

WHY VOTE?

ELECTION 2002

By Mike Rhodes

How will progressives in Fresno and Central California vote in this month's election? Will the left have any influence in determining who our elected officials are or what propositions will pass? While the *Community Alliance* magazine is not making any recommendations in this election we are printing a grid to let you know which candidates and propositions "progressive" organizations are endorsing. Also included in this issue are the recommendations of local political observer Howard Watkins, who always has a thoughtful analysis of local races from a liberal/left perspective.

What I find interesting in this election is the emerging role of the left in Fresno and how the progressive movement is starting to have some influence. For example, take the Measure C issue. Five years ago this would not have been a debate. The movers and shakers, rich, and political insiders would have simply pushed this inadequate measure down our throats. But today, because of the leadership of activists like Kevin Hall of the Sierra Club and Mary Savala of the League of Women Voters, we are having a serious debate about mass transit, bike paths, and limiting urban sprawl in this community.

The Measure C debate is not the only encouraging sign that there is life on the left in the electoral arena. We have several good candidates for school board, City Council, and other offices. Before we look at those races, I want to preface this by saying that we will not have a level playing field until we have campaign finance reform. We must make it possible for good candidates to run for public office without selling their soul to wealthy donors and corporations. Secondly, we need to hold the candidates we elect accountable to a strong and vibrant grassroots movement. It is not enough to simply vote for someone and assume they will do the right thing. Grassroots community groups and individuals must stay involved in the political process and hold elected officials accountable for their votes.

Given this imperfect situation of how candidates are chosen and financed, let us look a little closer at some of the races on the ballot this November 5. The school board election has got to be one of the most interesting races in Fresno this year. There are four candidates who are a part of a slate put together by political insiders. This slate is heavily funded by Fresno's ruling class and endorsed by the *Fresno Bee*. Do we really need or want the corporate media, the rich, and politically

powerful to decide how we vote? I encourage you to look at the individual candidates in this race and not to give your support to the candidate who can afford the slickest brochure or buy the most time on TV. There are good candidates in this race. Luisa Medina (who is a slate candidate) has been active in the progressive movement in Fresno for a long time. She worked against the KKK when it raised its ugly head in Fresno, was director of Centro La Familia for years, and now works at Central California Legal Services. Pat Barr and Glenn DeVgood are running against a right-wing conservative slate candidate in Trustee area 7. Both Barr and DeVgood are progressive candidates that deserve your consideration.

There are races, like the district attorney race in Fresno, that are important: the results will have a huge effect on the community. Will the new DA pursue corporate criminals or seek out and prosecute the homeless for the crime of being poor? Will they prosecute activists in the needle-exchange program or waste taxpayer's money attacking antisweatshop activists who are exercising their First Amendment right to free speech? Maybe having a progressive DA is an oxymoron, as my friend Chris Schneider says, but everyone familiar with the legal system in Fresno who will talk to me is voting for Jeff Hamilton. There must be a reason.

There is good news in the City Council race where we have two good candidates—Gloria Morales is running against Cynthia Steerling. In addition to bring-

Continued on page 9



Peace Fresno demonstrates against the war in Iraq. See page 18 for details.

WE WON!

FREE SPEECH VICTORY IN FRESNO

Fashion Fair and the City of Fresno violated antisweatshop activists' civil liberties and have agreed to pay tens of thousands of dollars to settle the case. The civil action arose from a peaceful demonstration at Fashion Fair protesting The Gap's use of sweatshop labor in which 19 activists were arrested. In this important legal victory, which has just been settled, the Macerich Company (owners Fashion Fair) and the City of Fresno were forced to pay for all legal expenses and contribute thousands of dollars to progressive community groups to resolve the case.

The victory in this civil lawsuit follows the dismissal of criminal charges against The Gap 19 in October of 2001. Judge Hamlin dismissed all charges in that case saying that the protesters' "actions were Constitutionally protected." Fashion Fair and the City of Fresno conspired to violate protesters' civil rights and they have been held accountable for their actions. Community groups and individuals are free to hold protests at Fashion Fair, we believe that the Fresno Police Department will be more cautious about violating citizens' rights, and Fashion Fair has changed many of its rules and regulations, which will make it easier to hold future demonstrations. One of the rules they attempted to enforce against us said that they could regulate the content of a flier being handed out. You could not distribute a flier if it mentioned Fashion Fair or any of its tenants. How could you protest The Gap if you could not mention them on a flier? That rule has been changed.

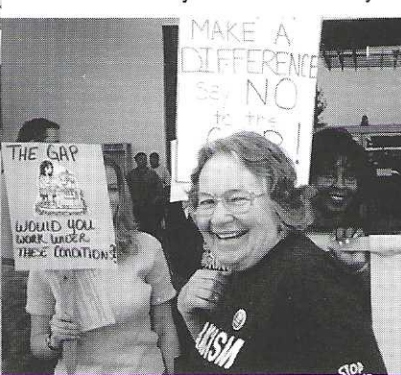
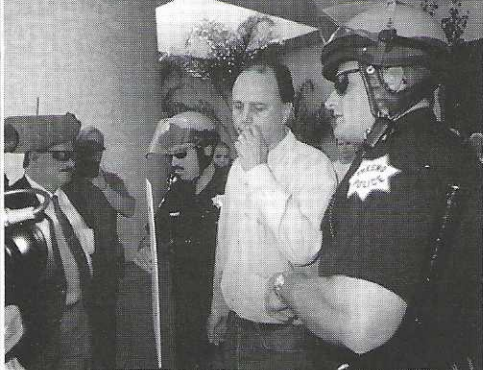
What else has changed? Fashion Fair can't legally arrest you for holding a sign or distributing fliers at the entrance to the mall. That is why antisweatshop activists and their legal counsel spent 17 months in criminal proceedings and then another year pursuing the civil suit. That time was spent so community groups and individuals will have free speech at Fashion Fair. We set precedent in this case that will have implications for groups struggling for free speech throughout California. Some of the legal strategy can be seen at www.fresnoalliance.com/home/legalstrategy.htm

We won this free speech fight for two reasons:

- The first is our excellent legal counsel. Patience Milrod, Jack Weisberg, and Robert Hirth worked endless hours researching the law, writing briefs, and appearing on our behalf in court. This victory would not have been possible without them.
- The second reason we won this case is our tenacity. I don't believe that the prosecutor or Fashion Fair thought The Gap 19 would invest the time and effort to prevail in this case. Why would anyone spend a year and a half appearing in court on a regular basis, be responsible for paying legal counsel, run the risk of paying a significant fine and serving jail time, when you could plead out and get 10 hours of community service?

Bob Fischer, a member of The Gap 19, said, "Sometimes the system works the way it is supposed to, but you have to make it work by standing up and being counted." Bob added, "Don't be afraid to do what you know is right — speak truth to power and people who love justice will be on your side."

The Gap antisweatshop project in Fresno has been an enormous success, due at least in part to the strategy of defending free speech rights. Just about everyone in this community now knows The Gap is connected with sweatshops. The support of shoppers at Fashion Fair and all of the horns "honking for justice" on Shaw during our demonstrations are evidence that this campaign has deep grassroots support. The campaign has linked students, faith-based groups, labor, peace and social justice groups, and immigrant rights activists. Working together on this issue has helped to build trust between these diverse groups. It has contributed to building a real labor/community alliance in this city.



The challenges of being in court forced organizers to be more creative about getting the antisweatshop message into Fashion Fair and the mall. The STOP GAP SWEATSHOP balloons got the message into the mall while security was still threatening demonstrators with arrest. The rent-a-cops started removing our balloons from the hands of children entering the mall but then realized that they had to change their tactic. That was going to be a public relations disaster. With the media on their way (film at 11!) they allowed the balloons into the mall. And when Tony Nocella and the Student Action Front decided to take the message into The Gap itself we all held our breath. Threatened with arrest the students held their ground and would not leave. The Gap backed down and allowed the protesters to stay inside the store where they handed out fliers, talked to customers, and held antisweatshop signs.

The discovery process in the criminal proceedings revealed that the Fresno Police Department had placed an informant in the campus antisweatshop group. This person had access to all email correspondence and this had a very disruptive effect on the group. Once the infiltration was discovered, everyone wanted to know who it was. Fingers pointed in every direction. Placing informants is an insidious form of disruption that the police use when they want to break up community groups. Unfortunately, with the Patriot Act and the Bush Administration's TIPPS project, this repressive government interference is likely to get worse. You almost have to assume, at this point, that the police are monitoring your email, attending your meetings, and trying to disrupt progressive community groups. We survived by maintaining an open and transparent process that was not engaged in any illegal activity.

WHAT'S NEXT?

With the settlement of the Saipan lawsuit (see sidebar story) and the local civil suit, the focus of antisweatshop work will likely change. The future of antisweatshop work will depend on what local groups are interested in doing. The focus may stay on The Gap or could shift to other corporations like Nike or Target. The ability of antisweatshop work to link diverse groups has a proven history in Fresno. I hope that a group like WILPF, the Green Party, United Students Against Sweatshops, the Center for Nonviolence, the Immigrant Rights Coalition, or a local labor organization like the UFW or SEIU 250 will use the work as an organizing opportunity to bring groups together to work on a common campaign. The project needs a group to coordinate the work.

One thing is certain: our free speech rights have been defended and we can continue to exercise them when and where we like. The other thing that is certain is that freedom is a constant struggle.

The state can't give you free speech, and the state can't take it away. You're born with it, like your eyes, like your ears. Freedom is something you assume, then you wait for someone to try to take it away. The degree to which you resist is the degree to which you are free...

—Utah Phillips

**Next Antisweatshop Demonstration/Victory
Party**
Saturday, November 2, 2002
12 Noon
Shaw Avenue in front of Fashion Fair

For more information go to:
www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm

FOR ANTISWEATSHOP ACTIVISTS, RECENT SETTLEMENT IS ONLY TIP OF ICEBERG

'San Francisco Chronicle' September 29, 2002 By Robert Collier

The anti-sweatshop movement, long a thorn in the side of such corporations as Gap and Nike, got a big boost last week when 26 major retail apparel companies settled a lawsuit and agreed to establish an ambitious system to monitor working conditions in U.S. manufacturing plants located overseas.

The settlement, agreed to by San Francisco's Gap Inc. and Burlingame's Gymboree Inc., established a \$20 million fund to pay back wages to workers on the island of Saipan in the western Pacific, and to create a system to prevent labor abuses there.

But the groups that brought the lawsuit, including San Francisco's Global Exchange, the Asian Law Caucus and Oakland's Sweatshop Watch, say they have a long way to go.

"While we have some significant victories like the Saipan one, companies at the same time are moving in the opposite direction, continuing to gravitate toward countries with as few safeguards for workers' rights as possible," said Medea Benjamin, founding director of San Francisco-based Global Exchange, one of the lead groups in the Saipan lawsuit.

In fact, most industry watchers expect Saipan to be abandoned altogether by apparel firms in 2005, when new World Trade Organization rules force the United States to abolish its system of apparel import quotas. Retailers are expected to switch their manufacturing outsourcing from Saipan and other relatively high-cost locales to China, where wages are rock-bottom, labor abuses are ignored, and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) is a compliant tool of the government.

"Saipan is just the tip of the iceberg," said Katie Quan, director of the Henning Center for International Labor Relations at UC Berkeley, which has worked extensively in China.

Quan said the challenge for activists and corporations alike is to develop relations with the Chinese regime, which sees antisweatshop concerns as unwelcome foreign meddling with its internal affairs.

"There has to be a process of constructive engagement, and relations have to be built with the unions in China," she said.

A small, but important, first step occurred late last year, when U.S. activists and Reebok Inc. forced one of the company's suppliers, Kong Tai Shoes in Longgang, Guangdong province, to allow workers to elect an independent union. The union is the only one in China not under the thumb of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

In fact, many companies like Reebok, Gap, and Levi Strauss & Co. of San Francisco have made concerted efforts in recent years to implement antisweatshop codes of conduct for their supply chains. This process has been spearheaded by Business for Social Responsibility, a corporate group in San Francisco that conducts training programs around the world for executives and factory floor managers in ethical labor practices.

In the past few years, at least 250 U.S. companies, mostly in the apparel, footwear, and toy industries, have created codes of conduct for their suppliers.

"Companies are starting to work more closely with their suppliers, developing management systems to make sure that factories take more ownership of the codes (of conduct) and that the changes are sustainable," said Debbie O'Brien, director of the group's business and human rights program.

She praised the Saipan settlement as "a very promising possibility" because it designated the International Labor Organization, a U.N. agency, to carry out the monitoring program. The ILO's unique structure emphasizes cooperation between the private sector, unions, and government, so it enjoys the trust of corporations, she said.

Another initiative is the Fair Labor Association, a consortium of major apparel and footwear firms and nonprofit groups whose worldwide monitoring system will become fully operational in January.

For more information about The Gap antisweatshop campaign go to www.globalexchange.org

[Editor's Note: This voting recommendation list is by Howard K. Watkins, a local attorney and active community member, who paid for this insert. He notes some of his choices are clear, others are close calls. Whether you agree with all of them or not, he urges you to vote in the November 5th general election.]

STATE

Governor
 Lt. Governor
 Secretary of State
 Treasurer
 Controller
 Attorney General
 Supt. of Pub. Instr.
 Ins. Commissioner
 St. Bd. Equal. #2
 St. Senate 14th
 St. Senate 16th
 St. Assembly 29th
 St. Assembly 30th
 St. Assembly 31st

GRAY DAVIS
 CRUZ BUSTAMANTE
 KEVIN SHELLEY
 PHILIP ANGELIDES
 STEVE WESTLY
 BILL LOCKYER
 JACK O'CONNELL
 JOHN GARAMENDI
 TOM SANTOS
 OPEN
 DEAN FLOREZ
 RICHARD MARTINEZ
 NICOLE PARRA
 SARAH REYES

ALL JUSTICES

YES

STATE PROPS:

YES ON 46-50, 52
 NO ON 51

FEDERAL

U. S. Rep. 18th
 U. S. Rep. 19th
 U. S. Rep. 20th
 U. S. Rep. 21st

DENNIS CARDOZA
 JOHN VEEN
 CAL DOOLEY
 DAVID LAPERE

FRESNO COUNTY

Supervisor 1st
 Superior Court #1
 Superior Court #16
 District Attorney
 Auditor-Controller
 Pub. Ad./Coroner

DAN RONQUILLO
 JIM OPPLIGER
 JOHN VOGT
 JEFF HAMILTON
 VICKI CROWE
 LORALEE CERVANTES

MEASURES

C NO; E YES

FRESNO CITY

City Council #3
 City Council #7

CYNTHIA STERLING
 HENRY T. PEREA

FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

POST #1

CHARLES FRANCIS

FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

POST #1
 POST #2
 POST #3
 POST #7

LUISA MEDINA
 TONY VANG
 RICHARD JOHANSON
 PAT BARR

N. CENTRAL FIRE DIST. SAUL ESKIN

**VOTE
 NOVEMBER 5TH**



**BRIDGES TO PEACE:
 ORIENTING FAITH TO
 PEACE-MAKING**

We are individuals from differing faith backgrounds who agree that the highest priority of religion at this historical juncture is teaching and practicing peace and reconciliation. We believe that the historical mission, specific teachings, and particular practices of religions derive their value from an overarching spiritual imperative to learn love, respect, and caring for all sentient beings. This orientation, based on our personal understanding of our respective traditions, often puts us at odds with many of our co-religionists. Recognizing this, we commit ourselves otherwise. Meanwhile, we find support from those allied through "Bridges" who similarly look for the universal, perennial truths embedded in the particularities of our various traditions. We have established "Bridges" as a vehicle for expressing our fears and frustrations; for locating others with shared perspectives; and for creating a prayerful space in which we hope to find direction for public action. We will hold periodic meetings open to the public and, between times, we welcome individual inquiries. For further information you can contact Jim Grant: 456-4121 jgrant@dioceseoffresno.org; Jim Compton-Schmidt 237-4749 anniebeth@juno.com; Richard Stone 266-2559 OUR NEXT PUBLIC GATHERING WILL BE: THURSDAY, NOV. 21, AT 7:00 P.M. See Calendar for location.

**MLK COMMITTEE PUTS OUT CALL
 FOR PARADE FLOAT ENTRIES**

Last year's MLK March was one of the biggest marches in Fresno history. With well over 1,000 marchers, the parade included large delegations of union members, peace activists, a high school marching band, and the first float ever: a garbage truck. The truck was included by the Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (with the cooperation of the City of Fresno) to symbolize Martin Luther King's support for economic justice and the Memphis sanitation workers' strike. It was during King's support for this strike that he was assassinated.

This year the MLK committee is asking groups to start preparing now for entering floats, marching bands, or other parade entries for the march in January 2003. Let's make this year's march even bigger and better than last year's, as we honor the memory of MLK and recommit ourselves to working for peace and economic and social justice. This year's theme for the march is "Let freedom ring for health care, affordable housing, jobs, and peace."

To enter your float, contact the MLK committee at (559) 226-0477.

Nonviolence Workshops

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is sponsoring two nonviolence workshops in November and December. The first workshop will focus on nonviolent conduct at public events and peacekeeping skills at such events. It will be held at the Center, 985 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, on Sunday, November 10, 2002, 9 am to 12 noon. The second workshop will be held Sunday, December 8, 2002, 9 am to 3 pm at the Center. This workshop will address conduct during civil disobedience. We are asking people to provide their own sack lunches, and the Center will provide drinks. The training for both workshops will be conducted by Liza Apper, Obl.S.B. Liza has been with Catholic Worker for 32 years. Lisa, her husband, Bryan, and their children founded the Catholic Worker house in Fresno in 1997. Liza has 20 years of experience in nonviolence activities and received her training from the Peace Bene Group. Diane Marks and Vickie Fouts will also do a presentation at both events on Martin Luther King's principles of nonviolence. For questions, call 23-PEACE.



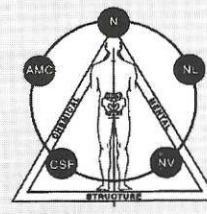
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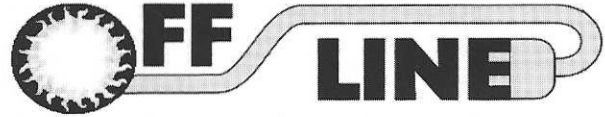
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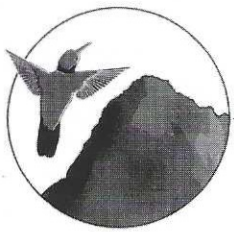
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FRESNO FREE COLLEGE FOUNDATION MEMBERS TO ELECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Fresno Free College Foundation is holding elections through November for its Board of Directors. The Foundation operates local listener-sponsored radio station KFCF, which is affiliated with KPFA and Pacifica Radio. After a 45-day nomination period, twelve Foundation members decided to stand for election.

After a member-approved change in by-laws the FFCF established a system to stagger the terms of board members. All eleven directors on the board will be elected this year. Those elected will be ranked according to how many votes each received. The four candidates receiving the most votes will have three-year terms, the next four will have two-year terms, and the final three in votes will have one-year terms. From now on, FFCF will hold annual elections with four positions open each election (in 2003 three positions will be open) and all board members will have three-year terms. In this way the Foundation hopes to provide continuity of experience with an ongoing opportunity for election of new board members.

The candidates standing for election are: Gerry Bill, Mark Hernandez, Bruce Kennedy, Sue Kern, Diane La Rue, Stan Poss, Leni Reeves, Mike Rhodes, Debbie Speer, Randy Stover, Alex Vavoulis, and Rych Withers. The Foundation will sponsor community forums for people to meet and hear from the candidates. KFCF will also present election oriented programming. In addition, the candidate statements and questionnaire responses will be made available to the public through the website www.kfcf.org and by request.

Two candidate nights have been scheduled: In Fresno on Wednesday, November 6th at 7 pm at the First Congregational Church of Fresno, located at 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.; and in Visalia on Tuesday, November 12th at 7 pm at the Creative Center, located at 606 Bridge Street. Radio programs are to be announced. For more information call the Foundation office at (559) 233-2221 or email vbedoian@kfcf.org

CA 8

KFCF has a new studio that is in the Fresno Tower District. The host and guest can talk in one room while the board operator, shown here, controls sound levels in a soundproof room.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno



Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

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

Sermon Topics:

Nov. 3 "Nothing With Our Everyday Lives" Speaker Bryan Jessup An election-time sermon about choices facing us.

Nov. 10 Sunday Services Sunday. 9:15 service only Speaker Ellen Gruenbaum. All church retreat weekend.

Nov. 17th "Let Not Young Souls Be Smothered Out" Speakers Bryan Jessup, Deb Borofka This service will be about supporting our youth and others as they tell the stories of their lives.

Nov. 24th "Taking Thought to be Thankful" Thanks-Speaker Bryan Jessup giving service with bread communion.

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

JOAN POSS GOES TO SOUTH AFRICA CONFERENCE

By Gabrielle Kirkland



With less than two weeks to prepare, a Fresno resident and activist, Joan Poss, embarked on a journey of enormous significance in South Africa. Poss was one of some 60,000 participants who attended the two-week United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, known as the city of gold. "I knew nothing of this only two weeks before we were going to go," said Poss. "And most delegates had been to other conferences and pre-conferences in preparation."

Equipped as a representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Poss took on the brave and overwhelming feat as a participant from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5. The environment and information that Poss experienced was simply overwhelming. "There was so much, it was exhausting," Poss said. "I couldn't get a feeling of [the summit's huge size] because everything was spread out all over the place. It was logistically very difficult; every day was different with choices and locations. I tried to stay in one location."

The summit was held in a wealthy "gigantic corporatized, commercial mall and some parts were five stories tall," said Poss. On both sides of the summit were the towns, Alexandra and Johannesburg, with quite a different picture. "Alexandra was the poorest township that made you just want to weep when you saw the landscape that was so devastated and poor," said Poss. "Johannesburg was just a shadow of itself, a former gold rush town with no water."

Beyond the physical setting, the summit itself offered an endless number of workshops, teach-ins, and speakers. Summit topics all centered on the "purpose of providing land for the landless along with air and water for the rest of us on a worldwide level," described Poss. "The conference was about that we cannot afford to use up these resources that we have," said Poss. "We must realize that water is finite and when it is used up, it is gone."

The summit was also some sort of follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. "At the real summit in 1992 nothing was acted upon," Poss said. The recent summit served as an opportunity to plan and strategize on topics and issues that were pertinent 10 years ago. Poss arrived in Johannesburg on Aug. 22 to join 24 other Americans who were part of a Global Exchange Tour that facilitates building people-to-people ties.

"The group's knowledge and interaction deepened and expanded the summit experi-

ence for all of us," said Poss. It was through Global Exchange that Poss was able to take guided tours and learn in-depth about the physical setting. "It was amazing how much we did," said Poss. "The age group was fantastic, from college age to 85 years old." A majority of the Americans stayed in bed and breakfast inns with a few in a hostel. The Global Exchange group were busy from 8 a.m. to nearly 11 p.m., each day for two weeks. This time included the summit, transportation, dinner together, and local tours.

Poss learned about corporations trying to privatize water by going into countries and taking over the water source. The residents are then charged astronomical prices. "This is happening all over," said Poss. "The first weekend was a most exciting teach-in, non-government organized Ethiopian dances, serious stuff, panels and speakers. Between it all was music," said Poss.

Poss participated in four demonstrations at the Summit. "The first demonstration had about 500 participants and the police threw in a stun grenade and the legs around a woman were burned," said Poss. "We started to run until we realized we were hurting others and then we stopped." Poss said one other demonstration started in Alexandra in the morning. The group walked eight kilometers to voice the right that "everyone has the right to electricity and water."

"It was all very peaceful, with a lot of singing and dancing," recalls Poss. While nonviolent actions were typical during the demonstrations, an army of armed police was close by. "There was a great show of police force," said Poss.

"There were easily more than 8,000 police, huge tanks, and military buses." Returning back to Fresno meant coming home to a country of bad habits. Poss recalled figures that around 5% of the population live in the United States but consume about 25% of the world's resources. Poss has been busy since returning Oct. 1 with speaking engagements and interviews. She looks forward to bringing more information to locals about the issues discussed at the summit.

Why Vote continued from page 1

ing gender and racial balance to the City Council, both candidates have pretty good politics. The other council seat is a little more tricky. You have Richard Caglia, who is supported by the Central Labor Council running against Henry Perea, a Democrat and the son of the current City Council member. Organized labor has never forgiven Henry (the father) for voting against the project labor agreement they supported and this legacy has carried on to the son. Will Richard Caglia, who is a Republican, be a reliable friend to working people? I would be surprised.

We don't have room here to elaborate on each of the races in this area but I certainly hope that nobody who subscribes to this magazine will vote for any of the Republican candidates who have only war and an economic recession to offer you.

Since Gray Davis is certain to win the governor's race, Green Party members and their fellow travelers can feel free to vote for Peter Camejo without anybody suggesting they are going to be responsible for Armageddon. If the Green Party received 10% of the vote, it would force the Democrats to look over their left shoulder for a change.

It would be an interesting development to see the Fresno County Green Party running candidates in local races and articulating a progressive vision in candidate forums and debates. There should be candidates who talk about social and economic justice, why we should not privatize city services, the need for mass transit, and how all workers should be paid a living wage. If the Democrats in this area are not able to come up with candidates who can inspire and mobilize the grassroots with progressive candidates, it seems likely that the Green Party will.

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS-CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES	League of Women Voters	Green Party of California	Central Labor Council	Sierra Club
Proposition 46 - Housing and Emergency Trust Fund. A bond measure to help cities and counties provide housing for seniors and low income families, emergency shelter beds, including shelters for battered women and children.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Proposition 47 - Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities. This bond measure provides matching funds for local school districts to add classrooms.	YES	YES	YES	*
Proposition 48 - Court Consolidation. Adjusts some language in State Codes to conform to the recent consolidation of Superior and Municipal Courts.	*	*	YES	*
Proposition 49 - Before and After School Programs. Increases state grant funds available for before and after school programs. Declares that funding for before and after school programs shall be above Proposition 98 base funding.	NO	*	*	*
Proposition 50 - Water Quality Projects. Coastal Wetlands Protection. This bond measure would fund state and local water systems and improvements to aging sewer and storm water systems.	YES	*	YES	YES
Proposition 51 - Transportation. Distribution of Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax. Reallocates 30% of certain state revenues to transportation programs including highway expansion and freeway interchange improvement. Allocates money to 45 specific projects and for the remainder specifies distribution percentages.	NO	NO	*	YES
Proposition 52 - Election Day Voter Registration. Allows persons who are legally eligible to vote and have valid identification to register to vote on election day at their polling place.	YES	YES	YES	*
Measure C - Thirty year extension of transportation bond measure.	NO	NO	YES	NO

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS-CANDIDATES	Central Labor Council / AFL-CIO	Fresno County Green Party
FEDERAL		
House of Representatives, 19th District	John Veen	*
House of Representatives, 20th District	*	*
House of Representatives, 21st District	Dave La Pere	*
STATE		
Governor	Gray Davis	Peter Comejo
Lt. Governor	Cruz Bustamante	Donna Warren
Attorney General	Bill Lockyer	Greg Mower
Secretary of State	Kevin Shelley	Larry Shoup
State Controller	Steve Westley	Laura Wells
State Treasurer	Phillip Angelides	Jeanne Rosenmeier
State Insurance Commissioner	John Garamendi	David Sheidlower
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Jack O'Connell	*
State Senate, 16	Dean Florez	*
Assembly, 29	Richard Martinez	*
Assembly, 30	Nicole Parra	*
Assembly, 31	Sarah Reyes	*
COUNTY		
Supervisor, 1st District	Dan Ronquillo	*
District Attorney	Jeff Hamilton	*
Superior Court Judge, #1	James Opplinger	*
Superior Court Judge, #16	John Vogt	*
Auditor / Controller	Vicki Crow	*
Public Administrator / Coroner	*	*
CITY		
City Council, District 3	Cynthia Sterling	*
City Council, District 7	Richard Caglia	*
Fresno Unified School Trustee #1	*	*
Fresno Unified School Trustee #2	*	*
Fresno Unified School Trustee #3	*	*
Fresno Unified School Trustee #7	*	*

* Indicates no endorsement or that the Labor/Community Alliance did not receive a recommendation in this race.

California Chamber of Commerce	American Association of University Women	California Federation of Teachers	National Organization of Women (NOW)	American Civil Liberties Union	California School Boards Association	United Farm Workers of America
YES	YES	YES	YES	*	*	*
YES	YES	YES	YES	*	YES	YES
YES	*	YES	*	*	*	*
YES	NO	NO	NO	*	*	*
*	*	YES	YES	*	*	YES
*	*	NO	NO	*	*	*
*	YES	YES	YES	YES	*	YES
*	*	*	*	*	*	YES

Sierra Club	National Women's Political Caucus - Fresno County	United Farm Workers of America	Fresno Teachers Association
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
Gray Davis	*	Gray Davis	*
Cruz Bustamante	*	Cruz Bustamante	*
Bill Lockyer	*	*	*
Kevin Shelley	*	Kevin Shelley	*
Steve Westley	*	Steve Westley	*
Phillip Angelides	*	Phillip Angelides	*
John Garamendi	*	*	*
Jack O'Connell	*	Jack O'Connell	*
*	*	Dean Florez	*
*	*	*	*
*	Nicole Parra	Nicole Parra	*
*	Sarah Reyes	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	Vicki Crow	Paul Dictos	*
*	Loralee Cervantes	*	*
*	Cynthia Sterling	Gloria Morales	*
*	*	*	*
*	Luisa Medina	*	Bill Riddlesprigger
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	Valerie Davis
*	Patricia Barr	*	Patricia Barr

PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Friday, November 1 • 1:30 - 3:00 PM

"Occupation and Resistance" (Slide show and discussion on the occupation of Palestine). This is a part of the Fall 2002 Middle East Forums at California State University, Fresno, which is a series of educational forums on U.S. involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. Speaker: Dr. Manzar Foroohar, professor of history, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, will be at the University Student Union (USU), room.

Friday, November 1 • 7:00 to 9:00 PM

All members of the Fresno County Green Party are invited to attend an exciting evening just prior to the election. The meeting will be held at the Carter Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church located at 3049 Mariposa Ave. in Fresno. We intend to get one of the California Green Party candidates for statewide office to attend. A business item for this meeting will be to get approval of the amended by-laws; a copy is available online at www.cagreens.org/fresno. Call (559) 265-3647 to request a copy to be mailed to you.

Saturday, November 2

St. Nicholas Ranch Conference and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California (45 minutes east of Fresno on Hwy. 180) will host a special retreat and seminar with Jim Forest, founder of the Orthodox Peace Fellowship. For more information about the retreat or to download a flyer and registration form, visit our website at www.stnicholasranch.org/retreats.htm

Saturday, November 2 • 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents BLUEGRASS INTENTIONS. This event will be held at the Fresno Art Museum. Tickets are \$20, \$15. Info 431-3653.

Sunday, November 3 • 1-3 PM

Lifetime Achievement Award Luncheon for Margaret Hudson at the Fresno City College Library - West Wing. \$15 per person. Call 442-8258 for more information.

Tuesday, November 5

Election Day

Friday, November 7 • 5 - 6:30 PM

"Bridges to Peace: Responding to Fundamentalism." Panelists: Ghassan AbulGhanam, Jim Compton-Schmidt, Jim Grant, and Richard Stone. This discussion is a part of the Fall 2002 Middle East Forums at California State University, Fresno and is the 3rd in a series of educational forums on U.S. involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. USU, Rm 308.

Friday, November 8

Fresno Filmworks presents John Sayles's *Sunshine State*. This film will be shown at the Tower Theater (Wishon and Olive Avenue). Tickets are \$8.50; \$6.50 for students and seniors. For more information call 221-0755 or email jkp21@csufresno.edu

Saturday, November 9 • 9:30 AM

Regular monthly board meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Election of new board and officers; planning all aspects of Center activity. The public is welcome.

Sunday, November 10 • 9 AM - 12 Noon

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is sponsoring a nonviolence workshop. This workshop will focus on nonviolent conduct at public events and peacekeeping skills at such events. It will be held at the Center, 985 N. Van Ness Ave. For more information call 23PEACE.

Monday, November 11 • 12 Noon

Reception for Rufino Dominguez, coordinator of Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional will be held at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness. Call 222-7678 for more information.

Monday, November 11 • 7 PM

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM: The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will honor our veterans, but not with a parade. They have invited a panel of veterans to speak their truth, in a program called "WAR: the rest of the story—veterans of war speak out on the real cost of war". Guest speakers from the San Francisco office of Veterans for Peace will join local panelists to discuss, from personal experience, the dismaying true costs of wars (even the ones we supposedly "win"). The event will be held at Health Sciences #100, FCC, and parking will be in the lot at Calaveras and Weldon. Guides will be on hand to direct you to the Health Science room if you are unfamiliar with the campus.

Thursday, November 13 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Earth Day is April 22, 2003, and will be held on the weekend before. Earth Day had over 1000 visitors this year and we hope to triple that next year. The Fresno Earth Day Committee is looking for volunteers. Help us raise this community festival into a music-filled arena of knowledge, where we all learn better ways to tread lightly and have fun at the same time. We need people who would like to give a helping hand with organizing, planning, and outreach within the community. We will be meeting at the Center For Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information call Sandra Guzman (559) 243-9338 or email zoie7@hotmail.com

Wednesday, November 13 • 7:30 pm

A lecture by transgender activist and managing editor of *Workers World Weekly* newspaper, Leslie Feinberg TRANS-LIBERATION: BEYOND PINK AND BLUE at the CSUF Satellite Student Union. The event is free, but tickets are required. Contact 442-4777 for information.

Thursday, November 14 • 6 PM

The Central California Alliance, in association with the University Lecture Series at Fresno State, CA 12

United Student Pride at Fresno State and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, proudly presents Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Warriors* in Fresno. Call (559) 265-7117 for more information.

Saturday, November 16 • 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents FAITH PETRIC the Fort Knox of folk music (87 years' worth) with Peter Kessler & Gail Fratar. Fresno Art Museum. Tickets \$12 & \$15. Info 431-3653

Friday, November 21 • 5 - 6:30 PM

"The Conflict over Kashmir," Speaker: *Professor Kathryn Forbes*, from the Women's Studies Program, California State University, Fresno. This discussion is a part of the Fall 2002 Middle East Forums at California State University, Fresno, and is the 4th in a series of educational forums on U.S. involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. USU, Rm 308.

Thursday, November 21 • 7 - 9 PM

Bridges to Peace III, a continuation of the process of bringing spiritual motivation from all religions together in the search for peace and reconciliation. This meeting will focus on sharing personal prayer as we seek direction for community action. Location: The Shrine of St. Therese Catholic Church, corner of Wishon and Floradora, in the Tower District. For more information: Richard, 266-2559.



BUY NOTHING DAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2002

Wednesday, November 27 • 3:30 PM

Stir it Up WILPF STYLE on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join host Gabrielle Kirkland and keep informed of WILPF's work in the community. Lynn Jacobsson will discuss her recently completed trip to Columbia as a delegate with Global Exchange.

Friday, November 29

National Buy Nothing Day. For more information go to: adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. They meet (every Sunday, rain or shine) at the First Congregational Church Of Fresno, 2131 North Van Ness Blvd at 1:30 PM. They have a great kitchen with stainless steel counters and everything. At about 2:45 they drive the meal downtown to the Courthouse on Van Ness Avenue. The meal is served in recycled plastic bowls on the right side of the main entrance to the Courthouse, at the statue of Martin Luther King Jr. Our meal lasts from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information see their web site at: www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday • 7-9 PM

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

Every Wednesday • 12 Noon

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

Every Thursday • 5:30 PM

STUDENT ACTION FRONT (the peace activist coalition of youth and students in Fresno, CA) meets at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information call 215-1423 or visit their web site at www.geocities.com/nocellat/studentactionfront.html

Every Friday • 4:30 PM

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

Every Friday • 4:30 - 5:30 PM

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

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

For more information contact Johnny Blaze at themodpoet@yahoo.com

Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The location for cooking on Saturday is the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 East Barstow Ave., between First and Cedar starting at 9AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Bicycle repair clinic same time and place as Food Not Bombs, sponsored by the Fresno Bicycle Coalition. Need volunteer mechanics and "apprentices" every Saturday. Visit the Food Not Bombs website at: www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/

Every Sunday • 12:30 - 2 PM

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

Clearing the Air: The Deeper You Dig

By Kevin Hall

Here in the central San Joaquin Valley we should all be forced to memorize the first rule of holes: when you're in one, stop digging. Unfortunately, those who profit from sprawl are digging as furiously as they can. In southeast Fresno the dust and diesel has begun to fly on 180 East, while up 41 North in Madera County, they've taken another step closer to creating Fresno's biggest suburb. And the greenwash campaign in support of Measure 'C' - the mother of all sprawl subsidies — continues to grow more shrill. But there's hope. We've been doing some digging of our own, and last month the California Clean Air Campaign coalition filed its latest and perhaps most important lawsuit yet. Read on.

Earthjustice Unearths

Our clean air coalition has four sturdy legs: Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, Latino Issues Forum, Sierra Club and Earthjustice. Since forming less than two years ago we've filed three lawsuits (one against the valley air district and two against EPA) and won all of them without ever going to trial. Our air district and the EPA are so derelict that their violations of the Clean Air Act are simply indefensible. The challenge for our coalition has been to impede the agencies' ongoing illegal acts while digging into the record of more than a decade of abuse.

Well, earlier this year Earthjustice did some serious digging and came up with a big one. They used a shovel known as the Freedom of Information Act and requested all correspondence between the federal EPA and the State of California. At the bottom of this hole was a document they no doubt hoped would never see the light of day: a Nov. 1991 (yes, 1991) letter from EPA to the state notifying them that the valley had failed to submit a complete attainment plan for particulate matter (i.e., dust, soot and engine emissions). Such notice should have set in motion an 18-month effort to draft and submit a workable plan. It didn't. Six and twelve months later the EPA should have imposed sanctions,

including a freezing of federal highway dollars. They didn't. Another six months later the EPA should have stepped in and implemented a federal implementation plan. Obviously, they didn't. The district submitted a second incomplete attainment plan in 1997. It failed in 2001. More sanctions should have kicked in then, and were about to thanks to one of our earlier lawsuits, but the air district officially withdrew the plan and pushed back the sanctions until late 2003. That's a full decade after EPA was supposed to have stepped in and taken over. Deep in that hole we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place: an air district unwilling to impose the measures required to ever meet the particulate air quality standard, and EPA's refusal to take the actions necessary to compel the preparation of that plan. We're suing to break the stalemate and get the process moving forward.

Medical studies have shown that particulate matter is the most deadly form of air pollution. Not only does it exacerbate asthma attacks and respiratory disease, its particles are small enough to enter the bloodstream, causing heart attacks and accelerating death from all causes. The major sources of particulate matter pollution in the valley are unpaved roads, farming operations, paved road dust, windblown dust, waste burning and disposal, construction and demolition, industrial processes, fuel combustion, and mobile sources (cars, trucks, and buses). Emissions of particulates in the valley have increased steadily since 1975 to among the worst in the nation and are predicted to continue increasing through 2010. A copy of the lawsuit is available online at www.earthjustice.org.

121 and Counting

The other half of the valley pollution pill is ozone. The level of exposure known to damage human health is reflected in a reading based on an eight-hour average of the highest levels in a day. As of presstime, the valley had recorded 121 days above the safety level. That's the worst year in the history of the air district and the fourth year in a row that we've topped the L.A.-Riverside air district, which had 98 days for the same period. Beat It, Kid. CalTrans held a macabre little public meeting at Turner Elementary in mid-October to discuss safety issues with parents and students. I attended and asked about health impacts during construction. They had no information and no plan. Turner sits right next to the construction zone at Peach Ave., which is being widened by the city, and CalTrans to six lanes on the west side of the school. It doesn't get any worse.

If Pigs Could Fly

The Farm Bureau lost a round in its battle to turn back a coalition victory against EPA, which for the last 12 years has been ignoring an illegal state exemption for farms from air pollution regulation. In their argument the farm bureau maintained that the massive waste lagoons of concentrated animal feeding operations (mega-dairies and livestock feedlots) aren't stationary sources. Instead, they argued, the CAFOs are like freeways and the cows are like cars (indirect, mobile sources) and are thus exempt from stationary source permit requirements. "Mooooo," says the car.

Gateway to Sprawl

How about 64,000 people in a "village" across the San Joaquin River from Fresno? In a classic example of "planning by three" (votes), three of Madera County's five-member board of supes in cahoots with Castle & Cook thinks that would be just fine, including the Supervisor Ronn Dominici who also serves as vice chair of the valley air district board. Now there's a big shovel.

'C' You Soon

If this thing passes on Nov. 5 the valley cannot possibly achieve the ozone standard by 2010 — or 2020 for that matter. Call and email anyone you know NOW and urge them to vote NO on MEASURE C. It's going to be a close one. (Kevin Hall is the Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter's chair for transportation, air quality and global warming. To learn more about the air we breathe and the California Clean Air Campaign, please visit www.calcleanair.org.)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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

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

Desi Cortez, Newsletter Editor, contact at 559.907.2200 or email at desicortez@cviip.net.

WILPF Fresno Events November-December 7th

Monday, Oct. 28th 7 pm: Peace Community Craft Faire Organization Meeting at Carol Bequette's home. Help is needed for our biggest fundraiser of the year. We need volunteers to coordinate vendors, raffle sales, silent auction, white elephant booth, and provide food for sale, entertainment, kitchen and serving duties, set-up and clean-up. Call Desi to volunteer and/or Carol at 229.9661 or email at cbequette@aol.com for meeting location directions.

Sunday, Nov. 3rd: Honoring Margaret Hudson at Fresno City College's Art Space Gallery. Join in this event and recognize Margaret's many years of art and community involvement.

Monday, Nov. 11th 7-9 pm: WILPF Fresno Board Meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (FCNV), 985 N. Van Ness. All are invited to attend these meetings. Contact Vickie at 658-8260 or email vmfout1@sti.net.

Wednesday, Nov 27th 3:30-4:00 pm: Stir It Up! Join Gabrielle Kirkland and keep apprised of WILPF's work in the community. This month Lynn Jacobsson will discuss the conditions she will witness during her just-completed Colombia trip.

Saturday, Dec. 7th 10 am – 4 pm: Peace Community Craft Faire located at the First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., between Clinton & McKinley. We need volunteers, raffle, white elephant and silent auction items, soup, bread, and dessert providers. Call Desi at the number listed at the header to help out.

On hold until further notice – Women In Black. Due to lack of strong participation, participants will be reexamining the time and location for this action.

THE NEWS

Corporate Personhood Study Group

Corporations cannot be prevented from contributing to political campaigns. Corporate personhood means that any restraints on campaign contributions represent an abridgment of corporate rights to free speech. That is why we see such enormous amounts of money to candidates from corporations. You and I with very limited resources do not have the power to contribute amounts that PACs do. Money buys access to our legislators whether they are state or federal representatives. WE must abolish corporate personhood. For info www.corpwatch.org.

Senator Byrd's Response to The Grassroots Feedback He Received:

"I have heard from tens of thousands of Americans people from all across this country of ours who have urged me to keep up the fight. I am only one Senator from a small state, yet in the past week I have received nearly 20,000 telephone calls and nearly 50,000 e-mails supporting my position.

I want all of those people across America who took the time to contact me to know how their words have heartened me and sustained me in my efforts to turn the tide of opinion in the Senate. They are my heroes, and I will never forget the remarkable courage and patriotism that reverberated in the fervor of their messages." (From byrd.senate.gov/byrd_newsroom/byrd_news_oct2002/rls_oct2002/rls_oct2002_3.html)

WILPF members, call (or e-mail) Senator Byrd and Barbara Boxer to thank them for not capitulating to Bush.

MEETING ACTIONS & EVENTS IN THE WORKS –

- As part of WILPF's campaign Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration, and Reconciliation on 9/11, Fresno WILPF presented the Fresno Unified School (FUSD) Board with personal copies of the book, *And Don't Call Me A Racist!, A Treasury Of Quotes On The Past, Present, And Future Of The Color Line In America* by Ella Mazel. WILPF delivered ninety-two of the books to the district for secondary school students thanks to a grant received by the author earlier in the month. Vickie Fouts, with the moral support of Joyce Huggins, made the presentation to the Board. The Board then presented WILPF with a plaque of appreciation and Vickie and Joyce with a lapel pin, "I Make A Difference."
- In response to WILPF's goal of reaching young people, WILPF has joined with CSUF's Peace and Conflict Studies (PAX) program. On 10/10, Vickie Fouts presented information about WILPF, Fresno Center for Nonviolence and Women-In-Black to Dr. Arthur Wint's (program coordinator) PAX 100 class. On 10/17, Dr. Wint interviewed WILPF members Vickie, Veena Kapoor, and, prospective member and co-chair of CSUF's Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition, Morghan Young, concerning WILPF and the concept of the "culture of peace" for the CSUF TV's

PAX show. We will try to notify you when it will be airing in the future.

- Fresno WILPF loaned about 20 shirts made during WILPF's Clothesline Project for display at Fresno State's Take Back The Night (TBTN) on 10/30. TBTN, a rally against violence against women, is an ideal venue for displaying the shirts decorated with powerful personal messages by abused women.
- WILPF members have been busy protesting the possible war with Iraq among other things. On 10/4 we joined Peace Fresno's demonstration, "Keep Space for Peace" and "Don't Attack Iraq" and on 10/6 "Not In Our Name" action at River Park Shopping Center. WILPF participated in the Muslim Student Organization and the Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition for a "Liberty and Justice for All Rally" on 10/15. We joined California Prison Focus' "Prisoner Unity Day" rally at Corcoran Prison on 10/19. We stood in the Tower District on 10/26 as part of a national and international A.N.S.W.E.R (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) action. Thanks to all of you that took the time to stand up for peace and freedom.
- Mime Troupe performance was quite a success. WILPF's part was to provide accommodations for the troupe. Thank you to all our members who helped with the accommodations.
- Two very successful study groups on "Challenging Corporate Power, Abolishing Corporate Personhood" are ongoing. There is the possibility of starting a new series of study groups in January. If you are interested please contact Diane Scott (222-6135) or dianes21@earthlink.net.
- Cookbook Project: still moving along. Send those recipes and a short vignette about each to Zay at zaygb@earthlink.net or our post office box.
- The membership directory is being finalized and will be distributed at the Crafts Faire.
- WILPF voted to donate \$1000 to Lynn Jacobsson for her upcoming work in Colombia for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Global Exchange, \$500 for a sign project for peace along Highway 99 and to purchase a \$50 ad in FFCF's Annual Banquet program, a video of Scott Ritter's WILPF presentation on arms inspections and the video, *Unprecedented: The 2000 Election*.
- Ingrid Carmean will be WILPF's treasurer beginning in December following Laurelee Crain Carbone's resignation at that time.
- The board voted to initiate a series of venues in Fresno of the ADC Palestine Truth Tour 2002. "The Palestine Truth Tour 2002 is being put on by International Solidarity Movement activist recently returned from Freedom Summer in Palestine. The goals of the tour are as follows: 1) Fight the bias in the corporate media & help spread first-hand reports about what is really happening in Palestine; 2) Build local organizing in communities around the US; 3) Strengthen links between different Palestine solidarity groups around the US and between Palestine solidarity and other movements. For more info check out www.palsolidarity.org or www.directactionpalestine.com

PEACE BUILDING CLASS UPDATE

This past month Vickie Fouts learned many new things in her Peace Building class at CSUF. She learned how to be a compassionate witness and a compassionate speaker. To be a compassionate speaker one uses I-Statements: "I feel ___ when you ___ because ___." This enables one to provide clear statements of feelings without blaming, name-calling, or threatening and lets one clarify one's own emotions and reasoning. This prevents the person one is talking with from becoming defensive and allows dialogue in the language of peace. This process also works with apologies and giving feedback.

Vickie also learned about building a peaceful community using interdependence, cooperation, consensus decision-making, and restorative justice techniques. She looks forward to using these new skills in different organizations she belongs to such as WILPF. In class they practiced consensus decision-making and decided what to do with a handful of change. The amount of money expanded and they were able to present Cray Croft Center with a couple of teddy bears for the children's store where children are able to spend Cray Croft dollars they have earned.

GETTING ALL TOXICS OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS

FresCAMM is working to revise and update Fresno United School District's Integrated Pest Management Policy. The goal is to eliminate all highly toxic pesticides from our schools. Call Joan Poss at 227-6134 or email at olpossumus@yahoo.com.

Contact Desi Cortez at desicortez@cviip.net, 4618 N. First St., #166, Fresno, CA 93726 or 559-907.2200. Deadline for submittals is 11/10/02.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM:

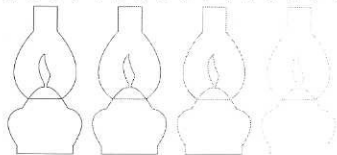
On Nov. 11 we, too, will honor our veterans, but not with a parade. We have invited a panel of veterans to speak their truth, in a program called "WAR: the rest of the story—veterans of war speak out on the real cost of war." Guest speakers from the San Francisco office of Veterans for Peace will join local panelists to discuss, from personal experience, the dismaying true costs of wars (even the ones we supposedly "win"). Join us at 7:00 pm at the Forum Hall of the Social Science Building at Fresno City College to hear and honor our veterans. Parking will be free in the lots off of McKinley Ave., and guides will be on hand to direct you to the Forum Hall if you are unfamiliar with the campus.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE:

The Valley's first progressive think tank is approaching takeoff. Thanks to an immediate response by many of our friends to the Institute's letter of introduction, and to \$500 grants from the Center and from the American-Arab Anti-discrimination Committee, more than half of the money needed to print the Institute's brochure and distribute it widely has already been collected. We hope that additional donations, and a fund-raising inaugural event, will enable

THE WELCH REPORT

October 10, 2002
Jack H. Welch M.D.



The *Fresno Bee* October 9 reported, "Unprovoked by a US military campaign, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is unlikely to initiate a chemical or biological attack against the US 'in the foreseeable future,' intelligence agencies [including George Tenet's CIA] concluded in a classified report given to select senators last week." Further, the statement read, "Baghdad for now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks . . . against the US."

In the same issue of the *Bee* an article states, "A handful of countries, including US allies, are violating scores of Security Council resolutions without facing any threat of military reprisal. . . . More than 90 resolutions are being violated by Israel, Turkey, Croatia, Russia, India, and Pakistan, among others. . . . Iraq is not alone in violating UN resolutions."

The following questions are relevant to our attacking Iraq:

Have all nonmilitary options been exhausted? Unconditional UN inspections of the country for weapons of mass destruction must be tried. If, in the course of inspections, Iraq begins to impose unacceptable restrictions, Saddam's lack of good faith will have been shown. Other diplomatic options could remain and, even if not successful, important groundwork in building global support for war would have been laid.

Has Iraq initiated any kind of recent military aggression or terrorist campaign? No evidence linking Iraq to al-Qaida has been presented, despite a year of searching for connections. There is no Iraqi aggression against its neighbors, the US, or US allies.

the Institute to truly become "airborne" soon. For more information, or to pledge support, call Vince at 439-0821.

PEACE CHALLENGE:

Application forms are now available for youth groups to receive mini-grants (up to \$200) for projects to "make it better." Please encourage supervised groups you know (three or more kids under 18 years old) to apply. People can leave a message at the Center and be sent an application.

TRUTH SERUM:

While President-Select Bush delivered his war address last month, I chose instead to watch a video received from KPFA, *What I Learned About U.S. Foreign Policy*. This is a compendium of well-documented reports (such as from Bill Moyers, *60 Minutes*, etc.) about our nation's ignoble involvements throughout the world since the end of World War II. It documents the US's illegal, terrorist interventions in such places as Laos, Nicaragua, Iran, and Chile; and it illuminates the rise of a shadow government, which has supplanted the democratic process in formulating and executing American foreign policy. This video is available from the Center's video-lending library, and is a powerful antidote to the toxic pro-war rhetoric surrounding us. Call the Center for how to borrow this or any other of our videos.

International law allows a country under imminent threat of attack to launch its own preemptive strikes, but short of such circumstances, there is no sanction for military action under the laws of war. Approval of the UN Security Council, for legal backing, must precede our disarming Iraq or forcing regime change.

Does the US government have strong domestic public support and the support of foreign states for this action? Current polls show support for attacking Iraq but only if the US is part of a coalition and has UN approval; when the matter of US casualties is included, support drops to a low level. Foreign leaders, with the exception of Tony Blair, have not been supportive thus far.

Are US vital interests directly threatened? There is no imminent threat to US interests from Iraq. The main threat to the US in the region comes from reaction to US unilateral action, the presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia, and perceived US bias against Palestinians in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

What about "collateral damage"? Since Iraq maintains military facilities amongst the civilian population, there will be many nonmilitary casualties. (Mr. Bush has not talked about US *military* casualties from attacking Iraq.) Also, the administration has not informed the public on an exit strategy from the war or its plans for a post-Saddam Iraq, matters of great importance.

CONCLUSION: If the administration goes to war, there must be a *casus belli* ("cause of war"; in other words, a provocation or justification of war), which as yet, I believe, has not been made clear. There is need for the support of the UN Security Council if no threat exists of an imminent attack on the US. To achieve a UNSC resolution, President Bush will have to make the case to the international community that Iraq poses such a threat to regional and global security that war is justified. We must choose international security through the rule of law. (Source: Physicians for Social Responsibility Nat'l Sept. 2002)

GREEN PARTY

Candidate Profile: Donna Warren, Lieutenant Governor

Last month, we profiled Peter Camejo, the Green Party candidate for governor of California. Recently, we had an opportunity to speak with Donna Warren, the Green Party candidate for lieutenant governor. We asked Ms. Warren why she is in this race, and this is what she had to say: It's not easy to tell the truth about America's bogus "war on terrorism" or America's "war on drugs." It's not easy to talk about California's prosecution of poor communities of color to build the prison-industrial complex, or about the theft of our energy, or California's horrendous health care for the poor, the elderly, and the working class, or about the corporations' hold on the main political parties, or our failed immigration policies. But I must speak of these violations against the American people because I love this country dearly. America is my home. I want to become lieutenant governor to help this great state do the following

- Provide job programs, training, and placement for our communities.
- Eliminate the Three Strikes law that disproportionately imprisons people of color for nonviolent crimes and supports the prison-industrial complex.
- Put human needs and sustainable development before corporate profits.
- Ensure that every worker is paid a living wage.
- Guarantee universal health care.
- Start to spend more on education than on prisons, corporate welfare, or our bloated defense industry.
- Implement true campaign-finance reform.

I am a Californian who believes in the same ideals all of us hold. That is why I am running for lieutenant governor of California. Through this campaign and the Green Party, we will bring our ideas for achieving social justice and environmental sustainability to the forefront and see these ideas reflected in our national priorities. To read more about all of the Green Party candidates for state office, go to www.votecamejo.org.



*"It's time that California's leadership looks and thinks like its diverse population."
—Donna Warren*

Green Party Registrations Climbing in Fresno County

The Elections Department recently announced that the number of registered Greens in the county has now climbed past 1600 for the first time. This is exciting news, but just the beginning! While the old mainline parties have now had to resort to paying people to increase their registration numbers, the Greens keep growing by word of mouth and the power of our message. As we continue to share the 10 Key Values of the Green Party with our acquaintances, it is inevitable that many will see that they are not leaving the [insert name of outdated mainline party here] party, but rather that their party left them a long time ago to serve a new corporate master. Keep up the good work! With your help, we should be able to increase our numbers by another 10% before January. Tell your friends that they can register Green at www.cagreens.org/fresno. Get out and VOTE!!!! In the May primary, Green Party turnout was dismal. Because voting is power, a political party is only as successful as the registrants who are willing actually to cast a vote. It is hoped this was an aberration, and we will not develop a reputation as another party with low turnout. On November 5, let's try for a turnout of 1000 Green voters. This will be a sign to all that we are a party that backs up its message and that our endorsement counts for something. There is a popular saying, "Vote early and often." Although we are not asking you to vote "often," we are asking you to vote once. The polls are open early and late. Find a way to get there, not an excuse for not getting there. Your vote matters!

- GOVERNOR
Peter Camejo
- LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Donna Warren
- SECRETARY OF STATE
Larry Shoup
- TREASURER
Jeanne Rosenmeier
- CONTROLLER
Laura Wells
- INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
David Sheidlower
- ATTORNEY GENERAL
Greg Mower

VOTE GREEN

There are two important issues that the progressive community in Fresno needs to communicate to their elected representatives on the City Council. Please call, write, email, or visit your representative in person to demand that your City Council member support

CALL YOUR REP!

1. The hiring of an Independent Police Auditor.
2. Public, Education, and Government (PEG) access on the cable network.

Short background on these two issues:

The mayor and police chief support hiring an independent police auditor that would hold the police accountable to the community. Police violence has gotten out of hand in Fresno and this is our best opportunity to do something about it. The lack of support from the City Council is all that is stopping this proposal from the Central California Criminal Justice Committee from being implemented.

The cable franchise agreement between the City of Fresno and AT&T is being renegotiated right now. In order to provide the opportunity for community groups and individuals to get programs on the local cable network, the City Council must include language in the new contract that provides for PEG access. Now is the time to call and say you support free speech and PEG access on the cable network. Most cities have PEG access. Why not Fresno?

To contact any of the Council members, call (559) 498-1560

Tom Boyajian
Councilman District 1
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District1@ci.fresno.ca.us

Councilman District 7
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District7@ci.fresno.ca.us

Brian Calhoun
Councilman District 2
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District2@ci.fresno.ca.us

Dan Ronquillo
Councilman District 3
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District3@ci.fresno.ca.us

Brad Castillo
Councilman District 4
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District4@ci.fresno.ca.us

Sal Quintero
Councilman District 5
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District5@ci.fresno.ca.us

Jerry Duncan
Councilman District 6
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600
District6@ci.fresno.ca.us

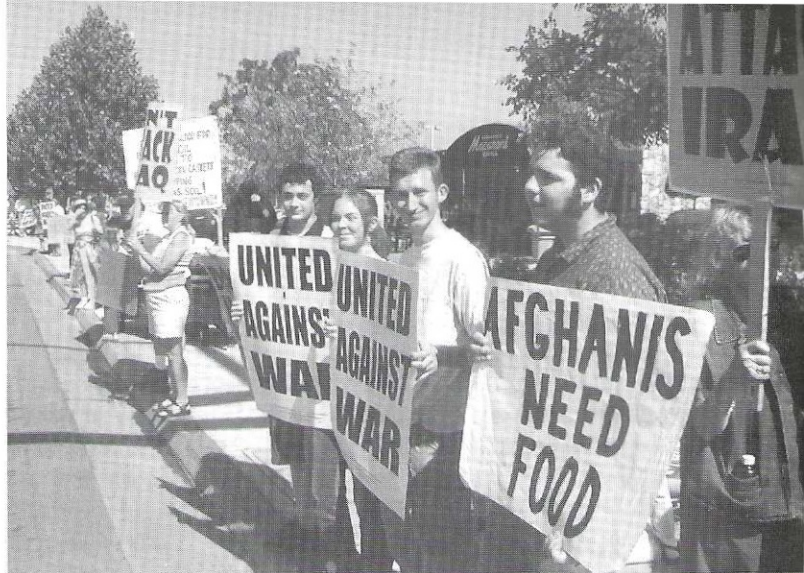
Henry Perea



Growing Local Resistance to War

by Dan Yaseen

On Sunday, October 6, 2002, we joined thousands of people nationwide who gathered to pledge resistance to endless war, detentions, roundups, attacks on civil liberties, and war on Iraq. More than 150 people from the Central Valley and mountains took part in the protest at the River Park Shopping Center in Fresno. One hundred twenty-eight people signed the Pledge of Resistance. This protest was in response to a call issued by "Not In Our Name." The "Not In Our Name" organization began with a meeting in New York City on March 23, 2002. The goal of the organization is to strengthen and expand resistance to the U.S. government's course of action in the wake of 9/11. The pledge of resistance was subsequently written and then distributed at antiwar demonstrations on April 20, 2002, along with a call to take up the "Not In Our Name" project. To see pictures of the Fresno protest on the Internet and to sign the pledge, go to: sf.indymedia.org/news/2002/10/1534375.php and www.notinourname.net



Peace Fresno and Fresno Center for Nonviolence Named Outstanding Local Peace and Justice Organization in California

By Ken Hudson

California Peace Action honored Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence with an award for "outstanding local peace and justice organization" in the state. We found ourselves in good company, as others honored at the October 20 event in Berkeley were Barbara Lee for outstanding member of Congress, and *War Times* for outstanding peace and justice publication. Peace Fresno started in response to 9/11 as an ad hoc committee of the Center for Nonviolence and enjoys the close relationship we share.

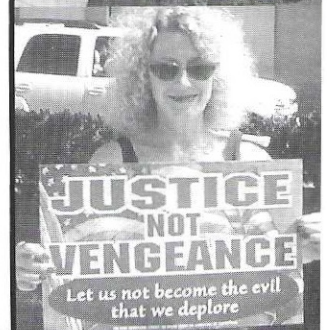
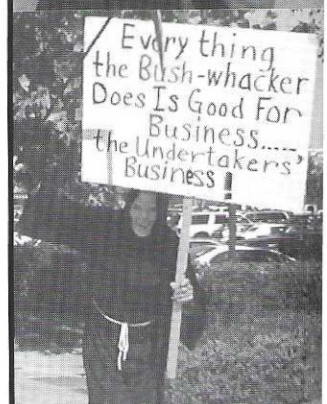
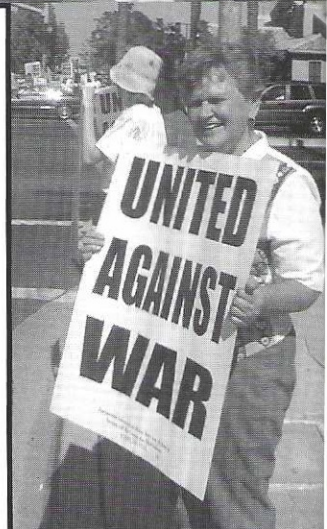
We gratefully acknowledge the teamwork of the *Community Alliance* magazine, KFCF 88.1 FM, sunmt.org, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Food Not Bombs, WILPF, Women in Black, The Grapevine TV program on Ch. 49 and El Comite No Nos Vamos in a year that saw more than 100 peace demonstrations in Fresno. Not thinking this was possible, I looked at the calendar and sure enough, 52 Fridays, two weeks of daily protests initially, then Wednesday and Sunday protests for several months, numerous Saturday events, and Women in Black on Wednesdays at noon totaled more than 100 days of calling for peace.

Peace Fresno's mission is exemplified by an effect it had on my son: On the first day of the air strike against Afghanistan, October 7, 2001, Nicholas and I drove to Shaw & Blackstone in Fresno, where we saw a large crowd of people. He was just learning to read and he slowly read one of the signs out loud, "NO WAR." Then he said excitedly, "Dad, those people want no war!" I realized for the typical American, this corner is one of the few places where one is presented with an alternative viewpoint. Between school, work, and the media, kids and adults alike are bombarded constantly with an appeal to "patriotism" and "unity" that is couched in a pro-war stance. For example, during children's TV programming, the Fox network repeatedly shows a clip of fighter jets taking off from an aircraft carrier while our national anthem plays in the background and, to make doubly sure the message is driven home, a waving flag is superimposed over the screen, teaching kids that loving one's country means supporting the war. This is why **we** need to be as visible as possible.

Peace Fresno is made up of a tireless group of people with a variety of skills and has been well publicized on these pages. Along with weekly demonstrations at the Peace Corner, we have sponsored or co-sponsored letter writing campaigns, petitions, and public forums. We have met with elected officials and addressed our city council. We have organized a speakers' bureau to make public presentations, distributed thousands of postcard hangers on people's doorknobs, and staffed tables with literature at numerous venues, including the Fashion Fair Mall (opened up for us by the Gap 19 protesters). We provided an opportunity for local Jews and Arab/Muslims to dialog and delivered to world leaders 2,000 local signatures on a grassroots resolution for a just peace in the Middle East. Rally in the Valley for Peace & Justice brought together over 60 Valley organizations to present a message that connects the dots between peace and social justice issues. Perpetual war has brought perpetual peace actions as we held a 9/11 vigil for ALL the victims of terrorism one week and the next week 100 people marched eight miles across Fresno between congressional offices with the message, "Don't attack Iraq!"

I know that as long as there are people around like those of Peace Fresno, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, and all the other peace and justice groups, folks will continue to say, as my son did, "Hey, the people want NO WAR!" Our "leaders" will change their militaristic plans only when they see that the American people will not tolerate them. We will continue to provide opportunities for local people to join together in demanding policies promoting peace and social justice. Eventually the leaders will follow.

Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence accept an award as the state's Outstanding Local Peace Organizations. California Peace Action presented the award to the groups at a ceremony in Berkeley. Elfie Ballis's video Peace Fresno in Action wowed the audience.





News Items from Tulare County: Sunday War Protests

A diverse and growing group of people have committed themselves to protesting the impending war in Iraq every Sunday, 12:30-2:00 pm on Mooney and Walnut in Visalia. This is an outgrowth of earlier weekday rush-hour protests by a few WILPF members. The current group includes members of WILPF, the Visalia Friends Meeting, Unitarian-Universalists, Methodists, Catholics, the Visalia Democratic Club, and other individuals, some hearing about the protests second- or third-hand. We had coverage by the *Fresno Bee*, the *Visalia Times-Delta*, and a cable TV station last week. All are invited to join us.

Corporate Power Workshop

The Tulare County chapter of WILPF is hosting an ongoing workshop on the topic of corporate power and the issue of "corporate personhood" (relating to the Supreme Court ruling that corporations are considered "persons" under the law, and thus enjoy the same rights as living persons). Meetings have been in various participants' homes, at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Call Klara East, 592-4001, for directions to the current meeting place.

A Force More Powerful

The Tulare County chapter of WILPF and the Visalia Friends Meeting are sponsoring a showing of the remaining three (out of six) half-hour segments of the remarkable made-for-PBS movie *A Force More Powerful* on November 1, 7:30 pm, at the Visalia Friends Meetinghouse. A map to the meetinghouse can be found on the Visalia Friends Meeting website: www.quaker.org/visalia. The movie focuses on six major successful nonviolent movements in the twentieth century. It describes them with a good level of detail about how they were organized and how and why they succeeded. The accompanying book (same title: www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0312228643) details twelve movements and goes into even greater useful detail.



Hwy 99 Antiwar Billboard

The Visalia Friends Meeting is spearheading an effort to put an antiwar billboard on Hwy 99. The content is not yet settled, but the intent is to make it simple, direct, and thought-provoking. The Visalia Friends Meeting has committed \$1000 seed money and about \$600 additional has come in from individuals so far. The actual production of the billboard has also been donated, amounting to a savings of perhaps \$1500. We are asking for others to join in support of the project. The cost of the project (not counting production) is projected to be about \$7000. Please consider joining us in making this highly visible statement to Valley residents. Donations should be payable to the Visalia Friends Meeting and sent to David Chandler, P.O. Box 999, Springville, CA 93265.

Robin Hood continued from page 3

No matter how well meant, it is an indignity for an adult to be reduced to the level of a child by having to ask others for care and security. It is the essence of dignity that we feed ourselves and our families. It is the essence of dignity that we create a system that empowers people to feed themselves.

Remember the images of poor people projected by the civil rights movements and the organizing drives of the farmworkers in the 1960s? The grandchildren of Selma and Delano are in the soup kitchen lines, looking sad and downtrodden before dinner, or smiling and grateful afterwards, and being photographed for charity fundraisers.

The ultimate cost of this parade of charity is the political cost—in the sense of its cost to our community. The "charitable hydra" created to feed the hungry has become a major factor in the nation's inability to see, define, and solve the problem. The poor eat *something*, thus they are no threat to the status quo. The volunteers have done *something*, thus they have little need to analyze its effect, let alone its causes. Political leaders point to the "miracle of public-private partnership" and the limits of government as the excuse for not using public policy to protect people from hunger. Our political leaders have become cheerleaders for charity, and charity has become the public pabulum that excuses our societal nonaction and results in programs that are Band-Aids at best.

No one wants not to feed folks or to shut down emergency food sites to make a point.

The advocates and providers agree on a basic antihunger agenda. Almost everyone says that jobs, better-paying jobs, are the first necessity; and public food assistance programs such as food stamps and school meals should supplement both low wages and cash income supports. But our public programs and policies for the increasing numbers of low-income families are mired in blaming the poor and restricted by legislated red tape.

With the "falling off welfare" due to happen next year, with the transfer of food stamps' management to Citicorp, and with emergency food and shelter money used up before winter begins here in Fresno, I can imagine another food emergency like the "freeze of '98." The suffering, if this comes to be, will not be unexpected, an act of God, or an aberration; it will be a predictable systematically created outcome of right-wing social policy, driven by ideology and politics, and made without attention to the underlying economic and social realities. We should be changing this system and how we invest our common wealth.

Fresno needs one, low-barrier, six-days-a-week food pantry that distributes enough nutritious, culturally appropriate food to a family for a month; a place where folks can be referred to food stamps, commodity distribution, and school and hot meal programs. Then, let's change the legislative red tape barriers and fully fund nutrition programs. The changes shouldn't be based on the issue of "hunger" and the seduction of charity, but on justice, human need, and our ability to provide.

Robin Hood was right: It's time to take back from the rich and give to the poor. The privatization of social programs and the balkanization of private hit-or-miss charity is no way to solve injustice. We have the means to feed the hungry. Let's do it.

**Mike Rhodes
Pam Whalen
4773 N Arthur
Fresno Ca 93705**PRST STD
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“Loaves and Fishes Campaign”

By Liza Apper

The other night, in front of Fresno County Jail, I was approached by a man on our soup line. This man had been coming to our soup line for five years and is a friend of our community, the St. Benedict Catholic Worker. He told me that he had just been released from the University Medical Center. He had a very serious case of the flu and, on top of that, chicken pox. I asked him if he was living at the Mission and he said: “No, I am living in my car.” My heart sank. I wanted so much to ask him to come and stay at the St. Benedict Catholic Worker House. A week or two at the Catholic Worker would assure that he would get the rest and care he needed to get well, but I knew we had no room for him. My invitation was silenced by the reality that the St. Benedict Catholic Worker simply has no room in our current facility to see to this man’s need. I offered him piping hot homemade split pea soup and a listening ear. Later on, I watched as he slowly got into his van and drove into the night, looking for a space to park his car and hoping sleep would help.



For over five years, the St. Benedict Catholic Worker, every Tuesday and Thursday evening, has been a presence in front of Fresno County Jail. We serve an evening meal (over 70,000 meals to date) to those released from Fresno County Jail, families and friends visiting those in the jail, the homeless, marginalized families struggling to make ends meet, senior citizens, and any and everyone that we encounter in front of Fresno County Jail. For over five years now we have been a house of hospitality, housing released prisoners from Fresno County Jail and homeless men and women. For over five years we have provided counseling services, distributed clothing, toiletries and groceries to those in need at the jail. And for over five years we have done these things in a very small three-bedroom house with a woefully inadequate kitchen. And as the needs of the people we serve have grown and our community

of volunteers has grown, we have been unable to house live-in community members (help we so desperately need) because there is no room to house them in our present facility. The St. Benedict Catholic Worker, in response to the needs of the people we serve and the desire of those who want to be a part

of our Catholic Worker Community, is launching a campaign for a new Catholic Worker House of Hospitality. We are calling it the “Loaves and Fishes Campaign.” The “Loaves and Fishes Campaign” of the St. Benedict Catholic Worker has as its goal to raise \$250,000 for a new house that would house guests and community members and have adequate kitchen space to allow us to prepare the 400 meals a week we serve in front of Fresno County Jail. The campaign is called “Loaves and Fishes.” As a biblically-based community we see example in Jesus. Just as Jesus fed the 5,000 people in the gospel (Matthew 24: 19-21) we are asking 5,000 people to help us

feed those in need by donating \$50 each for our new house. If 5,000 people donate \$50 each, we will have the \$250,000 necessary to purchase the larger facility. The St. Benedict Catholic Worker community believes that there are 5,000 people who want to help us in this endeavor. We do not believe that we are the “ill-favored” city, that was judged the worst place to live in the United States (1984) and the city that is last in per capita charitable giving (see: *Ill-Favored City*, *Fresno Bee*, October 15, 2002). We believe that there are five thousand people in Fresno, and beyond its city limits, that will help us obtain a larger facility to do the work we feel called to do. We long for the day when we

no longer remain silent before another person’s need, watching him slip into the night, alone and sick, his only comfort and aid a cold, hard seat in his car. All tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: The St. Benedict Catholic Worker at 4022 North Cheryl Ave. Fresno, California 93705. We can also be reached at our website at www.stbencatholicworker.org. For further information we can be reached at 559-229-6410.

