

Community Alliance

Progressive Culture, Politics, Art and Entertainment since 1996

03 EYES WIDE OPEN

A TRAVELING MEMORIAL FOR
FALLEN US SOLDIERS AND
IRAQI CIVILIANS SINCE
"MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"

09 WAHALLICH

A GREEN MOUNTAIN SIDE OR A
GRAVEL PIT WHAT IS DESTINED FOR
A PLACE CALLED WAHALLICH

11 ROGUE FESTIVAL

MARCH 3 - 12 2005
LOOK INSIDE FOR COMPLETE
LISTING OF EVENTS

YEARS OF WAR

MARCH 19, RALLY IN THE VALLEY

12:00 noon to 3:00 PM at the Fresno County Courthouse Park, Van Ness & Tulare in downtown Fresno.

VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 4 MARCH 2005

Community Alliance

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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Bush's War Child Reaches Age 2

March 19th marks 2nd anniversary of occupation in Iraq

Cutting the Wire Brazil's Movement of Landless Rural Workers

By Mike Rhodes

Porto Alegre, Brazil—The Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) has occupied and controls huge amounts of arable land in Brazil. Because of militant action, and in some cases ambiguous land ownership issues, the MST has given hope to the millions of Brazilians living in poverty and who are without land. Over the last 20 years these landless farm workers have taken over and now occupy more than 20,000 square miles of land—that is about the same size as Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus counties combined.

Vardoci Mostarda is typical of the landless farm workers who are driven by poverty and desperate conditions to participate in land seizures with the MST. “I lost my job in the rice fields and was forced to move to a slum in a large city. There, I began to sell fruit from a cart, but there was no future in that.” Mostarda said he met a militant from the MST who told him about the movement and showed him that it was possible to have a better life and return to the land. He ended up at Camp Monte Pill, outside of Porto Alegre in Southern Brazil, about a year ago. The camp sits on the roadside next to 1,800 hectares of land (approximately 4,450 acres), which is now occupied by 110 families.

Within a month of occupying the land at Monte Pill, the families were evicted by the police. Jaqueline, one of the leaders at the camp, says that it is not unusual for groups to be evicted by the police. “In response, we marched to the capital and demanded our right to this land,” Jaqueline said. The march and new encampment by the families at the government building in Porto Alegre ended in an agreement that they could return to Camp Monte Pill. There, by the side of the road, they built temporary housing out of sheets of black plastic. Jaqueline and the others are confident that they will soon move onto the land.

Already, one of the families has cut the barbed wire and is living on the property. What gives the MST the strength to take over land and defy the police, landowners, and government is their ability to organize and mobilize the people. There are more than one million Brazilians living on land that has been taken over by the MST; they are active in almost every state, and they even run their own training schools.

But the road to land ownership is not always easy. Hundreds of MST members have been killed by the police and the landowners' death squads as these groups attempt to threaten and intimidate MST members into giving up their struggle for land. “We can't rely solely on the courts to settle land ownership disputes,” said long-time MST activist Edda Isernhagen. “We have lawyers and friends in government who can help us determine the legal ownership of the property that is being considered.” Most property that is occupied by the MST is not currently under production and has been abandoned or is owned by the government. In the case of Camp Monte Pill, the government has agreed to pay the owner of the property for the land. The government will then provide the MST with loans so they can establish the cooperative.

At the MST schools that operate throughout the country, members learn how to successfully run a farm, process crops, and get their products to market. The collectives that are established on the occupied lands are not set up to be for-profit businesses. They are cooperatives who define success by their ability to help build the movement and to provide a better life for their members. Successful cooperatives share their food and resources with the camps that are in the process of establishing themselves.

Some MST militants like Jaqueline move from camp to camp helping them to get established. She said she lived on a cooperative for 10 years but now is motivated by helping others return to the land. Jaqueline believes “another world is possible” and is doing what she can to empower the landless workers of Brazil.

For more information about the Movement of Landless Rural Workers in Brazil see <www.mstbrazil.org/>.

For a detailed account of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers in Brazil see the book by Sue Branford and Jan Rocha, *Cutting the Wire*. The book was published in 2002 by Latin America Bureau, London.

Not a Gift from the Almighty

By W. Daniel Garst

There are many reasons to dislike our president, and one of them that ranks near the top of my list is Bush's insistence, made during his convention acceptance speech and subsequently repeated often on the campaign trail, that human freedom is a “gift from the Almighty.”

Now don't get me wrong: While I am not a Christian or at all religious, there is much I admire about Christ's teachings in the Gospels. Christ's emphasis on social justice, particularly his concern over the plight of the poor and willingness to embrace socially marginal groups, like prostitutes and tax collectors, is a message that has universal appeal beyond the ranks of Christians to even staunch atheists such as this author.

Having said that, the New Testament, which President Bush surely views as the word of God, is essentially a very apolitical text, mainly concerned with personal salvation and the great hereafter. Christ insisted that his kingdom was “not of this world,” and also instructed his followers to “render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.” I defy anyone to show where the Scripture explicitly mentions the need for consensual government, basic political freedoms and rights, liberty from tyrannical government, and the like (the Jewish Kingdoms of the Old Testament, of course, were theocratic monarchies).

And it will not do to claim that these notions were completely unknown in the ancient world. In fact, the ancient Greeks had pioneered participatory democratic government and individual liberty against arbitrary and despotic rulers some five centuries prior to the birth of Christ.

Indeed, if human freedom and democracy are a gift from anyone, then it is not from the almighty Judeo-Christian God, but from the ancient Greeks. To be sure, the Greeks were religious—the Athenians, for example, banished the philosopher Anaxagoras, who had the temerity to suggest the Sun was a fiery stone, not a god—but religious belief was universal in the ancient world, while democracy and political freedom were unique to Greece. And the polytheism of the Greeks, in which their gods possessed all of the human foibles, is very far removed from the stern monotheism of Christianity and Judaism.

So what was Greek democracy rooted in, if not religious belief? A very persuasive answer to this question is supplied by the San Joaquin Valley's internationally renowned authority on ancient Greece, Victor Davis Hanson. In his landmark study, *The Other Greeks*, Hanson locates the origins of ancient Greek democracy in the rural society of ancient Greece. This society lacked the sprawling estates of theocratic tyrannies in the Near East, like Egypt and Persia. It was instead dominated by vibrant small farms

and a high degree of socio-economic equality, which engendered an independent and vibrant rural middle class able to agitate for the involvement of ordinary males, if not women, in political life. This model, it might be added, strongly informed many of America's founding fathers, especially Thomas Jefferson, who all knew about ancient Greece and saw in late-eighteenth-century rural America a mirror of the agrarian Greek civilization.

However, today when we gaze into America's current socio-economic mirror, we see unprecedented socio-economic inequality, in which the top few hundred families in Los Angeles, for example, possess as much wealth as the bottom two-thirds of the city's inhabitants. Things aren't much better here in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley.

To see firsthand the appalling gap in income in our backyard, one need only drive by the palatial mansions on Van Ness extension, funded in part by taxpayer dollars—this zip code receives more federal farm subsidy checks than any other US zip code—and then take a spin through Fresno's impoverished urban core or visit the decrepit towns of Mendota or Huron.

These disparities in wealth are being accentuated by Bush's tax and spending policies. Indeed, with respect to the latter, the president, who has never met a wasteful corporate subsidy he didn't like, has allocated \$200 billion over the next decade for farm subsidies, which largely benefit large agribusiness (i.e., the absentee landlords living on Van Ness extension). The bottom-line conclusion of every honestly done analysis of Bush's fiscal policy is that the wealthiest one-fifth of Americans have been enriched at the expense of remaining four-fifths of middle- and lower-class Americans.

Democracy and political freedom are not a “gift” from the Almighty, even if strong religious belief and aspects of the New Testament surely inspired individuals, like the Reverend Martin Luther King and Bishop Desmond Tutu, to lead campaigns for political, social, and economic justice on behalf of the oppressed. Democracy and political freedom instead fundamentally grow out of the struggles of ordinary people for inclusion in the government and the impact of concrete economic, political, and social structures and processes in facilitating or impeding these efforts.

This is precisely what the history of ancient Greece, as well as the much later struggle for democratic rule in both North America and Europe tell us. President Bush's clear ignorance of this history and his simplistic, faith-based view of human freedom bode badly not just for the creation of democracy in Iraq, but its maintenance here in the United States.

Support the ongoing resistance in Chiapas:

Aid caravan to be in Fresno March 5

By Gerry Bill

After more than ten years of resistance, the indigenous peoples of Chiapas continue their struggle with the Mexican government for land, liberty, and democracy. Outside support and international attention are crucial aspects of that struggle. You can join that effort by helping out the current IFCO/Pastors for Peace Caravan to Chiapas.

The caravan will be passing through Fresno on Saturday, March 5, 2005. You will have a chance to meet with and talk to the *caravanistas* at an event to be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness Ave. There will be a potluck meal at 6 PM, music by Patricia Wells and Rondalla at 7 PM, and a program at 7:30 PM.

The caravan will be delivering material aid, such as medical and school supplies, to Chiapas. In addition, they will be stopping in cities all over the United States at events aimed at raising consciousness in this country about the ongoing problems in the region.

Caravan spokesperson Alicia Jrappo will speak at the Fresno event and answer questions about the current situation in Chiapas. She will also be able to address questions about plans for a Free Trade Area of the Americas and how that would affect Central America.

The event is free and open to the public, but there will be a free-will offering to cover the costs of the caravan. For more information about the caravan event or about making a donation, contact Gerry Bill: 227-2133.

Weed and Feed

By FresCAAP

(Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticide)

The Canadian Medical Association adopted a resolution on August 16, 2004, calling for the ban of combined fertilizer and pesticide products, to ensure that each would be sold separately to consumers to avoid the unnecessary use of toxic pesticides. Products that combine a fertilizer with pesticides, commonly known as “weed and feed,” typically contain the cancer-causing herbicide 2,4-D or a combination of toxic herbicides. Many consumers are not aware of the toxicity of these combined products and tend to spread them widely over their lawn when they should only be used in concentrated problematic areas. In addition, many people apply weed and feed as a preventive measure to keep weeds from popping up. However, the herbicides in these products are post-emergent, and will not prevent weeds. Barb Kinnie of the Sierra Club stated, “Most people think they're using them as a preventive measure; it doesn't work that way, and it ends up being a problem for the environment, people, and pets.”

Corn gluten (a natural, nontoxic, pre-emergent herbicide), compost, organic fertilizers, and various cultural practices are excellent alternatives to weed and feed.

Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides: 227-6134.

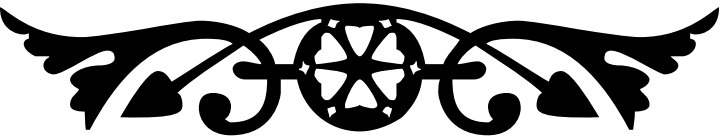
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Opening Eyes and Hearts

for the 1400 US Soldiers and 100,000+ Iraqi Civilians Killed in Iraq Since “Mission Accomplished”

By Stephen McNeil, AFSC Staff



1400 pairs of boots in honer of fallen US soldiers acrosss from US Capital building

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Pan Valley Institute, Peace Fresno, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley, the Fresno Friends Meeting and other organizations will honor fallen US military personnel and Iraqi civilians with its traveling memorial exhibition: *Eyes Wide Open: The Human Cost of War*, which will be on display at Fresno’s Downtown Courthouse Park on March 22 and 23, 2005.

AFSC, an international social justice organization, created *Eyes Wide Open* to memorialize the lives lost in the war in Iraq. In addition to the more than 1400 pairs of boots honoring US military casualties, the exhibit includes a 24-foot “wall” of names and incidents of Iraqi civilian deaths and 1,000 pairs of shoes memorializing a small fraction of the Iraqi civilians who have been killed in the conflict. An interior multimedia display explores the history, cost, and consequences of the war.

“No matter how many times I face the facts, they never become less shocking. So thank you for opening my eyes a little wider.”

AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish writes that “this note was written in an exhibit guestbook by someone who had just walked among hundreds of rows of empty combat boots, standing at silent attention to symbolize the US soldiers killed in the war in Iraq. We don’t know if she supported or opposed the war. All we know is that she, like thousands of others, was moved by the American Friends Service Committee’s Eyes Wide Open exhibit, which has been touring the country for the last ten months.

“*When Eyes Wide Open* was unveiled by our Chicago office in January 2004, there were 504 pairs of boots. With each passing week, each stop in a new city, more pairs of boots are added to represent the newly fallen. Alongside the boots stands a wall of remembrance for the more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians who have been killed since the US-led invasion.”

As the exhibit travels across the country, families and friends come to grieve for lost loved ones

and strangers honor those who gave their lives far from home. At each stop, loved ones leave notes of commemoration, photographs of lost soldiers, identification tags, flowers, and American flags to accompany the boots on their journey. At each stop, another person is overcome by the rows and rows of empty boots.

The lives of farmers in Dhuluaya, Iraq, and of California families of military personnel serving in Iraq seem worlds apart, but they share at least one thing in common: They’re both having a hard time making ends meet. The Dhuluaya farmers lost their livelihoods in 2003 when US soldiers bulldozed their orange, lemon, and date groves as “punishment” for the farmers not revealing the identities of resistance fighters allegedly hiding in their groves. Without their groves, they have no way to support their families.

Meanwhile, many military families have been hurt financially while their family members serve in Iraq. Whether as National Guard troops and reservists who leave behind better paying jobs when called up for service or because of low pay in other branches of the military, they can’t make ends meet. The exhibition site will have a collection point for prepaid telephone cards to distribute to military service personnel in hospitals and traveling through Northern California to support their keeping in touch with families and friends. We also invite farming families and others to mail or drop off checks earmarked “Harvest Aid/AFSC” funds to send to Dhuluaya farmers in Iraq to assist in replanting.

San Diegan Fernando Suarez del Solar, who lost his Marine son, is one family member who has spoken at the Eyes Wide Open exhibition elsewhere: “My big goal is to try to educate young people about the other face of the military and to get Congress to change the rules for recruiting inside high schools and to spend our money for people. Only five percent or less of our taxes goes to the education system. I know it’s a dream, but I hope one day something’s going to change.”

Other family members simply attend the exhibition to grieve or remember, noting that their daughter or son died firmly believing in their mission of service to the United States. AFSC trusts that those who attend the exhibition will honor all who have died and recognize the wider dimension that the human cost of war entails. No one dies “in vain” and each life lost is precious.

The co-sponsors are seeking volunteers. Contact Myrna Martinez Nateras, mnateras@afsc.org, or Mai Der Vang, mdvang@afsc.org. Both can be reached at (559) 222-7678.



Grassroots Profiles

By Richard Stone

Jackie Peppars is a self-titled “member/activist” with United Healthcare Workers West (formerly SEIU Local 250), the union that has organized—and keeps agitating for a living wage for—home healthcare workers.

The latter is Jackie’s vocation, and her job was the entryway into activism. It seems that not long after Jackie’s arrival in Fresno, as she was looking for work, she met a woman who asked Jackie to be her personal aide. While the wages (at that time \$6.75/hr, without benefits) were lower than she could readily afford, Jackie was touched by the woman’s plight: the threat of perennial hospitalization and the loss of the family home built from the ground up under her sister’s direction. Jackie accepted the position.

Forgoing higher-wage work out of compassion for another may seem like an act of unusual sacrifice. If you listen to talk radio or hear comments at the Board of Supervisors meetings, you may think that home healthcare workers are for the most part uneducated, unskilled, and glad for whatever they get. But Jackie insists she is not atypical, that most of her peers are working at a less-than-accustomed wage to help someone, typically a family member. The misperception of motives, and the concomitant lack of respect, is the fuel that feeds Jackie’s fire as she organizes, lobbies, and speaks out on behalf of her profession.

It was just around the time that

Jackie began working as an aide that SEIU 250 began organizing home workers in Fresno. Jackie attended a few meetings out of curiosity. But the more she found out—about who does and doesn’t get money from the public coffers, and why—the more she wanted to know. She was especially inspired by union organizer Pam Whalen, who urged the workers to recognize and stand up for their own worth as humans and workers, to (as Jackie puts it) “collect on our issues.”

One day Jackie was at a demonstration and somehow she found herself in front of the hundreds of assembled people with the bullhorn in her hand. She spoke out loud and clear; she’d found her public voice. She felt a surge of vitality as she said, in effect, “I am here, I have worth, I demand equity!” not just for herself but on behalf of her colleagues as well.

Since that day Jackie has acted as a spokesperson of her union’s agenda, orating at demonstrations and public meetings, and going to Sacramento to lobby legislators. “My family tells me I finally found a place for my big mouth,” she adds.

Her trips to the State capital were a real education. “I learned about how politics and job are connected. You really see what legislators are and are not doing. When you can show them you understand that it’s political push and pull—not “justice”—that their actions are based on, then you get their attention.”

Jackie cites these groups, which she

feels have given tangible support to her local’s activities: the AFL-CIO, the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU), the Martin Luther King Committee (and especially Gail Gaston), and the Students Against Sweatships group at CSUE.

In contrast, she feels that several members of the County Board of Supervisors—Bob Waterston and Judy Case in particular—actively oppose the union, seeming to believe that home healthcare workers are undeserving and “should get a real job if they want better pay.” Jackie says, “I’d like them to walk in our shoes for a couple of months, and then make up their minds. I think they’ll see we’re not the losers they make us out to be. It takes special people to do this work, people motivated by the desire to help others who are depressed and incapacitated to feel better about their lives.”

In Jackie’s long-range vision, the clientele of homecare aides would get true quality care. She thinks workers should be better screened, be given ongoing training, and of course get pay and benefits that would allow them to stay on the job. Current union focus is on bettering the county contract, and keeping the state budgetary supports in place.

Readers interested in supporting the union campaigns can help by showing up at rallies, attending Board of Supervisor meetings at designated times, and participating in phone banking. “We’re in a tug-of-war,” Jackie says, “you can pull on our side.”



IDENTITY BOX

Place of birth: Los Angeles

Ethnic background/primary identity: African American; community activist for improvement

Political affiliation: Union movement

Part of Fresno most frequented: Northeast

People who’ve inspired her: Eleanor Evans (her mother), Pam Whalen, Sal Roselli (SEIU leader), Sarah Callahan (union political director)

Non-political interests: Travel, family

Unlikely pleasures: Soap operas and The Bachelor

Contact information: at the union office, 487-4317, ask for the steward hotline

“Stop the War! It Affects Us All.”

Rally in the Valley for Peace and Justice

By Camille Russell and Ken Hudson

Saturday, March 19, is the second anniversary of the US-led unprovoked attack on Iraq. It has now turned into a quagmire that has us “waist deep in the big muddy” as the old Pete Seeger song goes regarding a similar war. This year the people of the Central Valley and surrounding mountain communities are planning a huge regional peace rally in Fresno: Rally in the Valley for Peace and Justice. Its theme is “Stop the War! It Affects Us All.” We are affected not only by the needless loss of life of both soldiers and civilians but we are also affected by the tremendous waste of resources that should instead be directed toward jobs, health care, housing, and education. Similar events will be held around the country and the world that day.

The rally is Saturday, March 19, 2005, 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM at the Fresno County Courthouse Park, Van Ness &

Tulare in downtown Fresno.

We will be treated to a variety of music featuring Green Machine, as well as folk music and hip-hop—all on a solar-powered stage.

Speakers include Sean O’Neill, a decorated US Marine who completed two tours of duty in Iraq, ending in July 2004, and is now opposed to the war; Nadia McCaffery, mother of Patrick McCaffery, who died in Iraq in June 2004; As’ad AbuKhalil, political science professor at CSU Stanislaus and a frequent guest on radio station KPFA, discussing the crisis in the Middle East; and Sabrina Worsham, high school sweetheart of Casey Sheehan, who was killed in Iraq in April 2004.

There will be children’s activities, food booths, and information tables and displays from groups involved in peace, social justice, and environmental issues. If your group would like space for ta-

bling at the event, please see the coalition member registration form. People are encouraged to bring signs. People coming from outside of Fresno are encouraged to include in their sign or banner where they are from. The rally is also seen as a welcoming “prelude” to the Eyes Wide Open tour, to be held at the same location the following Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22 and 23.

A month before the United States launched the attack in 2003, more than 1500 people took to the streets in Fresno, joining 10 million people around the world that day, saying “Don’t Attack Iraq!” This year continue the call for peace and be part of the voice that says “Stop the War! It Affects Us All.”

For more information call Peace Fresno (559) 487-2515, e-mail president@peacefresno.org or visit www.peacefresno.org.

Rally in the Valley for Peace and Justice Coalition Member Registration

Group Name _____ Address _____	Contact person Name _____ Address _____
Phone number (____) _____ E-mail _____	Phone number (____) _____ E-mail _____

_____ We want to reserve a space at the rally for tabling. There is no charge to reserve a space before March 6. After March 6, the fee is \$15. Rental of a 6-foot table and 3 chairs is \$10.

_____ We want to co-sponsor. This means you will participate in the planning, help publicize the event, and donate what you can to help defray the costs. You will be listed as a part of the coalition in publicity and information about the event on the program.

_____ We want to endorse and participate. This means you support the event but are not as involved as the co-sponsors.

SEND THIS FORM TO PEACE FRESNO
P O BOX 5115
FRESNO, CA 93755-5115.
DAN YASEEN (559) 432-3445

One Who Wears Many Hats

By Marlana McClain

Janez Tilden describes her boss of 16 years, Margaret Hudson, as “one who wears many hats.” Indeed.

At an Evening of Appreciation, held February 12 to raise funds for Margaret, she was described as a sculptor, a painter, a poet, a teacher, a businesswoman, a public speaker, a gardener, a dreamer, a voice for peace, a keeper of cats and a “damn good letter-to-the-editor writer.”

Hundreds of Margaret’s friends, family, fellow artists, and supporters gathered to celebrate a woman who gives so much—teaching school-children, speaking on behalf of peace and women’s issues, producing her art, hosting a refugee from central America.

When her friends learned she was having some financial difficulties, they jumped at the chance to help. It was time to give back.

The night’s program included music by Coyote Five and Heartland Harvest and poetry read by Vincent Lavery and Richard Stone (both Peace Fresno activists). Margaret’s own poetry was inspirational.

Sponsors of the event included the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Fresno Ag Hardware, Java Wava, and Food Not Bombs.

In the early 1970s, Margaret’s husband was ill, her mother had a broken hip, and there were four little boys in her care. She decided to support her family by sculpting and selling the works of art from her backyard and at craft fairs.

Now over 30 years later, she teaches children from all over the area the art of sculpting at her Earth Art Studios. Tilden estimates that over 100,000 children have learned how to make things from clay.

With many schools cutting art classes due to lack of funds, Tilden says “This little program of hers has become a shining light in the darkness.”

“My art reflects my childhood,” says Margaret smiling, who insists she has been playing with mud since early childhood.

She teaches children that every piece of their art is special in its own way.

Jim Kratzer, a father and pediatrician, says he values the time and energy that Margaret has spent with his children. “Margaret is a very wonderful institution . . . one of the wonderful things about Fresno,” he says.

“One of the remarkable things about Margaret is that through her art work, she is able to reach out and plant beauty with an interesting and subversive way into the homes of people whose politics are very different from hers—hopefully making it a better world,” Kratzer says.

Margaret admits, “Sometimes it has crossed my mind that political and environmental issues of peace, justice, and war could hurt my business. But I have to stay true to myself.”

Through WILPF, Margaret helped Luis Jovel, a Salvadoran refugee. Jovel, who now makes custom footwear locally, says, “Having her around us is a blessing from God, because she keeps giving to the community—and to the world—her amazing art, her heart. She’s the most amazing lady I have ever known,” he says. “Margaret was born a star.”

Margaret is truly a community leader and a Valley legend. Her advice to others, and her own code for success, is simple: “Do with passion what you love.”



Woman's History Month March 2005



Events Scheduled for Fresno City College

<p>3/1/05 (Tue): WOMEN ROCK! Panel discussion 12:30pm Student Lounge</p> <p>3/2/05 (Wed): Speaker: Lakota Harden Topic: Empowering Women 10am and 12pm Student Lounge</p> <p>3/2/05 (Wed): Speaker: Ellen Gruenbaum Topic: How Will Female Genital Cutting Stop? 6:30pm Student Lounge</p>	<p>3/3/05 (Thu): Eating Disorder Screening 11am - 2pm Student Center</p> <p>3/3/05 (Thu): Movie: Naturally Native Co-sponsored by the American Indian Studies Program 4:00pm SO 110</p> <p>3/8/05 (Tue): International Women's Day Bazaar Booths, music, food 11am - 2pm Free Speech Are</p>	<p>3/8/05 (Tue): Movies: Vagina Monologues and Vagina Monologues Globally 4:00pm and 6:00pm SO 110</p> <p>3/9/05 (Wed): Poetry Reading: Shelly Savren 12:00pm Art Space Gallery</p> <p>3/11/05 (Fri): Movie: Better Than Chocolate Co-sponsored by the Diversity Club 6:30pm SO 110</p>	<p>3/15/05 (Tue): Speaker: Maria Telesco Topic: Women in the Prison System 2:00pm Staff Dining Room</p> <p>3/16/05 (Wed): Performance: Copper Wimmin 6:00pm MS 132</p> <p>3/18/05 (Fri): Women in Non-traditional Careers Panel Discussion 12:00pm HS 160</p>	<p>3/28/05 (Mon): Speaker: Women and HIV 5:00pm AH 108</p> <p>3/31/05 (Thu): Movie: Magdalena Sisters Co-sponsored by the Anthropology Club 4:00pm SO 110</p> <p>For further information please call 442-4600 Ext 8351 (Linda DeKruif)</p>
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50th

Where Will President Bush Strike Next? How will we pay for it?

It's distressing to see a significant swing to the right in the *Fresno Bee* opinion pages. The most invasive is the new weekly column by Victor Davis Hanson. While Hanson obviously has a breadth of knowledge of events, he appears to be living in a fantasy world that I keep seeing in the mainstream media, which I shall call Bushworld. In Bushworld, words are used that everybody in this country believes in (freedom, democracy, clean air, healthy forests, etc.) but closer examination reveals a different reality.

In looking at recent Hanson columns ("Citizens Vent Better through Ballots than Bullets" and "Boxer's Badgering of Rice Sign of Party's Decline"), I see good examples of Bushworldisms. In "Ballots" he states, "The United States earns very little credit for its newfound dedication to democratic reform..." Could earning little credit have anything to do with US foreign policy? The idea of democratic reform in Iraq was hardly high on Bush's list but became convenient when the lies about WMD could no longer be used as a justification for invading Iraq.

Is it possible the United States receives little credit for democratic reform because we will overthrow a democracy that does not toe the US ideology line, as we did in Haiti and have been trying to do in Venezuela? Might we not be getting credit because we continue to support dictators (as in Pakistan, Egypt and Uzbekistan) and monarchs (as in Saudi Arabia and most of the other Middle East oil producing countries) who do what Saddam apparently used to do (torture, imprison without charges, and murder)?

Maybe Hanson doesn't mention this because these are all techniques that are now used in our US foreign policy in Iraq, Afghani-

Fresno Bee Continues to Swing to the Right

By Stephen Sacks

stan, and Guantanamo Bay.

Hanson concludes the article by stating that "the hard road to democracy in the Middle East will create as much immediate chaos and caricature of President Bush's new idealism as it does enduring stability and eventual praise." Does Hanson honestly believe that we are now close to spending \$300 billion in this region on war due to Bush's idealism? He seems to have left out any economic reason for us being there. Could the United States and its corporations possibly benefit by controlling the world's second-largest oil reserves? Does Hanson honestly believe that if a democratically elected Iraqi government comes in and wants to nationalize their oil reserves, the United States will walk away and allow that to happen? Is the United States building 14 permanent military bases there out of idealism?

President Bush's idealism just a few months ago destroyed a city (Fallujah) about the size of Fresno that had an estimated 100,000 civilians still there. In a story in the National Catholic Reporter, it was reported that 93% of the Iraqi casualties in this war are civilian, with half being children.

In "Boxer's Badgering of Rice," Hanson writes that Rice was "cross-examined from a succession of liberal senators angry over

the Iraq war" and that Democratic leaders (like Kerry and Hillary Clinton but not Boxer) supported the Iraq war and realized the threat to our country because they "had access to the same intelligence as did the administration."

Should the senators have been angry and did they have the same intelligence as the administration? It turns out that the administration selectively used intelligence to develop its case in the rush

to war in Iraq. Even though the UN inspectors were not finding any WMDs; even though the CIA intelligence found that the story about uranium for nuclear weapons from Niger was a hoax; even though the United States knew that Iraq had no capability to deliver weapons outside of its borders; Rice was going around the country scaring the American people with her famous quote, "We don't want the smoking gun be a mushroom cloud." She lied about Al Qaeda/Iraq links, she lied about chemical weapons development in Iraq, and she lied about Iraq's nuclear capability.

This so-called attack on Rice was not personal and had nothing to do with what Hanson implies is racial—"a proud, poised African-American woman from Birmingham, Alabama" but everything to do with the deliberate lies that this administration and Rice told and continue to tell the American people.

Bushworld and Hanson's Bushworldisms are, like Disney World, a big fantasy—but with disastrous consequences for the United States and the rest of the world.

Stephen Sacks is the chairperson of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno's Social Justice Committee.

CHAANGE Marches On!

by Gary Dennis

The February CHAANGE Maker meeting concerned the end of HIV testing on college campuses, a problem brought to the group's attention while members participated at a Volunteer Faire at Fresno City College.

To our surprise, HIV testing was halted on Fresno campuses at the request of Sacramento. The state told counties it wants testing only at "high-risk" places such as the gay bars, not college campuses.

My concern is this gives the message HIV is still only a queer / junkie disease. On-campus HIV testing opened the doors for those who are not gay or on parole to get tested, which is especially important considering the increased HIV numbers in black and Latino heterosexual females.

While Fresno County has stopped campus testing, it has expanded testing times at its office building downtown.

One Fresno City College student suggests having nurses on campus do the testing but county representatives say that it would take two days to train the campus nurses. So CHAANGE decided to contact Fresno City College to see if campus nurses would be willing to undergo the necessary training. No word back yet.

Another issue is the change in the types of testing services offered by the county.

One type, anonymous testing, allows people being tested to withhold personal information. A person is given an identifier or number in order to obtain his or her test results.

The other type, confidential, requires the person to provide his or her personal information in order to get results. The results are placed in personal medical records and can be used to increase medical insurance premiums. This information also can get into the wrong hands.

Now, the Federal government wants anonymous testing ended, to coincide with practices in other states and to simplify the process of tracking positives.

County officials have assured community advocates that recent laws do protect patients' information from being revealed to others without proper paperwork. That's why extra papers now have to be signed at doctors' offices.

The problem I have with that is a privacy issue: the government is allowed to obtain personal information.

But a county worker told us that such personal information is useful so a positive tester can be quickly located and persuaded to get proper care.

Also, California will be the first state to have a statewide initiative addressing the issue of HIV in the African-American community.

Little money has been available to combat HIV in African-Americans, even though their HIV rates are the highest of all ethnic groups in the state.

I'm a member of the State Advisory Board on African Americans and HIV, and I can tell you this step is long overdue.

The Minority AIDS Initiative receives only five percent of the total federal discretionary HIV/AIDS funding for FY2005. The MAI is the funding source that is directed toward HIV prevention in minority communities.

It is so important to get involved with CHAANGE to educate and empower yourself about these issues. Our next CHAANGE Makers meeting is March 2, 2-4 PM, at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave (Van Ness & McKinley). Call (559) 268-1969 with questions or suggestions, or if you want to help out. See you there.

Alternative/Independent Media Conference a Success

By Mike Rhodes

An alternative/independent media conference, held in Fresno on February 12, 2005, attracted grassroots journalists from throughout the state. About 100 participants—from low-power FM radio stations, alternative newspapers, newsletters serving the homeless, public access cable TV activists, Indybay, Indy-media, and more—networked and learned new skills at the first conference of its kind in Central California. Participants came from Davis, Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Visalia, Bakersfield, and as far south as Manhattan Beach in Southern California.

The conference, organized by the *Community Alliance* newspaper in Fresno, began with Conn Hallinan's analysis of corporate media and the need for alternative/independent journalism. Hallinan, a writer and journalism professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, told participants that "in 1983 Ben Bagdikian wrote a book called *The Media Monopoly*, which detailed how 50 companies controlled the industry. By the fourth edition, in 1992, the number had shrunk to 20. Today, it is 9."

The consolidation of media into fewer and fewer hands has resulted in large corporations controlling the news. In a survey by the Pointer Institute, Hallinan says, "33% of the editors of newspapers said they would not run a story that was harmful of their parent company." One has to wonder if the other 67% were being entirely honest. Hallinan says, "The largest media chain in the country is Gannet." Sitting on their board of directors are representatives from Merrill Lynch, Standard Oil, Kerr-McGee (with interests in oil, gas, atomic energy, and aerospace), 20th Century Fox, Lockheed Martin (the largest arms manufacturer in the world), McGraw Hill, Phillips Petroleum, the Kellogg Company, and others.

Hallinan says "After you list those off, what do you write about? You write about Britney Spears."

Because of big business's lock on the media, most journalists are unable to tell many important stories. Corporate media journalists are unable to write investigative reports that would put their parent company in a bad light, they do not tell us the truth about why the United States went to war in Iraq, and they are not telling the story about groups and individuals working for peace and social and economic justice.

The distortion and bias of the corporate media have opened up an opportunity for grassroots and community journalists. The alternative/independent media conference provided a space for the grassroots journalists in this emerging movement to network and learn new skills.

In addition to the keynote address, Hallinan participated in several workshops. The first workshop was a discussion about corporate media and how to hold them accountable. Pam Whalen, who is a *Community Alliance* newspaper editorial board member, led the discussion about one way to hold corporate media accountable.

Whalen said, "All the radio stations in California are having their licenses renewed this year. Radio stations are supposed to operate in the public interest, because the airwaves are public space. If a radio station is not operating in the public interest, they could lose their license and a community group could take over and run that station."

Conference participants expressed an interest in following up on this information. The group will invite the Media Alliance in San Francisco to come to Fresno for a workshop on this issue.

George Elfie Ballis taught a popular workshop on photojournalism. Elfie has been a movement photographer for many years, taking some of the best pictures of Cesar Chavez and other members of the United Farm Workers union. Elfie described how he becomes a part of the group he is taking pictures of. "I'm invisible," he said, describing his presence in a march or at other events. Elfie described spending weeks with a Native American group before taking any pictures. It was not until after he was accepted by the tribe that the camera was brought out. Elfie says that passion is the most important ingredient for making a movement photographer.

Participants also learned about Indymedia, the struggle for public access TV on cable, and about low-power, pirate, and free-speech radio. During the evaluation at the end of the conference, a number of participants said that they wanted more hands-on and in-depth training in specific areas of grassroots journalism. The idea of an alternative/independent media association gained some traction as participants felt a need to link with others doing this important work.

There is no date for a second alternative/independent media conference in Fresno. But, discussions are under way to hold workshops on specific topics—such as advanced grassroots journalism, challenging radio and TV licenses, how to build and operate a pirate radio station, and photojournalism.

If you are interested in participating in future Central Valley alternative/independent media workshops or conferences, send an email to AllianceEditor@comcast.net and you will be contacted when future events are planned.

Unitarian Universalist Church Presents Mark Graham and Orville Johnson in Concert

By Larry Bassman

Why would two of the most talented, zany, and widely-respected roots musicians in the United States—both of whom have appeared on Garrison Keilor's *Prairie Home Companion*—choose to go on the road as a duo? Simple: Mark Graham and Orville Johnson love the magic when they play together as much as their audiences do. "People comment on that all the time," says Orville. "They can tell we're having a good time up there. We play on a lot of different emotions." Wry humor, virtuoso harmonica, soulful blues, hot pickin', and sweet country vocals—that's what you get when Orville and Mark combine forces as the *Kings of Mongrel Folk*.

Graham's harmonica virtuosity on Irish and American fiddle tunes and his rich, woody sound on clarinet are well-known to fans of Kevin Burke's *Open House*. Graham's sardonic skewering of contemporary life, in such songs as "I Can See Your Aura and It's Ugly" and "Zen Gospel Singing," have been cult classics for years. His songs have been recorded by many, including the Austin Lounge Lizards, Bryan Bowers, and the Limerlighters.

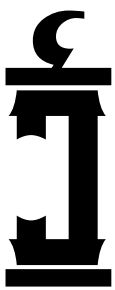
Orville Johnson, an instrumental gunslinger whom the *Seattle Times* describes as a "player's player," has a gift of finding the "secret ingredient" that makes a song sound letter-perfect, whether it's an R&B tune from New Orleans, a country blues tune, or a jazzy ballad. Orville's guitar, dobro, and quavering, honeyed vocals have seasoned more than a hundred recordings, soundtracks, and countless TV and radio commercials. He also produces records and teaches at events like the International Guitar Seminar and the Port Townsend Country Blues Workshop. He has shared the stage with artists such as Doc Watson, Bonnie Raitt, and John Lee Hooker.

Between the two of them, they have played many of the most coveted gigs in North America and Europe: the Newport Folk Festival and Caffé Lena, out East; South by Southwest, in Texas; the Bay area's Freight and Salvage and Kuumbwa; London's Festival Hall and Glasgow's Celtic Connections Festival, in Europe; and on their home turf, Bumbershoot and the Northwest Folklife Festival.

Though they were longtime acquaintances on the Northwest folk scene, it was at a Folklife Festival jam session in 1991 that they hatched their plan to expand their kingdom of mongrel folk nationwide and, yes, even worldwide. Wherever they go, their performances and recordings have inspired raves: *Sing Out Magazine* says "[They] performed with taste and skill and [were] boosted by the nuttiness of Graham's songs."

Mark and Orville will be performing on Friday, March 18, at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 4144 N Millbrook Avenue (just south of Ashlan). For ticket information, contact Larry Bassman at 244-0562 or lbassman@pacbell.net.





Show me the Money!

Measure C - What we need to know

By Gene Richards

Having worked in many political campaigns both locally and nationally, I come to the progressive political process from a planning background (my first degree is in environmental studies and planning). But whether we come from a political or a planning perspective, we are taught to look at power politics from a monetary point of view, sort of a variation of the Jerry Maguire character's, "Show me the money!" In other words, who's spending all that public money and for what purpose? You didn't think your taxes were what was driving the government, did you? I'd like to see the progressive community educate itself about transportation and land use planning so we can be more effective at electing responsible representatives and passing decent tax measures, because these are some of the local issues which drive the broader issues of the day.

In Fresno County, by far the greatest influence is exercised by development interests because of the huge availability of "empty" land. "Development interests" includes not only developers themselves, but also large local businesses and utilities, as well as farming interests, who see development as their best cash crop. To be an effective player on the political stage and a responsible citizen requires a thorough knowledge of these development pressures, historically and politically. To bring this to a concrete level, the shape of the physical landscape, both the land and the structures, even including the social environment, has been brought about by the moneyed interests acting for their own benefit.

Measure C is the half-cent sales tax instituted in 1987 by Fresno County voters to be spent on local transportation projects. Most of that money will have gone to building and expanding freeways 168 and 180 when it is due to expire at the end of 2006. Many interests in town want to pass another ballot measure to take its place; this is made more difficult, however, by current law that requires a two-thirds passage rather than the original simple majority in 1986.

Measure C was on the ballot two years ago and failed, gaining only 54% of the vote. It was fought by the local Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters, and other civic and environmental groups that have continued to meet to craft a measure that spends most of the money on public transit and road maintenance rather than capacity improvement (more lanes on more roads and highways).

Various interest groups have met at the urging of Supervisor Susan Anderson and former supervisor (and current Assemblyman) Juan Aram-

bula in what was known as the mediation committee. Powerful interests in town and public organizations met but the result did not move the process forward much until Arambula offered a proposal to directly elect all members of the authority charged with planning for and spending the collected county revenues (the current Fresno County Transportation Authority—FCTA). This proposal came out of Arambula's (and many others') feeling that certain interests had abused the process for selfish and parochial gain (read: Clovis politicians). While still on the table, this has also been set aside temporarily and a new process has been entered into. A new "steering committee" is in the works, which may represent local advocacy groups (like the Coalition of Livable Fresno County Communities, Sierra Club, and others) and what I like to call the P-T-Bs (Powers-That-Be). It has just started to meet and there is some rush to work out a compromise because anything would need to be voted on and passed by the County Board of Supervisors and the California legislature before it could go to Fresno County voters in the spring or fall of 2006.

I have gone to many meetings on this issue over several years but what finally comes of all this is anybody's guess. Whatever the outcome, however, it will shape life in Fresno County for years to come. To give you an idea, the current Measure C will have spent 75% of its funds (about \$470 million of the \$700 million generated) on major highway expansion in the county (mainly freeways 168 to Clovis, 180 east and west, and 41 south). This is your money, collected every time you make a purchase in the county. Your largesse has greatly benefited development interests because of the relative low cost of building on vacant land on the outskirts of the city. However, it has also seriously affected our air quality, and it just about guarantees that all new residents will have to drive wherever they wish to travel in the course of a day. And besides encouraging car use, the sprawl model of growth makes mass transit and street maintenance very difficult, not to mention financing schools.

During this same period, Fresno streets have deteriorated seriously and the bus system has improved very little. For dollar comparison, Fresno spends about \$14 million a year on street maintenance (only about \$6 million of that from Measure C)—well below what it would actually take to maintain our streets in decent condition. FAX has a yearly operating budget of over \$30 million (only about \$1.5 million of that from Measure C).

One of the issues that will be discussed is the time frame. (The current measure runs for 20 years, as do most of the recent "self-help"

transportation tax measures passed by California counties.) Another is whether the measure should specify exact percentages for each project or general categories of projects (public transit, highways, bike lanes and pedestrian facilities, etc.). Other questions include the makeup of the governing board and whether members would be elected or appointed—a very contentious issue considering the money involved and the historical view that the cities of Fresno and Clovis have been the 800-pound gorillas in the room in the past.

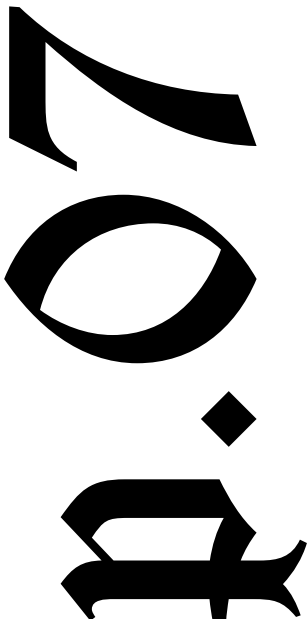
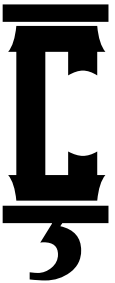
If you still don't think this is important and can live with our poor air and sprawling development, consider possible future projects. How about a new bridge over the beautiful San Joaquin River between Copper Avenue and the new Children's Hospital, west of the current Highway 41 bridge? (And if you're not sure the San Joaquin is beautiful, let me take you on a canoe trip from just below Friant Dam to Highway 41—you'll be amazed.) Or, how about expanding Highway 180 west to I-5 and east to the foothills (resulting in uncontrolled sprawl, increased traffic and freeway congestion, and air pollution)? Or a four-lane Highway 168 up to and beyond Shaver Lake? Or even a new foothill freeway so we could build out the whole foothill region!

Some of the possible projects that would benefit the environment more than building new freeways are as follows: major spending on mass transit (including clean-air buses on a 10- or 15-minute schedule, light rail along higher density central corridors, etc.); consolidation of the railroad lines; better accessibility for the disabled community (and anyone who doesn't or can't drive); a complete system of bike and walking trails throughout the County; better landscaped streets. . . .

Please, use your imagination. But the benefits to us go beyond new infrastructure. We could be known for our clean air, for a lack of congestion, and for a healthy lifestyle (instead of the reverse) . . . and wouldn't that sell more homes?

It's true that the Valley's population is expected to grow greatly in the next 20 years, but there isn't any reason that we who live here and enjoy it can't have a major influence on what it looks like and how it affects our lives. Members of the community can educate themselves and become involved in the new Measure C steering committee process, which *will* be public. It should begin in March and it *will* be educational. It's up to you whether you let the moneyed interests and career politicians control your home and your destiny.

Gene Richards rides a bike most of the time and can be reached at 497-0570 or gene1@cvip.net.



MORELIA, Michoacán (Mexico)—Jesús Martínez Saldaña entered the legislature chambers timidly and smiled as he greeted his friends and family. Moments later, he was being sworn in as one of the 40 representatives of the 70th Legislature of the Mexican state of Michoacán.

This was the culmination of a long political process, initiated by groups of Michoacán natives in the United States and with the support of Mexico’s Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) in Michoacán, which chose Martínez as its candidate. Martínez has worked diligently with these organizations and citizens to develop a plan of action to be implemented during the next three years.

“I feel it is my personal responsibility to inform the public about the effects of immigration that many here and in the United States aren’t aware of,” said Martínez. Michoacán has about 4 million inhabitants, and another 2.5 million natives of Michoacán now live in the United States.

Martínez Saldaña was born 44 years ago in Santiago Conguripo, a suburb of Angamacutiro in the state of Michoacán. In 1969 he immigrated to the United States to join family members who were living in California. After graduating from the University of Santa Clara, he completed his master’s and doctorate degrees at UC Berkeley. Once he was sworn in as a representative in the legislature, he resigned from his job as a professor at

First Migrant Representative Takes Office in Mexican State

Eduardo Stanley, Pacific News Service

California State University in Fresno.

“I’m very happy, although it hurts to leave my family behind,” he says. Like many immigrants, Martínez already has experience in the separation of families: His father left for California before moving his family to the United States. Now, Martínez’s wife, son, and parents will stay in Fresno while Martínez lives in Mexico. The newest member of the legislature, however, will travel to the United States periodically for meetings and to keep in contact with his constituents.

His agenda includes giving Michoacán natives living outside of Mexico the right to vote in Mexican elections, an initiative that was “frozen” in the last legislature by Mexico’s two other major political parties, the National Action Party (PAN) and the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He will also support a federal law that would allow every Mexican to vote in Mexico’s 2006 federal elections.

Other important issues on his agenda are to support educational and cultural programs for Michoacán natives living in the United States, to implement health initiatives for migrant

workers, and to promote a relationship between local organizations on both sides of the border.

“He will be our voice in the local congress. Until now we have been practically nonexistent,” says José Manuel Correa, a native of Michoacán living in Chicago. Other Michoacán natives from Alaska, California, Nevada, and Texas were present at Martínez Saldaña’s inauguration in the Mexican city of Morelia to lend their support, emphasizing the historic importance of electing someone to represent the migrant population.

“I trust that Dr. Jesús Martínez will make Michoacán residents more aware of immigration issues,” said Claudio Méndez Fernández, 33, director of the General Coordination for the Attention of the Michoacán Migrant (a government office). Like Martínez, Méndez immigrated to the United States and returned to Mexico to participate in the local political process when Lázaro Cárdena Batel was elected governor of the state in 2002.

“I’m sure that Martínez’s presence will be very important in advancing the cause of voting rights for Micho-

acán natives living abroad, especially now that we have other representatives of the PRD party who were also US migrants,” Governor Cárdenas Batel said enthusiastically in an exclusive interview on January 13 in Morelia.

Cárdenas Batel, 40, is the son of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano and grandson of the legendary general Lázaro Cárdenas. Three years ago his political career led him to the governor’s seat with his party, the PRD. “My government could be considered leftist because it seeks social equality, equal access to education and jobs,” he said. He added that private investors were needed to improve the economy.

Migration generates a huge market for regional products, which contribute to solidifying the socioeconomic relationship between Mexico and the United States. “The participation of the migrant community in this development is fundamental,” stated the governor. He said that his government seeks to channel part of the income from remittances by migrants living in the United States into lucrative investments for Michoacán. Migrants from Michoacán currently send more than

\$1.5 billion annually to family back home.”

Agricultural projects financed by Michoacán natives abroad and government funding are now being developed in the cities of Zamora and Tierra Caliente. Other small industrial projects spearheaded by migrants living abroad are cropping up across the Mexican state.

With contributions from the economic sector comes political participation. Cárdenas Batel knows this and is actively promoting electoral rights for immigrants living abroad. “I believe the presence of Jesús Martínez will be an important catalyst on this issue.”

Martínez, who became a member of the Migrant Issues Legislative Caucus on January 17, will need to work hard for the migrant vote, since his party does not represent a majority of Congress. There are 17 PRD representatives, 15 PRI members, six PAN members and one representative each of the Worker’s Party (PT) and the Green Party (PVEM).

In Morelia, Martínez may not feel too far away from California. The Mexican state capital is now populated with people of all ages who have emigrated to the United States and decided to return to their home state to start a new life—including many members of the state’s government. Full of plans, hopes, and a desire for a better life, these people are adding a new layer to the social and political structure of Michoacán.

Second Gene Bluestein Memorial Concert Planned

By The Bluestein Family

The first Gene Bluestein Memorial Concert was a great success. On December 12, 2003, we brought Sweet Honey in the Rock to the historic Warnor’s Theater in Fresno, and we celebrated! More than 1500 people attended, and we’re still receiving wonderful comments and thank-yous from people who were there. It was a special event for Fresno and a terrific way to honor Gene.

The second Memorial Concert, on March 26, 2005, will be a reprise of a concert held in 1979 when Gene had initiated a program of Folk Artists in Residence at CSUF through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts: Bessie Jones, Lydia Mendoza, Dewey Ballfa, Kenny Hall, Jean Ritchie, and Richard Hagopian. The first three artists have passed on, but

not before having received National Heritage Awards from the Smithsonian. At 81, Kenny Hall is still in Fresno passing on his skills and repertoire.

When Jean Ritchie and Richard Hagopian were resident artists here, they performed together in a rich and exciting program. Now you’ll have a chance to see and hear them together again, along with The Bluestein Family, who performed with Jean in the original show. The Arax Armenian Dance Troupe will join Richard and his orchestra onstage.

Richard is a master oudist and expert on Armenian musical traditions. When he received the National Heritage Award in 1989, Gene and Evo Bluestein flew to Washington, DC, to watch him perform. In September 2002, Jean Ritchie, dulcimer

player and Kentucky folk music laureate, received a special Bess Lomax Hawes Award as part of the National Heritage Awards. Gene was planning to surprise her by attending the ceremony, but he only made it till the end of August, so Ellie attended with Joel.

Evo is producing a retrospective CD of Gene that includes never-before-released performances dating as early as the 1950s, as well as cuts from solo and family records that were never reissued on CD. The new CD will be available at the concert and in advance.

We hope we will have a chance to see many of you at the performance, and we thank you for making it possible to continue Gene’s legacy of presenting artists who represent our nation’s rich and diverse folk heritage.

Album Review John Legend Get Lifted

(Sony Urban Music/Columbia)

By Rick Petinak



you call...we rise and we fall...but it’s not a fantasy, I still want you...”).

Legend recaptures this same level of emotion on “Refuge (When It’s Cold Outside),” about seeking solace in God, and on “It Don’t Have To Change,” an anthem about the lost memories of family, which ironically features members of his *own* family.

Where Legend strays from this touching formula is when his coattails seem to be pulled by the rap scene from which he has stepped forth, via his relationship with West and numerous works with other rap artists. On the album *Prelude*, and on “Number One,” with West, Legend attempts to keep one foot in each of two worlds that simply won’t mix...materialism/misogyny and spirituality.

The album’s final cut, “Live It Up,” taps into this vein as well, but it is fortunately rescued by its breezy, harmonious instrumentation and melody. My first inclination, after only one listen, was to write-off much of *Get Lifted* as another cookie-cutter attempt at pseudo-R&B from the industry’s newest neo-soul knock-off. But my ears forced me to listen more deeply and take notice of a truly promising effort.

If Legend can shake the urge to “serve two masters,” and give his full attention to the melodious and eloquent writing and singing prevalent on so much of this album, he will be a true presence in a musical scene desperately in need of substance and talent.

Rating (1 lowest to 5 highest):



Bread and Roses Too

By Diane Corbin

Senator Barbara Boxer has shown her many supporters here in the Valley what it means to really represent someone in Congress. Senator Boxer, along with Representative Stephanie Tubbs of Ohio, stood up in Congress and protested the Ohio vote count for president. The last time such a thing occurred was in 1877. Two determined women knew the right thing to do, the thing their constituents in letters and petitions and phone calls had asked them to do: Stand up for our right to vote and to have our vote counted. And Senator Boxer and Representative Stephanie Tubbs courageously showed us that our votes did count, our requests would be answered, and we would truly have a say in our government. The Valentine roses represent our admiration for your courageous stand and our promise that we will stand with you in all the difficult battles you and we still have to fight. Thank you.





“The Place Is Called Wahallich”

By Mike Robe

*All data concerning this project are from RMC public proposal for the Jesse Morrow Mountain quarry.
Data regarding RMC and NGT are from the company Web pages or financial reviews of the companies.*

Let's begin with a few facts. RMC Pacific Materials of Pleasanton, California, is proposing to destroy half of Jesse Morrow Mountain. Jesse Morrow Mountain is on the north side of Highway 180 (designated a scenic highway by the federal, state, and county governments.) You see it when you're on the way to Kings Canyon/Sequoia right after you take the hard left turn on 180 and head due east toward the Sierra Nevada. It's the huge mountain just past the old schoolhouse, now a restaurant, the Sherwood Inn. The south face of the mountain looks out over Sanger and Reedley and its north face drops down to the little community of Piedra and what's left of the Kings River.

RMC proposes a one-hundred-year plan to provide for local gravel needs by mining 400 acres of the mountain to a depth of several hundred feet. Once a week, the mountain will be blasted open with dynamite to “produce the desired aggregate.” An “aggregate processing plant” (i.e., a rock crushing machine) will be built on site. There will be in excess of eighty daily round-trip deliveries by gravel truck with operations occurring approximately 315 days a year. Currently RMC has not been granted a permit to begin operations, and they have not filed an environmental impact report on the project.

So who or what is RMC Pacific? RMC Pacific was formed in 1987 as a general partnership in California, integrating Lone Star Industries and RMC industries (Lone Star became a wholly owned subsidiary in 1995), a division of RMC Group plc of the UK. RMC Group plc, headquartered in London, is the world's largest supplier of ready mix concrete, producing 12 million tons annually using 1,400 plants in eighteen different countries. It is the largest supplier of aggregate in Europe with operations across the continent. RMC USA has acquired companies virtu-

ally throughout the entire United States. In 2003 its sales reached nearly 8 billion dollars with income of \$227 million. RMC's chairman, Sir John Parker, is also head of National Grid Transco, described as the “world's premier network utility,” serving 21 million homes and factories in the UK and 3 million customers in the US. Sir John was recently named by the Queen of England as senior non-executive designate of the Court of the Bank of England.

Here are some additional facts. The real name of Jesse Morrow Mountain is Wahallich, meaning “Crying Mountain” in the language of the Choinumni people who lived in the outlying areas around the mountain for as long as they can remember. According to Angie Osborne, a traditional Choinumni tribal elder, the name derives from a story told to her by her elders including her grandmother. It is said that the people used to camp near a spring on the southwest side of the mountain to gather reeds and grasses for baskets. Often, long after midnight, the people would wake up and hear what sounded like the desperate wailing cries of an infant. The sounds came from the water, and the young women were lured by the plaintive cries. But going into the water would make them seriously ill. Only a very strong person could resist the urge to come to the aid of what seemed to be a lost infant child. Down to this day the traditional Choinumni people are respectful of the mountain.

The Choinumni people, like others of the first nations in the Central Valley, lived sustainably for millennia in one of the most verdant, biologically diverse, and beautiful places on this Mother Earth. Now, with what is known as “civilization,” the rivers are gone and with them, the salmon. The grasslands are gone and, with them, the tule elk and pronghorn antelope. The great wetlands are gone and with them, the wild, seed-bearing grasses and the migratory birds, once so abundant they darkened the skies. Even the

most powerful creature of all the local people, the grizzly bear (symbol on the “Bear Flag” of California), has long been driven out of the area. As the great Lakota healer Lame Deer said concerning the disappearance of the bald eagle, “A people are in a bad way when they start killing off their own symbols.” Except from the perspective of “civilization,” we've been in a bad way here in the Valley for a long time.

The first nations in this valley and its foothills—the Yokuts, the Chuckchansi, the Wukchumni and Choinumni, the Mono, and others—have been devastated by the rapaciousness of what still goes by names like “progress” or, more often, “development” and “property rights.” The RMC proposal to blast and mine a mountain is symptomatic of the perpetual assault against the Earth; this assault is western, capitalist, technological “civilization.” By contrast, to the Choinumni, Wahallich is a sacred place worthy of utmost respect and care. They recognize that the mountain environs give life, give the power of a ceremonial place, and give shelter to their ancestors buried there along with the sacred objects that they carried across to the spirit world. The traditional Choinumni of today know that disturbing this place will bring even more death and destruction.

As neighbors of the Choinumni people we need to decide: What is Wahallich? Is it a mountain? Is it the center of a people's land, with burial places and sacred sites (designated by the many pictographs or rock pictures in the area)? Is it a home to coyotes, hawks, eagles, kit foxes, and innumerable other creatures? Is it a place with wildflowers and grasses and one of the largest, longest, and most beautiful of our low foothill mountains? Or is it Jesse Morrow quarry, a “natural resource”? Is it a sacred mountain or a place for gravel extraction—“aggregate”—which is necessary to continue “progress” in the Valley? Will it continue to give life or will

it become a place of noise, pollution, and possibly worse? Think. Take care in your language. Decide. Then act.

Language can liberate us by opening our eyes to truth; it can also imprison us in continuing ignorance. Even a seemingly innocuous phrase like “natural resources,” once it becomes widely accepted, is devastating in its effects. Perhaps nothing has been as central to the greed-based, technological assault on the Earth as this notion that nature is a resource. “Managing natural resources” is almost as bad as the idea of exploiting them for profit as, in either case, our plant, mineral and animals relations are deprived of all independent, inherent value. Their extraordinary uniqueness is overlooked, and their interconnectedness with us and us with them in the great mystery of life is ignored. The result is never anything less than catastrophic—directly for those beings driven to extinction and indirectly for those of us who survive in an increasingly ugly, hostile, and fragile environment. Worse, it seems as if, with the trajectory of the dominant culture and language, it cannot be stopped.

But we have a responsibility to resist. It is a responsibility to the honor of our ancestors who tried to live such that the world would be whole for us. It is a responsibility to save what little remains so that our descendants might have the opportunity to restore some of what has been lost. Finally, it is a responsibility to ourselves and what we say are our principles.

If it were possible to meld the technological sophistication of the Euro-Americans with the wisdom and reverence for life of the Native Americans, a new world would be born. It is in this spirit that I encourage people to help stop the destruction of Wahallich. Contact Audrey Osborne at 787-3336. You can also contact Fresno RaNCor <www.rancor.info> or Sierra Nevada Earth First <www.sierranevadaearthfirst.org> for more information.



SAY NO TO RMC!
Representatives from RMC Pacific
will be pitching their plan to turn Wahallich
(Jesse Morrow Mountain) into a gravel pit on
TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH @ 7 PM
SANGER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Join Choinumni people, neighbors, and environmentalists
in opposition to RMC.

Sierra Nevada Earth First

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Let the Rogue Performance Festival Challenge Your Artistic Boundaries:

Eclectic March Festival Features more than 150 Performances in Multiple Genres

By Jaguar Bennett

It's pretty easy to fall into the habit of only seeing art that's ... well, *safe*. Music that you already know you're going to like. Plays that have a message you already believe. And why not? Shows are expensive. You don't get enough fun time on the weekends. Why risk having a bad time?

The Rogue Performance Festival gives you the means, the motive, and the opportunity to break out of your artistic safety zone. The 10-day March festival will feature over 150 performances of every kind of performance and visual art. The Rogue's convenient show times and low ticket prices make taking a chance on something new very low-risk.

Now in its fourth year, the Fresno-based Rogue Performance Festival has become the largest arts event in the San Joaquin Valley and a powerhouse in the local arts scene.

The 2005 Rogue Performance Festival, the biggest ever, will involve 58 different artists and performance groups and 11 separate venues. The festival has attracted participants from around the world.

Your choices at the Rogue Performance Festival extend over the whole range of the arts: theater, music, independent film, dance, visual art, spoken word, storytelling, stand-up comedy, found object puppetry, and magic.

Among the highlights of the 2005 Rogue Festival:

Rap Canterbury Tales, by Canadian performance artist Baba Brinkman, resets Geoffrey Chaucer's classic on a modern tour bus. *Rap Canterbury Tales* was rated one of the Top 5 Must See shows by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

Musical performances by London-based singer-songwriter D. Kien Lim, who has written songs for Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics and performed for the king of Malaysia.

Upton Sinclair's Licked, by San Francisco actor Jay Martin, presents the true-life history of novelist Upton Sinclair's Depression-era run for California governor under the banner of the End Poverty in California movement.

Supersize Me, the critically acclaimed documentary film that takes "a tongue-in-cheek — and burger in hand — look at the legal, financial and physical costs of America's hunger for fast food," presented by the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

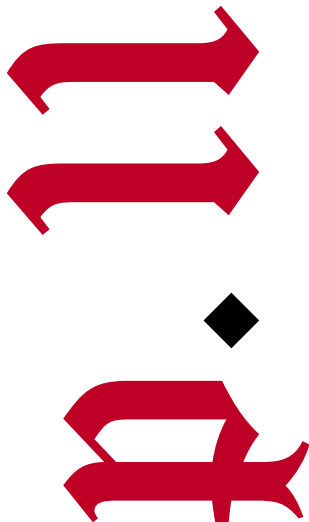
At the Rogue Performance Festival, shows happen in every venue simultaneously. At each venue, the intermission between performances is no more than 30 minutes. Most Rogue venues are within convenient and safe walking distance, so it's easy to hop from show to show.

Ticket prices for Rogue Mainstage shows are capped at \$6. Rogue Cafe shows are only \$3. For added value, you can pick up a \$50 Rogue Ready Pass at any Rogue venue. The \$50 pass is good for 12 Rogue shows — a value of up to \$72. All Rogue ticket sales go direct to performers. The Rogue Performance Festival is organized by a local nonprofit organization.

"The Rogue is a great time to see things that are really different, that you might not see on your own," said Marcel Nunis, managing director of the Rogue Performance Festival. "We've got acts you can't see anywhere else in Fresno, and it's easy to see a lot of different things in one day. There's something for everybody's taste, and if you don't like one show, you can move on to another."

"And in between shows, the venues are places where you can have a drink, get something to eat, and discuss what you've seen with your friends," Nunis said.

The Rogue Performance Festival will run Thursday, March 3 through Sunday, March 12. On most festival days, the earliest show will start at 1:00 PM and the latest show will start at 11:30 PM. For a full schedule of performances, check the Rogue Performance Festival Web site <www.roguefestival.com>, or get a Rogue Map, a complete guide to the festival, from any Rogue venue or other arts-friendly businesses.



Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno, PO Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755 Vickie Fouts, Editor, (559) 658-8260 or socialjustice@sti.net
This section is paid for by WILPF, who has complete editorial control of the content.

WILPF Dates:

Wednesday, March 2, Noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse Breezeway	Wednesday, March 23, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir-It-Up KFCF 88.1 FM. Hosted by Vickie Fouts, with a guest from the Eyes Wide Open Exhibit.
Thursday, March 10, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting 1584 N Van Ness NOTE DATE CHANGE.	New WILPF Business Meeting Date: Due to two of our board officers having Monday night classes this semester, it was decided at our February meeting to change our meeting date to the second Thursday of each month starting in March. Hope to see you there.
Sunday, March 13, 2 PM: WILPF Program WILPFers Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes to present a program on their recent trip to the World Social Forum. 4773 N Arthur Ave (SW of Palm and Shaw). phone 226-0477. Bring desserts or fruit and WILPF will provide drinks.	

WILPF Program: Join us for an informative program on the recent trip to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, by WILPFers Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes on Sunday, March 13, 2 PM at their home, 4773 N Arthur Ave (SW of Palm and Shaw), phone 226-0477. Bring des- serts or fruit and WILPF will provide drinks.

Marcia McLane Memorial Fund: We have accumulated \$905 toward the Marcia McLane Memorial Fund so far. I hear that donations are also coming in to WILPF National, and there will be an article in the next *Peace & Freedom* regarding Marsha. Thanks to all who have contributed to the memorial fund. I am sure that WILPF International will put the money to good use.

WILPF Membership Dues: In looking at our branch member- ship update from National recently, I was amazed at how many of our members have paid their membership dues this past quarter. I am not sure if this is because of greater outreach by WILPF National or because of the information I recently included in this newsletter. Whatever the reason, I want to thank all of you who recently paid your WILPF dues up to date. WILPF National can not survive without our help. Keep up the good work.

WILPF’s Eye on Congress: When you get an urge to contact Congress or the White House, remember the toll-free number for Congress is (800) 839-5276 and the toll-free number for the White House is (800) 321-8268 and ask for Comment Line. These lines are open during Eastern Time Zone business hours. Keep those lines busy with comments around WILPF’s values versus the administration’s values.

WILPF Quarterly Packet: Every quarter we receive a packet from National WILPF with excellent information and updates

on our campaigns. They are now posting the materials from the packet on the Web site <www.wilpf.org>. Check it out. Survival of the Fit: By Catherine Garoupa

Hello readers, WILPFers, and people of the world! For Women’s Herstory Month, we women should certainly celebrate our struggles and strengths. But women should also remember Darwin’s theory about “survival of the fit” (not the fittest, as it is often misquoted). It is a biological fact that men build bulky muscle faster, while women excel at aerobic activities. In a world with many predators, women must be able to defend themselves against men, who will typically have more brute strength. Women must be equipped with agility combined with quick physical wit.

Energy builds upon energy, so move around as much as you can, doing whatever you enjoy: walking, hiking, biking, sailing, stretch- ing, and so forth. Try to build some muscle with weight training, push-ups, squats or other muscle-building exercises. Learn to kick some butt! Take up a martial art, kick-boxing, or just learn some simple defense techniques.

Over the years, I have taken different self-defense courses and have learned a few tips on how to protect oneself. Here are some suggestions: Especially when out alone, always walk with your head up. Scan the area around you regularly, including behind you. If someone is near you, stay alert. If you are attacked, yell “Fire!” as loudly as possible. Try to disable your attacker with a swift chop to the throat, or jab her/him in the eyes with your fingers. Your top priority is to protect yourself. Women: Do not hesitate to stand up for yourself, be assertive, or compete with men!!

In reflecting on life as an American woman, I have mixed feelings.

Women in the United States have made incredible contributions to society and have won many rights since the founding of our country. Yet women in almost *every* society continue to be op- pressed and victimized, including the United States.

Women are by far the most common victims of domestic vio- lence, stalking, sexual harassment, rape, and many other heinous crimes. Women’s bodies are airbrushed, cut up, violated, and sold. American women are paid seventy-five cents on the dollar for equal work, and are not paid (or sometimes even recognized) for the life’s work of being a caregiver. Globally, most women suffer similar or worse circumstances, enduring horrible atrocities such as bride-burning and forced marriages.

These injustices must be stopped! I’m not asking anyone to feel sorry for women. But I am requesting acknowledgement of the injustices women face simply because of our sex, a predetermined and uncontrollable biological fact. We must all work together for a more equitable world for all oppressed groups and individuals. We must practice equity in our own lives, and strive to create equity in our global and local environments.

Let us all remember how important it is to honor the incredible worth of every energy form on Earth: mammal, reptile, or rock, big or small, fe/male, a/sexual, transgender, mauve, green, or gold. Uniqueness is the spice of life; similarity builds love, family, and community. What is pleasure and joy without pain and sor- row; night without day; life without conception, birth, or death; humans without one another?

Catherine Garoupa is vice-president of WILPF and a graduate student in social work at California State University, Fresno (who graduates this semester!).

Poetry Corner

The following poem was dropped off at the Center for Nonviolence by that writer for the ages, Anonymous. His note said: “I am a poet, not published or acclaimed, who likes to share his gift with those who under- stand....I do enjoy your publication.”

I pray for love	That loving hands will wipe	hectic pace
I pray for peace	away	One finds a little peace
I pray for all things good	The tears from children’s	
I pray for understanding	eyes	I pray your work for free- dom
To just be understood		For peace finds less defiance
	I pray a joy will touch each	This poem my gift in grati- tude
I pray the sun shall ever	heart	To the Community Alliance.
shine	Tolerance to increase	
And stars will fill my skies	And somewhere in life’s	

Here is a contribution from James Fletcher, writer and contemplative. Yes, James is brother to Greg, former Green Party activist who now lives in Sacramento, but James brings a different kind of sensibility to our efforts to bring about a finer world.

MONEY AIN’T GONNA BUY YOU A SOUL	While the world which was ours	Let the tv give the rest Takes all my strength to catch a dream And when I do
I like to dream	Is laid to waste	I dream of a world without money
Of a world without money	It ain’t what I call living	Call me a fool
Call me a fool but I stand aghast	Being led from one hunger to the next	But still
When minimum wage	Can’t find no rest	Money ain’t gonna buy you a soul
Gets you no place	Bottles for headaches, ar- thritis	Amen
But rent, tv and a tube of toothpaste	And all the rest	
	Bottles for fun and for blues	

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

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and whomever you call family, our doors are open.



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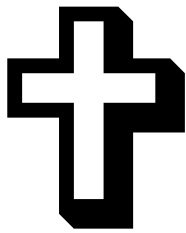
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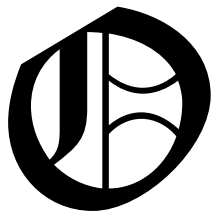
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Evangelical Christians Get Funding to Mentor Prisoners' Children

By Mike Rhodes



One by One Leadership, an evangelical Christian group in Fresno, recently received a grant from the Bush administration to mentor the children of prisoners. The \$360,000 annual grant is from the Department of Health and Human Services' "compassion capital fund." Doug Davidian, a Fresno businessman and vice chairperson of One by One Leadership, was quoted in the *Fresno Bee* as saying, "Because we're a faith-based organization, there's money available to us that isn't to those going through the front door. There are 99,000 people going through the front door. We're going through the side door."

The Bush administration is in the process of implementing massive cutbacks in funding for health, education, environmental, and other government agencies. Bush has proposed cutting 48 education programs totaling \$4.3 billion, slashing the amount given to local firefighters, reducing the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by \$450 million, and reducing funding for a program providing low-income people with home heating aid.

Locally, the Bush administration is targeting programs that benefit the poor, immigrants, and disadvantaged groups. The Upward Bound program at Reedley, which helps low-income students, will be eliminated. Farmworker training programs run by Proteus and the Central Valley Opportunity Center, which helps workers out of the cycle of poverty that exists in seasonal employment, will be eliminated.

According to the *Bee*, the compassion capital fund that is channeling money to One by One Leadership in Fresno, "is only one of a myriad of funding programs grouped under the faith-based umbrella." There are over 150 programs funneling \$50 billion to faith-based and community groups, according to a 67-page booklet published by the White House.

The One by One Leadership's Web site says, "An estimated 10,000 children in Fresno have a parent incarcerated in a state or federal prison. Without effective intervention, 70 percent of these children will likely follow their parent's path into incarceration." How will prisoners themselves react to this new program? According to Maria Telesco, a long-time advocate for prison reform

and human rights for prisoners, "One sector of prisoners are evangelical fundamentalist Christians [EFCs] and they will fall upon their knees shouting hallelujah." Telesco, who is also the chairperson of the Fresno chapter of Death Penalty Focus says, however, that not all prisoners will want the fundamentalist Christians indoctrinating their children. "Another sector, Black Muslims and Arab Muslims, for example, would raise holy hell and tell the EFCs to keep their hands off."

Another local prisoner-rights activist, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "Many prisoners will see the dark side of this [project of One by One Leadership]. In prison you learn very quickly not to trust anyone and to question the motives of anyone who offers you anything. You get paranoid rapidly on the inside. I suspect that some—perhaps particularly blacks who often talk about genocide etc., and certainly have the right to be skeptical—they will suspect their kids are being brainwashed to spy on the parents, or to be taken away to join cults.... I think they would react about like a Jew in Nazi Germany who is offered a nice train ride in the country."

Walt Parry, the Executive Director of Fresno Metro Ministry <www.fresnometroministry.org/> did not comment directly on the One by One Leadership project but did say, "It appears that from the very beginning President Bush wanted to diminish the federal government's role in programs that help low-income and moderate-income persons. By "breaking the bank" through his tax cuts primarily for the wealthy, he will drastically decrease federal revenues for years to come. That decrease in revenues plus new expenses for faith-based ventures will drive up the deficit, and long-term resources like Medicaid, food stamps, and other vital helping services will be cut by as much as thirty percent. The ongoing cost of the war is another factor. It appears to be a deliberate strategy."

The Rev. Bryan Jessup of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno was more blunt. He said, "Faith-based funding is a cynical and cunning manipulation of public opinion so people are persuaded by sentimentality to allow 'the winners' to claim more and more of the taxpayers' money as part of their 'spoils,' which they then dole out to religious enclaves that support them and dutifully wait for their reward."

Jessup said, "That compliant religious organizations, ones that do not question the distribution of wealth and power, and ones that do not question the system of cor-

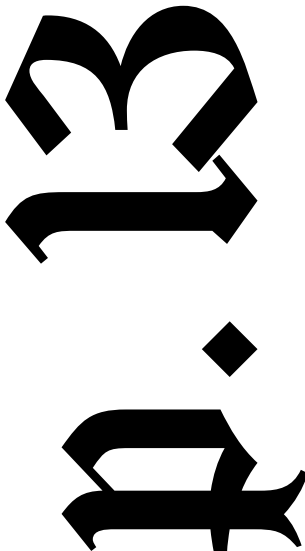
porate domination that rules our planet, will receive taxpayer funding, and that more disruptive ones will not, goes without saying. And to get help from these organizations, one will not only have to 'give his or her heart to Jesus,' he or she will also have to give his or her heart to a theology that equates giving one's heart to Jesus with submitting to social norms that make people compliant and convenient for corporate use. This—by the standards of any religion—is blasphemy!"

The Bush administration has cut taxes for the wealthy, decreased funding for services that help the poor, and is now channeling tax money to faith-based groups to provide social services. The framework for this dramatic shift in the way our government works is described in George Lakoff's new book *Don't Think of an Elephant*. Lakoff describes this as the strong-father model, which rewards the rich while punishing the poor.

The philosophy of the neo-cons, according to Lakoff, is that the rich deserve their wealth because they work hard. The poor are like misguided children that need to be disciplined: de-funding social service programs will force them to become more self-sufficient. By reducing government's role in funding social services and transferring that work to the right-wing, faith-based groups, the Bush administration is transforming not only the way our government operates, but the relationship between church and state. Some have described the shift as the emergence of the American Taliban.

The alternative model, according to Lakoff, is the nurturing-family model, where people take care of each other, there is compassion for those less fortunate than yourself, and an optimistic view that the world can be a just and fair place to live. This model is not based on fear and retaliation. It is based on justice, fairness, and hope for a better future. In this alternative model, everyone on the planet shares resources more equally, there is greater environmental justice, and the risks of war are greatly reduced.

While the goal of the Bush administration in funding groups like One by One Leadership has huge implications, the response by the progressive community must be equally clear. Maria Telesco concluded her comments by asking a rather simple question: "Instead of giving billions to faith-based quacks, why not spend a small portion of that money on jobs and education so parents would not be in prison in the first place?"



Fresno Center for Nonviolence

This section is paid for by Fresno Center for Non-violence, who has complete editorial control of the content.

STIRRING IT UP:
After an on-air discussion and Board conversation, the decision about the Center's second-Wednesday "Stir It Up" segment is as follows: We endorse the goal of inviting conservatives on air as consistent with a key element of our Peace Agenda. We recognize that the format would work best if kept consistent. However, competing interests and limited air time induce us to a compromise by which Vince will be free to bring on a conservative every fourth program (quarterly) if he is able to find a willing candidate. We want to acknowledge Vince's ever-creative thinking and willingness to experiment, and we're glad too that he has agreed to remain as monthly host de-

spite the limitations we've imposed on him.

ADDED "OPEN HOURS": Starting in March, on the first and third Saturdays each month the Center will be open from 10 AM-1 PM. (There are meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays.) We are delighted that Michael Blackburn (see February's "Grassroots Profile") will be in residence those days, and he welcomes visitors to come in to converse. The continuing weekday lineup is: Mondays, Richard Stone; Tuesdays, Angela Price; Wednesdays, Maria Telesco; Thursdays, Judie Michael; Fridays, Libby Bevans.

SECOND WEDNESDAY FILMS: Our January showing of a short documentary featuring George Lakoff

was the basis of a spirited followup discussion about how to re-frame key issues to either lead with "values" or to counter conservative slogans. Examples: "No tree left behind" (instead of "healthy forests"); "Social Security—keep it social, keep it secure"; "Death Penalty Supporters—tax-and-spend executioners." While we played it out a bit like a parlor game, the main idea of making public presentations that have clear value implications as well as policy preferences seems, well, valuable.

COMING IN FEBRUARY:
The Battle for America's Soul, presenting an alternative vision to the one now prevailing, of a society dominated by the corporate/military ideology. March will feature Control Room,

about Al-Jazeera's news coverage in the first stages of the American invasion of Iraq.

AY MARGARET, YAY US:
The great success of the evening to "give back to the woman who's given so much to us" is an affirmation of the power of community. Margaret's luminous presence was the center, as well as the motive, of the occasion. But the contributions of so many others made it the extraordinary occasion it was. Special commendations to the organizing committee, led (to my knowledge) by Mark Stout, Laura Fultz, Vince Lavery, Rick Petinak, and Angela Price; and to the contributing artists, musicians, food providers, and auction donors. For those who couldn't be present, make a point to see the

"docu-poem" produced by Elfie and Maia Ballis, beautifully capturing the spirit of Margaret's passion and work.

PROGRAM NOTES:
We are proud to join as co-sponsors of The Living Wage Campaign initiated by CAFE, and the Eyes Wide Open project coming to Fresno under the auspices of the Pan Valley Institute.

Remember to join us on March 4 when the latest Pastors for Peace caravan comes to Fresno en route to Chiapas.

We are closing down our Peace Challenge for Youth program after five years. We had no takers this year. The Pairs Project, however, is still in progress, and new participants are welcome. See our website for details.

The Welch Report

By Jack H. Welch, M.D.



The Welch Report is based upon mail received at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence coming from peace and social justice centers around the State of California, and at times upon articles in newspapers and other print sources. Each month I select and edit the material going into the Report, usually representing my personal opinion but consistent with the agenda of FCNV

STARVED FOR SAFETY

Africa's biggest problem is security. The end of the cold war has seen a surge in civil conflict, in part because

great powers no longer stabilize client states. One-fifth of Africans live in nations shaken by recent wars.

One lesson of the last dozen years is that instead of being purely reactive, "helpfully bulldozing mass graves after massacres," African and Western leaders should try harder to stop civil wars as they start. The world is now facing a critical test of that principle in the Darfur region of Sudan, where Arab militias are killing and driving out darker-skinned African people. While the world now marks the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and solemnly asserts this must never happen again, it is happening.

Some 1,000 people are dying each week in Sudan, and 110,000 refugees have poured into neighboring Chad. Worse off are the 600,000 refugees within Sudan who face hunger and disease after being driven away from their villages by the Arab militias. Sudan's refugees tell of the mass killings and rapes, of children killed, of villages burned, yet Sudan's government has resisted peace talks.

"This is not just a moral test of whether the world will tolerate another genocide. It's also a practical test of the ability of African and Western governments alike to respond to incipient civil wars while they can still be suppressed. Africa's future depends on the outcome, and for now it's a test

we're failing."

(Source: Nicholas D. Kristof, op-ed columnist, *New York Times*, 31 March 2004)

10 RECENT NEWS STORIES

What do the following have in common?

1. Colin Powell told President Bush in late fall 2004 that we do not have enough troops in Iraq.
2. The Pentagon's \$10 billion-a-year effort to build an antimissile shield, and have a basic ground-based version in place by the end of 2004, ran into difficulty in mid-December when the first test in nearly two years failed because the interceptor missile didn't take off.
3. The Bush-Republican budget for 2005 contained a \$100 million cut in federal funding to the National Science Foundation.
4. At a time when young Americans are competing more than ever with young Chinese, Indians, and Eastern Europeans, the Bush team is trimming support for the Pell grant program, which helps poor and working-class young Americans get a higher education.
5. Children in Asian countries once again surpassed US fourth- and eighth-graders in the latest Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.
6. The Bush administration has re-

duced the US contribution to global food aid programs intended to help the world's hungry feed themselves.

7. US military spending in 2004 was running at about \$450 billion.

8. Donald Rumsfeld was confronted by troops in Iraq with the fact that they did not have enough armor on their vehicles, and he responded, "You fight with the army you have!"

9. Among President Bush's top priorities in his second term is the simplification of the tax code and making the sweeping tax cuts from his first term permanent (at a cost of over \$1 trillion).

10. The US dollar continues to hover near record lows against the euro.

The common denominator of the above is a country with a "contradictory and messed-up set of priorities." We face two national challenges today: One is the challenge to protect the United States in the wake of the new terrorist threats, which has involved three huge military commitments: Afghanistan, Iraq, and missile defense. The other is the challenge to strengthen US competitiveness in the wake of an expanding global economy, where more and more good jobs require higher levels of education. In the face of these two national challenges, we have an administration committed to radical tax cuts, which already are starting to affect everything from the

number of troops we can deploy in Iraq to the number of students we can properly educate at our universities.

(Source: Thomas L. Friedman, op-ed columnist, *New York Times*, 26 Dec. 2004)

THE US AND ISLAMIC STATES

"In the Arab and Islamic world one hears a great deal of legitimate criticism of US foreign policy... The misgivings are rooted in five specific grievances: the unbalanced US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the longstanding US support of authoritarian regimes in Islamic states; the belief that Washington's policies are driven by short-term economic interests; the willingness of some prominent Americans to tolerate Islam-bashing at home; and the use of military force as the primary means of establishing democracy.

"Instead of war the Arab and Muslim worlds seek evidence of a lasting commitment by the US to policies that would advance public education, equitable trade, and mutually profitable economic and cultural partnerships. For this to occur, the US first has to trust Muslims, genuinely listen to their hopes and grievances, and allow them to develop their own models of pluralism and democracy."

(Source: Tariq Ramadan, op-ed contributor, *New York Times*, 1 Sept. 2004)

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Innocent People Don't Belong Trapped in a Massive Criminal Database: Prop 69 Sounds like a Dirty Joke

By the Rev. Floyd Harris

Three major political parties, the League of Women Voters, unions, many California newspapers, as well as privacy and civil rights advocates steadfastly opposed the DNA-gathering, so-called anti-crime measure known as Proposition 69.

Common sense dictated it should have gone down to a smashing defeat.

Yet Prop 69 passed on November 2 with 62% of the vote, after a real estate developer spent \$1.5 million to get it on the ballot. It expands California's collection of DNA samples from felons to include possibly innocent suspects merely arrested but not convicted. Now, those arrested are presumed guilty—for DNA-collecting purposes—before proven guilty.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the genetic material contained in most living organisms, including humans. The genetic information can be used to identify individuals and law enforcement has used it both to catch criminals and to exonerate people wrongly accused of crimes.

Before the election, the Rev. Floyd D. Harris, Jr., state president of the National Action Network, held a press conference in front of the Fresno Police Headquarters with other local and statewide community organizations to lash out at the proposition. The Rev. Harris said law enforcement has enough resources and tools to catch criminals, and that minorities and low-income people suffer most from laws such as Prop 69.

The National Action Network held workshops in the community, went door-to-door passing out flyers, made phone calls, and traveled throughout California educating people about the perils of Prop 69.

Not only dangerous, the proposition is costly, estimated to hit up California taxpayers for \$20 million annually by 2009–10, according to a state analysis. Local governments, which would be responsible for the DNA collection, would spend \$8 million annually by 2008–09. Increased criminal court fees would pay for the new program.

Minorities mistrust the police, because minorities are the targets

of police profiling, abuse and excessive force. If you happen to be one of the many victims of identity theft or racial profiling who have been arrested for a crime you didn't commit, you are eventually released when police realize the error, but under Prop 69, not before having your DNA seized and stored in the DNA database for matching against crime-scene evidence all over the state. Under the law, people arrested but later acquitted—or who have the charges against them dropped—would have to petition the court to have their DNA records destroyed.

Gloria Hernandez, of *Comile No Nos Vamos*, a civil rights and social justice organization, says Prop 69 gives police more power to repress minorities.

History has proven that law enforcement has abused its power. Furthermore, not just minorities but unpopular political groups also can easily be targeted.

Bob Kearney, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, worries about personal medical information that can be lifted from DNA. "You can't take a fingerprint and find out about a person's most intimate health information. [Fingerprints and DNA] are no way comparable," he said, adding that Prop 69 is a direct violation of a person's due process and privacy rights.

Those who opposed Prop 69 included the *Fresno Bee*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Modesto Bee*, *Oakland Tribune*, *Orange County Register*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Stockton Record*, *Visalia Times-Delta*, California Democratic Party, California Peace and Freedom Party, Green Party of California, Libertarian Party of California, ACLU of Northern California, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, the NAACP, Children's Defense Fund, Council for Responsible Genetics, Drug Policy Alliance, Equality California, Environmental Health Coalition, League of Women Voters of California, Lutheran Public Policy, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Police Association, Privacy Rights Clearing House, Services Employees International Union, State Building & Construction Trades Council.

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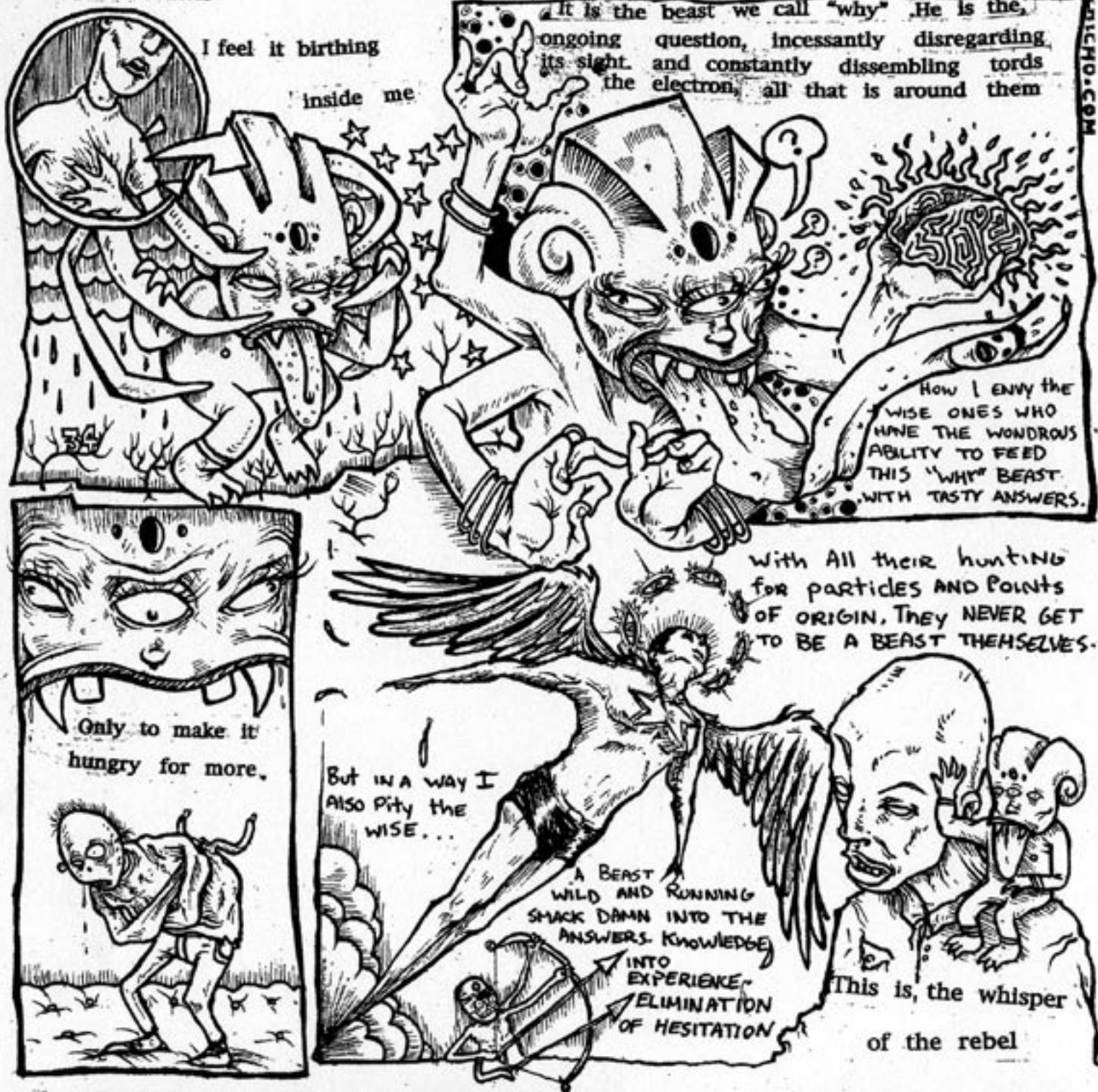
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Community Action

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday, March 1 5:30 PM

The National Women's Political Caucus of Fresno County will feature guest speaker Rolanda Pierre-Dixon, a national authority on domestic violence trends and prosecution. Cocktails start at 5:30 PM. Program starts at 6 PM at Toledo's Restaurant Banquet Room, located in Mission Village on Shaw Avenue just east of Highway 41. For more information call (559) 252-4812 or e-mail lauraslmares@sbcglobal.net.

Wednesday, March 2 9 AM

Protect your right to a lunch break! Governor Schwarzenegger wants to take away your lunch break. Regulatory changes announced by the governor will weaken workers' rights to breaks and meal periods. These changes benefit corporations that are cheating their workers out of breaks. Companies that refuse to provide breaks and are being taken to court for it, like Wal-Mart, could be off the hook if the governor's changes go into effect. Public Forum on Lunch Break Regulations: State Building, Rm 1036, 2550 Mariposa Mall, Fresno. For more information on the lunch-break rule changes, contact Don Hightower at the California Labor Federation (510) 663-4063 or visit <www.calaborfed.org>.

Wednesday, March 2 12-1 PM

Elizabeth Swearingen speaking on "The Seduction of War": part of Women's Herstory events at CSUF in the Student Union room 312-314. For more information, e-mail janetsl@csufresno.edu or call (559) 278-7140.

Wednesday, March 2 7-9 PM

"Spring into Words" free poetry jam @ CSUF Coffeehouse & Pub. Express yourself with words. Open mic for beginners & experienced poets. First Wednesday of every month. For info contact Marylee: 278-4435.

Thursday, March 3 6:15-9:30 PM

Progressive Thursday presents "Bush's Brain" at Round Table Pizza, 5763 N First Street (SW corner, First and Bullard). Karl Rove frames issues and misleads and manipulates minds through media. How should progressives frame the issues that will win in the 2006 elections? A discussion will follow. Progressive Thursday is hosted by the GROW working group of the Fresno County Green Party. It is a free, wheelchair-accessible event open to anyone interested in discussing topics of interest to the progressive community. Discussion leaders will be Kara Matcham, graduate linguistics student at CSUF, and Larry Mullen. They will lead the discussion on framing issues and linguistics in politics. Contact Larry Mullen (559) 227-0293 or Leah Haymond (559) 906-9702 for more information.

Thursday, March 3 6:30 PM

Health Care for All-California will meet at the SEIU office at 1279 N Wishon (just north of Olive) in Fresno. The agenda will include a report on the February 23 Campaign Kick-Off and Press Conference in Sacramento that will introduce the new universal health care bill. We will also plan the upcoming activities that our chapter will engage in to support the universal health care bill here in the Central Valley. Lynn Jacobsson and Ed Perez, Co-directors.

For more information call 434-0427, email : lynnj@csufresno.edu or visit www.healthcareforall.org

March 3-12 Various times

The Rogue Performance Festival celebrating independent performance & art. For more information see page 10, go to <www.roguefestival.com> or call (559) 499-0231.

Friday, March 4 6:30-8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center presents "Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring about Sex, Lies, and Global Economics." With irony and intelligence, Marilyn Waring demystifies the language of economics by defining it as a value system in which goods and services are valued according to their monetary value and monetary exchange. The result? Unpaid work, usually done by women, is unrecognized; and activities that may be environmentally and socially hazardous are regarded as productive. Waring maps out an alternative economic vision based on the idea of time as the one thing we all have to exchange. Light potluck at 6:30 PM. 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, dfriesen@telis.org.

Saturday, March 5 Potluck 6 PM; Program 7 PM

Pastors for Peace Aid Caravan to Chiapas. Enjoy the food and music, talk to the caravanistas in person, and learn about current conditions in Chiapas. Held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness, Fresno, (SE corner Van Ness & McKinley). Contact: Gerry Bill, 227-2133.

Tuesday, March 8 All Day

International Women's Day. For more information see <www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/womday97.htm> <www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd/questions_e.html> <www.indybay.org/womyn/>

Wednesday, March 9 12-1 PM

Jan Slagter speaking on "Women Organizing in Guatemala and Argentina: Taking the Streets, the Fields, the Factories." This is a part of the Women's Herstory month events at CSUF and will be held in Student Union room 309. For more information: e-mail janetsl@csufresno.edu or call (559) 278-7140.

Wednesday, March 9 12 Noon and 7:30 PM

FREE monthly video series, second Wednesday of every month. The Battle for America's Soul is a new, one-hour documentary produced by Global Network. Based on a recent speech by GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon, it covers the mythology of America, corruption within the military-industrial complex, plans for US control of space, the corporate destruction of the American economy, America's addiction to weapons and war, and concludes with a transformative vision for

the nation. A discussion will follow the 7 PM showing. Event is free; donations are welcome. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness, Fresno, SE corner Van Ness & McKinley.

Friday, March 11

Fresno Filmworks presents The Merchant of Venice at the Tower Theatre, starring Al Pacino as Shylock and Jeremy Irons as Antonio. Rated R. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E Olive; The Movies, 1435 N Van Ness; the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village; and at the door. Tickets are \$9; \$7 for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>.

Saturday, March 12 3:30-5 PM

General meeting of the Central Valley Progressive PAC, at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (at McKinley). All are welcome. Beginning in March, the CVPPAC will hold regularly scheduled general membership meetings on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. A portion of the meeting on the second Saturday of the month will be dedicated to business matters of the CVPPAC. The remainder of the time will be dedicated to discussion and strategy, with an emphasis on the upcoming elections and related matters.

Sunday, March 13 2 PM

"Another World is Possible"—a report back from the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom members Pam Whalen and Mike Rhodes will present a program on their recent trip: 4773 N Arthur Ave (SW of Palm and Shaw), phone 226-0477. Bring desserts or fruit and WILPF will provide drinks.

Tuesday, March 15 4:30-6 PM

"Building Bridges and Tackling Fears," a panel series coordinated by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), will be held at CSUF. The issue discussed will be anti-Semitism. The event will be held in room USU 317 on campus. For further information or to participate on a panel, please contact Ruth: 278-6946. NCBI is a project of the President's Commission on Human Rights & Equity and is coordinated by the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute.

Wednesday, March 16 12-1 PM

Kathryn Forbes speaking on "Making Invisible Lives Visible: Farmworker Housing in the San Joaquin Valley." This event is a part of Women's Herstory activities at CSUF and will be held in the Student Union, room 317. For more info: e-mail janetsl@csufresno.edu or call (559) 278-7140.

Friday, March 18 7:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church presents Mark Graham and Orville John-

son in concert at the UU Church of Fresno, 4144 N Millbrook (just south of Ashlan). For ticket information contact Larry Bassman at 244-0562 or lbassman@pacbell.net.

Saturday, March 19 10 AM-12 Noon

The Fresno County Democratic Chicano/Latino Caucus meets at Casa Valadez restaurant. This is located at 4857 E Butler at Chestnut. Scott England is the main speaker, on "Critical Housing Issues for Fresno." This meeting is open to the public. For more information call Lydia Flores: 435-7360.

Saturday, March 19 12 Noon-3 PM

Rally in the Vally: "Stop the War; It Affects Us All." Courthouse Park, downtown Fresno. Speakers, music, and community. The Center for Nonviolence is one of many cosponsors of this event. For info contact <www.peacefresno.org>or call (559) 487-2515.

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 22 & 23

**10 AM-7 PM Tuesday;
10 AM-5 PM Wednesday**
"Eyes Wide Open—The Boots Exhibit." Courthouse Park, downtown Fresno. See page 3 for more information, or call Myrna Martinez Nateras, (559) 222-7678 or Mai Der Vang (559) 222-7678.

Thursday, March 24 6 PM-8 PM

Golden Valley High School MEChA (in Merced) is presents its first Cesar Chavez Celebration at the Golden Valley H.S. Theater. A power point display, music, and storytelling will be part of the program. Golden Valley H.S. is located at 2121 E. Childs Avenue (corner of Parsons & Childs). The theater is off the Parsons parking lot. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Gloria M. Sandoval & Amanda Zaragoza, co-advisors: (209) 385-8031.

Saturday, March 26 3:30-5 PM

General meeting of the Central Valley Progressive PAC, at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness (at McKinley).

Saturday, March 26 8 PM

Gene Bluestein Memorial Concert. See page 8 for details.

Wednesday, March 30 12-1 PM

Ellen Gruenbaum, speaking on "Feminism and Female Genital Cutting." This CSUF Women's Herstory month event will be held at Student Union room 312-314. For more information, e-mail janetsl@csufresno.edu or call (559) 278-7140.

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday 12:30 PM; 3 PM


Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to help call Mar Miriam at (559) 442-0966 to arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 PM at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 PM at Courthouse Park near the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue. Donations of plates, bowls, spoons, and forks made of recyclable material are greatly appreciated.

Every Monday 1 PM

Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition wants you to find a voice and get active! Join our weekly group meetings at the Women's Resource Center, or stop by our table in the Free Speech Area, Mon/Wed/Fri, 11 AM-1 PM. Be a part of the planning, the action, and the fun of activism!

Every Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 PM


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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 liza.apper@sbcw.org; 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 other Wednesday
3 and 7 PM

Video Series at CSU Fresno sponsored by Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition and Peace Fresno. Will include videos on the Iraq war, women’s rights, and Mother Earth, among others. There will be two showings, one at 3 PM in the Student Union Rm. 309, the other at 7 PM in McLaine 161. Showings are free and open to the public. For more information call Shawn or Khara: 224-1218.

Every Friday
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>.

Every Friday
7 PM

Reedley Peace Center holds it 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 krehbiel@cvip.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. The location for cooking on Saturday is at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow, between First and Cedar, starting at 9 AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call Dallas: 452-0277, or e-mail fresnofnb@yahoo.com. Visit the Food Not Bombs Web site at <www.fresno-alliance.com/FNB/>.

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 the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park. Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers. Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266-0444.

Every Saturday
1-3 PM


Fresno Free Bicycle Repair Clinic. Most Saturdays. 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.



TIMES	STARLINE (Mainstage)	DIANNA'S DANCE STUDIO (Mainstage)	VENI VIDI VICI (Rogue Café)	ASHTREE STUDIO (Café & Gallery)	JAVAWAVA (Film)	DIANNA'S DANCE STUDIO (Dance/Mainstage)	SEQUOIA BREWING (BYOV)	FULL CIRCLE BREWERY (BYOV)
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005								
5-9:00 PM			ROGUE OPENING	ROGUE OPENING	ROGUE OPENING			ROGUE OPENING
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2005								
6:15 PM			Stockhorse Cowboys	P.B.S.				
7:00 PM	All Too Real Players	Rusty Happenings				Emspace		
7:30 PM			Spencer/Morris	Tony Imperatrice				
7:45 PM					Rogue Film Shorts		Deja Blues	Glen Delpit & The Subterraneans
8:30 PM	Babaword Prod.	Improver Behavior				Teri Carter		
8:45 PM			Tim Ereneta	Why Knot Theatre				
9:00 PM					Sageland Media			
10:00 PM	Jade Ed Gypsy	Other Fish To Fry	Songs 4 Pints			Baba	Fig Garden Slim	
11:30 PM	DJ BRADLEY							
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005								
1:00 PM	Other Fish to Fry	Irregular Theater Company				Teri Carter		
2:30 PM	New Music Ensemble	Rusty Happenings	Fresneaux Ramblers	Melissa Delaney		Emspace		
3:45 PM			Daredevil Kitchen	Kien Lim				
4:00 PM	Ananka Dance Co.	Babaword Prod.				Baba		
5:00 PM			Glen Delpit	Bryan Odd				
5:30 PM	Irregular Theater Company					Rogue Symposium		
6:15 PM			Tim Ereneta	Jay Martin				
6:30 PM					Head to Head Films			
7:00 PM	Central California Songwriters	Big Weird Pop Ensemble				Teri Carter		
7:30 PM			Vince Warner	Heartbeat				
7:45 PM					Holophrastic Kinesics		Fig Garden Slim	Richfield
8:30 PM	Jade Ed Gypsy	All Too Real				Baba		
8:45 PM			Lisa Kao & David Aust	Tanjora Tribal Bellydance				
9:00 PM					Libby Gould Prod.			
10:00 PM	Altered Modalities	Improver Behavior	Jaguar Bennett			Emspace	Deja Blues	
11:30 PM	RAGGED GLORY							
SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005								
1:00 PM	New Music Ensemble	Babaword					Deja Blues (2 PM)	
2:30 PM	Central California Songwriters	Improver Behavior	Daredevil Kitchen	Why Knot Theatre		Baba		
3:45 PM			Spencer/Morris	Jay Martin				
4:00 PM	All Too Real	Rusty Happenings				Emspace	Fig Garden Slim	
5:00 PM			Tim Ereneta	Sage Collaborative				
5:30 PM	Altered Modalities	Other Fish to Fry						
6:15 PM			Tower Jazz Quartet	The Way Of Dance				
6:30 PM					Sageland Media			
7:00 PM	Ananka Dance Co.	Trenched						
7:30 PM			Tanjora Tribal Bellydance	Melissa Delaney				
7:45 PM					Head to Head Films			
8:30 PM	Irregular Theater Company	Big Weird Pop Ensemble						
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005								
8:00 PM								Inner Ear Poetry Jam
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005								
The Fresno MET presents "SUPER SIZE ME" Edwards Cinema 8:00 – 8:30 PM Call 441-1444 for Information. Rated: PG								
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005								
6:15				Heartbeat				
6:30 PM					Rogue Film Shorts			
7:00 PM		Trenched						
7:30 PM			Glen Delpit	Ted Esquivel				
7:45 PM					Libby Gould Prod.		Ron Catalano Quartet	Inner Ear Poetry Jam
8:30 PM		Inconstant Moon						
8:45 PM			Fresneaux Ramblers	Kien Lim				
9:00 PM					Holophrastic Kinesics			
10:00 PM		The Big Weird Pop Ensemble	Songs 4 Pints				Rich Severson Trio	
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005								
6:15 PM			Lisa Kao & David Aust	Tony Imperatrice				
6:30 PM					Holophrastic Kinesics			
7:00 PM	Irregular Theater Company	Babaword Prod.						
7:30 PM			Karen Ruiz	Bryan Odd				
7:45 PM					Sageland Media		Ron Catalano Quartet	Live Ball
8:30 PM	Other Fish to Fry	Trenched						
8:45 PM			Daredevil Kitchen	P.B.S.				
9:00 PM					Head to Head Films			
10:00 PM	Central California Songwriters	Inconstant Moon Productions	Jaguar Bennett				Rich Severson Trio	
11:30 PM	NEPTUNES							
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005								
1:00 PM	Ananka Dance Company							
2:15 PM			Spencer/Morris	Ted Esquivel				
2:30 PM	Jade Ed Gypsy	Inconstant Moon Productions	Karen Ruiz	Why Knot Theatre				
3:45 PM			Stockhorse Cowboys	Jay Martin				
4:00 PM	Altered Modalities	Big Weird Pop Ensemble						
5:00 PM			Vince Warner	The Way Of Dance				
5:30 PM	All Too Real	Trenched						
6:15 PM			Tower Jazz Quartet	Sage Collaborative				
6:30 PM					Libby Gould Prod.			
7:00 PM	New Music Ensemble	Inconstant Moon						
7:30 PM			Tanjora Tribal Bellydance	Kien Lim				
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- ✓ Increasing or eliminating the cap on taxable earnings could help to shore up the system for future retirees.
- ✓ The President's privatization plan will cost trillions of dollars and drain the Social Security Trust Fund, leaving less for current and future retirees, and put our country further in debt.
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