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JUNE 2001



# Labor/Community ALLIANCE

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## LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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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For a Just Society*



## OUR PEOPLE SPEAK

### *Let's Mend Our KFCF Rifts*

**W**ho else is unhappy about a recent report by Vickie Fouts in the May issue of LCANL? In the article she describes the March 27 meeting of the KFCF/FFCF Board meeting as somber and the board members as not human. Come on folks! I was at that meeting and did not get that impression at all. I got there early and introduced myself to Rand Stover who was busy setting up chairs. As the others showed up, each seemed cordial and sober...not somber. If there was tension it was tempered by courtesy and I witnessed the old members extend themselves to the new members and guests. The issue of underwriting was given fair discussion. I saw consensus taking and invitations to discuss...opportunities to revisit. No such discussion was forthcoming and the matter went down by vote.

I went from that meeting hopeful that we could begin to mend the rifts. Let's do it. Let's mend our differences. Give credit to those who got there early and did the hard work. Make openings for the new ideas and fresh perspectives. Stay honest and open-minded and go to a board meeting and see for yourself.

Sincerely:

William T. Lundine

#### *Front Page Photos:*

*Top - From April 28 march honoring Cesar Chavez*

*Bottom - May anti-sweatshop protest at The Gap/Fashion Fair.*

*Photos by Mike Rhodes and George Ballis*

## Governor Funds Salary Increase: HOMECARE BALL IS IN COUNTY COURT

By Pam Whalen

**W**ith the fate of the salaries and benefits for over 9,000 homecare workers in Fresno County in the balance, Governor Davis has come through with flying colors. In spite of a multibillion dollar energy snafu that has sucked off the entire state surplus, the Governor kept his promise to the over 200,000 homecare workers through out the state to raise the state matching funds from \$7.50 an hour to \$8.50 an hour.

Now it is up to Fresno County to do the right thing for homecare. But that's not what they are doing. Under AB1682 the County of Fresno must convene an Advisory Committee to recommend an employer mode for homecare workers. Every day that goes by the Fresno County delays this process state dollars revert back to the general fund instead of being used to increase salaries for homecare workers. These workers earn poverty wages - \$6.44 an hour.

Fresno County staff has proposed delaying the recommendation on the employer of record until December, forestalling raises for homecare workers for more than a year.

Governor Davis has made the elimination of poverty wages for homecare workers a state priority. Now it is time for Fresno County to act. "By them delaying it like this, it is another day, another week, another month that we have to struggle with the wages we have" said Advisory Committee member and homecare worker Toni Landin. "We are trying to make ends meet working 2 or 3 jobs working 10 hours a day working 7 days a week" Landin continued.

**These workers earn  
poverty wages  
- \$6.44 an hour.**

If you want to help homecare workers get a living wage and healthcare benefits call or write your County Supervisor and tell them implement the law for homecare workers (AB1682) as quickly as possible.

The following are the phone numbers for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Deran Koligian .....	488-3541
Susan Anderson .....	488-3542
Juan Arambula .....	488-3663
Judy Case .....	488-3664
Bob Waterston .....	488-3665

The Address is:  
Hall of Records 3rd Floor  
2281 Tulare Street  
Fresno, Ca 93721



# CELEBRATE THE END OF SLAVERY

By Nona W. Harris

**J**uneteenth is as important to African Americans as Cinco de Mayo is to Mexican Americans and the Fourth of July is to Euro-Americans. (Although we celebrate the Fourth of July, one must remember that our ancestors were chattel slaves when the United States gained its independence). June 19, 1865 was the day the slaves in Texas received the word that slavery had ended.

Most Americans and African Americans are not aware that this is also when chattel slavery in America actually ended (because of the passage of the 13th Amendment). It did not end with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation as we have been led to believe. President Lincoln could not free the slaves in the states that had ceded from the Union, because he had no control over those states, nor did he free the slaves in the states that were not in rebellion. The majority of the slaves in the rebellious states freed themselves when the Civil War began. Many escaped to the North and Mexico.

The celebration of Juneteenth symbolizes the end of chattel slavery: freedom. It is during this time that we honor our ancestors who survived the inhuman institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us. African Americans all over America will celebrate this day with parades, ethnic food, dancing and spiritual observance. Fresno will be no different. The celebration will begin Friday, June 15th with a spiritual observance, featuring local churches at the Cecil C. Hinton Community, 2385 S. Fairview, at 6:30pm. On Saturday, June 16th a parade will begin at 10am at Fresno St. and Kearney Blvd., ending at the Hinton Center where there will be entertainment, guest speakers, health care and other informational booths and ethnic arts and crafts booths. For more information contact Mr. Richard Lewis, 488-1034.

Colonel Allensworth Historical State Park, located 75 miles from Fresno, off Highway 43 will also host a Juneteenth Celebration. It too will have festive entertainment, ethnic foods, and ethnic arts and crafts. For more information contact Mr. George Finley, 499-0653.

With this celebration come thoughts of reparations. It seems that every time this topic comes up, Euro-Americans become very irate. They feel that since they didn't own any African slaves, that they are not liable for the actions of their ancestors. Reparations is a labor issue, because all past and present Euro-Americans have profited directly and indirectly from slave labor. I guess they haven't taken into consideration the would not be it not been for slave labor that early economy. Enormous wealth was owned companies which are still in existence today) chattel slavery. The

**The People of Texas  
are informed  
that in accordance  
with a Proclamation  
from the Executive of  
the United States,  
all slaves are free...**

General Gordon Granger  
Galveston 1865

## JUNETEENTH

sugar and other industries benefitted from slave labor. We cannot forget the railroad, shipping, and manufacturing companies that generated huge profits from the output of slave labor. Though forced to work (sometimes to their death) slaves were not allowed to profit from their labor.

Reparations should also be paid for the continued degradation of descendants of former slaves. Since Reconstruction not much has changed for African Americans. We have been, and in many cases still are, controlled by Black Codes, Jim Crow Laws, continued destruction of our history through mis-education, economic sanctions, unfair lending practices, unfair housing, an unjust judicial system, and

police brutality. This should include those who arrived after the ratification of the 13th Amendment, because they were/are forced into the same pot.

Euro-Americans say our present conditions are of our own making. In part it may be true, because just like slavery produced their wealth that lasts for generations, the slavery indoctrination was also passed from one generation to the next. We must share the credit with State and Federal governments, the Ku Klux Klan, unions, and other white supremacist groups that have destroyed everything we have built. They say that we must assimilate. Those who do are accused of acting "white." They also want us to work hard, but that is impossible, because they won't hire us. I wish they would make up their minds.

### Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D

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# FREE SPEECH, THE GAP, AND EVEN MORE BALLOONS

by Bob Fischer

**S**unday, May 6th, marked the one-year anniversary of the arrest of the GAP 19. When we arrived at Fashion Fair to begin our celebration we were stunned and angered by what we saw.

In the grassy strips on both sides of the sidewalk which separates Fashion Fair's north parking lot from the heavy traffic on Shaw Avenue were

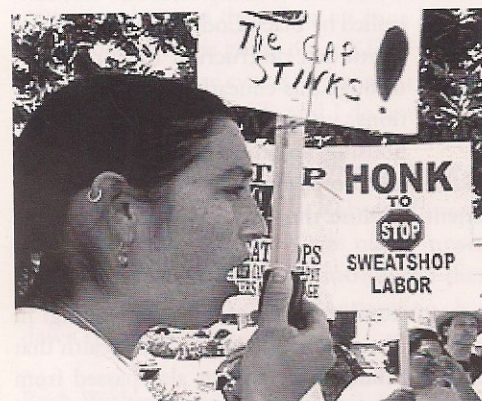


Photo by George Ballis

Leila Salazar of Global Exchange praises Fresno activists as examples for the world.

official looking white signs, 2 ft x 3 ft in size, mounted on metal stakes that held them about two feet off the ground. There must have been several hundred of them! The signs were about ten feet apart, on both sides of the sidewalk, so close you could touch them without stepping on the grass. The signs

were strung out evenly like beads in a giant necklace that followed the gentle curves the entire length of the sidewalk all the way from First Street to Fresno Street. There were two versions of the signs, one English, one Spanish. In large bold letters, the signs said "PRIVATE PROPERTY," and "Failure to comply with the Center's Rules and Code of Conduct will subject individuals to arrest for trespassing without further notice." There was a lot more legal verbiage, but it wasn't needed. The message was unmistakable and excessive. (See the signs and much more at Elfie's website: [www.sunmt.org/chronicles](http://www.sunmt.org/chronicles).)

Within minutes of our arrival, Greg Dellfous, Fashion Fair's Security Director, came riding up in an electric cart. With him was Stephen McLain, the Macerich Company's Area Security Manager for Northern California. Greg was genuinely apologetic and said that there had been a mistake. He immediately had a grounds keeper come and yank out all but one pair of signs on both sides of every driveway into the mall's parking lots. We don't have a clue as to what that was all about.

We held our anniversary celebration on the corner of Shaw and Angus. There were over a hundred of us crowded together on the narrow sidewalk. We heard fiery talks and encouraging words from Leila Salazar and Chie Abad from Global Exchange, and Mary Bull from Save the Redwoods/Boycott the GAP Campaign. Inside the mall, Fresno State's Students United Against Sweatshops had six representatives who, with the written permission of Macerich Company, handed out anti-sweatshop leaflets from Global Exchange and talked with customers about the situation of the women and children who work in the GAP's sweatshops. And of course, we had

hundreds of our colorful helium-filled balloons with "Stop Sweatshops" and "The GAP can afford to pay a living wage" printed on them. People were carrying them everywhere in the mall. During our closing rally we formally presented Greg Dellfous with one of our very popular "Fascist Fair" T-shirts, to commemorate his arrest of the GAP 19 one year ago to the day.

So what's the big deal? What's at stake here? What's at stake in our ongoing struggle with Fashion Fair and the Macerich Company? Our right to speak to our neighbors and fellow citizens (without ringing their doorbells or their phones and disturbing them in the privacy of their homes, the way businesses do.) Our right to approach people and hand them a flyer (instead of stuffing their mailboxes, the way businesses do.) Our right to speak directly to people about slavery, exploitation, profiteering, and oppression (without trying to get them to buy something, the way businesses do.) Our right to gather together and listen to speakers blast businesses that have their products made in sweatshops (without having to get permission from those businesses.) Our right to express truths that are disapproved of by the rich and powerful (without being arrested by their private police forces.)

We need your ideas and support. We would like to hear from each of you about what you would like to see happen and the ways in which you are willing to help make those things happen. How much and what kind of access do you think demonstrators should have to shopping malls? Do you have fresh ideas for our demonstrations? Are you willing to help plan and organize our monthly protests? Please let us hear from you by e-mailing us at the Labor/Community Alliance.

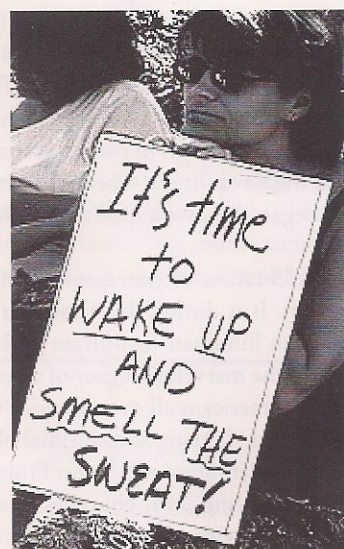


Photo by George Ballis

Protestor Zay Guffy-Bill detects an unpleasant odor.



Photo by George Ballis

Bob Fischer presents Fashion Fair head of Security with memorial t-shirt.

Democracy is inconvenient. It requires from each of us a lot of time, hard work and persistence. Free speech is like muscle: If you don't exercise it regularly, it disappears so imperceptibly that it's gone before you realize it. Democracy is inconvenient, but every time you exercise your rights it makes us all stronger. So, you should exercise your right to free speech regularly, right in front of Fashion Fair, on the first Saturday of every month. Come and join us on June 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Note the summer hours to beat the heat!) We will be on the sidewalk at the corner of Shaw and Angus, and we'll be giving the GAP's billionaire slave masters something to sweat about — very bad publicity and rapidly declining market share!



\*\*\*\*\*

*Coop America has a No More Sweatshops Campaign to involve its more than one million annual website visitors in stopping sweatshops. The website <http://www.sweatshops.org> tells how to make purchasing decisions that will help end sweatshops. It also has a Campaign Action Center where one can raise concerns with retailers such as The Gap and WalMart that carry products made in sweatshops.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Demonstrate against sweatshops on the first Saturday of each month at 10 AM at Fashion Fair mall in Fresno
- Contribute to THE GAP 20 legal defense fund (C/O The Labor/Community Alliance, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno CA 93755)
- Come to THE GAP 20 trial at the Fresno Courthouse which will start on Tuesday, June 5.
- Buy, distribute, and show THE GAP 20 video (call George Ballis at 855-3710 for details)

\*\*\*\*\*

***The state can't give you free speech, and the state can't take it away. You're born with it, like your eyes, like your ears. Freedom is something you assume, then you wait for someone to try to take it away. The degree to which you resist is the degree to which you are free...***

**—Utah Phillips**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Here Come Da Judge JUNE 5 COURT DATE FOR GAP 14

**T**he first significant court hearing for The Gap 20, which is MANDATORY for all defendants, will start at 9 AM, Tuesday, June 5. Solidarity is needed and all community supporters are asked to gather at 8 AM in the Fresno County Courthouse basement cafeteria.

The June 5 hearing, which may lap over onto June 6 as well, will (at least in theory) involve live testimony by various police officers, Fashion Fair security officers, etc., etc., who will be questioned by Patience Milrod or one of the other attorneys. They will be questioned about the facts of the demonstration last year, and about the arrests, who directed the arrests, and the coordination of the arrests between FF and the police. The purpose of

eliciting their testimony is, among other things, to demonstrate to the court (Judge Hamlin) that the prosecution will never be able to put forth evidence to support its charges against the defendants. In other words, we'll try to show that, even with their best shot, they cannot prove certain elements of the charges. After the testimony has been heard, either that same day or at a later hearing, we'll ask the judge to make a determination that, since they lack the necessary evidence, the charges (or at least part of them) will have to be dismissed without a trial. If Judge Hamlin does not dismiss all the charges, then a jury trial will be set to start at a later date.

PATIENCE  
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844

North Van Ness

Fresno, California

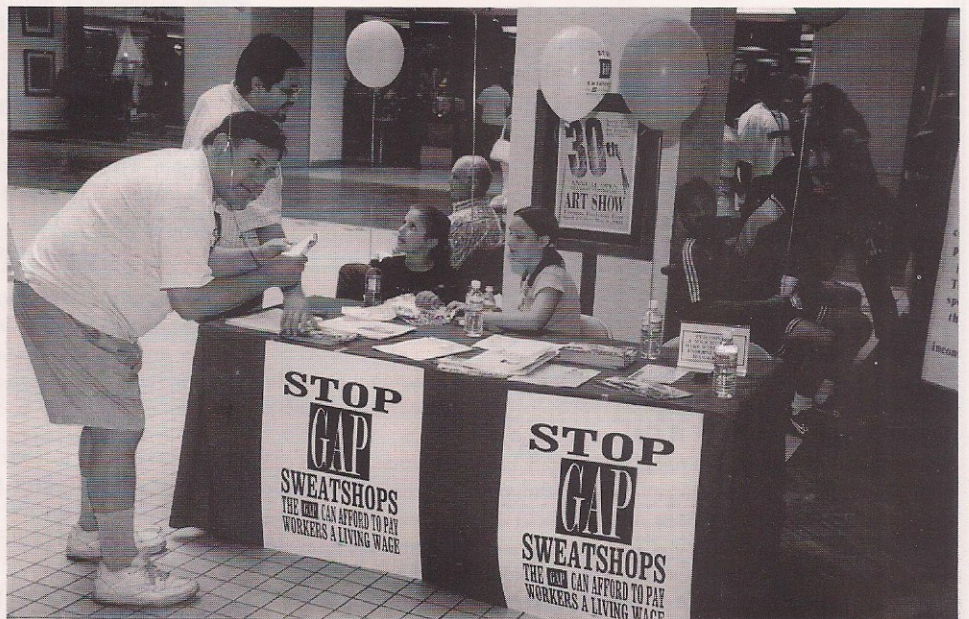
93728

559/442-3111

[pm097@csufresno.edu](mailto:pm097@csufresno.edu)



**For more information about the  
GAP anti-sweatshop campaign in  
Fresno, visit our web site at:  
[http://www.fresnoalliance.com/  
home/GAP.htm](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm)**



Anti-sweatshop activists talk to folks inside Fashion Fair Mall

Photo by Howard Watkins



# Calendar of Events for June 2001

**Saturday, June 2 • 10:00 AM**

**Fresno's 2001 Gay Pride Parade**

Parade: Starts at 10 AM at the DMV on Olive

Festival: begins right after parade and goes 'til 3:00 PM

Call Jan Sangster at 439-3176 for more information.

**Saturday, June 2 • 9:00 AM**

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting at Denny's restaurant at Willow and Shaw. Speaker at 10 AM will be valley field representative for Barbara Boxer, Tom Bohigian. Call 439-8140 for more information.

**Saturday, June 2 • 10 AM - 12 Noon**

Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will gather at Fashion Fair (Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center). Call 226-0477 for more information.

**Monday, June 4 • 11:30 AM**

Fresno County Democratic Women's Club meeting at the Ramada Inn (41 and Shaw). Call 227-0439 for more information.

**Monday, June 4 • 7:30 PM**

Monthly meeting of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP) at 5493 N. Roosevelt. Call 439-0280 for further information.

**Tuesday, June 5 • 9 AM**

An important hearing will take place for The Gap 20, who were arrested at Fashion Fair for protesting against sweatshops. Show your solidarity by attending this hearing which will be held in Judge Hamlin's courtroom in the Fresno County Courthouse. Call 226-0477 for more information. Also see page 4 for details about why this hearing will be different from anything we have seen so far.

**Wednesday, June 6 • 7 PM**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Board meeting at Carol Bequette's 3747 Circle Drive West, 229-9661.

**Friday, June 8 • 5:30 PM**

California Latino Civil Rights Network 4th annual honorary dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel. Call 498-7000 for more information.

**Saturday, June 9 • 9:30 AM**

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

**Wednesday, June 13 • 12:00 Noon**

Hunger and Nutrition Forum sponsored by Fresno Metro Ministry meets at the College Community Congregational Church, 5550 N Fresno Street (note change of location for June and July meetings). For more information: call 485-1416 or email <metromin@qnis.net>

**Wednesday, June 13 • 12 Noon**

STOP ROLLING BLACKMAIL. Join local unions and community groups as they demand Federal Price Controls on our energy supply. Demonstration will be at the Federal Building in downtown Fresno.

**Thursday, June 14 • 7:00 PM**

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

**Friday, June 15**

Deadline for submissions to the July issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to <[LCAeditor@mediaone.net](mailto:LCAeditor@mediaone.net)>.

**Saturday, June 16 • 3 PM**

Fresno Critical Mass invites you to its monthly bike rides around Fresno. They ride for the enjoyment of those on the ride and to educate the public on bicycle commuting issues. Critical Mass advocates clean air, bike lanes and a progressive Fresno. Rides leave from Fresno City College (grassy area next to the Administration Building on Van Ness Avenue). Families and decorated bikes welcome. For more information, contact Gene: 497-0570; [gene1@cvip.fresno.com](mailto:gene1@cvip.fresno.com).

**Saturday, June 16 • 10 AM**

Juneteenth Parade (see details on page 3)

**Monday, June 18 • 6:30 PM**

Sarah McCardle room on second floor of the downtown library Meeting of the Central California Criminal Justice Committee. We have now held four forums modeling several forms of community monitoring systems regarding police practices. We are seeking input now from individuals and organizations in putting together a plan that will work in Fresno. Notes on the forums as well as video tapes are available. We are at a very exciting and important juncture in this attempt to establish a better way for the police department and Fresno residents to work together. You are invited to join us. Call Rebeca at 225-7627 for more information.

**Monday, June 18 • 7 PM**

National Organization for Women (Fresno Chapter) business/planning meeting at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. There will be a one hour video at 7:30 PM - "Women and Safety." NOW will not meet in July or August. September 17th will be their next regular Meeting date.

**Tuesday, June 19 • All Day**

Juneteenth is as important to African Americans as Cinco de Mayo is to Mexican Americans and the Fourth of July is to Euro-Americans. June 19, 1865 is when the slaves in Texas received the word that slavery had ended. See article on Page 3 for details.

**Tuesday, June 19 • 7:30 PM**

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

**Tuesday, June 19 • 7:30 PM**

AHH YEAH POETRY JAM, Sounds by Beat Dynasty at the Starline in The Tower next to Livingston. Donations at the door. 18 and older please.

**Thursday, June 21 • 7:30 AM**

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

**Friday, June 22 • 5 PM**

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

**Saturday, June 23 • Potluck meal, 6 PM; Program, 7 PM**

US/Cuba Friendship Caravan by Pastors for Peace at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.

**Sunday, June 24 • 4 to 6 PM**

Anniversary Celebration, Way of Peace Awards at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.

**Monday, June 25 • 6:30 PM**

The Labor/Community Alliance meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. Call 226-0477 for details, or see <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

**Tuesday, June 26 • 7:30 PM**

Fresno Stonewall Democrats will meet at the Express Restaurant, 3075 N. Maroa Ave., Fresno, on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

**Saturday, June 30**

A project to bring quality movies (an alternative movie theater) to Fresno has begun. FresnoFilmWorks, will be holding its next meeting at the home of Lillian Faderman. Call 278-2331 for more information. They are looking for people to get involved who have experience in any area of fine arts film promoting and engineering or fund raising.

*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 <[LCAeditor@mediaone.net](mailto:LCAeditor@mediaone.net)> and saying you would like to subscribe to this service.*

**Every Saturday • 10:30 PM**

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





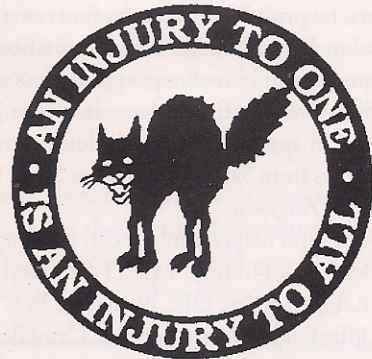
Photo by Howard Watkins

Henry Perea speaks at May Day rally.

## MAY IS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

In a strong show of support, Fresno City Council President Henry Perea presented a resolution declaring May 1 to be International Workers' Day in Fresno. Mr. Perea attended the workers' rights rally at the free speech area of the Fulton Mall where he read the resolution.

The May 1 rally was a big success with music by Jemmy Bluestein, a talk about the historical significance of the rally site (The Industrial Workers of the World won a free speech struggle here), a call to defend immigrant rights, and other speeches calling on workers to organize. The highlight of the event, according to several participants, was at the end when Jemmy led everyone in a rousing chorus of Solidarity Forever. Many people would like to see this become an annual event.



### FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT HENRY PEREA

#### PROCLAMATION

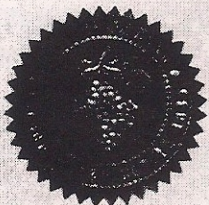
- WHEREAS** May 1, International Workers Day, is celebrated throughout the world to honor the courageous struggle of the U.S. labor movement for the eight hour day; and
- WHEREAS** Fresno has a rich history of struggle for workers rights, free speech and justice, from the Free Speech Fight of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1910-11, to the struggles of the United Farm Workers Union in the 1970's to the present day struggles of the anti-sweatshop movement to defend free speech; and
- WHEREAS** a strong and healthy All America City, such as Fresno, must recognize and support all of it's members as they exercise their rights to form unions, freely express themselves and fight for fair wages, healthcare benefits and social justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Henry Perea, President of the Council of the City of Fresno, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 1, 2001, to be:

### "INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY"

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May 2001.



*Henry Perea*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT HENRY PEREA

ADMIT ONE  
FRONT ROW



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Womens International League for Peace and Freedom

## JUNE WILPF EVENTS CALENDER

### Sat. June 2: Pride Parade and Festival in the Tower.

Parade begins at 9:15am at the DMV on Olive. The Festival begins at 10 a.m. WILPFers will be marching and wo-maning a table at the festival. (See blurb below.)

**Wed. June 6: General Meeting/Board Meeting.** Election of board members. 7-9pm at Carol Bequette's home, 3747 Circle Drive West. Call 229-9661 for more information. (See blurb below.)

**Wed. June 27: "Stir It Up" WILPF-style.** Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM from 3:30 to 4pm with hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILPF CLUSTER MEETING

Fresno WILPFers, be proud! We were the hosts of a wonderful cluster meeting on Saturday, May 11th. We had information from around the world, inspiring stories and branch reports, and lots of food and beauty in Margaret Hudson's wonderful gardens. It was so good to see sisters that we haven't seen in ages and it was fabulous to meet new members too. We had WILPFers from San Jose, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Sacramento, and Los Angeles!

Thanks to everyone who helped setup, host, clean up, and put away. A special thanks to Margaret Hudson, Laura Fultz, Desi Cortez, Joan Poss, Elizabeth West, Rebecca Shin, Ellie Bluestein, Bob Fischer, the Food Not Bombs staff, Elfie Ballis, Marcia Berman, Carol Bequette, Zay Guffy-Bill, and Jack the dog mascot, for creating a lot of smiles. The next cluster is in Santa Cruz.

### THE NOMINATIONS ARE IN—SORT OF

We've been scouring the area for people interested in serving on the 2001-02 Fresno Branch WILPF Board. This truly is a wonderful experience, especially of late. We've been succinct and productive! There are a lot of exciting (and often frustrating) issues with which we have been wrestling (and continue to wrestle) in terms of peace and justice. If you can't commit to being a board member, would you please consider committing to joining us at the monthly meetings at Carol Bequette's home?

Following are the standing nominations for the upcoming term, which will be voted upon at the next board meeting (see date and time above).

- Carol Bequette and Zay Guffy-Bill will remain co-coordinators (serving two year terms)
- Jan Slagter, Recording Secretary
- Lauralee Carbone, Treasurer
- Desi Cortez, Program Director
- Ellie Bluestein, Historian
- Nora DeWitt, Phone Tree
- Joyce Huggins, Legislative Action

This leaves Membership, Literature, and the very important Publicity spots still open for grabs. Interested? Call Carol (229-9661) or Zay (227-2133).

### PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL—SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2001

Desi Cortez is coordinating all of Fresno Branch WILPFers for this annual event. We would like to see as many of us that will fit in the streets this year. We need people to carry our banner and some signs celebrating diversity in Fresno. The parade begins at 9:15am at the DMV

on Olive near Roeding Park. This is a fairly short parade and the temperature will still be tolerable that early in the morning. So, put on those non-sweatshop-produced walking shoes and come on out and have some fun.

Speaking of fun, WILPF will also be sponsoring a table in the festival area. This event is free this year so there will be lots of people in attendance. WE NEED BODIES TO OCCUPY THE BOOTH and to have fun, too. The festival starts after the parade, around 10am.

Call Desi at 224-2976 to let her know you want to participate in this wonderful event.

### TAX DAY LEAFLETING A SUCCESS

An enthusiastic group of WILPF volunteers reported an extremely positive response to our anti-Star Wars flyer, and almost 200 post cards were signed and sent off to President Bush. Thanks to Desi for the excellent flyer and to Carol for the press release. Erin Kennedy covered us for the Bee, and it was nice to meet her. Ellie, Lucille, Carol, Phil, Polly, Babs, Joan, Pat, Margaret, Julie, Michelle, Lauralee (with Sophie and Gus of course) covered the Cardwell station on Griffith. Then Nancy Marsh picked up the remaining flyers for Joan and Cindy to distribute at the main post office, in just half an hour. It seemed to be a positive experience for all who took part, and several volunteers expressed the desire to do more of this as it give them an opportunity to talk to people about the issue. And wasn't it timely that we chose the missile defense system as our focus for this year's tax day leaflet!

### HOUSE BUILT BY WOMEN 2001

In case you aren't getting the wonderful email messages from Susan Arpad, et. al. concerning this wonderful endeavor, here are a few recent notes.

- Would any of you like to join the Fundraising Committee and experience the feelings of accomplishment at finding the funding to purchase the materials to build the Smoot family house?
- The Fundraising Committee needs one or more persons with marketing experience to help us with a direct mail campaign to Fresno Women's groups. Are you ready to step forward?

Habitat for Humanity Fresno is in the process of building a house completely by women. If you are interested in participating or if you just want to learn a little something more about this project, call the Habitat Office at (559) 237-4102 or WILPF member Susan Arpad at 228-1867, or email her at [susanar@csufresno.edu](mailto:susanar@csufresno.edu).

### RESTORE U.S. TRADE WITH IRAQ BY BUILDING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR H.R.742

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and nine other members of Congress have introduced a bill to restore U.S. trade with Iraq. The bill removes legal obstacles to sales of food, agricultural goods, medicine, and medical equipment. The bill is an important step toward changing U.S. policy on sanctions and restoring normal relations with Iraq. Please call, write, or visit your congressional representatives to ask that they support H.R. 742, the Humanitarian Exports Leading to Peace Act (the H.E.L.P. Act).

U.S. law currently blocks trade with Iraq and makes it difficult for organizations to send humanitarian supplies. H.R. 742 amends the Iraq Sanctions Act of 1990 and eliminates the obstacles to food and medicine.

It would allow travel to Iraq related to the sale or delivery of such materials. It also replaces the elaborate licensing procedure for shipments to Iraq with a simple notification requirement. This opens the door for U.S. farmers, businesses and organizations to send goods es-

*Continued on Page 15*



# FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

**NINE, AND COUNTING:** The Center will be celebrating its 9th anniversary on Sunday June 24th, with our annual gathering. As usual, we will be presenting our Way of Peace awards including—for the first time—two youth awards. We will also be featuring a special Director's Raffle (see inset). Please join us, from 4-6 p.m., for an afternoon of pride and sociability. Refreshments will be served.

**THE RIGHT STUFF, BABY:** The Center's ground-breaking experiment with TV, *The Right Stuff From The Left*, will by now have completed its 4-week test run. As of this writing, its continuation into June was contingent on a funding appeal. Check out channel 43/cable 10 on Saturday at 10:30 p.m. to see if Vincent & Co. are still on. If so—help keep it afloat; if not, help revive it. The motto is, "30 donors at \$50 keeps us on the air for a month", but any size donation is welcome. Make out checks to FCNV, noted "for TV". If insufficient funds are raised, dedicated donations will be returned.

**VINH, GOODBYE:** Vinh Ngo, who died suddenly last month, was not only a staunch ally and member of our Advisory Board, but a dapper model in our Stylish Seconds fashion shows. Vinh, you are remembered as well as missed.

**PEACE CHALLENGE FINALE:** The 2001 Walton Peace Challenge for Youth completed its program with an awards ceremony at City Hall on May 10th. PRIDE Certificates and cash bonuses were awarded to the four participating groups, and each group made a presentation about their project.

Thanks to the Human Relations Commission for hosting the event, especially to Commissioners Gail Gaston and Sudarshan Kapoor; and to Georgia Dayton and the Commission on the Status of Women for making the PRIDE awards. Acknowledgements also to committee members Valta Pointer, Dixie Salazar, Bob Valett and Victor McLane (our catering manager) for making this year's Peace Challenge a success.

**LOCK & KEY:** Following the theft of our copy machine (thankfully insured), we are changing the upper lock on the front door as a securing measure. Starting June 1, a new upper lock will have been installed. All keyholders must get a new key to have access to the Center. Call Richard at 266-2559 to arrange acquisition.

**MATCHING GRANT UPDATE:** We have had wonderful initial response to the challenge of our \$6000 matching grant. We will be asking our supporters to join in discussing the use of these much-needed funds. The planning process will be announced at our anniversary.

## THE WELCH REPORT

May 7, 2001 • Jack H. Welch, M.D.

## DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD

President Bush's secretary of defense, Donald Rumsfeld, supports early deployment of an elaborate National Missile Defense (NMD) system. Within the recent past Mr. Rumsfeld chaired a Commission to Assess the Ballistic

Missile Threat to the US, whose "controversial recommendations were used by partisans of missile defense to urge the US to spend \$60b on this unworkable scheme to defend against an over-rated threat".

The drive to deploy NMD regardless of the diplomatic cost has led to widespread criticism from our allies and the rest of the world. Rumsfeld's NMD proposals would force the abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and undermine the Missile Technology Control Regime - a defense against the spread of the missiles that NMD is supposed to counter. The Rumsfeld Commission report proposes that we start an arms race in outer space by developing a new generation of weapons to attack other nations' satellites.

Secretary Rumsfeld's connections to the military-industrial complex are also a matter of concern. He has proposed restarting production of B-2 bombers (at \$2b each) and buying F-22 fighter jets (\$180m each), "two projects which do little but boost industry profits and Congressional pork."

Further, Mr. Rumsfeld has testified against the Chemical Weapons Convention, and opposed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the SALT II arms agreement. The US doesn't need to relive the Cold War Gun Violence Prevention.

Since the last election, there has been the impression that the gun violence prevention movement was the loser in that election. This theory is based largely on the fact that a decidedly pro-gun, pro-NRA presidential candidate, George W. Bush, took the White House.

The good news, however, is that the results of some of the nation's highest profile congressional and state races proved that support for common-sense gun laws is high. In contests where the public voted directly for candidates holding opposing views on gun violence prevention, violence prevention came out the winner.

The NRA spent millions on the Senate campaigns of Slade Gorton (R-WA), Spencer Abraham (R-MI), John Ashcroft (R-MO) and Bill McCollum (R-FL), all of whom were defeated by candidates who made strict gun violence prevention a campaign priority. The gun violence prevention movement focused on 10 Senate races and won nine. In 27 House of Representatives races, it won 13.

Currently, in most states a person can buy a firearm at a gun show from a private (or unlicensed) dealer without having to undergo a background check. This loophole in the law allows felons, domestic abusers, juveniles and others to obtain a gun with no questions asked. In the 2000 election citizens in Colorado and Oregon voted by 70 percent and 60 percent respectively to stop this practice in their states.

Some lawmakers now are planning to push a national gun-show loophole bill through the Senate this spring. If the long-term result of the 2000 election is the closing of the gun-show loophole nationwide, gun violence prevention will indeed have won the November election despite Mr. Bush's occupancy of the White House.

(Source: *Physicians for Social Responsibility Reports*, Winter 2001)



# No Quiero Taco Bell.

By Fabiola Valdez  
CSU, Fresno student

**O**n Wednesday, May 2, representatives from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) came to Fresno to introduce the national Taco Bell boycott as well as the outrageous conditions that Florida farmworkers have had to endure for the past 20 years. During an evening presentation at Fresno State, students enlightened themselves on the current situation in the Florida tomato fields and felt the urge to support these workers in any way possible.



Photo by George Ballis

Fabiola Valdez

Farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida make 40 cents per every 32 pounds of tomatoes they pick. In addition, they work 50 to 60 hours a week without overtime compensation, and their living conditions have not improved due to their extremely low wages. Taco Bell buys about 75% of the tomatoes picked in Immokalee. The growers sell the tomatoes to Taco Bell and we, the consumers enjoy them in our chalupas and gorditas to name a few. Taco Bell responds by stating that they do not employ farmworkers, the growers do. They absolve themselves from any accusation by blaming the growers for the treatment toward farmworkers. It is rather ironic that Taco Bell representatives fail to acknowledge that without the hard labor of these "foreign employees" their products could not be as marketable as they have become in past years. Undoubtedly, this argument of blaming the middleman for the problems resembles the sweatshop labor argument in which big companies also blame the middleman for the conditions and treatment of the workers that bring the profit to their pockets.

Greg Asbed, an activist working for CIW mentioned that in order to bring social change, we, the common people have to resort to the streets and to protests involving the community. "The CEOs of these companies make social change everyday" he said, "they make social change through policies and regulations that are approved thanks to money, a suit and a tie. We, on the other hand, have to support our selves and ask for the community at large to side with justice." Ramiro Enriquez, a farmworker himself asked the students in Spanish to help them and support their boycott. "A Taco Bell le importan los estudiantes de las universidades mas que cualquier otro consumidor" (Taco Bell cares about college students more than any other consumer population). "Con su ayuda y apoyo, podremos obtener justicia!" (With your help, we can obtain justice!).

***¡1 cent for justice!***

As the presentation came to an end, numerous students raised questions and became interested in finding out about student organizations such as United Students Against Sweatshops and Migrant Student Alliance that work together in bringing social issues that are hidden from most of the students' lives in college. Gabrielle Kirkland, the president of United Students Against Sweatshops, is a Journalism major and believes

that "these are the type of issues that should be on the news, not what we usually hear about." With this passion leading her student life, she continually struggles to put stories in the Collegian, the campus newspaper, to inform students about such outrageous affairs.

The Coalition of Immokalee workers only asks Taco Bell to pay one cent more for every pound of tomatoes that they buy from the growers. One penny more would bring the workers wages at about 75 cents higher than what they receive today. I strongly believe that if the community as a whole unites on this struggle with the workers and prepares to show Taco Bell that we care, our impact on such huge corporation could be immense. So dear activist and socially responsible friend, the next time you think about having fast food for lunch, join me in saying: YO NO QUIERO TACO BELL.

## HEY FRESNO - CHECK IT OUT STIR IT UP!

Programs produced by local activists.

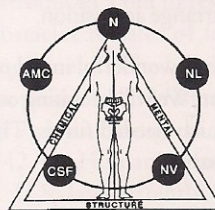
Every Wednesday from 3:30-4 PM on KFCF 88.1 FM

1st Wed. of the month: Hosted by Pam Whalen of the Labor/Community Alliance. A program focusing on labor organizing, workplace issues and immigration.

2nd: Hosted by Richard Stone and Vincent Lavery of the Fresno Center for Non-Violence. A program looking at issues concerning peace, social justice, health and community relations at the local and regional level.

3rd: Called the 'Green Scene' and hosted by Theresia Rogerson and Jeremy Hofer of the Fresno County Green Party and the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP), this program focuses on Green values, including ecological wisdom, social justice and grass roots democracy.

4th: Hosted by Zay Guffy-Bill and Lauralee Carbone of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The program will cover issues with local impacts and activities concerning national and international politics, economics and human rights.



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# VALLEY AIR AS BAD AS LA DON'T BREATH DEEPLY

By Kevin Hall

**D**id you hear it? A few weeks back, there was that long, ear-splitting creak followed by a thunderous bang! It echoed up and down the length of the San Joaquin Valley — the sound of the world's largest garage door slamming shut for the summer ozone season.

While the valley's topography is usually described as a bowl topped with a clear lid (that innocuous-sounding "inversion layer" of cooler air that traps the ground-level vertical mile of atmosphere), it's more accurately depicted as a garage with an immense overhead door.

More than 3 million of us live and breathe in this 25,000-square-mile garage, sitting in our cars, SUVs, trucks, and tractors with the engines running. The plumes of fumes inject our lungs, hearts and bloodstream with a long list of direct pollutants, several of which recombine in the summer heat to create ozone. Worst of all, we're not alone in this toxic chamber. We've got the whole family in here with us.

The unique structure of our landscape — and our ability to poison it — is illuminated by contrasting it with the country's dirtiest air basin, that of Los Angeles-Riverside. While we're 3 million people spread out over 25,000 square miles, they're 13 million jammed into 6,000 square miles. In other words, our population is one-fourth of theirs and our land mass four times greater. Our density, our population per square mile, is one-sixteenth of theirs, or just six percent. Yet, our valley's peak ozone levels are now equal to and oftentimes higher than those of L.A.-Riverside, regularly reaching up to 18-20 parts per million (ppm)

In mid-May when the garage door slammed, the Air Quality Index (AQI) for the central San Joaquin Valley soared to 156 with ozone listed as the sole primary source. This translates roughly into an ozone level of 16 ppm. Damage to human health begins at half that level. Damage to plant life begins at 6 ppm.

The same day the AQI hit 156, a 9-year-old friend of ours had afternoon track team practice at her Clovis elementary school. If it had been raining, the adults in charge would have looked outside, seen the water falling and kept the kids in. Instead, they were sent out into the clear, almost odorless gases. They ran and ran for nearly two hours, breathing deeply, rapidly.

Throats and lungs were scarred by ozone. Carbon monoxide bound itself to hemoglobin, impairing oxygen from getting to young brains, hearts and other tissues. Benzene and PAHs (a hydrocarbon) entered their small bodies. PAHs account for half of the air pollution-caused cancer in California. Benzene can lead to leukemia and is linked to chromosomal damage and various other potentially fatal blood diseases.

No doubt this scene was repeated across hundreds of playgrounds throughout the valley. How many thousands upon thousands of children are subjected to this day after day?

Yet they run and run. As will our cars...all summer long. Because we've so much to do, so many very important things to do.

## THE LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND AT:

African American Museum  
1857 Fulton, Fresno

Arte Americas  
1630 Van Ness Ave, Fresno

Borders Books  
River Park in Fresno

Carpenter Local 701  
1335 N Hulbert St, Fresno

Catholic Charities  
149 N. Fulton Ave, Fresno

Centro Bellas Artes  
1048 E St, Fresno

Colegio Popular  
St. John's Cathedral, Fresno

Fresno Metro Ministry  
1055 N Van Ness, Suite H, Fresno

Irene's Cafe  
747 Olive, Fresno

Java Café  
Olive & Echo, Fresno

The Movies  
1435 N Van Ness, Fresno

Pan Valley Institute  
1440 W. Shaw Ave, Fresno

Radio Bilingue  
Belmont & Willow Ave, Fresno

Rudy's Pharmacy  
Elm & B Street, Fresno

Sal's Donuts  
Fresno and B Street, Fresno

SEIU local 250  
3485 W Shaw, Fresno

Starbucks at River Park  
7658 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno

UFW office  
690 Fresno St, Parlier

Unitarian Church  
4144 N Milbrook, Fresno



# AMERICA'S ELECTRICITY CARTEL

By Alan Cheah

**I**mplementation of deregulation required the creation of a new market structure, which spawned the following organizations: the Power Exchange (PX), the Independent System Operator (ISO), and the Electricity Oversight Board (EOB).

What are the roles of these organizations?

**PX** - This exchange is a clearing house, where electricity is bought and sold for the state's electricity requirements for the following day. All generators are required to sell into the Power Exchange and all utilities are required to buy from the exchange one day in advance of their needs. PX was dismantled in January 2001 and now the state has been purchasing electricity for the utility companies.

**ISO** - A non-governmental, non-profit organization, which manages the transmission grid. Additionally, if the demand for the day exceeds the supply purchased the day before on the PX, the ISO buys the shortfall on the spot market, where electricity is purchased at significantly higher rates.

**EOB** - A state agency designed to oversee the PX and ISO with special interest in reliability issues. Besides the creation of these new organizations, deregulation necessitated the unbundling of generation, transmission and distribution functions. Thus, utilities like PG&E were required to sell off their power generation facilities. Also, utilities were not allowed to enter into long-term electric power contracts. The rationale for these moves was that in order to foster competition, which purportedly reduces prices, there has to be an active short-term market. That market will not exist if utilities are engaged in long-term contracts or own their own generation facilities. The utilities sold off some of their generation facilities to corporations such as Reliant, Duke, Dynegy, and Mirant, at a significant profit above their book value. They folded the remaining generation facilities into affiliates as PG&E formed The National Energy Group.

On March 31, 1998, the deregulated market opened. According to the Sacramento Bee (5-6-01), "The system worked beautifully for the first three months. Competition drove prices down to the point where PG&E actually gave away electricity for free between 1 and 2 a.m. on opening day." It took three months, but the stage was finally set and the power generators/power market makers like Enron, who heavily lobbied for deregulation as far back as 1986, were ready to reap the fruits of their labor. "On July 9, 1998, ISO officials watched spot prices ratchet up to \$1/MWH. It then shot up to \$2,500/MWH and suddenly to \$5,000/MWH where it stayed for 3 hours. Abruptly, it dropped back to \$1/MWH. Four days later it fluctuated up to \$9,999/MWH then down to \$.01/MWH" (Sacramento Bee, 5-6-01). These wild fluctuations were indicative of the learning curve power generators/power brokers were going through while assessing how to manipulate the market. Under the rules of privatization, the identities of the participating power players cannot be revealed—a sig-

nificant argument against the privatization of energy.

The two-stage purchasing scenario involving day-ahead purchase at the PX and emergency purchase by the ISO at spot prices, encouraged "generators to offer less power to the exchange and instead wait till the last minute to sell to the ISO" (Business Week, Feb. 12, 2001). According to the L.A. Times (3-22-01), generators pushed prices up by: 1) bidding at excessive prices which effectively withheld supply, and 2), bidding less frequently or not at all, even though they had power available. These findings were reported by Cal-ISO after reviewing confidential bidding data, which they were able to obtain only through legal action. Generators also exacerbated shortages by frequently bringing plants off-line for unscheduled maintenance at peak demand periods.

Since the privatizing of power and the deregulation of prices, electricity has

**Gallons by which daily U.S. oil consumption would drop if SUVs' average fuel efficiency increased by 3 mpg.**

**49,000,000 Gallons per day that the proposed drilling of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is projected to yield: 42,000,000.**

become a trading commodity much like pork bellies, wheat, and corn. In addition to manipulation of the market through choking supply, we are now exposed to an additional dimension in manipulation - commodity trading. Who are the Power brokers? The more notable ones are Enron, Reliant, Dynegy, Duke and Mirant. They engage in both power generation and power brokering. In Houston, according to Michael Liedtke of the Associated Press (Fresno Bee, 3-26-01), "four major power wholesalers run Byzantine trading systems that sway energy prices across the nation with minimal oversight from the government." They are concentrated within city blocks of each other and are simply referred to as "the power corner." Enron is the biggest broker of all. Not to be outdone, "Duke, Reliant and Mirant banded together with Wall Street investment banks Goldman Sachs and Dean Witter Morgan Stanley to launch Intercontinental Exchange.com. San Diego lawyer Michael Aguirre believes the power companies are using the password-protected online exchanges to secretly share information and control the power supply to manipulate prices.

We have seen a spate of lawsuits and allegations by Cal-ISO, the California Energy Commission, the CPUC, irate individuals, and even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Williams Energy has paid California \$8M in overcharges. Duke wants to make a deal with Gov. Davis to cut energy charges retroactively and into the future in exchange for suspension of State investigations. The FERC has required several power generators to repay \$20M in overcharges and is looking into another \$100M. Despite all these revelations, FERC and the Bush administration continue to advance their hollow rationale for not capping electricities by saying:

- \* We find no evidence of wrongdoing or collusion.
- \* We must let the free market work.
- \* We must use this opportunity to encourage creation of more energy (fossil fuel, of course).

*Continued on Page 15*

## Can of greedy electrical worms



# UNION, IMMIGRANTS UNITE FOR LIVING WAGE

By David Bacon

**O**AKLAND, CA (5/6/01) - Even though she was working 40 hours a week at the Valencia St. Travelodge in San Francisco, Matilda (last name withheld), who moved to the US from Mexico a decade ago, couldn't afford to clothe her four children. "First I go to churches where they give clothes and food away," she said. "When school begins, we get pencils and books from the Salvation Army. If it wasn't for this kind of help, we couldn't live in San Francisco."

Her coworker, Patricia, meanwhile, was paying \$635 a month for a studio apartment for her children and husband, and considered herself lucky. Rent for a San Francisco studio usually starts at \$1000. At the end of each month, after putting out \$250 for food, nothing was left from her paycheck. The motel paid roomcleaners \$6.25/hour-not enough to send any money home to their families in Mexico and El Salvador.

Motel managers never said much about the workers' immigration status until the low wages inspired them to join a union, Hotel Employees Local 2. According to organizer Chito Cuellar, once the union signed its first contract, supervisors began making immigration threats to derail protests over heavy work loads and harassment. Then, in May 1999, John Jake, the general manager, called nine workers into his office, including the two women. He told them Social Security had notified the motel that their numbers didn't match the government's database. Straighten it all out in a week, he warned, or you're out of a job. A week later, when they tried to punch in, security guards told them they'd been fired.

Twenty years ago, most unions would have written off such workers and their problems. As recently as 1986, the AFL-CIO supported the "employer sanctions" provision of the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Sanctions make it possible for employers to use Social Security "no-match" letters as a pretext for firing immigrants who assert their rights, as the Travelodge management did. The law requires employers to keep records of workers' immigration status, and imposes fines (low and rarely collected) on those who hire the undocumented. The real impact of the law is on the workers, making it illegal for them to hold a job.

Today, unions are rethinking their attitude toward immigrants like Patricia and Matilda. Since 1986, it has become common for companies to use the employer sanctions as a weapon to resist organizing drives. Recognizing this, in February of 2000 the AFL-CIO passed an historic resolution calling for the repeal of sanctions, and for a legalization program that would allow undocumented immigrants to normalize their status.

As a result, the political rules and alliances that limited the possibility for immigration reform have also changed. Amnesty for the country's 9-11 million undocumented immigrants, which was off the radar screen in Washington just a few years ago, is now a realistic goal.

But employers see opportunity as well. With the avid support of key Congressional Republicans and the Bush Administration, they are seeking new "bracero" contract labor programs, which would transform

workers like the roomcleaners into an even cheaper and more vulnerable labor force of guestworkers. Activists such as Ernesto Galarza and Cesar Chavez, and writers such as former Nation editor Carey McWilliams, documented extensive abuses of workers under the bracero program in place from 1942 to 1964. While guaranteed labor rights on paper, guestworkers depend on the continuation of a job to remain in the country. Employers therefore not only have the power to fire workers who protest bad conditions, but in effect to deport them as well.

The labor movement's shift on immigration policy has an impact far beyond the corridors of Congress, however. The Travelodge case reverberated through Local 2's master contract negotiations in 2000, covering about 5000 San Francisco hotel employees. "Our members understood we needed stronger protection for immigrants, and were willing to fight for it," says Cuellar. "Not just the Latinos. The Anglos, the Filipinos, and others who weren't directly affected also knew why it was important. If a hotel can use immigration to make some workers work faster, the pressure affects everyone." The union eventually won contract language increasing its ability to represent immigrants and protect their job rights. And the Travelodge case eventually produced an historic decision in arbitration, which said a no-match letter is not a legal reason to fire workers, setting a precedent that could help thousands who lose their jobs because of the letters every year.

After a no-match letter was used to threaten a worker involved in an organizing drive across the bay in Oakland, a campaign by HERE Local 2850 and the Labor Immigrant Organizers Network (LION), a loose coalition of labor and community activists, saved his job. The union eventually won recognition and a contract. The local in turn gave staff time and office space to help LION organize a march of 5000 people through Oakland's Latino Fruitvale neighborhood in January, calling for amnesty and immigrant rights. It was the third labor-backed immigrant rights march in northern California in a year.

"Most unions today are at least trying to organize," explains HERE President John Wilhelm, who spoke at the Oakland march. "And no matter the industry, they run into immigrant workers. Immigrants are everywhere, not just in the service industry, not just in California and the southwest. That's what brought home the failure of the AFL-CIO's old immigration policy."

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To read the rest of this article go to our web site at:  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

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# NICE TO SIT AT SAME TABLE KFCF TOWER COMING?

By Vickie M. Fouts

Last month I wrote my first article for the Labor/Community Alliance newsletter about KFCF. The plan is to write an article each month letting readers know about what is happening at the station. Since I am new to the controversy surrounding the station it was felt that I could offer an objective and unbiased opinion about what has been happening after the recall election. I was quick to discover (see letter to the editor on page 2) that not only is there controversy about what is going on at KFCF - there is controversy about how you report on those events. I just want you to know that KFCF is a very important part of my life and I do not want to do anything to harm it.

At the May 8th, meeting of KFCF/FFCF all board members were present except Catherine Campbell, Robert Munce, and Dixie Salazar. Executive Director, Vic Bedoian was out of town. There were four guests from the community. They introduced themselves. There was some input from the guests during the meeting. It was nice to be able to all sit down together at the same table.

Rych Withers gave the President's Report and the Executive Director's Report for Vic. He went over coming events for KFCF. David Gans from KPFA's "Dead to the World" is tentatively scheduled for a concert July 8th. The Inter-Mountain Nursery Cultural Festival is taking place May 20th. Last month I accidentally dropped the zero in 20. I apologize for any trouble this may have caused. The documentary film, "Secrets of Silicon Valley" will probably be shown in the Fall.

A lot is going on in regards to Pacifica. Rych and Deborah Speer discussed the KPFA May marathon drive. Rych handed out a newsletter, Pacifica Notebook, to everyone. It was full of information about the Pacifica struggle. You can contact the editor, Lee Loe, at [leeloe@igc.org](mailto:leeloe@igc.org) or call 713-524-2682, to request a copy. Rych also talked about a group called the Pacifica Campaign, who is calling for a boycott during the marathon. You can read more about them at <http://pacificacampaign.org/>. KFCF gets 100% of the funds raised by its listeners during the marathons. Pacifica does not get a cut. Rych said there will be letters mailed out to the subscribers discussing the boycott and how it relates to KFCF.

The KPFA Local Advisory Board (LAB) may be coming to Fresno in June. They plan on meetings with listeners in seventeen communities. On a very close vote the LAB voted to support the boycott, but has made it clear that everyone still needs to support KFCF. What is happening at KPFA and KFCF is much different than what is happening in New York, Washington, Houston and Los Angeles.

Randy Stover stated that the satellite transmitter is back from being repaired and should be back in service soon. It has been determined that if a tower is 35 feet or less no permits or licenses are required. After getting final approval from the landlord they hope to soon start the placement of a micro-wave tower at the Wishon office site.

There was discussion around the website domain name of [ffcf.net](http://ffcf.net). At this time the website is linked to the Community Radio Coalition and not to Fresno Free College Foundation. There has been much work to

try and get the current user of the domain name to release it to FFCF. All attempts to resolve the issue seemed to have failed. The next likely action will be official arbitration through the group that handles website domain name disputes. Hopefully, this issue can soon be put to rest and all involved can push forward towards a bright and positive future.

Dr. Su Kapoor gave an update on the mediation between the two different factions on the present KFCF/FFCF board. Their last session was held February 25th, and the next session probably won't be until June. Dr. Kapoor stated that things are moving ahead slowly and they are now getting to the really hard part. He commended the group for all that has been accomplished. It has been hard to get all interested parties together at the same time. He made a suggestion that the board may want to change to a paid mediator. Having to pay someone whether or not everyone shows up could motivate those involved to pick a date and get everyone together. Dr. Kapoor also recommended that the board take a look at attending a board development training session. He has a colleague that he could recommend who could provide such a training session.

Alex Vavoulis mentioned that at the next meeting they might take a look at increasing the FFCF dues from \$25. With all that is taking place at KPFA and Pacifica it could be a matter that merits some looking into. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th, 7:30 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

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My friend Vinh Ngo, who I'm sure many of you know, died on May 10, 2001. Vinh was a tireless worker for human rights and social justice. He worked at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte defending a women's right to choose. He was a strong defender of family planning and reproductive rights. Vinh and I organized candidate forums together so the "left" would have a voice in the electoral process. We were able to ask candidates tough questions that they would not be asked anywhere else - questions about workers rights, environmental justice, and gay/lesbian issues. I will miss the intelligence and integrity that Vinh brought to everything he did. The loss will be felt by everyone in the Fresno progressive community who had the opportunity to know him.

Mike Rhodes  
Editor



sential to the well being of the Iraqi population. This would be of benefit to the people of both Iraq and the U.S.

The only real solution for the Iraqi people is for the U.S. to allow the massive investments required to rebuild the civilian infrastructure of Iraqi society: agricultural and irrigation systems, water purification and sewage treatment plants and pipelines, public health and medical institutions, educational institutions, and the electrical power systems these require. H.R. 742 is a limited but significant step towards coming to grips with these larger needs.

Please contact your Representative and ask that he or she sign on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 742. To sign on they should call Jared Hautamaki at the office of Rep. John Conyers at (202) 225-5126. If they are already a co-sponsor, please make a point of thanking them. Members of Congress need to know that their constituents support them on this issue.

You can reach any Member of Congress through the congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

Co-sponsors of H.R. 742, as of April 26:

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)  
Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Rep. David Bonior (D-MI)  
Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO)  
Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA)  
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)  
Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-LA)  
Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH)  
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)  
Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)  
Rep. Cynthia A. McKinney (D-GA)  
Rep. Collin C. Peterson (DFL-MN)  
Rep. Lynn N. Rivers (D-MI)  
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)  
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY)  
Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)

If you're a WILPF member, we encourage you to submit any information you have and want to share with other members including anecdotes and poems (especially dealing with women's issues). Call or email Zay at 227-2133, zaygb@earthlink.net or Desi 224-2976, dc025@csufresno.edu.

And thanks to this month's contributors for the wonderful info they provided.

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These are mere euphemisms for rewarding the administration's and Republican Party's major contributor - The Oil & Gas Industry. They contributed \$26M dollars to the Republican Party while contributing \$6M to the Democratic Party. The Bush family is steeped in oil interests and Enron has been the lifeblood of George W. Bush's political aspirations. Dick Cheney, former CEO of the Halliburton corporation—a provider of services and equipment to energy customers—has a significant interest in promoting fossil fuel based energy policy.

Debating wrongdoing and collusion in the energy business in the legal system can be protracted ad infinitum. This whole "crisis" can be resolved with one simple action - the FERC must perform the duty entrusted to it by the people by "capping electricity rates." To determine whether the FERC is negligent in the administration of its duties, you have only to

consider the following: FERC's duty according to the Federal Powers Act is to ensure "just and reasonable" electricity rates. Are recent peak rates of \$1900/MWH compared to \$70/MWH "just and reasonable"?

Both President Bush and the FERC have continually resisted capping rates and will never do so unless subjected to heavy pressure from ratepayers. Let's turn our outrage into action by:

- 1) Contact Radanovich - He voted NOT to cap rates. Go to [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/)
- 2) Contact Bush, <president@whitehouse.gov>. He is against caps and proposes cutting 40% out of the budget for alternative energy research.
- 3) Ask your California Assembly representative to back creation of a utility district so we can directly control our power like Sacramento and LA. You can find your assembly representative at [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov). Click on the link, Find My District or look in your phone book.
- 4) Ask your city council members to back utility district formation.

If you want to participate in the energy working group movement, contact: William Heasley at [terraV2001@aol.com](mailto:terraV2001@aol.com)

What can we do to empower ourselves against the electricity cartel and the Oil and Gas administration in Washington? A movement is afoot to explore Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) modeled after Sacramento's MUD. Additionally, communities are examining how to implement renewable energy systems and conservation measures in homes and businesses. This will be the topic of the next installment.

## **BUSH vs. WOMEN**

*By Diane Scott*

**W**ill 2001 be the year women lose the rights we've worked so hard to gain? Inch by inch we've climbed the ladder toward equality but with Bush sitting in the White House, these rights are vanishing one by one.

Before Feminism, before NOW, before Roe v. Wade, when I was a child, no one talked about "women's rights." The only one we had was the vote... In fourth grade I wanted to take shop with the boys. "You can't do that," I was told. "You're a girl." We girls sat at our desks and did handwork. Our high school athletics consisted of cheering the boys on from the sidelines. As a mother and wife, looking for work, prospective employers asked how many children I had and how dependable was my childcare. I was out of the work force quite a while. Later, divorced and with a good job, I wanted a credit card, and the stores wanted to check my ex-husband's credit as reference for me. And, after I scored first or second on the test for a County job, I was told not to bother to come for an interview because they intended to hire a man. So, if you think the battles are won and we don't have to worry any more, think again!

Here's where we are now with Bush's "compassionate conservatism." The first thing he did was to close the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. And the people he's hired! His head of the Council of Economic Advisors says there is no gender gap in pay. The new head of Personnel Management opposes affirmative action. Programs such as labor contracting rules and Title IX funding for female sports are in jeopardy. The new assistant for family support at the Department of Health and Human Services is also president of the National Fatherhood Institute and has been known to "push marriage as a way to keep women and children out of poverty."

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*Bush Continued from Page 15*

Bush and the Republican Congress repealed the Ergonomics Standard that OSHA developed over a ten year period which would have protected workers (mostly women) from repetitive strain, back injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, and other musculo-skeletal disorders caused by lifting, repetitive movements, and poorly designed workplaces.

Through an Executive Memorandum, Bush re-imposed the Global Gag Rule on U.S. funding for family planning programs in developing countries. This rule forbids doctors from discussing all issues related to abortion or the country will lose all American funding, even if the offending country is using its own money, not U.S. funds. The House, using the new (1996) Congressional Review Act, passed a Global Democracy Promotion Act, which was intended to counteract the Gag Rule. But, before the Senate could act, Bush issued a new Executive Memorandum reinstating the Gag Rule and, since Executive Memorandums are not subject to the Congressional Review Act, the Global Gag Rule is again in effect.

Congress is now talking about not reinstating the contraceptive coverage part of health care insurance for federal employees. Its funding runs out this year. And Congress will also be considering increased funding for abstinence-only sex education programs for schools. There will be no mention of sexually transmitted diseases (chlamydia is epidemic in teenage girls here in the valley). Title X, Public Health Service Act - Family Planning Program, will again be reviewed and the FDA will be asked to review its ruling on RU-486 (the abortion pill).

Currently, though, the most serious attack on women's rights is the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2001, H.R. 503. This legislation purports to be protection of the unborn. Its real goal, however, has nothing to do with protecting the unborn or the pregnant woman. Its purpose is to elevate the legal status of the fetus to that of an adult, and it would require legal protection for the fetus separate from the pregnant woman. Section 1841 D (d) of the bill states, "As used in this section, the term: 'unborn child' means a child in utero, and the term, 'child in utero' or 'child who is in utero' means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb." The only thing it doesn't specify is if humanity begins before or after fertilization. There are at least two differing beliefs as to whether or not

the unborn is a human being, separate from the woman who carries it, and therefore supercedes the woman's right to make her own decision over her own body. H.R. 503 creates a new definition of a person which directly contradicts the definition spelled out thoroughly in *Roe v. Wade* (410 US 116-177): "To say that life is present at conception is to give recognition to the potential, rather than the actual. The unfertilized egg has life, and if fertilized, it takes on human proportions. But the law deals in reality, not obscurity—the known rather than the unknown. When sperm meets egg life may eventually form, but quite often it does not. The law does not deal in speculation. The phenomenon of life takes time to develop, and until it is actually present, it cannot be destroyed. Its interruption prior to formation would hardly be homicide..."

Are women independent persons or only "breeders?"

And we must wonder, what's coming next? Women's rights are in danger. They can be blown away, legislated out of law, once again relegating women to the category of helpmate of man, attached to him, and

having no worth of our own. What can we do to stop this? Well, our legislators do pay attention to phone calls, letters, email, petitions, and personal visits when they are in town. There are many ways to contact them, particularly if you have access to a computer, but old fashioned phones work well also and letters cost only 34 cents.

Legislators:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

1130 O, Suite 2446

Fresno 93721, 485-7430

Washington, D.C. (202) 224-3841

Senator Barbara Boxer

2300 Tulare, Suite 130

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Washington, D.C. (202) 224-3553

Representative George Radanovich

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Diane Scott

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