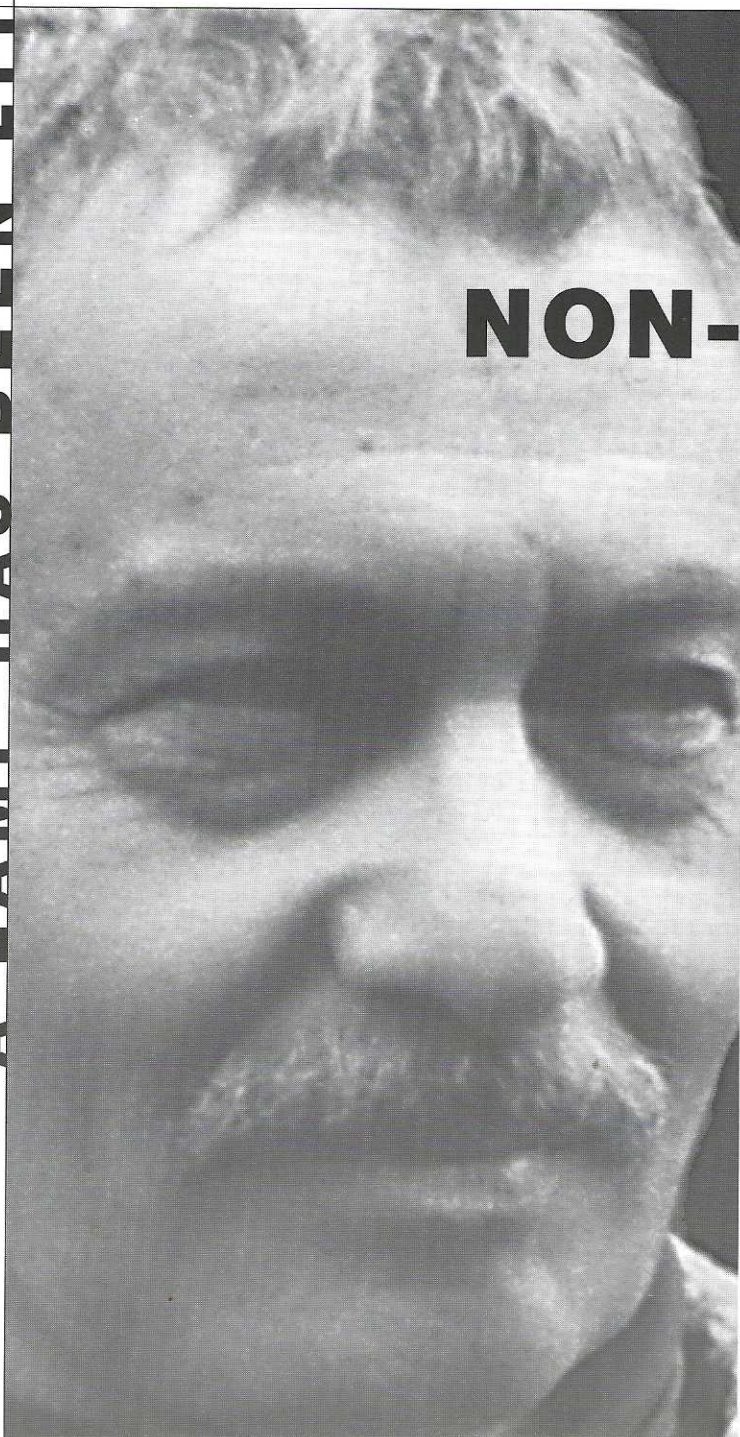


JUNE 2002

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

A LAMP HAS BEEN LIT



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TRANSITIONS AT THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

OUR BEST WISHES TO GEORGE (ELFIE) AND MAIA BALLIS WHO ARE LEAVING THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MAGAZINE. THEIR PASSION, SKILL, AND ENDLESS HOURS OF WORK REALLY MADE THIS A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE. THEY DID A WONDERFUL JOB AS DESIGNERS AND ASSISTANT EDITORS AND WILL BE GREATLY MISSED! JOINING US IS FERNANDO GOMEZ, WHO WILL DESIGN AND LAYOUT THE MAGAZINE STARTING WITH THIS ISSUE. FERNANDO MOVED HERE FROM SAN FRANCISCO WHERE HE WAS A DESIGNER FOR BEEF MAGAZINE. THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A TALENTED AND SKILLED PROFESSIONAL TO DESIGN AND LAYOUT THIS MAGAZINE.

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

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SUPPORT FREE SPEECH RADIO:KFCF 88.1 FM

Start your summer by joining your friends and neighbors at the Spring Music Festival at Intermountain Nursery featuring the popular world beat music of the local group Waddama. The first annual music festival will be held Saturday, June 1st from 10 am to 6 pm to benefit community radio station KFCF 88.1 FM. The festival will also feature a wonderfully wide spectrum of music by local groups including: Tocanto with the sounds Brazil; Smiley Mountain String Band featuring Bluegrass; Jeremiah Barkman with creative compositions on the Didjeridu, an Aboriginal instrument; Highlands & Lowlands, with Celtic music; Frank Moschella & Marc Mandel featuring Blues; and A Full Deck playing a blend of country, western and bluegrass music. Wholesome food will be available including organic Bar-B-Q, vegan beans and pot luck dinner delights. The entrance fee is \$10 and meals are \$5 with all proceeds to benefit KFCF. The Inter-mountain Nursery is located at 30443 Auberry Road, one mile past Prather on Highway 168, approximately 45 minutes Northeast of Fresno. Tickets will be sold at the gate only. For information call 559-855-3113.

SOUTH VALLEY NEWS

Springville resident and activist, David Chandler, has done an insightful analysis of the massacre at the Jenin refugee camp. He used aerial photography to analyze the number of people living in the area of the camp that was destroyed. Z magazine has picked this up on their website <http://www.zmag.org/weblinks/chandler-jeninanal.htm>. Good stuff!

The Tulare County Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) started a study group on Challenging Corporate Power; Asserting the People's Rights. This is a 10 week study group which started May 15; it is fine to join us late. The meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at the new location of the Eleanor Roosevelt Charter School: 31191 Rd. 180, Visalia, 592-9160.

WILPF is continuing the vigil against the war on terrorism Fridays from 5:00 -- 6:00 at the corner of Walnut and Mooney (In-and-Out Burger) in Visalia. Call 636-0514 for info.

The South Valley has a problem: so many good things are happening but most of us don't even hear about them! We're trying to get more people in the South Valley to let us know what's happening with peace and social justice issues. I'm willing to coordinate getting them into this publication. If you have items, please call 592-4001 or e-mail keast@erclc.org.

WHO does the work?

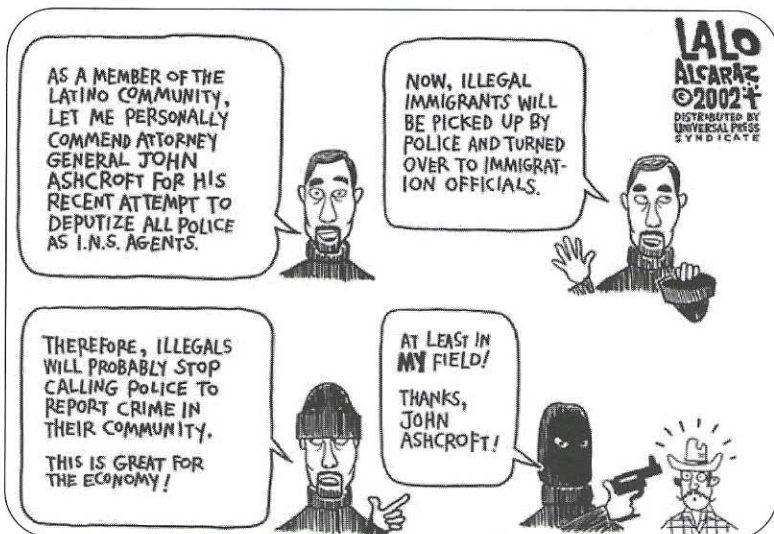
The recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Hoffman Plastics is not only another instance of class justice, or rather, injustice. The logic of Chief Justice Rehnquist makes it plain that the court's majority lives in denial of the social reality millions of working people face every day. The court began by making an already-bad precedent worse. In a previous decision in the Sure-Tan case, millions of undocumented immigrants already lost the right to be reinstated to their jobs if they were fired for joining a union. Now the Rehnquist court says they can forget about backpay too for the time they were out of work. The decision rewards employers who want to stop union organizing efforts among immigrant workers — the very people who've built a decade-long track record of labor activism, often organizing themselves even when unions showed little interest. Their bosses can now terminate undocumented workers without fear of any monetary consequences.

...the enforcement of employer sanctions, which makes it illegal for an undocumented immigrant to hold a job, is more important than the right of that worker to join a union and resist exploitation...



But the court's logic goes further, willfully ignoring social reality. Today one worker in every twenty participating in a union drive gets fired, immigrant and native born alike. Federal labor law may prohibit this, but companies already treat the cost of legal battles, reinstatement and back pay as a cost of doing business. Many consider it cheaper than signing a union contract. So the real need is to strengthen protection for labor rights for all workers, not weaken it. But it's clear that retaliatory firings are not a serious violation of the law in the court's eyes. William Gould III, former chair of the National Labor Relations Board, points out that "there's a basic conflict between US labor law and US immigration law." The court has held that the enforcement of employer sanctions, which makes it illegal for an undocumented immigrant to hold a job, is more important than the right of that worker to join a union and resist exploitation on the same job.

Jose Castro, the fired worker in the Hoffman case, committed the cardinal sin, according to Rehnquist. He lied to get a job, saying that he had legal status when he didn't. This is a lie told by millions of workers every year, one conveniently believed by employers when they want to take advantage of their labor. It is only in the face of union activity that bosses suddenly awake to the reality that their workers have no papers (and usually then firing only the union-loving ones.) But thank God workers are willing to tell those lies. If they weren't, who would do the work? Who would harvest the lettuce for the justices' lunchtime sandwiches or cut up the cow for their dinner prime rib? Or care for the children of the lawyers who argued the case? Or clean their offices at night after it was argued? This decision isn't about enforcing immigration law, despite Rehnquist's pious assertion that employers can already be fined for hiring people like Castro. And it's certainly not about enforcing their labor rights.



As always, it's about money. When it becomes more risky and difficult for workers to organize and join unions or even to hold a job at all, then they settle for lower wages. And when the price of immigrant labor goes down as a result, so do the wages for everyone else. . . the famous market logic. A recent study by the Pew trust counts almost 8 million undocumented people in the US — 4 percent of the urban workforce and over half of all farmworkers. The flow of workers across the border into those jobs will not stop anytime soon. Over 120 million people already live outside their countries of origin. The National Population Council of Mexico reports that "migration between Mexico and the United States is a permanent, structural phenomenon ... the intense relationship between the two countries make it inevitable." Even the sacrifice of the rights of those workers by blind justice will not stop people from crossing the border nor end the need for the work they do. If they are to have legal status then the door to legal immigration must be opened, and sanctions repealed. But come they will, regardless.

The court's message to them, however, is know your place. Do the work, stay in the shadows, accept what your betters give you, and never think of organizing to challenge the structure which holds you in chains.

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Get the 2002 Cartoonista Calendar at www.cartoonista.com Conscious and semi-conscious t-shirts at www.latinoTshirts.com AND COMING FALL 2002: the first LA Cucaracha Cartoon Collection book documenting 10 years of editorial cartoons by Lalo Alcaraz

a million **VOICES** FOR LEGALIZATION

> UFW press release

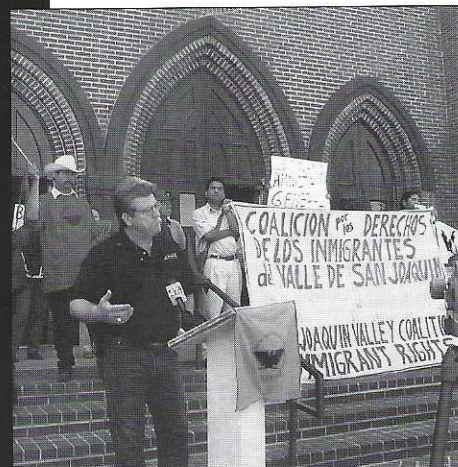
Leaders from the United Farm Workers, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the Carpenters, Catholic Charities, President of Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties Central Labor Council, Radio Campesina Network, and Laborers International Union joining with dozens of community, labor and religious groups across the country have started an ambitious nationwide campaign to collect one million post cards before the November elections.

The campaign urges President Bush and Congress to "support immigration policies that reward work by giving hard-working, tax-paying immigrants already in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status."

A broad-based coalition is pushing legislation enabling undocumented workers and their families presently in this country to earn legal status by continuing to perform "vital" tasks in key industries. The UFW is also sponsoring similar proposals in the House and Senate covering undocumented agricultural workers and their family members. Thirty cities nationwide including Fresno, Bakersfield, New York, Chicago, Miami and Los Angeles launched the campaign on May 15. Organizations participating on the campaign include the National Council of La Raza, the Service Employees International Union, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, United Farm Workers, the National Immigration

Forum, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Industrial Areas Foundation, the National Legalization Movement, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Laborers International, and many others.

...support immigration policies
that reward work by giving
hard-working, tax-paying immigrants already in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status.



where
is the Future?

> Tony Nocell

It's Right HERE!

**"If not you, who?
If not now, when?"**

There is a new crew in town. They are a coalition of YOUTH fighting nonviolently for peace and justice. Student Action Front (SAF), is joining forces with the local Fresno universities, progressive centers, and soon to be Infoshop on E. Olive. The Student Action Front is an action-based organization that focuses on all variety of issues, from representing Earth First! to protesting for farm worker's rights.

Fresno, CA. is a unique place. It is the center of the Valley, which is the largest agriculture based industry in the United States, with dairy being the largest. It is based in one of the most progressive states. Fresno, CA. not only is between two of the most influential cities in the nation (Los Angeles and San Francisco) but is home to the rise of the farm workers movement and Caesar Chavez.

Student Action Front is taking this summer by storm by claiming this Fresno summer as the "Summer of Resistance". What does this mean? It means that the corporate oppressing giants better watch out because there is a watch dog out there, and they are coming for all of them!

The Student Action Front has meetings at the Center for Nonviolence every Thursday, unless there is an action. The meetings are filled with information gathering and sharing, workshops on nonviolence, and the planning of actions! Do not miss out!

website: www.geocities.com/nocellat/studentactionfront

DRIVE-THRU

MALL

> Stefanie Monahan



The beautiful sculptures, fountains and trees of Fulton Mall create a unique atmosphere and that environment will remain intact. The Fresno City Council voted against an environmental impact report (EIR) at a 4-hour meeting, on May 22, 2002, in which 60 local citizens voiced their opinions. The EIR was instigated by proponents, such as the

Down-town Association and other business entities, of installing a two-way street through the pedestrian mall that would have cost an estimated \$15 million. Local citizens, including Fulton Mall business and property owners, fought against this proposed street. The leading organization in the fight was the Fresno Downtown Coalition, led by Joyce Aiken, local artist and former CSU Fresno art professor. The Coalition gathered thousands of petition signatures from local citizens who want the Fulton Mall to remain intact, including 95 tenants of the shopping district.

The Coalition also organized an event on May 16 attended by 30 citizens who tied ribbons and signs on trees throughout the Fulton Mall, stating their opposition to the installation of two-way traffic on the urban parkway. I was actually one of the citizens who attended the March 16 event, but I never actually tied a ribbon because I was confronted with proponents of the two-way street. These were business owners who were expressing their views about the fate of the Fulton Mall. Although they were "the opposition," I listened attentively to their concerns and realized they have sacrificed and dedicated their time, energy and money to keeping their businesses alive on the Fulton Mall. They were upset that city officials have ignored them for years and were concerned that this might continue, without an EIR for the mall.

As I reflected on what I had heard that day on the Fulton Mall, I realized that members of the Downtown Association and the Fresno Downtown Coalition actually have a lot of common ground. We all want the Fulton Mall to flourish and businesses to succeed; we all want the landscaping and the sculptures maintained appropriately; we all want improved facilities such as free parking and rest-rooms; and we will no longer tolerate a city government that ignores Downtown Fresno. Hopefully, the Fresno City Council vote to keep Fulton Mall a pedestrian urban park and shopping center is a sign of progressive change. Fresno needs more walking environments, public art displays, parks and plazas where citizens can meet and exchange ideas. These types of city infrastructure changes would improve our quality of life and our city's low self-esteem issues.

Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D

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looking for bobby FISHER

> Pam Whalen

LONG TIME ACTIVIST MOVES TO OREGON

For decades Bob Fisher has been a stalwart in the Fresno activist community. I first met Bob in 1980 in the Central America solidarity movement where he was one of the founding members of the Latin American Support Committee. Bob distinguished himself in this struggle by inspiring many students to get involved and by participating in numerous civil disobedience actions—including a sit-in at the then local Congressman Chip Pashayan's office. Bob was also one of the activists that precipitated a Free Speech battle at Fresno State when the university insisted that no one could circulate a petition in the "Free Speech Area" calling for a halt to U.S. aid to El Salvador. A lawsuit filed by attorney Nancy Marsh proved the university wrong and vindicated our First Amendment Rights. Bob was also the director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department at CSUF.

Recently, of course, Bob has been one of the major forces in the anti-sweatshop /GAP protests and is one of four arrested protesters suing the Macerich Corporation (the owner of Fashion Fair) and the City of Fresno for their violation of civil rights.

Bob has made a difference here in Fresno and will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his new home and hope that he carries his activist spirit to his new community.

Fresno Bike Advocate Justin Morgan
is riding **1500 miles**
to raise \$ for GLOBAL EXCHANGE
and the Fresno Community Bike Project.

Find out how to help him reach his goal:

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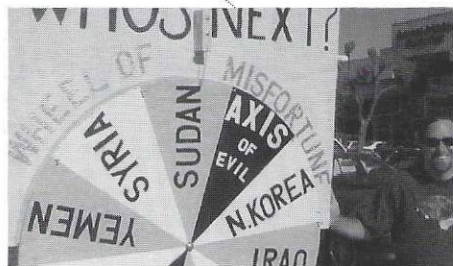
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the WHEEL

James Bartram <



I first thought of making "The Wheel of Misfortune" on a cold winter night standing on the corner of Blackstone and Shaw in Fresno, protesting the war on Terrorism. George Bush had just discussed going after Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, referring to them as an "Axis of Evil." We had already heard of possible plans to enter Somalia, Syria, and Sudan among others. It seemed an absurdity to claim there was an alliance between Iran and Iraq, who are virtually mortal enemies, and, philosophically miles apart, one being a near democratic country populated by Shiites and the other a Nationalistic country led by a military dictator populated by Sunnis. And what neo-socialist N. Korea has to do with either of them is beyond comprehension. Apparently for George Bush's speech-writers, rhetorical style is far more vital than facts and reality. So what came to mind once again were the questions: "Who is next?" and "How do they decide on who to kill?" After all, a group of Saudi Arabian and Yemenis nationals were blamed for bombing the World Trade Center, but George Bush decided to bomb Afghanistan in retaliation, refusing to take the simple steps necessary to have his presumed target Osama bin Laden extradited. (All the Taliban asked was for proof of his guilt.) I imagined Don Rumsfeld spinning a giant wheel of fortune with nations drawn from a hit list. Who ever came up would be "bombed into the stone age" as part of a "War on Terrorism." When I realized what a potential piece of street theater this was, the Wheel of Misfortune was born.

The wheel is turning / and you can't slow down
You can't let go / and you can't hold on
You can't go back / and you can't stand still
If the thunder don't get you / then the lightning will

The metaphor of the wheel to show the randomness of the US policy was obvious, but many more, deeper metaphors took hold as I began to construct the wheel. During the planning of its construction, the initial thoughts of simply cutting corrugated cardboard or plastic gave way to a decision to build it out of more sturdy materials. After all I had no idea how many more nights I would have to stand on the street corner as the U.S. bombed Afghanistan. George Bush had promised that this would be a long, multiphase war on terrorism, and perhaps I needed to prepare for the long haul myself.

So I chose to use a natural source I was familiar with, wood, cutting and nailing two by fours and using a four-foot diameter circle of pressboard for the wheel. I used wing nuts and designed the wheel to be easily dismantled and loaded into the back of my pickup so that I would be highly mobile, going to more than just our weekly protests but anywhere a force for peace and justice was needed. This was becoming a wheel built to last, a wheel that would be there for the entire war on terrorism.

It then occurred to me, perhaps we need to construct our peace movement as I was constructing the wheel. After Vietnam, the peace movement declared a victory and then pretty much closed down and moved on to other pressing issues, assuming that if it was ever needed again we could mobilize as we did in the 1970's. Unfortunately, by the time of the Gulf War, those who declare and plan wars had learned from the Viet Nam lesson and were poised to take control of the media and to make war quick and brutal on the opponents, while keeping US risks to a minimum. By the time the anti-war movement got their signs painted, the war was over, and 200,000 Iraqis were dead. The continued war was kept at such a low intensity that most Americans are still oblivious to deaths of thousands of Iraqis a month. The peace movement's lack of permanent infrastructure and failure to adapt to the modern strategies of hit and run while blacking out the news continued to this new war. Like the wheel we need a strong permanent base, while retaining the ability to move and adapt quickly.

Won't you try just a little bit harder? / Couldn't you try just a little bit more?
Won't you try just a little bit harder? / Couldn't you try just a little bit more?

So in April, as the war in Afghanistan was defiantly winding down, I unveiled the wheel. At this point hundreds of people were on the corner of Blackstone and Shaw protesting the brutality of the Israeli army against the Palestinians. The Friday I brought out the wheel several supporters of Israel were on the corner as well. Things did not look too good. I set up the wheel anyway. Due to the huge number of signs, passing motorists were unable to properly see the wheel, but interestingly enough, the mixed crowd of supporters of Palestine and Israel was interested and entertained. As I spun the wheel I called out like a carnival barker, "Spin the wheel of misfortune! See which third world country will be next to be bombed by the world's only super power. This is an exact replica of the one in Don Rumsfeld's office!" Children who were present stood in line to spin the wheel: Jewish children, Arab children, blonde children, and children of color. The wheel was something everyone could relate to.

The next day, April 20th, I took the wheel out to Fresno State for our observance of the nation-wide day of protest against the war on terrorism. As the cars filed past, again I noticed great curiosity and amusement. The wheel was non-threatening, it was funny: and most importantly, it clearly showed the absurdity of US foreign policy. While we were there, the plastic ruler I had employed as a "clicker" to mark the winning space on the wheel, broke. I then realized I would need to use much tougher materials to build this wheel, this peace movement, this community of concerned citizens. Plastic was not going to work.

That afternoon I manufactured a new "clicker" of brass. I was annoyed that the old one had broken. I did not want to keep re-inventing the wheel! I wanted it done once and for all! Sunday was our local Earth Day celebration, and I had the wheel ready to go. Again the children lined up to spin the wheel, as adults looked on with amusement. The entire structure of the wheel is nearly seven feet tall and four and a half feet wide. It is painted bright yellow, so it is hard to miss.

I have brought out the wheel for several other protests, and last week the brass clicker snapped in two. After I finish writing this piece I'll go make another one, realizing that the work is never done; there is always room for improvement, and any humble organization is just like my wheel: mortal, flawed and repairable. I look forward to the day when the wheel will no longer be necessary. When the war on terrorism is over, and the government begins to realize that we cannot traipse around the globe imposing our will and values on other countries, exploit their resources and people and then sit back in opulent comfort as others live in obscene poverty, I look forward to repainting the wheel for use at school and church carnivals. But it will always be ready for a new coat of paint at anytime.

Small wheel turn by the fire and rod / Big wheel turn by the grace of God
Every time that wheel turn roundbound / to cover just a little more ground

PATIENCE
MILROD

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fresno hosts GREEN PARTY general assembly

On May 4th and 5th this year Fresno was host to the General Assembly of the Green Party of California, at a statewide meeting known as a "Plenary". Such meetings are the way the State party conducts its official business. Delegates and interested Greens traveled from all parts of California to attend the Plenary, and were treated to Fresno's unique culture and hospitality. A small group of volunteers from the local Fresno County Green Party worked for several months to plan and organize the Plenary in order to make it an enjoyable experience for all participants. Friday night meetings were held at the Underground Gardens, and the Plenary itself took place at historic Fresno High School. There was a dance party Saturday night featuring Jemmy Bluestein's band, Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics. Peter Camejo, the Green Party candidate for governor, spoke at the Saturday night event, as well as other Green Party candidates for state offices.



Participants at the California Green Party State Plenary

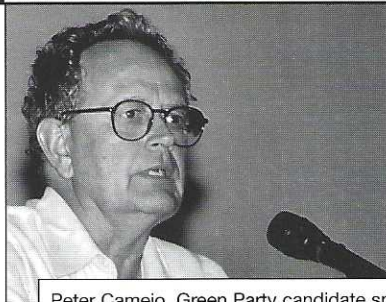
Left to right:
Larry Shoup,
Jeanne-Marie
Rosenmeier,
Peter Camejo,
Laura Wells,
& David
Sheidlower.

All photos this
page by Sanjiv
Kapoor.

As I entered the lobby of Fresno High to register as Fresno County's delegate, I was greeted by soothing music played by two harpists. There were fresh flowers in the lobby and on the stage. Every detail was carefully planned and designed to enhance the experience. Delicious vegan and vegetarian food was provided for breakfast and lunch. During Saturday's lunch, members of Wadama performed, and on Sunday the participants were treated to music by Kenny Hall and friends. I had never previously attended State Plenary and although I was involved in some of the planning I really did not know what to expect. Fresno County was organized fairly recently, and putting on a statewide meeting was quite an ambitious project. However, I heard nothing but positive comments from the other delegates and participants. In fact, the general feedback seemed to indicate that Fresno has set the standard for how such meetings should be organized in the future.



The most important business before the General Assembly involved revisions in the Green Party of California platform, which is published every two years. Two contentious items were the Economics plank and the Nonviolence plank. The delegates from Los Angeles arrived with a mandate from their County Council to vote against the Economics plank no matter how the debate went or how the plank might be revised through "friendly amendments". This upset other delegates, who recognized the hard work that had gone into drafting this section of the platform, which was rather complex and comprehensive. (Those interested in the details of the State platform can visit www.cagreens.org.) A small group of delegates opposed language in this section advocating repeal of Proposition 13, which the opponents felt was a regressive increase in taxes. The presenters initially responded to these concerns with an insensitive comment that mostly "rich people" own homes, but they eventually dropped the controversial Proposition 13 language from this version of the platform. The section was approved by a second vote on Sunday.



Peter Camejo, Green Party candidate speaks in Fresno

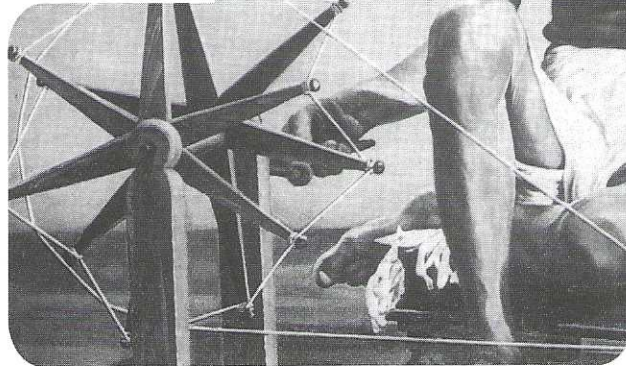
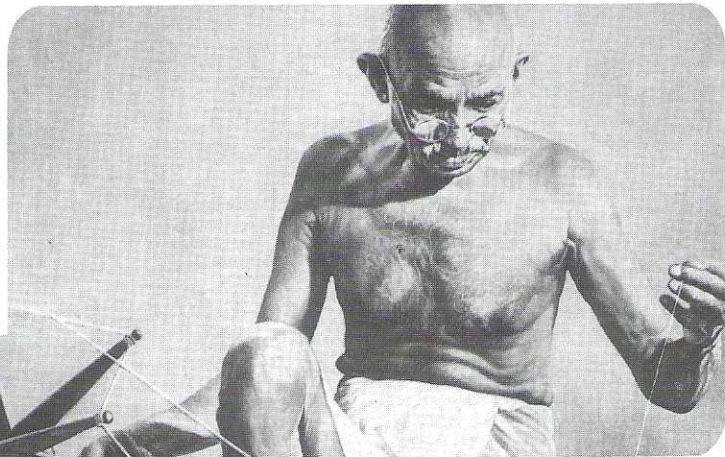
A new plank on "Terrorism" had been added to the Nonviolence section of the platform, which offended just about everybody. The Fresno County Council had previously agreed to oppose this section because of the new plank, which seemed to us to fall into the current rhetorical trap of treating some forms of politically motivated violence differently than others by labeling it "terrorism". For example, the section as drafted made no mention of state sponsored terrorism. Prior to putting the section before the General Assembly, the presenters dropped the entire Terrorism plank, as they had received nothing but negative comments about the addition. With friendly amendments clarifying the party's position on the death penalty (the Green Party is against it) and with some technical updates in the anti-nuclear plank, the Nonviolence section of the platform was approved.

Other business included election of "at large" members of the State Coordinating Committee and approval of California representatives to the newly recognized national party, Green Party USA. It was thrilling to see genuine grassroots democracy in action. The local County Councils are elected by popular vote and can choose delegates to the General Assembly based primarily on the number of registered Greens in the county. (Fresno at present gets one delegate.) Delegates attend the Plenary, and, if there is a quorum, business can be transacted. The Green Party of California makes decisions using a consensus process. A matter is brought before the General Assembly by presenters, with the assistance of facilitators. Clarifying questions are solicited from the delegates and are addressed by the presenters. Then affirmations or concerns are provided by the delegates, to which the presenters once again respond. There is an initial test for consensus, and if there are any unresolved concerns, the matter is put to a vote, with a super majority of 80% required for passage. The process is designed to produce consensus, and actual votes are rare, although at this Plenary, there was plenty of heated debate, and voting was required on two matters.

We are accustomed to politics being an insider's game in this country, but at the Green Party State Plenary, I witnessed a model of how things can be. Here was the State branch of a national party conducting its business in an open and inclusive manner, and I was excited to play a part in the process. I truly felt the power of the people and felt hope for the future of electoral politics, despite the dismal displays of its failures to which we all have been witnesses of late.

Anyone interested in supporting or getting involved with the local Green Party, please contact: Fresno County Green Party, P.O. Box 4501 Fresno, CA 93744 (559) 265-3647 www.cagreens.org/fresno

> richard stone



I became aware of the Center for Nonviolence in October 1992, three months after its opening. I had heard Mona Reed speaking out at meetings during the Gulf War, reiterating, "We need a place, a continuing presence to represent the way of peace." And lo and behold, here it was, almost like wish fulfillment.

Of course, hidden behind the gleam of the "light that has been lit" was the work: Su Kapoor nurturing his dream over years, Jack Welch and Angela Price bringing Visions of Community into play, Howard Hendrix finding the right place for the right price, Gerry Bill and the other founders soliciting money and furnishings while planning the Grand Opening.

When I arrived on the scene--directed there as I looked for support for a couple of projects--I found an idea awaiting incarnation. (I recall one Board member remarking early on, what seems unlikely now, "Why are we wasting all this money on rent when the building's always empty?") My suggestions were adopted, and the Center presented its first programs: a Sunday-afternoon discussion of how violence plays out in our own lives, and Grapes & Figs are in Season, a bitter-sweet memoir written and performed by a Palestinian woman, Emily Schahade. These efforts were modest successes, at least proving that there was an audience for peace-themed events.

In that first year we formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit agency. In January 1993 we also had the first of our annual retreats, and from these early reflective gatherings emerged our Peace

Agenda. This statement of our intentions and principles, along with

the specific policy concerns that these turned us to, still frames our work. To know what we're about, please try to read it on our web site: www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/.

As a tiny band of compatriots, we knew our capacity for action was quite limited. And since we have never had paid executive staff, we knew that what we did would depend on the initiative of individuals--what a particular person envisions and finds sufficient support for. Often the initiator is someone who has an idea and has heard that the Peace Center will help. From this unorthodox methodology has come an eccentric assortment of activities ranging from Alternative Veterans Days to "The Right Stuff from the Left" to "Reverend Dave's Church of 80% Sincerity," a performance piece about living with a disability.

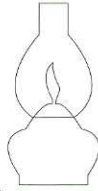
While the Center's activities are founded on the bedrock of educating about nonviolence, our lifeblood is necessarily dollars and cents. We



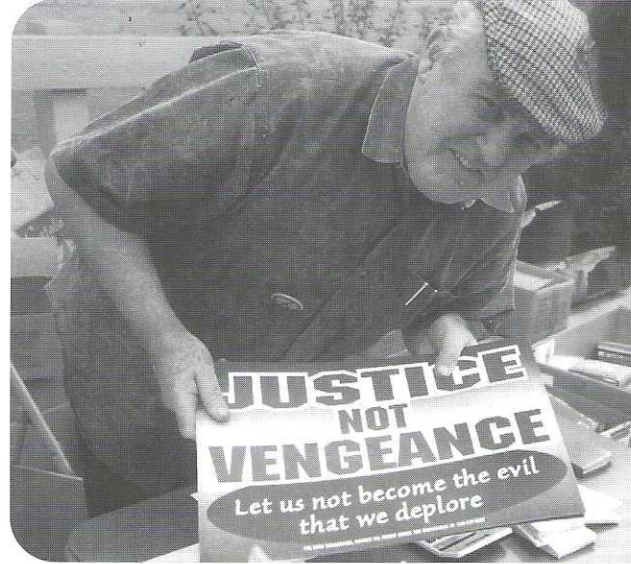
NO VIOLENCE

10 year

ANNIVERSARY



"a lamp has been lit"



are most fortunate to have had, throughout these 10 years, our Development Director Angela Price to keep us solvent. Angela has organized our perennial yard/book sales, produced several editions of Stylish Seconds--the unique fashion show featuring non-models and thrift store clothing, and comes up with an amazing assortment of activities to raise the rent money. (While we're on the subject, much thanks to Chris Campbell and Julie Ann Keller who have given us access to the beautiful space we call home.)

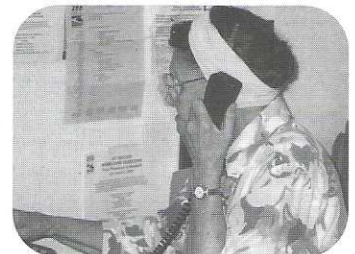
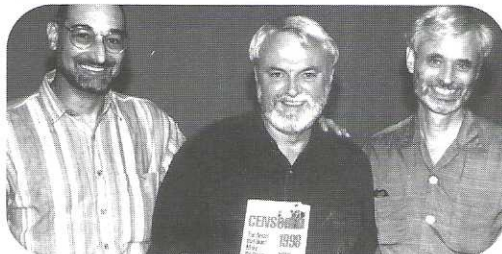
Besides our solo efforts, the Center has formed working relationships with an array of local organizations. Typically these are partnerships formed by overlapping allegiances: an individual who works with both parties asks one to support the other in an activity. These connections range from providing meeting space (currently over 10 groups use the Center at least once a month), to signing on as co-sponsor of an event, to actively co-planning a mutual endeavor, like bringing the S.F. Mime Troupe to Fresno. At the national level, the Center is an affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and regularly serves as host for Pastors for Peace pilgrimages to Cuba and Central America.

We are also proud of our role as incubator of new projects. By providing space and resources, moral support, and advice, we have given

important ideas a chance to find their legs. I think immediately of The Living Room, the AIDS program now self-incorporated with a budget that dwarfs ours. But we were also crucial to the formation of such on-going concerns as the Labor/Community Alliance, the yearly Cesar Chavez celebrations, the annual Earth Day Festival, and PeaceFresno.

Presently, we have turned special attention to educating young people about the possibility of nonviolence. We have undertaken three programs to this end: "Sane Living in a Violent World" underwritten by the Whitney Foundation, Peace Challenge for Youth which has just completed its third cycle, and the newly begun video series Knowledge is Power organized by Vickie and Natasha Fouts. As to the future, we are as always subject to the proposal-bringing of individuals. The best we can say is "Join us, use us, make good things happen."

(Memorabilia from the Center's history will be on display at the Anniversary Party on June 22, and then at the Center during July.)





michael parenti [speAKS


a lamp will be lit saturday, june 22

... with Michael Parenti to mark the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. An internationally known author and lecturer, Parenti is one of the nation's leading political analysts. His highly informative and entertaining books and talks have reached a wide range of audiences in North America and abroad; and it is fitting that Parenti would choose to highlight the Center's diverse and successful history with a special presentation of Terrorism, Globalism, and Conspiracy.

Dinner will be offered from 5:45-7:30 pm for \$25, and a limited number of seats are available for \$10, speaker only from 8:00-9:30 pm. An after-hours show will be hosted in the courtyard by well-known local folk singer Gail Abbott performing both traditional and contemporary favorites. This commemorative event will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2131 North Van Ness in the Tower District. Tickets are available at The Movies, Hart's Haven Bookstore, and from Angela Price at 435-6383.

Parenti received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1962 and has taught at a number of colleges and universities worldwide. He is the author of fifteen books, and his appearances on radio and television talk shows focus on current issues and ideas from his published works. Parenti has said: "We are indeed a nation besieged, not from without but from within, not subverted from below but from above. The moneyed power exercises a near monopoly influence over our political life, over the economy, the state, and the media. Some Americans are astonished to hear of it. Others have had their suspicions, although they may not be quite sure how it all adds up."

Parenti sees the religious terrorism of today a reaction to a US-led globalization process that has impoverished and angered much of the world. He dissects the religious, political, and economic forces behind the attacks, putting them in proper historical perspective. He answers such questions as: why did September 11 happen, and who is really to blame? Who is taking advantage of the crisis, and why do they hate us? The Center's 10th Anniversary promises to be an informative and exciting night. **We hope to see you there!**



WEB and PRINT DESIGN

*breathe in . . .
breathe out . . .
breathe in . . .
. . . etc.*

**FERNANDO GOMEZ
CREATIVE DESIGN**

559-225-5088

POLICE **OVER- SIGHT** NEEDED **NOW!**

> Ellie Bluestein

Central California Criminal Justice

Committee has now met with each of our city council members, with the mayor, and several times with Police Chief Dyer to press for an Independent Police Auditor and Civilian Police Review Board for the city of Fresno. Although most of them do not refute the need for this kind of police oversight, they have not made a move to bring it about. The mayor has called for a greatly increased budget for the police department, including funding for an expensive new helicopter to add to the present fleet of 3 already in use, and for hiring many new officers. But he has not included funding for the IPA and Review Board.

Meanwhile, the use of lethal police force continues to ratchet up, and Chief Dyer predicts that it will probably increase, and never has the internal police investigation found police shootings to be in error, truly the fox and the hen house. It is so important to have an independent investigator look into these affairs. We feel it is imperative to get funding for our IPA proposal into this budget and are planning to contact the council members immediately towards that goal.

You can help by calling your city council members to ask for an Independent Police Auditor and Review Board for Fresno. Every major city in California and around the country already has police oversight systems in place. It is long overdue in Fresno. The number of law suits pending against the city because of police use of excessive force is astounding. Just the cost of these settlements alone would more than cover the budget for an Independent Police Auditor office. Letters to the Bee on this issue would be most welcome. We have an impressive list of organizations and individuals endorsing our proposal and are doing as many presentations as we can to interested organizations. Let us know if you can set us up with a group. Our city council will not act unless they feel there is strong community support for this. Call me at 229-9807 if you can help.

If there is still no response forthcoming from our elected officials, we would like to consider an appeal to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. We need an attorney to help us prepare such an appeal. Any volunteers?

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 6:00 p.m.
Sarah McCardle room of downtown library.**

Partnerships in Understanding

**Consultations with Richard Stone, M.A.
concerning life values and mental health**

**First meeting at no cost
(559) 266-2559**

Do you believe that obtaining sufficient food is a right of every person? (in the midst of plenty)

> Diane Scott

Every year since 1980, with the exception of 2000, the production value of agricultural products in this valley has grown. And we have an abundance of food. But there is also an abundance of hungry children here. Out of 81,058 students enrolled in Fresno Unified School District, 73.3% qualify for free or reduced fee breakfasts and lunches at school. 28,083 (35.4%) of the Fresno population are recipients of the CalWorks program. In 2001, 68,937 Fresno County residents received food stamps.

Why are there so many hungry people? There are many reasons. First, the unemployment rate in Fresno County is twice as high as in other counties. And for those who work, most work in minimum wage jobs (\$6.75/hr which translates into \$270 gross/wk or \$1080 gross/mo), and the cost of living is 106.0. And those who receive financial aid are forced to live on much less. Maximum aid for 2 is \$495 / mo., 3 is \$614, 4 is \$731 and so on up to 10 or more for whom aid is \$1297. For all these families, each month the decision has to be made to either pay the bills (fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment is \$506 or 49% of a minimum wage salary, and we all know how much the PG&E has gone up) or to feed the children.

There are Community Food Banks and a network of food pantries that distribute food to hungry families on a limited basis, and these agencies can feed only 1/3 of the need due to the lack of local funding. The USDA Commodity Program from the Community Food Bank distributes government surplus food once a month in each zip code in town. Although the participants must prove their low income and their place of residence, it is a rather low barrier program. Churches and other religious organizations will occasionally give people food but only for a day or two, as the common belief is that these people are in some sort of emergency situation which they will soon solve and again be able to purchase adequate food supplies.

Growers who used to donate unsalable foods to the community banks now sell it to 99 cent and Dollar stores. There is little urban land for people to grow their own food and little opportunity to participate in Community Gardens. Donations to Community Food Banks have fallen off until now they have only a few days' amount of food in their pantries at one time, where they used to keep a month or even six months' worth of food on hand.

The working poor are not eligible for food stamps if they own a car worth \$4,650 or more. And without reliable transportation they are not able to find and keep jobs. It takes at least three trips to the food stamp office to complete an application and provide the necessary verifications of income, rent, utilities, etc. This again is a hardship for a person who does not have adequate transportation. And, when these people do begin to receive the food stamps, they must every month send a report, over and over again verifying income and living expenses. Monthly reporting creates much extra work for the eligibility workers which leads to many errors being made, and the error rate leads to less money being allocated from the federal government for the program. There are many necessities of life which cannot be purchased with food stamps: detergent, toilet paper, other cleaning products, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, etc. Another problem with this program is that many people are afraid to apply for help for fear of being designated as a "public charge" which designation they believe will lead to their not being able to become legal residents. However, Food Stamps, School Lunches, and the Senior Nutrition Program are non-cash nutrition programs and participants in them will not be labeled as "public charges." Also, many of these people do not understand that if they have a child born in this country, this child is eligible to receive food stamps even though other family members cannot.

When children from low income families are enrolled in school, they can receive free or reduced fee breakfasts, lunches, and snacks. Teachers have found that if the children are not hungry, they are quieter in class, do not fight as much, pay attention better, learn more, and do better on the state tests. These are all advantages for the whole school as well as the child. Children use food fuel sequentially, first for critical organ function such as the child's brain, and then for growth. Without enough nutritious food, there is no brain and social development. This is the story in Fresno County, with so many children growing up in poverty. So continuing proper nutrition is essential to allow that child to learn what is necessary to become a self supporting adult who can make good choices. For these reasons the federal government has begun to fund summer lunch programs for all children ages one to seventeen.

The summer lunch program is operated by the school system, by the Fresno County Employment Opportunities Commission, and also by local sponsors such as Rev. Jim Chatman of the Valley Vineyard Church. He is the third local sponsor for the program. A few sites will be operated by volunteers under the auspices of EOC which provides lunches mostly to children living in the county, while Fresno Unified supplies some of the district schools, the year round ones and the ones who have summer school programs. There are, however, schools which are not open in the summer, so the children in those districts cannot participate in the Summer Lunch Program unless they are able to go to the nearest open school, which could be quite a distance away. These children are in danger of not having their nutritional needs met during the summer.

Fresno Metro Ministry, with supplemental funding from Mazon, and California Food Policy Advocates, as well as a Food Security Grant from the California Health Department, Cancer Prevention, and Nutrition Section of the USDA, has been holding Hunger and Nutrition Forums to study the causes of hunger in the valley and has been asking for volunteers to set up summer lunch programs at some of the sites which are not covered. This is an important project for our community to help see that no child goes hungry during the summer months.

Fresno Metro Ministry will conduct ongoing programs which will focus on ways that we as a community can facilitate the acquisition and delivery of food to all the hungry people in our area. Do you believe that obtaining sufficient food is a right of every person? If you do, you will be interested in helping our people have enough of the right kind of food to eat. Call Fresno Metro Ministry at 485-1416 or the Community Alliance at 233-3978 and become part of the solution.

Jacob M. Weisberg
Attorney at Law

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JUNE 02 PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Saturday, June 1

9:30 AM - Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley is held each 1st Saturday of the month at Margaret Hudson's "The Barn" at 4247 No. Thorne Ave. (Ashlan and Thorne). Call 439-8140 for more information. home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm

Saturday, June 1

10 AM - 6 PM - KFCF Spring Music Festival at the Intermountain Nursery, 30443 N Aubrey Road in Prather.

Saturday, June 1

Gay Pride Parade & Festival in the Tower District.

Saturday, June 1

12 Noon - 1 PM - 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). Defend Free Speech! Protest The Gap's exploitation of workers! Attend this important rally in defense of Worker's Rights and Free Speech. Call (559) 233-3978 for more information. For background information about this struggle: www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm

Saturday, June 1

Latin Jazz Festival at Arte Americas 1630 Van Ness Ave. For more information call 266-2623, email info@arteamericas.org or visit their web site at www.arteamericas.org

Sunday, June 2

Ballet Folklorico and the "Fiesta en el Valle" at Memorial Auditorium. Call 266-2623 for more information.

Sunday, June 2

Chookasian Armenian concert ensemble at Arte Americas 1630 Van Ness Ave. For more information call 266-2623, email info@arteamericas.org or visit their web site at www.arteamericas.org

Monday, June 3

7:30 PM - Monthly meeting of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP). For more information email FresCAMP@yahoo.com or call (559) 439-0280 or (559) 227-6134.

Tuesday, June 4

S. N. Goenka, the internationally known teacher of Vipassana meditation, will speak at the Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 PM. No charge or advance reservation for this event. For more info call 877-3366. This is part of a four-month tour of North America where S.N. Goenka is teaching and speaking about the ancient meditation practice of Vipassana, the method the Buddha taught for 45 years. Vipassana, as taught by S.N. Goenka, is a non-sectarian practice open to everyone regardless of background or belief. www.meditationnow.org

Wednesday, June 5

3:30 PM - Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 FM with your host Pam Whalen from the Community Alliance.

Wednesday, June 5

THE FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE Presents A Monthly Video Series on Social Justice Issues. Video of the Month: A Force More Powerful - Part 1, three nonviolent social movements will be shown at Margaret Hudson's Studio, 4235 N. Thorne Avenue (Between Palm & Fruit). Free Admission. Discussion to follow.

Wednesday, June 5

The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meeting every First Wednesday of the Month at the State Building conference room. For more information call 495-0606 or 439-8140.

Friday, June 7

7 - 9 PM - La Pena Café, the Latin American bohemian night, with a featured musician or poet and an open mike at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness Ave. For more information call 266-2623, email info@arteamericas.org or visit their web site at www.arteamericas.org. La Pena Café is on the first Friday of every month.

Saturday, June 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: www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/ or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).

Saturday, June 8

9 AM - 12 Noon - Join Peace Fresno's Doorknob Hanging Blitz. California Peace Action is providing 10,000 doorknob hangers to be distributed in our area. These hangers contain a post card that residents can sign and mail to local representatives in Congress calling for them to provide leadership toward a foreign policy built on democratic values: the promotion of human rights, ending the threat from nuclear weapons, cooperation with the World Community, and the alleviation of extreme poverty. We will be hanging this literature on doors in Fresno and neighboring communities. This event is happening statewide on June 8 and is being supplemented with media exposure. Join us on Saturday, June 8 at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness, where you can pick up the doorknob hangers from 9:00 AM till noon. For more info, call Vincent Lavery at 439-0821 or the Center at 23-PEACE.

Monday, June 10

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Board Meeting open to all at 3747 Circle Drive. Call 229-9661 for directions or more information.

Tuesday, June 11

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights meets the first Tuesday of every month at 328 N. Fresno Street. For more information call (559) 498-6033 or email SJVCoalition@aol.com

Wednesday, June 12

12 Noon - 'Body and Soul' - Dr. Glovicell Rowland from Pasadena Church of God reaches the low income African American with community access to healthy food and a physical activity program. The message from the pulpit has addressed the high rate of hypertension and diabetes in the African American population and what changes can be made to make the whole community healthier. The church has changed from donuts to fruits and vegeta-

bles at coffee hour and started a daily walking group focused on safe venues for physical activity. Dr. Rowland has introduced a training for congregations to use to encourage healthy living and is active with the Pasadena Food Policy Council. She has helped implement the American Cancer Society's National Body and Soul Program. This event is sponsored by Fresno Metro Ministry and is a part of the Community Hunger and Nutrition Forum and is being held at the Trinity Lutheran Church 3973 N. Cedar Avenue. For more information call 485-1416.

Wednesday, June 12

3:30 PM - Fresno Center For Nonviolence radio show on KFCF, 88.1 FM. Vincent Lavery hosts the FCNV radio show on the second Wednesday of each month.

Thursday, June 13

6 - 8 PM - Metamorphosis night of Spoken Word, music and theater performances at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness (2nd Thursday of every month). Call 266-2623 for more information.

Thursday, June 13

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 www.greens.org/cal/fresno

Friday, June 14

7 PM reception, 8 PM film showing. Fresno Filmworks has moved its base of operations to the Tower Theater beginning in June. This will allow them to begin showing films in the 35MM format which should improve picture and audio quality dramatically. Their first presentation at the Tower will be a film by Agnes Jaoui, "The Taste of Others."

Saturday, June 15

Deadline for submissions to the July 2002 issue of the Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to AllianceEditor@attbi.com

Sunday, June 16

11:30 AM El Porvenir is a Sacramento-based nonprofit which works with rural Nicaraguan communities to build clean water wells, communal washing facilities, latrines and now also reforestation projects. Stacie Jonas and Mike Hennessey, who are the U.S. staff people in Nicaragua (the other 7, including the coordinator, are Nicaraguan) will speak in Fresno at the College Community Congregational Church. For more information email eptour@hotmail.com or visit the El Porvenir web site at: www.elporvenir.org

Monday, June 17

NOW - National Organization for Women will hold their monthly meeting at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness (south of Olive). For more information call 252-7569 or email lrapp2@juno.com

Tuesday, June 18

7:00 PM - Stonewall Democrats will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Express Lounge, 3075 N. Maroa (just south of Shields). Contact Jay Hubbell at (559)292-4905 or e-mail hubbell@online.no or visit the website www.mangen.com/stonewall/

Wednesday, June 19

3:30 PM - STIR IT UP on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring the 'Green Scene' hosted by the Fresno County Green Party. This program focuses on Green values, including ecological wisdom, social justice and grass roots democracy.

Wednesday, June 19

Central California Criminal Justice Committee is meeting at the Sarah McCordle Room in the downtown Fresno library. With all of the recent police shootings, an independent police review board is needed NOW MORE THAN EVER.

Thursday, June 20

7:30 - 9:30 AM - Community Health Care Roundtable at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 N. Cedar Avenue, Fresno. Continental breakfast provided. No cost. Call 485-1416 for program information. Reservations not required.

Thursday, June 20

6 - 8 PM - Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings (every third Thursday) Are you on your bike commuting or recreating around Fresno but don't get no respect out on the dirty streets? Wish we had more bike lanes and parking in town? Wish it were safer to bike around town with your family? Come join the newly formed bike coalition. We are at the point where we need ideas and energy for new projects and directions. NEW MEETING LOCATION: Cafe Mia, 608 E. Weldon Across from Fresno High (Corner of Weldon and Van Ness Ave).

Thursday, June 20

7:30 PM - Death Penalty Focus regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: (559) 255-9492 maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net

Friday, June 21

5:00 PM - "It's a Queer Thang" on KFCF 88.1 FM. Hosted by Jeff Robinson, this program discusses Gay and Lesbian issues.

Friday, June 21

7:30 PM - The Baha'i lecture series, Essential Prerequisites For Peace: Promoting Justice, Unity, Equality of Women & Men, and Preventing Racism will be held at the Fresno Baha'i Center 2240 No. Angus St. For more information call the Baha'i Center at 237-4862.

Saturday, June 22

The City of Fresno Human Relations Commission will present a European Cultural Festival. This is the first in a series of three festivals that will feature Art, Music, Dance, and Food. Upcoming festivals include the Asian Festival on July 13 and the Afro/Latino Festival on August 10. All of the festivals will be held downtown at the Fresno Galleria - Kern & M Street to Van Ness. For more information call 498-1646.

Saturday, June 22

6:30 PM - Fresno Center for Nonviolence 10th Anniversary Dinner and Gala. Keynote address: Michael Parenti, renowned author and political analyst, will speak on "Terrorism, Globalism and Conspiracy." Books available for purchase; book signing will follow program. First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Avenue. Doors open 5:45 PM. Dinner 6:30. Following Mr. Parenti's talk, a program of folk music by Gail Abbott in the patio. Tabling by organizations. Tickets: \$25 for dinner and entire program; \$10 for talk and entertainment only. Tickets available from: The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness, Hart's Haven book store, 950 N. Van Ness, or by phone from Angela Price, 435-6383.

Monday, June 24

6:30 PM - Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.) meeting at 985 N Van Ness. For more information call (559) 445-0876 or email vmfou1@sierratel.com

Wednesday, June 26

3:30 PM - "Stir It Up" WILPF-style with your host Ellie Bluestein on KFCF 88.1 FM.

Thursday, June 27

6:00 - 7:30 PM - Fresno Metro Ministry informal community reception at Gazebo Gardens, at Shields and North Van Ness Blvd., Fresno. Community friends of Metro Ministry and of community social justice invited. Call 485-1416 for reservations. No charge.

Friday, June 28

Street Heat on KFCF 88.1 FM with your hosts Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes featuring Labor and Community activists.

Tuesday, July 1

Elizabeth Plourde, author of **HYSTERECTOMY AND OVARY REMOVAL: WHAT WOMEN NEED TO KNOW**, will speak at the next Fresno NOW meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Hart's Haven Bookstore, 950 Van Ness (south of Olive) Info: 264-2656

ONGOING ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

If you'd like to volunteer with Food Not Bombs on Sunday, we meet (every Sunday, rain or shine) at the Big Red Church on Echo Avenue at 1:30 pm. They have a great kitchen with stainless steel counters and everything. At about 2:45 we drive the meal downtown to the Courthouse on Van Ness Avenue. The meal is served in recycled plastic bowls on the right side of the main entrance to the Courthouse at the Statue of Martin Luther King Jr. Our meal lasts from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information see their web site at: www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/

Monday - Friday

Democracy Now! on radio KFCF 88.1 FM. Amy Goodman, award-winning veteran journalist, appropriately subtitled this show "The Exception to the Rule" as the program covers news of the nation and world from a progressive viewpoint, with focus on the history and economics of workers, women and people of color around the world.

Every Tuesday

6 - 7 PM - United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) meeting in Room 220 AT CSUF. Group meets every Tuesday when school is in session. For more information contact Gabrielle Kirkland at telgabb@yahoo.com

Every Tuesday

Peace Fresno Committee weekly anti-war meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world - come to this meeting! For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno visit their web site at: www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno

Every Tuesday and Thursday

7-9 PM - The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets) each Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. Please call Liza Apper at 559-229-6410 for additional information.

Every Wednesday

7:30 AM - David Bacon's Labor Journal on KFCF 88.1 FM. David Bacon's experience as a union organizer and his world-wide contacts in the labor community make him uniquely qualified as a journalist specializing in issues and concerns of working people. He covers a broad range of labor news and issues locally, nationally and globally. See David's web site at: www.igc.org/dbacon/

Every Wednesday

7:00 PM - "Nuestro Foro" on KFCF 88.1 FM. A public affairs program in Spanish providing news and information to the Valley's Latino population.

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

5:30 PM - STUDENT ACTION FRONT meets at Fresno City College on the lawn on the Weldon/ Van Ness side of campus, near the abandoned administration building. For more information call 465-1839, studentactionfront@yahoo.com or see their web site at www.geocities.com/nocellat/studentactionfront.html

Every Friday

1 - 3 PM - Radio Grito is on the air (in Spanish) bringing you Community Radio at its finest.

Listen on KBIF 900 AM as Proyecto Campesino brings you news and information about our valley. Call ins are welcome. Have something you want people to know about? Call them up and be a guest. For more information call (559) 733-4844.

Every Friday

4:30 PM - A demonstration for peace will gather at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday until the crisis is over. For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223) and press *3. For more information about Peace Fresno email them at peacefresno@oddpst.com or visit their web site at: www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno

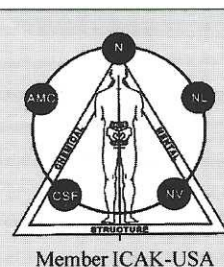
Every Friday

4:30 - 5:30 PM - A demonstration for peace will gather at the NW corner of Walnut and Mooney in Visalia every Friday until the crisis is over. Bring signs for peace and smiles. For more information contact Denise at 636-0514.

Every Saturday

1-2 PM - Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The new location for cooking on Saturday is Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 East Barstow Ave. between First and Cedar starting at 9AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Visit their web site at: www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/

For up to the minute information about what is happening in Fresno's progressive community, join the 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 AllianceEditor@attbi.com and saying you would like to subscribe to this service.



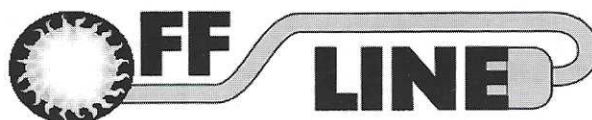
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- ♦ Natural Health Care
- ♦ Applied Kinesiology
- ♦ Nutrition
- ♦ Chiropractic

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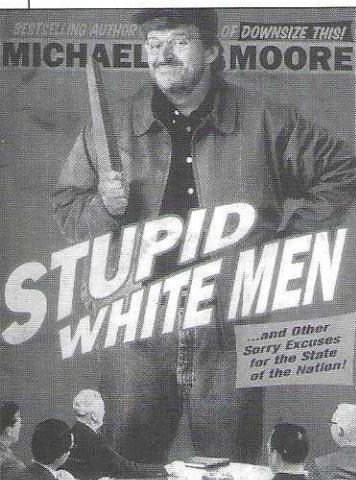


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STUPID WHITE MEN

By: Michael Moore
Regan Books

review by: Pam Whalen

Michael Moore has done it again. He cuts right through the bullshit with that great analytical machete - working class humor. He did it in his movies *Roger and Me*, *The Big One*, and his book *Down Size This!* He proves that the truth can not only make us free but it can make us laugh.

This time he has written a self-help book for all of us who are victims of - you fill in the blank ____ corporations, the Democratic Party, the Supreme Court, Capitalism. In other words "Stupid White Men."

Here is some practical advice. Have you been suffering a chronic lack of democracy, justice and a living wage? How can you get your country back, save your planet, resolve the gender wars, and abolish racism? For example, Moore advises women on how to survive without men:

1. Visit a sperm bank or adoption agency.
2. Learn where to buy a stepladder.
3. (Well, use your imagination!)

In addition to practical advice, Moore ponders some of the big philosophical questions such as "Are Democrats just Republicans in Bad suits" and he exhorts us to get off the sofa and into the streets, on the ballot, into the union and everywhere else to fight the good fight for our country, our planet, and our lives.

Get this book. Read it. Laugh out loud. And get back to work with a little more joy in your heart and spring in your step.

Fresno Filmworks Moves to Tower Theater

> Dixie Salazar

Due to technical difficulties at the Bonner Auditorium, Fresno Filmworks will now be showing films at the Tower Theater as of June 14th when "The Taste of Others" makes its Fresno debut.

The box office will open at 6:30 for ticket sales, and the film will be shown at 8:00 p.m. with a reception / social hour at 7:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale at the Tower Theater beginning May 20, so get your tickets early since other Filmworks offerings have sold out before the night of the showing. "The Taste of Others" is a "witty...and incisive human comedy... about a married businessman who attends the theater and falls madly in love with the leading actress."

The highly acclaimed "Monsoon Wedding" has been booked for August, but July's offering is still being negotiated. Tickets are \$8.50 and \$6.50 for seniors and students.

A better quality and choice of films is one of the benefits of the move to the Tower since we will be able to use 35 millimeter projection, but our costs will also increase, so come support independent film in Fresno and enjoy the movie.

M u L t i c u l t u r a l Ethnic Festival

The City of Fresno, Human Relations Commission will launch its first Annual Multicultural Ethnic Festival Series. The designated dates for this series are: June 22 European Festival, July 13 Asian Festival and August 10 African-American / Latino/ Native American Festival. The times for all the Festivals will be from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM. (Please note that these dates are just the beginning of many dates throughout the coming years.)

On Saturday, June 22, 2002 the celebration of the European Festival will combine themes from European cultures such as Spain, Ireland, Italy, Armenia, Portugal, Germany, the Middle Eastern cultures, and more.

Saturday, July 13 will be celebrating the Asian Cultures of Japan, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. On Saturday, August 10, 2002 the African-American, Latino, and Native American cultures are combining 3 distinct cultures to be recognized together. Next year we will be able to celebrate these cultures separately, however, this year we will take advantage of this special opportunity to emphasize the African American, Latino American and the Native American cultures in their own rights. The influences of these cultures are prevalent everywhere in the City of Fresno. Along with these celebrations we want to recognize the indigenous cultures and tribes of our Native American communities. Our Native American culture shares a distinctive history right here in our Central Valley and through contributions to art, music, dance and food.

Our long-term goal is to dedicate one weekend per month to these cultures from spring through fall. Through this opportunity we want to educate our community about the diverse cultures that thrive here in the Valley and continue to encourage unity and diversity in the city of Fresno. Through this tribute we can accomplish the universal understanding of respect and appreciation for each other, our communities, and our city. So please join us on an adventure around the world right here in our city and experience the taste, the sound, and the common ground we all share through our food, arts & crafts, music, and dance.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or are interested in participating as a sponsor, vendor or as an entertainer please call The City of Fresno, Human Relations Office at 498-1646 or 498-4594.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno



Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

*Welcomes you, whoever you are
and whomever you call family, our doors are open.*

Sermon Topics:

- June 2 - It's Never Too Late to Think
- June 9 - Getting to Yes by Saying No
- June 16 - Lessons from Fatherhood
- June 23 - 1st Summer Service- 9:30 ONLY.
Armin Biberthaler In Song
- June 30 - Report from UU General Assembly
- 9:30 only

Sunday Services & Church School 9:15 and 11:00am
4144 N. Millbrook Fresno, CA 93726
559.227.6164

Womens International League for Peace and Freedom

June WILPF Events Calendar

Saturday, June 1, WILPF participation in Gay Pride Parade

Monday, June 10 at 7 P.M., 3747 Circle Drive West Regular membership meeting to elect new officers. Nominations will be taken from the floor. (See slate of nominated candidates elsewhere on this page.) Call Carol at 229-9661 for info.

Wednesday, June 26 at 3:30 P.M. "Stir It Up" WILPF style on KFCF 88.1

NOMINATED OFFICERS FOR 2002-2003

The nominating committee presents the following names for election at our June meeting:

Secretary: Jan Slagter and Zay Guffy-Bill

Treasurer: Lauralee Crain Carbone

Membership: Julie Young-Andrews

Literature: Laura Fultz

Legislative: Ellie Bluestein

Telephone Tree: Nora DeWitt

Astute readers will notice that we still need nominations for Coordinator(s), Program Chair, Historian and Publicity. If you are interested in any of these offices, come to the June meeting and launch a campaign!

New Members Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who came to the new member luncheon on May 4. The potluck lunch was delicious (lots of recipe ideas for a possible upcoming Fresno WILPF cookbook)! We had a nice mix of long time, new and prospective members. Members shared with us their experiences as WILPFers. It was fascinating and inspiring to hear the tales and adventures of some of our long time members as well as to find out what brings new members in search of a group like WILPF. Great food, wonderful company and beautiful weather all contributed to a wonderful afternoon.

Contributed by Julie Young-Andrews, Membership Chair (and superb hostess!)

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to the following who have recently joined our group of "dangerous women": Sylvia deHoop, Gloria Hernandez, Ednie Garrison, Cynthia Loweburg, Jenniemarie Quinn, Barbara Price, Joann Royce Griffin, and Linda and Harold Sadler.

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER WILPF COOKBOOK!!!!

While attending the latest Membership Luncheon (May 4, 2002) talk turned to the wonderful WILPF cookbook that was produced some years ago. I want to get another one together. It's time, isn't it? Being a teacher, I have the summers off and I would love to have this as a project during those hot, hazy months. Here's what you do: send me your most favorite, your most emotionally fulfilling recipe. Include an anecdote, a poem, anything you want to go with it. Of course, being a WILPF cookbook, the theme is social and community activism, so you can lean your creativity that way if you'd like. Include a brief bio, so we all can acquaint or reacquaint ourselves with each other. Send the recipes to Zay Guffy-Bill, 708 E. Beverly Way, Fresno, CA 93704-4805 or zaygb@earthlink.net Let's set a final date of September 1, 2002.

Contributed by Zay Guffy-Bill, Co-Coordinator

Legislative Report

Leonard Peltier's next parole hearing has been scheduled for July 1. He served more than 26 years for the death of two FBI agents, a crime he has steadfastly denied. He has been a model prisoner and has continued to support Native American youth through the sale of his paintings and other projects. He is now 57, in very poor health, and is a nonviolent and peaceful man, of no risk to anyone. Please urge that he be paroled with a letter to: United States Parole Commission, 5550 Friendship Boulevard, 420, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-7286. His time is running out!

For the first time the UN held a forum where 400 young people from all the world were invited to speak up about their concerns, and they were eloquent, calling for investment in education, health, an end to hunger, to exploitation of young people and for

using them to fight wars. While their nations' representatives praised the message of the youth and pledged attention to their needs, the U.S. Delegate urged sexual abstinence for people. Meanwhile the House has passed a \$383 billion defense bill. Write to President Bush and to our Senators and Congress people urging them to commit our government to addressing the needs of young people all over the world instead of building more and more weapons with which to destroy us. While we are still busy rounding up terrorists in Afghanistan, we have been slow in providing the material aid that was promised to rebuild the country that we helped devastate. Urge our Congress people to immediately send aid that we have promised.

Contributed by Ellie Bluestein, Legislative Chair

Summer Break

Teachers aren't the only ones taking a summer break — so is the Fresno Branch of WILPF. So this June 10 meeting will be the last one until September 9, a place to be announced in the August Community Alliance.

South Valley Connection

For those of you living in the South Valley, there is a new Branch meeting in Exeter. Contact Klara East (592-4001) for more information.

Important Addresses

President Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20500
E-mail President Bush at president@whitehouse.gov Find the mailing and e-mail addresses of your Congressional Representatives website at www.house.gov or by visiting the U.S. Senate website: www.senate.gov

IF YOU'RE A WILPF MEMBER, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION YOU HAVE AND WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHER MEMBERS.

CALL OR EMAIL CAROL AT 559.225.9661

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got air?

Clearing the Air: the **GOOD**, the **BAD**, and the **UGLY**

> Kevin Hall

The valley's air pollution crisis continues to command lots of attention but little action. The only signs of progress last month came as the result of citizen efforts. Elected officials find themselves overwhelmed by their predecessors' failures. Bureaucrats are buckling under the pressure to change the entrenched systems they've erected. Meanwhile, people are dying.

Loophole Loss. The valley-wide coalition of community, health and environmental groups scored a significant victory in mid-May when they prevailed in a lawsuit against the federal EPA. For 26 years the feds have failed to challenge an illegal California law exempting farms from the Clean Air Act. No other such exemption for any industry anywhere in the country exists. In a settlement with the coalition, EPA has given the state until Aug. 15 to repeal the law, otherwise sanctions on businesses will begin in Nov. 2003 and all highway dollars frozen in May 2004. A political fix engineered by congressman Dooley and senator Feinstein to continue the exemption through the Farm Bill failed in early May thanks to the vigilance of community based organizations such as the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice and the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment. Heroes all.

Extreme Air. The valley air board next meets on June 20 in Fresno to discuss voluntarily seeking a bump-up from severe to extreme status for nonattainment of the federal ozone standard. The board hopes to push back the deadline for achieving the weakest air quality standard on the books from 2005 to 2010. Five more years of death and disease. For more information, call the air district at (559) 230-6000 or visit valleyair.org.

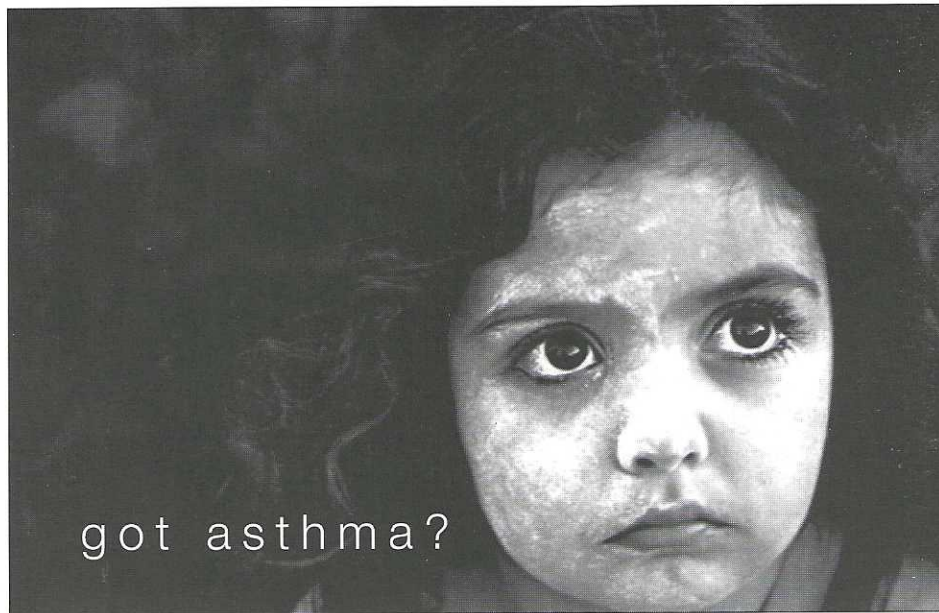
Take a Big Sip. At its May meeting the valley air board failed to submit the required 2005 attainment plan for ozone. This plan is supposed to be part of the State Implementation Plan or SIP. Think of the SIP as a contract between citizens and our elected officials. In it they commit to a five-year plan for reducing air pollution. Well, all previous contracts have been broken, and none now exists. Earlier this year the air board canceled its contract on particulate matter, and this month it refused to sign onto one for ozone. The board has effectively conceded that valley residents have never had a legal, workable attainment plan for ozone or particulate matter...ever.

Job Loss. The never-ending refrain from the DOA boys (developers, oil and ag) is that any type of regulation should be avoided because of potential job losses. Well, as it turns out, many jobs are being lost. A study released in mid-May by the Environmental Working Group revealed that more than 1,200 people lose their jobs every year in the San Joaquin Valley because of air pollution. Technically, these people die, but perhaps the forces of DOA will at least be forced to calculate these deaths as lost jobs.

Half Measure. Fresno County's transportation sales tax, Measure C, appears headed for the November ballot. The plan's backers are huffing loudly about air pollution and puffing falsely that their Measure C is a solution. The League of Women Voter's alternative proposal, which has the support of the Sierra Club, Fresno ADA Advisory Council, Fresno

Area Congregations Together, FACETS, and others, would limit freeway expansion funding to less than 7 percent of the total pie rather than 45 percent, guarantee funds for road repair and invest heavily in alternative transportation. At a presentation to the board of supervisors in early May, League co-president Mary Savala requested that the board put both plans on the ballot to give voters a real choice.

(Kevin Hall is the Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter's transportation, air quality and global warming chair.)



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