribbon panel which included high ranking officials of the AFL-CIO, representatives of the religious community, the university and community organizations were assembled to receive the testimony.

Workers from throughout the San Joaquin Valley spoke sometimes tearfully of the sense of entrapment they feel as workers with no rights and no options. They spoke of hard work, brutal working conditions, sexual harassment, low wages, injustice, imprisonment, and doors closed to education. In short, a form of

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# EDITORIAL

The crisis at KFCF is upsetting to those of us who care about the progressive movement in this area. The recall election of the board of directors is a major development which could change the direction of the station for the foreseeable future.

If you are a member of the Fresno Free College Foundation (who owns KFCF) you will be getting a ballot in the mail shortly after July 7. The future of the radio station will then be in your hands.

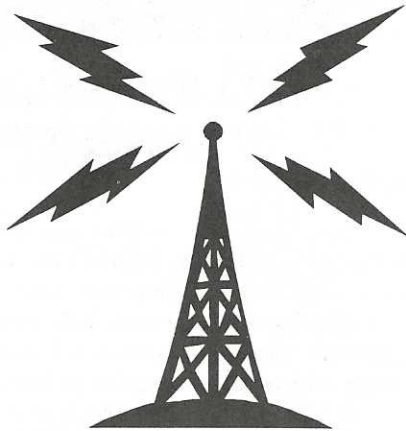
The Labor/Community Alliance has tried to give each side in this debate an opportunity to describe their vision for the station. We have allowed them to articulate their positions and, in this issue, attempted to clarify where the differences are through an interview.

Both the board majority and Community Radio Coalition have changed over the last couple of months, perhaps in some small part, due to the dialog that has taken place in these pages. They have reached consensus that local programming could be enlarged making a more significant contribution to our community, and they are all committed to increasing local programming gradually to serve the progressive and culturally diverse populations of our valley. Both sides seek to provide high quality public affairs, arts and entertainment that is unavailable in the other media locally available to this geographic area.

They also acknowledge that community members have a strong attachment to KPFA programming for good and valid reasons, and intend to honor the contract with KPFA which calls for a minimum of 75% KPFA programming. For some time there has been a consensus that a priority is to build a studio in a publically accessible space, not a private residence.

Major issues have been resolved, yet the recall moves forward. Is it possible for the two sides to come together and call the recall off? YES! Calling off the recall would be in the best interest of the progressive community and the Labor/Community Alliance calls on both sides to sit down and resolve any outstanding differences before the ballots are sent out.

If it is not possible to resolve the differences at the bargaining table and the recall vote moves forward then it will be crucial that KFCF/FFCF members participate in the democratic process. KFCF should provide ample air time to discuss this issue. After all, the future of the station is at stake! Learn what the issues are, decide what you think would be best for the future of the station, and VOTE.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Voters disenchanted with both major party presidential candidates and vote Green play into the hands of the Republican candidate to be elected in the November General Election.

I too, respect and have admired the continuous life efforts of Ralph Nader on behalf of the consumer and corporate domination

in our society, but practical politics indicate the election of Mr. Nader and other Green Party candidates is not forthcoming and spoil the vote for Democratic candidate Al Gore.

It is interesting to note that Assemblywoman Audie Book (1st Green Party elected to the Ca. legislature) realized early in her tenure that many of the principles are stated within the Democratic Party platform. She did a reality check and counted needed votes for human concerns.

Every vote will be important in Nov. and cast elsewhere will draw from the Democratic count. Voters so inclined to vote Green should note and vote for the party who opposes the death penalty, violations of human rights, supports gun control, public schools, women's rights, union efforts for a living wage., the arts, senior citizens, prison reform, mental health programs, environmental protections to name a few.

Would it not be better to encourage such a great consumer advocate and humanitarian, such as Mr. Nader, be appointed to a key position in the Gore administration. Candidate Gore has great respect and admiration for the many ideals espoused by Mr. Nader and might be open to this more positive move.

Ray Ensher

## Dear Dr. Laura,

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the specific laws and how to best follow them.

When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. How should I deal with this?

I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as it suggests in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev. 15:19-24). The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

Lev. 25:44 states that I may buy slaves from the nations that are around us. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify?

I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 10:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?

Lev. 20:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

# LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWS

## SUCCESSFUL FUND APPEAL

Last month the Labor/Community Alliance sent out a fund appeal to keep this newsletter financially solvent. We told our readers that if we did not bring in some money (soon) it would be necessary to print a smaller newsletter and limit distribution. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the response. Donations from \$5 to \$350 flooded our Post Office box, many with notes of support and encouragement. It is obvious that this newsletter is needed and supported by the progressive movement in this community. We thank those who generously donated. The Labor/Community Alliance newsletter will continue to publish, supporting a living wage for all workers, social and economic justice, & working class solidarity.

## GRANT

In addition to the strong show of support by readers, the Labor/Community Alliance also received a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Church helping us work on general amnesty for immigrants. The grant is much needed and appreciated.

## LOW POWER RADIO

Last month the Labor/Community Alliance applied for a low power FM radio licence. If we succeed in our application for the station it will give working people and the progressive community a new voice on the airwaves. The station would cover all of Fresno and Clovis and would be operated by L/CA, Interfaith Alliance, Comite de los Pobres, and The Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

## INTERNET PROJECT

The L/CA/Hume Printing Internet project is progressing well. We have set up quite a few community groups with web sites and are adding more all the time. This is a free service which provides access to progressive community and labor groups so they can take advantage of the Internet. Last month, our web site at [www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com) had 6,433 "hits". That means that 6,433 people visited our web sites, gathering information about local groups, visiting our calendar of events, or checking out the great pictures from the protest at The Gap. If your group would like a free web site, call Mike Rhodes at Hume Printing - 233-6174.

## COMMUNITY RADIO

The Labor/Community Alliance, as you probably know, has the "Street Heat" radio show on KFCF 88.1 FM the fourth Friday of each month from 5-6 PM. Several months ago we applied to expand the show so it would be heard weekly. KFCF has approved our application and we will now be on the air (in addition to our once a month Friday show) from 3:30 - 4 PM every Wednesday starting June 28, 2000. The new show is called "Stir It Up." Joining us in this time slot will be the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, The Fresno Center for Nonviolence, and a group featuring information on local environmental issues. Each group will produce their own show one day a month. Programming will highlight events in the activist community, include a calendar of events, usually include an interview, and promote building a progressive movement.

## IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

The Labor/Community Alliance is working in a coalition with several other groups to win support for AMNESTY for undocumented workers (see article on page 1). The primary work

in this campaign, so far, has been to secure endorsements from unions, churches, and community groups for amnesty. When enough organizations endorse amnesty the project will begin lobbying elected representatives to enact legislation.

## JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Due to our summer schedule there will be no August L/CA newsletter. We do, however plan to mail out a calendar of events and include fliers of important upcoming events in August. If you have information for the calendar or would like to include a flier in this mailing, let us know.

### HELP WANTED

The Labor/Community Alliance has the following "volunteer opportunities" available:

**Proofreader** - We need one or two additional people to help us proofread the newsletter each month. Job requires ability to catch spelling and grammatical errors in articles. Task can be done in a couple of hours, once a month.

**I'll Be There Project Coordinator** - Maintain and build data base of supporters who are willing to participate in solidarity actions at least 5 times a year. Activities include speaking to groups about project, mailing and phone calls to members, and computer work. The I'll Be There Project Coordinator could spend 1-100 hours a month on this job.

**Newsletter Distribution** - We are always looking for people to help distribute the newsletter. We have a list of distribution locations, or you can find your own.

*Call Mike Rhodes at 226-0477 about any of the above "volunteer opportunities"*

**Paid Position** - Looking for an Administrative Assistant for SEIU Local 250. Computer and bilingual skills desired.

*Call Pam Whalen 271-7005 for details.*

### LABOR/COMMUNITY

*The Labor/Community Alliance newsletter is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley. We support the struggle for social and economic justice and believe that all workers should be paid a living wage. The Labor/Community Alliance is affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at The Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness at 6:30 PM. This newsletter is published monthly.*

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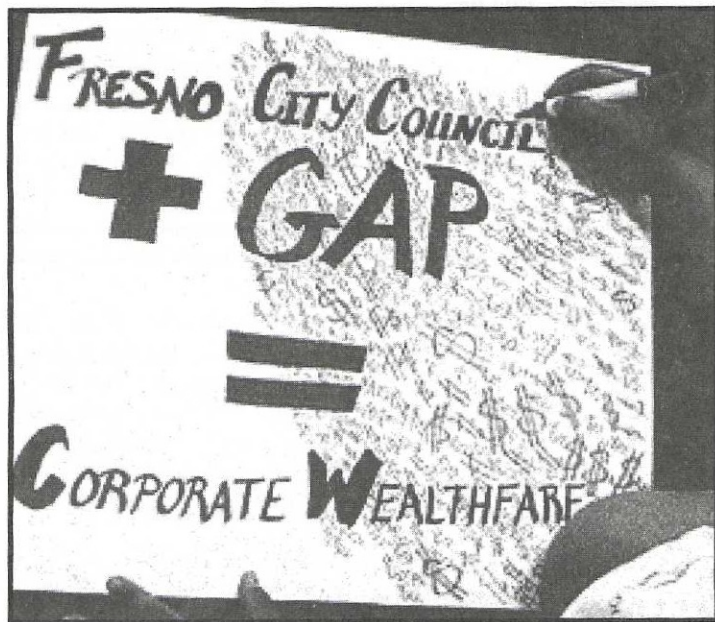
# An Undeserved Break

By Medea Benjamin and Mark Stout

There are few things in this world more shameless than corporate welfare. The typical, all-too-common corporate welfare scheme goes like this: a profitable, gigantic corporation comes into a proud but struggling community and says it will locate operations there if only the city pays for some of the costs of the move. The cash-strapped community, hungry for any sort of jobs, decides to give the company what it wants to lure the jobs to town.

That's exactly what happened in Fresno last week when the city council voted to pay for \$3.5 million of the construction costs of a new warehouse for the clothing company Gap. The new facility promises to bring 350 new jobs to Fresno, and in a county suffering double digit percent unemployment, that is certainly a good thing. But as a rule public dollars should not go to support private interests, and hard-pressed communities should not subsidize profitable businesses. Communities should not give money to any corporation, but they especially shouldn't give money to a corporation such as Gap Inc, a company with 1999 net profits of \$1.1 billion and a proven record of sweatshop abuses around the world.

In 1999, Gap, along with 16 other retailers, were named in a \$1



billion class action lawsuit targeting human rights abuses in the factories making their clothes on the US island of Saipan. The lawsuit charged the companies with violating US indentured servitude and anti-peonage laws based on universally recognized human rights.

The situation in Saipan, part of a US commonwealth, is truly nightmarish. Thousands of women mostly teenagers toil long hours at factory sewing machines manufacturing the clothes that end up in retail stores such as the Gap. Lured by the promise of good jobs in the US, foreign workers pay recruitment fees of up to \$10,000 to work in Saipan. Many must sign contracts waiving their basic rights, including the freedom to join unions, attend religious services, quit, or marry. Because payment for food and lodging is taken directly from their paychecks, many workers do not earn enough to repay their recruitment fees by the time their year-long contract has expired.

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## Chronology:

- July 1, 1997: In sweeping move of corporate welfare, City Council votes to subsidize construction of The GAP distribution center. Enticements offered by the City include:
  - Selling the property to Gap Inc. for \$1.
  - Designating the site as a foreign trade zone.
  - Developing Dakota Avenue into a four-lane road and providing site access off Dakota.
  - Paying for extending utilities to the site's powerhouse.
  - Paying \$150,000 toward correcting soft-soil conditions on part of the property.
- Over next two years, anti-GAP sweatshop protest movement begins to build in Fresno.
- March 29, 2000: Former Saipan sweatshop worker for the GAP, Chie Abad, and Medea Benjamin, founding director of the human rights organization Global Exchange, featured at a series of events in Fresno, including an anti-sweatshop protest at The GAP in Fashion Fair mall. Thanks to strong organizing by the United Students Against Sweatshops, over 150 persons attended the protest, generating significant media exposure.
- April 25th 2000: City Council votes unanimously to bear the estimated \$3.5 million cost of moving a ponding basin to subsidize construction of the third phase of the Gaps Fresno complex -- a 750,000-square-foot warehouse that would dwarf anything built in the city to date. This works out to roughly 350 low-wage jobs created.
- May 6, 2000: 20 nonviolent protesters were arrested at Fashion Fair mall, speaking out against The GAP's continued use of sweatshop labor. The Fresno Police Department provided close to 100 officers to facilitate citizens arrests made by Fashion Fair Mall security. Arrests generate widespread media coverage, including a story in San Francisco Chronicle.
- May 24, 2000: The first of four consecutive Fresno City Council hearings on a financial transaction to pay for The GAP Inc.'s \$3.5 million ponding basin relocation. At the final hearing on June 13th, all Council members except for Henry Perea vote in favor of transferring the \$3.5 million. Councilmember Perea votes against the transfer, making a principled stand that criteria for the City's subsidization of new businesses had not been developed by the City Manager's office.
- June 3, 2000: Anti-sweatshop protesters descend on The GAP Inc.'s Old Navy store in Clovis. Many signs and props allude to the City of Fresno's recent decision to subsidize the expansion of The GAP distribution center. The appropriate, professional response by the Clovis Police Department contrasts greatly with the over-reaction of the Fresno PD at the May demonstration.
- June 8, 2000: Fresno Human Relations Commission agrees to write letter to City Manager and City Council urging the incorporation of human rights criteria when considering public subsidy of private corporations.

To find out about the next anti-GAP sweatshop action, please call (559) 497-1724.

# FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

**TO/GAP/DP2K:** At a June 6th gathering of about 20 people at the Center, four presenters gave report-backs from the Washington D.C. protests against the World Trade Organization. They all emphasized how important local inter-organizational actions are in this "culture war" against corporate world domination.

George Elfie Ballis, Mark Stout, Justin Rubin and Dan Fitzpatrick Jr. all urged us to seek out new people to participate in activities such as Earth Day and the GAP protests; and also to become informed about each others' causes.

Some specific suggestions came out of the group discussion. 1) Vigorously and generously support alternative media like the Labor Community Alliance (L/CA) and KFCF; 2) Make a point of going to unfamiliar groups from the progressive circle every so often: e.g. help Food Not Bombs or Catholic Workers serve a meal; help collate the L/CA on the last Monday of the month; sign up for the "I'll Be There" program; 3) Get as many people as possible involved in the demos to be held in August in the wake of the Democratic Convention in L.A.--participants will come back informed and energized. Information about all these activities (and more) can be found in this paper!!!

The gathering was also a goodbye party for Justin, whose presence as director of Pesticide Watch has been greatly appreciated. Good luck, Justin, in your next ventures.

**TIANAMEN SQUARE REVISITED:** Honorary Board Member Vincent Lavery will present a controversial perspective on the Tianamen Square Massacre, based on information he collected on a visit to Beijing a month after the events of 1989. His presentation, on Thursday July 7 at 7 p.m., will question the commonly-held picture of thousands being killed. Vincent--never one to back away from his position--has even offered a reward to anyone able to prove that murders took place.

**YARD SALE:** Thanks to all donors, workers and shoppers who helped make our June yard sale a success, netting over \$1000.

**WAY OF PEACE AWARDS:** At the Center's 8th anniversary celebration in June, Way of Peace Awards were given to long-time peace advocates Ralph and Polly Victor; Chris Schneider, director of Central California Legal Services; and the dynamic duo of the Labor Community Alliance, Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes. Congratulations to these wonderful, dedicated friends of the Center.

**UNITED WAY?** The Center can register to receive donations to the United Way designated for our use. This is beneficial only if some of you make monthly payroll deductions going to the United Way, and

would like us to receive a share of your contributions. If you are such a one, please call Richard at 266-2559 and we will make the necessary arrangements.



## THE WELCH REPORT

June 12, 2000.

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

### Health Care and Missed Opportunities Amid the Politics of Prosperity

"If the world were rational, we would have taken advantage of an unprecedented opportunity we've had over the past decade", resulting from a robust economic expansion, "to grapple with major problems that await us in the realm of financing the aging of America. In particular... we would have put two of our major national entitlement programs, Social Security and Medicare, on the road to long-term stability", including the extension of health insurance to the currently uninsured.

During the period since 1991 the gross domestic product (output of our economy) grew from roughly \$6.7t to more than \$9t after adjusting for inflation. The economy created more than 22 million jobs. We are experiencing the lowest national unemployment rate in three decades, the lowest inflation rate since 1965, the lowest poverty rate since 1979 (the poverty rate for African-Americans is still high at 26 per cent, but that is their lowest rate ever).

The federal budget has been in surplus for two years straight, and surpluses, outside the Social Security system, of around \$800b over the next decade are projected. The best news of all, perhaps, is a return to the relatively brisk rate of growth of productivity that characterized the nation's economic performance for most of the 20th century, which in turn elevates the living standards of workers. The Medicare trust fund, which pays hospital bills, is now estimated to be solvent for the next 22 years.

A growing problem is the rising number of people without health insurance, 44 million in 1998, most of whom come from working families. Above all, this appears to be due to the rising cost of health care and health insurance. Also, because of incredible breakthroughs in treating many human diseases, people are living longer than ever before.

Medicare represents a paradox: from the standpoint of benefits, it is an inadequate program at present, compared with health insurance plans offered in the private sector, because of its deductibles and copayments which beneficiaries are required to pay, and the absence of outpatient prescription drug coverage. Yet Medicare is going to cost us much more in the coming years.

Because the US is the only major industrialized country that has no drug price regulation, US drug prices are higher than those for the same drugs overseas (on average, one-third higher than in Canada). Pharmaceutical companies now spend as much on promoting and marketing their drugs as they do on the research and development of them!

Researchers are near announcing the successful completion of the "working draft" of the entire human genetic structure, or genome. This will enable unlocking the secrets to treating diseases at their most basic cellular, molecular and genetic roots.

How are we going to pay for these medical breakthroughs, and distribute the benefits fairly across the population? Medicare needs to be made more efficient and competitive, requiring careful crafting. Churchill once remarked, "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing -- after they've tried everything else". We will bring our important social programs in line with fundamental fiscal and other realities, and will enact the inevitable reforms! (Source: Susan Dentzer of The Jim Lehrer News Hour to S.J. Valley Town Hall, Fresno Apr. 19, '00)

*One can hope a single-payer system will be considered.*

## FRESNO ORGANIZER IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By: Shirley Kirsten

A Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Association (FASTA) contingent will represent Fresno subs at the "First" Annual National Substitute Teacher Conference to take place in Washington DC on July 14th and 15th. Karla Hansston, Secretary/Webmistress and Shirley Kirsten FASTA, President and Keynote Speaker will journey together to the beltway for the "Substitutes Make It Possible" event. It is expected that at least 100 substitute activists and union leaders around the country will attend the proceedings at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library in downtown D.C.

FASTA will ring in the conference with Shirley Kirsten's Keynote address that will underscore the essential role of substitute teachers in our educational process. The story of FASTA's against the odds journey to the collective bargaining table will include the union's victories as well as challenges to its right to fairly represent substitute teachers.

As FASTA approaches the first anniversary of its landmark contract with the Fresno Unified School District, it can be proud of having obtained a 30% raise for substitutes in a little over two years. Still, the fledgling union, the first of its kind in the State of California is grappling with the lingering unfairness of a substitute teacher evaluation process that denies a substitute the right to face his/her accusers or to obtain arbitration. Therefore, top on the priority list for 2002 negotiations will be demands for due process, including arbitration and progressive discipline, health benefits, sick leave and an end to the discrimination against subs in the granting of teacher contracts.

FASTA is growing by leaps and bounds...an example for substitute teachers all over the country. Our message at the Conference will be to Organize! The FASTA the Better!!

## NOMINATIONS NOW BEING SOUGHT

Central California Legal Services is seeking nominations of those who are making significant contributions to legal services and its clients. Those selected will be honored at the Fourth Annual Awards Reception to be held September 28th as a benefit for CCLS. The event serves to recognize individuals who have lent their talents and skills to further the delivery of free legal services in civil matters to the client-eligible population.

Nominations are being accepted in three categories:

Judiciary/Attorney/Law Firm  
Business Client  
Volunteer Staff

and must be received by July 12, 2000 in order to be considered by the Awards Selection Committee. Please contact Luisa Medina at (559)441-1611, ext 134 or (by e-mail) [luisa@centralcallegal.org](mailto:luisa@centralcallegal.org) for more information on how to submit your nomination and also if you want to purchase an ad in the program booklet or make a donation for the silent auction.

## Fleeting LPFM Opportunity Seized by Some Valley CBOs

By Gunnar Jensen

It is unfortunate that California fell into the first filing window for the new low power FM radio frequencies. Though there is some good news to report very good news, it is especially unfortunate that the first filing window may have slammed shut on so many San Joaquin Valley community based organizations that might have profited by having their own radio station. Immigrant groups, school districts, city and county governments, churches, union, environmental and other progressive groups may have missed out on filing for as many as 40, possibly more, 100 watt radio slots on the southern San Joaquin Valley radio dial.

### Background for the Uninitiated:

After years of civil disobedience in the form of pirate broadcasting, (that is, broadcasting without permission from the FCC), the Federal Communications Commission responded, more or less positively, to the lack of access U.S. residents have to their airwaves. Following a year of pro/con comment taking, the FCC created the new LPFM service, and not without a lot of flack from fatcat broadcasting, inc. (In fact there s still powerful pounding on the Senate to follow earlier House efforts to kill LPFM. Call Sen. DiFi, and ask her to get out in front of the efforts to save LPFM!) The Commission then divvied the country into five filing regions, and thereafter by lottery assigning each region a five day filing window spaced 3 months apart. No applications would be accepted before or after this window. As mentioned, California fell into the first filing window, learning about it just 30 day's before the window opened.

Time will tell how many groups, and perhaps more importantly, which groups filed for which frequencies in the SJV. Those of us assisting and encouraging groups to seek this access found many unwilling even to apply, even though the American Friends Service Committee was providing technical and application completion assistance, free of charge.

I believe one reason groups did not apply is because there is no local model for community radio. Some groups appeared to have little idea how ongoing radio access and/or participation could further their missions. More tangible reasons were the obvious many boards would not even be meeting within the time frame created after they learned of the opportunity. Legitimate concerns about budgets, programming, and management seemed to preoccupy one group even after they were informed they would have 18 months to organize, fundraise, answer questions, etc. Many boards like this one are just unaccustomed to moving quickly, even when the risk is tiny, as was the case in applying for an LPFM.

### The Good News:

Several local groups did apply for some of the available LP100 frequencies. (Also good to know is that another window for 10 watt stations will open in about a year.) In all, Radio Grito, part of Proyecto Campesino of Visalia and of the AFSC, assisted in the preparation of 13 applications throughout California. These applications represented 7 frequencies.

We are especially excited about the possibilities for the frequencies applied for in Visalia and Fresno. In Visalia, Proyecto Campesino and the Pacific Friends Outreach Society applied. Four organizations applied for the frequency in Fresno: the Fresno

(Continued on page 19)

## LOCAL ARTIST FILMS OUR FAMILY STORY

By: Theresia L. Rogerson

The images from our family story will not fade with time thanks to George Elfie Ballis, along with support and inspiration from his partner Maia and their home and sanctuary at SunMt. With an expert eye, Elfie has captured the passions and struggles of our global community in four recently released videos.

In December 1999, Elfie followed five union plumbers to Seattle as they joined approximately 50,000 others in the protests and demonstrations that shut down the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization. **Awaken** chronicles the growing ties between labor, environmental and social justice groups as a worldwide movement against corporate domination and greed ignites. If you haven't yet thought about how many decisions in your life are controlled by multinational corporations, get this video!

Bringing the issue of corporate power into our own backyard, the **GAP** video documents a local demonstration to inform consumers about the sweatshop labor practices of the GAP, Inc., the corporation that also owns Old Navy and Banana Republic. Twenty people were arrested at Fashion Fair mall by close to 100 Fresno City police officers that accepted citizen's arrests from the mall security. This will wake you up to the overwhelming police presence and the protection of corporations over individuals in our own community.

Respecting and preserving cultural heritage is a vital strategy to counter the homogeneity created by globalization. Deep within the history of Indian wisdom rises a cinematic swell of drumming and dancing as **O Matake Oyasin** brings you to Alcatraz for an annual un-Thanksgiving ceremony honoring our Creator. This docu-poem is truly for all our relations.

The bilingual video **!Si Se Puede!** uncovers the true integrity of the modern homes being constructed in Fresno subdivisions. Union carpenters and community groups join forces to advocate for better wages and more training for the primarily Mexican carpenters who build these homes. This video will educate homebuyers about the oftentimes shoddy construction of homes due to these less-than-adequate working conditions.

For information about how to buy these videos, see the ad on this page.

*Celebrate • Inform • Inspire*

**!ACT NOW! Videos - locally & globally**

SunMt produces docu-poem videos to vitalize our collective loving dance toward more harmony with ourselves, each other and Big Mama. Each poem is a chapter in our family story. Our family story can be told only by us - and financed only by us.

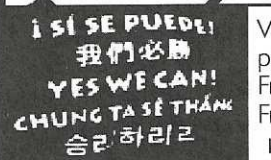
Herewith 3 samples. You can check these and others out by renting them from The Movies video store in Fresno. If you're hot to trot, buy them there or directly from SunMt.



Street theater, teach-ins, protests and civil disobedience shut down the Seattle WTO. 32 minutes  
\$30 for unrich persons and unfunded community groups;  
\$125 for all others



20 are arrested at Fresno's Fashion Fair challenging GAP sweatshops and corporate greed. 10 minutes \$20 and \$80



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(Continued from page 1)

corporations who take away the livelihood of agrarian societies, impose child and slave labor, endorse violent dictatorships for the sole purpose of profit.

**THE ENVIRONMENT** by granting token ineffective policies of environmental protection and by supporting corporations within the World Trade Organization and financing institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank who prosper on poverty and suffering.

**WORKING FAMILIES** by doing nothing to instate a living wage, practical childcare plan, healthcare plan, care for the disabled, elderly and affordable housing. The richest 7% of this nation make more money than the poorest 90%. The gap between rich and poor is at its highest since the 1930's depression.

**CHILDREN** who are being incarcerated at record numbers and now eligible to be murdered on death row. Who are stuck in decaying public schools and given little or no financial aid for higher education.

**FOREIGN NATIONS** by bombing and imposing unfair embargoes on countries with no regard for the citizens they are killing. By using war as an opportunity for corporate profit.

**RACIAL MINORITIES** by incarcerating young men and women at record numbers and murdering innocent people on death row. By allowing discrimination in the workplace of immigrants new to this country.

**SEXUAL IDENTIFIED MINORITIES** by passing the defense of marriage act and having no backbone to stand up for basic civil rights.

There are many important issues that will be addressed in Los Angeles and most of them won't be on the stage of the Staples Center. The Democrats are sure to put on a theatrical spectacle worthy of a Tony Award, but the real issues will be ignored or lightly brushed with empty political promises. As the Democrats (Gray Davis) align with the LAPD to impose a police state around the convention supporting their 4.1 million dollar "security" budget for "terrorism prevention", citizens will take to the streets, engaging in non-violent direct action; putting their lives on the line to voice the truth and to fight for their future.

**PROTEST THE CONVENTION!**

Tell your friends. Communicate with other activists. Encourage labor unions and progressive political organizations to get involved. Make your plans (travel, lodging, time off from work, etc.) early! We're getting a bus and organizing carpools. Join us in LA. For information on these demos, remember the following website addresses: <http://d2kla.org> and [www.peoplesconvention.com](http://www.peoplesconvention.com) For Fresno area organizers Contact; [fresnofnb@yahoo.com](mailto:fresnofnb@yahoo.com) or call 452-0277 (ask for Dallas).

*\* The U'WA people are an indigenous people of Columbia who are under attack from Occidental Petroleum. Occidental Petroleum wants to drill for oil in a region of the Columbian rainforest were the U'WA people live.*

**D2KLA calendar of events**

**Mon. Aug. 14:** Human Need Not Corporate Greed, March for Our Lives.

**Tues. Aug. 15:** An Injury to One is An Injury to All, Racial, Gender, Les/Bi/Gay/Trans (LBGT), Economic and Environmental Justice.

**Wed. Aug. 16:** Stop Police Brutality, the Prison Industrial Complex, the Death Penalty, and the Criminalization of Our Communities-From Youth to Seniors, We Demand a Future!

**Thurs. Aug. 17:** Global Economic Justice, Militarism, Immigrant and Workers Rights.

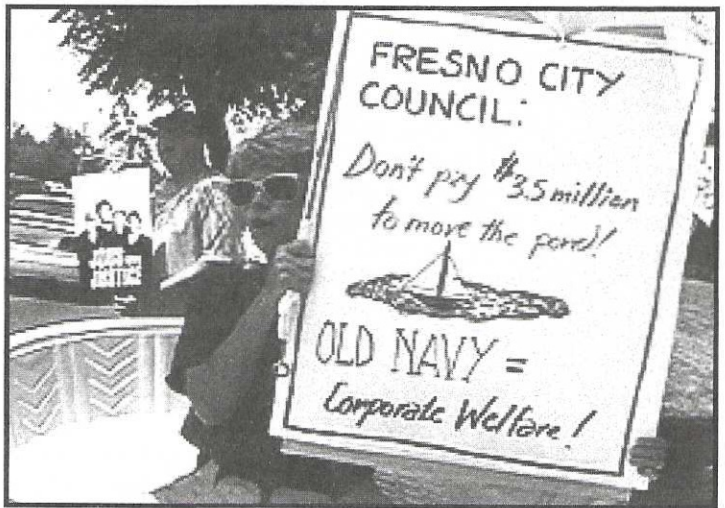
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In Saipan, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of the Interior, "allegations persist regarding the inability to protect workers against crimes such as illegal recruitment, battery, rape, child labor and forced prostitution." Garment workers there typically work 12-hour days, seven days a week, and are sometimes required to provide long hours of "voluntary work" to meet strict production quotas.

More than a year after the lawsuits were filed, all but four of the original defendants have agreed to a landmark settlement that



will improve conditions for Saipan's thousands of garment workers. But GAP, which buys more Saipan garments than any other defendant in the lawsuit, shows no signs of settling. The company still refuses to make a commitment to ensure that the people who make its clothes are not facing abuses.



Why is it, given these facts, that the city council is offering to bear the estimated \$3.5 million cost of moving a pond from the Gap's chosen warehouse site? And why did the city, in an earlier corporate welfare deal, give away the 58-acre site worth at least \$1 million for \$1? Surely it's not because the Gap can't afford to pay for the real estate or the removal of the ponding basin.

The Gap is one of America's largest retailers, with more than 2,900 stores including the Old Navy and Banana Republic chains. Last year the company sold \$11.6 billion dollars of clothing and earned a net profit of \$1.1 billion. The company's executives are some of the richest men in the country. According to USA Today, Gap's CEO, Millard Drexler, earned the richest pay package among U.S. executives in 1998, totaling \$494.5 million in cash and stock,

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

and Forbes just named him among the top ten highest compensated US CEO's in 1999.

City officials say that the city will eventually recover the \$3.5 million subsidy. That offers some consolation, but it doesn't explain why Fresno taxpayers had to make the loan in the first place to this wildly profitable company. Why should a poor community pay money to a rich corporation to bring in jobs? In the short term, the city is paying \$10,000 for each job the company will bring to the area. And that figure doesn't even include the land giveaway.

Just as Gap has been unwilling to share its success with the workers who make the company's clothes, so too now is the corporation unwilling to pay its own way in Fresno county. The display of sheer greed is disgraceful.

The break given to the Gap is clearly undeserved, both from an economic and a moral point of view. The city council should take immediate steps to reconsider its decision. Fresno taxpayers should not be put in the position of subsidizing a company that has shown a consistent disregard for the basic human rights of the people who make its clothes. It's time to take these welfare kings off the public dole.

*Medea Benjamin is the Green Party candidate for US Senate and the founding director of Global Exchange. Mark Stout is a Fresno resident and the Green Party's San Joaquin Valley Coordinator.*

# WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

By: Julius P. Rasmussen, Jr.

We are looking for people who comprise the steady or occasional KMJ radio listening audience and calling for them to join us in waging a boycott of all products and services advertised on KMJ until such time as KMJ institutes policies that ensure equal opportunities for opposing opinions on that station!

KMJ Radio has made a concerted and continuous effort to air only the most politically conservative and backward opinions available. It airs Rush Limbaugh fifteen to eighteen hours per week and Michael Medved at least 10 hours a week. Anyone who is aware of what is actually going on in national and world affairs knows that Limbaugh spews a steady stream of lies about those events and the people involved in them; and Michael Medved puppets that Limbaugh line. In addition, the local Limbaugh wanna-be on KMJ, Ray Appleton, continues to arrogantly hurl verbal attacks at the progressive community. He is selling all his listeners "down the river" and prostituting his services to his corporate bosses.

Viacom (a combination of CBS and Westinghouse), which is the owner of KMJ Radio, is Appleton's boss. Viacom is one of the BIG-5 broadcast media monopolies that own almost all powerful radio and television networks and a huge amount of other types of media outlets. Viacom, through ownership of CBS Radio and Television networks, is making sure that KMJ, along with all its other media holdings, tow the corporate line and not accommodate the more progressive views which would hold corporations accountable for their activities!

The spirit of the Fairness Doctrine (written in 1935 and destroyed by the Reagan administration) has been totally swept away at KMJ; and, in its place, is a heavily one-sided, heavy-handed, Conservative Republican operation that almost totally blocks out any input from liberals, progressives, or progressive populists! Now that the Federal Communications Commission is no longer guaranteeing free and equal (or nearly equal) time for all political views in commercial radio, it is time for the us, the people of the COMMUNITY, to override this dereliction of government duty and wage our own campaign.

We, the local community, must insist on a LOCAL "Fairness Doctrine" of our own - a doctrine that guarantees that opposing views be reasonably/equally expressed over KMJ and all other such stations. IF THE BROADCAST AIRWAYS ARE, INDEED, OWNED BY ALL the PEOPLE (YOU AND ME); and it is,

(Continued on page 16)

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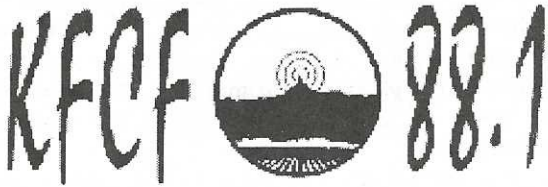
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# THE CRISIS AT KFCF

This month, if you are a member of radio station KFCF 88.1 FM, you will receive notice of a recall election. The Community Radio Coalition is attempting to recall all members of the existing board and have a new election. Why?!? The reasons are complex and the issues troublesome for the progressive community in Fresno. The Labor/Community Alliance newsletter has given both sides in this dispute an opportunity to speak for themselves about the issues involved and articulate a vision for the future of KFCF. In our ongoing coverage of this important issue, this month we interview Rych Withers, KFCF board president and CRC representative and KFCF board member Catherine Campbell to try and better understand the issues involved in the conflict. Here is the interview, conducted by L/CA newsletter editor Mike Rhodes:



## L/CA Questions for Rych Withers of the Community Radio Coalition:

*L/CA: Why are you opposed to a recall of the board of directors at KFCF?*

RW: A recall is an extreme measure for use in cases of financial mismanagement or breach of trust and should not be used to serve the political agenda of the few. There is no indictment, charge or allegation in the recall statement to justify invalidating the first democratic election the Fresno Free College Foundation membership has conducted in almost a decade; a feat accomplished by the present Board majority to empower listeners. The people in favor of the recall refused to pay membership dues, had never been "elected" to the Board by the membership, and had ignored the Foundation by-laws requirement to have annual membership meetings and elections, meaning that the Board was paralleling Pacifica in becoming a self-perpetuating Board with no elections. While we feel that a recall process is a waste of resources of the station and Foundation, we have been petitioned for one, and things MUST BE RUN LEGALLY, or we could risk losing everything.

*L/CA: What role do you think KFCF should play in this community?*

RW: KFCF was founded to bring in the programming, ideas, and outside influences of KPFA, Berkeley and will continue to do so. The current Board majority represents the majority view of our subscribers, as shown in recent surveys, elections, and community meetings; and we're committed to representing the larger community of KFCF's audience who subscribe to our station to support KPFA. KFCF will continue a certain amount of programming to address regional concerns and issues.

*L/CA: Are you in favor of more local public affairs programming that supports building a progressive movement?*

RW: KFCF supports quality programming that deals with regional issues and concerns, but we are not and should not be a mouthpiece for various local political organizations. Having programmers advocate actions by the listeners is considered a very serious offense by the Federal Communications Commission.

Guests however are free to express opinions, as long as they are not slanderous, libelous, indecent or profane.

*L/CA: If the KFCF board is not recalled, what programming changes would you like to see take place in the next year?*

RW: Changes should be carefully studied and many things should be considered, including listener and subscriber responses to surveys, pledge drive income, and what KPFA programs would be replaced. At February's Board meeting, the Program Director moved to adopt several new programs that had been reviewed by staff and Board members and had gone through the process that was in place for new programming proposals. A vocal Board minority, part of the so-called "Community Radio Coalition", delayed the approval. Many of these new shows will start in July, replacing the Pacifica Network News, which has suffered in content and quality due to the stringers strike and replacing it will send a message to the Pacifica National Board.

*L/CA: What do you see as the major differences between the CRC and the board majority?*

RW: The CRC is not a legitimate democratic organization as they have no officers, no elections, no by-laws, no 501(c)3 status; not even anyone who will admit to being a leader during our Board meetings. Do we want to be held hostage by a modern day version of a Hydra - a creature that will split into multiple creatures, each with its' own demands? They are interested in taking over KFCF, and their members have publicly stated goals of replacing 60-70 percent of KPFA programming (FRCF Annual Banquet, November 1999, Steve Barile in Opening statement.) The CRC has been engaged in false, potentially slanderous and libelous statements and personal attacks about the Board Majority.

*L/CA: Do you support establishing a community advisory board to help determine programming needs at KFCF?*

RW: This is an issue that needs to be addressed by the by-laws of the Foundation. There is a subcommittee that has been assigned the task of examining our by-laws and recommending any changes that might be needed to bring us into compliance with state law, among other things.

## L/CA Questions for Catherine Campbell of the Community Radio Coalition:

*L/CA: Why do you support a recall of the board of directors at KFCF?*

CC: The recall election was insisted upon by the board majority, and seems like an unnecessary waste of community money and energy to me. I support a new election of the entire board, but as the board majority has set it up, we have to recall the entire board before we can have the election. If you are a member, and you support the idea of a new election, where everyone who is a member can vote, I encourage you to support the recall - no matter which side you are on.

*L/CA: What role do you think KFCF should play in this community?*

CC: KFCF could be our communal voice, the way we tell each other what is happening, and what we are doing, as individuals and as groups. It could be the way we get to know who's out there, doing good work, making art, and playing music. Radio is my favorite medium because it's intimate, friendly, accessible, inexpensive, and brings us together. KFCF is our best hope for an on-going community conversation, at least until it is complemented by a good weekly newspaper.

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

**L/CA:** *We have heard that the CRC would like to replace all KPFA programs with locally produced shows. Is this true?*

**CC:** No, never has been, never will be. The difference between the Coalition and the Board Majority is that we believe the community should be more involved in programming decisions. The board majority allows one person to make programming decisions.

**L/CA:** *Why is it important to the CRC that a new studio gets built?*

**CC:** We need one. The studio we have is in a private residence, and access is limited by the owner's largess. It's also a limited facility. We cannot do talk shows, which are essential to having actual listener involvement. It's a minimal facility, held together with duct tape and spit. We need a studio with good equipment that many people can be trained to use, and we need it to be accessible.

**L/CA:** *If the CRC successfully recalls the board and wins the majority of seats in the subsequent election, how will KFCF be changed?*

**CC:** The doors won't be locked all day. We'll have a building open to listeners. We'll have volunteers and interns working for the station. We'll teach young people about radio. We'll give a voice to the voiceless in our valley. We'll announce community events, and cover many live. We'll allow the listeners to talk to and with the board about programming changes. It will be exciting, interesting and involving. It will be the collective heartbeat of the progressive, artistic, minority, disenfranchised, and voiceless peoples of the valley. It will be important. What is said on our station about this valley will matter.

**L/CA:** *What do you see as the major differences between the CRC and the board majority?*

**CC:** On a continuum, the board majority has had control of the station for many years, and has tended to be closed, insular, protective of what they see as their "charge" - shielding the station from those who would change it. The Community Radio Coalition is more open, political, free-spirited and creative. As time has gone by, both sides have changed and moved toward the center, with the board majority developing some good local programs, and the CRC working to have a solid plan of fiscal responsibility and station longevity. My fear is that if the recall fails, or the board majority is re-elected, they will revert to the clubby control of the last 25 years, shutting everyone out who disagrees with their way of running the station.

Major differences between us remain, as I described above, and it's for the members to decide the direction the station will take in the future.

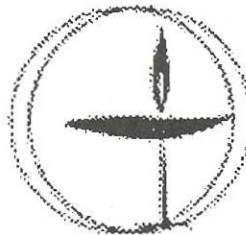
**L/CA:** *Do you support establishing a community advisory board to help determine*



Community Radio Coalition Spokesperson,  
Catherine Campbell

*programming needs at KFCF?*

**CC:** Absolutely. I look forward to the day when the station runs on the humming energy of a hundred people rather than a small clan, or even a board of eleven. Community participation in governance is essential to the creation of a richly engaging radio station. Control by the few is the antithesis of a vital community radio station. I know that increasing the number of people involved will diminish my control, CRC control, and the control of the board, but it will enlarge the community's control, and that's what we want. In fact, I can hardly wait for that to happen.



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(Continued from page 1)

slavery.

It was a sign of the times. There were more people than could fit in the building, probably 2,000. Workers wanted to talk longer than the allocated time, and the call was for a complete amnesty that would not leave anyone out.

The Fresno event was followed up on June 10 by a huge hearing in Los Angeles attended by over 16,000 people (see the David Bacon article, this page). In the Fresno area many religious and community groups have taken action to officially support the AFL-CIO's call for general amnesty. They are:

Metro Ministry  
The Unitarian Universalist Church  
El Comité No Nos Vamos  
MAPA De Valle  
The Fresno Center for Non-Violence  
Labor Community Alliance  
La Nueva Alianza Oaxaqueño  
Menonite Central Committee  
Fresno Chapter ACLU  
El Concilio Immigrant Project  
Green Party - Fresno Chapter

The only local group that has refused to support this call for amnesty, when asked, is the Kennedy Club.

Local activists are continuing to contact community groups and unions to support general amnesty. If your union or group would like to lend it's name to this cause and get involved in making it a reality contact Pam Whalen at 226-0477.

## LABOR TURNS OUT FOR AMNESTY

By David Bacon

LOS ANGELES (6/12/00) -- Immigration amnesty for people crossing the border without papers is hardly a new idea in California. In fact, the first one came with San Francisco's earthquake and fire of 1906, which destroyed the records keeping track of immigrants brought from China to work on the railroads.

"A hundred years ago my grandfather and his brother crossed the Mexican border into California illegally, buried in a hay cart," Katie Quan remembers her parents telling her. They had to sneak in, because after the rails were laid, the door to further immigration from China was slammed shut. "The Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, brings bitter memories for Chinese Americans to this day, because it barred Chinese, and only Chinese, from entering the U.S."

When the fire burned down San Francisco's City Hall, it destroyed the immigration records of the city's Chinese residents. The whole community became undocumented. And when everyone was undocumented, anyone could say they had arrived legally and had their papers go up in flames. Quan's grandfather became a legal resident as a result. Other immigrants brought relatives from China, claiming they were "paper sons," whose



documents had perished in the fire.

"That is the way a very high percentage of Chinese Americans came to the U.S., including my mother's family," Quan says.

Quan, a former garment union leader, now works at the Center for Labor Research and Education at UC Berkeley. She recalled her family's history in one of a series of hearings held to gather support for the AFL-CIO's recent proposal that the country needs a new amnesty.

As the hearings, which started in March, moved across the U.S. from New York to Atlanta, Chicago, Silicon Valley, Portland, Salinas and Fresno, the crowds turning out to back the demand swelled. Amnesty has immense support among immigrants, a fact impossible to ignore last Saturday in Los Angeles when over 16,000 people poured into the LA Sports Arena, chanting "Que queremos? Amnistia, sin condiciones!" - "What do we want? Unconditional amnesty!" Thousands more gathered outside, unable to get in through the doors.

The last immigration amnesty was contained in the Immigration Reform and Control Act, passed in 1986. It allowed about three million people, who came before January 1, 1982, to gain legal status. But those who've arrived without documents since then have been trapped in the same illegal status the law fixed for those who came before.

The Urban Institute estimates there were as many as 5 million undocumented people in the U.S. just before that amnesty. Afterwards, it dropped to 2-3 million. But by 1992, it was rising again to 2.7-3.7 million. Today most estimates place the number around 6 million, but no one really knows. Fear of deportation makes undocumented people hesitant to be counted.

Neither sending the National Guard to patrol the high metal fence in Tijuana, nor beefed-up raids in immigrant communities, have been able to halt this flow of people. Nor has anti-immigrant legislation, from California's Proposition 187 to the immigration reform acts passed in 1986 and 1996.

California's experience is no different from western Europe and Japan. And when the AFL-CIO changed its position on immigration this February, it recognized that continued immigration reflects a new world reality. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that over 80 million people today live outside their countries of origin, with the U.S. home to only a small percentage. Because of growing economic inequality on a global scale, people increasingly leave and seek survival elsewhere when they cannot feed their families at home.

The AFL-CIO's reversal in position has shifted the political climate around immigration in Washington DC dramatically. Suddenly a handful of immigration bills have been introduced, ostensibly intended to legalize at least some people. Just a year ago, even discussion of limited amnesty was considered laughable among beltway lobbyists.

"It's really obvious that the change by the labor movement has made a whole new discussion possible," says Victor Narro, a staff attorney at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles. "Now we have a labor movement that's on the side of immigrants, rather than one bent on trying to stop immigration, as we had in 1986." At that time, the AFL-CIO argued against immigration amnesty, and for employer sanctions, that section of the law which makes it illegal for undocumented immigrants to work.

When the AFL-CIO announced at its October convention here that the old attitude needed to be changed, it set up a hearing process to advise immigrant workers of their rights, to gather

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

testimony about how immigration law has undermined those rights, and to forge a new labor/community/religious coalition to change the law. In addition to unions, the LA hearing was sponsored by ten churches and community organizations, from the Hermandad Mexicana Nacional (the National Mexican Brotherhood) to the Catholic Archdiocese, each kicking in at least \$2500 to help pay for the huge event, and bringing busloads of people to fill the arena.

"Labor can open some doors," says Miguel Contreras, secretary of the Los Angeles County Labor Federation, "but we need community allies and a grassroots base. We have to build a rank-and-file movement for amnesty, and this huge turnout shows not only that it can be done, but that politicians who want the Latino vote had better take note."

"We really need amnesty," says Mateo Cruz, a day laborer who marched into the sports arena with 2000 other workers from LA's streetcorners, mobilized by the Union of Day Laborers. "People hire us and don't pay us. Three years ago I worked for 40 days cleaning restaurants for a contractor, and when I finally told him I couldn't go on being put off about my wages, he called the police and threatened to have me deported. I was humiliated and handcuffed. Not having papers makes bosses and police treat you really badly. I filed a complaint for my wages with the Labor Commissioner, and after 2 years I'm still waiting. Many day laborers won't even do that, because they're afraid that if they make trouble they'll be picked up by the migra [Border Patrol]."

Inside the sports arena, a procession of workers recounted similar experiences to a panel of union leaders. Maria Sanchez described the way managers at the Palm Canyon Hotel in Palm Springs fired a number of workers after they joined the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. When forced to rehire them, the hotel suddenly decided to check their immigration status and refused to put them back to work. The workers, both documented and undocumented, responded by staying off the job until everyone was rehired. "I lost my

house and my car. I sold some of my possessions so I could survive," Sanchez declared. "But we woke up. We gained self-confidence. I know that I have value and that I have rights!"

Carmen, a seventeen-year old farmworker from the Central Valley, broke down in tears as she stood before thousands of strangers, admitting that her lack of legal status kept her from going to college. "We can't even move [to a bigger house] because we don't have a Social Security number to put down a deposit and turn on utilities. Even if we could afford a nice home, we can't rent one because we are undocumented. "Our future depends on a new amnesty," she cried out.

Ofelia Parra, a worker in Washington state's apple-packing sheds, described the mass termination of 700 undocumented workers in the midst of a Teamsters Union organizing drive, at the demand of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The drive was broken. "We've had to accept jobs at lower wages. I earned \$7.51/hour at the packing plant, and now I earn minimum wage," she said. "We contribute to this society just like the people who

have papers. We need an amnesty so we can work in peace and organize to improve conditions."

In Los Angeles, in an election year, the demand for amnesty has clear political repercussions. According to Fabian Nuñez, the county labor federation's political director, one million of California's 1.1 newly registered voters are Latino, and 44% of them are new immigrants. "Before 1986, a lot of these people were undocumented themselves, so they know what amnesty means and how important it is," he explains. Politicians like Assemblyman Gil Cedillo and past Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa were not only partly elected with those votes, but are former immigrant rights activists themselves.

Contreras emphasizes that LA labor doesn't see immigration law in a vacuum. "Amnesty is a means to an end -- the elimination of poverty and a better redistribution of wealth. LA is a county in crisis. Fifty wealthy families have assets of \$60 billion, more than the wages of 2 million of the city's lowest-paid workers, who are mostly immigrants. But in the midst of this crisis, we also have a crisis of leadership. Elected officials see amnesty as too controversial. This hearing is a signal to them that amnesty is important to this community. It's a message to all of LA."

It's also a message that puts the Clinton administration in Washington into a quandary. It seeks to appear Latino-friendly on the one hand, while not appearing to ease up on the immigration enforcement program it's touted for seven years on the other. To

at least partly solve this problem, a meeting was convened in Washington in mid-April by Henry Cisneros, past Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and mayor of San Antonio, now CEO of the Spanish-language TV network Univision and a Democratic Party heavyweight.

The meeting sought to craft a compromise short of a general amnesty and the repeal of employer sanctions -- the bedrock AFL-CIO positions. Instead, Cisneros joined Republican Jack Kemp in urging participants to support lifting



Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional, Proyecto Campesino, and other community groups at Fresno march demanding Amnesty for undocumented workers. Photo by: Mike Rhodes

the cap on the recruitment of foreign high-tech workers. In return, they predicted, pro-immigrant groups could get some limited reforms. Those include extending to Haitians and other Central Americans the liberal procedures Cubans and Nicaraguans have for getting asylum, allowing late applicants for the last amnesty to receive one now, moving the registry date for amnesty forward from the old one of January 1, 1982, and removing a provision which forces undocumented workers to return to their countries of origin, often separating their families for years, just to apply for legal status.

The number of people eligible for legalization under these proposals depends on the new registry date, but no one denies it would be far short of the 6 million undocumented people currently in the country. Some immigration activists, while acknowledging the importance of those reforms, are wary of the deal, fearing it will cut short the effort to achieve a broader amnesty.

# ☞ Calendar of Events for July 2000 ☞

## **Saturday, July 1**

National Day of Protest at The Gap protesting sweatshop labor practices. To find out about the next anti-GAP sweatshop action in Fresno, call (559) 497-1724.

## **Saturday, July 1 • 2 PM**

Hear why community activists are supporting the recall of the Board of Directors at KFCF 88.1 FM. Discuss what it would be like to have a community radio station that promoted progressive politics in Fresno. Presentation, followed by questions and answers at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Sponsored by the Community Radio Coalition.

## **Saturday, July 1 • 9 AM**

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin (political discussion). Meeting is held at Margaret Hudson's Barn, 4247 N Thorne. Call 439-8140 for more information.

## **Tuesday, July 4 • 9 AM - 12 Noon**

Celebration of Diversity at O'neill Park, CSUF Campus (Barstow between Maple and Chestnut). The Interfaith Alliance of Central California is hosting a brunch honoring the racial and religious pluralism that makes America great. Call 224-1630 for details.

## **Wednesday, July 5 • 10 AM**

Court hearing for The Gap 20 who were arrested at Fascist Fair protesting sweatshop labor on May 6. Come out and support the First Amendment and local activists at the Fresno County Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness, Room B-102. Call (559) 233-3978 for more information. See pictures from The Gap demonstration at <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/gaphotos.htm>

## **Thursday, July 6 • 6:30 PM**

Fresno coalition organizing for the Democratic Party convention protest (D2KLA) meeting will be at the Gaia House 1009 N Wilson ave. For more information contact; [fresnofnb@yahoo.com](mailto:fresnofnb@yahoo.com) or call 452-0277 (ask for Dallas).

For information on the demonstration see: <http://www.d2kla.org> & <http://www.peoplesconvention.com>

## **Saturday, July 8 • 9:30 AM**

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their web page at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/>

## **Sunday, July 9 • Potluck meal at 6 p.m. and a program at 7 p.m.**

US-Cuba Friendship number ten will be stopping over in Fresno at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Come and share some food with the caravanistas and talk with them about the current situation with Cuba and the chances for finally ending the US blockade. For information about the event contact Angela Price 435-6383.

## **Monday, July 10 • 7 PM**

FresCAMP meeting at the home of Jean Hays, 5493 N. Roosevelt. Call Joan at 227-6134 for more information. FresCAMP is working on the problem of DBCP and pesticide

use in our schools. They are organizing a new task force on pesticides and air pollution (particularly cotton defoliants).

## **Monday, July 10**

WILPF planning meeting to commemorate Hiroshima Day on August 6 will take place at the home of Carol Bequette (229-9661).

## **Wednesday, July 12 • 7 PM**

Meeting about racial profiling and other inappropriate behavior by Fresno police at the Unitarian/Universalist Church of Fresno, 4144 N. Millbrook (between Dakota and Ashlan) All interested persons welcome. Call Walt Parry at Metro Ministry (485-1416) for more information.

## **Thursday, July 13 • 7 PM**

Fresno County Green Party Meeting, planning for extensive voter registration and outreach during the upcoming summer months. The four pillars of the international Green movement are social justice, grassroots democracy, nonviolence, and ecological wisdom. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness Ave., (south of Olive).

Details: 497-1724, <http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

## **Saturday, July 15**

Deadline for calendar of events information and fliers for the August L/CA mailing. Due to summer schedules, there will be no L/CA newsletter in August.

## **Saturday, July 15 • 1 PM**

Demonstration at Women's Prisons, Chowchilla, part of a nationwide protest to take place simultaneously at prisons across the country. Coordinated by CA Coalition for Women Prisoners and CA Prison Focus, supported by Death Penalty Focus. Human rights for all prisoners, stop the "murder" of seriously ill women, compassionate release for dying prisoners, stop medical neglect, close all Security Housing Units (SHUs). Information: [ccwp@igc.org](mailto:ccwp@igc.org) or 415-255-7036.

## **Monday, July 17 • 7PM**

Wide screen, air-conditioned premiere of updated SunMt family videos. Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno & Barstow. Large parking entrance on Fresno, just north of Barstow. Link arms with GAP protesters confronting Fresno City Council, picketing at Old Navy and facing the court. March with Carpenters expanding their actions against lemon houses with a giant lemon balloon and demanding action by Fresno City Council. Join Fresno folks at giant Mumia rally in SF. Those who endured the earlier small screen, hot premiere admitted free; newbies, \$5 donation. When an oldie brings a newbie, each gets \$5 off a video they buy. For rezes or info: 855-3710.

## **Thursday, July 20 • 7:30 PM**

Death Penalty Focus meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. FREE video showing of acclaimed Errol Morris film "Mr. Death: the Rise and Fall of Fred Leuchter, Jr.," a self-proclaimed Holocaust revisionist and manufacturer of electric chairs and lethal injection machines. What are the qualifications for the job? How are death machines built? Come, see the video, and find out. Public invited. For information contact Maria Telesco at [martel0000@aol.com](mailto:martel0000@aol.com) or visit web site at <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

### July 26, 27, or 28

Power to the People Roadshow will come to Fresno on one of these days, July 26, 27 or 28. The Roadshow is a tour to help mobilize youth to go to D2KLA. It will have workshops on direct action, giant puppet making, entertainment, etc., etc. For more information contact; [fresnofnb@yahoo.com](mailto:fresnofnb@yahoo.com) or call 452-0277 (ask for Dallas).

### Thursday, July 27 • 7 PM

Tiannamen Square Revisited - Talk by Vincent Lavery -- \$5,000 reward offered! On June 5, 1989, Associated Press reported that "thousands" had been "massacred" in Beijing's Tiannamen Square. Vincent Lavery visited Beijing two weeks after what he refers to as the "alleged" massacre, in order to see for himself. Lavery says stories of this event are "totally false" and that there is "not one scintilla of evidence" that any massacre ever took place. Eleven years after the event, he will discuss his observations and findings. Lavery offers a \$5,000 reward to anyone who can prove conclusively that even one person was killed by Chinese government officials at Tiannamen Square on the night of June 4, 1989.

### Friday, July 28 • 5 - 6 PM

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

### Friday, July 28 • 7 PM

Centro La Familia's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Night of Jazz. Bobby Logan and Troika under the stars in an evening of traditional jazz music at

a private residence in the Fig Garden Area. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the lively/soothing music. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Call Margarita Rocha at 237-2961 for details.

### Monday, July 31 • 6:30 PM

The Labor/Community Alliance meeting at 985 N Van Ness. Call 233-3978 for details. Web site: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

*For up to the minute information about what is happening in Fresno's progressive community join the Labor/Community Alliance email alert network. We send out an updated calendar of events once a week and alert you when there is an emergency rally or demonstration. This is a free service. You can join by sending your email address to <clr2@igc.org> and saying you would like to subscribe to this service.*

### **STAY TUNED!**

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

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"Annual Awards Reception"  
Thursday evening, September 28th, 2000  
From 5pm until 8pm*

*Entertainment provided by Maurizio Russo  
Tickets: \$25 dollars per person*

*All proceeds to benefit the programs and services of CCLS*

*To find out how you can lend support or to purchase an ad in the program booklet, please contact Luisa Medina at 441-1611 ext. 134 or e-mail: [luisa@centralcallegal.org](mailto:luisa@centralcallegal.org)*

## CAN'T SURVIVE ON \$5.75

The over nine thousand homecare workers in Fresno County have taken the first dramatic step to building a union for themselves. On June 13 about 30 workers and their supporters addressed the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. They asked the board to take action immediately so that they can achieve union recognition and begin to negotiate for salary increases and health care benefits.

These workers who provide critical care assistance for the elderly and disabled are currently paid minimum wage and have no health care, even though they themselves are healthcare providers. "Your In Home Supportive Services workers are making \$5.75 an hour, the absolute minimum," Mary Ruth Gross of Service Employees International Union Local 250, told the Board of Supervisors. "There are now state funds available to raise these workers salaries, but you must move forward to implement AB1682 as quickly as possible" continued Gross.

Governor Davis has increased State funds for IHSS salaries, but these funds are only available to counties that have union contracts. Some counties have already raised IHSS workers salaries under pressure from SEIU. In San Francisco, Local 250 members

make \$9 an hour and have medical benefits and in Contra Costa they make \$7.02 an hour.

In Fresno the coalition of the workers and recipients are urging the County to quickly implement the measure that will allow workers the to form a union and bargain. "I have depended on IHSS workers for 20 years" states IHSS Coalition Chairman John Wilkins. "I fully support the public authority model, and the union by helping the providers, helps us the clients," he added.

Under state law the County must declare an employer of record (the current legal myth holds that the clients are the employers) by 2003. They must first convene an advisory board to make recommendations. The union is urging the Fresno Board to convene the advisory committee as soon as possible. This will begin the multi-step process that will eventually allow the workers the right of union membership. They currently do not have that right because they technically have no employer.

If you are interested in serving on an advisory committee (6 members must be current or past users of personal assistants) or if you would like to help with the organizing campaign call Annie Durazo at 275-4372 or Pam Whalen at 271-7005.



Homecare workers rally for a living wage and healthcare benefits outside the Hall of Records in Fresno on June 13. Photo by: Pam Whalen

*(Continued from page 9)*

therefore, WE who license the owners of the station so they can use our AM radio frequency; then we have the right - the imperative - to stop KMJ in its tracks if it refuses to honor our right to fair and equal access to our own airways!

We insist on balanced talk radio! Jim Hightower is a reputable and available non-conservative radio voice who is willing to become part of the daily KMJ talk show offerings, and we shall insist that Hightower - and others like him - be part of the KMJ talk show listings, with equal time balanced with talk shows like those of Limbaugh and Medved.

Up until now, stations like KMJ and the corporate monopolies behind them have been standing with folded arms like school-yard bullies, completely silencing our more progressive voices, and saying, "What are you going to do about it?" Well, our answer is this, and mark it well: "We are going to wage an all-out, long-term boycott against all of the KMJ Radio advertiser's products and services!"

No commercial radio station can make it without profitable advertisers; and you, my fellow consumers, and I can pull the profits right out from under those advertisers at KMJ Radio simply

by voting with our dollars in spending our dollars somewhere else - and refusing to use those dollars to buy KMJ-advertised products and services!

After getting the boycott going against KMJ Radio, we plan to eventually get people nation-wide to boycott ALL the major corporate propaganda television networks (CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, and Fox) as well.

Please be watching for notices and E-mails announcing activities that will be undertaken in the near future to carry on the boycott of KMJ. We welcome you to join us in boycotting KMJ's advertisers.

The corporate media monopolizers tell us it's "mind over matter," which means "they (coporates) don't mind, 'cause we don't matter!" Let's surprise them by showing them that WE and our consumer DOLLARS DO matter, and we DO have something real interesting we are going to do about it!

Contact Julius P. Rasmussen, Jr. via Internet at [jpr27@fresno.com](mailto:jpr27@fresno.com); write him at 150 Pollasky, #E, Clovis, CA 93612; or phone 325-0345 (or cell: 970-9628). Julius has FREE materials you can use to help track and boycott the advertisers at KMJ Radio or on the television networks.

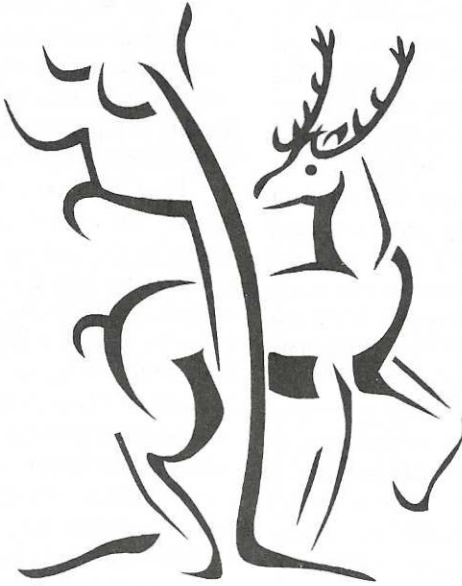


## Forest Service Plan Spells Big Trouble for Sierra Wildlife

The Forest Service's latest attempt to plan the future of the Sierra Nevada national forests is a big disappointment, say conservationists. After years of work and a couple of false starts, the Forest Service is about to circulate eight proposed management plans for public comment. Two of those plans (Alternatives 6 and 8) are the agency's "preferred options." While conservation groups welcome the effort to better manage the Sierra forests, they do not endorse either of the preferred alternatives.

"Alternative 6 doesn't even preserve the status quo," says Scott Hoffman Black, director of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign. "It would be a big step backward, and a terrible choice for our Sierra forests." Specifically, Alternative 6 does not offer enough protection for sensitive species like the California spotted owl and the Pacific fisher. The California owl is at greater risk than the Northern and Mexican spotted owls were before they were listed as endangered species, and the Pacific fisher is believed by scientists to face local extinction within 50 years.

Black also says Alternative 6 would do nothing to reduce logging, despite a Forest Service claim to the contrary. In 1998, the Forest Service allowed 337 million board feet of timber to be cut in the Sierra



Nevada's national forests; Alternative 6 would increase the cut to 351 million board feet for the next four years.

Alternatives 6 and 8 do little for the region's fragile rivers, streams and aquatic life, says Steven L. Evans, Conservation Director of Friends of the River. "Neither addresses the need to protect and restore habitat for frogs, toads and fish." Alternative 6 relies on a ten year-old management plan created for salmon in the Pacific Northwest, this despite the existence of a widely accepted and much more recent local scientific model (the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project aquatic strategy).

The Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign and other conservation groups strongly support Alternative 5 because its top priority is the ecological health of the Sierra Nevada's national forests. Logging and other extractive uses would be allowed only to the extent that they are consistent with restoring and maintaining healthy, natural forest conditions. "The Sierra's ancient forests have declined significantly in the past 150 years," says Craig Thomas, director of the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation. "Inevitably, valuable habitat for many other species has declined, too." Thomas says only Alternative 5 includes sufficient restoration and protection for the publicly owned forests of the Sierra Nevada and the wildlife there.

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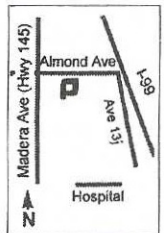
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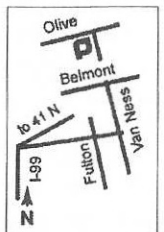
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633 N. Van Ness  
(559) 488-4900



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## DBCP HEARING HELD JUNE 7

By: Jill Fields

A standing room only crowd filled the Sarah McCardle Room at the Fresno County library on June 7 for the second DBCP hearing held by the Department of Health Services at the request of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP). FresCAMPers and other informed members of our community spoke out against the current state recommendation that the allowable level of DBCP not be lowered, pointing out that the DHS study underestimates the risk of doing so by not taking into account the toxic effects of DBCP upon bottle-fed infants, children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems, nor the harmful effects of multiple-risk factors, such as the other contaminants in our water and air that our bodies must contend with. The DHS study does concede that more people will get sick if the DBCP level is left as is, but DHS officials say that it is not "cost effective" to remove more of this carcinogen and agent of testicular atrophy from our water. This is their only argument against lowering the allowable level of DBCP in our water, even though the chemical companies responsible for polluting our water with DBCP--Shell, Dow and Occidental--are currently liable for cleaning it up and would have to pay the additional costs if the state standard changed.

Unfortunately, some of the people at the hearing were there because the Alliance for Responsible Water Policy bussed them in from Stockton, entertained them during the day and prepared a barbecue dinner for them--complete with balloons and loudspeakers--on public property across the street from the Library. When I began to speak with people at the barbecue and provide them with additional information, an Alliance employee came over to me shaking with anger, yelling at me that I must stop talking with people and go across the street. Of course I refused, but he was able to intimate those standing around us into not speaking with me

further. Nonetheless, members of FresCAMP who were able to talk with some of these people changed a few minds. One man noted as I informed him about the risks of DBCP, "Well, they didn't tell me that!" And why wouldn't the Alliance want these people to know more? Because the Alliance for Responsible Water Policy is a lobbying organization set up under the auspices of the California Chamber of Commerce in 1995 by Shell, Dow and Occidental. These are the companies that, when DBCP was banned in 1979 by the Environmental Protection Agency, sold their remaining stock of a chemical that they knew to be toxic in the Philippines, Central America and Africa. In 1995, the Alliance spent over \$285,000 to weaken water standards in California, and this organization continues to promote the chemical companies' interests, as the current DHS policy on DBCP shows. Despite all this, if the Alliance had not transported and fed people prior to the hearing on June 7, very few individuals would have been there supporting the DHS and chemical companies' position.

FresCAMPers collected over 400 signatures of people who oppose the current DBCP standard, and sent them to Governor Davis by the end of the comment period June 17. We plan to continue to fight for clean and safe water and to ensure that the companies that polluted our water pay to clean it up. The state of Hawaii's DBCP standard is five times stronger than California's, and water officials in Maui successfully sued the chemical companies to pay to remove DBCP to "undetectable levels." Water officials there told me that all we need to do in Fresno is change the filters at our water treatment facilities twice as often to get that same level here--it's that simple. The current risk factor for DBCP causing cancer in California is 1 in 10,000; for all other contaminants it is 1 in 1 million. Why should any Californian be at risk for cancer because of a contaminant in our water that Shell, Dow and Occidental put there and are obliged to remove?

*See Calendar for meeting details*

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## RACIAL PROFILING

By: Ellie Bluestein

A group of citizens representing various elements of our community-- WILPF, Black Women Organized for Political Action, Metro Ministry, ACLU, several churches, Save our Children, Gaia House, and others, including interested individuals--have been meeting out of concern about racial profiling by the police here in Fresno. Many personal accounts of police stopping youth, especially African American and Latino youth, but others as well, were shared with the group. It seems quite clear that Fresno police are using some kind of special criteria for stopping people whom they deem to be "suspicious," "dangerous," or just "not in the right neighborhood" and treating them in a very dehumanizing and threatening manner. After several meetings during which this situation was clearly established the Fresno Human Relations Commission was approached and agreed to investigate this situation and seek possible solutions to it.

Extensive research has been done to find out how other cities are handling this kind of situation and a series of meetings is being planned to bring representatives from cities that have successful citizen review boards and other police oversight mechanisms to

Fresno where Fresno City Council members, representatives from the police department, and any interested citizens can receive this information.

We are well aware of problems that have arisen in other cities regarding police corruption and violence against citizens. In places, such as Los Angeles, where there has been no citizen oversight, the situation has become outrageous. In many cities, such as San Jose, Berkeley, San Francisco, Oakland, citizen review boards and other types of oversight have fostered good relationships between the public and police. It is clear that Fresno also has its problems, that citizens are often not treated in an evenhanded and appropriate manner by police and that a means for dealing with this problem on an ongoing basis needs to be put in place. At the same time, we appreciate the work of the police department in dealing with crime and keeping our neighborhoods safe. It is important to somehow maintain a fine balance, where crime prevention and

apprehension is effective and where innocent citizens are not targeted and threatened or detained. Join with us if you are interested in working on this issue or call Walt Parry at Metro Ministry (485-1416) for more information.

**Wednesday, July 12  
7 p.m.  
Meeting about racial profiling and  
other inappropriate behavior by  
Fresno police at the Unitarian/  
Universalist Church of Fresno,  
4144 N. Millbrook (between  
Dakota and Ashlan)**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**September 16**  
**Stylish Seconds Fashion Show and Silent Auction at College Community Congregational Church will benefit the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Center for Nonviolence, El Comité de los Pobres, the Interfaith Alliance and the Labor/Community Alliance. At an exciting workshop on LPFM that took place at the Nonviolence Center, attendees were spontaneously offering ideas for programming, cultural presentations, youth involvement and the participation of other local organizations. Depending on the outcome of their respective applications and which other groups may have filed for the frequencies, these groups may have a good chance at finally sharing, in a small way, the realization of genuine community radio, locally.

(GH Jensen is a community radio activist and graduate student in Mass Communications and Journalism at CSU, Fresno. His focus is on media access for low income, minority and progressive community groups.)

**TENTH US-CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT TO VISIT FRESNO JULY 9**

US-Cuba Friendshipment number ten will be stopping over in Fresno on Sunday, July 9th at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. There will be a potluck meal at 6 p.m. and a program at 7 p.m. Come and share some food with the caravanistas and talk with them about the current situation with Cuba and the chances for finally ending the US blockade.

Pastors for Peace began the Friendshipments in 1992 and has delivered over 2000 tons of material aid in defiance of the US blockade. Friendshipment number ten is dedicated to support the educational system for the children of Cuba. There will be a dozen routes through the U.S. stopping in 140 cities to gather aid and to provide educational events. Fresno will not be sending a lot of material aid on this shipment, but we will pass the hat at the event Sunday night to help defray the costs of the caravanistas.

For information about the event contact Angela Price 435-6383. The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is located at 985 N. Van Ness Avenue.



Line On Line <<http://lineonline.org>> is the name of the online ezine conceived as a fine and folk arts journal for the Central Valley. Founded largely by Trude McDermott and Juliana Harris and with help from the Fresno Arts Council utilizing Metropolitan Project Act funds, Line On Line operates as a non-profit entity under the auspices of the Fresno Free College Foundation. If you haven't seen it yet, please do so and check in regularly as new features will continue to be added.

*Labor/Community Alliance*

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scmarc@madnet.net

Doug Whipple  
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Tony Prendez  
United Steel Workers of America  
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