

November 2001

Labor/Community

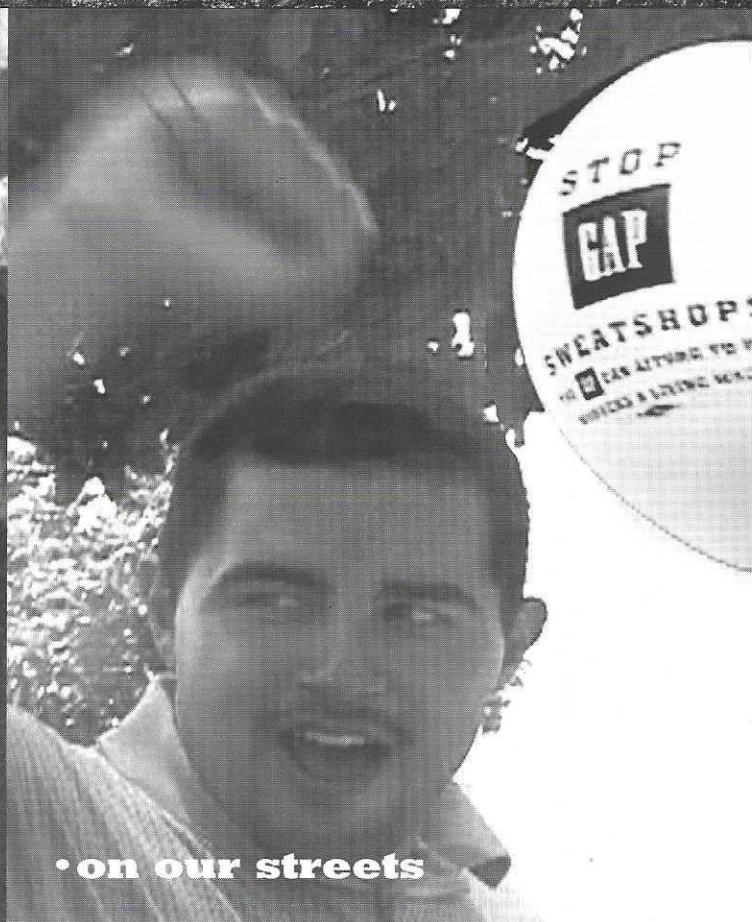
ALLIANCE

Free Speech Soars

© SunMt all rights reserved photo: George Effe Ballis



• at our courts



• on our streets



• in our hearts



• with our flag

NOV. 14

DOING DEMOCRACY AUTHOR

by Richard Stone

Bill Moyer--organizer, writer, educator, trainer in non-violent social movements for over 40 years--will be returning to Fresno on Wednesday, November 14.

Many will remember the excellent workshop Bill led for us two years ago, an event which significantly raised the level of mutual awareness and interaction among local peace-an-justice groups.

This time Bill is coming on tour for his recently-published book DOING DEMOCRACY. Because of the recent crisis he will also address the issue of anti-war organizing and the strategy to build a peace movement. He will be the Center for Nonviolence guest on Stir It Up that day (KFCF 88.1 FM at 3:30 PM), and at 7 PM that evening he will speak at the center which is located at 985 N Van Ness. He will be re-capping the material in his book (about how social movements work, and how to strategize based on this analysis), and answering questions. He will, of course, also be selling signed copies of the book.

Come hear and support this informed, motivating change-agent, whose work has been praised by the likes of David Kortner (author of When Corporations Rule the World), Paul Ray (co-author of The Cultural Creatives), Joanna Macy (deep-ecology activist) and Walter Wink (eminent peace theorist).



GREENS GATHER

by Jeff Eisinger

I was honored to attend the California Green Party's Plenary in Burlingame as the delegate for Fresno County this past September 20-22. It was an exciting weekend, with Greens coming from all parts of the state to discuss how to grow the party.

The entire assembly of delegates met to discuss many important issues regarding delegates to the newly formed Green Party of the United States, opposition to the administration's missile defense boondoggle, and the addition of a Green Party section to the state election code. In separate break-out sessions, small groups met to discuss a variety of topics such as campaign tactics, building a local organization, and working with the media.

Obviously, the events of 9-11 could not be ignored and a very emotional evening session was held to allow people to discuss the attack and how we should respond as Greens. Finally, we were privileged to hear from Peter Camejo who is a Green candidate for governor. You can go to www.votecamejo.org to get information on the man Ronald Reagan called "one of the ten most dangerous people in California." If you want to get more involved in the fastest growing party in the country, go to www.greens.org/cal/fresno or call 265-3647.

CREDIT UNION BANK\$ COMMUNITY

by John Rouse

For thousands of low-income individuals living in Fresno County a winning appearance on the TV game show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" offers better odds for accessing capital than does an appearance at a bank or credit union.



This monthly magazine is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. We support the struggle for social and economic justice and believe all workers should be paid a living wage. We are affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. Our monthly meetings on are the last Monday, 6:30 pm, at Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.

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cover photos: George Elfie Ballis

Unfortunately, rejection from traditional financial institutions often force individuals to turn to predatory lenders (eg. check cashing services, money transmittal, etc.).

These lenders have flocked to low-income communities to prey upon the cash needs of local residents.

The time has come to alter this reality. Not with exposure to mainstream media or use of hallucinogens, but with the establishment of a financial institution that places people before profits.

For the past 5 months a coalition of non-profits (California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development, Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, Hmong American Community, and the Fresno Center for NonViolence) and community leaders have been working to organize and charter a community development credit union.

This credit union would be a member-owned, not-for-profit, cooperative association organized for the purpose of promoting thrift among its members and creating a source of credit. Currently, over 300 surveys from low-

income communities in Fresno County have been collected.

These surveys are being used to develop a business plan that addresses the needs and desires of potential credit union members. This process of organizing and developing a community development credit union is open to any who wish to contribute.

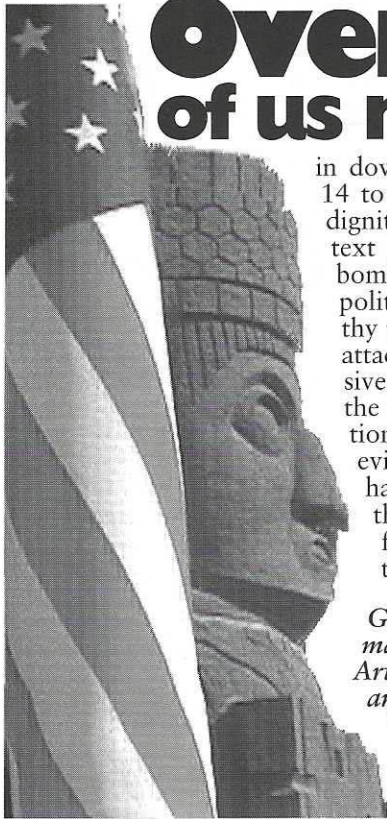
Feel free to send positive vibes, or complete a survey indicating your desires as a potential credit union member or socially responsible investor volunteer in the outreach, business plan development and/or chartering process donate funds or equipment to the credit union cause.

The community development credit union offers Fresnoans a chance to apply their social conscious to a financial world where it is too often absent.

Work with us to develop a credit union for the people, by the people in communities where few financial institutions will ever venture and hope is often only a small loan away.

If you wish to assist in this process and/or have any questions please call California Rural Legal Assistance's Community Economic Development Unit at (559) 445-4166 and ask for John Rouse, Jeremy Hofer, or Amy Guerra.

Over 150 of us marched



in downtown Fresno on October 14 to demand Immigrant Rights, dignity, and respect. In the context of the U.S. government bombing of Afghanistan and a political climate where sympathy to immigrant issues is under attack, this march was impressive. The march, organized by the San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights, is evidence that this community has not been intimidated by the jingoistic rhetoric coming from the Bush Administration.

Groups participating in the march included Centro Bellas Artes, Labor/Community Alliance, Proyecto Campesino, Union de Exbraceros, FIOB, UFW, SEIU, Committee of the Poor, Immolakee workers (Taco Bell Boycott), MECHA, Comite No Nos Vamos, and

many others. The major demands of the marchers were Amnesty for undocumented workers and drivers licenses for everyone without regard to their legal status.

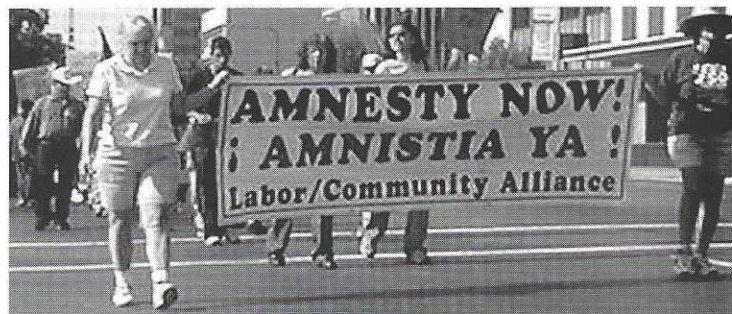
These issues, which were making progress in the legislative process before the terrorist attacks on September 11, have been derailed and advocates have been put on the defensive. This march shows that the demands are important to Immigrant Rights activists and have broad support in the community.

It is impressive that the Latino community organized this march and is able to continue their demands for justice, human rights, and amnesty. In these difficult times of racist attacks and war these groups should not have to march alone. Unfortunately, you could count the number of Anglo allies at this march on one hand.

If we are going to build a movement for social justice in this community that is multi-racial and inclusive we are going to have to learn to support each others struggles. Next time there is a march or rally for immigrant rights I hope you will join me and say - I'LL BE THERE!

In unity there is strength!

by Mike Rhodes



photos: Mike Rhodes & George Elife Ballis



Fashion Fair GAP protest May 6, 2000



Attorneys Milrod & Weisberg celebrate victory



Honking for justice

Free Speech 2 - Corporate Repression 0

GAP 19 Win Amazing Victory for Free Speech!

By Mike Rhodes

Free Speech and anti-sweatshop activists won a major victory last month when judge Kent Hamlin dismissed all charges in the criminal proceedings against The Gap 19. Hamlin said that the trespassing charge we were accused of was being dismissed because our actions were constitutionally protected.

The arrests arose out of a demonstration at the Fashion Fair mall which took place on May 6, 2000. On that day a small group of about 50 peaceful anti-sweatshop protestors were confronted by over 100 police officers (many dressed in riot gear), a police helicopter overhead, and the chief of police on hand to witness the arrests. While holding anti-sweatshop signs, handing out fliers to shoppers, and talking to neighbors protestors were arrested, handcuffed, and taken to a detention facility.

We won this case for two reasons:

1. The first is because of 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.
2. The second reason we won this case is because of 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 over a year and a half appearing in court on a regular basis, find the resources to pay for adequate 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 time?

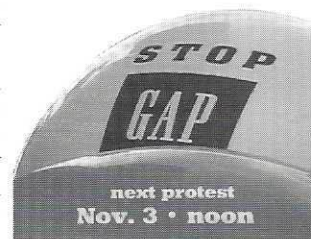
But the defendants in this case were not interested in doing what was expedient. There was an important principle at stake. A principle of Free Speech that they realized would effect the community for a long time to come. If Fashion Fair and the Fresno Police department succeeded in intimidating and threatening people with arrest for speaking out at the mall then no group or individual would be safe.

Another reason for continuing with the criminal proceedings was that it provided a great opportunity to keep the issue of The Gap's use of sweatshop labor alive and in front of

the public. We could not have bought the publicity that these arrests generated. Just about everyone in Fresno now knows that The Gap's use of sweatshop labor is an issue. Most people believe that The Gap should pay workers "A Living Wage." The fact that people were willing to risk arrest to get this message out makes an impression on people. When you are standing on Shaw Avenue and lots of people are honking support for this cause you know that this group has had an impact in the community.

GAP SWEATSHOP PROTESTS EXPAND

Anti-sweatshop groups have been protesting at Fashion Fair on the first Saturday of each month for almost two years now. Organizers have negotiated with Fashion Fair who now give the group a table inside where information is handed out to shoppers. The group also has a rally on Shaw Avenue where protestors hold signs and hand out anti-sweatshop balloons. On Saturday, November 3 protestors will take STOP GAP SWEATSHOPS posters to the front of Fashion Fair - to the very spot where they were arrested 18 months ago. Nobody is expecting arrests this time.



ON TO CIVIL SUITS

Several of the activists who were arrested have filed a civil action against the Macerich Corporation and the City of Fresno. If successful this suit will accomplish three things.

- It will compensate our intrepid legal team and pay them for the work that they have performed.
- If the court agrees that our civil liberties were violated and agrees to pay damages it will make the Macerich Corporation, Fashion Fair, and the City of Fresno think twice before arresting citizens who are exercising their Constitutional Rights.
- If the group receives an award from the court it is the intention of those who filled the lawsuit to use that money to fund efforts in the peace social and economic justice community in Fresno.



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SALES REPRESENTATIVE & INTERNET PROJECT COORDINATOR

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Fresno, California
93728
559/442-3111
pm097@csufresno.edu

Congratulations on GAP 19 Free Speech Triumph

Congratulations to all. Great work upholding free speech at a time efforts are being made to curtail our civil liberties!!!

—Medea Benjamin/Global Exchange

Congratulations! The best news I have heard in 29 days.

—Robin Greiner

Congratulations on this courageous and successful action for laboring people and for free speech!

—Bryan Jessup

WOW, that is HUGE! Congratulations to all former defendants and counsel!!

—Doug Gordon

WOW, CONGRATULATIONS and MANY THANKS TO THE INTREPID FRESNO GAP-TIVISTS AND YOUR ATTORNEYS FOR YOUR HARD WON VICTORY for First Amendment Rights in Shopping Malls!!!! (I'm blind cc.ing our Core Group and Friends on this e-mail!)

—Mary Bull

Save the Redwoods/Boycott the Gap Campaign
252 Frederick Street, San Francisco, CA 94117
chalice@wco.com 415-731-7924 <http://www.gapsucks.org>

Hey Mike: CONGRADULATIONS!! MAZALTOV!! and yeah. I guess congratulation to the entire GAP 21. Well, who knows, maybe there is some hope for this city after all!

—Richard Gomez

YIPPIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!! You all Rock! Thanks for sticking this out, for the time, for the energy, for bringing hope to me on an otherwise pretty grim week. Peace and thanks for a bit of good news.

—Loretta Kensing

Awesome, Mike. Great news!

—Teresa Espana

Congratulations Mike and all who participated. Saw you on the 11 p.m. news last night and on Elfy's website "Don't Whine, Organize." Finally we have something to cheer about. The free speech victory in the courts is a real victory compared to the

macho U.S. bombing of an ancient country already in despair after 22 years of war. Good work!

—Pat Wolk

Congratulations all of you! it was hard earned battle. Viva la libre expresion! con todo mi respecto y carino.

—M. Gloria Hernandez

That is so awesome, congratulations!!!! This just reinforces that standing out for what you believe in through thick and thin is what this is all about. SO many times we (society) are intimidated by law enforcement and think they usually know whats right. But they are not always right, they make mistakes and those mistakes have lasting effects. This story will live on for decades as a huge step forward in the progressive community in our local area and throughout the nation. Great work!!! Thanks for sharing,

—Gabrielle Kirkland

Utah was right — Gene Bluestein

"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

Congratulations, Mike - we saw it on FOX - couldn't believe it - great news!

—Patty Ford

This is almost anti-climactic, but congratulations. It does allow for time to go on to other things. Judge Hamlin was undoubtedly influenced by the

fact that he (or someone) would be dealing with an overflowing courtroom and constant agitation. Good work to all concerned.

—Catherine Campbell

Congratulations to all who fought so tirelessly for this victory including Judge Hamlin. This is the best news I have heard in years.

Peace,
—Bob Baker

Congratulations!

—Allison Fletcher

Jobs with Justice, 501 3rd St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Hello Mike, Congratulations to all of you folks and organizations for your wonderful victory! In this time and age it is very appropriate to celebrate. Patricia and I drink to you. In Solidarity!

—Agustin Lira & Patricia Wells Solorzano

Wow! Thanks to you Mike - we are going to celebrate!

—Glenn DeVgood

Mike, This is great news! Congratulations to all.

—Chris Schneider

Mike, Congratulations to all of the defendants, their great legal team, and all of the supporters! This was a hard fought victory for free speech.

—Howard Watkins

Yahoo! Congrats.

—Erin Kennedy

Mike- This is fantastic! Congratulations!! Would it be okay with you if we put this into our JwJ Monthly Update?

—Laura McSpedon

Jobs with Justice - Student Labor Action Project

Congratulations, I read about it in the Bee. Good Job!

—Grace Solis Alvarado

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www.defeatgarycondit.org

John Anthony Estrada
National Organizer
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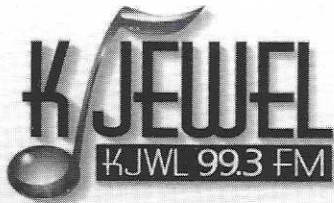
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OUR PEOPLE SPEAK

FEAR GROWS FOREGIVENESS

To the Editor:

A couple of Friday's ago I had a frightening experience. For two hours, I stood with others at the corner of Shaw and Blackstone holding a sign asking for Peace and Justice, as more than thirty men drove by, shouted obscenities, and raised their fingers at us. A couple of them stopped right in the rush hour traffic to scream at us. One yelled at us that we were Hitler lovers and then went off on a tirade of profanity. He was in a rage and beyond any reason. I could imagine him pulling out a gun. I was glad there was a Fresno Police car parked right next to us. I wish I could have told this man what I believe. I am certainly not against America. I am against the killing of innocent people. I want America to seek justice for what has been done in the international court of law and for the guilty to be punished. I want the United States to set an example for other civilized nations that says clearly that war and more killing of innocents is never the answer to any problem. I have already forgiven those who caused me such fear, and I wish for them peace and understanding.

—Vickie M. Fouts

PROUD TO BE FROM FRESNO

To the Editor:

For once I am proud that I come from Fresno. The reason is because of you people who are protesting sweatshops. I went to UC Davis and now I'm in Beijing, China or else I would be there with you all. Thank you for making my community aware and your efforts to make the world better.

—Sean McLean

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE RIGHT STUFF?

To the Editor:

A light has gone out in the valley's liberal community. After a run of only sixteen weeks, THE RIGHT STUFF from the LEFT, has left the air. An innovative show, THE RIGHT STUFF aired Saturday nights as a grand experiment in dialogue and debate, hosting such diverse guests as conservative former congressional candidate Ken Kay and GOP Central Committee member, John Rankin, as well as well-known local progressives: Catherine Campbell, activist Gloria Hernandez, and Diana Bohn, of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network. In so doing, the show highlighted important issues of water and power politics, the criminal justice system, the rights of immigrants, police oversight, and other issues of particular concern to valley residents. In keeping with a policy of open exchange unique in statewide airing, THE RIGHT STUFF sought to reach the ideologically uncommitted by courageously confronting the representatives and philosophy of the right, spotlighting a number of local agencies devoted to serving the community on its way.

Organized by friends of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, the Center launched THE RIGHT STUFF by contributing \$6000.00 to cover the costs of the sixteen shows that were aired. Now, having exhausted those resources, and failing the support of the liberal community, the grand experiment may pass into oblivion.

Valley liberals can ill afford to let this happen. To my knowledge such an experiment has never before been tried anywhere else in the nation. We can and should do better in the Central Valley. All of us would benefit from a broader rendering of liberal ideals and greater exposure to dialogue and debate.

—Stephen D. Malm

POSITIVELY HEALTHY at The Living Room

The Living Room is now offering Positively Healthy classes for HIV positive clients as part of our commitment as a community center to support and encourage the well being and empowerment of persons infected, affected, and at risk for HIV. Come join us to discuss such topics as positive self-image, relaxation, substance abuse issues, healthy relationships, self-esteem and empowerment. We will also be offering classes on computer skills, job development, and parenting. Next month's November series will include Nutrition, Exercise, and staying healthy on a tight budget so be prepared to cook and eat! Positively Healthy takes place each Wednesday from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm at The Living Room. We are also looking for suggestions for the development and implementation of more classes in the future, so please call us if you want to get involved! If you have any questions, or need more info, please contact Liz Spurrell, Independent Living/Wellness Skills Coordinator at 485-3667. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chanah Cossman, CNM
Nurse-Midwife
Prenatal and Newborn Care

Enfermera Partera
Cuidado Prenatal y de Bebé



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Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

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and whomever you call family,
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Sermon Topics November: 4th: *Vengeance or Healing*
11th: *Speaking the Truth in Love*
18th: *From the Ground Up*
25th: *Service of Thanksgiving*
Sunday Services & Church School 9:15 and 11:00

4144 N. Millbrook Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 227-6146

Web Sites of Progressive Groups

The Fresno chapter of the **American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)**:
<http://www.adcfresno.org/links.htm>

Fresno Metro Ministry is an ecumenical and interfaith non-profit engaged in community problem-solving, advocacy and community organizing around several primary community issues.
<http://www.fresnometmin.org/>

A directory of **ethnic media in the Central Valley**:
<http://www.ncmonline.com>

Food Not Bombs is an international network of volunteers who serve free hot vegetarian food to low income people, and offer political support.
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Industrial Workers of the World, the famous 1910-11 Free Speech fight in Fresno, and more:
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/IWW/>

Need to send out a Press Release - **Fresno Media fax list**:
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/crc/media.html>

LOCAL anti-sweatshop web sites:

<http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/gapsucks.html>

SunMt:
<http://www.sunmt.org/gaparchives.html>

The Campaign for Labor Rights has good information on sweatshop campaigns:
<http://www.summersault.com/~agj/clr/>

Labor/Community Alliance:
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com>

Tower District link!:
<http://www.towerdistrictnews.com/>

Stone Soup brings together a network of community, church, education and civic organizations to provide needed resources and services for nearly 6,000 residents living in the El Dorado Park area in northeast Fresno:
<http://www.stonesoup-fresno.org>

Planned Parenthood in Fresno:
<http://www.ppmarmonte.org>

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno:
<http://www.uufresno.org/>

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley
<http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

The Fresno Democratic Party:
<http://www.fresnodemocrats.com/>

Fresno Stonewall Democrats:
<http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Fresno County Green Party:
<http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

Patrick Young's Wheelchair Project:
<http://www.WheelchairProject.org/>

The Great Valley Center:
<http://www.greatvalley.org>

Labor/Community Alliance is a member of the **Jobs with Justice** coalition:
<http://www.jwj.org/>

Labor Notes, the progressive labor monthly newspaper:
<http://www.labornotes.org>

Agustin Lira & Alma provides music for the movement:
<http://www.home.earthlink.net/~almas2/>

Fresno Folklore Society:
<http://home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/>

Fresno's Fine & Folk Arts Journal:
<http://www.lineonline.org>

Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional:
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/fiob/>

Fresno/Telpaneca Sister City Association (Nicaragua):
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Lake/1441/index.htm>

Radio Bilingue:
<http://www.radiobilingue.org/>

KFCF 88.1 FM:
<http://www.kcf.org>

Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation:
<http://www.movethetracks.org>

The Living Room:
<http://www.aplacetobelong.org>

Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Association (FASTA):
<http://www.geocities.com/athens/oracle/4802/index.htm>

United Farm Workers of America:
<http://www.ufw.org/>

Central Valley Peace and Justice centers on web:

Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County (PJN) is a local grassroots group in Stockton:
<http://www.pjnsjc.org/>

Modesto Peace and Life Center:
<http://ainet.com/connections/>



*The measure of soul guidance is
how it moves our soles*

WIN HUMAN RIGHTS!

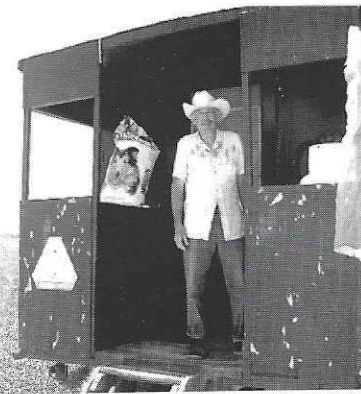


photo © Chris Schneider, all rights reserved

by Chris Schneider

Shepherders won a historic victory on October 14, 2001. The shepherd protection bill, AB 1675 (Koretz) was one of the very last, if not the last, pieces of legislation signed by Governor Davis. The bill provides very basic rights to shepherders who are some of the most exploited workers in California. (See L/CAMagazine, July 2001)

Beginning January 1, 2002 shepherds, will have the right to meal and rest breaks. Their employers will no longer be able to make deductions for necessary tools unless the workers earn at least twice the minimum wage.

These are rights which virtually all other California workers have enjoyed for decades. Starting January 1, 2003 the workers housing must have toilets, bathing facilities, heating, a

working refrigerator and adequate cooking facilities. In addition workers will have their right to have visitors codified (clearly they already have the constitutional right to this--but the ranchers don't want to recognize it) and must also be provided with regular mail service and a cell phone for use in case of a medical emergency.

The signing of this bill represents the biggest victory yet for the Shepherders Union headed by ex-shepherd Victor Flores. The Union thanks all the L/CA readers who sent letters of support to Governor Davis, the members of the legislature who voted for it and the Governor for signing it. The union has already received inquiries from workers in other states wanting to know what can be done to improve their working conditions.

Defeat Cal Dooley

HANG DOWN YOUR HEAD CAL DOOLEY

by John Anthony Estrada

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Team praised Rep. Cal Dooley for his leadership by brokering the Deal for Free Trade with his Democrat and Republican friends. Big Business, Corporate Elite, and the bosses at the United States Chamber of Commerce were delighted with his ability to support their policies and pockets. Again working families were left out even without a living wage for many.

The Central Valley continues to be in depression era conditions and Cal Dooley sells out again to the big wigs. A call to action to form a campaign committee to Defeat Cal Dooley for reelection is beginning to organize for a primary war. If you have ideas, suggestion, opinions send your remarks to the email: johnestrada@hotmail.com or if you want to join the committee to Defeat Cal Dooley we are looking for a few good warriors.



Help our community get a real
CITIZEN'S POLICE REVIEW UNIT

by Ellie Bluestein

We need your help now! Please fill out the endorsement form enclosed in this newsletter and return to the address listed on the form. If possible make copies of the form to bring to your organizations, unions, churches, for endorsement as well as to friends and relations. Our committee has been working for almost two years to develop a plan for an independent police auditor for the city of Fresno, backed up by a civilian police review board.

We are now presenting the proposal to our city officials, but we know that much community support will be needed if this plan is to be accepted and put into operation. So we are asking for your support now. During the two years that we have been meeting we have heard story after story of police misconduct, abuse, racial profiling, and shooting, and the only recourse Fresnoans have is the police department internal investigation, which never fails to exonerate the police in question. It is time for Fresno to join the rest of the major cities in California by instituting an independent police oversight arrangement. This will be good for the police and good for residents of Fresno. If you would like to see a copy of our proposal contact me at 229-9807. Meanwhile please sign our endorsement petition and get as many others as possible to do so.

If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, then it cannot save the few who are rich.

— John F. Kennedy

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

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

California Latino Civil Rights Network

2115 Kern Street, Suite 103 Fresno, CA 93721 Ph. (559) 498-7000 Fax (559) 498-7005

California Rural Legal Assistance

2115 Kern St, Ste. 370 Fresno, CA 93721-2100 Ph. (559) 441-8721 <http://www.crlaf.org/>

Carpenters Local 701

1335 N. Hulbert Ave. Fresno, California 93728
(559) 268-3895 (559) 268-2004 (fax) <http://www.nccrc.org/elpphw@aol.com>

Central, California Legal Services

2014 Tulare Street, Suite 600 Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. (559) 441-1611 Fax (559) 441-7215 fresno@centralcallegal.org

Community Link

PO Box 4959 Fresno, CA 93744
Ph. (559) 266-5465 Fax (559) 486-3464 clinkinc@aol.com

Critical Mass

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

Death Penalty Focus Families & Friends of Prisoners Support

1917 S. Chestnut Ave., #13-G Fresno, CA 93702
Phone/Fax: (559) 255-9492 martel0000@aol.com <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

El Comité No Nos Vamos

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

El Concilio Immigration Project

1532 Fresno St Fresno, CA 93706-1627 Ph. (559) 485-0679

Food Not Bombs

2925 N Jackson Fresno, CA 93703
Ph. (559) 266-5305 or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas) fresnofnb@yahoo.com www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/ www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB

Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional (Office)

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

Fresno Area Congregation Together

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

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

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

Fresno County Green Party

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

Fresno Folklore Society

P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744 Ph.
(559) 229-8808 ckj12@csufresno.edu <http://home.pacbell.net/ckjohns/>

Fresno Metro Ministry

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

Fresno Free College Foundation/Radio station KFCF

P.O. Box 4364 Fresno, CA 93744 Ph.
(559) 233-2221 Fax (559) 233-5776 Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 225-8888
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
Ph. (559) 237-4102 Fax (559) 237-1451 habitatfresno@hotmail.com <http://www.habitatfresno.org/>

The Interfaith Alliance of Central

California P.O. Box 9122 Fresno, CA 93790
Ph. (559) 225-1438

The Justice For Children of Fresno County

P.O. Box 8654 Fresno, CA 93747 Ph. (559) 292-4905

Labor/Community Alliance

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

The Living Room

420 N Broadway Fresno, CA 93701 Ph. (559) 485-3667 Fax (559) 485-3669
livingroom@pacbell.net <http://www.aplacetobelong.org>

Mexican American Political Association:

Fresno Chapter Chapter Chairperson: Ben Benavides Voice: (559) 442-0380
Co-chair: Margarita Rocha Voice: (559) 490-2961

San Joaquin Murrieta Chapter Chapter Chairperson: Julian R. Torres
Voice: (559) 846-8869 Fax (559) 846-8116

Madera Chapter Chairperson: Guadalupe Guterrez Voice: (559) 673-4033

National Organization for Women (NOW)

PO Box 4675 Fresno, CA 93744-4675 Ph. (559) 221-7229 iraep2@juno.com <http://www.now.org/>

National Stonewall Democrats

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

Pan-Valley Institute

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays

1343 E Barstow Fresno, CA 93710-6399 Ph. (559) 434-6540

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

633 N. Van Ness Fresno, CA 93728 Ph. (559) 488-4913 Fax (559) 488-4940
vinh_ngo@ppmarmonte.org <http://www.ppmarmonte.org>

Proyecto, Campesino

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

Radio Bilingue KSJV 91.5

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

San Joaquin Valley Immigrant Rights Coalition

328 N. Fresno Fresno, CA 93701 Ph. (559) 498-6033 Fax (559) 442-0402
sjvcoalition@univision.com

San Joaquin Valley Exchange Works

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

Service Employees International Union Local 250

3485 W. Shaw Fresno, California 93711 (559) 271-7005 (559) 275-1331 (fax)

The Sleeping Bag Project

727 W. Yale Ave. Fresno, CA 93705 Ph. (559) 441-1787 imajean2@hotmail.com

St. Benedict, Catholic Workers

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

Stone Soup

1345 East Bulldog Lane, Suite 4 Fresno, CA 93710 Ph. (559) 224-7613 Fax (559) 224-2981 stonesoupfresno@yahoo.com <http://www.stonesoup-fresno.org>

SunMt 35751 Oak Springs Dr Tollhouse, CA 93667

Ph. (559) 855-3710 sunmt@sunmt.org <http://www.sunmt.org>

Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club

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

United Farm Workers

P.O. Box 62 Keene, California 93531 (805) 822-5571 (805) 822-6103 (fax) <http://www.ufw.org/>

United Students Against Sweatshops

Ph. (559) 875-0057 or (559) 260-2029 GgabrieleF@netscape.net

The Wheelchair Project

5205 E Washington Fresno, CA 93727 Ph. (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 Ph. (559) 229-9807 geneb@csufresno.edu <http://www.wilpf.org/>

The death of Abdo Ali Ahmed

The life of Yori Wada

by Isao Fujimoto

The death of Abdo Ali Ahmed, is tragic and prompts some recollections and commentary about ethnic groups and communities in the Central Valley. Soon after I arrived at UC Davis in spring of 1967, I went to see my friends Jerry and Juanita Brown who were directing research for the UFW and joined them on the picket lines at Guimarra Farms in Delano. They gave me back issues of El Malcriado and I got caught up on where things were going with the Strike initiated by the Filipinos and strengthened by Cesar Chavez. One of the items that surprised me was to learn that the first signs for the strike went up in Arabic followed by flags proclaiming Huelga!

From Delano's Arab Section support for Huelga

This discovery led me eventually to a household of Yemeni farmworkers in Modesto. How they got here was intriguing. They went from their villages in various parts of Yemen to Aden on the southwestern tip of the Arabic peninsula. From there, they got on Pan Am flights that took them to New York and to the Stockton airport. Some 7000 Yemenis were doing farm work in the Valley in the late 60s. But after they learned English and got a car, they moved on to other work. The ones I talked to had already been on merchant marine ships taking supplies to US forces in Vietnam. Though the Yemeni population has dispersed somewhat from the farm labor scene, they are definitely part of the fabric of the Valley.

Abdo Ali Ahmed, a Yemeni, died in Reedley. This town which dubs itself the "Fruit basket of the World" gives us a lot to think about. This town is one of the few in the entire Central Valley that has a welcome sign featuring some minority organizations. Most welcome signs that include any organizations show mainly churches or service groups like the Lions, Kiwanis and Elks. Reedley has those too but it also has the plaque for the Filipino Association of San Joaquin Valley and the Japanese American Citizens League. Also during its centennial year a few years back, Reedley held year long monthly celebrations honoring different ethnic groups that make up the town. This town was settled by Mennonites, a group targeted with persecution that dispersed them from German speaking areas of Europe to Russia, to Paraguay to the Central Valley.

The community does show signs of its effort to recognize and appreciate its ethnic diversity. But it wasn't too long ago when things were quite different.

Yori Wada grew up in Reedley. He was a social worker in San Francisco where he worked with Afro American youth. He became the first Asian American selected to be a regent of the University of California. Reedley had a city swimming pool but it was off limits to Japanese-Americans like Yori. There was a movie house in Reedley and Yori could go there, provided he sat in a section marked off for people of color. After graduating from Reedley high school in the 30's he went off to UC Berkeley. On his first day in the city, he looked all over for a place to stay but found no place that would rent to a Japanese American. He found an empty house where he spread out some newspapers on the floor and that's how he spent his first night at Cal Berkeley. I doubt if any other Regent of the University of California started in the UC system this way.

As a Regent, Yori made a profound contribution. When the University of California was considering divesting investments in South Africa, there

was only one vote for it when it was first proposed: Yori Wada's. As the movement for removing apartheid grew, the University of California kept taking up the issue, only to turn it down. But the votes for divestment increased and finally it came down to winning over California Governor Deukmejian who turned out to be the swing vote.

From Reedley's Colored Section to freeing South Africa

Yori knew of the prejudice Armenians faced in the Central Valley and he spent many hours talking to Deukmejian, an Armenian American, about the destructiveness of discrimination to people like Deukmejian and Yori and what the two of them could do to reverse discrimination in a country like South Africa. It was Yori Wada's persuasion that convinced Deukmejian to vote for the UC system to remove all investments from South Africa. UC's decision had a snowball effect throughout the country. The divestment movement was a major factor in ridding South Africa of apartheid. During his speaking tour to various UC campuses, Archbishop Desmond Tutu singled out the UC Regents' decision as a critical contributor towards freeing South Africa of apartheid. And to think that such a momentous change was made possible by the determination of one man from the town of Reedley, California.

Reedley is a metaphor for towns all over the Central Valley. It produces people destined for greatness such as Yori Wada. It also harbors people filled with hate and ignorance that drives them to end the life of immigrants like Abdo Ali Ahmed. Like many communities in the Central Valley, Reedley has endearing qualities and reasons for pride.

Like many communities, what happened in Reedley reminds us of the challenges facing all of us to live, work and build community together; not with suspicion or anger, but with compassion and wisdom.

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Let us not fall like autumn leaves

REMEMBER Fresno State police state

gives student files to Air Force

By Catherine Cambell

30 years ago, if the Fresno State administration had given personal educational data about 736 foreign students to the Air Force, the faculty and students' on-going outrage would have spiked into marches and demands for an explanation of such obvious bigotry. But not today, not in the era of cynical detachment from all matters collective.

Not a whisper of protest. All quiet on the campus. The leaves are beginning to fall, and the most audible sound is made by nature.

Let them begin with foreign students, for they are not us. Then when they get to us, we will be used to it. While the local media focuses on what may be a hate murder of a convenience store owner in Reedley, no one seems to care that our largest institution of higher education didn't blink before illegally turning over massive amounts of confidential information about foreign students to the Air Force.

It appears from the media reports on the requests for university documentation on foreign students that Fresno State is the only school in the country to have been so compliant, so willing to give up its students

- without giving them notice,
- without asking for a reason,
- without a request that the list be narrowed,
- without any attempt whatsoever to adhere to the legal requirements for release of confidential information.

Is this a hate crime? Or is this just the first of an infinite number of instances when the law has been and will be broken by trusted institutions and we will let it happen as if it were inevitable, expected, like the leaves drifting to the ground.

And then there are the lies. According to the Fresno Bee, the Fresno State administration says it made a mistake in the way it released the records. What it did not say, of course, is that the "mistake" was that it did not comply with the law. The Fresno State lawyer told the Bee that an effort was made to retrieve the names from the Air Force, but the list had been "destroyed" after the names failed to match up with known suspects.

Get this: *we are to believe that the United States Air Force actually got the names of 736 foreign students and then, within a week, destroyed them.* As a student of institutions, particularly government institutions, I know better. Government records laws require the retention of all documents for specified periods of time.

No, these records are deep in a data base, ready for use at any time. When I was a student at Fresno State during the Vietnam War, there was agitation by the faculty and administration to change the name of the state colleges to "university" to elevate the state colleges from the old "normal" schools and give them prestige, money and new graduate programs.

Long after I graduated, the entire system was renamed and Fresno State became California State University Fresno. Perhaps it has more prestige, although I doubt it. It undoubtedly has more money, and more graduate programs. But Fresno State is still Fresno State. It has not changed.

Is it not the responsibility of the University to educate students on the humanist values of tolerance and civil accountability essential to a democratic republic? In the late '60s and early '70s, the administration of Fresno State engaged in lengthy, illegal suppression of dissent on its campus. The administration's junior league fascism, absurd in its obviousness and ineffectualness, dominated campus life.

Among its many offenses, the administration allowed the FBI to engage in surveillance of students by sitting in on classes. The students, and many professors, were alert to this possibility and had sufficient acuity to notice when an FBI agent was suddenly a student of Ulysses. It will be said that this war is at home, that we have been assaulted here, and that we must fight the war within the United States as well as in Afghanistan.

During war, it will also be said, there is a necessary suspension of the laws which protect our people — all for the sake of our people. This was also said during the war in Vietnam: war protesters were aiding the enemy and were thereby bringing the war home. That, in itself, justified the countless violations of civil liberties of Americans which occurred during the war.



Catherine Cambell

Even the rationale is essentially the same. The law protecting student records from dissemination without their consent was passed in 1974, slightly before American involvement in the awful, calamitous war in Indochina finally ended. It was written in part to correct the abuses of students which had been irrationally justified by the climate of war and dissent. It is not the only piece of 1970's civil rights legislation that is suffering revision during this time of fear, but it is the one that was first violated here. Let it not go by unnoted by us, for we are headed into a dark and very cold winter.



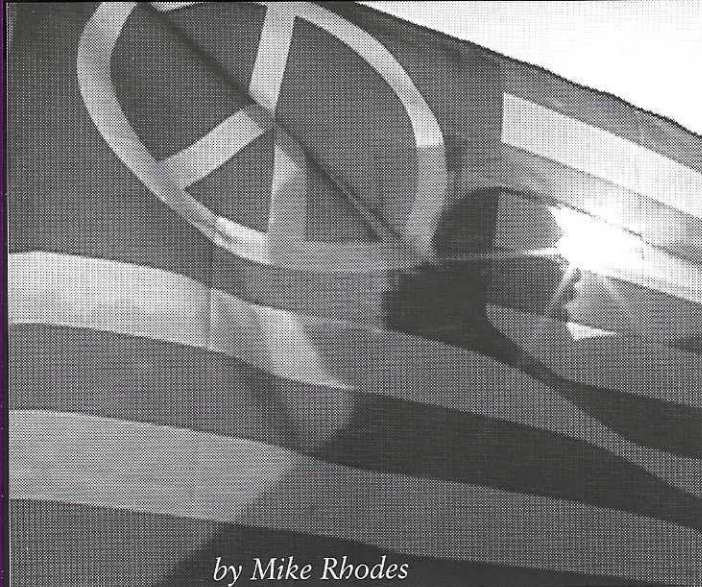
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by Mike Rhodes

Fresno Peace Activists

responded swiftly to threats of war stemming from the September 11 terrorist attacks on the East Coast. On the first Saturday after the attack a "March for Unity and Peace" brought out over 400 people who were concerned about the Bush Administrations drum beat of war.

The march was striking because of the multi-ethnic composition of participants. Muslims, Jews, and Christians were together not only mourning those killed in the attack but because they were questioning how to stop the cycle of violence.

That march on September 15 and many of the anti-war/pro peace events since have been organized by the Fresno Center For Nonviolence.

The nonviolence center at 985 N Van Ness has played an important role in bringing various groups together, publicizing events, and providing a meeting place in the community to organize these actions.

It is safe to say that without the center - Fresno's response to this war would be much less organized.

For updated information on peace actions in Fresno Call the Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).

On the day that the U.S. began bombing Afghanistan

Then they came for me...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.

—Pastor Martin Niemoller

(imprisoned by the Nazis during Hitler's genocidal rule)

determined at a strategy meeting at the center that people would meet at this location when the war started. Protestors are now at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday starting at 4:30 PM.

Anti-war

movement in Fresno has been very closely linked with the Muslim and Arabic community and several important events have taken place at the Masjid Mosque. Everyone was shocked with the killing of Abdo Ali Ahmed in Reedley (see the story on page 10) which brought the threat of racist attacks close to home. A funeral service at the Mosque was attended by hundreds of people including many from the peace and justice community.

With serious threats being made against Muslims and Arabs it is critical the peace movement in Fresno continue to work closely with this community.

Muslim and Arabic organizations are working with anti-war groups in Fresno to educate and challenge people to think before we rush into war.

While there is diversity in the anti-war movement, it was my observation at a major anti-war strategy meeting that took place in Fresno on October 8 that much of the organizing is being driven by activists from the nonviolence center.

There were also a lot of people at that meeting that had never been active before. They were there because they saw this nation racing toward war and they wanted to do something to stop it.

There were experienced activists at the meeting too, but I was most impressed at the number of people there that I had never seen before.

Important decisions came out of that meeting. Several task forces were formed and concrete actions planned. For example, it was here that it was decided to hold a rally at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday.

Don't let M-IC steal our flag

The Military-Industrial Complex (M-IC) does not own the American flag. They own the government through a blatant \$\$\$ coup they pulled off years ago. M-IC is now wielding their government to make the world a private preserve of the private preserve of anti-democratic corporations.

They are trying to steal our flag and wave it as a cover for violating what our flag and country really stand for.

Don't let them do it! Our flag stands for freedom, justice, compassion — just the opposite of what the M-IC stands for. So, let us claim our flag. Let us wave it at every rally for peace and justice.

This is the truthful, impeccable and strategic move.

People we are trying to organize are more likely to hear us if we wrap ourselves in our flag. We are among the flag's most rightful custodians because we are striving to uphold its most sacred principles.

Don't let Laden steal Islam

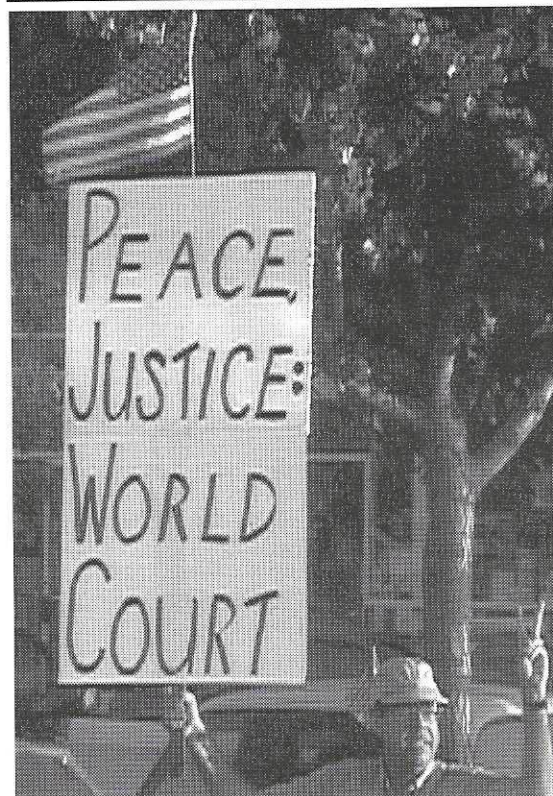
Bin Laden does not own Islam. He is stealing Islam just as the M-IC is stealing our flag — as a cover for aggressive goals.

The real source of Laden's influence is the Middle East desperation, anger and hopelessness that have been cultivated for centuries by oppressive Christian powers — including the M-IC.

The way to stop Laden and any other alleged terrorists is to take away their source of power by delivering hope instead of bombs to the Middle East.

By delivering bombs, the M-IC merely strengthens terrorism. It's as if the M-IC wants Laden to steal Islam.

— George Elfie Ballis



One group is organizing teach ins, there is a campaign to force KMJ to offer balanced prograding about the war, another group is working on education in the schools, and some activists will be contacting elected officials. The hopeful thing is that lots of people are already actively organizing to stop the war.

However, we have had some difficult moments — like when KMPH TV announced in the introduction to their news report that the anti-war demonstrators at Shaw and Blackstone were Osama Bin Laden supporters. A Pepsi bottle was thrown and hit one of the protestors and there has been a lot of verbal abuse by drivers.

Police are now threatening to arrest protestors who came within 500 feet of the freeway 41, citing some arcane law to intimidate people. Also in the “bad news” column is the fact CSU-Fresno was the first university in the country to turn over files on all foreign students to the FBI, INS, and the Air Force.

We have an article on this issue, which the Fresno Bee and most local media largely ignored. See page (11).

While these attacks against our civil liberties are increasing and the “war against terrorism” has all appearances of expanding beyond Afghanistan we do have a few things to be thankful for.



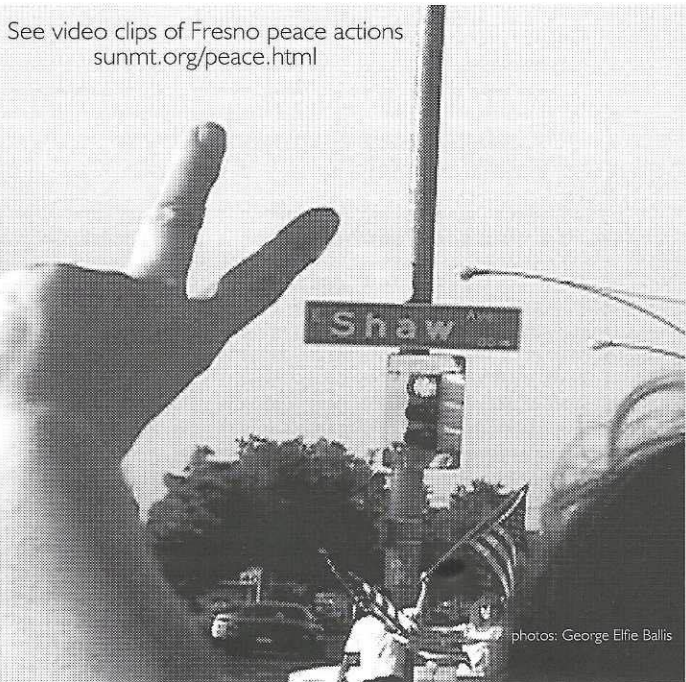
One of the most significant of these is access to a radio station like KFCF 88.1 FM that is a virtual oasis of sanity. KFCF, which rebroadcasts Pacifica station KPFA in Berkeley gives air time to alternative opinions about what is going on in this war against terrorism.

If we received all of our news from CNN, MSNBC, and The Fresno Bee we would all be doomed. The debate there is only between one retired general who says we should invade with ground troops and a policy wonk who supports carpet bombing. Thankfully, we have alternative media in this area.

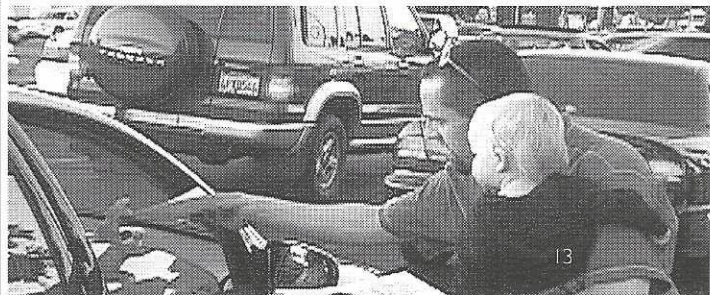
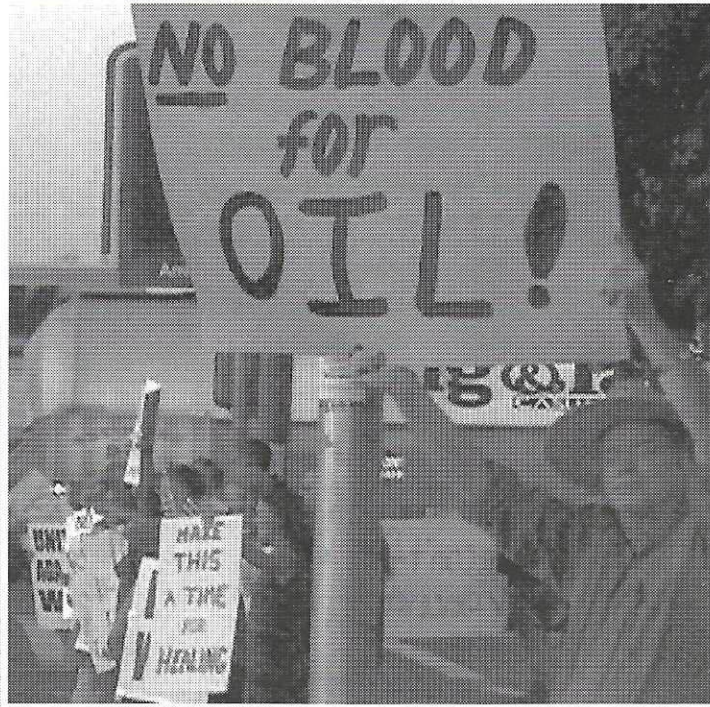
The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is to be congratulated on its role in organizing a response to this new threat against world peace.

All of the other peace and social justice groups in this community have participated in the forums, marches, and rallies to stop the war but it has been the nonviolence center that has fulfilled its historic mission in bringing us all together.

While there are many challenges ahead, we are fortunate in Fresno to have the strong foundation of an anti-war organizing center, good alternative media, a strong link with the Muslim/Arab community, some support from the religious community, and individuals and organizations dedicated to peace, social, and economic justice.



If you are interested in working for peace, call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at (559) 23PEACE(559-237-3223).



(Military-Industrial Complex)

5 LIES about M-IC's War

1

LIE: M-IC is attacking Afganistan to rid the world of terrorism.

TRUTH: M-IC regularly uses terrorism in its foreign policy. Example: for years M-IC has run a terrorist training camp which supplies death squads to South American dictators.

2

LIE: This M-IC war is not about oil.

TRUTH: Afganistan is the pipeline route from the rich Caspian Sea oil deposits to the rest of the world — and M-IC.

3

LIE: M-IC wants to abolish tyranny in Afganistan.

TRUTH: Today M-IC is backing the Northern Alliance to replace the Taliban. Both are fascists, racists, violent and religious bigots. A few years ago, M-IC was on the other side, backing the Taliban against the Northern Alliance.

4

LIE: Americans are coming together in this M-IC war.

TRUTH: Within days of the September 11 tragedy, Congress passed a \$15 billion "rescue" subsidy for the airline companies. Two weeks later they rejected \$1 billion bill to help over 100,000 airline workers who lost their jobs.

5

LIE: M-IC is feeding the Afgan people.

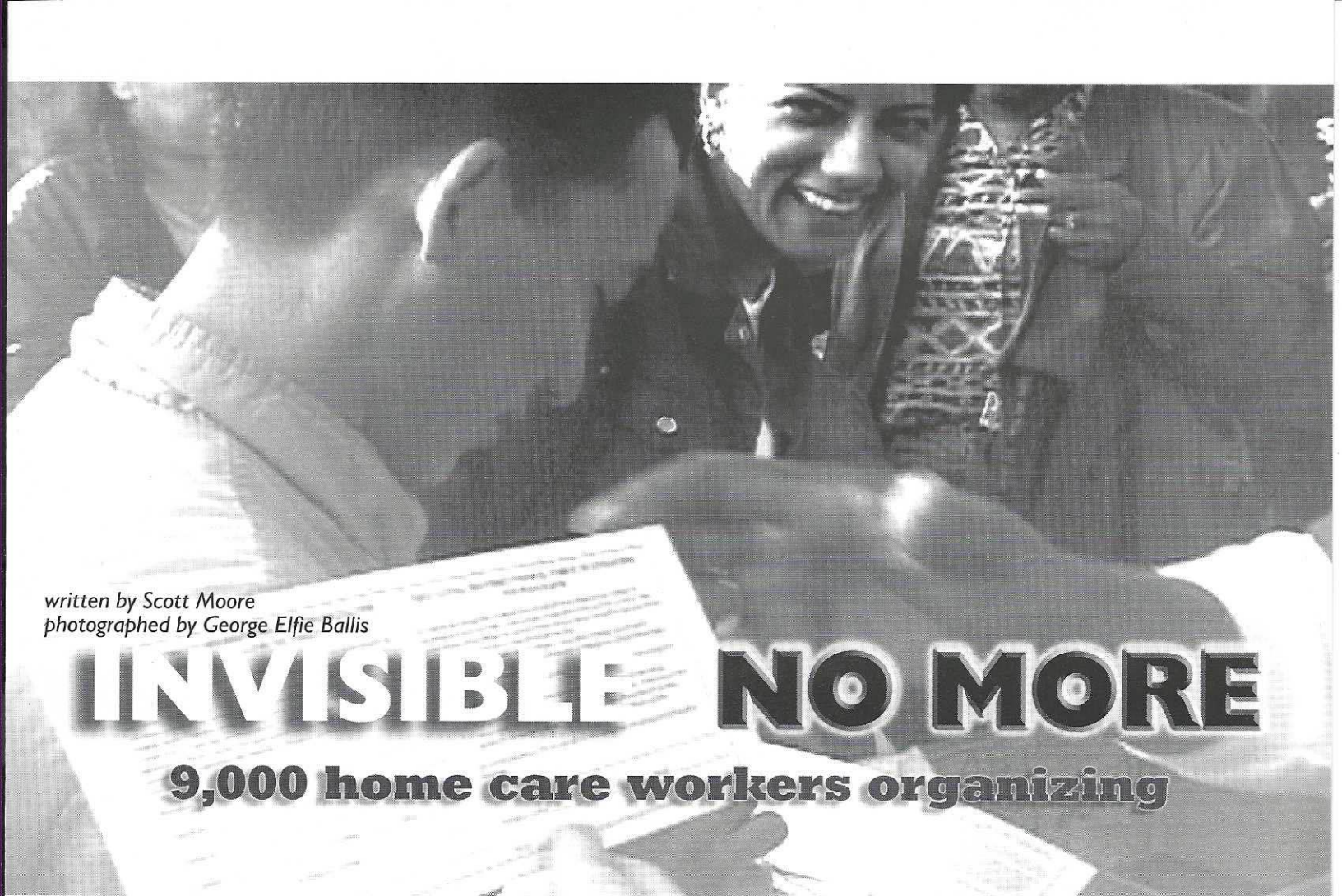
TRUTH: There are about 7 million starving people in Afganistan. M-IC says it dropped 37,000 food packages to feed these people. That's one meal for every 200th person.

IKE SAYS BEWARE OF M-IC

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

— President Dwight Eisenhower's farewell address, January 17, 1961

For on going information and peace-justice actions: KFCF 88.1 FM
Fresno Center for Nonviolence (559) 237-3223
Democracy Now! at webactive.com
Global Exchange at globalexchange.org/september11
Peaceful Justice at peacefuljustic.cib.net



written by Scott Moore
photographed by George Elfie Ballis

INVISIBLE NO MORE

9,000 home care workers organizing

When it happens, it will be the largest union election in the history of Fresno County. Numbering well over 9,000, the health care providers working under the county-run In-Home Supportive Services program (IHSS) easily comprise one of the biggest work forces in the Valley. And yet, up until just recently, these workers have been considered outside the realm of union organization.

“Historically, home care workers were treated as if they were not workers. The myth was that they were actually independent contractors,” says Pam Whalen of the Service Employees International Union Local 250, one of two unions working to organize the workers. (The other union involved is the United Domestic Workers.)

This myth has kept the hourly pay of these workers at the sub-poverty level of \$6.44 and has left them powerless to fight for any type of health benefits. In an attempt to disprove the independent contractor theory, the union filed two unsuccessful lawsuits in Los Angeles that named first the county and then the state as employer. When those suits failed, it became clear that a different strategy was needed.

The SEIU was able to get legislation passed that allowed counties to create a Public Authority (much like an irrigation or library district) that would serve as the Employer of Record for the IHSS workers. This would then allow the home care workers to hold a union election, supervised and counted by the State Mediation Service. Eight counties in the state of California agreed to voluntarily establish a Public Authority. These counties were mainly in the Bay Area and Southern California; expectedly, Fresno County declined to participate.

The Fresno Board of Supervisors would probably still be ignoring SEIU Local 250 if it weren't for Assembly Bill 1682. In 1999, successful lobbying transformed the permissive law into a mandatory law with 2003 as the deadline. The law requires the establishment of an advisory board to recommend to the county a path to take in the formation of an Employer of Record. According to Whalen, there are technically three models that the county could choose to follow.

The first would be to incorporate the home care workers as county employees. In Fresno County, whose total employees currently number 7,000, an increase by more than 9,000 seems unlikely. The second model would endorse a private agency to take over the program. AB 1682, however, limits this option to counties with less than 500 home care workers. In practice, the only option is the final model — the creation of a Public Authority. The advisory board, which is composed of home care recipients and providers, recently decided on a mixed-mode recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

They are endorsing the Public Authority model along with the creation of an agency or contractor to handle certain recipients with greatly diminished mental abilities. (AB 1682 guarantees the right to hire and fire to the recipients. Not all recipients possess the cognitive ability to do this, whether due to Alzheimer's or dementia, so an agency to supervise these cases is crucial.) The proposal will be presented to the county on October 30.

Whalen is optimistic about their chances but says, “I think they'll be a little bit surprised because they are expecting a straight Public Authority recommendation. This is the most responsible thing to do, though. I would be surprised if they

(continued on next page)




Home Care Workers nudge supervisors

(continued from previous page)

really have a big problem with it. They can always just say no and do whatever they want anyway.”

Once a decision has been made by the county, it will be up to the SEIU to begin moving towards an election. This is something they have been working on for the past fifteen years and with increased vigor for the last two. Outside of a basic resistance to change, it seems unlikely that the SEIU is going to find much opposition among the workers.

In counties where the Employer of Record has already been established and the union elected to represent the workers, the SEIU has been able to secure wages of \$8.50 per hour and affordable health benefits.



(An interesting side note: Though the IHSS is essentially a county program and the workers get their paychecks from the state, the money is provided by a mixture

of federal, state, and county matching funds. The federal government will match funds up to double the minimum wage but California will match only up to the minimum. In the past, if a county or entity wanted to pay its IHSS workers more than minimum wage it would have to absorb the expense not provided for by the state government. In the midst of last year's state budget planning, the SEIU convinced Governor Davis to allocate \$100 million to raise the wages of the home care workers. This amount provided for an increase to \$7.50 per hour and an additional sixty cents per hour towards benefits. The agreement included a yearly raise of a dollar per hour, up to double the minimum wage, assuming the economy performs well. As soon as Fresno County establishes an Employer of Record, an amount of \$8.50 will be available for the IHSS workers. The goal is to increase the wage yearly until it meets the double minimum wage standard set by the federal government.)

Across the country, similar battles have been waging with varying success. A few years ago, the SEIU in Los Angeles County organized over 75,000 home care workers in what was possibly the largest union election ever. In Milwaukee, the home care industry is dominated by a few private non-



profit agencies. When the SEIU began hitting the streets in order to gain the support of the workers, the agencies began employing classic union busting tactics. Pam Whalen and her fellow organizers at SEIU Local 250 can count themselves fortunate that the group on the other side of their struggle is Fresno County, not a private company.

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Few hours paid for, many worked

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Whalen says, "Counties have not felt confident enough to take tax payer dollars and use them on a union busting campaign. They can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Basically, the state legislature hasn't been sympathetic to spending money like that." This has spared the organizational struggle from becoming overly adversarial; the union sees this as more mutual venture with the county rather than a fight against it.

That's not to say that the union's years-long campaign hasn't been without a great deal of difficulty. Some might say that the county is dragging its heels in implementing the law. Certainly affording home care workers the right to unionize would not have even been a consideration if not for the forceful hand of AB 1682. In fact, if it weren't for the 3% raise that the union worked for, IHSS workers would still be receiving the minimum wage.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the SEIU is the fact that unlike most other work forces, the home care workers do not have a common work place that can be used to disseminate information.

To assist in the daunting task of contacting 9,000 individuals spread out all over the county, the union has solicited the help of some of the workers that have pledged support for its efforts. Some have acted as phone callers, door knockers, and translators to unite the county's workers.

One of the main thrusts of the union's efforts is to humanize the campaign both nationally and locally. Organizer Toni Landin worked as a home care provider for six years and knows well the problems faced by her coworkers in the Valley. She has often had to work with multiple clients daily in an attempt to make a living from the minimum wage job.

At one point, Toni was contemplating the addition of another client to her roster when she was informed that if she made any more money per month than she was currently bringing in, her Medical deductible would skyrocket to an out-of-reach \$200. Though she needed the income, the prospect of having to raise the money for a hospital visit for herself or her family kept her from working increased hours. Says Toni, "It's like they were actually condemning me for working."

Toni, Pam, and all of SEIU recognize that the most powerful commentary on the lives of the home care workers come from the stories told by the workers themselves.

In keeping with the SEIU campaign's motto of "Invisible No More," the remainder of this article will focus on the situations of three IHSS workers, that the reader may get a practical glimpse of what is frequently discussed in theory.

Her Vang

Born in Laos on an unknown date in the mid-sixties, Her Vang has lived a life that most only read about in textbook sidebars. When the US led coalition of fighters, which included most of Her's uncles, was defeated in the Vietnam War, he and his entire family were forced to flee their homeland to escape certain imprisonment and death.

From 1975 to 1979, Her's family and a hundred of their fellow villagers lived in the jungles between Laos and Thailand. Lacking tools like maps and compasses, the refugees relied on the sun and the moon to point them further away from impending retaliation.

Finally, towards the end of 1979, the refugees reached the Mekong River and proceeded to cross it by raft. On the safe side of the border, they told a Thai officer of their situation. The United Nations High Commission was informed and began registering all of the weary travelers as refugees. A large refugee camp had been set up by the UN to attend to the needs of the flood of displaced Laotians pouring into Thailand.

At the camp, Her enrolled in the Thai elementary school program that concerned itself less with age than the literacy of its students. After completing both the elementary and adult education programs, Her signed up with the teacher training program at the camp. He soon discovered that this line of work held little promise for him.

Having lacked medical facilities during his time spent in the jungle, Her decided to attend the nurse preparation classes held at the refugee camp's hospital. After years of training from

western professionals he began working as a physician's assistant.

In 1992 the contract between the UN and the Thai government came to a close and the refugee camp was to be shut down. Laotians were given two options: they could

return home to take their chances with the current government or they could move to America. Uncertain as to the level of hostility still harbored by the government they had fled, Her's family opted to make a new home in the land of the free.

One date that Her is confident of is April 31st, 1993. That was the day that he and his family arrived in America, specifically, in Fresno. His first impression was one of trepidation. "How will we survive here?" he remembers thinking on that first day, "There aren't any farms, any fields. What will we do here?"

Not long after, while still trying to readjust to life in the western world, Her discovered that his father suffered from severe cataracts. When the increasing blindness prevented him from accomplishing simple tasks like doing the laundry, Her took his father to a doctor who informed him that an in-home care

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Her sits his ailing mother at dinner he has fixed

Caring knows no hours, no holidays

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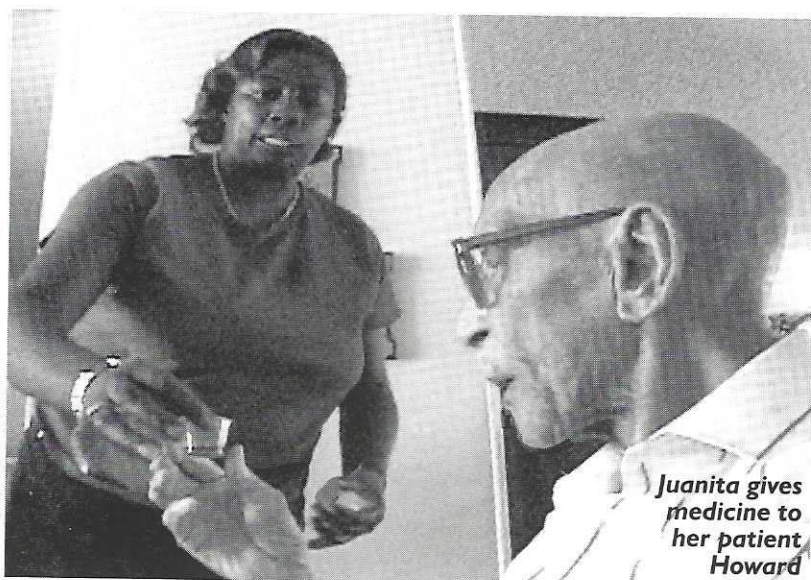
provider would be needed. Her signed up with the IHSS program in order to look after his father.

Soon after, Her's mother's mounting health problems, including high blood pressure and arthritis in both knees, drove Her to pursue IHSS coverage in her case. The program has allotted a few hours a day for both parents though, in reality, they require almost constant support.

A certain old-world intractability prevents Her's parents from seeking out any but the most rudimentary medical assistance. In fact, Her is fairly convinced that his mother suffered a stroke recently; her speech has become increasingly slurred. She, however, refuses to see a doctor about the condition because she doesn't feel they could offer her any help.

Her sees it as his duty to simply, "make them happy, to stay close to them and provide everything they need," adding, "if you make them happy, that will keep them healthy and they will live longer."

"When we were in the jungle, they did everything they could to protect the children. Now it's our turn. When they were young they could do whatever they wanted. Here they can't because they can't speak the language, they cannot drive, they cannot get out and see the environment. But they have me."



In Laos, caring for his parents is something that Her would have done without compensation ever being a consideration.

Here in the U.S. however, though the idea is noble in concept, it is impossible to eat or buy clothes without making a decent wage. Since his parents require so much of his waking time, Her is unable to work another job that would pay the bills. (In the last eight years, however, he has been able to get his GED and recently graduated from Fresno City College.) Those on the County Board of Supervisors who feel that IHSS work is duty-bound and should be a free service have never had to walk in Her Vang's shoes.

Her began assisting the SEIU because he feels that worker advocacy is important in this field. The union has utilized his

fluency in several languages to help with the inadequate translating done at county meetings. According to Her, "The more people that get together, the stronger we are."

Juanita Foreman

In 1982, Juanita Foreman abandoned her role as a security guard because she was, "tired of the running all around all the time." A friend told her about the IHSS program and asked if Juanita would like to begin caring for his Alzheimer's stricken wife.

As soon as she started with home care, she knew that she loved it. Juanita stayed with the first job for ten years until the patient passed away from her disease. Her next client was a bed-ridden diabetic alcoholic that lived with her for nearly six years.

"And after that, about a year ago," Juanita says as she points to her new patient and resident of her apartment, "I got him." The "him", Willie Howard, has led a long and difficult life. In recent years Willie has endured two falls, two broken legs, a broken jaw, a rattle snake bite, a bout with typhoid fever that nearly resulted in his bleeding to death, four cases of pneumonia, and a life threatening heart problem. A testament to his strength and obvious good-nature, he recounts these stories almost affably, considering himself blessed to still be able to take his daily walks.

The only times when sullenness enters Willie's voice is when he discusses the death of his wife. In the aftermath of her passing, Willie found himself at a loss. Ever since she had suffered a congestive heart failure in 1993, Willie dedicated every waking minute to caring for his wife. After her death in September of 2000, his stepdaughter recommended that he stay with her lifelong friend, Juanita.

Juanita has also recently picked up another job caring for a woman, Anita, who has diabetes, has broken her back, has fallen several times, and has problems using her hands. Her duties as an in-home care worker, as is the case for all such workers, include cooking, cleaning, administering medications, driving her patients to the doctor, going to the store, and otherwise ensuring that her clients are able to lead as independent a life as possible.

The social workers that determine a patient's number of care hours have allotted Anita 78 hours per month and Willie 131. Since Juanita is the only care provider that both of these recipients have, she is working an average of 249 hours per month. In addition to not getting paid any overtime, non-union home care workers also work without any prospect of sick or vacation time. Calling in sick if unable to work is simply not an option.

Juanita sees herself in the position of union shop steward sometime after the successful election. She already speaks as if attempting to rile the workers through a bullhorn. There are several things she would push for with the union, besides obvious issues like affordable health benefits and a living wage. She would fight for increased training for prospective home care workers that would adequately prepare them for their new job. She would fight for the provision of necessary supplies like sanitary gloves.

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When will Fresno sups follow law?

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She would fight for a direct deposit form of payment that would help standardize the vague eight to twelve day window the state relies on to issue checks. She would also fight for what she calls "restive care" that would allow the home care workers to take some occasional time off. "Workers need rest time and the recipients often need a break from the workers.

"This would help us get out of town if we needed to get out of town or go down the street and holler if that's what we need."

At this point, holidays, including Christmas and Thanksgiving and Sundays for that matter, are nothing more than additional work days. The recipients don't stop depending on the daily care and the providers don't stop giving it. Nor does the state grant any holiday pay.

Elena Larios

Florencia Ruvalcaba likes to do what four year old grandson Ethan likes to call "mischievous things." She regularly wears several dresses at one time, occasionally washes her clothes in the toilet, and often blares the radio at 4:00am while waiting for the rest of the house to wake up. For a person with the leisure of detachment from the situation, these actions might seem merely eccentric, perhaps even funny.

However, when you're her daughter, and your mother is suffering from advanced Alzheimer's Disease, and her "mischief" often includes devouring four bananas despite her life threatening diabetes, and you are her only care provider, the situation is far from humorous.

In 1994, when it became clear that something was seriously wrong with her mother — when she began forgetting things and becoming suspicious of her loved ones — Elena Larios took a leave of absence from her job as a health aide with the Parlier school district. And when it became clear that returning to work might not be in the immediate future, she approached IHSS as a way to recoup some of the money she was losing.

The IHSS social workers determined that Florencia would be allotted six hours per day for care. Even if she felt comfortable with bringing in outside help to care for her mother, the number of hours prevented Elena from returning to work. The school would require her to be there for eight hours a day leaving Florencia alone for the two or more remaining hours until her daughter arrived home.

An anecdote illustrating why Florencia cannot be left alone even for a few minutes: The Larios family recently had to have a new roof installed on their home. Elena stepped outside for a few minutes to discuss something with the roofers, leaving her mother and Ethan alone in the house. When she reentered the house, she was informed by her son that Grandma has eaten a piece of gum.

For hours, Elena racked her brain trying to uncover the source of the secret treat her mother had eaten. It wasn't until a trip to the bathroom that she discovered exactly where her mother got the "gum." On the counter was a box of foil-sealed laxatives with one piece missing. The following twenty-four hours were an exercise in white knuckle fear as Elena watched her mother's blood-sugar levels fluctuate like a roller coaster.



After Elena decided that she would have to officially quit her job as a health aide, IHSS increased her mother's care hours to the maximum of 283 hours per month. She isn't excessively concerned about the money she is making for taking

care of her mother. What hits her the hardest is the fact that she has had to give up all of the health benefits she enjoyed as an educational employee.

Elena suffers from an internal hernia propagated by the stress of her situation. She says that she has lost a child due to the stress and that her prospects of having another are slim. She is hoping that by voting for union representation by SEIU, she will be given back some of the health coverage she no longer has. She would also like to see an increase in her mother's care hours though not for the money; she would like to bring in another care worker to allow her to mentally and emotionally recuperate.

(Even though 283 per month is the maximum, legislation has been passed that allows for an increase. Fresno County has apparently said that the limit is not up for discussion.)

Elena sums up the importance of the IHSS program and inadvertently echoes many other home care workers by saying, "I don't want Mom in a convalescent hospital. They would probably just sedate her and she would end up just staring at the wall. At least here she has interaction and she can listen to her music. I just want her to be happy."

Regardless of the possible objections of the county, there will be a union election within the next year — it's mandated by California law. When the votes are counted and SEIU is established as the bargaining representative for the home care workers, affordable health benefits and something approaching a living wage will likely be just around the corner. The only uncertainty is just how long the county will continue its hesitation to implement the law. The longer the workers have to wait, the longer they will be forced into poverty conditions for choosing to take care of their families, real and adopted.

November Events

SEE YOU THERE

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.

Saturday, November 3 9 AM
Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

Saturday, November 3 12 Noon - 2 PM
Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will gather at Fashion Fair (Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center). This will be the first demonstration since the court victory. You won't want to miss this demonstration as protestors return to the front entrance of Fashion Fair to hand out fliers and hold anti-sweatshop signs. Call (559) 233-3978 for more information.

Monday, November 5 7:30 PM
Monthly meeting of the **Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides** (FresCAMP). Join us to discuss the upcoming Central Valley Environmental Justice Conference. Call 439-0280 or 227-6134 for further information.

Wednesday, November 7 3:30 PM
Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 FM with your host Pam Whalen from the Labor/Community Alliance.

Wednesday, November 7 7 PM
Free OPEN MIC poetry reading at Fresno State's Coffeehouse and Pub. Come celebrate the spoken word and the art of performance with us at Fresno State's Coffeehouse & Pub (across from the University Student Union)! Poetry, prizes, & plenitude! Come join us for a fun evening of fast poems and friendly fellowship.

Thursday, November 8 7 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>

Thursday, November 8 - Sunday, November 11
Reel Pride Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the Tower Theater. See page 24 for details.

Friday, November 9 3:30 PM
Lloyd Carter will host his monthly radio show, **Down in the Valley**, focusing on San Joaquin Valley water, environment and Ag issues, on KFCF, 88.1 FM. Lloyd's guest will be Lydia Miller, founder of the San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center in Merced County and a long-time environmental activist in the North Valley. She will talk on why the University of California has selected the wrong location for its planned campus in Merced County.

Friday, November 9 6 PM
The Fresno Free College Foundation & KFCF 88.1 FM are celebrating 25 years of community radio at their 2001 Annual Banquet. Featured speakers will be Radio Activist Carol Spooner and Special Guests from KPFA Radio. The event will be held at The Downtown Club, 2120 Kern Street in Fresno. Tickets are \$40 Per Person - RSVP by November 5. For more information: <http://www.kfcf.org/> or call (559) 233-2221.

Saturday, November 10 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, November 10
Deadline for submissions to the December issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to <LCAeditor@mediaone.net>

Tuesday, November 13 7 PM
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Board/General Meeting at Carol Bequette's home, 3647 Circle Drive West. Call 229-9661 for more information.

Wednesday, November 14
Bill Moyer--organizer, writer, educator, trainer in nonviolent social movements for over 40 years--will be speaking in Fresno. For details see article on page 2.

Wednesday, November 14 12 Noon
Community Hunger and Nutrition Forum, sponsored by Fresno Metro Ministry will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 N. Cedar (between Ashlan and Dakota). No charge. For more information: call 485-1416 or email <metromin@qnis.net> .

Wednesday, November 14 3:30 PM
Bill Moyer, acclaimed activist, organizer, writer, educator, trainer in nonviolent social movements in a dozen countries for 40 years, will guest on "Stir It Up," radio show hosted by Vincent Lavery on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 PM on KFCF, 88.1 FM.

Thursday, November 15 7:30 AM
Community Health Care Roundtable sponsored by Metro Ministry meets at Trinity Lutheran Church 3973 N. Cedar (between Ashlan and Dakota). Senator Jim Costa and Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Santiago Wood are the scheduled speakers. For more info: call 485-1416 or email metromin@qnis.net

Thursday, November 15 6 - 8 pm
Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings (every third Thursday) to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. We have committees on Political Action, Promotion & Education, and Facilities Planning. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike friendly, please join us. We have just recently formed so need maximum help and input from cyclists. Downtown Library, Sarah McCardle Room, dinner catered by Food Not Bombs.

Thursday, November 15 7:30 PM
Death Penalty Focus regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: (559) 255-9492 or <maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net> .

Friday, November 16 6 pm
No host social hour 7 pm Dinner 8 pm Program (Phoebe Wall-Howard) **Central California Alliance**, A gay and lesbian community service organization, has invited Phoebe Wall Howard to be the guest speaker at a dinner on November 16th at the Piccadilly Inn on Shaw. Phoebe will share her observations on local politics. Candidates running for political offices will also be invited. The CCA dinner will be \$30 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. Ticket information - 431-8361

Friday, November 16 7 PM
Fresno County Green Party welcomes registered Greens and interested individuals to join us for another quarterly gathering at the Ted C. Wills Community Center, 770 N. San Pablo. Food Not Bombs will serve dinner, music will play, nominations for county council will be taken, and a speaker will be included.

Saturday, November 17 4 PM
The regular monthly meeting for **Fresno Stonewall Democrats** will be held at 3075 N. Maroa, Fresno. The guest speaker will be Craig Roberts of San Diego who is a member of the National Board of Directors of Stonewall Democrats. The club will move back to its regular third Tuesday of every month schedule for its December 18th meeting. Contact Jay Hubbell at hubbell@online.no or (559) 292-4905 or visit the Fresno Stonewall website <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Sunday, November 18 3 PM
Fresno Metro Ministry Annual Thanksgiving Choir Concert at First Baptist Church, 1400 E. Saginaw Avenue, Fresno. Donation of \$5.00 each, or \$14 for family. Child care provided.

Monday, November 19 7 PM
NOW - National Organization for Women will hold their monthly meeting at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness (south of Olive). Free! Everyone welcome! For more information call Nora at 224-7832 or email <lraep2@juno.com>

Wednesday, November 21 3:30 PM
STIR IT UP on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring the **'Green Scene'** and hosted by Theresa 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.

Friday, November 23
Buy Nothing Day. For more info go to <http://adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd/>

Friday, November 23 5 PM
Street Heat on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring Labor and Community activists.

Monday, November 26 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/>

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Wednesday, November 28 3:30 PM
STIR-IT-UP, WILPF-style on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Friday 4:30 PM
A demonstration for peace will gather at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday until the crisis is over. 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.

First Saturday of Every Month 12 Noon - 2 PM
Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will gather at Fashion Fair (Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center). Call Gabrielle Kirkland for more information: 875-0057

Every Saturday 1-2 PM
Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The new location for cooking on Saturday is 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). Visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Every Sunday 3-4 PM
Food Not Bombs cooks every Sunday starting at 10 AM at 743 E. Weldon Avenue in the Tower District. Food is served at Courthouse Park in Downtown Fresno. Volunteers are needed. For more information see their web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/>

Monday - Friday 6 AM & 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 6:00 - 6:30 AM
SILENT VIGIL at First Congregational Church of Fresno, 2131 N. Van Ness, in memory of the people killed on Tuesday, Sept. 11th. Everyone welcome. Bring a candle if you can. Nora DeWitt/FCCF Community Outreach, 225-1894 (eve)

Every Tuesday 7 PM
Meeting of the **Student Action Front** will be at 743 E. Weldon in the Tower District. Help organize further actions in Fresno to promote unity through peace. Contact Lauren Ferber <laurenliberty@mediaone.net> for more information.

Every Tuesday 6:30 PM
The Fresno Peace Committee will hold an anti-war organizing meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. If you want to help STOP THE WAR - 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).

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/>

Every Thursday and Friday 1 - 3 PM
Radio Grito is on the air (in Spanish) bringing you Community Radio at its finest. Listen on KBIF 900 AM as Proyecto Campesino brings you news and information about our valley. Call ins are welcome. Have something you want people to know about? Call them up and be a guest. For more information call (559) 733-4844.

Every Friday 3 PM
FRESNO CITY COLLEGE FORUM ON WAR AND PEACE. A series of forums on the Bush "War on Terrorism" and the alternative will be held every week at Fresno City College Forum Hall 101. The forum is free and open to the public. Forum topics will be announced on a weekly basis. For more information contact Rod Gaudin at 442-4600 ext. 8349.

V DAY

UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

Fresno




Women's Alliance of Fresno State will be conducting auditions for the V-Day College Campaign 2002 performance of "The Vagina Monologues" in November. We are looking for women of all colors, ages, sizes and abilities to be a part of this endeavor. Performances will be February 28 and March 1.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a palpable energy, a fierce catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day helps these organizations to continue their core work, while we generate broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence.

Contact Desi at 224-2976 or Aniesha at 278-4435.

Labor/Community
ALLIANCE

SEEING OURSELVES
A 16 min. docupoem of 25 local social justice actions 2000-2001, the highlight of the Alliance birthday party.

A  Production
by Maia & George Elfie Ballis
from the archives of the SunMt Chronicles

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Call: 559 855-3710

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Center was born out of the felt ineffectuality of anti-war demonstrators during the Gulf War. Mona Reed articulated it: "We can't just wait to react. We need a place where we can build anti-war sentiment proactively." Thus the Fresno Center for Nonviolence was conceived, then realized.

As the second Mr. Bush's very own "war" unfolds, we peace activists find ourselves in a different situation. We understand the slim chance of having immediate impact on the President, or even our elected federal officials who (with the exception of Sen. Boxer) have a history of dismissing us out of hand. Still...

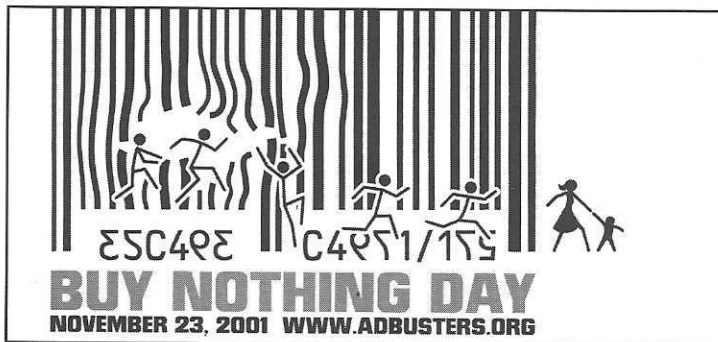
...Because the Center is here, we can hold meetings without negotiating for space... We have a phone in place... People know where they can get literature, information, the comfort of likeminded company.

Besides the Center, the time between wars has seen the birth of our own magazine (which you're now reading); the creation of the weekly "Stir It Up" on KFCF; the growth of time-tested alliances that run from labor, to immigrant rights groups, to civil liberties groups, to inter-faith groups, to peace-and-justice groups.

So it is heartening to see the difference 10 years has made. Whereas in 1991 holding occasional demonstrations and self-consoling meetings was all peace activists could do, in 2001 within days of the proclamation of war several action committees are already at work to do the possible: affect the thinking of ill-informed Fresnans in a wide variety of media and venues. In fact it was surprising to find that Fresno was ahead of the curve — in the first days after Sept. 11, the most powerful radio station in Southern California twice called our own Vince Lavery for interviews because it couldn't locate an anti-war spokesperson nearby.

Yet while I take pride in the role the Center for Nonviolence has played in facilitating this quick response, I want to differentiate the anti-war coalition from the Center. For the Center, the "war" did not start on Sept. 11, and will not end anytime soon. This is a war with planetary sustainability at stake, a war for the valuation of all life forms and all human cultures, a war for giving higher priority to a decent life for the many than to affluence for the few. It is a struggle the Center has been engaged in for all its 10 years.

And Bush's absurd declaration to fight evil doesn't at all change our institutional mission, which is education and support. One reason we have worked to maintain the Center is precisely so that we can host anti-war activities when the time comes, and to offer material aid and non-violent underpinnings to these activities. But the Center is not in charge of "the anti-war movement" in Fresno. The Center is here to work toward its long-term objectives, and will persevere when the hot war dies down... May it be soon.



THE WELCH REPORT

October 15, 2001

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

ON VIOLENCE

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

The attacks of Sept 11 upon the US were horrendous, and only now is life beginning to return to normal. We saw many examples of great courage and caring in the response of people to this tragedy. Then on Oct. 7 we and the British struck back against the Taliban and the terrorists in Afghanistan.

There can be no justification for these heinous actions against us. However, I believe this can be a time to look at possible sources of the hatred against the US and the West underlying these (and past) attacks.

WHY DO THEY HATE US?

We are a target of terrorists because of our role in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which there is a perceived tilt toward Israel through our providing them with advanced weaponry, such as Apache helicopters, and in the negotiating process. Jewish Unity for a Just Peace is calling for an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Democratic Israel is our good friend in the region; however, the inequities in our relations with Israel and the Palestinians need attention.

The presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia is offensive to Muslims because of the perceived desecration of the Islamic holy sites of Mecca and Medina by the presence of "infidels." How much have we needed (before now) to be in Saudi? In my view oil is not a sufficient reason.

The US and the British continue to bomb Iraqi no-fly zones (which are of questionable legality), and our sanctions against them have caused much hardship and death, especially to children. I have believed these sanctions should be lifted, except those designed to control the admission of weapons material into the country.

The poverty and hunger in parts of the Muslim world, especially Afghanistan, also provide basis for the rage, which too often is directed against us, the world's richest nation.

ABOUT GOALS NOW

One has to support the finding and bringing to justice of those responsible for the attacks in New York and Washington D.C. but rather than heeding the frontier call, "Dead or Alive", would it not be appropriate, if possible, to bring these evil-doers before the World Court for trial and punishment for their crimes against humanity?

I respect the action of Barbara Lee, congresswoman from Oakland, CA, who on Sept. 14 cast the lone "No" vote in the House of Representatives against the resolution authorizing the President's use of force. She said, "This unspeakable attack on the US has forced me to rely on my conscience, and my God for direction... I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of terrorism against the US". In the memorial service at the National Cathedral a member of the clergy said, "As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore".

NOVEMBER WILPF EVENTS CALENDER

- **Tues 13 WILPF Board/General Meeting** 7-9 p.m. at Carol Bequette's home, 3747 Circle Drive West. *Call 229-9661 for more information.*
- **Wed 28 "Stir It Up" WILPF-style.** Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM from 3:30 to 4 p.m

2001 Peace Community Holiday Crafts Faire SAT • DEC 1, 2001 • 1-4pm

Arrangements are already being made for our annual Peace Community Holiday Crafts Faire. As is tradition, the faire will take place at the wonderful Big Red Church (aka First Congregational Church) on Van Ness between Weldon and Yale Avenues. **We need help now!** *Call Desi (224-2976)* to volunteer for the food committee, publicity, setting up and taking down, or any other tasks such as preparing items for sale at the WILPF table — plants, crafts, baked goods, jams, garden produce, and lots of goodies for the white elephant table. *Call Lauralee (299-2148)* if you want a vendor table or literature table, or know of someone who should be contacted that may be interested. *Call Joan (227-6134) or Ellie (229-9807)* if you can bring bread, soup or dessert or to take a shift at the WILPF table or food service. Make sure to mark your calendar; you won't want to miss all the friends, fun, and food. Go ahead, mark it now!

N. CA WILPF Cluster Meeting in Santa Cruz

by Ellie Bluestein

Camille Russell, Elizabeth DeRosa West, Jean Kennedy and Ellie Bluestein attended the meeting of Northern California WILPF branches in Santa Cruz in September. The morning session was devoted to an excellent presentation by several members of the Challenging Corporations national committee. We have a copy of the terrific study guide they have prepared and are planning to invite them to Fresno early next year to do a workshop for us. During lunch branches reported on actions being taken in response to the events of September 11. We reported on the "Unity Walk" in Fresno.

Chris Ballin, one of WILPF's delegates to the UN Conference Against Racism reported on WILPF's presence there — 17 from US WILPF and 6 from International WILPF attended and set up a peace tent which was a gathering place for many delegates to dialogue. Chris was amazed at the extent to which wording became the main issue of the conference. Adjoa Artis Aiyetor, a WILPF delegate to the conference, took part in the preparatory committee meetings setting up the agenda of the conference, played a prominent role on the issue of reparations for slavery and was interviewed on both NPR and the McNeil report.

Despite the two main items which dominated the conference many other issues were raised by the numerous delegates who attended, especially that of the "untouchables" in India. The conference was very important and worthwhile despite the absence of prominent U.S. delegates. The U.S. did leave a lower echelon group of representatives who continued to take part in the conference, but it was the European Union which stayed the course and worked out a final compromise that was acceptable to the conference.

FRESNO WILPF's LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE Keeps Busy Making Sure Government Hears What We Want

by Ellie Bluestein

Legislative committee (Pat Pickford, Cindy Calvert, Joyce Huggins, Ellie Bluestein) sent four letters on behalf of the Branch to Dooley and Radanovich asking them to sponsor the establishment of a Department of Peace; to support ratification (more than 20 years since President Carter signed it) of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and to end our involvement in the war in Colombia. Also sent was a thank you to Congresswoman Barbara Lee for being the lone vote against giving war powers to President Bush.

Congress and the president need to hear from all of us at once and continually about an end to the unconscionable destruction we are wreaking on Afghanistan and its people. To become a member of the Fresno WILPF legislative committee, whose members write one letter a month to government reps, call Ellie at 229-9807.

STOPPING TERRORISM: Ideas to Relay to the President and Others

by Joan Poss

Rather than simply saying "Stop the Bombing," here are some specific daily suggestions for the president:

1. Stop the terrorism at home; stop the School of the Americas in Georgia.
2. Divest Bush Sr. of his Carlyle Funds.
3. Get the U.S. back to the biological warfare negotiating table.
4. Stop contaminating Afghanistan with bombs that contain scraps of depleted uranium.

You can also call and ask local newspaper and TV stations to cover the local, state, national and international peace movement.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

by Lauralee Crain Carbone

Below is an excerpt from John Steinbeck's classic *Grapes of Wrath*. This scene occurs shortly after the Joad family, including their two children, Ruthie and Winfield, arrive at the government camp near Bakersfield, and illustrates a nonviolent reaction to violence.

Ruthie said, "Le's look aroun'." They strolled down the line of tents, peering into each one, gawking self-consciously. At the end of the unit there was a level place on which a croquet court had been set up. Half a dozen children played seriously. In front of a tent an elderly lady sat on a bench and watched. Ruthie and Winfield broke into a trot. "Leave us play," Ruthie cried. "Leave us get in." The children looked up. A pig-tailed little girl said, "Nex' game you kin." "I wanna play now." Ruthie cried. "Well, you can't. Not till nex' game." Ruthie moved menacingly out on the court. "I'm a-gonna play." The pig-tails gripped her mallet tightly. Ruthie sprang at her, slapped her, pushed her, and wrested the mallet from her hands. "I says I was gonna play," she said triumphantly.

The elderly lady stood up and walked onto the court. Ruthie scowled fiercely and her hands tightened on the mallet. The lady said, "Let her play--like you done with Ralph las' week." The children laid their mallets on the ground and trooped silently off the court. They stood at a distance and looked on with expressionless eyes. Ruthie watched them go. Then she hit a ball and ran after it. "Come on, Winfiel'. Get a stick," she called. And then she looked in amazement. Winfield had joined the watching children, and he too looked at her with expressionless eyes. Defiantly she hit the ball again. The children stood and watched. Ruthie lined up two balls and hit both of them, and she turned her back on the watching eyes, and then turned back. Suddenly she advanced on them, mallet in hand. "You come an' play," she demanded. They moved silently back at her approach. For a moment she stared at them, and then she flung down the mallet and ran crying for home.

The children walked back on the court. Pigtales said to Winfield, "You can git in the nex' game." The watching lady warned them, "When she comes back an' wants to be decent, you let her. You was mean yourself, Amy." The game went on, while in the Joad tent Ruthie wept miserably.

If you're a WILPF member, we encourage you to submit any information you have and want to share with other members *Call or email Zay at 227-2133/zaygb@earthlink.net*. And thanks to this month's contributors for the wonderful info they provided.



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 SUBSCRIPTION INFO INSIDE

REEL Pride
 Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

30 Feature, Documentary & Short Films
 Nov 8-11 • Tower Theater • Fresno, CA

Fresno REEL Pride 2001 kicks off opening night of its twelfth gay and lesbian film festival on November 8, 2001, with the Central Valley premiere of the critically acclaimed, *HEDWIG and the Angry Inch*. Winner of the Director and Audience Award at the prestigious 2001 Sundance Film Festival. With explosive imagination, wicked humor and a gold mine of original rock 'n' roll by John Cameron Mitchell. Featuring a Grammy-nominated soundtrack by Stephen Trask. An opening night gala for members of the audience will follow the screening.

This year's film slate includes award-winning films from some of the world's most celebrated film festivals like Sundance, Montreal, Berlin, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Scheduled films include well-known actors like Alexis Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Adam Goldberg, Christina Ricci, Sally Kirkland, Kelly McGillis and Fresno's own Dot Jones. Directors include Dirk Shafer (*Man of the Year*), and Alan Brocka (*creator of Rick and Steve*) in addition to films by local filmmakers. Over 20 of the filmmakers and stars are scheduled to appear and participate in the festival. REEL Pride 2001 will also feature a series of after-screening themed parties, events, and filmmakers' forum.

Scheduled films include: **ALL over the GUY*, **CIRCUIT*, **FLEEING THE NIGHT*, **LOST & DELERIOUS*, **THE MONKEY'S MASK*, **RICK AND STEVE Episodes 1-4.*, **METROSEXUALITY*, **SWIMMING UPSTREAM*.

Admission tickets and passes go on sale October 26, at the REEL Pride Box Office, 777 E. Olive (next to Butterfield's). Please call (559) 488-6562 for more information or visit the website at www.reelpride.com.

REEL Pride 2001 is a 501c(3) non-profit all volunteer organization.

Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D

Psychologist Lic. #13952
Marriage and Family Therapist Lic. #23370

Feminist Therapy
Sexual Orientation Issues

1642 E. Herndon, Suite 106 - Fresno, CA 93720 (559) 447-1400

The Fresno Free College Foundation

KFCF 88.1 FM

Annual Banquet 2001

Celebrating 25 Years of Community Radio

November 9, 2001 • The Downtown Club
 2120 Kern Street in Fresno

*Featuring Radio Activist Carol Spooner
 and
 Special Guests from KPFA Radio*

Social Hour 6 PM • Dinner 7 PM • Program 8 PM
 \$40 Per Person • RSVP (559) 233-2221 by November 5
Charge cards accepted

Since its founding in 1968, the Fresno Free College Foundation has been a vital part of the Valley's cultural and political mosaic, supporting free expression of ideas and the arts. Radio station KFCF has been part of that mission since 1976, providing programming from KPFA in Berkeley and local programs of quality and importance. As we celebrate 25 years of community radio service, we are mindful of the critical challenges facing us now and in the years to come.

The 2001 Annual Banquet will feature Carol Spooner, lead plaintiff and organizer of the legal proceedings aimed at returning the Pacifica Foundation to its mission of community based radio and democratic decision-making. The "Listeners' Law Suit" is combined together with other suits against the Pacifica board in a trial that begins in January 2002. The results of that trial will determine the future of KPFA as we know it. The banquet will also feature special guests from KPFA Radio and our annual Fresno Free College Foundation Free Speech Award.

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 Understanding*

Consultations with Richard Stone, M.A.
 concerning life values and mental health

First meeting at no cost
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