

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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MAY DAY IN FRESNO



Several thousand people participated in the Immigrant Rights march in downtown Fresno, held on May 1. Photo by Mike Rhodes

“We Are Workers, Not Criminals”

By David Bacon • May 1, 2008

In the big immigrant marches that swept the country on May Day in 2006 and 2007, one sign said it all: “We are Workers, not Criminals!” Often it was held in the calloused hands of men and women who looked as though they’d just come from work in a factory, cleaning an office building, or picking grapes.

The sign stated an obvious truth. Millions of people have come to this country to work, not to break its laws. Some have come with visas, and others without them. But they are all contributors to the society they’ve found here, not people who mean it harm. Again this May Day, immigrant workers filled the streets, making the same point.

Yet today the Federal government is taking actions that make holding a job a criminal act. Some states and local communities, seeing a green light from the Department of Homeland Security, are passing measures that go even further. These actions need a reality check.

Last summer, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff proposed a rule requiring employers to fire any worker who couldn’t correct a mismatch between

the Social Security number they’d provided their employer, and the SSA database. The regulation assumes those workers have no valid immigration visa, and therefore no valid Social Security number.

With 12 million people living in the U.S. without legal immigration status, the regulation would lead to massive firings, bringing many industries and businesses to a halt. Citizens and legal visa holders would be swept up as well, since the Social Security database is often inaccurate.

Under Chertoff the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement has conducted sweeping workplace raids, arresting and deporting thousands of workers. Many have been charged with an additional crime - identity theft - because they used a Social Security number belonging to someone else to get a job. Yet workers us-

Continued on page 5



On May Day immigrants and their supporters marched through the streets of San Francisco and Fresno. Marchers protested a growing wave of raids and deportations, and efforts by the Federal government to force employers to fire workers for lack of immigration visas. They called for amnesty -- permanent residence visas which would give the undocumented immediate legal status and rights -- and equality -- opposing second-class status as temporary workers.

Photo by David Bacon

JUNE 2008

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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

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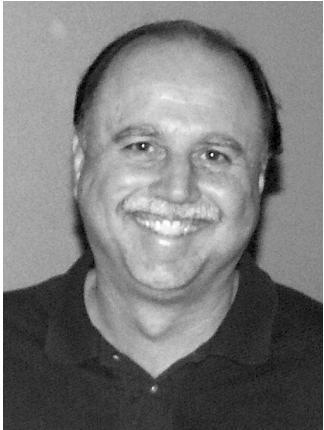
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From the Editor



Publishing an alternative/independent monthly newspaper in Fresno can be challenging. It can be rewarding too. I'm constantly amazed at how many things are happening in this community that go un-reported in the corporate media. Then there are the stories that are reported by the corporate media, but they completely fail to get the

story right. Like, when The Fresno Bee reported on the attacks against the homeless in June of 2006 - the headline was "Cleaning house Fresno crews descend on downtown area to tidy up a haven for homeless." That was their spin the day after City of Fresno crews bulldozed a homeless encampment.

That attack on the homeless led to a lawsuit against the City of Fresno that resulted in a recent ruling that the city was violating homeless peoples rights. Left to decide is how much the city will compensate the homeless for their loss and for violating their civil liberties.

The Community Alliance has had ongoing and in-depth coverage about Fresno's homeless population and has focused a bright light on this city's embarrassing attacks on the homeless. That coverage has led to changes in city policy that are leading to a Housing First model that we hope will provide the homeless with decent and affordable housing. Without a watch dog, like the Community Alliance, the plight of the homeless would have been unseen by most and the barbaric policy would have undoubtedly continued. You can read about the latest chapter in the homeless story on page 9. The trial, to determine compensation for the homeless will be held in Federal Court (O & Tulare Street in Fresno) starting June 10.

If you have been reading the Community Alliance newspaper for a while, you know that we have extensive coverage about peace, social, and economic justice issues. Sometimes we are the only publication covering local stories of interest to the progressive community. The fact that the local daily paper does not cover these events (or gets the story completely

wrong) increases our value to our readers. It could also be why McClatchy, the corporate owner of The Fresno Bee, has lost readership and about 80% of its stock valuation in the last 3 years. That is a huge loss, but not unique in the newspaper industry of today. We see this as an opportunity for alternative/independent publications like the Community Alliance to fill the void left by corporate media's failure to provide readers with the news they want and need to read.

One of the challenges of printing this monthly newspaper is that there is no way we can provide you with all the news you need to know. The *Community Alliance* can give you more in-depth stories and analysis about what is going on in your community and fortunately, there are other local sources of news and information where you can go to get the news you need.

The best source for a progressive spin on news and information is KFCF 88.1 FM. They have evening news at 6 PM and you can hear the award winning Democracy Now! show (M-F) at 6 and 9 AM. You can also watch DN on TV channel 49 every evening (M-F) at 6 PM. KFCF is also talking about starting a local news show - please encourage them to do that when you subscribe or donate. Other local sources for non-corporate news and information are the Undercurrent (monthly newspaper) and The Community Link (a monthly paper focusing on the interests of the Gay/Lesbian community). Online, check out www.indymedia.org/centralvalley for news about the Central Valley which is updated daily. There you will find articles, photos, audio, and videos.

One of the strategies of newspapers (both corporate and alternative) is to increase their presence online. That makes sense because online is where a lot of young people get their news. A reminder to our newspaper readers - the Community Alliance does have a website, see: www.fresnoalliance.com/home . There you will find copies (in .pdf format) of our back issues, the Peace and Social Justice calendar (updated weekly), a complete list of progressive community groups, and archives on numerous community issues (homelessness, community media, free speech, etc).

The Community Alliance is a largely volunteer driven organization. We could not survive without the writers, distributors, proof readers, and volunteers who work on all aspects of the paper. If you have time and an interest in helping alternative /independent media survive, call me at (559) 978-4502 and let me know how you would like to help

IN THIS ISSUE:

May Day in Fresno - Supporting Immigrant Rights	Page 1
From the Editor	Page 2
Letters to the Editor	Page 2 & 3
What We Say Goes in Pakistan	Page 4
Moving Fresno in a more Progressive Direction	Page 5
Defending your Civil Liberties	Page 7
Seeking Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation	Page 7
Shake Down - Hate Filled Retaliation	Page 8
Homeless Lawsuit Victory	Page 9
Reflections of Mike Rhodes	Page 10
Grassroots Profile	Page 11
Gay Pride Section	Pages 12 - 15
Word on the Street	Page 16
No Peace, No Work	Page 18
Solidarity, Not Charity	Page 19
KFCF 88.1 FM Streaming Archives	Page 19
Peace and Social Justice Calendar	Pages 20 & 21
Progressive Community Groups in Fresno	Pages 22 & 23
Opinion and Analysis from the Grassroots	Page 24
MAPA Endorsements	Page 26
Stonewall Democrat Endorsements	Page 26
Hardly a Coincidence	Page 26

Quote of the Month

"The heart of progressive-liberal values is simple: empathy (caring about and for people) and responsibility (acting responsibly on that empathy)."
— George Lakoff

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Letters to the Editor

There are no earthly awards to bestow on the humanist efforts of Alvin Valeriano and Jean Chipp for the years of dedication to Fresno's Food Not Bombs. I was not aware that both are leaving the area for the Philippines and New York until reading such in your publication. I wish them well and hopefully they will establish Food Not Bomb branches in their new environments. Hunger and homelessness are worldwide and such organizers as Alvin and Jean are desperately needed in every community and village. Go in peace and always in love.

Raymond Ensher

The May issue of *Community Alliance* is splendid! From the outrageous Modest Proposal on page one, to the honest and thoughtful street comments on the foreclosure crisis on the back, great stuff. I especially loved David Roy's piece on progressive Christianity ("when they called Jesus 'Lord,' it was in defiance of Caesar"), Professor Kensinger's reflections on Emma Goldman ("be careful when you commit revolutionary violence—you may play into the hands of the Empire"), and Richard Stone's profile of "conservative Catholic progressive" Bill Simon (I'm one of those).

Do people in Fresno appreciate that your paper is Free? It's worth a fortune, to the thoughtful folks down there. Please keep doing what you're doing!

John Morearty, Ph.D., associate editor for war and peace of Connections in San Joaquin County (www.pjnsjc.org).

Continued on page 3

There are times when public officials become victims of the “mis” factor in the media - misquoted, misrepresented, or misunderstood. I’m writing because I’ve been mis’ed. In the May 2008 edition of *Community Alliance*, Dan Waterhouse’s column: “Queer Eye, City Council Members Running for Fresno Mayor Mostly A Waste of Time for Voters” states “...Fresno County Supervisor Henry Perea, came out in support of gay marriage several years ago...” The fact of the matter is that I never have made any such declaration of support. Upon reading this misinformation in *Community Alliance*, I immediately called and spoke with editor Mike Rhodes. In our discussion, I found out from Mr. Rhodes that the publication does not have time to do proper fact checking and relies on its guest writers to do their own. This is unfortunate, because a simple fact check would have kept this misinformation from going to print. Wanting to set the record straight with the columnist, I asked Mr. Rhodes to have Mr. Waterhouse call me. I was later informed that Mr. Waterhouse does not want to talk to me, which was a bit disheartening. At any rate, Mr. Rhodes gave me the opportunity to submit a statement regarding the issue, and I appreciate his and the *Community Alliance*’s willingness to set the record straight.

Henry R. Perea
Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors

A Clarification
By Dan Waterhouse
“Queer Eye....”

Fresno county supervisor Henry Perea has complained that, in my May column, I misrepresented his position on same-sex marriage.

Then city council member Perea met with prominent members of Fresno’s queer community on November 1, 2001 at a nightclub on Maroa Avenue. The meeting was held at Perea’s request. At the time, Perea was planning a run against incumbent State Assembly member Sarah Reyes in the 2002 Democratic primary.

I have a clear memory of the meeting, and notes I took at the time confirm what I recall. The question of same-sex marriage was raised by several people. While he did not make an explicit statement, “I support same-sex marriage,” he did make several comments that implied support.

When first asked where he stood on marriage, he replied marriage was a “right.” Later in the meeting, he said that, “on the surface”, allowing same-sex marriage made sense, but he would have to see how any legislation was written. He also commented that committed gay relationships were equal to heterosexual marriages.

Letters to the Editor in response to Boston Woodard’s Zip Gun article in the May issue:

Fuck those prisoners! You give them a platform to blast those people that have to work in that environment.

Don’t forget who the Convicted prisoners are! Good for nothing pieces of shit that suck off the system.

Where do you think they hide their shit? In the boxes, extra clothing, and other stuff they pile up in their cell.

And yes I’m sure inmate visitors bring in contraband to the prison, they’re crooks too! If you want to change things why don’t you get the courage to apply and get a job in the prison system as a public servant? And tell all your friends and family to do the same, I’m sure they will make a difference.

Dave
Whybefaded@aol.com

Nice Article Boston. This is a prime example of why the taxpayers are wasting money on the whole concept of prison. There is no evidence anywhere that locking people in cages and treating them worse than animals does one thing to benefit society. Let’s hope the families learn to organize shortly so that we can force changes via initiatives and incredible noise at the news sites. The prisoners cannot fight for themselves, others must do it.

Michael
mikewestmoreland@aol.com
<http://www.1union1.com>

Blame it on the Visitor. Great article. Prisons always want to blame it on the visitors! It is the guards who bring all the contraband in the prisons. Why don’t they check the guards like they do the visitors. The visitors just want a peaceful visit with their loved one.

Rocky

The public deserves to hear the truth. Hopefully Boston, the truth will someday be heard. I pray, sooner than later. The families of the inmates know the truth, the prisoners know the truth. Thank you for writing about the truth. On behalf of us all. We owe you our support and gratitude.

Buchanan

Thank you Boston. This is happening at SATF also and the “unofficial modified” programs and “emergency counts” are significantly on the rise. When will the California taxpayers get a clue? Are they really concerned about education and social programs whose budget are cut to fund this Hunter Green monster CDC (do not use the R- there is NO rehabilitation). Officers are not accountable to management and the state by virtue of their obscene union contract...

California - you got what you wanted, and if you want things to change you have to change the way that CDC is allowed to do business. They are pushing men and women up against the wall and there will be dire consequences to all. Our loved ones were locked up as punishment, they are not sent to prison to be punished and brutalized by their captures...

If you are lucky one who does not have someone you care about in a facility, you better knock on wood, because if they have their way - it’s going to continue to grow. Otherwise - stick your head back in the sand and quit complaining about how the state spends YOUR tax dollars!

Trudaughter

All I can say is this is a perfect example of the California Prison system corrections officers corruption that go on every day and every minute. Think about it like this. If these CO’s are capable of doing these type of things you can just imagine the abuses, tortures and set ups that these do on a regular basis. I know there are a lot of good CO’s but the hand full at every prison make it bad for all others putting the safety of all in jeopardy.. Salinas valley State prison is another perfect example of the abuse and torture that goes on all of the time (CO’s gang known as the Green wall it’s a fact and

has been documented) Not only the prison guards CO’s are corrupted and are made up of gangs The Lynwood Sheriffs had their own lil gang known as the Knights. Look it up people and I can tell you the Lynwood Sheriffs haven’t changed patrolling all of the city of Compton putting people against one another... too much to say some one, the feds or some one needs to regulate these gangs with badges and guns putting the good people in danger.

a concerned citizen
Richard

Reply From Boston:

Last month the *Community Alliance* printed my article about an alleged ‘Zip-Gun’ on Solano State Prison grounds in Vacaville California. The second article, in this months newspaper is called “Shake—Down” and describes the vicious and cruel treatment infirmed and elderly prisoners had to endure during a retaliatory search of the prison.

During the shake-down, thousands of prisoners had their personal property confiscated, damaged or lost. Housing units were ransacked and left in total disarray by the guards. On April 25, 2008, days after the articles appeared on-line, I was taken to an administrative office and questioned about “allegations” I made in my articles; I believe this interrogation was an intimidation tactic by Solano Prison Officials. One of the interrogators told me that “The warden sent us here to question you about your article.” Further investigation, and questioning of other prisoners, proved my written accounts of what happened to these men to be true. Prison medical records also confirm what I wrote about was true and accurate.

I read many of your comments and for those of you who had kind words and understanding of what it is like dealing with these miscreants (“public servants”) who are sucking up all your tax dollars. Prison officials continue to administer punitive treatment toward prisoners and our families. I encourage you to write, call or text message prison officials in Sacramento and demand more public media access into California’s prison system, and demand independent investigations into the unlawful practices that abound behind these prison walls. The California Code of Regulations Title 15, Section 3260; “Public Access to Facilities [Prisons] and Programs” explains that these prisons belong to you, the tax payers, and you have an absolute right to inquire as to exactly how your money is being used; or in the case of California’s prison system, wasted.

I also want to thank Mike Rhodes who has helped me get the other side of the story out from behind these walls for more than three years. The *Community Alliance* and other progressive media outlets need our support for affording myself and other prisoners a forum from behind these walls.

Thank you again for all your kind words and encouraging comments.

Boston Woodard

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What We Say Goes in Pakistan

By David Barsamian

I think it's important to talk about US involvement in Pakistan because that explains a lot of why Pakistan is the way it is today. The American media routinely refers to Pakistan as 'the world's most dangerous country.' You can turn to Newsweek, USA Today, Business Week and other magazines and newspapers and it's always described in those dire terms. How it became that way is never explained.

It's crucial to know a little bit about the background of the country and to understand the role of India and especially of the US in shaping government policy in Pakistan. When Pakistan was created out of British India in 1947, the US was kind of dividing the world into different regions that it would seek to dominate. The major focus was the Middle East for an obvious reason – oil. But South Asia was also of great interest to Washington.

In the post-colonial era of newly independent states, an alternative to alignment with the US or the USSR was building. It was the non-aligned movement. India's Nehru was its most visible figure. Others were Kenyatta in Kenya, Nkrumah in Ghana, Nasser in Egypt, and Sukarno in Indonesia. This Third Way politics was viewed by Washington with great apprehension. Instead of embracing the non-aligned Third World movement, Washington saw it as a threat. Even then, the idea was: You're either with us or you're against us.

So Washington began creating a network of military alliances in response to the non-aligned movement and to further its primary goal of "containing" the USSR. Pakistan would be used as a foil for India and was quickly brought into US-run military alliances, specifically CENTO (Central Treaty Organization) and SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization). What Washington was doing was globalizing its Latin American model of creating strong alliances with military and security services in client states. These services were dependable, hierarchal organizations which did not brook dissent and would work for the US.

In the 1950s Pakistan was brought into the US orbit. The Pakistanis, fearing rival India, were quite willing to come under the US umbrella. Pakistani officers were brought to the United States for training and military exercises. Billions of dollars for weapons flowed to Pakistan. The US supported a string of military dictatorships beginning with Ayub Khan in 1958, continuing through Yahya Khan and the notorious Zia ul-Haq (1977-88), and, finally, Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in 1999. He received some ten billion dollars from the Americans to carry out their various projects in the so-called war against terrorism. Most of that money is unaccounted for and very little of it went to the needs of the Pakistani people.

Today Musharraf is president of Pakistan but very unpopular. He has become a major liability for the Americans. This was one of the reasons the US had negotiated a deal with Benazir Bhutto to return to Pakistan on 18 October 2007. She was going to be the eloquent, sophisticated, Harvard and Oxford-educated face of Pakistan with Musharraf in the background. As part of the deal Benazir agreed to allow American troops to openly operate in the country. In return she exacted a high price for her cooperation. The most controversial condition was dropping all criminal charges facing not only her, but also her husband Asif Ali Zardari. There were two other components of the deal. The clause in the Pakistani Constitu-

tion that would only allow for a Prime Minister to serve for two terms was to be eliminated. Benazir had served as twice as PM from 1988 to 1990, then again from 1993 to 1996. And the last, not so well known, condition was the removal of the clause in the Pakistani Constitution which allows a President to dismiss a Prime Minister for corruption, incompetence or for violating the Constitution. Benazir had been dismissed twice by presidents.

Benazir is a subject of great interest in the United States, particularly since her martyrdom. She has been glorified in death. Her actual historical record has been distorted and reinvented. The same thing happened with John F. Kennedy. When he was assassinated, all of a sudden he became a saint. Everyone forgot about his invading Cuba, his using chemical weapons and

ers. It is suspected that very same base has been resurrected by the US and is being used to launch missile strikes in the frontier areas as well as in what is called FATA, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

It was the Great Jihad against the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s that saw the US-Pakistan relationship bloom into full flower. Zia ul-Haq's 1977 US-backed coup, ousting Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (father of Benazir), effectively ended a democratic interlude in Pakistan. Bhutto, with all his flaws, was a civilian ruler and had promulgated a constitution for the country. Zia willingly supported Washington's goal of giving the Soviets a "Vietnam" in Afghanistan.

Billions of dollars flowed into Pakistan from Saudi Arabia and the US to arm and train jihadis from all over the Islamic world in Pakistan and send them into Afghanistan to fight. The Afghan operation was the biggest in the CIA's history. It worked closely with the powerful Pakistani ISI, the Inter-Services Intelligence agency, and the Pakistani military. Much of the money simply disappeared. In this period Zia instituted his fundamentalist Islamic program. Zia's reign is without question the darkest era in Pakistan's 60-year history. The country has not yet fully recovered from his rule. Zia was mysteriously killed in a plane crash in 1988.

The US, hell-bent on its agenda of bloodying the Soviets, played a central role in turning parts of Pakistan into centers for jihad. The consequences have been huge. Some of the jihadis, who President Reagan called "freedom fighters," later morphed into the Taliban and al-Qaida.

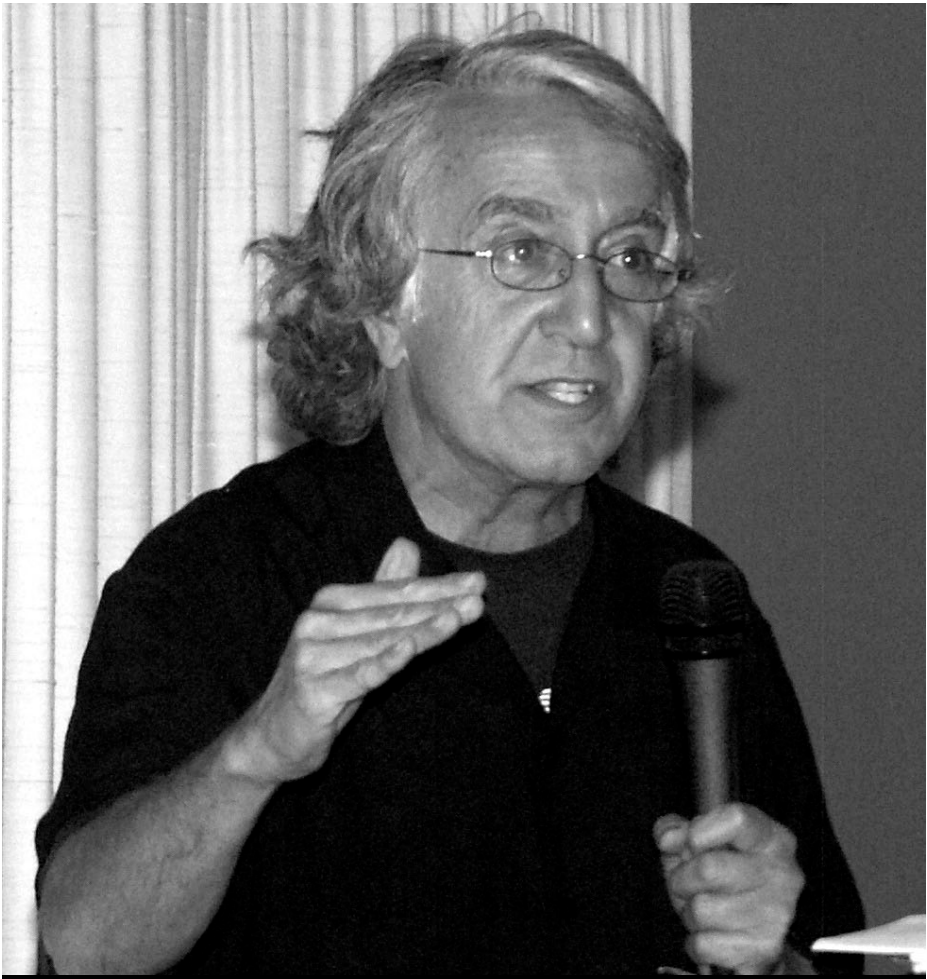
The primacy of the military in Pakistan has seriously diminished and hindered the development of civil society. US policy is greatly responsible for that. Pakistan has been prevented from evolving along the line of its neighbor India in terms of civil society. The dominance and intervention of the Pakistani military in that country's economic life is stunning. The military is the largest realtor in the country. It has housing developments, banks, strip malls, and cement factories. It even makes breakfast cereal!

A lot happened in the last year. A crisis began on March 9, 2007 when Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhary was dismissed by Musharraf. Lawyers took to the streets in protest. They maintained their protests through the year and into 2008. It was an impressive display of consistency and principle. They were joined by others from civil society but it always seemed that it was the men in suits and ties who formed the bulk of the public opposition

Pakistan's terrible year ended with the murder of Benazir in Rawalpindi on 27 December. Few believed the Musharraf story blaming Beitullah Mehsud and

the Taliban. Most Pakistanis believe the intelligence agencies must have been involved. They point to the quick cleansing of the murder site and the destruction of all forensic evidence. The Scotland Yard investigation, reluctantly agreed to by Musharraf, was thus very limited and many government officials were not available for questioning by the detectives. Political assassinations in Pakistan have a long history of never being solved.

Benazir's death set off a series of events. The January 8 elections were postponed until February 18. When they were held, Musharraf and his allies were given a stinging defeat. The Islamic parties also were routed. A coalition of the PPP now led by Asif Ali Zardari, Benazir's husband, and the PML-N led by Nawaz Sharif formed a coalition to rule the country. Their alliance must be seen as temporary as there are deep differences dividing them. Musharraf continues as president of the country. How long he will last is uncertain. He is even more unpopular than the despised American monarch – his patron and payroll master, George W. Bush who, in April of 2008, said he still supports Musharraf and called him a real friend of the United States. Bush is bound for Crawford, Texas. And Musharraf, if he avoids being murdered, may end up in Miami, Florida or in his house in Turkey.



David Barsamian spoke at the Fresno Free College Foundation (KFCF) annual dinner in October 2005. David returns to Fresno on June 29 for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence Anniversary Celebration, which will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Photo by Howard Watkins.

bombing Vietnam, counter insurgency in Laos, and the coup in Brazil.

There are other reasons for military domination of Pakistan-US relationship. The US had a particular strategy for the Middle East. The region was to be controlled by "local cops on the beat" as Nixon's defense secretary Melvin Laird called it. Israel, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, all non-Arab states, were recruited by the US to police the Arabs. So Pakistan proved to be a valuable asset.

In 1970, the Pakistani army under Zia-ul-Haq was responsible for attacks on Palestinians in Jordan during the Black September period. The Saudis had no pilots; so Saudi air force used Pakistani pilots to fly their planes. And the US established an important spy base in Pakistan outside Peshawar. It was from that base that the infamous Gary Powers and his U-2 plane took off from to spy on the USSR in 1960. Powers' capture created a huge incident between the two superpow-

Sunday, June 29 • 4 PM

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2672 E Alluvial Ave (just West of Willow). The keynote speaker will be David Barsamian on "What We Say Goes: America Tries to Rule the World." The Way of Peace Awards will be presented. \$5



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ing another number actually deposit money into that holder’s account, and these immigrants will never collect benefits their contributions paid for.

The Arizona legislature has passed a law requiring employers to verify the immigration status of every worker through a federal database called E-Verify, which is even more incomplete and full of errors than Social Security. They must fire workers whose names get flagged. And Mississippi passed a bill making it a felony for an undocumented worker to hold a job, with jail time of 1-10 years, fines of up to \$10,000, and no bail for anyone arrested. Employers get immunity.

Congress is now debating two bills, the SAVE Act and the New Employee Verification Act that would require similar use of the E-Verify database.

In 1986 the Immigration Reform and Control Act made it a crime, for the first time in our history, to hire people without papers. Defenders argued that if people could not legally work they would leave. Life was not so simple. Undocumented people are part of the communities they live in. They will not simply go, nor should they. They seek the same goals of equality and opportunity that everyone else in our country believes in.

**Coming in September, 2008, from Beacon Press:
Illegal People — How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants**

**For more articles and images on immigration, see
<http://dbacon.igc.org/lmigrants/immigrants.htm>**

See also the photodocumentary on indigenous migration to the US, Communities Without Borders (Cornell University/ILR Press, 2006)

http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/cup_detail.taf?ti_id=4575

**See also The Children of NAFTA, Labor Wars on the U.S./Mexico Border (University of California, 2004)
<http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/9989.html>**

For most, there are no jobs to return to in the countries from which they’ve come. Rufino Dominguez, a Oaxacan community leader in Fresno, says, “The North American Free Trade Agreement made the price of corn so low that it’s not economically possible to plant a crop anymore. We come to the U.S. to work because there’s no alternative.”

When Congress passed NAFTA, six million displaced people came to the U.S. as a result. If Congress stops

passing new free trade agreements, and instead faces the damage NAFTA and other pro-corporate measures did in Mexico, the poverty and desperation that fuel migration can eventually be reversed.

Trying to push people out of the U.S. who’ve come here for survival simply won’t work. The price of trying is that the vulnerability of undocumented workers will increase. Unscrupulous employers use that vulnerability to deny overtime, minimum wage, or fire workers when they protest or organize. Increased vulnerability ultimately results in cheaper labor and fewer rights for everyone. Children live in fear that their parents will be picked up in raids.

After deporting over 1000 workers at Swift meatpacking plants, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff called for linking “effective interior enforcement and a temporary-worker program.” The government is really after giving cheap labor to large employers. Deportations, firings and guest worker programs all make labor cheaper and union organizing harder. They contribute to a climate of fear and insecurity for everyone.

Instead of making work a crime and treating immigrants as criminals, we need equality, economic security, jobs and rights for everyone.

An Electoral Strategy - Moving Fresno in a More Progressive Direction

By Howard K. Watkins, Chair, CVPPAC

The Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee is dedicated to making Fresno and the Central Valley a more progressive community for all. Many of our values cross political lines. Whether it is to improve our air quality, control leap frog development, create livable wage jobs for all, have responsible local government, build affordable housing, maintain public safety with fairness and justice for all, improve our schooling, our issues have appeal to more than just the left. Most independents and conservatives I know support these and other similar goals.

A key element in accomplishing our goals is to elect people to local government who will support implementing actions. Some candidates endorsed by the members of CVPPAC are active supporters. Some other candidates, while not currently supportive of all of our goals, are willing to work to find common ground. For some other candidates, common ground on core issues is not very likely. Our members come from diverse backgrounds, are members of several progressive organizations, and have worked on numerous campaigns. With this political background, our endorsements are by consensus with a minimum being a two-thirds yes vote.

The reality is that, while the City and the County of Fresno each had a liberal majority at one time, conservatives have come to dominate the political landscape in our Valley. The CVPPAC developed to reverse this trend and is now gaining traction. Many of the candidates we have endorsed have won. This includes the first woman Sheriff of Fresno County, Margaret Mims, who, unlike some of her predecessors and her conservative opponent in 2006, is an advocate for crime prevention programs and responded to our request to facilitate voter registration for eligible county jail inmates who are then able to vote in upcoming elections.

Another example is our support for Nathan Magsig in Fresno County’s Fifth Supervisorial race. Unlike his more conservative opponent Debbie Poochigian, Magsig attended our public forum, completed our candidates’ questionnaire, sought our endorsement, and sat down with our members for a frank discussion on various issues. Our members concluded that Magsig was clearly the better candidate. While we do not expect him to agree on all of our issues, he is willing to meet with us and be more persuadable based upon facts and meeting the needs of the people in our community.

Meaningful change happens one step at a time. We cannot change everyone’s mind over night, just as local government cannot house all of the homeless in one day. What we can do is educate our community on key issues and support the election of candidates

who are closest to our goals.

CVPPAC supports candidates that will help all of us move our community towards more progressive actions and values. We remember several votes on the City Council and on the Board of Supervisors where a one vote change would have approved more progressive action. One example is the County’s recently enacted a very weak dairy ordinance, which passed on a 3-2 vote. One more vote and Fresno County would have had an ordinance that much better pro-

tected our air quality and ground water.

If you want our community to have a better future, I encourage you to support and vote for our endorsed candidates in the June 3rd election. They are for Fresno Mayor: Tom Boyajian or Henry T. Perea; Fresno City Council District #2 Michael Karbassi, District #4 Susan Good, District #6 Michelle Jorgensen; for Fresno County Board of Supervisors District #2 Susan Anderson and District #5 Nathan Magsig. Contact information on these candidates is on our website at www.cvppac.org. Remember, your vote will help determine Fresno’s future and help make us a more progressive community.

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

cvppac.org

PO Box 5845, Fresno, CA 93755

559-435-7360

The Valley’s Voice for Progressives

The results of the June 3rd election will shape the future of our community for years to come. The members of the CVPPAC urge you to help elect the following endorsed candidates. Together, we can move Fresno forward by supporting these outstanding candidates.

Fresno City Council Districts:		
#2 Michael Karbassi	www.joinmichael.com	449-9700
#4 Susan Good	www.good4council.com	681-8107
#6 Michelle Jorgensen	www.jorgensenforcitycouncil.com	
Mayor of Fresno: Co-endorsements		
Tom Boyajian	www.votetom08.com	233-8935
Henry T. Perea	www.perea2008.com	431-1053
Fresno County Board of Supervisors Districts:		
#2 Susan Anderson	www.susanbanderson.com	222-7411
#3 Henry R. Perea		unopposed
#5 Nathan Magsig	www.nathanmagsig.com	324-1983

How to help elect/re-elect these progressive candidates:
—contact the candidates and volunteer to help them by walking precincts, donating money, making telephone calls, putting up a yard sign, contacting your friends to support these candidates, etc.
—vote by absentee ballot or on June 3rd

Remember—many of these races will be decided on June 3, 2008, so now is the time to make a difference for our future!

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dedication are needed most*



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ELECTION DAY JUNE 3rd

Defending Your Civil Liberties

With the Central California Criminal Justice Committee, the First Congregational Church Ministry of Outreach, and the Fresno Free College Foundation, the Fresno Area ACLU sponsored a Forum on May 8: Why Fresno Needs An Independent Police Auditor. If you can claim a huge success without yet achieving your goal, the Forum was a huge success. The optimists set up 85 chairs. 105 people participated and there was excellent media coverage. Barbara Attard, the IPA in San Jose, Mark Schlosberg, ACLU-NC Police Practices Policy Director, and several community members spoke. As one person emailed me afterward: "It was very interesting and you had a great turnout. The citizen testimony made me feel disgusted and sad, all at once."

The next meeting of the Fresno Area Chapter of the ACLU-NC will be on Monday, June 9, from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Sarah McCardle Room of the downtown library, 'M' St and Mariposa, one block north of Tulare. It's too soon to say what will be on the agenda since the agenda seems to balloon the three days before the meeting. But many of the issues we have been working on will be included. These include the Fresno Film Ordinance, the homeless situation, including the median issue, and video surveillance.

Did you know that FEMA supplies funds for emergency food for the poor? But lately some of that money is being diverted to FEMA's parent organization, Homeland Security. Even Fresno's Catholic Charities received only 70% of its expected funding from FEMA for emergency food for the poor, just as the need increases dramatically. Where did the rest of the money go? Smile, you're on candid camera while the poor

starve. Yep, Homeland Security funds video surveillance cameras in cities like Fresno which expects to have 250 video surveillance cameras operational within a year, supplemented by the cameras which are supposed to monitor traffic. Think about that the next time traffic is moving at a crawl. Of course studies show that better lighting decreases crime about 18% more than cameras do. But the funding is for cameras, not for lighting. The next time you are at Blackstone and Shaw, don't forget to wave at the camera on the southeast corner. Heck, next time you are in a 7-11 or at your bank, wave at that camera too. With today's technology, Michael Chertoff can be watching you.

We have also heard from people about problems in the Hmong community, in the Native American Community, in area prisons, and about police problems in the Huron farmworker community.

You are welcome to come to the meeting on June 9. Better yet, come to the meeting and join the ACLU. Especially today, we all need to work so that we still have constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties and civil rights this year and next year and in ten years.

Bill Simon
Fresno Area Chapter ACLU-NC
simonaclu@sbcglobal.net

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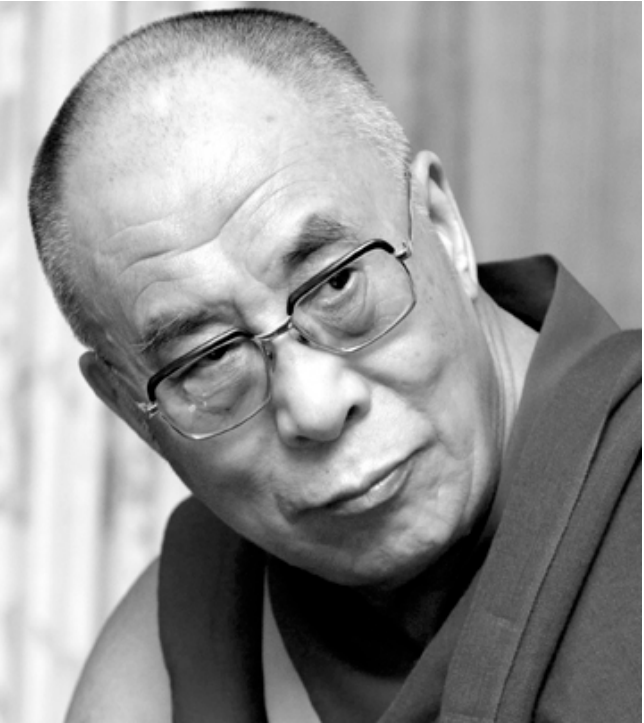
7 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE JUNE 2008

Seeking Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in Tibet and China

By S. Kapoor

Recent tumultuous and disturbing developments in Tibet known as the roof of the world, and the global protests against the Olympic Torch are a cause of great concern to peace and freedom loving people everywhere. The unrest and the violence that followed March 10, 2008, the anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, resulted in the loss of innocent lives. The bloody clash and the harsh crackdown by the Chinese authorities have drawn the attention of world media, and the leaders of democratic and freedom loving nations who have strongly suggested Beijing to engage in high level discussions with Dalai Lama and his representatives. As a result of this global pressure and the mounting protests against the crackdown, Chinese authorities have sent a signal to meet with Dalai Lama who has welcomed the gesture and said that he is ready if China is serious. Though sporadic talks in previous years resulted in failure and mistrust, I consider the present offer a positive sign in the light of the Olympics and the mounting public opinion in favor of Dalai Lama. Moreover, it is in the best interest of the great nation of China to resolve the issues and problems that have triggered protests and resentment within Tibet. Ignoring and denying the causes of these problems will continue to affect the global image of Great China. It will haunt the future generations if the present leadership in China fails to find a fair and just solution to the problem of Tibet. Resolving Tibet issue peacefully will enhance the stature of the great nation of China.

Dalai Lama is not a threat to China or its sovereignty over Tibet. He has categorically denied any rumors of independence of Tibet. He has stated that it is in the best interest of Tibet to remain a part of China, but he insists for greater autonomy to practice their



religion. China is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must respect the religions freedom rights of the minorities. Dalai Lama is a man of peace, compassions and wisdom. Never has he expressed or uttered a word of anger or bitterness towards China or its leaders. He practices what he preaches. He has adopted an approach of middle path and nonviolence. He and Nelson Mandela are considered the two greatest icons of nonviolence of our times. He is not to be blamed for the global protests against the Olympic Torch or the protests in Tibet. He is ready to be punished if an investigation finds his involvement. In my view he is ready to attend the Olympics if invited which might very well pave the way to find a solution to

the problem of Tibet and eventually lead to healing and reconciliation between Tibet and China.

The Olympics in Beijing is a great event and must be celebrated with joy, respect and recognition. There is no reason to boycott the Olympics which promote peace and friendship. Olympics bring millions of people together and build bridges of understanding and mutual respect.

In the true spirit of Olympics and a firm believer in efforts to find a nonviolent solution, I along with many friends and supporters appeal to the Government of People's Republic of China to adopt the following principles.

1. STOP THE MISTREATMENT AND TORTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF TIBET.
2. RESPECT THE ANCIENT SPIRITUAL CULTURE, HERITAGE AND IDENTITY OF TIBET.
3. RESTORE HUMAN RIGHTS, BASIC CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN TIBET.
4. END THE CRACKDOWN AND OPPRESSIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF TIBET.
5. ENGAGE IN GENUINE AND SINCERE DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION WITH DALAI LAMA, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE PEOPLE OF TIBET, TO FIND A JUST SOLUTION.

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Shake-Down Hate-Filled Retaliation

By: Boston Woodard

Searching a state prison for contraband is compulsory and has been going on for over 200 years in this country. Throughout prison history, right up until now, cell-blocks and other prison housing units are periodically searched by guards in pursuit of contraband and other forbidden goods.



The cognizant convict understands that there are minor to serious consequences to be dealt with depending on the type of stash that is uncovered. There are various degrees of punishment relative to what contraband is found. From loss of privileges to time in isolation (“the hole”) are some of the consequences. It’s no surprise to the convict when the (always expected) punishment is handed down by the “Senior Hearing Officer” (SHO) who is usually a correctional lieutenant. It is nearly impossible for a prisoner to be found innocent at one of the infamous pre-dispositioned disciplinary hearings. It rarely matters how much evidence against a charge of contraband is in the prisoner’s favor. Many prisoners are charged simply for being in a general area where contraband is found. Any honest audit of the California prison system’s disciplinary process, and hearing dispositions, would reveal substantial abuse of procedures by

guard-cadets (new, spit-shined guards from an academy in Gait Ca.) stormed into one prison housing unit at a time for approximately seven hours per building. The guards destroyed, confiscated, misplaced or damaged the personal property of prisoners. TV’s, radios, music instruments, educational materials (books) etc.), personal clothing and a litany of other authorized items, were tossed into laundry carts and removed from the housing units- all of these approved possessions were bought and paid for by the prisoners, who work for pennies an hour, or was bought by their friends and families. Prisoners have to work hard and demonstrate good behavior in order to earn the privilege of possessing these amenities.

One ugly signature act discovered after the shake-down stood out like a sore thumb. There are two large bulletin boards in the housing unit’s day room. Hung up on those boards were dozens of pages from several prisoner advocacy group’s newsletters. The information was helpful to prisoners regarding family resources, case-law updates for lifers, attorney information etc. All the pages were torn off the boards, ripped into pieces and thrown all over the day room floor. Coffee and dirty boot prints were apparent on the newsletters. Nothing else displayed on the walls seemed to be touched or removed. This type of hate-filled, vindictive undertaking is typical throughout California’s prison system during many shake-downs.

Not one item plundered by the guards was paid for by tax payers as some prison officials would have the public believe. What was paid for by the tax payers of California was the unnecessary and ruthless pilferaging condoned by Solano State Prison’s warden D.K. Sisto, his

prison yard and everyone was forced to sit or stand in the center of the yard in the blistering sun for seven hours.

Another elderly man (approximately 70 years old) fell into what appeared to be some sort of a seizure and is an insulin dependent diabetic. He too was exposed to the elements and the hot sun. He was eventually carried to the prison’s infamous Satellite Clinic. [See “They Don’t Triple Bunk Dogs” <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2006/08/13/18297041.php>]. His condition was so serious, he had to be rushed to an outside (free-world) hospital, and as of this writing, he has not returned to this prison.

Upon returning to his housing unit after the shake-down, another man, Marcus, learned that 15 photos of his mother’s funeral were missing, taken during the shake-down. These photos are especially sensitive to prisoners as they are not allowed to attend funeral services to grieve for their loved ones. Many families send photos of those who attended the funeral so the prisoner can at least accept the loss and grieve in his own way. Marcus is still trying to get answers from prison staff regarding these very personal and irreplaceable photos. Dozens of other uncalled for atrocities and iniquitous acts were carried out by those who were involved with the shake-down.

California Code of Regulations policy (rules governing prisons) dictates worthless verbiage regarding searching a prison, such as: “...inspections [shake-downs] will not be used as a punitive measure nor to harass an inmate. Every reasonable precaution will be taken to avoid damage to personal property and to leave the inmate’s quarters and property in good order upon completion of

The Community Alliance gives a free subscription to any prisoner who writes and requests one.

prison officials. Senior Hearing Officers will always find a “preponderance of evidence” even if it does not exist. Go to any prison, ask any prisoner. Forget that.

Examples of different types of contraband are:

“Prisoner Manufactured Weapons” (knife, shiv, piece, bone-crusher etc.), “Homemade Booze” (pruno, hooch, juice, wine, etc.), “Drugs” (the gamut), and whatever else the guards deem contraband of the day. Because there is so little contraband behind prison walls these days, the list of items deemed contraband grows and includes, but is not limited to: empty containers, too many state issued clothing, cardboard boxes, and the list can be endless. Anything to justify the shake-down. Oh! and let’s not forget - It’s always for the “safety and security of the institution.”

On April 7, 2008, at Solano State Prison in Vacaville California, initiated a massive shake-down for the second time in a one week period- An alleged “note” was discovered by prison staff (HMmmrn) indicating there is a gun on prison grounds- [See “ZIP—GUN” <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/04/11/18492221.php>]

Building by building, hundreds of prisoners were ordered to strip naked, searched, then forced to dress only after they were herded to the prison yard. The sun was hot that day and prisoners were told that they could not wear sunglasses, an order making no common sense or logic when you consider protecting ones eyes is not a security risk.

Approximately 70 full-time guards and another 80 or so

administrative subordinates, and rank-and-file guards. Tens of thousands, perhaps, hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted on what many believe to be retaliation because state government cut the guards overtime and because of an uprising in another prison 400 miles away in Tehachipi Ca. It would be interesting to know how many of the other 33 California prisons were all of a sudden shook-down during this same time period. The guard’s union, the California Correctional Peace Officer’s Association (CCPOA) would probably have the answer to that question. This group of hard-hearted CCPOA ruffians are masters at orchestrating uncalled for, self serving events to advance their agenda.

Prison officials will hold the prisoner’s property for a period of time (if they get it back at all) until they (the prisoner) “can prove” ownership. Hundreds of cumulative overtime hours and massive amounts of money could have been saved if prisoner “property cards” were checked against the usurped property. It takes hundreds of guards to shake-down a prison and a half-dozen to check property cards. Retaliation has its price, the question is, do the tax payers agree?

While on the yard during the shake-down, sick, infirmed, and elderly prisoners developed severe sunburned skin. One man, Cliff, had facial burns that festered into huge watery, blistered burns the next day. This gentleman (age 66) who is a stroke survivor with partial left-side paralysis, was told to take two Tylenol and was given a small gauze so he could “dab cold water” on his burns. No cream, no ointment, no antibiotics for possible infection, and most of all, there was no compassion for this senior. Cliff’s hat was confiscated by a guard while he was headed to the yard. There is no shade on Solano’s

the inspection.”

The blatant arrogance of these self-proclaimed public servants was evident in the aftermath of the shake-down. Sonic living quarters were in the usual post shake-down disarrayed condition. Many of the prisoners bunk areas were thrashed. Legal papers, personal photos, clothing, food items were strewn about and/or piled high on the bunk and surrounding floor area. Neatly packed boxes were dumped and confiscated. Plastic buckets used to wash clothing were all taken. Pillows and linen were gone from some dorms and plastic spray bottles for cleaning were taken; and much more. A crime scene profiler would probably surmise from the aftermath of the shake-down that only those of a sadistic bent could have been involved with this so called security search.

The public should sleep well tonight knowing that all cardboard boxes, plastic wash buckets, and extra underwear have been located and disposed of “per institution policy” at Solano State Prison.

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Boston Woodard is a prisoner/journalist who wrote for the San Quentin News, The Soledad Star and edited The Communicator. The Department of Corrections pulled the plug on all three publications.

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Federal Judge Rules City of Fresno Violated the Rights of Homeless Residents

Destruction of property declared unlawful seizure

Fresno - A U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California has ruled that the City of Fresno's practice of immediately seizing and destroying the personal possessions of homeless residents violates the constitutional right of every person to be free from unreasonable search and seizure.

"The question is no longer whether the City will have to pay damages to class members, but how much," said attorney Oren Sellstrom of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights. "Given that many homeless people lost everything they owned in these illegal sweeps – including their medicines and items of tremendous sentimental value – we believe the damage award will be significant."

"The Court's ruling in this class-action lawsuit makes it clear that our Constitution protects the rights of everybody, rich or poor," said attorney Michael Risher of the ACLU of Northern California. "It should send a strong message to other cities throughout our country that if they violate the rights of their most vulnerable residents, they will be held accountable."

Six plaintiffs provided testimony in the case, Kincaid v. City of Fresno, on behalf of the entire class, which includes all homeless people in Fresno who had their property seized and destroyed by the City or by the California Department of Transportation. The case was bought by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, and the firm of Heller, Ehrman, LLP.

The case was filed in October 2006. The court issued a temporary restraining order against the City of Fresno two days later; in December 2006 it issued a preliminary injunction after hearing evidence from both sides over the course of five days.

During oral argument on April 25, 2008, Judge Oliver W. Wanger declared that, "...the practice of announce, strike, seize [and] destroy immediately is against the law." (Excerpted from transcript by court reporter.)

Note to reporters and editors: Video footage and photographs of city workers using machinery and dump trucks to destroy the personal property of homeless residents are available on the ACLU-NC's website, along with the legal documents in the case: http://www.aclunc.org/cases/active_cases/kincaid_v_city_of_fresno.shtml

[cases/active_cases/kincaid_v_city_of_fresno.shtml](http://www.aclunc.org/cases/active_cases/kincaid_v_city_of_fresno.shtml)

Synopses of plaintiffs declarations before the Court

Excerpted from declarations found here: http://www.aclunc.org/cases/active_cases/kincaid_v_city_of_fresno.shtml

Lead Plaintiff Pamela Kincaid died in August of 2007.



Pamela Kincaid, speaking to the press, on the day the lawsuit was filed. Pam was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit. She died under suspicious circumstances in August of last year. Why is the Coroner's office still withholding her autopsy report?

Kincaid occasionally stayed at the only women's shelter in Fresno, but she suffered from claustrophobia, which made it difficult for her to remain there. When sanitation workers and police officers seized her belongings, Kincaid lost her birth certificate, her address book, photos of her sister, daughter and mother, and a toolbox with tools she used for the recycling and crafts work she does to earn money, among other items.

"Before I became homeless, I used to have a house and a job. I lost both when I developed injuries at work...I hope that someday I will be able to get off the streets and into permanent housing. But the fact that the city keeps taking and destroying my property makes that goal seem that much harder to achieve. I always live with the fear that the city will come and take what few possessions I have left." - Declaration before the court in October 2006

Charlene Clay and her husband left their apartment in 2006 because they could not afford the \$850 in rent. They were camped on a hill off of G Street when City of Fresno workers destroyed their belongings – including Clay's teeth, medications, sleeping bags, and personal

papers - without warning. A second time, Clay was staying near San Benito and H Streets when police tipped her shopping cart, threw her possessions on the ground, and hauled her cart away.

"The City of Fresno has made it clear to me by destroying my property twice and by the way in which they did that, that because I am a homeless person, I will always be vulnerable to having my property taken and destroyed by City of Fresno workers and police."

Joanna Garcia was born and raised in Fresno. She lost her job after she was mistakenly implicated in a robbery committed by her husband. She has worked at Holy Cross Women's Shelter, earning food vouchers. City workers have seized and destroyed her property five times.

"...my belongings and my boyfriend's belongings were on the grassy strip across the highway from E Street. They were neatly kept. My boyfriend and I had left for the day; I was working at Holy Cross. When we came back that evening, I said to my boyfriend, 'I can't see our home.' All of our belongings were gone, including

tents, blankets, personal papers, clothes, my pink bicycle, and irreplaceable pictures of my grandmother and my son."

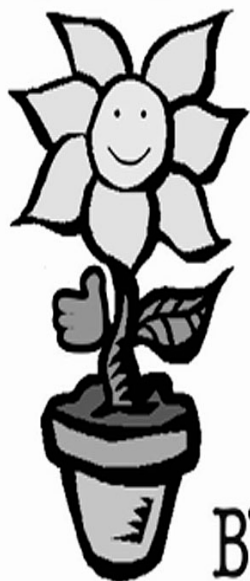
Douglas Deatherage, 43, worked part time at a trucking company. He watched as City of Fresno workers threw his belongings into a garbage truck. "My relatively small amount of personal possessions were not bothering anyone and I was ready and willing to move if the City of Fresno workers wanted to clean the area where they were. It was obvious that my property was not abandoned since I was there with it. I was given no opportunity to move my personal property in order to save it from this destruction that morning."

For more information, contact: Contact: Malik Russell, ACLU-NC, 415.621.2493, x374 Anayma DeFrias, LCCR, 415.543.9444, x223

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For a list of articles and documents about the struggle for civil liberties for homeless people in Fresno, see: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/homelessness.htm>

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“Reflections of Mike Rhodes”

by Cynthia Manuszak

Cynthia: Well, we are sitting here in Taco Bell. Since the readers can't see your face, what is your name?
Al: Al Williams
Cynthia: Who are you?
Al: I am a political activist, homeless advocate and I am actively homeless.
Cynthia: I understand you have bonded with someone very important to you. His name is Mike Rhodes. How did you meet Mike?
Al: I met Mike at Food Not Bombs. He did an interview with me.
Cynthia: What was your first impression of him?
Al: My first impression? I thought he was somewhat of a big time journalist. I thought he was part of a corporate media.
Cynthia: Did you trust him?
Al: Not at first
Cynthia: Oh, why not?
Al: I am very suspicious of any media or journalists. They tend to take things out of context. Most of them do.
Cynthia: So I take it that has happened to you in the past?
Al: Over the past 12 years, with the exception of Mike Rhodes.
All corporate media has taken things out of context to meet their way of thinking. You know, how they think the story should be.
Cynthia: Okay, so lets keep it real.
Are you saying you trust Mike now?
Al: I trust him 110%. He is one of my best friends.
Cynthia: That is a very cool thing to say about anyone. If he were sitting here with us, what do you think his reaction would be?
Al: Knowing Mike the way I do now, he would smile!
Cynthia: Oh yeah, he does have that smile!



Community Alliance editor Mike Rhodes and Al Williams. Photo by Cynthia Manuszak.

Cynthia: When I first met you Al, Pam Kincaid (the lead plaintiff of a federal lawsuit against the city of Fresno) was still alive, but she has since passed. What do you think her feelings about Mike were?
Al: He was her best friend too. Mike has a lot of friends. A lot.
I would refer to him as “Guardian Angel over poor people, displaced people and homeless people.”
Cynthia: So you feel as though he is watching over you?
Al: Totally.

Cynthia: Al, I know you recently lost your wife, Sherry. Would it be safe to say that she was in agreement with you?
Al: Yes, 100%. Mike was one of her favorite people. (tears) (pause) Mike took good care of her.
Cynthia: Earlier in our interview you stated that you were homeless.
Al: Everyone all over American knows that I am actively homeless. Cynthia: How's that?
Al: I was on the Homeless Marathon; I am also a named plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against the city of Fresno, Mayor Autry, Chief Dyer and Cal Trans.
Cynthia: You used the phrase, “actively homeless.” What do you mean?
Al: There is a difference. There are homeless people who are just homeless and there are homeless people who are activists.
Cynthia: What have you done actively that you feel made a difference?
Al: At the request of Mike and his daughter, Simone, I have given a presentation at U.C.S.C. (University of Santa Cruz).
Cynthia: How did that make you feel?
Al: Good. The students were really impressed. We rocked their world!
Cynthia: You are a veteran, aren't you?
Al: Yes.
Cynthia: What branch did you serve?

Al: Army. 68-76.
Cynthia: Wow. Do you feel your time as a soldier fighting for our country, prepared you for your life now?
Al: Yes.
Cynthia: In what way?
Al: We are survivors.
Cynthia: You are going to be a guest speaker at Green Hope Veterans 1st annual Earth Day Picnic, speaking about your life as a homeless Veteran. What does that mean to you?
Al: It sucks. First off, no one should be homeless, especially a veteran.
Cynthia: Does it make you feel sad that you sacrificed your life for your country and now you are actively homeless?
Al: No, I'm pissed.
Cynthia: What pisses you off the most?
Al: We sacrificed our lives for this country and now this country doesn't give a damn about us? If they did, there would be NO homeless Veterans period, regardless of the cost.
Cynthia: You have a lot of guts, Al. I am sure Mike sees that in you. Don't you agree?
Al: I'll let you be the judge of that.
Cynthia: Before we wrap it up, if you could say anything to Mike right now, what would it be?
Al: Love you brother.

My impression of Mike Rhodes

Mike, a tall sweet man with a great smile. Usually, like me, with a camera in his hand or close by. I first met Mike out on The Hill. I wondered who he was. Why he was photographing these people who somehow carried the spirit of my late father, Bud, (a former homeless man). I felt the need to explore the homeless world when my dad passed because I wanted to see for myself how he must have suffered during the most difficult times in his life. I was comforted by the acceptance I received from the homeless.

I was also comforted by the thought that someone like Mike Rhodes was out there caring for his or her needs. Treating these human beings with dignity. I have to admit that at first I too, like Al, was suspicious of this tall man with a camera, but as I have come to know him I see his heart is in the right place. Mike lives a humble life, spending much of it serving others. I feel compelled to share this with the community. I believe I have captured Mike's compassion through my lens. Mr. Mike Rhodes, thank you for caring.



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Grassroots Profile

By Richard Stone

Although Robin McGehee is a native of Mississippi, somehow she missed out on the “southern belle” genes. Instead she finds herself living in Fresno, in a ten-year relationship with a woman, working as an activist for the LGBT community. “But,” she says, “growing up in the South did help prepare me for life in a conservative hotbed.”

This is not the life Robin envisaged when she emigrated to Fresno. “For one thing, I thought all of California was like Los Angeles. Also I left Mississippi to leave my inconvenient attractions behind. I was determined to have a fresh start, get married, be normal.”

She did get as far as the marriage, but six months into it her life was turned around. Robin was taking a class at CSUF in Intercultural Communication, and noted that the professor had skipped one chapter, the one about a black gay man. She went to the instructor to ask why, and got an earful of homophobic invective. Immediately, she felt she could not remain silent, simultaneously re-identifying with her lesbian nature and ending her attempt at heterosexual marriage. From then till now, Robin has felt impelled to use the organizational and leadership skills she attained during high school (“I might not have attended the prom, but I did plan it”) on behalf of dispelling ignorance about alternative sexual orientations and championing the civil rights of LGBT’ers.

“At first, my public role was also a way to help me overcome my own uncertainties—like getting past a fear of spiders by holding a box of them. But now it is focused on creating a world that is better to live in”...a vital hope for her as the mother of two young children.

These days, Robin’s community work (done in addition to teaching at College of the Sequoias) centers on the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, and

Fresno Reel Pride. G.S.A. is part of a state-wide organization that fosters groups in middle and high schools where kids with different orientations get to know and support each other. Amazingly, there are clubs on 11 campuses in the greater Fresno area—even in Clovis. “In some clubs the straight kids really take the lead—it’s safer for them to speak out. It’s a revelation to see them. For so many of them homosexuality is no big deal. This is not the world I grew up in.”

Reel Pride puts on Fresno’s annual LGBT film festival in the fall, and hosts a quarterly film screening the other seasons. The Festival has grown remarkably from a couple of evenings showing 16 mm. projections in a CSUF classroom, to a 5-day event based at the Tower Theater, with directors and actors in attendance, and special educational and social events to boot. It has become one of the country’s more elaborate LGBT festivals, and its outreach to many straight people is one thing that has led Robin to take on major responsibility—securing underwriting from the at-large community.

Robin is also excited by a more recently underetaken venture: Kids Like Us. This is a support system for the children of LGBT parents, and is another step toward a community where GLBT’ers will feel recognized and included... a world where there would be a LGBT Community Center and marriage equality.

In her work, Robin would like to acknowledge the support of many individuals: her partner and children, Sara Martinez, Peter Robertson, RonWilson, Phyllis Beech, Jim Daggs, Dwayne Perry, Jerry Thurston and Diane Blair.

Asked what reader can do to support her work, Robin says, “Speak out when you hear or see homophobia. Help groups like GSA that don’t have access to mainstream funding. Do whatever you feel right doing that will make a better Fresno.” You can contact this irrespressible individual at (559) 287-9670, or by e-mail at robin@gsanetwork.org.

11 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE JUNE 2008

IDENTITY BOX

Name: Robin McGehee

Birthplace: Jackson, Mississippi

Ethnicity: Southern

Religious Affiliation: Methodist

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Most frequented part of Fresno: The Tower

Inspirations: my kids, people of Wesley United Methodist Church, Tanya Mayo, Jan Edwards, Devoya Mayo, Coke Hallowell, Patsy Montgomery, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Motto: Speak out! when we speak we shake the world.

Non-political involment: son’s school (St.Helen’s Elementary); outdoor activities

Unexpected pleasure: Listening to Howard Stern



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A DIVISION OF JESH-N-CONSTRUCTION

Introduction by Richard Stone

When I came to Fresno in 1978, there were few visible signs of a Gay/Lesbian community. A couple of bars (somewhat gender-segregated); a small congregation of the Metropolitan Community Church; a short-lived Democratic Club, the Wilde-Stein; and the Imperial Dove Court de Fresno, a gay version of a Kiwanis Club where drag performers raised money for charities like Children's Hospital.

A brave soul who had tried to organize a support group on CSUF campus and to edit a gay newspaper had been driven out of town.

But with the Stonewall action in New York and the emergence of Harvey Milk as an elected official in San Francisco...and with the reaction of Anita Bryant's national campaign against gays and California's Briggs Initiative to ban gays from teaching in the state...the psychological landscape quickly changed.

In 1979 Les Gatewood, then "Empress Lisa" of the Dove Court, called a community meeting that put attitude into action. Within months a newspaper, The Front Runner, was on the scene; a group formed that presented well-attended educational and cultural programs at the U.U. Church once each month; and Gay United Services (GUS) was organized and went on to open a "warm line" (information and counseling by phone) and later a community center. In the ensuing years, a wide spectrum of other groups has arisen to involve and serve what has come to be called more inclusively the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) community.

In recognition of Gay Pride Month 2008, the Community Alliance is honoring this now-substantial sector of Fresno's cultural diversity. We are providing thumbnail sketches of several current organizations. Jeffery Robinson—director of Community Link and previously profiled in these pages—will induct us into the history and significance of Fresno's annual Gay Pride Parade and Festival. In addition, "Word on the Street" and "Grassroots Activists" will be in theme. So—welcome to Gay Pride Fresno-style.

GLBT Groups in the Fresno Area

Compiled by Richard Stone

The Imperial Dove Court de Fresno

The Court is one of Fresno's oldest gay groups, now going into its 35th year. It raises money for other non-profit organizations by doing drag shows and contests. In May it hold a gala Coronation to elect an Emperor and Empress who are co-presidents for the year. The Court holds several other major functions each year including the popular Closet Ball, where people who have never cross-dressed in public compete to become King and Queen. There are also monthly shows in gay bars to raise money for charitable purposes. Contact information: www.idcfresno.org; P.O. Box 4642, Fresno, CA 93744

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered person and their families and friends through support to cope with an often adverse society, through education to enlighten an ill-informed public, and through advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG offers an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. It also offers a variety of educational components to help people understand that only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively.

PFLAG meets at Wesley United Methodist Church (located on Barstow between Cedar and First) on the 2nd Sunday each month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings are open to everyone including GLBT people themselves. Contact information: Tel. (559) 434-6540; P.O. Box 27382, Fresno, CA 93729-7382

Fresno Reel Pride

Since its inception in a classroom at Fresno State in 1990, Fresno Reel Pride is the sixth oldest - - and has grown to become one of the largest - gay and lesbian film festivals in the US. Now located in the historic Tower Theatre, Reel Pride is a celebration of gay and lesbian cinema and is a premiere cultural event in central California attracting thousands of attendees to its five-day festival of international features, documentaries and short films. This year's film festival will be held September 17-21, 2008. Contact information: www.ReelPride.com

Gay-straight Alliance Network

located at 928 North Van Ness, Fresno, CA, 93728, 559-268-2780 robin@gsanetwork.org

Gay-Straight Alliance Network is a youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources.

Through peer support, leadership development, and training, GSA Network supports young people in starting, strengthening, and sustaining GSAs and builds the capacity of GSAs to:

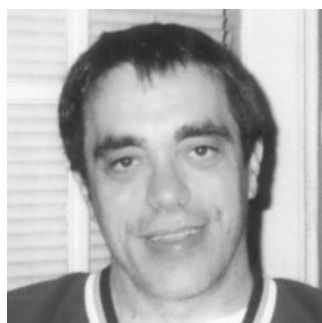
1. Create safe environments in schools for students to support each other and learn about homophobia and other oppressions,
2. Educate the school community about homophobia, gender identity, and sexual orientation issues, and
3. Fight discrimination, harassment, and violence in schools.

Kids like us

kidslikeusfresno@yahoo.com
559-287-9670

Nearly 2 years ago, the LGBT parenting group - Kids Like Us was formed in Fresno. The purpose of the group is to help create a core group of volunteers who are willing to help rotate the planning and implementation of a LGBT-family friendly events.

This is a no-fee group - you are only expected to pay for the events that cost money and you will be reminded a head of time.



QUEER EYE

HIV/AIDS Care Threatened

by Dan Waterhouse

Although money for the Fresno County public health department's specialty clinic is in next fiscal year's budget, the \$900,000 may be diverted to fund public safety. If the funds are moved elsewhere, fewer people would be getting tested, which means more people would get infected, and people would be coming into the health system later and a lot sicker.

Community advocacy will be vital to convincing members of the Board of Supervisors not to bend to the demands of Sheriff Margaret Mims and District Attorney Elizabeth Egan. Towards that end, advocates plan to have letters available at this year's Pride Parade and Festival on June 7th. Budget hearings are currently scheduled to begin June 11th.

If the Specialty Clinic ultimately is closed, HIV confidential testing would decline by roughly 90%, and anonymous testing would drop by 70%. HIV screening referrals would decrease by about 50%. In 2007, 60% of new HIV positive patients in the entire county were identified by the clinic.

Closing the clinic also means that 75 Early Intervention Program clients and approximately 350 sexually transmitted disease and Family Planning patients would need to find a new medical provider. A representative from the local Planned Parenthood affiliate said no one provider would be able to handle the clinic's caseload.

The ripple effect from a closure would include loss of state funds due to a decrease in the number of HIV/AIDS

positives identified; loss of funding for programs like HIV Education & Prevention, Ryan White, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program; and loss of funding for The Living Room and University Medical Center.

The Specialty Clinic focuses on the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases through diagnosis, treatment, medical follow-up, contact investigation and partner notification. The clinic also provides testing for cervical cancer, follow-up referrals for abnormal cervical findings, and care and treatment to some HIV positive patients through the state funded Early Intervention Program. Family planning services are also offered by the clinic through the state and federally funded Family Pact Program for medically underserved and high-risk clients.

The Early Intervention Program—EIP for short—provides a range of services to patients who don't meet the criteria for either MediCal or the Medical Support Program. EIP ensures that patients receive prompt services regarding their diagnosis, receive continual support and ongoing education, and prevents or delays symptomatic HIV. Services include medical evaluations at least every six months; health education/risk reduction counseling every six months; psychosocial assessments every six months; and case management assessments every six months.

Right now, the clinic receives no General Fund bucks. It is funded with health realignment, fees-for-service, private insurance, MediCal, and state grant dollars.



The Central California Alliance, marching in the Gay Pride march.

pride with parents just like you. To be added to our email list, email the above listed address.

Central California Alliance

Central California Alliance, CCA, is dedicated to promoting equality and positive change in the LGBT community through Service, Networking and Philanthropy. We're here to make a difference.

CCA is committed to bringing a variety of events to the Fresno community. We will continue to have events that welcome families and children, such as our 4th of July pool party, speakers, book releases such as Dr. Lillian Federman's Gay L.A., along with concerts such as Jason & deMarco, fundraisers and other social gatherings.

CCA also remains committed to being a political voice helping to integrate groups that offer support to our community, especially those who seek our input on how to make a more cohesive Fresno. Our political action committee remains dedicated to working towards equality concerning same sex marriage, and transgender sensitivity issues. Our Board is dedicated to being a strong voice throughout the valley.

CCA continues to network with Valley Public Television to sponsor the show "In the Life", the National monthly news program designed to educate and entertain the public on the many issues facing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and other populations. CCA has been the opening night sponsor of the Reel Pride Film Festival for over thirteen years. CCA is a major sponsor of the Rainbow Pride Parade and Festival. Altogether over its entirety CCA has given over \$90,000 back to the community.

You can read about our events, membership and contact board members by going to our web page at www.ccafresno.org. You can also view our monthly Connections newsletter online.

CCA has been involved in this community for over 15 years. We are excited about our future as a vital, active, and reachable voice. We will continue to offer financial assistance to other community based groups through our Community Aid Fund and to sponsor our Memorial Scholarship, established in honor of Kathryn Stephens.

Fresno Stonewall Democrats

We believe that of the two major parties, the Democratic Party is the best home for those devoted to securing fair and equal treatment for people regardless of sexual orientation, preference, or identity. We are devoted to advancing equal rights for all people. We support the Democratic Party and those Democratic candidates who support our mission of equality. We encourage our community to support and vote for Democratic candidates who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice. Contact information: www.mangen.com/stonewall

Community Link

Community Link where we don't just tolerate diversity we celebrate it.

Community Link is one of the oldest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) service organizations in the Central Valley. Founded in February 1988 to address the needs of the GLBT community, Community Link has been a constant source of support and resources to an often under-served segment of the population.

Community Link views one of its main purposes as being educational. Our "Speaking Out" speakers bureau provides panels that can address a wide array of topics that focus or touch on the GLBT community. "Speaking Out" has provided trained professional speakers for the Department of Justice on hate crimes; and conducted sensitivity trainings for the Fresno Police Department, the Police Academy, and CSUF's Police Department. In the past Community Link assisted in training crisis workers at Help Now to better serve GLBT individuals who were in crisis. Annual training was also developed for rape counseling services both in Fresno and Kings counties. Our speakers have made presentations at all of the local university and college campuses as well as at local high schools.

Since Community Link's formation 20 years ago, we have been dedicated to providing services to the GLBT youth 25 years of age and younger, through the Fresno Youth Alliance. The Youth Alliance provides social support through a weekly youth group. The group has met every Friday for the past 20 years, that is roughly 1,100 Friday evenings, well, give or take a few.

Two years ago the Youth Alliance made the commitment to create an additional group and time just for teenagers, those in Middle School and High School. Topics and the focuses include, but are not limited to, coming out issues, school harassment, personal safety, dating, and socializing. This special group meets every Friday evening from 6:30M to 7:30 PM., followed by the age-inclusive Friday Youth Alliance meeting from 7:30PM - 9:00 PM. Talk about an exciting group of laughs and fun, its FUNastic.

On the other side of the Youth Alliance is our Gray Alliance, a social support group for our longer-lived members of the GLBT community, the pioneers of the GLBT community, who have been often forgotten or overlooked. This group meets monthly for Sunday Pot

Lucks and evening dinners out at local eateries. The Gray Alliance also attends cultural, arts, and entertainment events as a group.

Community Link has just published our 153rd issue of the News Link, the GLBT newspaper serving the Central Valley, North and South Valley communities. From Stockton to Bakersfield, the News Link keeps the GLBT community abreast of current news that affects it. The News Link is a voice and a resource to an underserved segment of the Central Valley and is now going on its 14th year.

Additionally, Community Link publishes a Business and Resource Directory, The Pink Pages. The directory provides information about organizations and agencies that serve the GLBT community, including information on support groups, recovery services, HIV services, social groups, political clubs; and list gay-friendly businesses. Our current issue of the Pink Pages is at the printers and will make its debut at the Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade and Festive.

Fresno Rainbow Pride was formed six years ago, when the original Pride parade organizers were calling it quits, to keep GLBT Pride Parade and Festival alive. Fresno Rainbow Pride has grown into a regional event drawing people from all over the Valley to celebrate the contributions of the GLBT community and have a day of their own. On Saturday, June 7th we are expecting over 3,000 people to attend this year's GLBT Pride. The parade and festival is the largest one-day GLBT event in the valley.

Always looking at providing safe and sane opportunities for the GLBT community to come together and express themselves, Community Link hosts a wide variety of social, educational, networking, and advocacy programs and events, such as: Queer Volley Ball every Thursday evening between March and October; and the Rainbow Bowling League, which picks up where the Volley Ball, meeting at Cedar Lanes.

Some of our other events include a biennial Fall Garden Tea Tour held the first Sunday in October, the Lavender Prom for GLBT Youth, and our annual Bowl-a-thon which is 10% part fund-raiser and 90% FUN raiser held in August. Community Link and all of the individuals that have made it possible to offer these and other services to the GLBT community for the past 20 years are proud of what we have been able to accomplish. And all of this has been done with an all-volunteer staff. We have no paid employees and our services are funded through community donations and fund-raisers. We receive no public or governmental funding.

For more information about Community Link and all of our programs check out our web site www.communitylinkfresno.com. Or call our out going info line 266-LINK (5465).

Community Link, Inc.
P.O. Box 4959
Fresno, Ca. 93744



**Pride Parade of June 2001.
Stonewall Chair Jay Hubbell waves from the top of the car with Herb Fisher and Fred Brengelman.**



NEWSLINK monthly newspaper
PINK PAGES
QUEER VOLLEYBALL
GRAY ALLIANCE
BOWL-A-THON

YOUTH ALLIANCE
LAVENDER PROM
FALL GARDEN & TEA TOUR
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Fresno Rainbow Pride

Jeff Robinson

Tolerance and acceptance of diversity are key aspects for this year's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Parade and Festival. Organizers are reaching out to the non GLBT community to experience a unique cultural event.

Many progressive individuals have never attended a GLBT Pride celebration and have had limited opportunities to interact with members of the GLBT community. The Central Valley's GLBT Pride Parade and Festival provides an accessible, friendly, and positive atmosphere to "experience the RAINBOW" as Pride coordinator Jeffery Robinson likes to describe it.

The GLBT community is made up of many different and diverse segments with their own distinct characteristics. Robinson says, "The community is as varying as the world round us is. There is often a misconception that the GLBT community is young, white, male, and economically privileged. This couldn't be further from the truth." Coming together for this one day of unity will be the Lesbian and Bisexual women's community, seniors, people of color, teens, families and parents of GLBT individuals.

This will be the 18th annual Central Valley Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) Pride Parade and Festival. The Pride Celebration will be held Saturday, June 7, 2008, in Fresno's Tower District

The Parade route is east bound on Olive Avenue and begins at Palm Avenue and terminates at Maroa Street. The Parade will start at 10 am.

The Pride Parade continues to be one of the most affordable and accessible entertainment and cultural events in the Valley. The Parade is FREE. It is easy to find a comfortable space to view the colorful entries along Olive Avenue and unlike bigger Pride Parades in larger cities that can last hours, the Valley's Pride Parade is a very convenient hour in length.

For those progressives who are committed to supporting and patronizing local and independently





owned business, there are plenty of eateries and a coffee and a tea house to choose from.

Following the Parade will be a street festival celebrating the GLBT culture with GLBT entertainers, awards, speeches, and information, merchandise, and food booths. There will be a children's area and children's activities for members of the community and our allied straight friends with families. The first 50 children 12 and under will receive a special treat--Goodie bags, with small bottles of water, juice, and snacks.

The Pride Festival will open at the conclusion of the Pride Parade roughly around 11 am and close at 3 pm. The coverage charge for entry into the Pride Festival is \$5, and while not free, the Pride Festival is still a huge bargain for four hours of fun and entertainment. Children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult will be our guests.

The Pride Festival's featured GLBT performers include headliner Dario, a R&B recording artist with several top ten European hits who also happens to be a past American Idol contestant. Hop Scotch Heroes, an all female indie band, Common Teri, a Transgender singer/song writer, Grace Schaeffler, a young Lesbian singer/song writer and spoken word artist. Rounding out the list of featured performers will be the Gay Men's Chorus, a Polynesian Dance group of Fresno, and several top notch male and female impersonators. A special treat will be the Aztec Dancers that will be performing in the Pride Parade as part of the Ellos Latinos entry.

There is still time to do more than just attend the Pride Celebration. Your group or business could have a booth at the festival. Information and merchandise space is still available for \$50 (\$20 of which is a refundable cleaning deposit). Inquiries about food booths should be made immediately by contacting Jeffery Robinson at the number below. The deadline to reserve a 10X10 space is quickly approaching.

Parade entries will be accepted up to the start of the parade, but payments will need to be made in cash or money order. Motorcycle entries are \$5, marching units \$15, cars or floats are \$20. Applications may be down-loaded from our website: www.FresnoRainbowPride.com

Fresno Rainbow Pride invites everyone, STRAIGHT, GAY, or somewhere in BETWEEN, to come and enjoy this unique cultural event for the Central Valley.

"Come experience the Rainbow."

For more information contact the Fresno Rainbow Pride Event Coordinator, Jeffery Robinson, at 559-486-3464. By mail at P.O. Box 4959, Fresno, CA 93744 or by email at Clinkinc@aol.com

All photos on pages 14 & 15 are by Dan Waterhouse.



Word on the Street

By Francine Ramos

On Thursday, May 15 the California Supreme Court lifted the ban on gay marriages in a 4-3 vote. The decision will now give same-sex couples in California the same right as heterosexual couples to marry. California is only the second state to legalize gay nuptials, following Massachusetts which legalized gay marriage in 2004. In about thirty days, gay Fresno couples, that choose to embark on the journey of love by walking down the aisle, will finally be able to do so. Yet, as with all things that offer change, the transition of finalizing what the court decided, has enraged many heterosexual couples that feel marriage should be restricted to only man and woman.

Many Fresnans responded to this month's question with plenty to say regarding the recent news. It was rather unfortunate that those against the ruling when interviewed for this article refused to be photographed or have their words taken down. However, all their comments seemed to be about the same. Their comments went as followed; first was that gays would ruin the sanctity of marriage. The second, that if Californians allow this to take place (gay marriage) what would be next, the courts allowing siblings to be given in marriage, always with the what if's. Well what if this paper started on fire right now in your hands, should one not read a newspaper on a scorching Fresno day for fear of the "what if's"? And lastly that marriage is a God-givin union rightfully handed down to only man and woman.

The reality of it is that the over 100,000 gay couples living in our Golden State have not contributed to the decline of marriage and probably won't ruin marriage any more than heterosexuals have. It seems we, "straights" have done a pretty good job messing with the sanctity of marriage, all on our own. According to The State of the Union, a report completed by Rutgers University in 2005, over 8% of coupled households were unmarried, heterosexual partners. There is more than a 57% chance that first time marriages will end in divorce, all this havoc on marriage and gays had nothing to do with it. What if by chance gay couples do a better job at it than us straights, what if?

It would seem that if heterosexuals were going to fight to keep marriage solely between man and woman, they would have a better case, if they kept the sanctity of marriage

themselves. Rather, there are couples divorcing at a rapid rate, wives cheat on their husbands, husbands leave their wives for younger women, and many choose to flat out not even walk down the road of marriage, rather than just live together. And as for God, well in the end you will only answer for yourself not for the world. Nevertheless, everyone should be treated equal and the decision of whether to marry should be made by the one holding the ring, regardless of the gender.

Finally, to the streets of Fresno, below are the brave words of those who braced the camera to share their views. Please take into consideration that this month there are 2 questions. The reason being, the Editorial Board had agreed upon the first question- Should Marriage be restricted to only man and woman or should gays be given the chance to marry? But then the day of the deadline, the CA Supreme Court threw as a shocker, therefore making it necessary to take to the streets once again with a new updated question. The first 3 humans, Yolanda, Leo, and Chris's statements were taken prior to the famous ruling. And the last bunch Michael, Victor, Teresa and Jeff, after. So on to the question.....

Should Marriage be restricted to only a man and a woman or should gay couples also be able to marry?

"Marriage should not be restricted to just man and woman. I believe everyone should be able to marry if they want. It is important to couples for many reasons like taxes purposes, filling joint returns. We should definitely be entitled to the same perks that straight people have."

Name: Chris Anguie
Where at in Fresno: near Fresno City College

"It should always be man and woman. If it was meant for a man and man to be married, why they can't reproduce. The lifestyle is not productive. No, it (gay marriage) shouldn't be legal; it is not natural or normal. It can't be received as natural because it isn't. It's perverse. People should be able to express their views they are or what they are whether you're gay or straight or a Christian. We have every right to express what we see as wrong, just as well as gays have every right to express their views on how they feel about their life and man marrying man is plain wrong."

Name: Leo
Where at in Fresno: Trimming trees near Fresno State

"If they want to get married that's their business. We live in a country of freedom. So if they want to get married more power to them."

Name: Yolanda Meza
Where at in Fresno: Gas Station of Clinton and Palm

Q. How do you feel about the recent ruling by the California Supreme Court's

decision to lift the ban on same-sex marriages?

"I am excited. I think it was time. It shouldn't be about right or wrong. When you get down to it it's about love. It's emotion. It's got nothing to do with male or female or gender. It's about two people wanting to unite and be together. So why not be able to do it, everyone else can. So, yeah I'm excited. And I would love to get married."

Name: Victor Camarena
Where at in Fresno: Déja Vu

"I think it's a good decision it doesn't matter what one's sexual preference is. Everyone should have the right to be with who they choose. We are like the best country, everyone wants to come here. So it's important that our state recognizes and continues to treat everyone the same. Actually our country is sometimes very conservative when it comes to intimate issues. But I think that the elections and a new President there are going to be a lot more states putting same-sex marriages into law."

Name: Teresa Chaevrra
Where at in Fresno: Sitting with Friends at Déjà Vu

"I think it's about time. I'm excited that it happened and that the Governor has issued a statement that said he is going to back it all the way. And I am excited that it wouldn't be on the ballot till November because I know that in 30 days people are going to be getting married and it will be a wonderful thing. So I feel great. I don't plan to get married. I was emotional just knowing that I can if I want and that is the biggest part for me. It is a major major step forward and a huge step for the courts to make a move on it. I think it's wonderful."

Name: Michael Kuchar
Where at in Fresno: Near downtown with friends

"I do think it's a good thing. I think further down the road we are going to say to ourselves what took us so long. It's going to be seen as women's voting back then how women didn't have the right to vote and now we look back at it and realize how ridiculous that was."

Name: Rene Badillo
Where at in Fresno: Pumping gas near Bullard and First

"I think it's wrong. It's immoral. It was brought to the voters and the voters turned it down. The people of California spoke, so they should have let it go. But they have to keep on arguing about it even though the people voted against it. Let it go! No, they don't deserve equal rights"

Name: Jeff Brewster
Where at in Fresno: Taking a break from work off Bullard and First



Chris Anguie



Leo



Yolanda Meza



Victor Camarena



Teresa Chaevrra



Micheal Kuchar



Rene Badillo



Jeff Brewster

Fresno Center for Nonviolence



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dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through
SIMPLICITY – JUSTICE – INCLUSIVENESS – NON-INJURY

David Barsamian Comes to Fresno

By Dan Yaseen

Our keynote speaker, **David Barsamian**, is the award winning founder and director of Alternative Radio, the independent weekly series based in Boulder, Colorado and airs on KFCF. He is a radio producer, journalist, author and lecturer. He has been working in radio since 1978. His interviews and articles appear regularly in *The Progressive* and *Z Magazine*. Barsamian lectures on U.S. foreign policy, the media, propaganda, and corporate power in the US, Canada, Brazil, India, Pakistan and Europe.

Most of his radio programs and books are based on his interviews with progressive thinkers and activists. The best known of his programs have been series of interviews with dissident intellectual Noam Chomsky. Others feature Tariq Ali, Vandana Shiva, Seymour Hersh, Bill Moyers, Arundhati Roy and Howard Zinn.

Barsamian on US Imperialism:

"They want to destroy Teheran - Iran has always been the main target of American imperialism - Afghanistan and Iraq have been sideshows. They had no idea that Iraq would give them so much trouble... Neocons said it would be a 'cakewalk'... And now they're stuck in Afghanistan for seven years, 5 years in Iraq - no end in sight... And they want to control the regime in Damascus also, and to crush Hezbollah and Hamas and to reshape the map of the Middle East. This is the big neocon project, which has now collapsed. And the liberal critique in America is about their mistakes - how stupid they were, how arrogant they were, not how criminal they are."

Barsamian on Mainstream Media:

"There is a structural relationship between media and state power. Who are the media? They're a handful of corporations that dominate what people see, hear, and read. They have been able to manufacture consent, particularly in the United States, for imperialist wars of aggression... The reporting on Iraq has been so atrocious: people talk about how the bar has been lowered in journalism. I don't think it's been lowered. I think it's disappeared. The servility and sycophancy of journalism has reached appalling levels, and the catastrophe that's unfolding in Iraq is a direct result of this. There are huge consequences for not reporting accurately. And, sadly, it's the Iraqi people that are paying in huge numbers, and Americans to a lesser extent."

His latest books are: *Targeting Iran*, *What We Say Goes*, *Imperial Ambitions: Conversations in the post 911 World*, *Speaking of Empire & Resistance* Original Zinn: Conversations on History and Politics

Friends of Community Media gave him the 2007 Media Education Award "For outstanding work as a progressive media voice." The Institute for Alternative Journalism named him one of its "Top Ten Media Heroes." He is the winner of the ACLU's Upton Sinclair Award for independent journalism, the 2006 Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Award and the Cultural Freedom Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation.

Alternative Radio is a weekly one-hour public affairs program offered free to all public radio stations. AR airs locally on KFCF 88.1 every Thursday 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. AR reaches over 125 radio stations and millions of listeners. AR is part of the non-profit Institute for Social and Cultural Change. To make a tax-free donation, go to www.alternative.org or call 1-800-444-1977.

FCNV Anniversary Celebration

- Keynote Speaker David Barsamian:

"What We Say Goes: America Tries to Rule the World"

- Way of Peace Awards
- Peace by Chocolate Dessert Reception

Sunday, June 29th - 4 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church

2672 E. Alluvial Ave. (Just west of Willow)

\$5.00 Admission

Congratulations to our 2008 Way of Peace Award Recipients!

Toni & Ed Eames - Ingrid Carmean - Dr. Ali Rezapour

Tawanish Wyatt - Becky and Aaron Kern

Unitarian Universalist Church Social Justice Committee

STIR IT UP

Dan Yaseen interviews David Barsamian.

Wednesday, June 11th, at 3 -3:30PM,
KFCF 88.1 FM

The FCNV is a Host Organization

to many non-profit groups in the Fresno community.
We provide a safe meeting place and media resources
to the groups using our facility, including:

- Youth Link
- Project: Male
- CVAAS
- CVPPAC
- Teatro Immigrante
- Peace Fresno
- WILPF
- CVCRC
- CCCJC
- Community Alliance

FIDEL: THE UNTOLD STORY

Whether dismissed as a relic or revered as a savior, all agree that Fidel Castro is one of the most influential and controversial figures of our time. Rarely are Americans given a chance to see inside the world of this socialist leader. This documentary film offers a unique opportunity to view the man through exclusive interviews with Castro himself, historians, public figures and close friends.

Wednesday, June 11th - 7pm/Potluck at 6:30 at the FCNV

1584 N. Van Ness (SE Corner of McKinley/Van Ness)

CARAVAN TO CUBA

Fresno has been chosen as one of 130 communities supporting a new U.S.-Cuba policy based on respect and non-aggression. The 19th Friendship Caravan will be stopping in all 48 mainland states.

Please join us. Learn about Cuba and what the U.S. government doesn't want you to know, connect with the activists who will be coming through Fresno, challenging the immoral US foreign policies against Cuba.

Monday, June 23rd - 6 pm

Margaret's Barn and Garden - 4247 N. Thorne

Call Gerry Bill for details: 227-2133

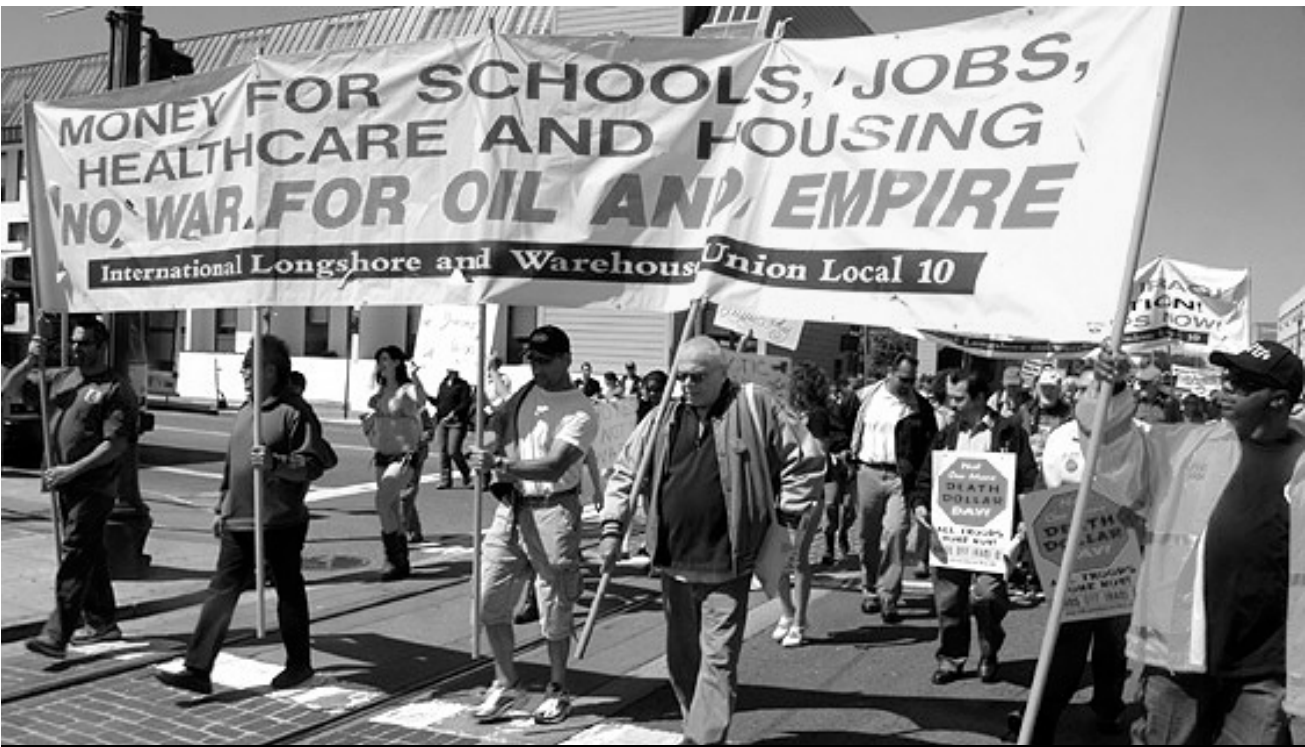
International Longshore and Warehouse Union: No Peace No Work

By Leni V. Reeves

ILWU Local 10 May Day protest against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars shut down the whole West Coast: 29 ports from the Canadian to the Mexican borders. This is a historic 1st - an American union's "strike" for peace. "We're standing up for America, we're supporting the troops and we're telling politicians that it's time to end the war in Iraq now!"

On May 1st, the ILWU and supporters led by the ILWU Drill Team marched along the San Francisco waterfront and rallied at the Ferry Building in defiance of an arbitrator's order declaring that the Union had to instruct its members to report to work. Local 10 officers and rank and file members spoke at the rally, pointing out the links between workers' rights and peace: "It's the sons and daughters of workers who are getting killed in Iraq," and the connections between labor and immigrant rights- Harry Bridges, the ILWU's 1st president was an Australian immigrant whom the US government repeatedly tried to deport. Danny Glover, Cynthia McKinney, Cindy Sheehan, San Francisco Poet Laureate Jack Hirschman, a Code Pink representative, and others also spoke.

The Longshore Caucus, the highest decision-making body for the 25,000 member longshore division of the ILWU voted in February, overwhelmingly approving a day of protest against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. After it was approved by the Caucus, ILWU President Bob McEllrath notified the employers of the planned May Day work stoppage. The Pacific Maritime Association, representing the employers, first tried to get an injunction, and when that failed took the issue to an arbitrator who ruled that the Union was obligated to tell the workers to report to work on May Day. A spokesman for the



This May Day event in the Bay Area shut down the docks to protest the war and occupation of Iraq. Leni Reeves, from the Fresno area, was there and sends us this report.

PMA said "We hope the day will come and go without disruption." But Longshoreman Jack Heyman from the Local 10 Executive Board said "I have never seen our membership so resolute on a given issue." ILWU spokesman Clarence Thomas ("the real Clarence Thomas"), with Heyman one of the main organizers of the event said, "Longshoremen aren't slaves. They have a right to take a day off if they want."

The ILWU, both officers and rank and file, refused to bow to the pressure. Every port on the West Coast was shut down on May 1. Twenty-five thousand longshore workers exercised their First Amendment rights by taking a day off work and calling for an end to the war. In addition to the anti-war protest this represented a reclaiming of the real Labor Day - May Day which is International Workers Day. The ILWU was born in struggle in 1934, during which the police and National Guard attacked an organiz-

ing rally on July 5, killing 2 workers and wounding many others. The San Francisco General Strike protested the police attack and supported the longshoremen's fight for a real union. The ILWU has never lost its roots in workers democracy and progressive pro-labor and pro-peace politics. The big change since then is that now the longshore division includes many women workers.

As a kid in the '50's I grew up with stories of 1934 told by men who had been there. It was as close and immediate then as the events of 1983 are to us now. When I heard Clarence Thomas on the radio (KFCF 88.1 FM of course) on April 30 talking about this historic action, I knew I had to be there. It was good to see that the ILWU still remembers how to fight for what's right.

Jeff

Eben

Fresno Mayor

www.ebenformayor.com

The Mayor's race is a question of leadership...
Jeff Eben is a LEADER!
Tough, Tested and Ready!

Solidarity Not Charity Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba Comes to Fresno June 23

By Leni Reeves

More than 50 Pastors for Peace Caravans have gone to Mexico, Central America and Cuba, delivering aid and organizing at home for a more just policy toward our neighbors in the hemisphere. This will be the nineteenth Cuba Caravan. Each Caravan is a huge project linking people, vehicles and humanitarian aid, traveling on different routes through the U.S. and Canada, making stops in many communities, making presentations, picking up caravanistas and aid, making connection with supporters and talking to anyone who wants to learn more. Our chance to connect comes June 23, with a 6pm potluck and 7pm program at the Margaret Hudson Barn, at 4247 N. Thorne, north of Ashlan.

The Caravan then will pass through Southern California, Arizona, and Texas crossing the border into Mexico and heading to the port of Tampico, where all the aid is loaded on ships bound to Cuba. The caravanistas spend 8 days in Cuba, visiting social and community projects , meeting people and learning; then retrace the route back to the U.S. border. Fresnan Gerry Bill, who has been on 2 previous caravans, says last year's caravan delivered 90 tons of aid to Cuba. He enjoyed the chance to meet caravan participants and supporters in the U.S. – he notes that people on the road honk in support in California and Arizona but are silent in Texas. However a Sunday visit wearing Pastors for Peace T-shirts



Caravanistas carried the aid across after US authorities made it clear they would not permit it to get through.

to a conservative Presbyterian Church in McAllen Texas found people supportive of the idea of aid, though hostile to the Cuban government. Obvious open support resumes in Mexico where the media covers the event and people know what the Caravan is about.

The longshore workers in Tampico donate their labor loading supplies onto the ship. The hardest working period for the caravanistas is just before the U.S. border when all the aid must be unloaded, manifested and labeled and reloaded. The border crossing is a legal challenge: a conscious act of civil disobedience and a challenge to the U.S. government's cruel and immoral economic blockade of Cuba, which uses the denial of food and medicine as a political weapon. In Cuba, Gerry was very impressed by the Latin American School of Medicine, where Cuba trains doctors from 27 countries, including about 50 from the U.S. They will return to serve the medical needs of their countries; indeed the pervasive culture of the school is one of service. On a small scale, Gerry noted that when a caravanista fell, injuring his knee, in Cuba, a passer-by notified the neighborhood doctor who appeared at the church where they were staying, treated the knee, and of course charged nothing.

I will be joining this year's caravan and taking medications, especially antibiotics and drugs used to treat cancers in children. A local pharmacy will sell these at cost but they are still very expensive. Donations for this purpose can be sent to, and made out to, Fresno Center for Nonviolence with "medical aid for Cuba" on the "for" or "memo" line; they are tax deductible. (The address is 1584 Van Ness, Fresno CA 93728) Please help. No matter how much aid we send we could never remotely make up for the damage done by the blockade. The act of collecting and sending aid is an act of solidarity. Each Caravan is an endeavor of love rooted in social justice.

KFCF: Streaming and Archives

By Rychard Withers, KFCF

Last year the payment rates and airplay reporting rules for streaming audio on the internet changed. KFCF decided that we could not risk the legal liabilities and fines, and ceased broadcasting on the internet. We will reconsider the idea once the record companies (known as SoundExchange in this proceeding) and webcasters, NPR, CPB and NFCB (National Federation of Community Broadcasters) reach an agreement that is less strenuous than the ruling by the Library of Congress, which sets the rates. KFCF is not covered by the CPB, NPR or Pacifica agreements or the shelter of their deep pockets, so continuing to stream subjects us to liability, and at \$150,000+ per violation/song for not meeting the reporting rules, we decided to wait for agreements to be worked out. Unfortunately it is stretching out to a period of years, rather than months.

Rates have doubled for music payments to the record companies over the term of the new ruling and data reporting requirements became impossible for KFCF to comply with as our system is currently set up.

Before 2007 non-commercial stations could pay a monthly fee for an exemption to the reporting requirements. Requirements require the display of every song, artist and album title to be displayed as the stream is played, and for quarterly reports of that information, along with the number of listeners to each individual song.

KFCF has two local studios and programming by satellite from KPFA. It would be required that any such system determine which studio is on the air, and display that data in real time. Each of the studios have turntables, CD players, tape machines and other musical sources, none of which provide the data, meaning the DJ would have to enter this data for each song played in real time.

In the last six months that KFCF was streaming, online listenership only once exceeded three listeners, and that was when KPFA's webstream crashed during the live coverage of Alberto Gonzalez's congressional testimony, and we skyrocketed to 8 listeners. Use of our on-line archives was also minimal, and whether the cost-benefit ratio justifies such use of our financial resources is a question we will need to consider once the legal issues are resolved.

In terms of the archives containing shows that have already aired, the rules say that archives may only be posted for a two week maximum, and each archive must be a minimum of five hours long and should include technology to prevent the listener from pausing, rewinding or fast-forwarding, or downloading the program.

KFCF could edit local programs, so that they contain no infringing music, and that would be legal. However, according to our Executive Director, Vic Bedomian, we do not have the resources at this time to listen to, edit, upload and update the archives in a manner that would pass legal muster. KFCF has contacted our Congressional representatives, NFCB and others and we are urging them to allow a reporting

exemption for non-commercial broadcasters as previously existed.

We are hoping for a solution soon, but long simmering legal battles and with the record companies now demanding that Congress change the rules for over the air broadcasting so that broadcasters pay between 25% and 33% of their gross revenues for playing music, I'm not hopeful this will be resolved anytime soon.

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Rychard Withers is a broadcast engineer, and volunteers as President of The Fresno Free College Foundation, which owns and operates KFCF. He can be reached at rwithers@kfcf.org



www.kfcf.org

Fresno Free College Foundation
Listener Sponsored Radio

KFCF 88.1 FM

College Community Congregational Church

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11:00 A.M. Contemporary
Nursery & Sunday School

Clergy: Rev. Dave Schlicher
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Phone: (559) 435-2690
Web: www.collegeccc.org



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PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 29 • 7 - 9 PM

Elections Expert and Author Steven Hill will speak at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Fresno 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. Clovis, CA [North of Alluvial; east of Chestnut]. Electoral reform is the beginning of a fair and participatory democracy.

Steven Hill is senior analyst for the Center for Voting and Democracy, a non-profit organization that educates the public about the impact of electoral systems and the legislative redistricting process on political representation, voter turnout, governance and campaign finance reform.

He is the author of Fixing Elections: The Failure of America's Winner Take All Politics (Routledge Press, August 2002), co-author of Whose Vote Counts (Beacon Press, 2001), and 10 Steps to Repair American Democracy (PoliPoint Press, 2006).

He is a frequent contributor of political commentaries to the Knight-Ridder wire service, and his articles and commentaries have appeared in dozens of newspapers and magazines.

He was the campaign manager in San Francisco of the successful campaign that resulted in San Franciscans voting to adopt instant runoff voting to elect their local government. He also was one of the organizers of San Francisco's successful ballot measure for public financing of local elections. He lives in San Francisco, CA.

For more information, call Larry Mullen 559 227-0293.

This event is free to the public and wheelchair accessible. Central Valley Electoral Reform and the Social Justice Committee of the UU Church of Fresno are sponsoring this event. Central Valley Electoral Reform, www.CVER.org, is a collaboration of individuals and groups interested in making elections in the Central Valley more competitive issue oriented, cost effective, and proportionally representative.

Friday, May 30 • 7 PM

Steven Hill (see May 29 calendar item) will speak at the College of the Sequoias, John Muir Room 101, Visalia, CA

Friday, May 30 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents speaker: Ziad Abbas, Palestinian journalist. Topic: The Naqba — 60 Years: What is the Future for Palestinian Refugees.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen0@gmail.com

Saturday, May 31

Fresno Barrios Unidos fund raiser at the Fresno Art Museum. For more information, contact: Patsy Montgomery 559-360-4309 or 559-488-4908 x 301

Sunday, June 1 • 5:30 PM

Physician Dr. Marc Lasher has been chosen as the fourth recipient of California Central Valley's "Outstanding Advocate for the Common Good" for his decades-long efforts to serve the poor and powerless through health care delivery and reform, prisoner rights, and land redistribution. The award banquet is open to the public. Tickets are \$40 per person. Scholarships are available, if needed, for part or all of that amount. Reservation forms will be available on-line after April 7, 2008 at www.robinsoncommongood.org. In addition, people may call the United Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, at 559-227-2050 for reservation forms and for more information after April 7, 2008. The program starts at 5:30 p.m. Hope Lutheran is located at the NW corner of Fresno and Barstow.

Tuesday, June 3

Primary Election. See www.cvppac.org for voting recommendations from the Central Valley Progressive PAC. To see a comprehensive chart of where local candidates stand on issues of concern in the progressive community, go to: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/2008election/>

Friday, June 6 • 4:30-6:30 PM

Join Peace Fresno for their monthly demonstration at the corners of Blackstone and Shaw in Fresno. They will continue to keep the occupation of Iraq in front of our neighbors. For more information, contact Scott at (559) 487-2515 or president@peacefresno.org

Saturday June 7 • 9 AM – Noon

You are invited to a workshop featuring a presentation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on grant opportunities and tips on how to prepare a suc-

cessful grant application. Information and resources will also be available to help you understand the pollution and toxics in your community. It will also be a great time to network and make contacts at potential partnern community groups, agencies and organizations from throughout the Central Valley. This workshop will be held at the Big Red Church (First Congregational Church of Fresno) 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. (at East Yale).

To RSVP or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact: Catherine Garoupa, (559) 662-0565, catherinecvaq@gmail.com. For more information about this workshop, contact Debbie Lowe Liang at US EPA: (415) 947-4155, lowe.debbie@epa.gov. Light food and refreshments will be served

Saturday, June 7 • 10 AM

Fresno Rainbow Pride, the Central Valley's Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) Pride Parade and Festival. The Parade route is east bound on Olive Avenue and begins at Palm Avenue and terminates at Maroa Avenue.

Tuesday, June 10

The Homeless Lawsuit against the City of Fresno will begin. For background information about what led to this trial, see: <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2006/11/23/18332519.php>

Wednesday, June 11 • 12 Noon & 7 PM

FREE. At the Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N, Van Ness – Monthly Every Second Wednesday Video Presentation: “Fidel,” documentary about Fidel Castro, covering 40 years of Cuban revolution.

Thursday, June 12 • 5 - 8 PM

The Mayoral Forum on Poverty will be held at the Saroyan Theater in downtown Fresno. The forum will be moderated by Dr. Manuel Pastor, author and professor at the University of Southern California, where he directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity.

"No fluff just tough questions about the core of the City and listening for tough answers." said Keith Kelley, CEO from Fresno West Coalition For Economic Development.

The run-off mayoral candidates will be questioned on what they see as a specific, realistic platform to address chronic poverty and health disparity on the City of Fresno. The forum will provide a thoughtful discussion to help determine which candidates are capable and willing to provide the leadership required to make amelioration of poverty a top priority.

Refreshments will be served and the audience will have the opportunity to meet with the candidates following the question answer component.

Friday, June 13 • 5:30 and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents "The Counterfeiters" at the Tower Theatre. The film tells the true story of Salomon Sorowitsch, a counterfeiter who agrees to help the Nazis in an organized counterfeit operation inside a concentration camp -- in exchange for keeping his life. In German, with English subtitles. Tickets cost \$10 general and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave.; at JA Photography, 2003 N. Van Ness; via PayPal at www.FresnoFilmworks.org; and at the door. For details, visit www.FresnoFilmworks.org or call (559) 221-0755.

Friday, June 13 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents speaker: Carol Enns, professor of philosophy. Topic: You Believe What? Join a philosopher in thinking about views that are quite different from the ones we hold. It takes some practice to listen to the ideas and feelings of people in a different situation than our own. Carol Enns will discuss the "Principle of Charity" used by her philosophy students.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen0@gmail.com

Saturday June 14 • 9 PM

Full Circle Brewing Co Presents Uni & the Ding String Trio, Vaudevillian Extravaganza. \$6 Cover 620 F St. Downtown Fresno 559-264-6323 www.fullcirclebrewing.com

Sunday, June 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the July, 2008 Community Alliance newspaper. Send information to AllianceEditor@Comcast.net

Thursday, June 19 • 7 PM

Local author, Rev. Steve Ratzlaff, pastor of Mennonite Community Church will speak about his new book, 7 Steps to End War and Save the Planet, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Fresno 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. Clovis, Ca (between Chestnut and Willow on north side of Alluvial). Imagine a world in which warfare and massive military expenditures are redirected to justice-making and halting global warming. Rev. Ratzlaff outlines such a plan and challenges us to help make this dream a reality. Join us for this thought provoking evening. Co-sponsors include the Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative, Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Coordinating Committees. cyoungrn@sbcglobal.net

Friday, June 20 • 6 PM

A benefit for Project Jambo. What can you do with \$500? Purchase a brand new computer, take a trip, or stash it away for a gas emergency? How about helping a child complete their education? \$500 is all it takes for a girl in Kenya to continue her studies. Education in Kenya is free only at the primary level. With the average income of a rural Kenyan family being \$1 a day, many of these children especially the girls need financial help.

On June 20th, you will have the opportunity to extend your helping hand to these young children and meet Sue & Joel Gilbert founders of Project Jambo. Learn how you can help these children on a multiple of levels and ensure they receive a quality education.

Tickets for this event are \$50 per person. Come and enjoy a night of food, wine and entertainment with a little African flair. A raffle will also be held and all proceeds will benefit Project Jambo. For additional information about Project Jambo visit www.projectjambo.org. For additional information on the event please contact Ana Paulson at ana@sierrasoups.com.

Friday, June 20 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents the Documentary: The Power of Forgiveness by Martin Doblemaier. It includes feature stories on the Amish, the 9/11 tragedy, and peace-building in Northern Ireland, along with interviews with renowned Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, best-selling authors Thomas Moore and Marianne Williamson, and others. It explores the role forgiveness holds in various faith traditions and examines how the scientific community is now measuring the physical and mental benefits of letting go of grief and resentment.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen0@gmail.com

Monday, June 23 • 7 PM

The 19th annual Pastors for Peace Caravan will pass through Fresno, stopping at Margaret Hudson's barn, 4247 N. Thorne Ave. There will be a potluck meal at 6 p.m. followed by a program at 7 p.m. The caravan will be collecting medical aid and school supplies for Cuba. For information about the event or to arrange donations of aid contact Gerry Bill, 227-2133.

Saturday, June 28

The California Central Valley Journey for Justice invites you to participate in its third year journey. The journey has gone through cities and towns of the Central Valley from Lindsay to Sacramento. They seek to help forge a chain of communities throughout the Valley to unite our strength, provide support and understanding to each other as we strive to find solution together. CCVJ4J brings together public employees, healthcare workers, farm workers, religious leaders, urban and rural poor, and community activists into a unified movement for justice and economic human rights for all. For more information call Eduardo Castro at 559 250-2733. www.journeyforjustice.net

Sunday, June 29 • 4 PM

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2672 E Alluvial Ave (just West of Willow). The keynote speaker will be David Barsamian on “What We Say Goes: America Tries to Rule the World.” The Way of Peace Awards will be presented. \$5.

Friday, July 4 • 9 AM - 1 PM

Interfaith Celebration of our Diversity. Brunch and Program at O'Neill Park on Barstow between Cedar and Chestnut. \$5 donation per person. \$20 maximum per family. Call Bryan Jessup 322-6146 for information.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday • 3 - 4 PM

Sunday Food Not Bombs serves free food at Courthouse Park to anyone who is hungry. They start cooking at 1 PM and serve the food at 3 PM (meet at the Tulare side of the park). For more information see: <http://cafefresno.org/>

Every Tuesday • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Fresno River Zen group meets in Horsley Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church. This group welcomes all who wish to seek clarity, compassion, and harmony with oneself and the world through mindful meditation. Emphasis is on bringing peaceful actions from personal experience in meditation to healing the world. Teaching and practice in the spirit of the Suzuki Roshi Lineage is led by Grace Schireson, an ordained Zen priest. For more information, call Grace at (559) 877-2400 or email her at grace@emptynestzendo.org.

Every Monday and Tuesday • 7-9:30 PM

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets). Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229-6410 or Lizaosb@aol.com; or visit their Web site: www.sbcw.org.

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world, come to this meeting! For an up-to-the-minute listing of all peace actions in the Fresno area, call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at (559) 23PEACE (237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno, call 487-2515 or visit their Web site at www.peacefresno.org

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 worldwide contacts in the Labor community makes 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 <http://dbacon.igc.org>

Every Friday • 7 PM

Reedley Peace Center holds its weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley's First Mennonite Church, 1208 L Street, Reedley. Programs vary, but the focus is always on peace issues: local, state, national, international. The contact is Carol Krehbiel: (559) 637-9098 or ckrehbiel@earthlink.net. The meeting is free, open to the public, and accessible to the handicapped.

Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park. If you would like to help us prepare our meal, we meet every Saturday at Wesley United Methodist Church (1343 E. Barstow) at 10am. For more information see: <http://myspace.com/fresnofnb>

For more information on Food Not Bombs you can contact us at fresnofnb@hotmail.com or visit the official FNB website foodnotbombs.net

Every Saturday • 1 PM until the last patient is served

Medical clinic for the homeless, actively injecting drug users, and prostitutes. You can find them near Hughes and Olive Ave. Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers. Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266-0444.

Every Saturday • 1-3 PM

Fresno Free Bicycle Repair Clinic. Most Saturdays. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes, and blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park, beside Food Not Bombs. For more info and to arrange donations, e-mail fresnofreebikeclinic@yahoo.com

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

1st Sunday of every month • 1 - 3 PM

The South Valley Peace Center holds a demonstration for peace at Mooney and Walnut in Visalia.

1st Sunday of every month • 5 PM

We don't BURN Heretics - We Welcome Them! Atheist, Secular Humanist, Rational Skeptic, Agnostic - would you like to be welcomed too? The Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics meets every month to discover ways to promote a secular, rational viewpoint throughout the Central Valley. We invite like minded people and their supports to be a part of our new organization: Phone: (559) 892-0102 Website: www.cvaas.org

3rd Sunday of every month • 3 - 5 PM

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

3rd Sunday of every month • 12 PM

Humanists of the San Joaquin Valley meets at the Conference Room at the UU Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. Clovis. They welcome guests and inquirers. Information at their Web site at www.fresno.humanists.net

1st Monday of every month • 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Central Valley Café Scientifique. Scientists and those curious meet at Lucy's Lair 10063 N Maple Ave, where non-scientists can engage in stimulating (and friendly) conversation about current scientific topics with local researchers and scientists. Café Scientifique is a growing movement, having started in the United Kingdom. There are several Café Scientifique meetings in the Bay Area. Website: <http://www.valleycafesci.org/>

4th Monday of every month • 7 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting, 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information contact JEAN HAYS skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net

3rd Tuesday of every month • 7 PM

The Fresno Free College Foundation (owner and operator of KFCF 88.1 FM) Board of Directors meet Machinist's Union Hall at 544 W. Olive Ave, across from the DMV. The public is invited. For more information call (559) 233-2221, e-mail kfcf@kfcf.org, or visit www.kfcf.org

1st Wednesday of every month

12 Noon-1 PM

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, and stand silently, advocating for PEACE. For more info, call 278-7140 or 225-2850.

1st Wednesday of every month • 7 PM

The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meetings are held in the State Building Assembly Room. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave. Call Steve Haze, Chair - 855-8844 stevehaze@psnw.com or Jay Hubbell, Secretary - 292-4905 / jayhubbell@comcast.net for more information.

2nd Wednesday of every month • 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for call to order

The Fresno Stonewall Democrats meets at Carrow's Restaurant 4280 N. Blackstone Avenue, Fresno (On the east side of Blackstone just north of Ashlan). Stonewall Democrats represent the interests of the LGBT community through the Democratic Party. Phone: Chuck Krugman for more information: (559) 266-9237 E-mail Chuck at: ckrugman@sbcglobal.net <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

3rd Wednesday of every month • 6:30 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee is meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1564 North Van Ness (Southeast corner of McKinley and Van Ness).

Third Wednesday of every month • 7 PM

General meeting of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club at the University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave. The general public is invited to attend these meetings featuring presentations and slide shows on diverse topics. Meetings not held in July and August.

1st Thursday of every month

ArtHop will be held on two different days of the month; every first and third Thursdays effective January 2008 ArtHop. First Thursday of the month is slated for the Downtown Fresno and Tower District, while the third Thursday is for the Metropolitan Areas (outside Downtown and Tower). For more information see <http://www.fresnoarthop.org/>, contact Maria Franco at mfranco@fresnoarts.org, or call (559) 237- 9734.

2nd Thursday of every month • 6:30 PM

Health Care for All Central California meets at the California School Employees Association, 2501 W Shaw #107 (SW corner of Shaw and Hughes, between Marks and West).

2nd Thursday of every month • 7 PM

Fresno LGBTQ Social Group <http://www.gayfresno.com/social/>
Carrow's Fresno
1484 E. Shaw Ave
(one block south of Fashion Fair)
Get together and hang out

2nd Thursday of every month • 7 PM

Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Green Party, County Council, at the California State Building in downtown Fresno. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave., and is located between O and P streets and Fresno and Tulare. Enter through the main door along the pedestrian mall just off P Street. Call (559) 265-3647 or go to www.cagreens.org/fresno for more information.

3rd Thursday of every month

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) meeting. For more information call (559) 227-6134.

3rd Thursday of every month • 6-8 PM

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike-friendly, you are invited to join this group. Please call (559) 444-2065 for more information.

1st Friday of every month • 4:30-6:30 PM

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

1st and 3rd Friday of every Month • 6:30 PM

California Prison Moratorium Project members, volunteers, walk ins welcomed at both meetings. We meet at 6pm at 1055 N Van Ness, Suite C. The 1st Friday of the month is dedicated to our local jail and prison "No New Cages" expansion plans. On the 3rd Friday we have a "Talking Circle" an indigenous style of community dialogue, join us. Both meetings begin at 6 until we are though or when you need to leave "Uncaging the Valley" is a mobilizing effort to unite the our communities about the runaway costs of incarceration. An anti prison conference is planned for the fall and we need your help planning. Your ideas and support are needed and welcomed. This is an effort of an exclusive valley wide coalition focused on this project. Potluck is encouraged but not required. Upcoming, speakers from the anti prison movement are being scheduled. Call Debbie Reyes at 559-266-5901 for more info.

1st Friday of every month • 7-9 PM

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

4th Friday of every month • 5 - 6 PM

Street Heat on KFCF, 88.1 FM in Fresno. This is the Community Alliance radio show.

1st Saturday of every month • 9 AM (breakfast) • 9:30 AM (business meeting) • 10 AM (program)

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meets. Call (559) 439-8140 for more information.

1st Saturday of every month • 3-5 PM

Women of Spirit—a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. You are invited to join the circle of women the first Saturday of each month, at 7319 N Fourth St, Fresno. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity, light refreshments after closing. The event is free. Both men and women are welcome. Contact: Veena Kapoor, (559) 435-2212.

2nd Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their Web site www.centerfornonviolence.org or call 559-23PEACE (237-3223).

2nd Saturday of every month • 10 AM

The Black Political Council meets at King of Kings on Martin Luther King Blvd.

4th Saturday of Every Month • 8-10 AM

Tower Beautification Cleanup. Meet at the Olive/Wishon corner of the Chicken Pie Shop. Bring hat, gloves, broom or rakes and weed hoes, water. We supply orange vests, pick up bags, grabbers and extra tools. Why do we do this? To beautify our community and build empowerment through responsibility for our quality of life. Questions? Call Coordinator, Gay Amend, at 237-6716 Sponsored by the Tower Trust, Council Districts 1 and 3 and the City of Fresno Sanitation Department which provides supplies and insurance.

Progressive community groups active in the Fresno area:

ACORN
3636 N First #139
Fresno Ca 93726
Ph (559) 222-9013
Fax (559) 222-9159
caacornfrro@acorn.org
www.acorn.org

Black Political Council
PO Box 11716
Fresno, CA 93774-1716

Books Not Bars
344 40th Street
Oakland, CA
510-428-3939 x231
510-428-3940 (fax)
Local contact:
(559) 776-7781
www.booksnotbars.org

Californians for Justice
2014 Tulare Avenue Suite 718
Fresno, CA 93721
Ph: 443-1394
Fax: 433-1343
bernardo@caljustice.org
www.caljustice.org

California Prison Moratorium Project
1055 N. Ave Van Ness. Suite C1
Fresno, CA 93728
(559) 916-4370
pmpvalle@sbcglobal.net
www.prisonactivist.org
http://calpmp.org

California Rural Legal Assistance
2115 Kern St. Ste. 370
Fresno, CA 93721-2100
Ph. (559) 441-8721
http://www.crla.org/

Center for Independent Living
3008 N. Fresno Street
Fresno Ca 93703
Ph. (559) 221-2330

Fax: (559) 221-2340
j_barraza@cii-fresno.org
Central California Alliance
Post Office Box 16422
Fresno, California 93755
Ph (559) 265-7117
speechadvice@yahoo.com
www.ccafresno.org

Central California Criminal Justice Committee
Post Office Box 4555
Fresno, CA 93744
(559) 229-9807
http://cccjc.org/home/

Central California Legal Services
1999 Tuolumne St
Suite 700
Fresno Ca 93721
Ph. (559) 570-1209
fresno@centralcallegal.org
http://www.centralcallegal.org

Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition
1140 N Van Ness Ave, Suite 105
Fresno, CA, 93728
Office (559) 486-3279 ext 2
Cell (559) 313-9485
Fax (559) 486-3669
www.calcleanair.org

Central Valley Counter-Recruitment Coalition
P. O. Box 5115
Fresno, CA 93755
(559) 487-2515
cvcrc@riseup.net
www.peacefresno.org

Central Valley Progressive PAC
P. O. Box 5845
Fresno, Ca 93755
(559) 559-444-2204
info@cvppac.org
www.cvppac.org

Centro Azteca de Información en Fresno
Franco Duarte
2203 Norris DR W
Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 485-0944
Fax (559) 459-0744
centroaztecafresno@hotmail.com

Centro Bellas Artes
453 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 237- 2783

Centro La Familia Advocacy
2014 Tulare St., #717
Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. (559) 237-2961
Fax (559) 237-2968

Coalition for Clean Air
1055 N. Van Ness Ave,
Suite K
Fresno, CA 93728
sarah@coalitionforcleanair.org
(559) 486-3279

Coalicion por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes del Valle de San Joaquin
453 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 498-6033
Fax 497-0206
IWAPGH@aol.com

Comité No Nos Vamos
453 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 498-6033
IWAPGH@aol.com

Comite PRO UNO
453 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 498-0206
IWAPGH@aol.com

Community Alliance newspaper
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755
Ph. (559) 978-4502
Fax (559) 226-3962
AllianceEditor@Comcast.net
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/

Community Link
PO Box 4959
Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 266-5465 or 226-5377
Fax (559) 486-3464
clinkinc@aol.com
http://www.communitylinkfresno.com

Fresno Copwatch
453 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 498-6033
IWAPGH@aol.com

Death Penalty Focus
Families & Friends of Prisoners Support Group
1917 S. Chestnut Ave., #13-G
Fresno, CA 93702
Phone/Fax: (559) 255-9492
maria.telesco@sbcglobal.net
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/

El Colegio Popular
Cathedral Education Center
2839 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. (559) 441-7131
Fax (559) 441-7155
http://www.citizenship.net/about/orgs/partners/ecp.htm
El Com. Para Bienestar de Earlimart;
Californians for Pesticide Reform, Central Valley
P.O. Box 10725
Earlimart, CA 93219
Ph. (661) 849-0669
Fax: (661) 849-2205
teresahbd@adi.com

El Concilio Immigration Project
1532 Fresno St
Fresno, CA 93706-1627
Ph. (559) 485-0679
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/ElConcilio/

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition
P.O. Box 218
Clovis, CA 93613
(559) 444-2065
info@fresnobike.com
www.fresnobike.org

Food Not Bombs (Saturday)
fresnofnb@yahoo.com
http://home.comcast.net/~fresnofnb/Sunday Food Not Bombs
933 F Street
Fresno, CA 93706
http://cafefresno.org/

Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional (Office)
2014 Tulare Street, Suite 223
Fresno, CA 93721
(Mailing Address)
P. O. 106
Fresno, CA 93707-0106
Ph. (559) 499-1178
Fax (559) 268-0484
lvasquez@sbcglobal.net
http://www.fioh.org/

Fresno Center for New Americans
4879 E Kings Canyon Road
Fresno Ca 93727
Ph. (559) 255-8395
Fax. (559) 255-1656
silascha@fresnocenter.com
www.fresnocenter.com
Fresno Center for Nonviolence dedicated to peace and social justice
1584 N. Van Ness
Fresno Ca 93728-1941
Ph. (559) 237-3223
info@centerfornonviolence.org
www.centerfornonviolence.org

Fresno County Green Party
PO Box 4501
Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 265-3647
fresno@greens.org
www.fresnogreens.org

Fresno Folklore Society
P.O. Box 4617
Fresno, CA 93744

Sun Mt Chronicles
Peace • Justice • Big Mama

Today we march, tomorrow we vote

The case of over-policing + lying

The case of Pam Kincaid's mysterious death

The case of the sober drunk

The case of trashing wrong house

The case of cops' code of lying

The case of overly protective husband

Labor board slaps hospital bosses' abuses of us workers

A VOICE FOR PATIENTS

QUAKERS

FRESNO FRIENDS MEETING
Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM
2219 San Joaquin, Fresno
559-237-4102

ALL WELCOME

Progressive community groups active in the Fresno area:

Ph. (559) 229-8808
ckjohns@pacbell.net
ckj12@csufresno.edu
<http://home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/>

Fresno Metro Ministry
1055 N Van Ness Suite H
Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 485-1416
Fax (559) 485-9109
metromin@fresnometmin.org
<http://www.fresnometmin.org/>

Fresno Free College Foundation/Radio Station KFCF
P.O. Box 4364
Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 233-2221
Fax (559) 233-5776
Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 266-8888
office@kfcf.org
<http://www.kfcf.org>

Fresno Reel Pride (GLBT annual film festival)
www.ReelPride.com

Fresno Stonewall Democrats
www.mangen.com/stonewall
Gay-straight Alliance Network
928 North Van Ness
Fresno, CA, 93728
559-268-2780
robin@gsanetwork.org

Habitat for Humanity
2219 San Joaquin
Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. (559) 237-4102
Fax (559) 237-1451
habitatfresnotm@hotmail.com
<http://www.habitatfresno.org/>

Health Care for All
devinc@sbcglobal.net
http://www.healthcareforall.org/central_valley.html

Interfaith Alliance of Central California
P.O. Box 9122
Fresno, CA 93790
Ph. (559) 225-1438
iaccfresno_1@hotmail.com

Interfaith Youth Alliance
P O Box 26134
Fresno, Ca 93729
Senior Advisor: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh
(559) 244-9360
Email: shamisesh@sbcglobal.net

KNFS (A Progressive Low Power FM radio station in the South Valley)
693 E. Kern Ave.
Tulare Ca 93274
knfs@comcast.net
<http://www.knfs.org> (Under construction)

Latino Issues Forum (LIF)
Fresno Regional Office
550 E. Shaw Ave, Suite 240
Fresno, Ca 93710
(559) 241-6561 (Office)
(559) 241-6563 (Fax)
Maria Leon
559-241-6572
<http://www.lif.org>

League of Women Voters
1345-A East Bulldog Lane
Fresno, CA 93710
Ph. (559) 226-8683
Fax (559) 268-1930
info@fresno.ca.lwvnet.org
<http://fresno.ca.lwvnet.org/>

The Living Room
601 E. Belmont
Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 485-3667
Fax (559) 485-3669

The Merced Labor Party
P.O. Box 1136
Merced, Ca 95341
(209) 631-6461
ssandovala@comcast.net

National Association for
the Advancement of
Colored People (NAACP)
Fresno Chapter
P.O. Box 11811
Fresno, CA 93775-1811
Voice: (559) 485-5778
Fax: (559) 485-5783
naacp41038@aol.com

Network in Action
xyfloyd@aol.com

Pan-Valley Institute
1440 W. Shaw Ave., Suite A
Fresno, CA 93711
Ph. (559) 222-7678
Fax (559) 222-7682
mnateras@afsc.org
www.afsc.org Parents & Friends of Lesbians/gays
P.O. Box 27382
Fresno, CA 93729-7382
(559) 434-6540

Peace and Freedom Party of Fresno County
P.O. Box 2191
Clovis CA 93613-2191
<http://www.peaceandfreedom-sjv.org> Peace Bakersfield
1906 18th Street, Apt. 24
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Ph. (661) 633-2930
peacebakersfield@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.geocities.com/bakproactnet/peacebakersfield.html>

Peace Fresno
P. O. Box 5115
Fresno, CA 93755
559-487-2515
president@peacefresno.org
www.peacefresno.org

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
650 North Fulton
Fresno, CA 93728
559-488-4900
<http://www.ppmarmonte.org>

Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR)
UC Cooperative Extension
1720 South Maple
Fresno, California 93702-4516
(559) 456-4151/mailbox#2

Proyecto Campesino
208 W Main St Suite U-2
Visalia, CA 93291
Ph. (559) 733-4844
Fax (559) 733-2360
gmartinez@afsc.org

<http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/visalia.htm>

Radio Bilingue
KSJV 91.5
5005 E. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
Ph. (559) 455-5777
mariax@radiobilingue.org
<http://www.radiobilingue.org/>

The Relational Culture
Institute
3485 West Shaw Ave
Fresno, California 93711
Ph. (559) 276-2304
Fax (559) 276-2304
keith@relational-culture.com
www.relationalculture.org

South Valley Peace Center
17206 Avenue 296
Visalia, CA 93292
info@svpc.info
<http://www.svpc.info/>

St. Benedict Catholic
Worker
4022 N Cheryl
Fresno, CA 93705
Ph. (559) 229-6410
Cell. 977-3648
Lizaosb@aol.com
www.sbcw.org

Stone Soup
1345 East Bulldog Lane,
Suite 4

Fresno, CA 93710
Ph. (559) 224-7613
Fax (559) 224-2981
stonesoupfresno@yahoo.com
www.stonesoupfresno.org

Stonewall Democrats
c/o Chuck Krugman
Ph. (559) 226-3717
ckrugman@sbcglobal.net
fresnostonewall@mangen.com
<http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Sun Mt
PO Box 314
Tollhouse, CA 93651-0314
Ph. (559) 855-3710
mail@sunmt.org
<http://www.sunmt.org> Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club
P.O. Box 5396
Fresno, CA 93755
Ph. (559) 229-4031
<http://www.tehipitesierraclub.org/>

Union De Exbraceros Y De Inmigrantes
2502 Merced St #101
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 266-5291, (559) 341-4556
leonflor5@aol.com

United Black Men
1929 E. Church Ave
Fresno 93710

The Wheelchair Project
5205 E Washington
Fresno, CA 93727
Ph. (559) 251-3814
wheelchairbusproject@juno.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/wheelchairproject/>

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
P.O. Box 5114
Fresno, CA 93755
Ph. (559) 439-0280
skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/wilpf/>



WE DON'T BURN HERETICS - WE WELCOME THEM!

Would you like to be welcomed too?
Central Valley Alliance of
Atheists and Skeptics
Become a member and help us promote a
secular, rational viewpoint throughout the
Central Valley.
Website: www.cvaas.org

Friday, June 13, 2008

presented by

FRESNO

FILMWORKS

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave.

A Non-Profit
Alternative Film Source
www.fresnofilmworks.org

Advance tickets on sale by cash or check at the Tower Theatre box office
and at JA Photography, 2003 N. Van Ness • Tickets online via PayPal at FresnoFilmworks.org
\$10 general, \$8 students and seniors • For details, call (559) 221-0755
Please save the date for our July screening: Friday, July 18

OPINION & ANALYSIS FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Not a Pretty Picture

By Ruth Gadebusch

We are not alone in our immigrant (always illegals in the eyes of all too many) and homeless problems. Unfortunately it has become a world wide problem. If it were confined to one area it might be easier to mitigate.



Recently, I came across a report of the situation in Calais, France, across the channel from Great Britain. Desperate to better themselves, people from all over the world gather along the French coast and in particular Calais, the narrowest point, hoping to find a way over the water. The draconian laws enacted by the French seem to exacerbate the situation. If that body of water is not a sufficient barrier, what makes us think that we can build a fence high enough to prevent crossing our southern border?

As for the homeless part, there were so many parallels with the Fresno situation and reaction of the police as to be downright eerie. The cause of homelessness may be different but the conditions and the efforts of the authorities to close down the camps are altogether too much like ours. Just as here, there are groups with compassion working to alleviate the plight of these unfortunates, but just as here, solutions are not easily found. Just as here, too many think that to help them only encourages irresponsibility.

This particular homeless situation in France is largely due to the desperation of people around the world attempting to better themselves, to escape horrible conditions in their own nations. With many of them from former British colonies where English is the language they see England as the best possibility. Nor does Great Britain have a national identity card to keep them from blending into the general population. Working against them is the European fingerprinting system leading many of them to sear their fingers with a red hot poker or scrapping with razor blades. Now, that is real desperation.

Breaking the barrier of borders and, in this case, the body of water, is the challenge just as is our southern border. Having come with professional smugglers, or on their own, they face the ultimate challenge of entering England. Slipping into one of the trucks awaiting passage is their best hope. No matter how short an absence drivers seal their trucks upon leaving because of the severe penalties imposed on truckers transporting these migrants. Needless to say, this leads the truckers to sometimes react brutally to attempts to sneak aboard. The migrants work in groups to break the seal, let one or two enter while the third one stays behind to reseal the truck. Then there are those who attempt to hide on a ledge behind the axle.

Dangerous as this is for the migrants it is the conditions as they wait that have such similarity to our homeless encampments. The squalid conditions are bearable only in the desperate hope of getting to a better place. Under the guise of terrorist threats police knock down their meager housing, use tear gas, arrest and interrogate them — sometimes releasing them without shoes. Expulsion orders are issued but of little use with cost limitations and no agreement with their home country, not to mention that some of them are fugitives from persecution in their own nations. Even offers of two thousand euros (\$3000 plus) fail to entice these despairing people to return to their homes.

For several years the Red Cross operated a camp which the British derided as a magnet for illegals causing Nicholas Sarkozy, then France's interior minister, now its president, to close it. Since that time a spokesman for the charity umbrella group, C'Sur, estimates that 80,000 have passed through this one area. The French government gives no help whatsoever, leaving it to the charities to provide for their needs. Accordingly, various groups provide, shelter, showers, toilets, fire wood, food etc. in herculean efforts. There is an uneasy truce between the police and these helping with these charity operations.

To answer the British criticism that the charities aid and abet the clandestine arrivals, the charities point

out the attraction of the Spain and Morocco crossing where there is no charity serving the migrants. Still they come. One would be migrant says the French could solve the problem of their unwanted "guests" by helping them secure passage to England, instead of harassing them. A charity worker, somewhat in jest, says taking away the port would solve the problem.

There are citizens of California who would solve our problems of migrants and other homeless in a similar manner. In other words, they have little appreciation of the world wide conditions that have created this problem. So long as the United States of America enjoys a standard of living so much above the rest of the planet and so long as we exploit their need for work, we will continue to have illegals. When we fail to take care of social needs - due to lack of compassion, directing our resources to an unending war, failing our damaged veterans, ignorance, or whatever failure to consider the root causes,- we can only expect matters to get worse with our homeless. It is not a pretty picture.

There is ample evidence that we don't have all the answers, or worse yet have not implemented those we do know. The U.S. is not alone but we should hold ourselves to a higher standard. It is time, past time, for us to do better.

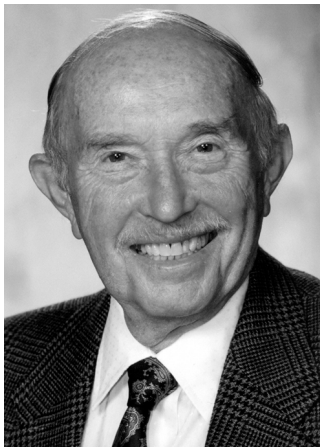
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Ruth Gadebusch is a former naval officer, 13 years as a Fresno Unified School District Trustee, Vice-President of the Center for Civic Education, Community Activist.

From the Greenhouse

by Franz Weinschenk

One thing is crystal clear—the US can't continue guzzling gas the way we're doing. Right now, we're importing 65% of our oil from foreign countries and in so doing running our balance of payments into the red by mega billions. Not only that, in order to make sure the oil actually gets here, we often have to guard oil refineries, pipelines, and secure sea lanes thousands of miles from our shores.



One part of the problem is the growth of the worldwide demand for oil; the other is our love of cars. In the US, there are 763 cars for every 1,000 people, the highest ratio of cars to people in the world. To keep them running, we import 882 million gallons of oil a day. Besides the burgeoning costs of such purchases, all those cars, trucks, buses, trains, planes and ships emit their weight in carbon dioxide yearly—and that's a lot. With more and more cars on roads all around the world, with nations competing for the world's shrinking oil supply, and with the price of gas rocketing, we need to face the ultimate truth—one of these days the petroleum freeway we've been speeding down for oh these many years will turn into a dead end street. That's why more and more car manufacturers are announcing that they have vehicles in the pipeline that will use no, or very little gas.

They call them "Plug-ins" for short. These vehicles will be just as powerful, safe and comfortable as what you and I are driving today. The only difference is that their main power source comes from the electricity stored in batteries, not from the gasoline stored in their tanks.

GM says its plug-in, the Chevy "Volt" will be on the market in 2010. It will run 40 miles on its battery before it needs a drop of gas. After you deplete the battery, a gas motor kicks in, or you can "fill 'er up" by plugging into an outlet in your garage or maybe at work. Before you say, "No way, Jose," please know that most Californians don't average more than 40 miles a day. So if you're an average driver, your garage can become your service station, and if you're really lucky and have some solar panels up on the roof, you'll be able to convert the sunshine that lands on your house into the energy that runs your car! GM will also be introducing a plug-in version of its Saturn Greenline Vue SUV, with a projected battery range of 10 miles.

Other car manufacturers have similar plans. Scheduled to come out later this year, Aptera motors is advertising a 3-wheel plug-in with a battery range of 60 miles. It looks like something out of a sci-fi movie and comes complete with a solar panel on the roof which provides the heating and cooling for its interior. Chinese cell phone battery maker BYD has announced it will be building a plug-in for Chinese consumption this year. It's saying the car's battery range will also be 60 miles, and it expects to mark them in the US by 2012. If you currently own a Toyota Prius, you may be able to convert it into a plug-in by having a conversion kit installed. Toyota, Ford and Chrysler all say they have plug-ins on the drawing boards—specifics to be announced soon. There are even companies working on plug-in pick-ups, regular-sized trucks and school buses.


Israel, where gas costs \$6 a gallon, is the first country in the world to try do away with gasoline vehicles altogether. Automakers Nissan and Renault are combining to produce a plug-in for Israel with a battery range of 100 miles. Of course, folks over there will be able to charge their batteries at home, but if they happen to be in a rush, Israel is building 500 service stations where attendants will not be pumping gas but will be exchanging batteries so that motorists can be on their way for another hundred.

There are numerous advantages to plug-ins—both to you as a car-owner, to your country and to the global environment. On average, the cost of using electricity to power a plug-in per mile will be less than one quarter of what you now pay for gas. Compared to current cars, plug-ins will dramatically reduce air pollution, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and materially shrink greenhouse gas emissions. If the electricity they use comes from renewable sources, plug-ins will use no fossil fuels while running on batteries. They will help insure our national energy security as well as balance out the electrical grid since most of the battery-charging will be done at night.

Government can and should help. First of all it needs to take away the enormous subsidies from big oil and redistribute them in the form of incentives and rebates to plug-in car manufacturers and their customers. That way, everybody but Exxon Mobil wins—and believe me, they won't miss it. After all, according to *Fortune Magazine*, they made the absolute biggest profit of any company in the HISTORY OF THE WORLD last year—\$39.5 billion!

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Franz Weinschenk has been a teacher and school administrator in Fresno for over fifty years. He can be contacted by e-mail at franzie@SCCCD.org




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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, PO Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

All content paid for by WILPF

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

Speakers at a May 15 forum on water issues warned that clean drinking water is becoming the new oil and that corporations are moving aggressively to capture distribution and control of this vital commodity. The forum, sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Unitarian Universal Social Justice Committee, the Tehipite chapter of the Sierra Club and the Fresno Metro Ministry, was one in an ongoing series of informational presentations. It was held at the Unitarian Church.

Presenters were Lloyd Carter of the California Water Impact Network; Nancy Price, member of WILPF's Save the Water National Campaign, and Chris Acree of Revive the San Joaquin.

Carter, who was a reporter for United Press International and the Fresno Bee for 20 years before becoming an attorney, warned that climate change will intensify the struggle over drinkable water supplies, not only in California but throughout the world. "Water is the new oil," he said, noting that some brands of higher priced drinking water now cost more per gallon than gasoline.

Carter added that the mainstream news media has generally done a poor job of covering water issues. In a recent cable TV newscast, a tax fighter was complaining that restoring salmon in the San Joaquin River will cost \$22 million per fish. Carter said this falsehood is being promoted by Rep. Devin Nunes, who represents water districts in eastern Tulare and Kern counties that may lose some water supplies if a plan to restore minimal fishery flows in the river is implemented.

According to Carter, the ecological collapse in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta could be slowed, if not reversed, by an infusion of fresh water from the San Joaquin River. Too much water is being pumped out of the Delta to irrigate the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

Nancy Price told of some small victories. In 2006,

the city council in Barnstead, New Hampshire became the first local government in America to adopt a "Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance", which bans the export of local groundwater. More recently, she said the Barnstead council amended the ordinance to assert what she called the "rights of nature", i.e. humans should take steps to protect natural sources instead of also viewing them as commodities to be exploited.

Price stated that the Mount Shasta area has become a hotbed of activity as corporate giants Coca-Cola and Nestle move in to open bottled water plants and go about the business of exporting Shasta's water all over the world. Price also noted public drinking fountains are disappearing in America.

Other bottled water facts:

1. The actual location where the water was bottled is not required to be disclosed on the bottle label.
2. Up to 25 percent of bottled water is actually "reprocessed" tap water.
3. Despite the scare tactics, the Food and Drug Administration says that tap water is generally safe in America and "companies that market bottled water as being safer than tap water are defrauding the American public."

Price said that in June of 2007 the U.S. Conference of Mayors rejected efforts by the American Beverage Association and Coca-Cola to block a resolution that highlights the importance of municipal water and calls for a study of the impact of bottled water on city waste. Mayors at the national conference overwhelmingly voted to support the resolution, introduced by mayors of San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Minneapolis. Those three cities are attempting to phase out the purchase of bottled water.

In another positive step for the environment, Ms. Price pointed to an article by Silver Donald Cameron in the Halifax, Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald in 2007. It pointed out that the town of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania,

passed an ordinance denying the right or corporations to spread sewage sludge as fertilizer on farmland, even when the farmer is willing. This ordinance recognizes natural communities and ecosystems as legal persons with legal rights. Price said it is among the first "wild laws" to be passed anywhere in the world.

Chris Acree discussed the benefits of restoring the San Joaquin River. He noted that only about 20 percent of the river's flow will be returned to restore flows in a 60 mile segment of the riverbed on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley which has been dry in all but flood years since 1947. Acree said many species of fish, not just salmon, will be restored. A living river will provide many recreational and economic opportunities for the Valley's rapidly growing population, and will also help groundwater recharge on the Valley floor.

Important websites for more information:

www.foodandwaterwatch.org
www.alliancefordemocracy.org
www.C-WIN.org
www.revivethesanjoaquin.org,
www.lloydgcarter.com
www.wilpf.org

WILPF Coming Events:

**June 7, 10 a.m. - Annual Brunch
Celebrating New and Old Members
at the home of Pat Wolk.**

**June 25-29 - WILPF National Congress,
Des Moines, Iowa**

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HOWARD’S HOPEFULS

Here are my voting recommendations for the local races in the June 3, 2008 primary election. Most are clear choices, some are close calls. I hope you find this list helpful. Remember, most of these races will be decided on June 3rd with no run-off. With an anticipated voter turn-out of 25-30 percent, a very few voters will decide many of the outcomes. So, PLEASE VOTE! Thank you.

- Howard K. Watkins, Community Activist

FRESNO COUNTY		
Superior Court #10	TREISMAN	
Board of Supervisors #2	ANDERSON	
Board of Supervisors #3	H. R. PEREA	
Board of Supervisors #5	MAGSIG	
CITY OF FRESNO		
Mayor	H. T. PEREA	
City Council #2	KARBASSI	
City Council #4	GOOD	
City Council #6	JORGENSEN	
STATE PROPOSITIONS		
98	NO	
99	YES	

MAPA Celebrates its 49th Annual Primary Endorsement Convention

On Saturday, May 10, 2008 the San Joaquin Valley Mexican American Political Association, MAPA de Cesar Chavez (Fresno Chapter) and the Regional Hmong American Political Association (HAPA) held the 49th Regional Primary Endorsement Convention for the central San Joaquin Valley. The MAPA regional Endorsement Convention continues to be the only Latino, ethnic and grassroots endorsement convention in the Central Valley. The convention was held at Club One in Fresno, California.

MAPA was founded in 1959 at a conference held in Fresno. The primary co-founders, Bert Corona, a long time advocate and organizer for working poor Latinos statewide and Edward Roybal, who later became the first Chicano congressman from the LA area, fought for the health, labor, education and human rights of the most disenfranchised Californians. In the past numerous decades and at present, MAPA continues to accomplish numerous activities in the arena of immigration rights, education equity, environmental justice and civil rights. Today the Mexican American population represents 42% of the Valley, in Fresno County; it is 47.6% and 40% of the City of Fresno.

The endorsements considered ranged from Fresno City Council, Fresno County Supervisor, Assembly districts 30 and 31 as well as for Fresno Mayoral candidate. MAPA membership was present from five chapters with the Regional President, Rey Leon, as moderator along with Ben Benavidez, President Emeritus and Toulou Thao, President of the Hmong American Political Association as panel interviewers.

After a long day of engaging questions and interesting responses the membership convened without the presence of candidates or their staff. 60% of all the candidates attended the convention while 65% of Mayoral candidates specifically showed up to be considered for MAPA’s endorsement. The Mayoral race as everyone would suspect consisted of half the day due to the amount of candidates participating in the race. Being one of the most important municipal positions of power for the San Joaquin Valley as Fresno stands to be a flagship of the region and is the largest city representing approximately one-seventh the Valley’s population.

It is worthy to note that now with the Latino population representing close to a majority of Valley resi-

dents it is more important than ever that political candidates working to represent our community’s and residents, whether the candidates be Latino or not, identify, relate and understand the most pertinent issues impacting Latinos. While MAPA does not represent any political party we do, with conviction, defend the health and human rights of Latinos, Mexicans, Chicanos, Meso-American Indigenous, refugees, immigrants and Mexican Americans. As recognized above, we have firmly identified the issues that have been most impactful and will be most strategic in the advancement of the self determination and political engagement for the civil liberties and human rights of all Latino families. Having made that point, it is imperative that all candidates recognize that their absence to the only Latino/Hmong/ethnic endorsement forum can only be seen as a gesture of disrespect. The lack of presence of a political candidate states, “the Latino vote and community does not matter and an exchange on the most pertinent issues affecting the Latino community is of no interest to me.” It is unfortunate that this may occur, especially in a time when ICE ‘Gestapo-type’ raids continue to menace, intimidate and threaten the unification of our families. This can only be observed as a lack of leadership that has no place in the representation of the Latino community in the San Joaquin Valley or the Fresno area.

The following candidates gained the endorsement from MAPA at the primary endorsement convention

California Assembly
District 30 – Fran Florez (D)
District 31 – Juan Arambula (D)
Clifford Archer (R) – did not attend

Fresno County Supervisor
District 2 – Susan B. Anderson
Paul Dictos – did not attend
District 3 – Open – Henry Perea is unopposed, did not attend
District 5 – Nathan Magsig
Debbie Poochigian – did not attend

Fresno City Council
District 2 – Michael Karbassi
District 4 – Susan Good
District 6 – Open – None of the candidates attended convention

Fresno Mayor – Tom Boyajian

Not in attendance:

Mike Dages
Jerry Duncan
Henry T. Perea
Ashley Swearingin

Stonewall Endorses Boyajian for Mayor

By Jay Hubbell

Fresno Stonewall Democrats met on May the 14th to vote on their endorsements for the June 3rd Primary Election. Endorsements required a two thirds majority and Stonewall only endorses Democrats. Tom Boyajian was endorsed for Fresno Mayor. Most members gave the former Fresno City Council member high marks for his strong support of the LGBT community, his district, and progressive issues. Susan Good was endorsed for Fresno City Council District 4. Michelle Jorgensen was endorsed for Fresno City Council District 6. Gary Shinaver and Douglas O. Treisman received a dual endorsement for Superior Court Judge No.10.

“Hardly A Coincidence”

By Dan Waterhouse

“We believe it’s not a coincidence,” says Fresno Rainbow Pride chairman Jeffrey Robinson, “that Cornerstone Church’s AIDS Walk ‘just happened’ to be scheduled for the very day and time of Fresno’s Pride parade and festival.”

Cornerstone Church’s Red Ribbon Project has scheduled its third annual AIDS Walk Fresno for Saturday, June 7th. According to the event’s website, the walk is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.—the exact same time the Pride parade is supposed to start. AIDS Walk events are scheduled to last until 1 p.m. that day, conflicting with the Pride festival.

The Pride Parade and Festival will be held in Fresno’s Tower District; the AIDS Walk is supposed to happen in downtown Fresno, less than two miles from the Tower District.

“It’s hard to believe that Cornerstone merely by coincidence scheduled their event on the same day and at the same time as our celebration,” Robinson commented. “The Pride event has been held on the first Saturday in June for many years. The first two AIDS walks were held in the fall, not in June.”

Robinson added, “not only do we have to compete with LA Pride now, but with a local anti-gay event that does put WestCare, Fresno County, and UMC Special Services in a bad position.”

Daniel Mendoza of the Red Ribbon Project claims the conflict was “in error.” Mendoza said he didn’t realize both events were on the same day.

But many in the community don’t buy Mendoza’s explanation. Jim Daggs of Central California Alliance said, “if one is to believe that Mr. Mendoza was totally unaware of the largest gay event in Fresno, then it demonstrates just how truly divorced from our community he is.”

The Living Room (a part of WestCare), the County, and UMC Special Services have participated in the Pride events for quite a few years. They now are placed in the position of perhaps having to choose which event they can participate in because of the schedule conflict created by Cornerstone’s minions.

Robinson urged the community to ignore Cornerstone’s event and come out on June 7th to support Fresno Rainbow Pride.

On the partisan side Stonewall endorsed Humberto Avila in Assembly District 29. Avila is a pre-med student at Cal State University Fresno. Fran Florez was endorsed in Assembly District 30 which is currently held by termed out Nicole Para.

Congressman Jim Costa was endorsed in his bid to retain his seat in the 20th Congressional District despite misgivings about his votes to continue the U.S. military occupation of Iraq. Costa has backed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) and the Matthew Shepard Hates Crimes Act which are important to the LGBT community. Larry Johnson was endorsed as the Democratic challenger in the 21st Congressional District. Johnson is slated to challenge the Republican incumbent Devin Nunes who has held the Republican leaning district since 2002. Democrats are closing their registration gap in the 21st District in a year when the presidential election is expected to work in favor of down-ticket Democrats.

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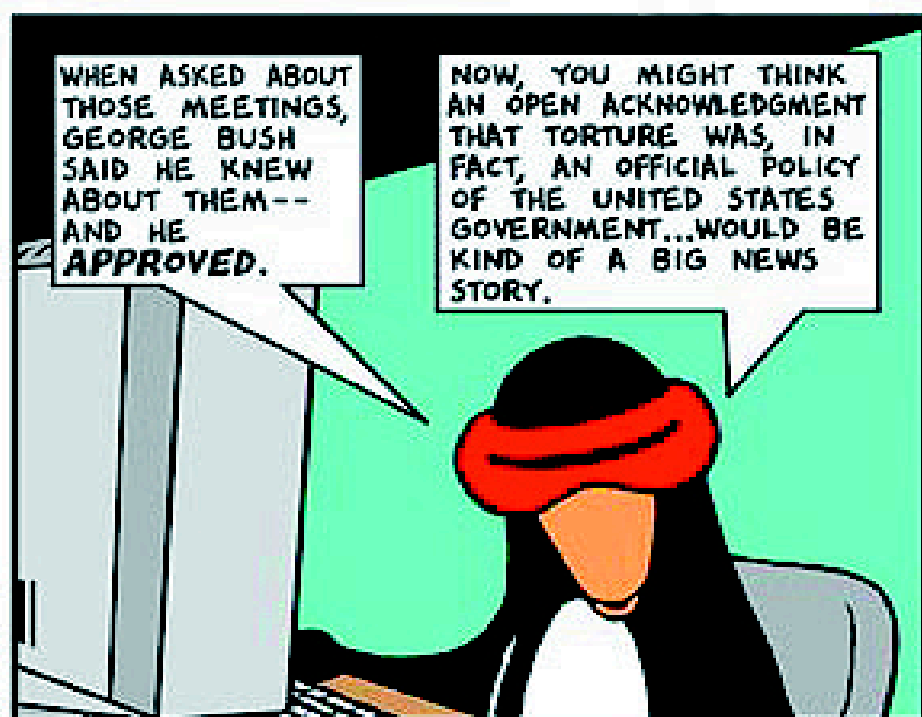
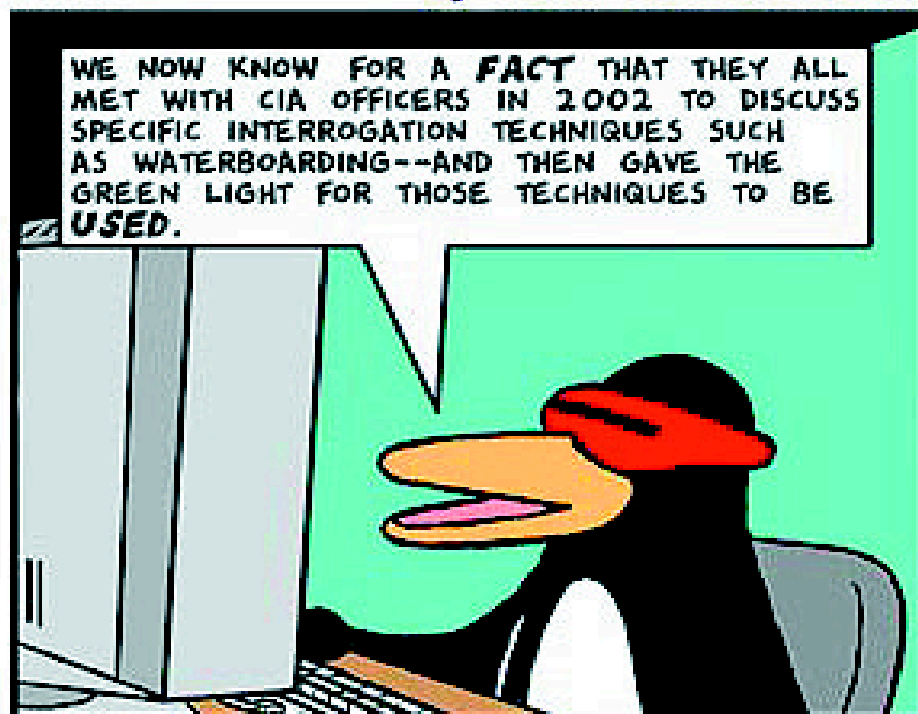
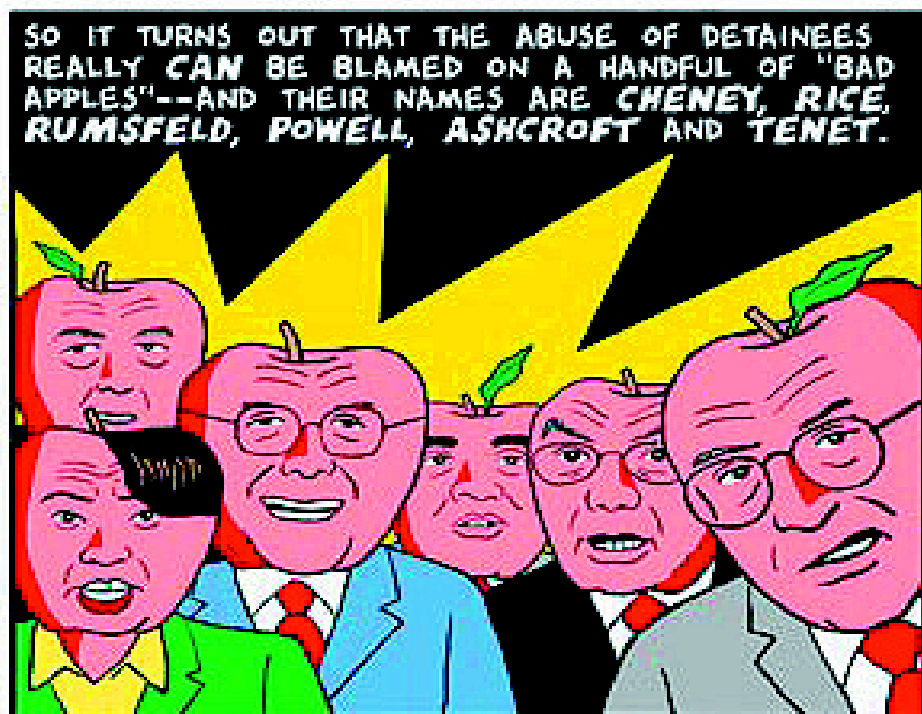
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- Karbassi attended Fresno State, Bullard High and Malloch Elementary.

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Why?

- Karbassi will work to strengthen the graffiti & gang abatement program.
- Karbassi will work to eliminate speeding vehicles through our neighborhoods.
- Karbassi will reinstate Neighborhood Watch programs.
- Karbassi will maintain our streets and keep our parks clean.
- Karbassi will promote more green vegetation throughout District 2.
- Karbassi will work to preserve the mature landscaping and serene atmosphere that makes Northwest Fresno a unique place to live.

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