

# Labor/Community ALLIANCE

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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5



MAY 2001

## PG&E CUSTOMERS UNITE! FIGHT BACK!

By Alan Cheah

[This article is the first in a series of reports that identify root causes in the current California electricity crisis.]

**C**onfused about the energy crisis? Who isn't? The obfuscation surrounding this "crisis" is designed to convince us that the blame for the huge increases in our utility bills is either the fault of the environmentalists or a shortage of power--or both. Some background to the controversy:

- In 1996, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), the utility company serving Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California Edison (SCE), pushed for deregulation. AB 1890, written with the "help" of the utility companies, passed both houses of a Democratically controlled legislature. Governor Pete Wilson signed the bill deregulating the utilities into law.
- Deregulation promised small consumers a 10% rate reduction and a multi-year rate freeze, to be followed by 20% discounts in energy rates. In return, the utilities received an opportunity to collect "stranded costs" which are monies ratepayers paid to the utilities to cover anticipated losses as a result of added competition. Between 1997 and August, 2000, consumers paid PG&E \$8.3 billion and SCE \$9.3 billion in "stranded costs." Between January and August of 2000, alone, PG&E collected \$70M and SCE \$560M in excess of the losses they incurred.

### **FOLLOW THE MONEY!**

- Another quid pro quo of deregulation permitted the utilities to issue "rate reduction bonds." These bonds allowed PG&E to raise \$2.901B and SCE to raise \$2.463B from investors. The bonds were guaranteed by us--the ratepayers. These bond revenues were to be used to cover the 10% discount to ratepayers in the future. Instead, PG&E and SCE used the money generated by the bonds to repurchase their own stock and invest in power generation facilities outside California. In other words, they got us to back the bonds they issued to raise the money that they used to invest in power generation plants in other states. They then further bilked us, the ratepayers, by using the plants (which we effectively bought), to sell electricity back

to us at obscene rates.

- Since 1997, PG&E reported record profits of \$2.6B and SCE of \$1.8B. Both PG&E and SCE made additional millions--\$417M and \$276M respectively--in unreported profits from their nuclear plant holdings between 1997-1999, a result of their own inflated cost estimates.



Medea Benjamin from Global Exchange at demonstration demanding Public Power Now.

The utilities essentially wrote and accepted the terms of deregulation. They collected huge sums of money, which they misappropriated for uses other than their intended purpose. Since deregulation, they have made enormous profits and they have funneled these profits to their parent companies (PG&E Corporation and Edison International) to enrich their executives and stockholders. Under the terms of deregulation, PG&E Corp. created the National Energy Group, which is their power generation arm. Thus the PG&E utility corporation buys electricity from its own affiliate, the National Energy Group, at the same exorbitant rates that outside suppliers charge.

Now, to the environmentalists. Aren't they are the ones who made it so onerous to build new power plants in California that we are

(Continued on page 10)

**STOP GAP SWEATSHOPS  
SUNDAY, MAY 6**

**12 NOON**

**AT FRESNO FASHION FAIR  
THE GAP CAN AFFORD TO  
PAY A LIVING WAGE!**



## LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Labor/Community Alliance newsletter is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley. We support the struggle for social and economic justice and believe that all workers should be paid a living wage. The Labor/Community Alliance is affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at The Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness at 6:30 P.M. This newsletter is published monthly.

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## EDITORIAL

### WHO SPEAKS FOR LABOR

By Mike Rhodes

The Labor/Community Alliance is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley. We are not controlled by our advertisers, the Central Labor Council, or any other special interest group. We are free to speak truth to power!

Last month's editorial in this newsletter and a similar letter to The Fresno Bee criticized Representative Cal Dooley for his vote in Congress which repealed ergonomic protections for workers. Dooley voted to kill the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's workplace safety rule that could prevent 1.6 million repetitive stress injuries a year. The editorial and letter to the editor also criticized organized labor for contributing to Dooley's electoral victory.

Don Hunsucker, president of the Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings County Central Labor Council (CLC) took the opportunity to attack the Labor/Community Alliance in the pages of The Bee claiming that we "give aid and comfort to the enemy" when we criticize organized labor. Mr. Hunsucker fails to acknowledge that Cal Dooley did receive significant support from organized labor. Cal Dooley received contributions from AFSCME, IBEW, The Ironworkers, HERE, and the Operating Engineers but not, we are pleased to report, from the CLC. You can check it out for yourself at the Federal Elections Commission web site:

<http://herndon1.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/fecimg/?C00236711>

We wish that the Central Labor Council would have simply acknowledged that they agree with us in saying that Representative Cal Dooley does not deserve organized labor's support. We are waiting for the day when the elected representatives of the Central Labor Council take a less hostile approach to working with grassroots community groups. We are hopeful that a time will come when the Central Labor Council will adopt the national policy of the AFL-CIO and join with community groups in working for a living wage for all workers. It is in all of our best interest to build a strong Labor Community Alliance that will advance the interests of working people and strengthen the movement for social and economic justice. In unity there is strength!

## Letters to the Editor

When I was a child the President of the United States was a person that children could look up to. Not anymore! A couple of years ago I had to explain to my adolescent children that just because the President committed adultery didn't make it OK. Now parents have to explain to their pre-schoolers that when they accidentally bump into a playmate and knock them down, it isn't OK to just say, "I regret that I knocked you down?" They still need to say, "I am sorry". What is this country coming to?

Yours truly,

Vickie M. Fouts

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Central California Alliance appreciates all of the many Labor/Community Alliance readers who attended the evening with Congressman Barney Frank. The diverse crowd of over 200 made for a very successful, high energy evening.

Unfortunately, our local Congressman didn't have the class to attend and welcome his colleague from Massachusetts and was it just coincidence that none of our city council members, county supervisors or local Assembly persons were able to demonstrate some Fresno hospitality?

Robin Greiner, Jr.

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After Reading for the first time the March 2001 issue, I felt compelled to write. The Labor/Community Alliance supports the struggle for social and economic justice. I take that part of what the Alliance stands for to say this: There is a large number of this state's citizens that are being deprived of their social and economic rights by this state's correctional department and the governor. Many from the Fresno/Bakersfield area. This large number I am referring to are those men/women who are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole.

Together with the correctional officers union the governor has appointed B.P.T. members with the mandate that no matter how long a person has served, no one gets out. So what I am asking is this: That on behalf of those citizens from the Fresno/Bakersfield area that you PLEASE contact the following and let them know you support their efforts on this matter:

Californians For Parole Reform  
P.O. Box 601772  
Sacramento Ca 95860

Thank you  
H. Dyson

PATIENCE  
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844

North Van Ness

Fresno, California

93728

559/442-3111

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





# PRESSMAN RALLY AGAINST FRESNO BEE NASTY TACTICS

By George Elfie Ballis

**E**arly 1990s Fresno Bee bosses sweet talked the pressmen into voting out the union. Within a couple years working conditions got worse and worse. Come 1998, the pressmen voted union again in the face of heavy boss pressure. The anti-worker pressure did not relent. The bosses fired 5 of the strongest union supporters and hired a professional anti-union law firm to stall negotiations. The issues are now before the courts and the national Labor Relations Board. On April 4, the fired and their community supporters showed up at the Bee to tell their story.



George Gunderson from the Carpenters Local 701 leads demonstrators in chant at Fresno Bee rally.

All photos by Mike Rhodes



Labor/Community Alliance speaks out for workers rights at The Fresno Bee.

Service Employee International Union Local 250 support Fresno Bee Workers at workers rights rally.



# MALL SECURITY STEALS CHILDREN'S BALLOONS

by Bob Fischer

In a political act as cowardly and contemptible as burning books, Fashion Fair security officers followed their orders from the Macerich Company in Santa Monica, and took helium-filled balloons out of the hands of several small children in the mall. The offending 14-inch balloons were imprinted with "Stop Gap Sweatshops" and "The Gap can afford to pay a living wage." The security guards made a mother untie a balloon from her stroller and hand it over, while her baby watched and cooed, bedazzled by the balloon's bright color. I watched, appalled, as a uniformed security officer slipped the loop off a small girl's wrist and took her balloon. The little girl just stared at him in wide-eyed, stunned silence. So, I asked the security guard, "Don't you feel ashamed doing that?" And, he said, "Yes I do. I have little girls at home."

The Labor/Community Alliance bought the balloons as attention-getters for our monthly anti-Gap Sweatshops demonstration. On Saturday, April 7th, demonstrators out on the sidewalk held bouquets of balloons, so people driving by on Shaw Avenue would notice our signs. Of course, when children saw them, they wanted one. So we gave some of them to children who were in the mall parking lot. But, when we saw that the Fashion Fair Thought Police were taking the balloons away from the children when they went into the mall, we stopped giving them to children going in (we didn't want to start them out on a life of crime, after all.) We continued to hand them out to children leaving the mall.

Here is the weird stuff: Fashion Fair had nine (Yes! Nine!) uniformed security officers and a half-dozen plainclothes store cops guarding the main entrance to Fashion Fair to prevent anyone from entering with our balloons. The nine officers stood in a line all the way across the front entrance, blocking every door.

Greg Dellfous, the head of Fashion Fair security said he had talked to the Macerich Company lawyer who said not to permit balloons with anti-sweatshop sentiments on them. Dellfous said, very explicitly, that it was a matter of content. It was not the balloons, it was what the balloons said that could not be allowed in the mall. He compared what the balloons said to profanity and racism. He said that Security would not allow people to walk around the mall wearing T-shirts that have profanity or racist slogans printed on them, and that security would make such an individual cover the shirt or turn it over. It was the same with our balloons. He said he would allow balloons with no writing on them, but not balloons with our slogans on them.



Anti-sweatshop activists display their dangerous balloons.  
Photo by Mike Rhodes

The store cops stood post at the front entrance for about an hour and twenty minutes. Glen DeVoogd walked his daughters up to the entrance of the mall where the Fashion Fair police were screening customers for balloons. It was a lesson for them on freedom of speech he said, and then he proceeded to lecture the officers on the right of Americans to speak to their fellow citizens, to speak out against injustice, and to express ideas that are unpopular with the authorities and the privileged. When he stopped talking and led his daughters away, the crowd that had gathered cheered and applauded him.

Another man came up to the entrance with two children. Each child had a balloon. When the security police told him the children had to turn over their balloons or not enter, he said he would not enter, and his family would never

shop at Fashion Fair again! That's very expensive to keep out an idea that is being handed out by the Fresno State USAS students from their table inside the mall! The same words: "The Gap can afford to pay a living wage." are printed boldly on the flyer that the Macerich Company attorneys approved for distribution from the table inside the mall.

More weird stuff: Dellfous wanted to know if we were planning on getting arrested on May 6th when we have our One-Year Anniversary Celebration at Fashion Fair. (That's Sunday from noon to two.) We said No! It's never our plan to get arrested. We don't want to be arrested! We try to avoid being arrested. Dellfous said, "Well, then I will just plan for the worst." I asked him what he meant by that, and he said he would plan for 200 arrests!

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

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Demonstrate against sweatshops on Sunday, May 6 at 12 Noon at Fashion Fair mall in Fresno
- Contribute to THE GAP 20 legal defense fund (C/O The Labor/Community Alliance, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno CA 93755)
- Come to THE GAP 20 hearings/trial at the Fresno Courthouse
- Buy, distribute, and show THE GAP 20 video (call George Ballis at 855-3710 for details)

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For more information about the GAP anti-sweatshop campaign in Fresno visit our web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm>

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# FRESNO LAWYERS BACK PROTESTERS

By Joan Poss, Stan Poss and Pam Whalen

Four local attorneys have stepped up to the plate to defend The Gap 20 anti-sweatshop protesters who were arrested a year ago at Fashion Fair. Patience Milrod, Jack Weisberg, Douglas Gordon, and Robert Hirth have dedicated countless hours in preparation of the criminal trial which has been scheduled to begin April 25. "It has been fantastic" said Gap defendant Lyn Jacobsson. "I have been concerned about how they could afford to donate so much time. I really appreciate all of their help."

"I had considered defending myself because I was concerned that the attorneys might try to curb our street actions in favor of the legal defense," said defendant Mike Rhodes. "But these attorneys understand that there is more at stake here than a narrow legal victory over the charges that have been brought against us. We are in an important Free Speech struggle and our ongoing anti-sweatshop actions at Fashion Fair are playing an important role in determining our success, both inside and outside the courtroom."



Patience Milrod defends anti-sweatshop activists.  
Photo by George Ballis

Defense attorney Patience Milrod has been on the forefront of the local struggle for justice since 1980. She has fought to defend her clients against police brutality and discrimination at work and in housing. Milrod says that her goal in this case is "to clarify the rules so that our clients will have protected access to public space to convey their important political messages and to bring the discipline of the Constitution to bear on entities powerful enough to have been foolishly arrogant."

Attorney Jack Weisberg originally came to the Valley in 1971 to work with a farm-worker organization committed to economic development in the rural areas of Fresno and Kings County.

In that organization he was involved in setting up legal services programs in the rural Westside, a health clinic, and community organizations. These efforts resulted in the first election of Hispanic members to the city councils in the rural towns in the west side of the Valley.

Robert Hirth, who has also donated many hours to the defense of the Gap activists, is on the local board of the ACLU and is a volunteer attorney for truancy cases for the School Attendance Review Board.

While it was an article of faith in the 60's and 70's that the law could be used as an effective tool in the struggle for social justice, times and courts have gotten leaner and meaner. As corporate power has increased its grasp on more and more public space - government, media, culture, etc, the fight for Free Speech becomes even more critical. The willingness of lawyers in Fresno to donate their time and resources is an invaluable contribution to the local movement. While building the movement on the street is always the first step in any efforts for social change, socially conscious lawyers have played an important historical role.

"Our four pro-bono lawyers have served heroically. They've worked far beyond the call of duty and we defendants would certainly not have been able to pursue our right to free speech without them," said Gap defendant Joan Poss.

# AMENDMENT I To the Constitution of the United States

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



Chie Abad, who worked in a GAP sweatshop, speaks to media at impromptu press conference in Fashion Fair.

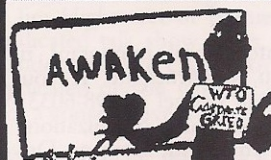
Photo by Mike Rhodes

## Celebrate • Inform • Inspire

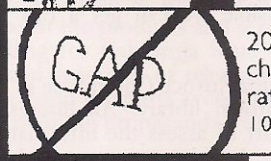
### ¡ACT NOW! Videos - locally & globally

SunMt produces docu-poem videos to vitalize our collective loving dance toward more harmony with ourselves, each other and Big Mama. Each poem is a chapter in our family story. Our family story can be told only by us - and financed only by us.

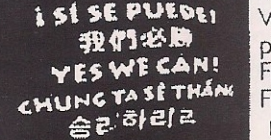
Herewith 3 samples. You can check these and others out by renting them from The Movies video store in Fresno. If you're hot to trot, buy them there or directly from SunMt.



Street theater, teach-ins, protests and civil disobedience shut down the Seattle WTO. 32 minutes  
\$30 for unrich persons and unfunded community groups;  
\$125 for all others



20 are arrested at Fresno's Fashion Fair challenging GAP sweatshops and corporate greed. 10 minutes \$20 and \$80



Valley union Carpenters rally against exploitation of workers and low quality on Fresno housing tracts. Demand action by Fresno City Council. 10 minutes \$20 and \$80

Checks to: SunMt, 35751 Oak Springs, Tollhouse, CA 93667 559 855-3710

Our schools need SunMt videos



# Calendar of Events for May 2001

**Tuesday, May 1 • 6 PM**

## **INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY**

Celebrate International Workers Day by joining with immigrant rights groups, unions, and community organizations. Stand in solidarity with workers worldwide and defend free speech at Mariposa and the Fulton Mall (site of the 1910-11 I.W.W. Free Speech Fight). For more information call 233-3978.

**Wednesday, May 2 • 1:30 PM**

Special meeting to discuss with City and County officials what can be done to prevent future disabled pedestrian deaths. The meeting will be held at Fresno City Hall in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street.

**Wednesday, May 2 • 7 PM**

Monthly Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meeting at the State Building in downtown Fresno. Call Ray Ensher for more information at 439-8140.

**Wednesday, May 2 • 3:30 PM**

Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 with your host Pam Whalen from the Labor/Community Alliance focusing on labor organizing, workplace issues, and immigration.

**Thursday, May 3 • 12 Noon**

Citizen Information Committee is a clearinghouse for citizen interest in Fresno City Commissions and Boards. If you are interested in becoming more involved in local government come to this meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Patterson Building in downtown Fresno or call Ray Ensher at 439-8140.

**Saturday, May 5 • 10:30 PM**

A much needed, long awaited, and greatly anticipated local progressive TV program will premier on channel 43/cable 10, right after The John Castle Show. Vincent Lavery will be hosting, with guest panelists, guest editorials, call-ins and lively discussion. Tune in and show your support for a progressive presence on local TV.

**Saturday, May 5 • 9 AM**

The Kennedy Club of San Joaquin monthly meeting at Denny's Restaurant at Willow and Shaw. Call Ray Ensher at 439-8140 for more information.

**Saturday, May 5 • All Day**

Sun Mt worker visitor day. Work party: arrive Friday evening with sleeping bag, pad. Tree pruning and mulching in AM. Sun Mt provides breakfast, lunch and free tour. Tour starts at 2 PM - learn about many solar & conservation devices - solar electric, water heater, passive air heater, composting toilet, etc. \$10/person. Workers & members free. Email [elfie@sunmt.org](mailto:elfie@sunmt.org) for map and reservation.

**Sunday, May 6 • 12 Noon**

Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Stand up for Free Speech. Rally with Medea Benjamin, Chic Abad (former Gap sweatshop worker) at Fashion Fair. We will gather at Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center. This is the one year anniversary of the arrest of 20 anti-sweatshop activists. Help make this the biggest demonstration yet. Call 226-0477 or visit the Labor/Community Alliance web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/> for more information.

**Monday, May 7 • All Day**

Immigrant Lobby Day in Sacramento. Local immigrant rights activists will be going and invite you to participate. If you are interested in supporting these efforts call Leonel at 498-6033. We encourage Labor Organizers and Immigrant organizations to participate in this Lobby day in Sacramento, with focus on Driver's License and In State Tuition. Is possible we can get a bus for transportation. inf. (559) 498-6033

**Monday, May 7 • 7 PM**

Meeting of the Central California Criminal Justice Committee at the Sarah McCardle Room of the downtown library. All interested people are most welcome. We will start to assess the information from the four forums that we have heard. Video tapes are available for anyone who wants to view them.

**Monday, May 7 • 7:30 PM**

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

**Tuesday, May 8 • 7:30 PM**

KFCF/Fresno Free College Foundation Board of Directors meeting at the Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook For more

information: <http://www.kfcf.org/> or call (559) 233-2221.

**Wednesday, May 9 • All Day**

Planned Parenthood lobby day in Sacramento. See story on page 17.

**Wednesday, May 9 • 3:30 PM**

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

**Thursday, May 10 • 5:30 PM**

City of Fresno Human Relations Commission will host the 2nd annual Peace Challenge for Youth Awards Ceremony, in the lobby of Fresno's City Hall.

**Thursday, May 10**

Centro Bellas Artes will be hosting a Mother Day event. Call 237-2783 for more information.

**Thursday, May 10 • 6:30 PM**

Metamorfosis Mantra Mama at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness. The monthly gathering of poets pays tribute to mothers on the traditional Mexican Mother's Day.

**Thursday, May 10 • 7:00 PM**

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

**Friday, May 11 • 8 PM**

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust presents a dramatic evening of original music and story-telling inspired by the Central Valley. Drawing on stories by William Saroyan and read by his nephew Hank Saroyan, the evening will feature music by Grammy-winner Eugene Friesen, new songs inspired by the villages of Armenia by Arto Tunçboyacıyan, and the virtuosic artistry of Paul Hanson and Philip Aaberg. Proceeds from the performance benefit the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust's efforts to preserve the San Joaquin River for all the Valley's people. Tower Theatre - Fresno, California, General Admission: \$25.00. Tickets are available at The Tower Theatre Box Office at (559) 485-9050

**Saturday, May 12 • 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).

**Saturday, May 12 • 9:30 AM - 3 PM**

The Fresno Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will host the Northern California Spring Cluster Meeting at Margaret Hudson's compound, 4247 N. Thorne (226-0431). This meeting is in lieu of the monthly board meeting. Contact Carol 229-9661 or Zay 227-2133 for more details.

**Tuesday, May 15**

Deadline for submissions to the June issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to [lcaeditor@mediacore.net](mailto:lcaeditor@mediacore.net).

**Tuesday, May 15 • 4 PM**

In conjunction with other abolitionist groups nationwide, Death Penalty Focus will conduct a demonstration and vigil in front of the Federal Building in downtown Fresno to mark the impending execution of Timothy McVeigh, which will occur at 7 AM Central time on Wednesday, May 16th, 2001. Call Maria at 255-9492 for more information. Email: [martel0000@aol.com](mailto:martel0000@aol.com)

**Tuesday, May 15 • All Day**

Community Hunger and Nutrition Forum and California Food Policy Advocates are sponsoring a busload of Fresno Hunger and Nutrition Forum folks on a trip to talk to our legislators in Sacramento about what we know about Hunger in the Valley. The group will leave Fresno at 6:30 am. Contact Edie Jessup, Fresno Metro Ministry, 485-1416 to participate in this Legislative day focused on assuring that there is increased utilization of nutritional culturally appropriate food in Fresno by people in need.

**Wednesday, May 16 • 3:30 PM**

Stir It Up! - "The Green Scene". Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM for a Green perspective on local environmental and social justice issues

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

and events and a monthly look at each of the Green Party's 10 Key Values. Please call 265-3647 to give suggestions for future shows.

**Thursday, May 17 • 7:30 AM**

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

**Thursday, May 17 • 7 - 9 PM**

La Pena Café at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness Ave. Featuring the music of Juan Jose Manriquez, Chilean musician now residing in the Bay Area.

**Thursday, May 17 • 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: <martel0000@aol.com> or visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

**Saturday, May 19 • 3 PM**

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

**Monday, May 21 • 7 PM**

The National Organization for Women meets for the monthly Business and Planning meeting at the Center for Non-Violence, 985 N Van Ness. Everyone Welcome! Free!

**Tuesday, May 22 • 7:30 PM**

Fresno Stonewall Democrats will meet at the Express Restaurant, 3075 N. Maroa Ave., Fresno, on the fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information see the article on page 17.

**Wednesday, May 23 • 3:30 PM**

"Stir It Up" WILPF-style on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

**Friday, May 25 • 5 PM**

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

**Monday, May 28 • 6:30 PM**

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

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

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS**

**Every Saturday • 1-2 PM**

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. Volunteers are needed to help cook food Saturday mornings, 9:30 AM at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, corner of Maple and Illinois. Donations of good or almost

good produce can be dropped off also. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 Or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

**Every Sunday**

Food Not Bombs cooks every Sunday starting at 10 AM at 743 E. Weldon Avenue in the Tower District. Food is served between 1 and 2 pm in the Free Speech area of the Fulton Mall. Volunteers are needed. For more information see their web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/>

**Monday - Friday • 9 AM**

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

**Every Tuesday 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. Please call Liza Apper at 559-229-6410 for additional information.

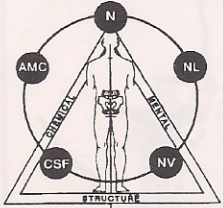
**Every Wednesday • 3:30 PM**

Stir it Up radio show on KFCF 88.1 FM. This show is hosted by a different progressive community group each week of the month. Listen for the community calendar, interviews with community activists and more.

**Every Wednesday • 7:30 AM**

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

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43/cable 10  
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10:30 PM**



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# Womens International League for Peace and Freedom

## MAY WILPF EVENTS CALENDER

### Sat 12 • WILPF Northern California Spring Cluster

Meeting hosted by the Fresno Branch. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Margaret Hudson's compound, 4247 N. Thorne (226-0431). This meeting is in lieu of the monthly board meeting. Contact Carol 229-9661 or Zay 227-2133 for more details.

### Wed 23 "Stir It Up" WILPF-style

Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM from 3:30 to 4 p.m with hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILPF SPRING CLUSTER MEETING

If you haven't registered yet for this fabulous meeting, please do today. Let's show the other branches what we're made of. Let our out of town sister and brother WILPF members meet you and see why our branch is such an exciting one of which to be a part.

The agenda is packed with fun and interesting things such as reports on local GAP protest actions by a few of the GAP 20 themselves, plus Elfie Ballis will be on hand to share his updated GAP docu-poem video. There will be a wonderfully tasty lunch, a tour of Margaret's glorious gardens and compound and the always interesting and inspiring reports of the different branches attending, the National Board report and the International report.

## CALL FOR NEW FRESNO WILPF BRANCH OFFICERS, OR, WHO NEEDS COSTLY THERAPY AND MEDICATIONS WHEN YOU CAN BE A WILPF BRANCH BOARD MEMBER?

It's that time of year once again where we like to shuffle the deck, so to speak, and get a variety of new people involved in our branch. Nothing helps a branch grow and flourish more than the ideas and inspirations of new people on the board!

Before you say "Oh, this sounds like important work and interesting good fun, but I just don't have the time," consider this: every current board member is in your shoes—we're all doing twenty or so projects each--so we have become very streamlined and efficient at our board meetings (once a month for only two hours, max!), and we discuss and choose carefully only the most important, relevant and timely issues in which to put our time and efforts.

And, don't forget, we have so much fun when we're together! Who needs costly therapy and medications when you can be a WILPF branch board member?

If you are interested or know of someone you think would make a fine board member, contact either Carol at 229-9661 or Zay at 227-2133.

## HOUSE BUILT BY WOMEN 2001

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

## STOP SMILING; YOU'VE BEEN FUNDING THE NMD

In the Winter 2001 Peace and Freedom (WILPF's national magazine), Felicity Hill and Soulafreda Valassis write a comprehensive article entitled "U.S. Militaristic Domination" in which they describe The National Missile Defense (NMD), and what it ultimately means for both U.S. citizens and citizens of the world. Since most of us have had the experience recently of "getting our tax check in the mail" to Uncle Sam, I thought you'd be interested in knowing where a good bit of your hard-earned community activist's dollars have been spent:

One hundred twenty-two billion dollars have been spent on Theater and National Missile Defense since World War II. Furthermore, the Pentagon believes that it would cost the American people \$26.6 billion dollars to maintain a single missile defense sight in Alaska, with \$4 billion dollars in annual maintenance fees. Each ballistic missile test conducted by the United States has cost over \$100 million dollars, resulting in failures for the most part. In total, the United States has wasted \$5.6 trillion in nuclear arsenals (7).

What's more, not only have we been funding these hideous death machines, we have been lining corporations' pockets and will, under this new administration, continue to do so:

Corporations, specifically Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, and TRW have the most to gain, about \$30 billion dollars a year in Pentagon contracts. Interestingly, \$35 billion dollars a year in "black project" budgets is spent weaponizing space without the approval of the American people or Congress! (7).

So, now that you absolutely, positively know where some of your tax money has been spent and where it will be spent again, will you consciously keep supporting this project of paranoia and destruction?



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

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



# FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

CENTER REPORT, MAY 2001

## A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME:

At its April meeting, the Board decided to amend our official literature to identify us as "The Fresno Center for Nonviolence dedicated to Peace and Social Justice". The change is necessitated by the number of people unfamiliar with our work who take us to be an agency dealing primarily with domestic violence. The use of "nonviolence" is being maintained partly for name recognition but also to signal our involvement with an array of issues (enumerated in our Peace Agenda) extending beyond the typical concerns of Peace Centers.

## TV OR NOT TV:

Our alternative media conference held in March spotlighted the need to reach out to new audiences through new information channels. The Center is now able to underwrite a new media initiative on KGMC-TV thanks to a generous individual donation enabling us to contract for their minimum requirement of four programs. (Previously we had been able to raise funds for only two.)

Thus starting on Saturday, May 5th, a new show in the spirit of "Stir It Up" will be airing on channel 43/cable 10 from 10:30-11:00 p.m., right after The John Castle Show. Vincent Lavery will be hosting with guest panelists, guest editorials, call-ins and lively discussion.

At the conference there was some heated debate as to the relative effectiveness and "bang for the buck" of TV, as opposed to commercial radio time (which is about one-third the cost) or expanded print journalism. The decision to produce this show--made feasible by a special offer made by KGMC--is meant as an experiment, not an answer to the questions raised. Tune in and help us decide if this is a good investment, or if there is a better option.

## THEN HELP US FUND WHICHEVER!

Donations made to the Center's matching grant fund (see separate article) will double your contribution and can be earmarked for media work.

## PEACE CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH AWARDS CEREMONY:

The four groups who have undertaken projects for our 2nd Peace Challenge will be honored at a ceremony in the lobby of City Hall on Thursday May 10 at 5:30 p.m. Hosted by the Human Relations Commission, the event will feature Pride certificates presented by the Commission on the Status of Women, cash bonuses awarded by the Peace Challenge coordinating committee, and project presentations by the youth. Refreshments will be provided. Your attendance will help recognize the achievement of these budding activists who have elected to "make it better".

## FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION:

As a FOR affiliate, we are proud to publicize openings for participation in their peace-building and reconciliation work in the Mid-East and Bosnia. Delegations to Israel/Palestine are scheduled from May 22-June 7; and again from July 1-14. (The latter will be led by Scott Kennedy, who spoke to us last year.) Other delegations will be dispatched thereafter on a regular basis. Also a one-time interfaith work camp will be held in Bosnia from July 1-18. For more information and registration, contact FOR at (845)358-4601; Box 271, Nyack N.Y. 10960; or <http://www.forusa.org> "programs".

## .....AND BEAR IN MIND:

Utilizing a grant from the Whitney Foundation, we continue to offer programs to educate teens about the possibilities for living less violently. If you know a youth group that might be interested, contact Richard at 266-2559.

Keep the afternoon of June 24th open for our 9th Anniversary Celebration, featuring our Way of Peace Awards of 2001.

## THE WELCH REPORT

April 15, 2001

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

To inform newer readers, this Report usually is based upon mail received at the Center for Nonviolence, which comes from other Peace Centers in California and various national peace and justice organizations, and which is edited. The purpose of the Report is both to inform and to suggest legislative action, especially through input to our legislators and to the President in Washington, D.C.

George W. Bush has not had formal medical training. So we probably should not expect him to be familiar with the Hippocratic Oath's precautionary principle: FIRST DO NO HARM. However, judging by the actions of President Bush and members of his Administration, they seem determined to turn that principle around by doing great harm to the public health standards and environmental protections, which Physicians for Social Responsibility and others have fought to establish.

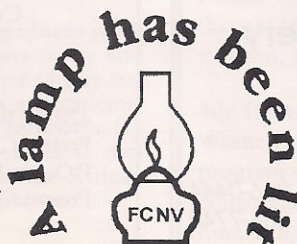
The Administration's plans to turn the Anwar National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska over to oil companies is the environmental issue which has garnered the most attention. Potentially despoiling this natural treasure to obtain an estimated few month's supply of oil is irresponsible. The big environmental picture includes toxic pollutants in our air and water, global warming, and dangerous chemicals and carcinogens found in the food we eat -- all dire threats to every species, including our own.

One of the first official acts of President Bush's Chief of Staff, Andrew Card, was issuing a directive to all federal agencies to halt implementation of a wide range of important food safety and pollution control regulations. The Bush cabinet and many members of Congress are working to make sure other urgently needed protections are never put in place. Further, the selections of Gale Norton to serve as secretary of the Interior and Christine Todd Whitman as EPA Administrator have set off alarms.

Behind the scenes in Congress and various federal regulatory agencies, industrial special interests that put their profits above our health are lobbying to roll back all manner of public health protections -- from blocking EPA regulations on the amount of arsenic in drinking water to gutting the Food Quality Protection Act. Decades of public health advances are now at risk.

It is not being suggested that President Bush should know all the details pertaining to public health issues such as how many parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic in water supplies put people at increased risk of cancer or central nervous system disorders, or which organic pollutants have been proven to cause human fetal defects and liver damage. But one can expect the President and all government officials to make our health a priority over the profits of chemical manufacturers, multinational petroleum companies and other special interests currently scheming to weaken public health standards, given the mass of scientific research on the dangers of toxins and warnings from reliable medical authorities.

**ACTION:** We can urge President Bush to preserve and strengthen present public health standards. (Source: Urgent Memorandum Physicians for Social Responsibility/National, Mar. 2001)





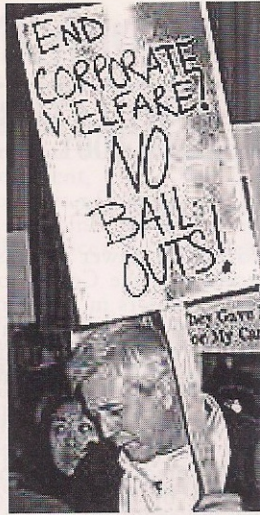
(Continued from page 1)

now experiencing a shortage in power generation? Challenging this utility PR myth, Severin Borenstein, an economist and director of the UC Energy Institute at Berkeley, says that no new plants were built in consequence, not of environmental restrictions, but rather of California's excess electrical energy capacity in the '80s and '90s! Even Pete Wilson unwittingly proclaimed in 1996, that California had a 30% overcapacity.

Following the money trail, we see that monies acquired from stranded costs, rate reduction bonds, and profits--reported and unreported--were channeled to the parent companies, while debts were left to accumulate at the utility affiliate. Now the utilities have gone to the state and requested a change in the terms of deregulation (i.e. raising the rates for consumers). Very recently, PG&E has upped the ante by declaring bankruptcy in its energy affiliate. This company has had a history of successful bailouts by the state of California. Why shouldn't they try it again?

This is a two-part problem. Thus far, we have focused on the Electricity Distributors, PG&E and SCE. The "who's who" can be confusing, since both PG&E's parent, the PG&E Corp., and SCE's parent, Edison International, also wear the Electricity Supplier hat. In the next installment--Electricity Wholesalers Manipulating the Market and How They Are Getting Away With It--we will look at the role of the Electricity Suppliers (Enron, Reliant, Duke, Dynegy, etc.). These are the companies charging the distributors the exorbitant rates that they are trying to pass on to us, the consumers.

To learn more, go to: [www.ratepayerrevolt.org](http://www.ratepayerrevolt.org) and [www.turn.org](http://www.turn.org).



Citizens demand no bail out for PG&E

## FROM THE RATEPAYER REVOLT WEB SITE:

### Consumer Groups' Two Pillars of Electricity Reform Re-Regulation and Public Power

California's electricity crisis is not a result of supply shortages; it is due to the design of our electricity system. To date we have provided the nation with an example of what not to do. We must do better this time. In the wake of the failure of the deregulation experiment, California must develop a system that ensures a reliable and reasonably priced supply of energy. Consumer groups, including FTCE, The Utility Reform Network, Consumers Union and CalPIRG have set out the following two-part plan:

Require PG&E and Edison to sell the power they generate to their core customers, homeowners, renters, and small businesses, on a cost plus reasonable rate of return basis subject to rate making by the P.U.C. This will stabilize prices for California ratepayers at lower prices than they now face and protect consumers from price gouging by out-of-state suppliers. The state should also provide Californians who are on fixed incomes, retirees and low-income consumers with additional financial assistance to help with increased electric/utility bills.

- Create a public power authority that will:
- Be authorized to purchase the electricity transmission system;
- Build, to own and operate, power plants on a cost of service basis;
- Institute "Integrated Resource Planning" to project demand and identify the appropriate actions needed to meet that demand. Resource planning includes conservation efforts, energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial consumers and the building of new plants that utilize renewable resources;
- Contract with companies operating existing plants for reasonable electricity rates or, if the companies refuse, condemn the plants and generate power from these facilities on a cost of service basis.



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# WEST SIDE STORY

By Nona W. Harris

**A**frican Americans uniting for life. I found this title in a brochure distributed by the National Marrow Donor Program. It also states that, "It is vital for African Americans to join the program and spread the word about the urgent need for volunteer marrow donors, based on the fact that some characteristics of marrow type are unique to people of specific ancestry." True it is possible for matches to be made from other ethnic groups, but the most likely match is African American. For more information contact the National Marrow Donor Program, (916)456-1500, Sacramento Blood Center. The same can be said of the ever increasing need for African Americans to donate blood.

As it stands now, only 5% of the American population is donating blood for the other 95%. I assume it's the same old story, everybody is waiting for someone to come forward. Our local blood bank receives most of its blood from WWII veterans and their families, who donate a pint of blood at least every eight weeks. As they age, their numbers become fewer with very few regular donors taking their place. With the population constantly growing so does the need for blood and more regular donors. A minimum of 6,000 donors are needed monthly to maintain a minimum supply of blood.

Sickle cell anemia is a blood disease prominent among African Americans. It can and does cause strokes, heart attacks, destruction of bones and damage to kidneys, as well as death. About 1 in 385 African American babies are born with the disease in California, and require up to four pints of blood a month throughout their lifetime. It only takes an hour of your time, from registration to actually donating. For more information or to donate contact the Central Valley Blood Center, (559)224-2900. The decision you make today could mean the difference of life and death for yourself or a loved one.

Something new has come to West Fresno. It is called the Montessori Teaching Method, and it is being developed at the King Engineering and Montessori Center. This method of teaching is primarily used in private schools. I am in the process of learning all I can about it so that I can answer parent's questions intelligently. I met with the teacher who is developing the program and visited the Internet. The Montessori method of teaching deals with all the senses. This program also involves parents who want to help their children reach their full potential. It was developed by the first woman Doctor of Medicine in Italy during the 1800's, Dr. Maria Montessori. She dedicated her life to improving the education of children, starting from the early observation that every child spontaneously wants to learn. The essence of the Montessori method can be described as; "All children have "absorbent" minds, and pass through sensitive periods; they want to learn; learn through play/work; pass through several stages of development." I have read and observed how children are actually taught through this method, and said to myself, finally a educational program that addresses the learning style of African American children. It is physical. African American children/people are physical and have had a difficult time concentrating when they are forced to sit still in classes.

Its emphasis is on cognitive and social development; it encourages self-discipline. They also learn own concepts; are able to identify own mistakes from feedback of materials. Can you imagine third graders learning to do simple algebra? Well, with this program it is possible, because they are exposed to it, and no one has told them that they couldn't.

The teachers are specially trained for a full year of graduate work for the three age levels; birth to three years, three years to six and six to twelve years. The middle and high school teacher ideally has taken all three training courses plus graduate work in an academic area or areas. This should eliminate the high teacher turn-over for this school. Two other good things about this method is that parents learn with their children, and it does not attack the African American culture negatively. Way to go, King administrators .

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- Yes, I will help distribute The Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter.
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## HEY FRESNO - CHECK IT OUT STIR IT UP!

Programs produced by local activists.

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

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

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

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

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



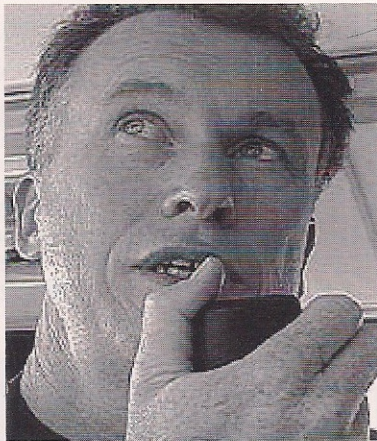
# Clean Air Dead on Arrival

by Kevin Hall

Any hope for less air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley will not be realized in the near future. Due to their pervasive influence at every level of government, blame for this failure can be placed squarely on the shoulders of developers, oil and agriculture -- D.O.A. Here's a look at some indicators that reveal the peculiarities of the mindset that places personal self-interest above public health.

Consider our own Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley. This trade group recently persuaded State Senator Chuck Poochigian to introduce a bill (SB 1066) aimed at undermining the California Environmental Quality Act. The CEQA process requires comment from state agencies, and the BIA has apparently grown tired of Caltrans' involvement. The agency has developed the annoying habit of pointing out the City of Fresno's negligence when refusing to assess adequate traffic impact fees from developers. The City is violating CEQA and a state law known as the Mitigation Fee Act, but in an Orwellian twist ("Ignorance is strength") the BIA and Poochigian seek to portray Caltrans as the violators for merely speaking up. Only in Fresno.

Speaking of traffic impact fees, some of Fresno's finest DOA dudes are asking for a \$13.6 million increase to a sprawl subsidy that already exceeds \$83.5 million. At issue is Freeway 180 East out of Fresno, slated to blow past Clovis Ave. as a six-lane freeway on out to beyond Temperance Ave. through four miles of countryside. Developers Kashian and Richards have designs on bigger intersections for bigger developments near Belmont and Fowler and want bigger dollars provided by the state and local transportation agencies. The Fresno City Council recently passed resolutions indicating its strong support for the request. Thanks loads.



Kevin Hall Speaks Out  
Photo by George Ballis

On the state level, the good Governor of California has "relaxed" the environmental review process for new "peaker" power plants. Twenty of these plants, which are supposed to operate only at times of peak demand, are being proposed in the valley. Mothballed in the 1970s, these very inefficient generators are being dusted off and retrofitted with new air pollution control technology. They generate less than 50 megawatts of electricity each, but the hope is that they can stave off a rolling blackout or two from the more than forty predicted for this summer. The cumulative air pollution impacts of these methane-dependent plants has not been calculated, but the long-term profits apparently have been. While the prospect of many of the 1,000 small diesel-powered emergency generators firing up during intermittent local blackouts is intimidating, the only real quick fix available is conservation, which has been growing by leaps and bounds. Californians reduced electrical usage by 9 percent this March over the previous year. What a gas.

And what has the federal government done for you lately? Nothing, and that's the problem. The valley's bump-up to severe nonattainment for ozone has yet to be finalized by the EPA and posted in the Federal Register. This violates the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 signed into law by then President Bush. Inaction prevents the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District from implementing stricter regulations. Stay tuned.

# CESAR CHAVEZ BOULEVARD

By Mike Rhodes.

After he was elected, Mayor Alan Autry of Fresno formed a task force to name a street in honor of Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers union. This comes several years after the city re-named Ventura/Kings Canyon to Cesar Chavez Boulevard and then reversed its decision. There has been anger and frustration in the Chicano/Latino community over this issue ever since. When Mayor Autry pulled together a group to look into this issue most people were optimistic that things were moving in the right direction. The task force started looking at Tuolumne street in downtown Fresno and received signals from both City Hall and the Chavez family that this would be an acceptable choice. The Chavez adult school is on Tuolumne and signs could be posted on highway 99 which would let thousands of travelers know that there is a street named in honor of Cesar Chavez (this was an important consideration for the family).

But things are never quite as easy as they seem. After Mayor Autry got the task force to sign off on Tuolumne Street, the UFW and a number of Chicano/Latino leaders objected to the street and declared that they would rather fight for 25 years for Ventura/Kings Canyon than to accept Tuolumne. The Chavez family has also decided that they prefer Ventura/Kings Canyon. Because of this opposition, the mayor has dropped his plan to push for renaming a street in honor of Cesar Chavez. Grassroots organizing is under way to rename Ventura/Kings Canyon - Cesar Chavez Boulevard. If you are interesting in helping in this effort, contact Grace Solis at 456-3934 or by email at galvaradopi@mediaone.net

The Labor/Community Alliance conducted an on-line poll of our supporters and found that most of them support re-naming Ventura/Kings Canyon in honor of Cesar Chavez. The vote was:

VENTURA/KINGS CANYON..... 37 votes  
TUOLUMNE.....10 votes  
OTHER..... 4 votes

Here are some of the comments from the poll:

\*\*\*\*\*  
Kings Canyon. Changing Tuolumne deprives us of another ethnic name — Indian. Let us not do the easy wrong thing.  
-George Ballis

\*\*\*\*\*  
Thanks for giving all of us the opportunity to respond. Given the tie-in with Cesar Chavez Adult School, I think Tuolumne becomes an appropriate choice. The school would likely get its postal location changed to the Cesar Chavez address. This would also help to unite the City while I think changing Ventura/Kings Canyon would be divisive to the community as it was in the past.  
-Howard Watkins

\*\*\*\*\*  
I would vote for the Kings Canyon/Ventura street naming since this is what the UFW and Chavez family prefer. Thanks for asking.  
-Teresa Espana

\*\*\*\*\*  
I've always thought that KC Blvd. was the most appropriate as it runs from the West side (Ventura) all the way East (ESF) through a huge portion of the Hispanic community in Fresno. Of course, City Council would prefer Tuolumne because white folks don't use it much and wouldn't mind much, so I think we should all hold out for KC.  
-Nancy Schultz

\*\*\*\*\*  
Absolutely, I think it should be Ventura/Kings Canyon. With Fresno's vast population of Latinos, and for the benefits we have all reaped in this community from his work, Cesar Chavez deserves to have this major thoroughfare named for him. I don't care if it takes more effort/money. San Franciscans went through the same thing with Army Street, having to change highway signs, etc., but they did (and I doubt that their Latino population is proportionally even close to Fresno's). I would consider the money well-spent on something

(Continued on page 16)



## What's wrong with the FTAA?

The FTAA allows corporations to bypass democratically adopted environmental or worker protection laws, increasing corporate power while endangering the lives of millions of people, disproportionately affecting women and people of color.

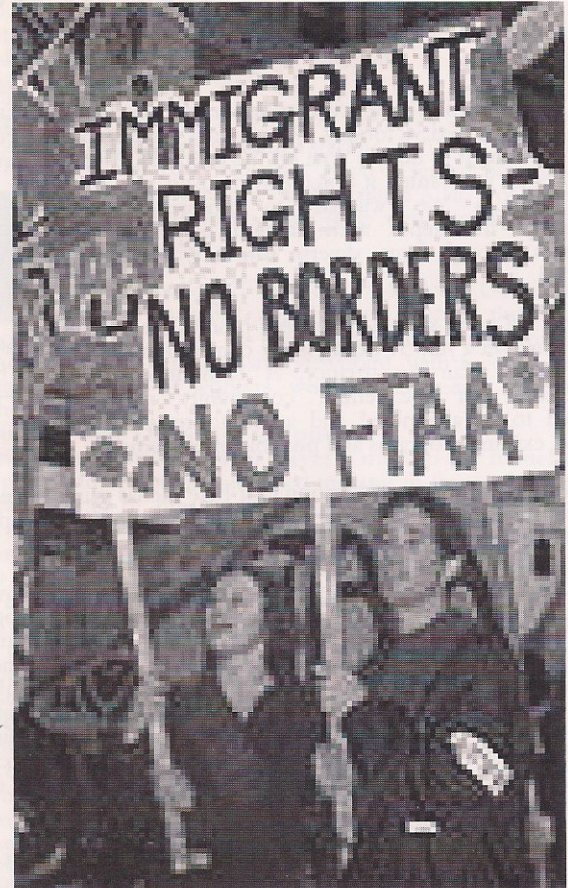
The FTAA threatens to commodify our lives by turning over the control of our schools, electricity, water, and food to corporations whose only interest is more profit.

The FTAA is being negotiated in secret. Initiated in 1994 by the 34 countries of North and South America (excluding Cuba), governments have included the business sector in FTAA talks every step of the way, but have kept the text of the treaty secret from regular people and their elected representatives. 50 members of the US House of Representatives have written to the Bush administration demanding that the text be released.

Can the FTAA be stopped?

Since the system corporate globalization hurts nearly every sector of society, it paradoxically offers the possibility of uniting broad sectors into a mass movement capable of not only stopping the FTAA, but creating radical social change. The history of the international movement against globalization shows the challenges, but also the possibilities of globalizing human need, not corporate greed. By reclaiming control over our daily lives through community and mass action we can overcome. The movement for direct democracy has already begun!

*STOP THE COMMODIFICATION OF OUR LIVES!*



## Nonviolence Center Announces Matching Fund

Board members of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence have good news to report. They have received from two very generous people, who prefer to remain anonymous, a \$6,000 donation provided we raise a similar amount. It will be realized immediately that we have the potential of receiving \$12,000 in much needed capital. We are setting ourselves a goal to reach half of the amount needed by our 9th anniversary date of June 27, 2001, with the other half being achieved by the end of September.

Will you help us meet this match so that we can announce happily at our anniversary celebration that we have reached (maybe surpassed) the halfway point to our goal of \$12,000? Please call Angela Price at 435-6383 for more information, or write your check to the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. Please note on your check that it is for "the matching gift fund". As always any donations are tax deductible.

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZER NEEDED

Critical Resistance is looking for a part-time (15-20 hrs.) community organizer to work in Delano, California on a campaign opposing the construction of a second state prison. The position pays \$15 per hour. Gas and lodging expenses are reimbursed. Candidates should be bilingual (English/Spanish) and live or work in or near Delano. Community organizing experience is helpful but not necessary.

All interested candidates, please fax resume to:

**Critical Resistance**  
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Oakland, CA 94612  
fax#: (510) 444-2177  
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# A CURFEW BY ANY OTHER NAME

By Kevin Hall

For the second time, curfew opponents filled Fresno City Hall and emerged victorious. At our first turnout in early February we sought to delay a vote on the proposal. At the next meeting in late March we wanted it voted down. And at both meetings we wanted to physically demonstrate the depth and strength of our opposition through large, diverse turnouts. We succeeded.

Now the real work should begin...but hasn't. The City Council set a July 31 deadline for completion of an action plan on truancy. A committee representative of the entire community is supposed to be assembled and asked to review the extent of the problem, existing programs and possible improvements.

However, Fresno County education czar Pete Mehas is in charge and as of mid-April, nearly three weeks after the vote, nothing has happened. That's a bad sign, and it gets worse.

Mayor Alan Autry has stated privately he plans to visit Monrovia and other cities that have enacted daytime curfews to learn more about their "benefits." Meanwhile, Police Chief Ed Winchester has announced a summer nights crackdown on crime focused on enforcement of cruising, loitering and nighttime curfew laws (i.e., anyone of color caught outside their homes after 10 p.m.). Mix in swing-vote Councilman Dan Ronquillo's odd reason for having voted against the curfew only because it was badly named, and it becomes apparent that this thing could rear its ugly head yet again. Remember, the council vote was only 4-3.

Picture this: right around the 4th of July a fireworks-backlit police chief proclaims the summer head-cracking program a tremendous success at reducing nighttime crime and suggests a similar daytime program

beginning in September. The mayor will have learned a new script filled with more effective images than that "young man walking down Blackstone with his hands in his pockets." (How about that young man being hauled out of the River Park parking lot in handcuffs?) And the good Dr. Mehas will have called no more than three meetings, probably only two, thus ensuring no real progress on the underlying causes of truancy.

The mayor, pointing to the schools' inaction and the police department's successes, will introduce a daytime anti-crime measure topped with a catchy title to pull Ronquillo back into the fold. "Wham!" That's the sound of a cell door being slammed in the face of Fresno youth.



Youth speak out against the proposed curfew.  
Photo by George Ballis

For further motivation, consider this. According to an ex-city councilman from Torrance, the immediate effect of that Southern California city's daytime curfew was the detention of hundreds of adult Mexican immigrant men, ages 18-25. The school district there had to call the police and ask them to stop. It's safe to conclude that police interest in the additional "tool" of a daytime curfew has little to do with juvenile crime or habitual truancy. It's too risky for many people of color to drive in Fresno, and now it would become unsafe to walk, bike or bus.

This flare-up can be prevented...with your help. Just make one phone call to Pete Mehas' office at 265-3010 and ask to know the status of the truancy committee. Has it met? What's the plan? Who's on the committee? When will there be a public forum? Ask to be notified of the forum, etc. Call today. Sixty seconds of your time on the phone can save many people hard time in juvenile hall or the county jail. Take sixty more seconds and call the mayor's office and Fresno City Council president Henry Perea, both at 498-1560, and ask the same questions. Now is the time. Please call.

## KFCF/FFCF BOARD MEETING

By Vickie M. Fouts

March 27, 2001

A very somber meeting it was. I felt like I was watching Mt. Rushmore. The board acted more like statues than humans interacting for the purpose of dealing with a common goal: the best for KFCF and the community that it serves. One member didn't say one word during the meeting. The air seemed thick with negative energy.

Attending: President Rych Withers, Ben Amirkhanian, Catherine Campbell, Bruce Kennedy, Deborah Speer, Rand Stover, Alex Vavoulis, Becky Wills, and Executive Director Vic Bedoian. Absent: Sari Dworkin, Robert Munce and Dixie Salazar.

The five guests were not introduced or welcomed. It was as if we were invisible. Rych did bring me a copy of a report he did on the issue of possible underwriting for KFCF and a newsletter from the Pacifica Campaign. He did not introduce himself or ask me who I was. None of the guests spoke during the meeting.

The President's Report consisted of Rych discussing a meeting he went to with KPFA. He discussed technical issues with interim-manger, Jim Bennett. Aaron Glace and Rych discussed having Aaron come to Fresno to put on a workshop on news programming. Maybe that means we can look forward to local news in the future on KFCF. That would be a welcome change. Rych mentioned the newsletter from Pacifica Campaign that is fighting the "corporation" of Pacifica. Rych also discussed audio streaming and copyright issues.

Next, we had the Executive Director's Report by Vic Bedoain. Vic talked about Foundation activities that are planned. That Friday

(Continued on page 15)



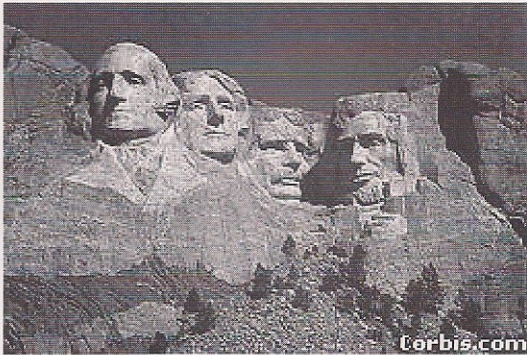


(Continued from page 14)

they were showing the video documentary entitled "YOU GOTTA FEEL IT". On April 29th at Club Fred there was food with blues and folk music at the "Gathering of the Okies". On May 2nd you can join others at Inter-Mountain Nursery for more music, folk and acoustical, along with nature walks. Tentatively, beginning July 8th at Club Fred you can see David Gans from KPFA's "Dead to the World" on Wednesday evenings. Later this year they plan on showing another video, "Secrets of Silicon Valley". Vic also mentioned that he had recently gone to a fund-raising workshop. I am sure he is looking forward to using what he has learned.

New business was around Catherine Campbell's previous proposal on possible underwriting for KFCF. Rych had a handout that he wrote regarding the pros and cons. This can be found on the KFCF website, [www.kfcf.org/](http://www.kfcf.org/) along with FCC guidelines. I recommend you take a look at it if you are interested in the proposal. You may also want to read the minutes from previous meetings that are there.

There was much discussion around the subject. Catherine said that they could develop a policy for small locally-owned businesses that would help KFCF with revenue and help the businesses with exposure. She stated that it would be "community building" and that they could come up with precise guidelines that could greatly narrow who could participate. Catherine's focus was on community. The others' concerns were on cost to implement and maintain



KFCF meeting reminds writer of Mt. Rushmore.

underwriting and possible loss of KPFA's vision of listener sponsorship. It was recommended that a group be formed to set up guidelines. But, no one volunteered to head up such a group. So, there was a motion to not accept underwriting at this time.

I wonder how things might have been different if the guests had been questioned on whether or not they would volunteer to work on a group to set up guidelines for underwriting. Could the listeners be asked how they feel about underwriting? What if the sponsors and listeners volunteered to implement the project, including FCC paperwork, billing and production of underwriting announcements? How many of you would be interested in putting more community into our community radio station by volunteering to participate in this endeavor? Hope to see you at the next board meeting May 8th, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

## THE LOCAL FAIRNESS DOCTRINE CAMPAIGN AGAINST KMJ RADIO

By Julius Rasmussen Jr

**K**MJ Radio has come to be recognized by valley residents as the "Radio Heartbeat of the San Joaquin Valley" when it comes to radio-broadcast weather, news, and talk shows. It's what people listen to going to, and returning from, work each day - not KPFA Radio! KMJ runs 11 hours a day (or over 220 hours a month) of conservative, right-wing ("fright-wing") Republican talk

shows and ZERO hours of Democratic, Liberal, or Progressive talk shows.

You would be hard pressed to find a foreign dictatorship with radio programming more grossly prejudiced to one side than that. What's more, KMJ's signal reaches from Sacramento to Bakersfield and from towns on the west coast to homes in the mountains to the east - literally many hundreds of thousands of potential listeners.

Most of those in the progressive community, however, have come to think of KMJ as just a station they don't pay any attention to any more because of its incredibly poor taste in programming and its propensity for bashing progressives and their ways of thinking. Yet, the Progressive community turns its back on KMJ at our own peril!

KMJ Radio gives free reign to the corporations that are decimating our lives in a litany of ways, including chemical poisoning of our environment and the re-engineering of the genetic structure of the plants and animals that we depend on for food, and then limiting our access to adequate health care as well. There is no real debate on radio stations like KMJ; there is no real opportunity for us to provide for our defense.

**For every hour of Rush Limbaugh or Michael Savage, we are calling for an hour of Jim Hightower or Bernie Ward**

If we can shake ourselves awake and come to our senses, we will confront this "Radio Heartbeat of the San Joaquin Valley" head-on and force it to return to us our fair share of broadcast time - which is no more than what is rightfully ours! While it is true that Viacom (Westinghouse/CBS) owns the KMJ Radio station, it's also true that it is WE who own the radio airwaves that KMJ must have access to in order to run the station. The radio airwaves are public property.

Admittedly, the Reagan Administration stripped us of our right to equal representation in the broadcast media by killing the Fairness Doctrine written in 1935. The Clinton Administration's Telecommunications Act give-away of the public airwaves further reduced our control over our airwaves.

With people-based community support, however, we can and must put enough pressure on KMJ Radio to force it to provide a balanced programming schedule respecting both sides of the political spectrum once again. That's why we call our campaign the "Local Fairness Doctrine Campaign." We are starting with live call-ins to the KMJ talk shows.

We ask you to call KMJ Radio (580 AM, Phone 490-5858) and insist that it provide a balanced schedule of talk show hosts. Preferably, we suggest that you get more than one person lined up to call in during the same talk show time slot. What should a person say when contacting the Ray Appleton Show or the Bill Manders Show? We, in the Liberal / Progressive community, are calling for KMJ Radio to provide an equal balance of talk show host programming. For every hour of Rush Limbaugh or Michael Savage, we are calling for an hour of Jim Hightower or Bernie Ward, who are both excellent nationally syndicated talk show hosts. For every hour of Ray Appleton or Bill Manders, we are calling for an hour of a locally-based or nationally syndicated person with a Democratic / Liberal / Progressive appeal (not a conservative Democrat or conservative Republican approach!)."

We also plan in the near future to run an all-out boycott campaign against the products and services advertised on KMJ Radio and we are calling for California State University - which is representative of a broad spectrum of religious and political philosophies - to disaffiliate itself and its sports events from KMJ as long as KMJ is a conservative Republican propaganda machine.

There are over 143,000 registered Democrats in Fresno County alone. The Green Party is also very much alive in Fresno. There is no reason whatsoever why we can't stand up for our rights in every category and on every issue! The ideal place to start and carry on the fight is with KMJ Radio - which is an aggressive arm of the corporate stranglehold!

Contact Julius P. Rasmussen Jr. at (559) 824-0989 or @ [jpr27@fresno.com](mailto:jpr27@fresno.com) for more information.



# LOCAL LABOR HISTORY - THE "LONG" VIEW

By Paul Jackson

In 1912, the year following the Fresno Free Speech Fight, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.), who'd fought for and won it and then moved on to fight for free speech in San Diego, also organized strikes in British Columbia. Legend has it that a Chinese restaurant keeper, who fed strikers, struggled to pronounce the name of the union, resulting in the nickname of "Wobblies." Creating an air of mystery ever since, "Wobblies" were asked to help in the 1913 Wheatland strike near Marysville, Cal., where they opposed the exploitation of farm workers, whose lack of adequate living accommodations is strikingly similar to that of migratory farm workers today. Writer Carey McWilliams believed that the system of exploitation of these workers—who are called upon, exploited, and then discarded when the picking and packing seasons are over—has been accepted by agribusiness since the 1920s.

Southern California feminist Clara Sparkes, in what she calls "the long memory," has written about the convergence of past and present events in labor and other social-justice struggles. Mainstream journalists refer casually to the anniversaries of landmark events in these struggles and social scientists give cookie-cutter labels to decades, but the impact of past events on the present is not so trivial. Its impact, says U. Utah Phillips (heard 5-6 p.m., Sun. on KFCF 88.1 FM), is felt no less than the oldest rock when it's dropped on your foot.

Seeing historical parallels in the struggle for social justice recalls the Long Memory, in which the past and present converge with each other.

**Private power, exploiting workers for profit, insists on making a clean getaway.**

The Fresno Free Speech Fight, which the Wobblies fought for the purpose of organizing the Valley's unskilled labor, was won in 1911. Though won so long ago, its memory lives on in the Gap 20 who, one year ago, were arrested while attempting to exercise their free-speech rights at the Fashion Fair Mall. Both groups of protestors spoke out for workers who could not speak for themselves, whether due to lack of organization or geographic distance.

In the retail marketplace—traditionally regarded as a forum for free discussion since the agora of ancient Rome—Fresno's protestors of yesterday and today have sought to overcome these insidious obstacles with a nonviolent appeal to conscience. Some of the details have changed—the Gap 20 didn't stow away on the train or stand on any soapboxes—but the essentials are the same. Private power, exploiting workers for profit, insists on making a clean getaway. The opposition, which unveils such exploitation and calls for it to end, has to be silenced, so that the retail marketplace can maintain its "customer-friendly atmosphere" and accomplish the exploitation without a defiant oration, either from a soapbox or under a picket sign.

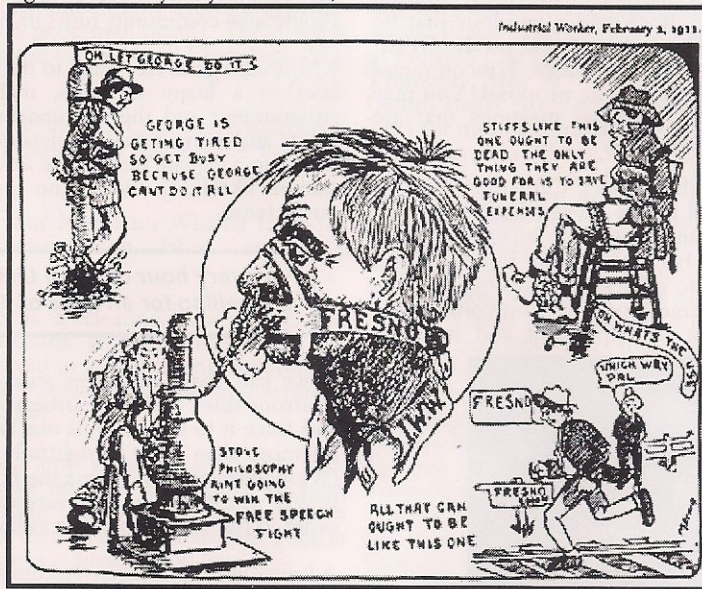
Lending the air of officialdom, the preferred means of silencing protestors is legal machinery. Though citizens of a nation priding itself as a shining beacon of free expression, Fresno's protestors of yesterday and today found themselves entangled in a legal web. In the Wobblies' day, city governments attained a status like that of medieval fiefdoms. Today, shopping malls, once regarded by the California Supreme Court as having ancient origins and as being one of free speech's last

refuges, have assumed a similar status—with privately-owned parking lots surrounding them like moats around castles.

In the name of keeping order, free speech is not to be heard anywhere in the marketplace where the products of sweatshop labor are peddled. A stylish, light-hearted, and spend-happy atmosphere is designed for consumers of such products, while any meaningful attempt to expose the horrid conditions of production may be confined to the exact "time, place, and manner" dictated by private power in so-called liberal California.

In terms of silencing the conscientious opposition, was Fresno's citywide ban on street speaking of yesterday so different from Fashion Fair's straitjacket regulation today? The details of yesterday's and today's stories may be different; but in McWilliams's words, "The plot never changes."

To those who continue the struggle for social justice, the Wobblies' dedication is an inspiration, especially because of their nonviolent approach, thanks to local I.W.W. organizer Frank H. Little, whose branch of the Socialist Party, begun in 1911, preceded the Labor/Community Alliance of today.




(Continued from page 12)  
that would make me proud of Fresno, something that would improve our "image", something that would improve our substance.

I absolutely believe that the right thing to do is to name Ventura/Kings Canyon for Cesar Chavez. Thanks for asking.  
-Joy Plummer

\*\*\*\*\*  
I would vote for Kings Canyon, mainly because of wishing to honor the Chavez's family's wishes, but also because Tuolumne, as I understand it, is an Indian name, and it seems wrong to rob the Indians to honor the Mexicans. We should have better choices than that. Honoring Chavez shouldn't involve requiring another ethnic minority to give up something. Thanks for the chance to comment.  
-Dixie Salazar

\*\*\*\*\*  
I favor changing Ventura and would think the current board might support it. Which Latino councilman would vote no?  
-Lloyd Carter



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# Freedom of speech with a beat

Reyna Gillet

**R**ecently I was introduced to a social event that consistently happens every month and offers an outlet for the whole community. The venue is a poetry jam.

Poetry Jams have been going strong in Fresno for quite some time. There is one that is held at Artes Americas, called Metamorfosis, which has been organized for two years. The coordinator for that event is Tim Hernandez. The atmosphere is casual, but the audience is captive, and allows for a personal setting.

The younger new voice being heard every third Tuesday of the month at the Starline, is Ahh Yeah. The wonderful woman who puts that on is Devoya Mayo. She is responsible for bringing about a newsletter highlighting the poetry community called "Jambalaya, an eclectic blend of thoughts and ideas" a Liberated Souls publication. In the newsletter they cover music and issues involving the poetry community. Ahh Yeah will be celebrating their one-year anniversary on April 17.

At the Starline you can recite your poetry over music that is enhanced by a DJ who spins the rhythm all night long. The setting is casual and dimly lit. It is open to all ages, but alcohol is served. There isn't a cover charge at either of these events, but donations

are more than welcome. You can also hear poetry while driving home. Tune in to 88.1 KFCF, Fridays at 5pm.

The young and young at heart are all welcomed to the mic. The microphone is never prejudice, nor is it wise, so get up and educate.

You can recite from memory, or bring your scraps of paper that hold your thoughts. I've seen all kinds of people step up to the mic to tell their stories. Disc jockeys, activists, feminists, thought provoking personalities, and people who want to share what they have seen and felt, all stand up and let their monologues ring true.

The messages are different, but always clear, and the people listen because they are intrigued and entertained. If you sit in the back you can slip out for a smoke, but if you sit in front you will be mesmerized, and nervous with them.



DJ Sleep of Beat Dynasty spinning for Ahh Yeah.  
Photo by Jen Zahigian

This is what Fresno's progressives are doing and are aware of. They come here to support their peers, mingle, and exchange ideas. If you

see a flyer for an open mic night, check it out. You will take the words to heart and home with you. I know that I was moved by the poets who took the stage, and wanted to pass it on to others. Poetry jams are good for the whole community. They bring business to the venues that hold them; you can pass out your literature, take the mic to promote your event, or just kick back and enjoy.

## Voting Booths, YES. Closets, NO. Silence, NEVER!

By Jay Hubbell

**T**he personal is political and the single most political act anyone can take is to be open and honest about their sexual orientation. The closet remains our single biggest obstacle to achieving our basic rights.

Because of the risks of being out at work and at home, closeted gays and lesbians are not as involved politically. Many are disconnected and do not share the important details and concerns of their lives.

The Gill Foundation [www.gillfoundation.org] reports that: 63% of likely voters say they do have friends or acquaintances who identify as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered). And even more important, across-the-board, issue by issue, non-gay voters, who are familiar with lesbians and gays report they are much more likely to support gay and lesbian issues, such as hate crimes legislation, employment nondiscrimination, same-sex civil unions, gay adoptions and military service.

**SECURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE  
REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR  
GENDER IDENTITY.**

The Gill study affirms that in changing hearts and minds, sexual orientation is the issue.

When we are in the closet, when we are not talking about our issues as they affect personal relationships, we are not educating the people around us. When we are out and open, we can positively influence the minds and the votes of those around us.

We must engage our allies. We are a movement of allies and we depend on supportive coalitions, partners and friends in the fight for equality.

The Gill Foundation study validates what we learned long ago from ACT-UP, that "silence=death." In politics, "silence=zero progress."

We are here and we are not going back. We are here and we will vote in droves. We are here and this time we'll bring our friends, our families and our coworkers to the voting booth with us.

The National Stonewall Democrats is the national organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Democrats, with over 10,000 members and 60 affiliated clubs across the country. NSD is committed to improving the record of the Democratic Party and educating voters about the vast difference that exists between the two major parties on issues of importance to our communities.

Fresno Stonewall Democrats will meet Tuesday, May 22 at 7:30 pm at the Express Restaurant, 3075 N. Maroa Ave., Fresno. Contact Jay Hubbell at (559) 292-4905 or e-mail hubbell@online.no for more information. All who are supportive of equal rights and justice regardless of sexual orientation are welcome.

## JOIN PLANNED PARENTHOOD LOBBY DAY IN SACRAMENTO

May 9th, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Sacramento

**M**With a pro-choice majority in the California Legislature and a pro-choice Governor, this year presents a unique opportunity to make progress on Planned Parenthood's pro-active agenda.

(Continued on page 19)



# CREATIVE FUND RAISING

## PLAN

*[For those not familiar with him, Phelps is the pastor from Kansas who leads groups around the country picketing gay men's funerals with signs about how AIDS is God's punishment, etc.]*

**A**NN ARBOR, MI - When the Reverend Fred Phelps came to town, the gay community here decided not to get mad. They decided to get rich. Among the Ann Arbor locales the Kansas-based Phelps and his band elected to picket was the /aut/ BAR, a gay-owned restaurant, bar and community gathering place. When co-owner Keith Orr heard that his establishment was being targeted, he wanted to respond constructively.

He and his partner, Martin Contreras, did not want to promote a counter-demonstration, feeling that Phelps gains the most attention - and hence is most effective - when he provokes anger and outrage from his opponents. Rather, Orr decided to use Phelps' visit to the community's advantage. Phelps' plans to picket the bar came to light only two days prior to his scheduled February 17, 2001 demonstration. With little time, Orr used the Internet to organize a unique fund-raising scheme. In an email message to customers, supporters and friends, he proposed that people pledge money to the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project (WRAP), a local gay advocacy group and community center, for every minute that Phelps picketed the bar.

In this way, Orr explained, the longer Phelps stayed to spew hate, the more money he would raise for WRAP. He and Contreras kicked off the drive by pledging \$1 per minute. Contreras explained why he felt it was important to organize a response to Phelps. "When I was first coming out fifteen years ago people told me, 'You've got to watch out for this so-called reverend from Kansas named Phelps. He's out to wage war against the gay community.'"

He had been showing up at funerals of people who had died of AIDS with signs claiming that gay people would burn in hell.

At the time he was just a blip on the radar screen. But when he protested at Matthew Shepherd's funeral, he became a national menace. "At the same time", Orr continued, "I didn't want to give Phelps what he wanted," meaning a counter-demonstration. "But just ignoring him seemed wrong." Only two minutes after Orr sent out his email message, pledges began to pour in, not only from Ann Arbor, but from as far away as New Hampshire, Texas and California.

**Orr said, "I just wanted to give people an opportunity to turn Phelps's message of hate into something positive for our community."**

The pledge drive gained such momentum that by the day of Phelps' demonstration - only 48 hours after Orr and Contreras kicked off the drive - friends and supporters of Ann Arbor's gay community had promised to contribute a total of \$107 for every minute Phelps picketed the bar. "When I began the pledge drive I wasn't necessarily expecting anything big," Orr said. "I just wanted to give people an opportunity to turn Phelps's message of hate into something positive for our community."

Even so, the size and speed of the response surprised him. "Normally a fund-raising event of this magnitude takes months of planning and a lot of up-front costs. In 48 hours we raised over \$6000 without spending a dime. I was astonished." Pledges arrived in diverse amounts and from a wide range of sources. They varied in amount from as little as 10 cents per minute to as much as 5 dollars per minute. "The great thing about this kind of fundraiser is that no one is excluded. People can participate at any economic level," said Orr. The range of contributors included neighboring business owners, a high school Gay/Straight Alliance and individual members of the Ann Arbor police force.

On February 17, the day of the protest, Phelps's band numbered only four adults and two small children. Instead of confronting the hate-monger's and giving them the attention they craved, over one hundred community members and supporters gathered in the bar on a Saturday afternoon, celebrating while they counted the minutes that Phelps's cronies stood outside raising money for Ann Arbor's gay community.

That afternoon WRAP Board member Linda Lombardini received one notable pledge. "A father and his young son were driving past the bar and saw the protestors out front," she explained. "The son asked his father who they were and what they were doing there. The father stopped the car and brought his son into the restaurant to demonstrate to him that gay people are no different from anyone else. When he realized that we were holding a fundraiser he handed his son a ten-dollar bill to give to me."

"We view this as a form of economic containment," Orr said. "Phelps is free to spread his message, however perverse we find it, wherever he wants. The First Amendment protects his right to do that. But we turned what could have been a negative into a positive. This has been an incredible community-building experience for us. "We hope that cities and towns across the country will do this everywhere he goes. I get a charge thinking that every time he hits the road he will help us build our communities and fund our organizations."

## Abuses:

### Farm Worker Survey Uncovers Health Problems,

*By Eduardo Stanley*

**T**he most comprehensive healthcare survey on the migrant farm worker population in the Central Valley paints a stark picture of the health of the population. Among the findings: only 11.4 percent of those surveyed had health insurance, yet a large number were at risk for chronic heart disease. In addition, the study found that the healthcare rights of the group were violated routinely.

The survey took three years to complete, and general findings were presented on March 13 in Firebaugh, a small farm town in the San Joaquin Valley, California. Don Villarejo from the California Institute of Rural Studies presented the results to an audience of farm workers and representatives of healthcare agencies working in rural areas. The survey was conducted by the Institute and sponsored by the California Endowment.

The survey was done through clinical interviews and included blood tests on 971 participants of Mexican or Mixteco descent (from the indigenous population of Mexico). Here are the major findings:

- Nearly 18 percent had at least two of three risk factors for chronic heart disease: high serum cholesterol, high blood pressure or obesity.
- 81 percent of males and 76 percent of females are in the "unhealthful" weight category.
- The level of anemia was significantly greater among this population than the average U.S. adult population.
- More than one-third of males and nearly 40 percent of females had at least one untreated decayed tooth. Half of males and 44 percent of females said they had never been to a dentist.
- 48 percent said they had been to a doctor's office during the past two years.

The survey also found that the workers were not completely aware of certain healthcare rights:

- Only about 30 percent knew about California Workers Compensation, covering those injured during labor. This insurance is mandatory for employers.
- Only 57 percent said they received safety training, even though a federal law requires farm workers to be trained on the subject.
- 13 percent said they don't have drinking water available to quench them on hot days in the fields of the Valley.

Isolation from health resources could have serious implications among migrant workers when confronted with contagious illnesses, Villarejo added. Participants of the survey complained that they face language and cultural barriers when trying to seek help. Oscar Sablan, a

*(Continued on page 19)*



(Continued from page 18)

Firebaugh resident, said that many social workers are insensitive to the population they are supposed to work with and even mistreat them. Sablan suggested social workers should be subject to sensitivity training.

Healthy Families, a government program which offers insurance to children in low-income families, announced during the meeting it would extend coverage to entire families, regardless of legal status. This directly addresses the fear among undocumented workers who do not seek medical help because of their status.

Finally, the audience brainstormed about possible solutions to these problems. Several organizations will seek to inform farm workers about future options and possibilities for them and the healthcare of their families.

(Continued from page 17)

Priorities for 2001 include:

- reducing teen pregnancy by expanding the highly successful male involvement program
- requiring the inclusion of sexually transmitted disease information in all sex-ed classes
- defeating a proposal to create a "pro-life" license plate in California

Federal laws protecting choice are already under attack by the new Administration. Establishing and reinforcing state laws is more important than ever. Legislators need to hear from you, their pro-choice constituents.

Pro-Choice Lobby day on May 9th, 2001 is also a great opportunity to see first-hand how the California State Capitol functions. There will be floor debates, committee hearings and information sessions led by Planned Parenthood on how to best influence the political process.

Lunch and bus ride will be included. Please contact Nancy Jessen at 559-488-4908 Ext. 316 to sign up.

# This Valley A Special Gathering

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust presents Eugene Friesen and Special Guests in a Benefit Concert.

## River Serenades Volume 3: This Valley - A Special Gathering

Featuring  
 Eugene Friesen (cello, voice)  
 Arto Tunçboyacıyan (voice, percussion, sazabos)  
 Philip Aaberg (piano, keyboards)  
 Paul Hanson (bassoon, soprano saxophone)  
 With words by William Saroyan - narrated by Hank Saroyan

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust presents a dramatic evening of original music and story-telling inspired by the Central Valley. Drawing on stories by William Saroyan and read by his nephew Hank Saroyan, the evening will feature music by Grammy-winner Eugene Friesen, new songs inspired by the villages of Armenia by Arto Tunçboyacıyan, and the virtuosic artistry of Paul Hanson and Philip Aaberg.

Proceeds from the performance benefit the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust's efforts to preserve the San Joaquin River for all the Valley's people.

**The Tower Theatre - Fresno, California**  
**Friday, May 11, 2001, 8:00 p.m.**  
**General Admission: \$25.00**

*Tickets are available at The Tower Theatre Box Office  
 at (559) 485-9050  
 Box Office Hours:  
 10:00am - 6:00pm weekdays / 10:00am - 2:00pm Sat.*

# Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Central California Region

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- ◆ Birth control
- ◆ Annual exams
- ◆ Breast, cervical & testicular cancer screening
- ◆ Pregnancy testing & counseling
- ◆ Prenatal care
- ◆ STD testing & treatment
- ◆ HIV testing & counseling
- ◆ Emergency contraception ("the morning after pill")
- ◆ And other reproductive health care services....

### PLUS HEALTH CARE FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY AT OUR FAMILYFIRST HEALTH CENTER

- ◆ Physicals for all ages
- ◆ Immunizations
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Headaches
- ◆ Sore throats
- ◆ Rashes

....and much more

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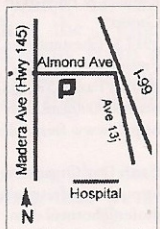
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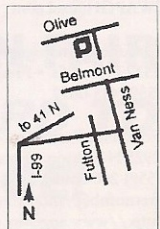
**Madera**  
 500 E. Almond, #3  
 (559) 675-1133



**Family First**  
 5727 N. Fresno St. #101  
 (559) 446-1515



**Van Ness**  
 633 N. Van Ness  
 (559) 488-4900





## Labor/Community Alliance

P.O. Box 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755

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## Progressive community groups active in the Fresno area:

California Latino Civil Rights Network  
2115 Kern Street, Ste. 103  
Fresno Ca 93721  
(559) 498-7000 • Fax (559) 498-7005

California Rural Legal Assistance  
2115 Kern St, Ste. 370  
Fresno Ca 93721-2100  
(559) 441-8721  
<http://www.crlaf.org/>

Community Link  
PO Box 4959 • Fresno Ca 93744  
(559) 266-5465

Community Radio Coalition  
PO Box 4555 • Fresno, CA 93744  
Cathoup@aol.com  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/crc/>

Critical Mass  
c/o Gene Richards  
(559) 497-0570 (Voice & Fax)  
gene1@cvip.fresno.com  
<http://govalley.fresnobee.com/262/>

Death Penalty Focus  
Families & Friends of Prisoners Support  
Group  
1917 S. Chestnut Ave., #13-G  
Fresno, CA 93702  
Phone/Fax: (559) 255-9492  
martel0000@aol.com  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

Earth Day Organizing Committee  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/earthday/>  
jhofer@hotmail.com

El Colegio Popular  
Cathedral Education Center  
2839 Mariposa Street • Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 441-7131 • Fax (559) 441-7155  
ctlearn@earthlink.net  
<http://www.citizenship.net/about/orgs/partners/ecp.htm>

El Comité No Nos Vamos  
1048 E Street • Fresno Ca 93706  
(559) 498-6033  
IWAPGH@aol.com

El Concilio Immigration Project  
1532 Fresno St. • Fresno Ca 93706-1627  
(559) 485-0679

Food Not Bombs  
2925 N Jackson • Fresno Ca 93703  
(559) 266-5305 or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas)  
fresnofnb@yahoo.com  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB>

Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional  
P. O. 106 • Fresno Ca 93707  
(559) 499-1178 • Fax (559) 499-1178\*51  
fiob@pacbell.net  
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/fiob/>

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

Fresno County Green Party  
PO Box 4501 • Fresno, CA 93744  
(559) 265-3647  
fresno@greens.org  
<http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

Fresno Folklore Society  
P.O. Box 4617 • Fresno Ca 93744  
(559) 229-8808  
ckj12@csufresno.edu  
<http://home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/>

Fresno/Telpaneca Sister City Association  
(Nicaragua)  
P.O. Box 4496 • Fresno Ca 93744  
(559) 226-0477  
clr2@igc.org  
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Lake/1441/index.htm>

Fresno Metro Ministry  
1055 N Van Ness Suite H  
Fresno Ca 93728  
(559) 485-1416 • (559) 485-9109 Fax  
<metromin@qnis.net>

Fresno Free College Foundation/Radio station  
KFCF  
P.O. Box 4364 • Fresno Ca 93744  
(559) 233-2221 • (559) 233-5776 Fax  
Studio Call-in Line: (559) 225-8888  
office@kfcf.org  
<http://www.kfcf.org>

Fresno NAACP  
P.O. Box 11811 • Fresno Ca 93775-1811

Habitat for Humanity  
P.O. Box 742 • Fresno, CA 93712  
(559) 237-4102 • (559) 237-1451 Fax  
habitatfresno@hotmail.com  
<http://www.habitatfresno.org/>

Health Care for All  
c/o Bill Young  
P.O. Box 515 • Auberry Ca 93602  
(559) 855-2438  
whyoung@netptc.net

The Justice For Children of Fresno County  
P.O. Box 8654 • Fresno, CA 93747  
(559) 292-4905

Labor/Community Alliance  
P.O. Box 5077 • Fresno Ca 93755  
(559) 226-0477 • (559) 226-3962 FAX  
lcaeditor@mediaone.net  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

League of Women Voters  
942 N Van Ness • Fresno Ca 93728  
(559) 268-8683  
david\_anderson@csufresno.edu

League of Mexican American Women  
PO Box 686 • Fresno Ca 93712-0686  
(559) 229-1289

The Living Room  
420 N Broadway • Fresno Ca 93701  
(559) 485-3667 • Fax (559) 485-3669  
livingroom@pacbell.net  
<http://www.aplacetobelong.org>

National Organization for Women (NOW)  
PO Box 4675 • Fresno Ca 93744-4675  
(559) 221-7229  
lraep2@juno.com  
<http://www.now.org/>

National Stonewall Democrats  
5965 E. Shields Ave. #170  
Fresno, CA 93727-8061  
(559) 292-4905  
e-mail: hubbell@online.no

Pan-Valley Institute  
1436 We Shaw Ave Suite A  
Fresno Ca 93711  
(559) 222-7678 • Fax (559) 222-7682  
mnateras@afsc-pmr.org

Parents & Friends of Lesbians/gays  
1343 E Barstow • Fresno Ca 93710-6399  
(559) 434-6540

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte  
633 N. Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728  
(559) 488-4913 • (559) 488-4940 (fax)  
vinh\_ngo@ppmarmonte.org  
<http://www.ppmarmonte.org>

Proyecto Campesino  
111 NW Third Ave • Visalia Ca 93291  
(559) 733-4844 • Fax (559) 733-2360  
Cbrito@afsc.org  
<http://www.afsc.org/pdesc/pd297.htm>

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5005 E. Belmont Avenue • Fresno, CA 93727  
(559) 455-5777  
etorresrb@aol.com  
<http://www.radiobilingue.org/>

San Joaquin Valley Coalition for General  
Amnesty  
1048 'E' Street • Fresno, CA 93706  
Ph./Fax: (559) 498-6033  
leonelflores@univision.com

San Joaquin Valley Exchange Works  
P.O. Box 3391 • Merced Ca 95344  
(209) 383-2030 or 488-6582

The Sleeping Bag Project  
4247 N Thorne • Fresno Ca 93704  
(559) 226-0431  
imajejan2@hotmail.com

St. Benedict Catholic Workers  
4022 N Cheryl • Fresno Ca 93705  
(559) 229-6410  
PaxOSB@aol.com

Stone Soup  
1345 East Bulldog Lane, Suite 4  
Fresno Ca 93710  
(559) 224-7613 • (559) 224-2981

Sun Mountain  
35751 Oak Springs Dr • Tollhouse Ca 93667  
(559) 855-3710  
sunmt@psnw.com  
<http://www.psnw.com/%E7Esunmt/index.html>

Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno Ca 93755  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/>

United Students Against Sweatshops  
(559) 875-0057 or (559) 260-2029  
GgabrieleF@netscape.net

The Wheelchair Project  
5205 E Washington • Fresno Ca 93727  
(559) 251-3814  
wheelchairbusproject@juno.com  
<http://www.WheelchairProject.org/>

Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom  
P.O. Box 5114 • Fresno Ca 93755  
(559) 229-9807  
geneb@csufresno.edu  
<http://www.wilpf.org/>