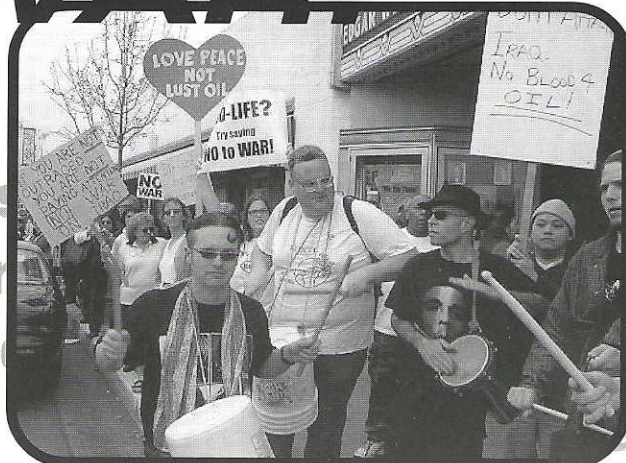


COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

MARCH 2003

THE WORLD SAYS

NO TO WAR!



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All cover photos by Mike Rhodes

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

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I never met Cesar Estrada Chavez. I walked in the *marchas*, I cooked, I organized, I translated, I transported, did what I was asked to do and much more. Yet, his death hit me hard and to this day I still mourn. Many people think of him as the farm workers' leader. But to me, then a student and young mother, I thought, he can get us out of the fields. He was a civil rights leader unafraid to fight for a better *manana*. He got us out of the small towns into the big cities and voting booths, fighting for our lives on the boycott and political campaigns. In 1984 he spoke at the Commonwealth Club about why he organized farm workers. His words continue to provide guidance to me.

"All Hispanics—urban and rural, young and old—are connected to the farm workers' experience. We had all lived through the fields—or our parents had. We shared that common humiliation. How could we progress as a people, even if we lived in the cities, while the farm workers—men and women of our color—were condemned to a life without pride? How could we progress as a people while the farm workers—who symbolized our history in this land—were denied self-respect? How could our people believe that their children could become lawyers and doctors and judges and business people while this shame, this injustice was permitted to continue? Those who attack our union often say, 'It's not really a union. It's something else: A social movement. A civil rights movement. It's something dangerous.'"

Here it is 30 years later. Look at us lawyers, doctors, politicians, teachers, and much more. What would he think of us, the many youth now turning middle age, would he think we have accomplished what he asked of us? *"If you give yourself totally to the nonviolence struggle for peace and justice you also find that people give you their hearts and you will never go hungry and never be alone. And in giving of yourself you will discover a whole new life full of meaning and love."* I look at my peers and wonder have you learned the meaning of love, are you alone and hungry? If so, come join us again this March 29, 2003, *y marcha* in unity for *familia* in Cesar's name, bring the kids *unite a la lucha otra vez*.

M. Gloria Hernández

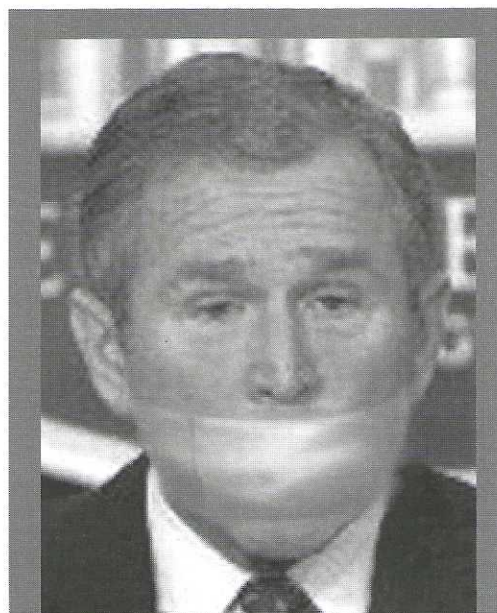
Letter to the Editor

It will be ten years, I remember recovering from an operation, *mi camarada*, Rosemary asking me, "Guess who died today?" I said, "I know, Mario *Cantiflas* Moreno, a famous Mexican actor." Quietly I mourned my compadre, Julio Vasquez Jr., who had died the day before. "No, Cesar died." Cesar who? "Cesar Chavez died in his sleep last night." It hit me hard.

I flashed back to when I was just a child, peeling *papas*, making burritos, serving *platos* full of food to the men and women who came to house meetings at my parents' house. *Mi ama* the cook, with her *cuadrilla* of volunteers, except my sisters and I were always unwillingly drafted. I was eleven when our family drove to Sacramento to listen to him speak that famous Easter Sunday.

In the summer of 1973, I recall the deputy sheriff telling me "get your greasy hands off my car, you wetback." He was not being polite to me for leaning on the department issued car, taking up the only shade while we stood on the picket line during the "*huelga general*" that summer. "We didn't have any infestation until you wetbacks came in, Hitler was right, all you people should be killed," was the matron's response when I complained that the jail-issued mattresses on the floor were full of lice. I was one of the *capitanas* for more than 500 women jailed that summer protesting the right to free speech.

I saw the car flipped over and over, but luckily the car got caught on the guardrail instead of the big canal near Livermore. We were lucky *las campesinas* in the car were not injured, but sadly had to return home, instead of heading on to San Francisco on the boycott campaign with *las Adelitas* from CUSF.



Suggested use of
duct tape as a
means for increasing
the level of
Homeland Security.

An Overview of Free Speech Rights

by Paul Thomas Jackson



The state and federal courts, when taking up cases involving free speech exercised by people on or near others' property, weigh the people's First Amendment rights against the owner's property rights (title—but not necessarily exclusive possession) and business interests (allowing the business to function and customers to have access). In certain cases, the privacy rights of visitors to the prop-

erty may come into play. Another factor that courts may weigh in free speech cases is the degree of openness with which the owner has invited members of the general public. But as we will see, factors such as these also depend in part upon the size of the property at which the free speech activity takes place. In addition to free speech, demonstrators' First Amendment rights are strengthened if they're involved in a labor union or are petitioning the government, since the rights of association (in unions) and petitioning "for a redress of grievances" are also covered by the First Amendment.

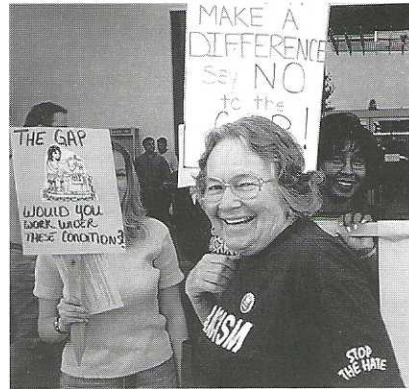
We do not discuss the content of speech that is unprotected by the state and federal constitutions. Confident that Fresno's progressive community is above "fighting words," "obscenity," "defamatory falsehoods," and "speech carrying a clear and present danger of incitement to violence"—all the unprotected categories—we turn our discussion to the issue of reasonable time, place, and manner. As we will see, place has been the most important and the most heavily litigated of these three.

Three general categories have emerged in California case law with regard to the issue of where citizens can exercise their free speech rights. These categories of case law are private property/unrelated speech, government-owned property/related speech, and private property/related speech.

Since the California Supreme Court made its 1979 decision *Robins v. Pruneyard Shopping Center*, it's been clear that a large shopping center may under certain conditions become a public forum, even though privately owned. The issues here usually are (1) the invitation by its owners to the entire public, (2) the resulting "town square" status of the mall area, (3) the substantial interest of people engaged in free speech in reaching the large numbers of people who congregate there, and (4) activity by the demonstrators which is both unobtrusive and nondisruptive. These factors mean that the large shopping center is indeed a public forum—today's functional equivalent of the town square of bygone years.

(Photos by Mike Rhodes, Catherine Campbell & Dallas Blanchard)

Fashion Fair is our town square. The owners of large shopping centers like Fashion Fair, just by the nature of their business, have invited members of the general public, and have even enticed them with wide array of merchandise. Seating within the mall affords visitors a place where they may congregate, and where they may be reached by people sharing ideas and information about Gap sweatshops or other important issues.



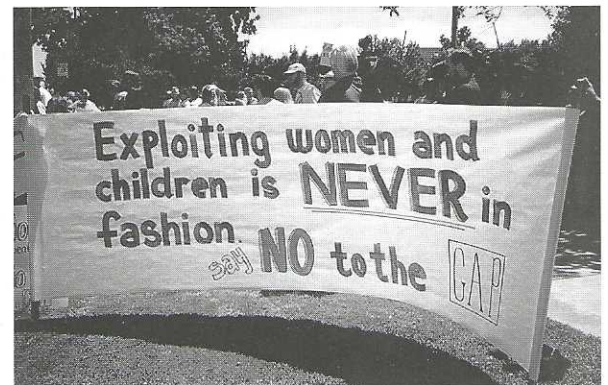
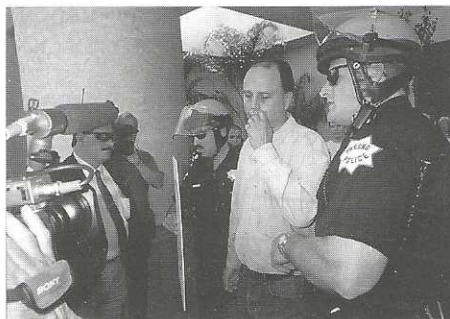
Whether the "town square" is on public or private property, the courts have, since 1967, weighed demonstrators' activity against the owners' business interests, using the following definition: "that which does not interfere with the conduct of business or the use of the property, does not impede the movement of customers or business tenants, does not block access to facilities or businesses, is not noisy and creates no disturbance and does not entail the harassment of uninterested patrons."

It is a tribute to the sincerity and dedication of the Gap 19 and the United Students Against Sweatshops that they've conducted themselves so admirably. As a result, interference with the Macerich Company's interest in the continual coming and going of potential customers was not a real issue in the Gap 19's case—leaving the court to weigh the bare title to the mall property against their heavy interest, under the First Amendment, of sharing information with the many people who are attracted there.

What about three categories of case law we mentioned earlier? The activities of the Gap 19 and the USAS fall into the category

of private property/unrelated speech. This appears to defy logic, since these groups' message has had to do with the Gap's practice of running sweatshops in Saipan and elsewhere. Although their message clearly has to do with the Gap (regardless of where its sweatshops exist), the courts consider it to be unrelated speech since it does not relate to every tenant at Fashion Fair.

The issue whether an expression is related to its place is tricky. A visitor to Fashion Fair who accepts literature about the sweatshop conditions under which certain Gap employees work could choose—and if moved by the potential moral implications of shopping habits, might choose—to shop instead at another clothing store at Fashion Fair. Although this outcome may never have been intended by those who've given their time and effort for the sole purpose of educating the public about the Gap's working conditions, it is a customer's



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possible choice, and it does (indirectly) involve Fashion Fair's two largest tenants, both of which are also clothing stores.

If the content of speech regarding standards of morality in the clothing industry—in which Fashion Fair's two largest tenants and several of its smaller tenants do business—doesn't have to do with Fashion Fair, it is difficult to imagine the content of speech that does. Given the wide array of products and services that are offered at large shopping malls, it seems unfair to hold it against those who demonstrate there that their speech does not pertain to every tenant of a large shopping mall. But to weigh in the interests of the other tenants, the courts do this. The result is that one category of case law we have observed (private property/unrelated speech) almost always involves large shopping centers, whereas another category (private property/related speech) involves only small businesses or modest retail establishments (discussed later).

Another category of California case law that we now briefly discuss includes cases involving government institutions such as prisons and hospitals, but where the information sought to be disseminated relates directly to the institution's activities. Because of the government's numerous points of access, those engaging in free speech involving governmental matters have, of course, been able to aim their speech at the appropriate governmental facility. As a result, the cases that happen to fall in this category have not had to deal much with the issue of whether the content of the speech is related to the facility.

The issues that emerge in such cases are fairly simple. If the activity is peaceful, lawful, and does not interfere with the functions performed, it cannot be banned. (Presumably, the theory that would support the recent decision to keep demonstrators at the Fresno Federal Building within a designated area would be that demonstrating outside it would "interfere" with the functions performed there.) If a demonstration does interfere with government functions, the courts may look for another governmental channel through which the demonstrators may speak, but have been reluctant to send them there. An example of speech in this category is Peace Fresno's picketing on Peace Corner (SE corner of Blackstone & Shaw Avenues) beginning 4:30 on Friday afternoons.

Cases in the third and final category of California free-speech case law involve people who address smaller private centers or markets where the speech is related to the business. Often, these cases involve those who express "pro-life" views outside family planning clinics. Buildings falling into this category are too small to have suitable accommodations for a demonstration inside them, so the issues have to do with demonstrators being outside them. In a future article, we will discuss the size of a building as a factor in determining whether it is a town-



Patience Milrod and her supporters show the placards they want displayed on Fresno Transit buses.

Placards OK'd

City will allow El Salvador ads on buses; decision due from agency

By CHARLES MILOS
Bee writer

Placards urging this country to stay out of strife-torn El Salvador can be displayed on Fresno Transit buses, at least as far as the City Council is concerned.

The council Tuesday gave two organizations sponsoring the placards the green light to place them on the outside of the buses as paid advertisements. But the council does not have the final word on what type of advertisements can go on the city-operated bus system.

Winston Network Inc., a Los Angeles advertising agency, has the authority to ban any ads under its contract with the city.

John R. Jost, the advertising agency vice president, has already turned down the placards as controversial. In the contract with the city, Jost's firm has veto power over ads that can go on the buses.

The Latin American Support

Committee and the Central Valley Peace Network submitted the placards to the agency last month and were told that "acceptance of your order does not appear to be in our best interests, and is therefore declined."

The organizations appealed to the council.

City Manager Gerald E. Newfarmer was instructed to advise the agency of the council's unanimous decision that the placards can be displayed.

If the agency refuses to comply with the council request, the majority of the council members indicated they would support a move to amend the advertising contract so the placards could be displayed.

Newfarmer said that may not be necessary because the contract will expire in a month or so.

But Patience Milrod, a spokesperson for the Peace Network, said that may be too late. The placards should go up by Sept. 1 to

focus attention on a march for jobs and peace on Sept. 26, she explained.

"I feel we should have space on the buses as a constitutional right," she said.

Milrod said that Jost told her he turned down the ads because they are controversial and he might lose other advertising if they are displayed.

Just told The Bee the same thing earlier this week.

The placards show a dove perched on a rifle with the message, "No Vietnam in El Salvador."

City Attorney James A. McKeelvey told the council the agency has the right to refuse any ads because it would be responsible to defend the city if it is sued over the contents of any ads.

Jost's firm lines up the advertising for the city and he gets a percentage of the revenue.

The city is involved in a lawsuit over apparent anti-draft ads that appeared briefly on the buses earlier

this year.

Those placards were removed Newfarmer and the Women International League For Peace Freedom, which placed advertisements on the buses, 1 suit to have them replaced. The suit is pending in Superior Court.

There was no opposition from a group or individuals to the Salvador ads. Veterans are opposed the draft ads which it said, "Think before you register the draft."

During the discussion on the Salvador placards, the council instructed the staff to prepare policy to deal with advertising on buses that would permit any material permissible under the First Amendment.

The present policy does address that issue, prohibiting political ads.

The council was about to act on the policy, but put it off when it sued over the draft placards.

square or merely a "modest business establishment"—a term first used in 1979 by the California Supreme Court in the Pruneyard case.

The courts tend to regard any turnout of demonstrators as potentially burdensome to a modest business establishment, harming its business interest in allowing its customers to flow in and out. And, if the ideas in the demonstrators' speech are unrelated to the particular establishment, or if they can demonstrate at another place where they have other available communication opportunities, they will probably have to stay on adjacent public sidewalks and demonstrate quietly.

We have shared our basic understanding with readers about the three general categories that have emerged in California's free-speech cases. In our next article, we will discuss in greater detail the category of private/unrelated speech, which includes the Gap 19's case. Giving our hearty congratulations to the Gap 19, we hope our articles will

help readers in their general education on legal matters, and perhaps lend even more inspiration to Fresno's progressive community. By increasing our understanding of these complicated, yet interesting matters, we may fully prepare ourselves for the ongoing struggle for social justice.

DEMOCRACY NOW! Free Speech Victory in Fresno

By Mike Rhodes

"What part of the ad did they find objectionable?" asked Gerry Bill, who is a director on the Fresno Free College Foundation (FFCF) board. Was it "Democracy Now"? Maybe the city attorney didn't like the idea of "The War and Peace Report" airing on KFCF 88.1 FM in Fresno. Whatever the motivation behind the denial to place advertising on Fresno city buses, it was an attempt to limit free speech and to control important information available to the public.

When KFCF placed the order to have an ad saying "**DEMOCRACY NOW, KFCF 88.1 FM, WEEKDAYS 9 AM, THE WAR AND PEACE REPORT**," it looked as if everything would go smoothly. The ads were being placed on both Fresno city transit buses and billboards around town to correspond to a fund-raising marathon and the threat of war in the Middle East. Vista Media, which places ads on Fresno transit buses, had approved the ad to start in mid-February. There were never any problems with placing the billboard ad.

In early February a KFCF representative received a call from the sales representative at Vista Media saying that the City of Fresno will not accept the ad for the buses. KFCF was told that the City of Fresno's policy was that "they don't do political" advertising and that they don't allow radio stations to promote individual shows, but only to make generic advertisements. It was pointed out to the advertising agency that there are already several bus ads on transit buses promoting local radio shows and that this is a violation of the station's First Amendment right to free speech.

This was not a free speech fight that was going to be won by arguing with the advertising agency. Vista Media claimed that its hands were tied, so the station took its complaint to City Hall and made plans for a press conference. If the City

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refused to place the ad, the station was determined to take the case for free speech to the public. The ensuing publicity would get the word about *Democracy Now* out to an even larger audience. But, reason prevailed and the City Attorney's office realized that they were in an indefensible position. They agreed to place the ads and said the "misunderstanding" was the result of a mistake by staff.

Defending free speech is a constant struggle in this community. One can never take it for granted. This case reminded several people of earlier free speech struggles involving transit bus ads in Fresno. In 1981 the Latin American Support Committee placed an ad on the buses that said "NO VIETNAM IN EL SALVADOR." That ad had been refused by the advertising agency as being "bad for business" and "too controversial." In that case, the group took its complaint against the advertising agency to the City Council, which unanimously supported placing the ads and directed the ad agency to put the ads on the transit buses. An earlier case involved the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which placed bus ads reading "THINK BEFORE YOU REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT," which were removed. That legal struggle ended with the City of Fresno removing all advertising on buses for more than 10 years.

The publicity surrounding the two earlier cases far surpassed the value of the bus ads. The free speech struggle to get those two ads on the buses resulted in numerous interviews on TV and radio, and articles in the *Fresno Bee*. The groups could never have afforded to pay for all of the "free" media they received. Fresno is fortunate to have groups that not only are willing to defend their free speech rights but know how to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves in that struggle.

(For more information about KFCF 88.1 FM in Fresno go to <www.kcf.org>.)

STATEWIDE PEACE CENTERS CONFERENCE IN FRESNO

**Saturday, March 15
at Wesley United Methodist Church
1343 E. Barstow—8 AM
Sunday, March 16
at Margaret Hudson's "Barn"
4247 N. Thorne—8:30 AM**

On March 15-16, representatives from peace centers in California will come together for their eighth annual statewide conference. Centers rotate hosting this event and this year it is Fresno's turn. Although centers statewide have been invited, it has been a Northern California affair with groups from Fresno to Chico attending. Perhaps this year this will change!

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence has always been well represented by our board members at these conferences and we come back grateful for the friendships we make and the knowledge that we in Fresno are not alone in our commitment to bring peace and social justice issues to the attention of our community.

Past conferences have mostly been issue-oriented, addressing such concerns as the environment, nuclear disarmament, ongoing wars, and civil liberties. This year we decided to focus on how our peace centers "do business." What are the best ways to reach out to those not part of "our choir"? How do we build coalitions in our community, especially with other ethnic and cultural groups? How do we attract new members and then encourage them to continue to support us? How can we persuade our local media to give our activities better coverage?

We will surely tackle two other issues of immediate importance: operating in a security state (for example, maintaining a nonviolent identity, and dealing

with possible official harassment); and responding to war and violence—not a debate of issues but a discussion of activities to promote and legitimate nonviolence, including civil disobedience.

The program will start on Saturday, March 15, at 8 AM with registration and breakfast, followed by a general meeting with introductions and brief presentations by each center on their work and programs during the past year. Concurrent workshops will then continue all day, breaking for meals of course, with our keynote speaker, Tim Wise, addressing us after dinner. On Sunday morning, March 16, a wrap-up session will be held at Margaret Hudson's "Barn" starting at 8:30 AM.

Local progressive organizations are welcome to send representatives and should by now have received an invitation to attend. If you haven't, please contact Richard Stone at 266-2559. The cost of the conference, including meals, is \$20.00.

Also, we are still in need of housing for out-of-town attendees, for one or two nights.

Please call Diana Marks at 642-3793 if you can help.

TIM WISE speaking on BREAKING RANKS: Why whites must join the struggle for racial equity

**Saturday, March 15, 7 PM
at Wesley United Methodist Church
Admission by donation**



Having long admired the columns and articles written by Tim Wise, I noticed he was speaking at a racism conference in San Francisco last July. Always on the lookout for speakers for the Center, I enrolled immediately to see if he was as good a speaker as he is a writer! Well, I needn't have worried—he is a dynamic speaker and I promptly invited him to come to Fresno! You are in for a rare treat if you come to hear him on March 15.

Tim describes himself as one-part social critic, one part antiracist organizer. He believes his job is to educate others—particularly other whites—about the damage done by racism not only to persons of color, but to whites as well, spiritually, economically and culturally. He speaks on issues from affirmative action, to "welfare reform" and the assault on the poor, to the need to go beyond feel-good diversity training and instead focus on the structural roots of racism. He says, "It's really about using my white (and male) privilege—as a weapon against the very system that bestows the privileges to begin with."

Tim is a regularly featured commentator on the global Internet radio program, "The Black World Today," and has squared off on radio, on TV, and in personal debates with noted conservatives including Dinesh D'Souza, Nathan Glazer, and Ward Connerly. Articles about his work have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

For more information on either the conference or Tim Wise's talk, please call Angela Price at 435-6383.

Manufacturing Terrorism

by Catherine Campbell

John Brown was a vintage American terrorist who placed no limits on his indignation about slavery, the most wretched and wrong of human institutions. After years of futile attempts to end slavery through peaceful means, Brown turned to violence and on one fateful night in 1856, he and his supporters pulled five pro-slavery men out of their homes and hacked them to death. Historians still debate Brown's role in ending slavery, but none dispute that he pushed the nation toward civil war and hastened the Emancipation Proclamation.

This February, our placid little town was visited by apocalyptic environmentalists who were quickly labeled "eco-terrorists" by talk-show hosts, television news broadcasters, and quivering local businessmen, especially those in the businesses of beef, genetically engineered cotton seeds, and selling SUVs. While several of the eco-revolutionaries had rap sheet resumes that included minor jail sentences and short prison terms for such heinous crimes as liberating mink and sinking unmanned whaling ships, they could hardly hold their heads up next to John Brown in a terrorist lineup. Not one has a murder to his name. To our knowledge, not one has even injured another human being. To give these lightweight agitators terrorist labels for their relatively minor acts of sabotage trivializes the word *terrorist*, which ought to be reserved for the true killers like John Brown (our terrorist) and Osama bin Laden (their terrorist).

The Revolutionary Environmentalism Conference, the generator of all this local heat, was hosted by Fresno State in a surprising show of vigor from a university that hasn't blipped on a political EKG since 1971. And this sudden stirring of life at Fresno State was not just the Radical Environmentalism Conference. During the month of February and on into March, the university is holding a series of lectures on alternatives to war, which is highly critical of American policy in the Middle East, and a day-long seminar on combating the effects of agricultural pesticides.

Of these three events, it would have been hard to predict which one would quicken a hysterical reaction by the local media and the faux-populist radio right. The afternoon of the Radical Environmentalism Conference, Joe Stork

of Human Rights Watch and a long-recognized authority on the Middle East, gave a talk in the Peters Building about how Ronald Reagan and Bush the First were cozying up to Saddam while he was exterminating the Kurds in a genocide that Bush the Second has turned into justification for a preemptive war on Iraq. Outside the room, the television press people talked sports while waiting for the Radical Environmentalism Conference to begin, so they could set up their cameras and interview the terrorists.

The media had no interest in Joe Stork.

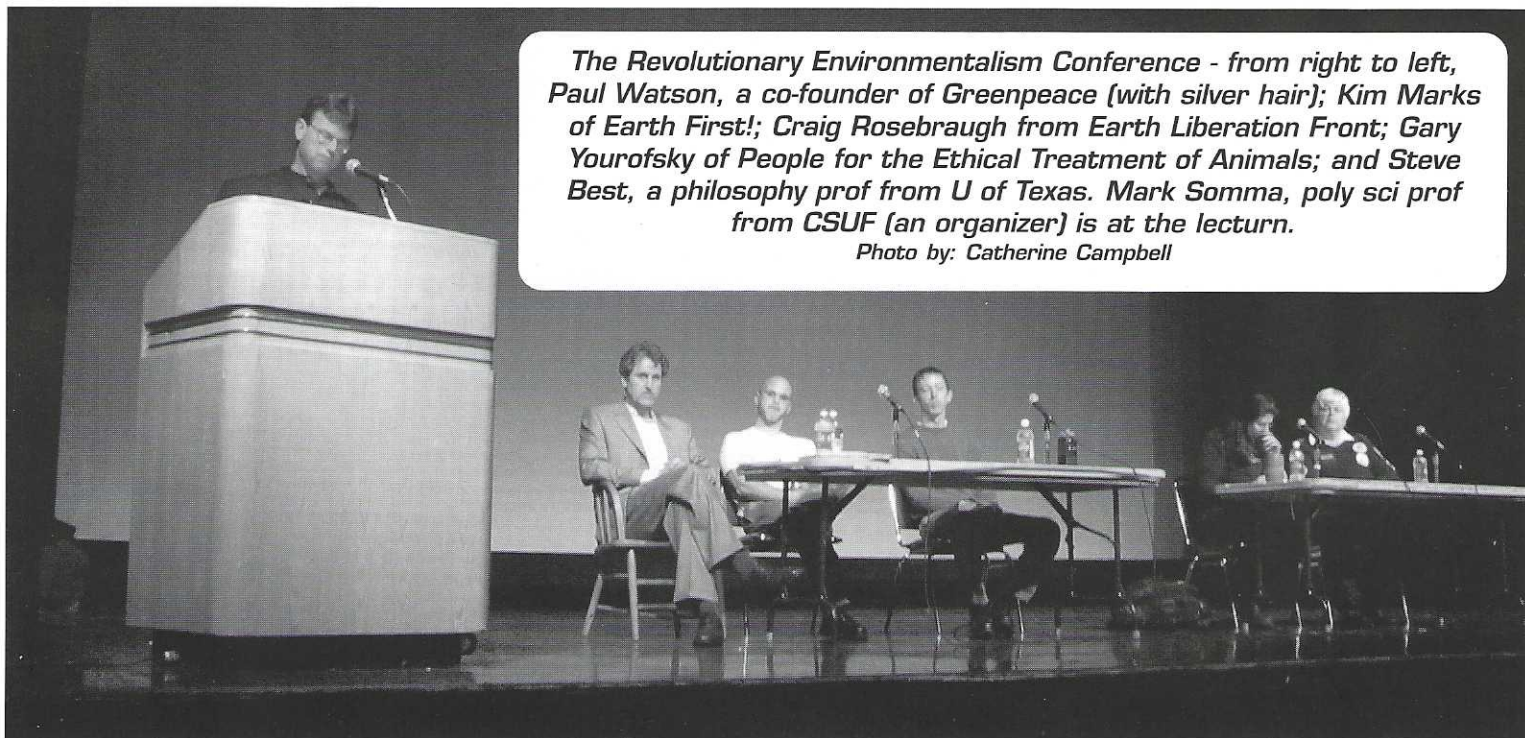
And while pesticide drift is an undeniably unsexy subject, of the three conferences, the one entitled "The Air We Share: Taking Action on Pesticide Drift" was the most directly threatening to local agribusiness interests. Californians for Pesticide Reform brought together Mexican farm workers from rural communities, activists from all over the state, and environmental lawyers, who spent the day devising strategies to combat the agribusinesses which via low-yield weapons of mass destruction saturate our air, water, and soil with pesticides. One day, long after the eco-revolutionaries have left Fresno to go sink another whaling ship or liberate more mink, the anti-pesticide activists will be in a court of law bringing polluters to their knees and saving the lives of untold numbers of children from asthma.

While all three conferences were initially open to the public, and all three were "unbalanced" in the sense that no one was invited to speak up for SUVs, or the war against Iraq, or the health-enhancing benefits of pesticides, only the Radical Environmentalism Conference caused enough stir to bring out the cattle barons and the Fresno State boosters in sufficient numbers to scare the university into closing the conference to the public. What was it about a group of fringe environmental radicals that so terrified the community and the university?

To unearth the sources of all this consternation, one has to look at who was working behind the scenes to convert provocative agitators into threats to our collective safety. In December, as the conference organizers geared up for what they thought would be an interesting but unsensational academic event, the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) issued a series of polemics against the conference via the Internet, including one called "Legitimizing the Lunatics" which said the list of speakers reads like a "Who's Who of the environmental and animal-rights criminal culture."

The Revolutionary Environmentalism Conference - from right to left, Paul Watson, a co-founder of Greenpeace (with silver hair); Kim Marks of Earth First!; Craig Rosebraugh from Earth Liberation Front; Gary Yourofsky of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; and Steve Best, a philosophy prof from U of Texas. Mark Somma, poly sci prof from CSUF (an organizer) is at the lecturn.

Photo by: Catherine Campbell



David Martosko is the "research director" for CCF and its most outspoken promoter. CCF is vague about its sources of support, but it does say it is an organization of 30,000 restaurant and tavern operators. Like many such organizations, the Center for Consumer Freedom packages itself as grass-roots populism out to protect our basic freedoms when, in actuality, it is funded by business interests concerned about the impact of environmentalism on the unbridled consumption of products vulnerable to criticism and regulation, because of their harmful effects on our health and our environment. Philip Morris provided nearly \$1 million in startup funding for Martosko and the CCF, and Martosko has been dutifully critical of antismoking organizations. He pens diatribes against Mothers Against Drunk Driving because they want to regulate driving under the influence of alcohol. The CCF opposes minimum wage increases for restaurant workers while defending McDonald's from Eric Schlosser's highly regarded book, *Fast Food Nation*, on the ground that McDonald's offers "one in 15 Americans entree into the workforce. . . ." Martosko calls the warnings about the imminent extinction of Chilean sea bass "hype" when reputable scientists have estimated that without protections, Chilean sea bass will be commercially extinct within five years.

Martosko has taken other tacks. He is angry that activists have encouraged public health officials to look into the fast-food industry, antibiotics in agriculture, and "the obesity crisis"—which Martosko calls a myth promulgated by socialists to undermine freedom of consumer choice. He's angry at school districts that have banned soft drinks. He's angry at Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, the AFL-CIO and the Communications Workers of America, and Ralph Nader, all because they protested against globalization of capitalism. In sum, says Martosko, "academics and government bureaucrats, informed by anti-capitalist and socialist ideologies, are banding together to remake our society in their own image. This inevitably will involve telling the rest of us what we can and can't eat and drink."

Martosko and CCF actively promote the idea that various environmental organizations are "terrorist groups"—ostensibly because their activism includes the destruction of property. He accused the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), a group represented at the Radical Environmental Conference, of \$45,000 in vandalism against SUVs in Virginia and of torching a ski resort in Vail. According to CCF, even the FBI calls ELF "the largest and most active U.S.-based terrorist group." He accuses PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) of the same tactics, and he's probably right on both fronts: the ELF and PETA are known for engaging in acts of criminal violence against property as their way of calling attention to the sorry plight of the planet and its creatures. This makes them criminals in the tradition of civil disobedience but it does not make them terrorists any more than the good Fathers Barrigan were terrorists.

The CCF attacks on the conference and its sponsors, disseminated to businesses, community leaders, and politicians all over the Valley, led the president and chief executive of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce to charge John Welty, the university president, with "treason" for "supporting known terrorist groups during a time of war." University donors threatened to close their checkbooks forever if Welty didn't back down and send the "terrorists" back where they came from.

The Center for Consumer Freedom sent John Doyle to Fresno to talk with local radio talk show hosts, including Ray Appleton, about the threat posed by the eco-terrorists. Ray and John were a match made in right-wing radio heaven. Appleton asked his radio audience, "Can you believe that the so-called university is bringing convicts to Fresno to teach our children how to become terrorists when they grow up?" He bemoaned the lack of "balance" in the conference, an odd posture for Appleton to take, given that he's not prone to balance in his programming choices and had no one on his program but a hireling from a front group of tobacco interests, restaurants, and bars. The calls they received (after screening out those who would dare to disagree)

were similarly hysterical, and many callers had been genuinely frightened by the media frenzy. They worried that the conference would be violent, that their children would be terrorized, that people would be breaking windows on random SUVs, that the "eco-terrorists" would set fire to the university farm buildings.

John Doyle, whose head is shaved and who looks oddly like a young student radical himself, was present at the conference and positioned himself to be questioned by the local television stations as if he were an expert on something. Not one journalist, not even Jim Steinberg from the *Fresno Bee*, who covered this entire series of events, ever asked what the Center for Consumer Freedom was, or who John Doyle is; they just wrote down what he said and reported it as fact: These people are terrorists, the university is irresponsible, we're lucky to have escaped this event with our children, our health, and our SUVs all in one piece.

Bruce Thornton, a Fresno State professor who teaches the Latin classics, also played a prominent role in turning the conference into pithy sound bites for media consumption. Thornton wrote a piece for FrontPageMagazine.com, another business-supported neo-conservative Internet publication, entitled "Academic Facilitators of Eco-Terrorism" where he theorized that violence against property leads inexorably to violence against people and "is the natural consequence of radical environmental ideology." (Also known as the "gateway" theory of the origins of terrorism.) Apparently Thornton has never heard of civil disobedience, nonviolent resistance, or Philip and Daniel Barrigan, whose antiwar and antimilitary tactics included the destruction of property and long terms in prison and who never, throughout their lives as Catholic priests, hurt a single soul.

Thornton, in a free-associative leap freed from the rigors of classical logic, and with his mind giddy with images of Rome burning, compared the radical environmentalists with Theodore Kaczynski, who shared their belief that humans should adopt a more modest place among the creatures of the earth but who shared none of their respect for human life. According to Thornton, Kaczynski "was the harbinger of the inevitable culmination of radical environmentalist ideology," which will dehumanize us all on the "first step on the road to mass murder." The problem is ideas, says Thornton, whose classes on Cicero must be very strange indeed if he assiduously avoids discussion of ideas. "The Nazis, after all, didn't start with ovens. They started with ideas, then progressed to vandalism, and ended up at mass murder, each escalation making the next step easier. Radical environmentalism appears to be on a similar trajectory."

Gee, no wonder there were 50 cops at the Radical Environmentalism Conference wearing Smoky the Bear outfits and searching every backpack. They were there to prevent imminent mass murder.

So, lest it go unreported entirely, let me repeat some of what these radical environmentalists told the audience at Fresno State: The environment is in worse shape than we know, or even suspect. We are in a spiritual and ecological crisis. We are in need of revolutionary change in the way we consume or we are destined to kill the earth and all the life on it, including ourselves. ***We must use the strategies of Gandhi, King, and Jesus to save ourselves, the creatures, and Mother Earth.*** The earth is not our property to do with as we please. We must hold ourselves accountable for our own greed, selfishness, and consumption of the world's resources. Only 4% of our ecosystem is left. Our neutrality and passivity is in the interests of those who seek to exploit that last 4%. Environmentalism is essentially conservative because it adheres to tradition, values ancient civilizations, and seeks to conserve what is still wild. The true terrorists are Exxon, Shell, and Union Carbide.

So there. Arrest me. I agree with them.

Clearing the Air: An Action Plan for the Valley

By Kevin Hall

The following is a joint letter from Sierra Club California; Clean Power Campaign; Communities for Land, Air and Water; Environment California; Environmental Working Group; Latino Issues Forum; Medical Advocates for Healthy Air; National Environmental Trust; Natural Resources Defense Council; Our Children's Earth Foundation; and Union of Concerned Scientists. It was mailed on February 4, 2003. We worked long and hard on it. I hope you'll add your support.

Dear Central Valley Legislative and Congressional Delegations:

San Joaquin Valley air quality is an issue of state and national significance. Unfortunately, the current air quality regulatory process cannot respond adequately to this crisis. We are asking for State support and cooperation in creating an "Action Agenda" to address it. We urge responsible legislators to take a new approach and to adopt major, immediate new measures to reduce air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. This can be done in ways that boost economic development, substantially improve public health, and build Valley-wide problem-solving capacity. Outlined below is a list of critical issues and the viable solutions we recommend.

1. The San Joaquin Valley air quality problem is an issue of state and national significance.

Last year, the San Joaquin Valley surpassed Los Angeles for the title of Dirtiest Air in the Nation. Three of the four most ozone-polluted cities in the U.S. are in the San Joaquin Valley, also home to three of the fifteen worst violations of particulate matter (PM) standards. In fact every county throughout the Valley has received a grade of "F" from a recent American Lung Association report, due to the high number of dangerous smog days.

The health consequences of ozone and PM are severe. One of every six children in Fresno suffers from asthma, which is more than triple the national average and the highest rate of childhood asthma in the state. Nearly 12,000 people in the San Joaquin Valley Air District are hospitalized every year for asthma, including more than 5,000 children. There is a major health crisis with disproportionately high rates of premature death, asthma, lost school days, increased health care costs and a heavier burden on low-income communities with little access to health care. This health crisis is in large part the result of extremely degraded air quality.

Downwind forests and national parks of international significance are showing signs of damage from polluted San Joaquin Valley air. Downwind communities are affected. Because the situation has reached a critical level, many citizens and broad-based organizations are asking the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, the California Air Resources Board, and the US EPA to respond adequately to the air quality crisis in the San Joaquin Valley. Our letter echoes a deafening outcry of concern from the media and citizens about the health problems created by air pollution in the Valley.

2. The State is well positioned to intervene with appropriate planning and regulatory initiatives that will address the problems that have contributed to the situation in the San Joaquin Valley. Evidence of the problems includes:

a) Fragmentation in the Valley is reflected in the makeup of the San Joaquin Valley APCD Board. The 208-mile-long Valley has historically been fragmented among many local jurisdictions. It includes eight counties, each of which does its own "regional transportation planning," and 59 cities. Efforts to unify pollution-control initiatives have been slow and limited. Citizen participation in the process has been difficult, in part due to the geographic dispersion of the population in the district. The present San Joaquin Valley APCD Board, made up of one board

member from each county and three representing cities in the three regions, can under-represent urban populations and allow county-level concerns to predominate. It is difficult for the Board to focus on regional priorities.

b) Scarce transportation resources are allocated at cross-purposes with air quality goals. Federal, state, and local investment in transportation infrastructure and economic development are not integrated into air quality planning efforts. Consequently, the scarce resources currently available are often fragmented and sometimes used for purposes out of step with the clean-up of the Valley's pollution problems. The Valley needs a regional transportation planning commission to address Valley-wide priorities for efficient and effective transportation investment, including transit services, that will support reaching air quality standards.

c) The Valley has lacked legally required plans for meeting ozone and particulate standards, resulting in citizen groups filing legal action to compel compliance. Air pollution in the Valley has worsened while other parts of the state have seen improvement. Citizen enforcement is a sign that the system isn't working well. There should be a way for citizens to activate Air Resources Board intervention and oversight regarding citizen complaints about lack of progress by districts.

d) The Valley has struggled to get transport of pollutants into that air basin addressed by state and federal regulatory agencies. Transport is a problem that necessarily involves State intervention.

3. We urge the State Legislature to adopt an "Action Agenda" for improving air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, including significant and immediate new measures to reduce pollution and establish institutions to govern regional problems.

From a public health perspective, the San Joaquin Valley's air basin can be seen as equivalent to a SuperFund site. Emergency measures of considerable magnitude are needed as soon as possible to protect the citizens living and working there. Consequently, we urge the State to adopt the following emergency measures:

a) Strengthen Enforcement: State and federal legislators should insist that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency aggressively implement and enforce the Clean Air Act in the Valley and avoid any backsliding that would increase emissions.

b) Revise San Joaquin Valley Unified APCD Board: The State Legislature should revisit and revise the enabling legislation for air quality planning and regulation in the Valley. At a minimum, the Board of the San Joaquin Unified APCD should be expanded to include public members to represent state and regional interests and health and medical perspectives. We do not know the best way to do this, but recommend that the governor and legislature consider appointments of key state air quality and/or health officials and at-large election of regional members. Also, new provisions should be included in state law for citizen initiation of Air Resources Board oversight activities.

c) Establish a State-Local Commission on Transportation Funding and Infrastructure: The State Legislature should establish a new state-local commission to integrate transportation infrastructure planning and funding with Valley air quality goals. This new commission should specifically review and approve all state and federal funding for transportation infrastructure in light of Valley air quality priorities including federal Surface Transportation and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds. Membership of the commission should include representatives of appropriate state agencies, boards and commissions such as Cal-EPA, CARB, and Caltrans, as well as local governments and Valley citizen groups.

Continued on page 13



Fresno Celebrates the Life of Cesar Chavez

By Mike Rhodes

Events honoring the life of United Farm Worker president Cesar Chavez will be held throughout Fresno at the end of March. As the *Community Alliance* goes to press, these are the events that we know about:

Thursday, March 27 • 5 PM

Vigil at the corner of Barton and Kings Canyon to bring attention to the budget cuts and their effects on the poor.

Friday, March 28 • 5 PM

Vigil at the CSUF Peace Garden.

Saturday, March 29 • Aztec blessing at 9:00 AM • Spiritual Blessing at 9:45 AM • March 10-11 AM • Lunch • Program noon-2 PM

This is the annual Cesar Chavez march in downtown Fresno, which starts at the Convention Center. This year the march will go east on Ventura, head south on Hazelwood and east on Butler, north on Orange and west on Kings Canyon Blvd (aka Cesar E. Chavez Blvd).



Central California Environmental Justice Network Conference

Striving for a Healthier Central Valley II

By Lorraine Unger

Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter

Join us for an interesting day Saturday, March 15, at the UC Center in Fresno. The conference will highlight issues concerning people of color in rural San Joaquin Valley communities. We will focus on water-quality issues, with the town of Alpaugh being our local case. Transportation impacts, which have an environmental-justice overlay, are nearby in Cutler-Orosi. Pesticide drift onto humans has occurred recently in the town of Arvin and in 1999 in Earlimart. We will have representatives focusing on their experiences. Air quality impacts harm everyone, especially children. That too will be part of the seminar.

We will have Spanish-language translators throughout the sessions, and childcare and a free lunch will be provided. Thanks to donations from the Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter and other organizations, this will be a complimentary day for all. That means no fee, although contributions are welcome. Call Joe Morales during day hours at (661) 720-9140. Advance registration is required.

CCEJN is committed to stopping environmental racism. Polluting industries frequently target low-income communities where there is little organized opposition to projects that have major environmental impacts.

Why should Delano, a community with a population of approximately 23,000, house two prisons? Why is the gray wastewater from the Delano II prison being piped across county lines to Alpaugh? These are questions to be discussed.

CCEJN focuses on empowering and educating residents to advocate for themselves and provide rural residents with technical assistance and resources; networking with other organizations which have the same interest; promoting alternative methods for a safer environment; advocating lifestyle changes for a cleaner environment; encouraging youth to be aware of and to participate in environmental issues.

The Sierra Club, through representatives from our sister chapter, Kern-Kaweah, is an active member of this group. Please join us for an enlightening day in Fresno.





Greens Declare Corporate Money the Big Winner in 2002 Elections

Latest figures from the FEC show that the biggest determinant of whether a candidate won in the 2002 fall elections was not their position on issues, but the amount of money spent on their campaign. Out of 445 house races, more than 90% of the winners outspent the losers, with 299 candidates outspending their opponents by 10 to 1. Only 14 candidates who spent less than their opponents won.

These figures show how important it is for a dramatic overhaul of our election system and highlight the need for public financing of campaigns. It's no longer a contest between political ideas and qualifications for public office. Instead, on election day, corporate lobbies defeat democracy. Greens note that Democratic Party national chair Terry McAuliffe has urged Democrats to reject public financing for their campaigns.

The Green Party of the United States accepts no contributions from corporations and political action committees and accepts contributions from individuals only up to \$10,000 per year, half of what is permitted by federal law.

"We support full public financing of elections for every qualified candidate so that political debate, public policy and legislation can be judged on its merits, not on the quid pro quo of political barter and money," said Jo Chamberlain, California Green and member of the party's national steering committee.

Any possible benefits of added security are outweighed by the costly loss of our most basic human liberties. For instance, the act defines "domestic terrorism" so broadly that the mere suggestion that an organization may be planning terrorist activities is enough to subject its members to invasive surveillance and criminal penalties.

The Green Party recognizes that protecting inalienable rights and liberties of all members of society is the foundation of freedom. Therefore, we applaud cities such as Arcata, Oakland, San Francisco, Fairfax, Sebastapol, and Santa Monica for taking a stand against this Orwellian legislation. It is to be hoped that Fresno will soon be added to this list of courageous municipalities.

Sustainable Growth

When there are insufficient tax revenues to sustain social programs, either services are cut or taxes are raised. Similarly, without a sustainable contributor base, the Fresno County Green Party cannot grow as a viable party. We are a grassroots organization and take no corporate contributions. Therefore, it is important for each Green to contribute what they can toward the continuing operation and expansion of the party. We urge you to become a sustainer by giving on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis to the Fresno County Green Party. Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 4501 in Fresno, CA 93744.

Get Involved!

Become a candidate . . . write a letter to the editor . . . register voters . . . speak to local students. . . . We need people to do all of these things. Come to our monthly meeting at the Center for Nonviolence located at 985 N. Van Ness on March 13 at 7:00 PM and get involved.

You can also visit our website at <www.cagreens.org/fresno> or call us at 265-3647.

California Greens Support Repeal of USA Patriot Act

The California Green Party has announced its support for the growing number of city councils in the state that support repeal of the USA Patriot Act. Many of these resolutions urge Congress to repeal the act, and some order city employees not to cooperate with federal investigations that violate civil liberties.

The Patriot Act allows an increase in power to the government to spy on our email and phone conversations. It also allows ethnic profiling, the denial of rights to detainees, and access to records of books that people buy or take from the library.

"Local Greens Chris Peterson & Larry Mullen rally against the upcoming war."

Photo by Howard Watkins



CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

PEACE CHALLENGE 2003: Two \$200 grants have been awarded thus far—one to Mrs. Larka's Class at the Roeding School, who are studying well-known peacemakers and trying to apply what they learn to their daily lives; the other, to the Gay-Straight Alliance, for creating a photo display that can be transported to schools and other sites to depict the experiences of gay youth trying to survive their school years. We are negotiating for funds to underwrite additional projects . . . see update next month. Meanwhile, congratulations to the recipients for their excellent undertakings.

FISCAL AGENCY & THE LIGHTHOUSE: The Center is sometimes asked to use its nonprofit status on behalf of unincorporated organizations to serve as fiscal agent for funds directed to them. Under this arrangement, the funded program is officially under the sponsorship of the Center. Our Board then is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the program accords with policies of the Center and is operated with fiscal integrity.

Groups that have established this kind of relationship over the years include The Living Room, The Community Alliance, The Wheelchair Project, Peace Fresno, Earth Day Festival, and the Central California Institute. In some cases the arrangement has been temporary; sometimes it remains as a long-term way of doing business.

For about two years, the Center has been fiscal agent for The Lighthouse, an AIDS/HIV service program based in Merced. The arrangement was a makeshift, at a time of upheaval for The Lighthouse, and was agreed to primarily as a favor to then-Board member Jean Kennedy, who had just become the director of the Lighthouse. (Jean subsequently resigned from our Board to avoid a conflict-of-interest situation.)

The expectation was for the Center to be fiscal agent only until the Lighthouse incorporated—the aim was the end of 2002. But unexpected events have occurred, among them receipt of significant grant money requiring continuing oversight into 2003, and the absorption of The Living Room by an national drug treatment agency. This latter occurrence leaves The Lighthouse as the only specifically AIDS/HIV service agency in the Central Valley, and presents the possibility of a broader relationship with Fresno County clients and organizations.

In the next couple of months we will be deciding on the future of our partnership with The Lighthouse. Under Jean's direction, The Lighthouse has redesigned itself and established a way of doing business that strongly aligns with several aspects of the Center's Peace Agenda, the guide to our activities. So the possibility of an ongoing relationship is within the scope of our charter, even though their Merced site is a stretch for us. In any event, we are proud to have given Jean and her staff the opportunity to prove themselves and to provide desperately needed services to Merced and environs.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence
985 N. Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • zaygb@csufresno.edu
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>

THE WELCH REPORT

February 10, 2003

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

The following is from a swearing-in ceremony speech by Dennis J. Kucinich, US Congressman from Ohio:



"The America I envision seeks world unity instead of unilateralism. It gains its power through being the first to help, not the first to strike. It extends itself to the peoples of the world to lift their burden. It is an America which when asked for help dispenses bread instead of bombs, medical assistance instead of missiles, and food instead of fissile materials.

"Yet our Administration would project American power for the purpose of domination. Their national security doctrines call for America to strike anywhere it pleases and to be the first to use nuclear weapons."

WAR AGAINST IRAQ

Our nation is now poised to go to all-out war against Iraq, a country which has not committed any act of aggression against the US. Iraq was not responsible for 9/11. No credible evidence exists linking Iraq to Al Qaeda's role in 9/11. According to the CIA, Iraq has no intention of attacking the US, but will defend itself if attacked.

"Why is our nation preparing to . . . wage an assault against the people of Iraq, to destroy their houses and buildings, to wipe out their water and electric systems and to block their access to food and medical supplies? There is no answer which can separate itself from oil economics, profit requirements of arms trade, or distorted notions of empire-building.

"War with Iraq is wrong. But if war is prosecuted further in Iraq, we must be prepared to advance the cause of peace in this country. We must be pre-

pared to stand up, to speak out, to organize, to march, to demand an end to the war, or to demand an end to an administration which insists on war."

Congressman Kucinich states it is urgent we oppose this war. "It will dominate our nation's priorities. It will threaten Social Security and Medicare. It will block a prescription drug benefit for the elderly" (which in my view is a more important need than attacking Saddam at this time). It will stop the US from providing jobs for all, health care for all, education for all.

The Administration's own top economic adviser has said the war could cost up to \$200 billion. Our federal budget already is close to a \$200 billion deficit due to huge tax cuts for the wealthy.

THE PATH OF PEACE

The path the US must take is one of peace, which can lead to prosperity:

"This is the dream of a Department of Peace which can help America take the first step toward making nonviolence an organizing principle in our society, making the work of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. a reality, and working to make war itself a thing of the past.

"It takes patience to face dictators around the world and not be tempted to bomb them into submission. It takes wisdom to have great power and to make gentle its presence in the world. And it takes compassion to understand the plight of peoples worldwide, who themselves are trying to survive, despite having conditions which are challenging or governments which are oppressive."

Congressman Kucinich reminds us this still is our government, and we have the right—and duty, I would add—to have a voice in our government's decision-making in the vital matter of war and peace. (Source: Stanislaus Connections, Feb. 2003)



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Vickie M. Fouts, Branch Coordinator, contact at 559.658.8260 or email at vmfout1@sti.net

WILPF Fresno Dates

Saturday, March 8th, 2 to 4 pm: Honoring Our Elders. For International Women's Day, WILPF Fresno is hosting a dessert and social hour honoring the wise and wonder women of our branch. The event will be held at the home of Blanche Nosworthy, 4474 E. Bungalow Lane, Fresno (227-2802). Members are asked to bring a light dessert.

Monday, March 10th, 6:30 pm: WILPF Meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. This month Veena Kapoor is presenting Values for a Better World before we get to WILPF business. All are invited to attend. Please submit agenda items to Vickie Fouts at vmfout1@sti.net or 658-8260 by 2/2/03.

Wednesday, March 26th, 3:30 pm: Stir It UP! WILPF Style hosted by Gabrielle Kirkland. This month's discussion will concern establishing a statue honoring a woman in the Peace Garden at Fresno State. Call KFCF 225-8888 to join in the discussion. Submit ideas for future programs to Gabrielle at tellgabbie@yahoo.com.

Honoring our Elders

Some people retire at 60 or 65, some wait until 70 or 75. WILPF women never retire! They are still going strong: Learn about these women with us: Blanche Nosworthy, turning 90 this month, Marcia McLane, Joyce Huggins, Lindell Cross and Polly Victor. Dessert and tea will be served 2-4 pm on 3/8/03 at 4474 N. Bungalow Lane. You bring the cookies, we'll furnish the tea and coffee.

Peace Pendants & Pins Available

Jan Edwards of Corporate Power Workshop fame has designed some simply wonderful peace pendants and pins and our branch has them available for sale. They are selling fast for \$8.00 each. Don't miss out. Call Ingrid at 225-8491 to get yours.

WILPF West Gathering, May 9, 10, 11, 2003

Asilomar Conference Grounds Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 DEADLINE: March, 15, 2003. Registration forms will be sent out by Vickie Fouts. Contact her at vmfouts1@sti.net or 658-8260. The following is a brief run-down of what to expect. In house participants: Room prices include all meals, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Box lunches are available for Sunday if ordered in advance. All rooms have baths. Three day registration is \$50.00 before March 15th (late fee: \$10.00), Historic (2-single beds) @ \$178.34/person. Standard queen, 1 single, (rollaway may be added) or 2 doubles: 2 for \$201.30, 3 for @ \$159.08 or 4 @ \$156.26. Questions related to registration should be directed to Nancy McClintock: (831) 394-1378 or nmclintock@igc.org. Contact Ingrid regarding payment at 225-8491.

LEGISLATION

Senator Feinstein is supporting the Bush position on the war based upon Collin Powell's presentation to the Security Council. Write her and tell her your side of the issue. We must act for as US Senator Byrd pointed out to the US Senate on February 12th, "To contemplate war is to think about the most horrible of human experiences... Yet, this Chamber is, for the most part, silent — ominously, dreadfully silent. There is no debate, no discussion, no attempt to lay out for the nation the pros and cons of this particular war. There is nothing. We stand passively mute in the United States Senate, paralyzed by our own uncertainty, seemingly stunned by the sheer turmoil of events." Their silence will not protect us. Now, we must transform our silence into action. WRITE TO FEINSTEIN NOW!

Gay Issues in California Legislature: Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, AB 205, gives California's registered domestic partners deci-
CA 12

sion-making authority for funeral arrangements, deposition of remains and community property and also provides death benefits for surviving partners of firefighters and police officers. The bill also brings new responsibilities to domestic partners, requiring couple to disclose conflicts of interest and making them more responsible for mutual debts. In addition, it requires joint assessment of income for domestic partners seeking governmental assistance. San Francisco's Mark Leno announced on Monday the **introduction of AB 196, which would clarify existing laws to forbid housing and employment discrimination based on gender identity.** Lifted from Christopher Lisotta at www.gay.com.

"Burning Issues," a new column in the Community Alliance

WILPF will be incorporating its legislative news into a new column in the Community Alliance (CA) next month. Hope is that this column will include a wide range of issues submitted by the readers of CA. Contact Desi at desicortez@cviip.net or 907-2200.

KUDOS

Gabrielle Kirkland has been appointed as a member-at-large to WILPF's board for her wonderful work on Stir It UP! WILPF Style.

At least fifty **Women to Women** letters have gone out thanks to efforts of your membership. A dozen signatures were collected at the Muslim prayer service at the Convention Center. Contact Vickie for more details.

Volunteers Needed for help with Peace Camp, Education Fund Art Show fundraiser committee, Budget committee, Education Fund committee. Contact Vickie at vmfout1@sti.net.

Getting the News from the Net

The internet has been a great tool for the peace community but not everyone is hooked in. I have printed the following articles so that this news is more readily available to you. Call Desi for a copy. Please pass them on to friends —

USA: Corporations, War, You by Russel Nokhiber and Robert Weissman from *Focus on the Corporation*, www.corpwatch.org 2/6/03.

Confronting the Empire by Noam Chomsky from *Znet* <http://www.zmag.org>, 2/1/03.

Community-Based Solutions for a Sustainable Democratic Future by Aaron G. Lehmer from *Grassroots Globalization Network*, www.geonewsletter.org, 9/14/02.

"Death Tax" Deception: Who's behind the movement to repeal the nation's only tax on inherited wealth by Rosie Hunter & Chuck Collins from *dollars & sense*, <http://www.dollarsandsense>, 1/3/03.

Ruling the Empire: U.S. elites mean to prevent anyone, anywhere, from ever challenging the preeminence of American imperial power. Just ask them by Alejandro Reuss from *dollars & sense*, www.dollarsandsense.org, 1/3/03.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Monday, March 10th.

Submit articles to Desi Cortez at 4618 N. First, #166, Fresno, CA 93726, desicortez@cviip.net or call 907-2200

One Big Day and Onward!

by Ken Hudson and Nicholas DeGraff

The peace movement is alive and well in the Valley! On February 15, more than 1,300 folks of all ages came to the Tower District in Fresno for the International Day of Protest Against U.S. War on Iraq. We heard moving words from Margaret Hudson and Fresno City Councilman, Tom Boyajian, among others. In fact, we were pleasantly overwhelmed by the response as we extended an invitation to an open-mike session, and we apologize to those who could not get on. We heard music from Zambra and Rock Star Productions, all powered by Don and Cynthia Lowebug's Off-Line solar power from North Fork. An independent student march went from the Peace Corner of Blackstone & Shaw to River Park shopping center in the morning before joining us at Fresno City College. A special thanks to Bill Warner of Porterville who started it all with a simple contact, suggesting we do something in Fresno on this day.

One of Peace Fresno's roles has been to provide a forum for people to express themselves regarding issues of peace and social justice. For many of us, the best part of the event was to see how people in the community took it upon themselves to just "do stuff," whether it was to set up a refugee tent city on the lawn, start a drum circle, carry a bunch of bells, dress up the family dog (Leash the dogs of war!), whatever. Another strong statement for peace was made.

What's next? We will take the message out of our comfort zone of the Tower District and go north to River Park shopping center for a sidewalk peace demonstration on Sunday, March 16, 12:00 noon–2:00 PM. We were there 100 strong last October 6 and it is time for a return visit to this area of affluence and high visibility. Assemble at Blackstone and El Paso Avenues. Parking is available on El Paso, near Lowe's. Weekly demonstrations continue on Fridays, 4:30–6:30 PM, at Blackstone & Shaw.

WHAT TO DO IF WAR BREAKS OUT

Fresno's Emergency Response:

Day of: Assemble at Blackstone & Shaw. Peace Fresno will be there immediately upon outbreak of war.

Next business day: 8:00 AM–6:00 PM: Gather outside the Federal Building, Fresno and O Streets. Special speakers at the noon hour.

Saturday following: 12:00 Noon: March from River Park shopping center (Blackstone & El Paso) to Blackstone & Shaw for a demonstration.

Our telephone information line, (559) 276–2592, will be staffed during these days, or visit our website at <www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>.

Clearing the Air continued from page 8

d) Establish new funding sources to reduce diesel particulates and NOx, a major source of air pollution and toxic risk in the Valley and statewide, and to increase transit service. Funding sources could include stationary source fees, the petroleum pollution mitigation fee on each barrel of oil entering California refineries, vehicle license fees, and air quality mitigation fees for new development. New funds should especially be directed toward agricultural diesel fuel conversion efforts. All available existing sources of funding should also be utilized to reduce diesel emissions, such as federal Farm Bill "EQIP" funding.

e) Remove the state exemption from air pollution permitting requirements for agriculture and take specific actions to promote renewable, nonpolluting micro-power technologies and to phase out diesel generators. There are considerable benefits should the Central Valley expand renewable energy, especially solar; make clean, efficient use of agricultural and animal waste; and increase energy efficiency investments.

f) Adopt affordable housing infill and growth management policy incentives for local government.

g) Retire air pollution credits that are impeding real air quality progress.

h) Improve public notification and education regarding pollution levels and health impacts for both ozone and particulate matter.

i) Strengthen involvement and oversight by state agencies in San Joaquin Valley air quality planning. Including Cal-EPA and Caltrans in the effort to clean up Valley air quality can help maximize opportunities to address multiple problems with creative solutions. We all know that a clean environment attracts business—pollution clean-up creates jobs, and communities that solve their health problems are better places to live. We believe that the state should support and assist problem solvers in the San Joaquin Valley. The governmental fragmentation of the San Joaquin Valley, into eight counties, a number of cities, and special districts, hampers regional organization of leadership and the integration of resources. If the state steps forward in a responsible manner to work toward integrating local, state, and federal resources into alignment with real and lasting solutions to pollution problems, the citizens of the Valley will be well served. The addition of more expeditious ways to trigger State performance audits and compliance monitoring will also be beneficial.

Please join efforts to solve what has become a significant health crisis in California. The San Joaquin Valley can be restored to its beauty and productivity only with the cooperation of all levels of state and local government and public citizen participation. We appreciate your time and consideration in this manner, and thank you in advance for your leadership and support.

(Kevin Hall is the Sierra Club–Tehipite Chapter's chair for transportation, air quality, and global warming. To learn more about the air we breathe and the California Clean Air Campaign, please visit <www.calcleanair.org>.)



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International Women's Day

by Carol Bequette

International Women's Day (March 8) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace, and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population

Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training, and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Less than a week later, on March 25, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women and girls, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This event had a significant impact on labor legislation in the United States, and the working conditions leading up to the disaster were invoked during subsequent observances of International Women's Day.

1913-1914

As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around March 8 of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for "bread and peace." Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway. The rest is history. Four days later the czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional government granted women the right to vote. That historic Sunday fell on February 23 on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on March 8 on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

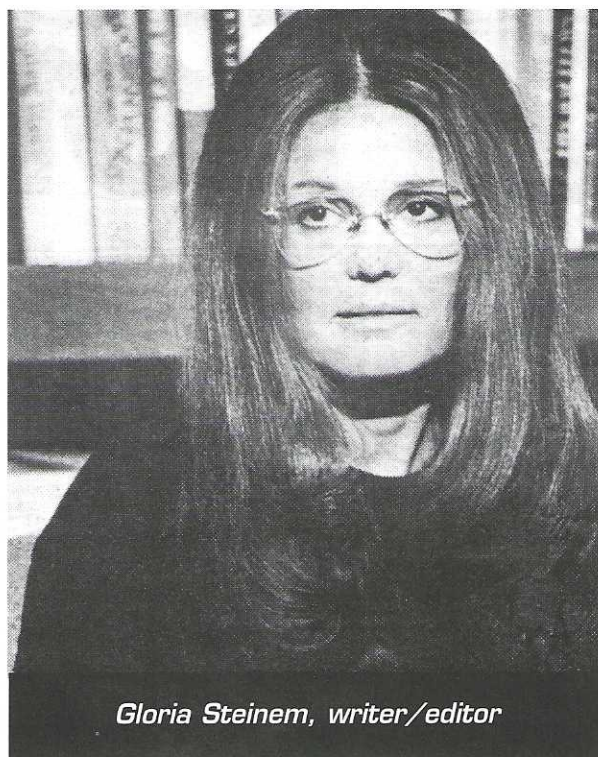
Join Fresno women and men on March 7 in the University Free Speech Area at 12 noon to celebrate International Women's Day.



Maya Angelou, poet



Betty Friedan, founder of NOW



Gloria Steinem, writer/editor

growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events:

1909

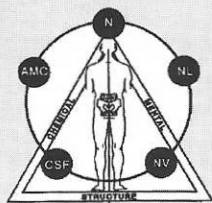
In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on February 28. Women continued to celebrate it on the last Sunday of that month through 1913.

1910

The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honor the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference from more than 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1911

As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen the previous year, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (March 19) in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and



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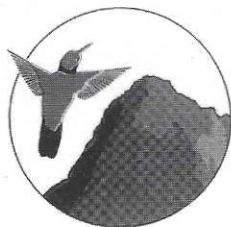
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PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE

CALENDAR

Saturday, March 1 • 9 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meets 1st Saturday of the month at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisadero. This month: "A Fresno Democratic Club Summit Discussion" dealing with activities of Fresno area clubs, goals for the 2004 election. Call 439-8140 for more information or see <<http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>>.

Saturday, March 1 • 7 PM

Vagina Monologues benefit performances at CSU Fresno. A celebration of women's sexuality and visions. \$15 general & \$8 students/seniors. For more information call 292-1420 or email nikkifresno@yahoo.com. More information is available at <www.vday.org>.

Sunday, March 2 • 2 PM

Vagina Monologues benefit performances at the CSU Fresno. A celebration of women's sexuality and visions. \$15 general & \$8 students/seniors. For more information call 292-1420 or email nikkifresno@yahoo.com. More information is available at <www.vday.org>.

You are invited to a costume party: What would your vagina wear if it dressed up? Sunday, March 2, following the 2 PM show, until 6 PM

Monday, March 3 • 7 PM

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) meets the first Monday of every month at Margaret Hudson's Community Barn. Park at 4230 N. Arthur or 4235 N. Thorne. Contact numbers: Maria, 230-0379 or Joan, 227-6134. We are currently working on updating the Integrated Pest Management program for Fresno Unified School District. We are achieving some success and need folks to help with the next steps toward making our schools healthier.

Thursday, March 6 • 6-7:30 PM

Women in Afghanistan: "Liberation" & Occupation. Dr. Latifa Sharif, Professor of Sociology, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Sonhali Kolhatkar, RAWA & KPFFK; & Dr. Loretta Kensinger, Women's Studies Program, CSU Fresno, will be the speakers in this educational lecture on the US involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. This event will be held at CSUF, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center 191.

Forum sponsors: Beth Anne Harnish Lectures, Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition, Peace Fresno, Multicultural Center Planning Group, President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity. Entrance is free and open to the public (Relaxed parking in Lot V).

Friday, March 7 • 12 Noon

Join Fresno women and men in the University Free Speech Area at CSUF to celebrate International Women's Day.

Saturday, March 8

International Women's Day

Tuesday, March 11 • 6-7 PM

"Dissent in the Age of U.S. Imperialism: The Constitution Under Attack." James Lafferty, Executive Director of National Lawyers Guild, will be the speaker in this educational lecture on the US involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. This event will be held at CCSUF, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center 191.

Forum sponsors: Beth Anne Harnish Lectures, Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition, Peace Fresno, Multicultural Center Planning Group, President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity. Entrance is free and open to the public (Relaxed parking in Lot V).

Wednesday, March 12 • 12 Noon-1:30 PM

Fresno Metro Ministry Community Hunger & Nutrition Forum at Trinity Lutheran Church, on Cedar between Ashlan and Dakota. Public invited to join in creating access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food for all Fresnoans. No charge, lunch included. Call Edie Jessup to register or for more information: 485-1416.

Friday, March 14 • 5 PM & 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*. Fresno Filmworks movies are shown at the Tower Theatre. Tickets are \$8.50; \$6.50 for students and seniors. For more information call 221-0755.

Saturday, March 15

Central California Environmental Justice Network Conference: Striving for a Healthier Central Valley. The conference, held at the UC Center in Fresno, will highlight



Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger on September 16, 1972, as seen in *THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER*, a film by Alex Gibney and Eugene Jarecki. A First Run Features Release

issues concerning people of color in rural San Joaquin Valley communities. The conference will focus on water quality issues, with the town of Alpaugh being our local case. Transportation impacts, which have an environmental justice overlay, are nearby in Cutler-Orosi. Pesticide drift onto humans has occurred recently in the town of Arvin and in 1999 in Earlimart. For more information call Joe Morales during day hours at (661) 720-9140. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, March 15 • 5-9 PM

KFCF is sponsoring an evening with Larry Bensky and Waddama at North Fork Town Hall. Suggested donation is \$10, and dinner (vegetarian and non-vegetarian soup, salad, & bread) is available from 5-6 PM for an additional \$5 donation. Desserts and a no-host bar will be available throughout the evening. The Smiley Mountain Band plays 5-6 PM, Larry Bensky speaks 6-7 PM, and Waddama jams 7-9 PM. For tickets or information call KFCF at 233-2221, or Sue Kern at 877-5800. All proceeds support Free Speech Radio in Central California.

Saturday & Sunday, March 15 & 16

Northern California Peace Centers' yearly conference is being hosted by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Local progressive organizations welcome to participate. At 7 PM the keynote speaker will be Tim Wise from Nashville, Tennessee, whose topic will be racism in America; this speech is open to the general public. Call Angela at 435-6383 for more information. See page 5 for more information.

Sunday, March 16 • 12 Noon-2 PM

Peace Fresno will hold a demonstration at the River Park shopping center. This event will be held on the sidewalk at Blackstone and El Paso Avenues. Parking is available on El Paso, near Lowe's.

Tuesday, March 18 • 11 AM-1 PM

Community Food Assessment Team Meeting, Fresno Metro Ministry. Planning and training to conduct a city/county assessment of how we get food and what quality of food is accessible in Fresno City/County neighborhoods. Results will be used for local planning and food policy. Call Edie Jessup, 485-1416, for more information.

Tuesday, March 18 • 5:30-8:30 PM

Empty Bowls Dinner-Put an End to Child Hunger. LaRyan Event Center (on West, north of Ashlan). A gourmet meal will be served in a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted and glazed bowl created by a local Fresno Student. The bowl is yours to keep as a gift. In addition you will be able to bid on art items during the silent auction, which accompanies the dinner and entertainment. There will be a hand-quilted quilt raffled. Entertainment: Hoover High School Combo, Stone Soup Hmong Butterfly Dancers, Roosevelt School of the Arts "Chicklettes," Dulcimer by Carl and Kathryn Johnsen, and more! Tickets: \$30; table of 8, \$240. Sponsorship Tables: \$500, \$750, \$1,000. For tickets call 439-6571 or write to Empty Bowls, 312 W. Escalon, Fresno, CA 93704.

Wednesday, March 19 • 6 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee meets at the Sarah McCardle Room, upstairs in the main library. We welcome all who are interested in helping to bring an Independent Police Auditor and Civilian Police Review Board to Fresno.

Saturday, March 22 • 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents Clive Gregson from Manchester, England. "One of Britain's most cultured singer-songwriters . . ." - *The Times*. "Marvelous voice, brilliant guitar playing . . ." - *Dirty Lined*. \$12 advance & FFS members; \$15 at door. Under 12, half price. See also <www.clivegregson.com>. Advance purchase available 3 weeks prior to performance at Patrick's Music Store at Barstow & First; The Movies Video Store 1435 Van Ness Ave; National Hardware (new outlet), 7173 N. Blackstone in Pinedale. Early birds and out-of-towners send check and SASE to Pat Wolk, 6661 N. Forkner, Fresno 93711. Information: 431-3653.

Thursday, March 27 • 5 PM

Vigil at the corner of Barton and Kings Canyon to bring attention to the budget cuts and their effects on the poor.

Friday March 28 • 5 PM

Vigil to honor Cesar Chavez at the CSUF Peace Garden.

Saturday, March 29

Aztec blessing, 9:00 AM • Spiritual blessing, 9:45 AM

March 10-11 AM • Lunch • Program 12-2 PM

This is the annual Cesar Chavez march in downtown Fresno, which starts at the Convention Center. This year the march will go east on Ventura, head south on Hazelwood and east on Butler, north on Orange and west on Kings Canyon Blvd (aka Cesar E. Chavez Blvd). See page 9 for further details.

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to devote a few hours of their time on Sundays are invited to leave voice mail for Nick at (559) 499-7927 to

arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 p.m. at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 p.m. 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 Sunday • 12:30 - 2 PM

A demonstration for peace at Walnut and Mooney in Visalia. Bring signs for peace and smiles. For more information contact Denise at 636-0514.

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday • 7-9 PM

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets) each Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229-6410 liza.apper@stbencatholicworker.org or visit their web site at: <http://www.stbencatholicworker.org>

Every Thursday • 5-6 PM

Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition at CSUF meets in Student Union Room 308. Keep informed about educational campus and community events. For more information contact Ayami at amisukepon@yahoo.com or Morghan at youngmorghan@hotmail.com

Every Friday • 4:14 PM

Stand with us for Peace each Friday evening in Merced at 4:15 PM on M. Street (between 20th and 21st Streets) Say No to War!! info: 209-383-0843.

Every Friday • 4:30 PM

Weekly Vigils to Stop the War are held at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday. For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223) and press *3. For more information about Peace Fresno email them at peacefresno@neuhouse.com or visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>

Every Friday • 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Peace Rally in Bakersfield takes place at the Stockdale Highway and California Avenue (NW corner). The theme is NO BLOOD FOR OIL and the organizers say they are organizing these rallies because:

1. Invading Iraq will decrease US and world security, putting citizens and soldiers at risk.
2. Invading Iraq will bring hardship to US citizens.
3. A United States invasion of Iraq would constitute a clear violation of international and US law.
4. There are insufficient grounds for going to war with Iraq.
5. The 'no fly zones' violate the sovereignty of Iraq, are not authorized by the UN, and constitute an act of aggression forbidden under the UN charter.

For more information contact David Corrigan viogolo@yahoo.com or phone (661) 835-1438

Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The location for cooking on Saturday is at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 East Barstow Ave., between First and Cedar starting at 9AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 452-0277 (Dallas). e-mail fresnofnb@yahoo.com. Visit the Food Not Bombs web site at <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Every Saturday • 1 PM until the last patient is served

Medical Clinic for the homeless, active injecting drug users and prostitutes. You can find them near the Olive Avenue 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, 1:00 - 3:00ish. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes & blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park, beside Food Not Bombs. Contact Chris Eacock mcseacock@yahoo.com

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

1st Monday of every month • 7:30 PM

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

2nd Monday of every month • 7 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Meeting is at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information email vmfou1@stli.net

3rd Monday of every month • 7 - 9 PM

The National Organization for Women will have their Monthly Meeting at the Center for Non-Violence, 985 N Van Ness (just south of Olive -Tower District). Both women and men are welcome! For more info call 559-252-7569.

The last Monday of every month • 6:30 PM

Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.) meeting at 985 N Van Ness. For more information call (559) 445-0876 or email nancymarsh@yahoo.com

1st Tuesday of every month • 6 PM

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights at 280 N. Van Ness. For more information call (559) 443-1317 or email SJVCoalition@aol.com

3rd Tuesday of every month • 7:00 PM

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

1st Wednesday of every month • 12 Noon

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

1st Wednesday of every month • 7 PM

The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meeting's are held in the Sate Building Assembly Room. Call Sam Pack Chair phone 495-0606 for more information or agenda item. Yvonne Brown Co-Chair 456-2879.

3rd Wednesday of every month • 6 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Sarah McCordle room of the downtown library.

2nd Thursday of every month • 7:00 PM

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

3rd Thursday of every month • 6:00 - 8 PM

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. They have committees on Political Action, Promotion & Education, and Facilities Planning. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike friendly, you are invited to join this group. King's Men Cafe and Coffee House, 1495 N. Van Ness Ave. @ Home Ave (3 blocks N. of Olive, 1 S. of McKinley Ave). For more information call 559.444.2065.

3rd Thursday of every month • 7:30 PM

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

1st Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley are held each 1st Saturday of the month at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisadero. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

1st Saturday of every month • 2 - 4 PM

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

2nd Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

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

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

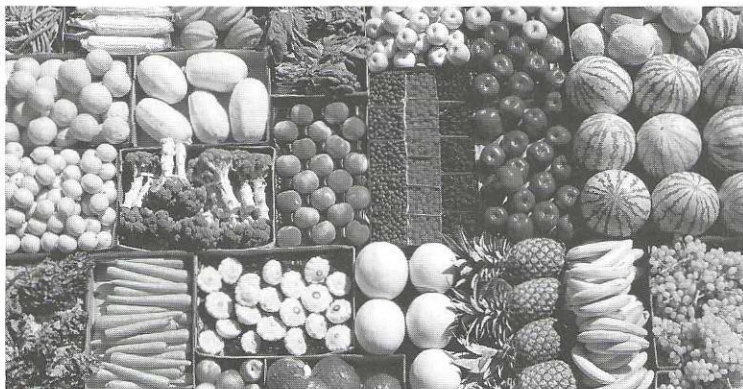
Greener Supermarkets? Why Not?

by Phil Erro

Recently Dianne Marks and I led a session at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence on constructive ways to consume and grow food. After discussing several means of increasing contact between consumers and local organic farmers, participants decided to try to encourage two or three selected supermarkets in north Fresno to sell more organic food. Supermarket chains, such as Vons and SaveMart, are experiencing stiff price competition in Fresno from discount stores like Costco and WalMart and drugstores like Walgreens. Supermarket executives are considering shutting stores in Fresno, because they cannot compete on price. But what if they outperformed the discount stores and drugstores on quality, for instance by selling organic food at reasonable prices? They could regain their market share by being the "reasonable organic food vendors" in town.

At present, Whole Foods sells excellent organic food at exorbitant prices, and the discounters sell conventional food cheaply, leaving no middle ground for the supermarket chains. At some stores, the supermarket managers know what we buy, how much we buy, and how often we buy it, because we swipe our Vons card (or whatever card) at the checkout stand. One task, then, is to reach those customers who buy organic food only occasionally to see what it would take to convince them to buy more organic food. A number of questions come to mind. One is whether the store managers at the Vons at Marks and Shaw and the SaveMart at Bullard and West, for example, would be willing to make an effort to convince infrequent consumers of organic food to buy more often. What can we activists do to help them? Could we hand-deliver flyers to the residences of these customers? Could we call local organic farmers to see if they would be willing to appear at these stores to talk directly to these customers to promote their produce? Another task could be to contact friends and acquaintances who we know would likely buy organic food if it were reasonably priced and readily available. We could tell them about "organic specials" and other promotional events at these stores. We'd be bringing new organic food buyers to these stores. We would be expanding the existing marketing of organic foods by established food retailers. These retailers who are thinking of closing stores in Fresno could be the key to growth of organic food sales in Fresno. Are we progressives willing to help these crippled giants, these supermarket chains in need?

We need more ideas on how to make our beleaguered supermarkets more green. Do you want to meet and brainstorm about what we can do? Are you willing to volunteer to distribute flyers, make phone calls, or help mail promotional materials? Call me, Phil Erro, any weekday between 8 AM and 9 PM at 449-8125. Dianne and I are interested in your ideas about "greening" consumers and your willingness to help.



PROTESTORS ASSAULTED AT RIVER PARK

By Mike Rhodes

"You can't come here," shouted the man at the anti-war protestors. The group of high school students had just marched from Shaw and Blackstone and were now at River Park. "If you don't leave, I am going to call the police." The man, who works for River Park, had driven up in a golf cart and immediately started harassing the youthful protestors.

When the youth did not leave they were physically attacked. The assault was captured on video as two youth from a local charter school were working on a classroom video project. The River Park representative reached toward one of the film makers and shoved the camera into his face.

A local television station was contacted and played the video on the air that night. The video showed the attack from two different angles. As a part of the TV coverage they showed the arrest of anti-sweatshop protestors at Fashion Fair and reminded viewers about the settlement that resulted. After criminal charges were dropped the City of Fresno and Fashion Fair ended up paying the protestors a significant amount of money to settle the case.

The students said they were planning on filing charges. The Community Alliance supports these students who are standing up for their rights and applauds all of the free speech efforts that are taking place in this community.

Poetry Corner

Poetry Corner lives on thanks to a contribution from Loretta Kensinger. To keep this department going, send your offerings to Richard Stone c/o FCNV, 985 N. Van Ness, Fresno 93728.

POEM ON THE QUESTION OF REVOLUTION 2

A clump of grass
stands tall
on sandy dunes,
holding firm
to the hope of solid ground.
Seeds scatter in gusts of wind,
as roots knit together
to anchor new shoots,
until the once
desolate slope is replanted.
Slowly rebuilding
a fragile fertile soil.

Loretta Kensinger, 2002

PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE FRESNO AREA:

**American-Arab Anti-Discrimination
Committee, Fresno
ADC Fresno Chapter**

2037 W. Bullard Ave., Box 190 • Fresno, CA 93711
Ph (559) 436-5232 • Fax (559) 436-5232
info@adcbresno.org
www.adcfresno.org

Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.)

PO Box 4496 • Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 445-0887
nancymarsh@yahoo.com

Community Alliance Magazine

P.O. Box 5077 • Fresno, CA 93755
Ph. (559) 226-0477 • Fax (559) 226-3962
AllianceEditor@attbi.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

Death Penalty Focus

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

Earth Day organizing committee

<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/earthday/>
Sandra Guzman at (559) 243-9338

El Comité No Nos Vamos

328 N. Fresno • Fresno, CA 93701
Ph. (559) 498-6033
IWAPGH@aol.com

Food Not Bombs (Saturday)

2925 N Jackson • Fresno, CA 93703
Ph. 452-0277 (ask for Dallas)
fresnofnb@yahoo.com
www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB

**Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional
(Office)**

2014 Tulare Street, Suite 223 • Fresno, CA 93721
(Mailing Address)
P. O. 106 • Fresno, CA 93707-0106
Ph. (559) 499-1178 • Fax (559) 268-0484
lvasquez@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/fiob/>

Fresno Area Congregation Together

2839 Mariposa • Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. (559) 442-3120 • Fax (559) 441-3126

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence dedicated to
peace and social justice**

985 N Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223
fcnv2@juno.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/>

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition

P.O. Box 218 • Clovis, CA 93613-0218
Ph. (559) 277-2693
fresnobike@yahoo.com

Fresno County Green Party

PO Box 4501 • Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 265-3647
fresno@greens.org
www.cagreens.org/fresno

Fresno Metro Ministry

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

**Fresno Free College Foundation /
Radio station KFCF**

P.O. Box 4364 • Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 233-2221 • Fax (559) 233-5776
Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 225-8888 or 266-8888
office@kfcf.org
<http://www.kfcf.org>

National Organization for Women (NOW)

PO Box 4675 • Fresno, CA 93744-4675
Ph. (559) 221-7229
lraep2@juno.com
<http://www.now.org/>

National Stonewall Democrats

5965 E. Shields Ave. #170 • Fresno, CA 93727-8061
Ph. (559) 292-4905
hubbell@online.no
<http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Pan-Valley Institute

1436 W. Shaw Ave., Suite A • Fresno, CA 93711
Ph. (559) 222-7678 • Fax (559) 222-7682
mnateras@afsc.org

Peace Fresno

c/o Fresno Center for Nonviolence

985 N Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223
peacefresno@neuhouse.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno/>

San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights

280 N. Van Ness • Fresno Ca 93701
Ph. (559) 443-1317 • Fax: (559) 443-1318
SJVCoalition@aol.com

San Joaquin Valley Exchange Works

P.O. Box 3391 • Merced, CA 95344
Ph. (209) 383-2030 or 488-6582

St. Benedict, Catholic Workers

4022 N Cheryl • Fresno, CA 93705
Ph. (559) 229-6410
PaxOSB@aol.com

Sun Mountain

35751 Oak Springs Dr. • Tollhouse, CA 93667
Ph. (559) 855-3710
sunmt@psnw.com
<http://www.sunmt.org/chronicles.html>

Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club

P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, CA 93755
<http://www.sierraclub.org/>

**Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom**

P.O. Box 5114 • Fresno, CA 93755
Ph. (559) 658-8260
vmfout1@sti.net
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/wilpf/>

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Celebrating a Year of Fresno Filmworks

By John Moses
President, Fresno Filmworks

Last March, after several months of planning, a small group of local film enthusiasts, calling ourselves Fresno Filmworks, launched a monthly series of international and American independent films that had not received theatrical release in Fresno. We had come together in hopes of adding to the cultural life of the community—to celebrate the diversity of cultures in the Valley that is only given lip service in our movie houses. Films of quality from diverse national traditions, films from new independent voices here and abroad, films that document alternative lifestyles and viewpoints—these are the movies we wanted to see on Fresno screens and hoped that others did as well.

With that hope and with money from our first fundraiser, we tested the waters, unsure how the community would receive us or how long our nonprofit organization would stay in business. But on that first night at the Bonner Auditorium, with two well-worn 16mm projectors, we screened our first film to a sell-out crowd. Now twelve months later, we continue our series in 35mm, on the second Friday of each month at the historic Tower Theatre, with first-run features like John Sayles's *Sunshine State* and the Inuit epic, *The Fast Runner*. As support for Fresno Filmworks grows—now over 600 subscribers on our mailing list—we book new films and plan our second year.

In the months ahead Filmworks will continue to present small award-winning films like *The Day I Became a Woman* from Iran, which we screened last May, and *Rivers and Tides*, the documentary about nature sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, which we brought to Fresno *before* it opened in New York City. We will also continue to bring major art-house sensations, as we did last summer with *Monsoon Wedding* and *Dogtown and Z-Boys*, which the theater chains inexplicably kept from the Fresno market. Filmworks will continue to cultivate a film culture in Fresno in other ways too—not only by exhibiting the work of local filmmakers, as we did last year at the Sanctuary Theater, but also by sponsoring visits from internationally recognized filmmakers, as we did in February when Filmworks joined with other community groups and businesses to bring Spike Lee to Fresno City College. And perhaps most importantly, Filmworks will pursue its long-term goal of establishing a small, independent, daily-run theater, where connoisseurs of fine films as well as those merely adventuring for something different can enjoy those films and gather together for conversation and food afterward.

As I wrote last summer in an article for our monthly newsletter, *Clips*, the alarming trend toward mind-numbing conformity among theatrical exhibitors is not limited

to Fresno. Throughout the country, American audiences are able to see fewer current international films, theatrically or on video, for the simple reason that fewer are reaching the United States. In *Global Hollywood* (2001), Toby Miller writes, "In the 1960s imports accounted for 10 per cent of the US film market. . . . Today, it is 0.75 per cent. Foreign films are essentially excluded from the US, as never before." And just as significantly, Hollywood's multinational domination is choking off those productions at their national sources. According to Miller, in 1998, the French film industry, the most economically healthy European cinema today, took in only 26% of that nation's domestic box office receipts, while British filmmakers earned only 12% of their national market share! By creating venues for these endangered national cinemas, Filmworks and its supporters play a small part in contesting Hollywood's global domination of film production and distribution.

Regrettably, many fine films have opened around the country that we have not brought to Fresno. As I write, *The Quiet American*, *Bloody Sunday*, and *All or Nothing* come to mind. With only twelve show dates per year, many of these superior films will continue to elude us. Also a factor is that some distributors, even those that specialize in independent and art-house fare, will not distribute their films to periodic venues like Filmworks, which they regard as "nontheatrical." For films from Miramax and Lions Gate, for example, we must wait until the films are turned over to a second-run distributor. Generally, that transfer date provides only a brief period before the film is released on video, and so we select instead a film more current and immediately available to us. Sometimes the cost of bringing a "little film" can be daunting. Minimums for films can range from \$250 to \$750, and the total price tag can be as much as 50% of the gross.

Despite the difficulties, we are excited about what lies ahead. We are pursuing business sponsors for a film festival for and about children, which would include Hayao Miyazaki's animated feature *Spirited Away*, Phillip Noyce's *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, and a newly restored print of Jean Cocteau's classic *Beauty and the Beast*. And coming on March 14 is the timely and hard-hitting documentary *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*, inspired by Christopher Hitchens's book about Kissinger's realpolitik machinations under Nixon and Ford.

How can film lovers in Fresno help? First, by continuing to come and enjoy our shows. So mark your calendars, the second Friday of every month, as a night for Fresno Filmworks at the Tower Theatre. Tell your friends about us and bring them along. And consider becoming a sponsor. If you missed our sponsorship letter in January, pick up a copy of the plan at one of our events, or write us for it at P.O. Box 4555, Fresno, CA 93744. And to all those contributors and volunteers who have made the first year of Filmworks possible, we thank you.



**Fresno Filmworks presents
The Trials of Henry Kissinger.
Fresno Filmworks movies are
shown at the Tower Theatre.
Friday, March 14, 2003
5 PM & 8 PM
For more information call
221-0755.**