

Labor/Community

ALLIANCE

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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2000

THE GAP 20: BACK TO FASHION FAIR

By: Mike Rhodes

The Gap 20, who were arrested on May 6, at Fascist Fair in Fresno are going through court proceedings which are expected to lead to a trial later this year. They were arrested while protesting sweatshop labor practices at The Gap. During the events leading up to a trial, Gap 20 defendants have found out some interesting information: the police have acknowledged use of a confidential informant in the group (AKA a spy); the police and Fashion Fair officials collaborated on the arrests and they appear to have had a list of who to arrest; the defendants who were originally arrested for trespassing have now had those charges dropped and new ones filed - now they are accused of "intimidation" and "disruption" of businesses. The successful defense against these charges has important implications for the FREE SPEECH rights of anyone interested in exercising their Constitutional First Amendment Rights.

Organizers are determined to not only defend their free speech rights but to keep pressure on The Gap to end the practice of using sweatshop labor. As is evidenced by the ongoing demonstrations at The Gap's Old Navy store at River Park (see photo) activists are not intimidated by the Fresno Police/Fashion Fair threats. But, the time has come to return to Fashion Fair with our demand of free speech and an end to sweatshop labor. Plans call for a Noon demonstration at Fashion Fair on Saturday, November 24. Call 226-0477 for more information. The goal is to force Fashion Fair to allow a legal demonstration. If that is not possible, our legal representatives will secure an injunction which gives us the right to hold signs, hand out fliers, and talk to customers. There is even talk of arresting Fashion Fair security guards who attempt to interfere with our Constitutional Rights.

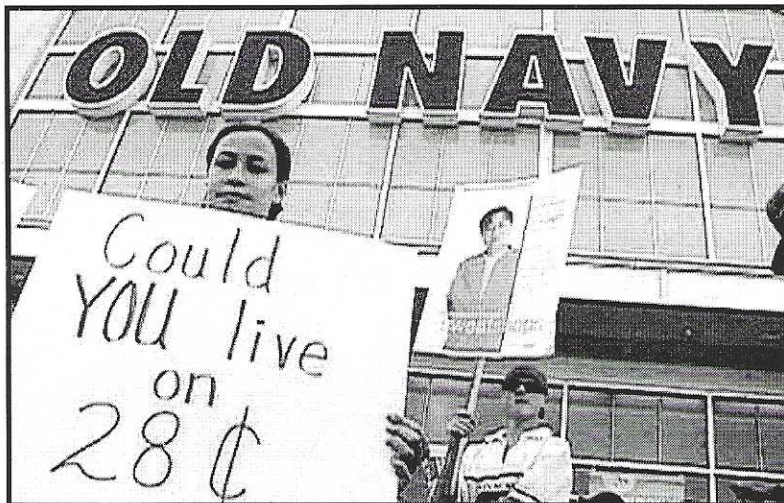


Photo by: George Elfie Ballis

In addition to defending First Amendment Free Speech rights, protestors are calling on The Gap to pay workers a Living Wage.

- In 1999, GAP Inc., the owners of GAP, Old Navy and Banana Republic, earned \$1.1 billion in profits off of \$11.6 billion in sales. GAP CEO Millard Drexler is one of the best compensated executives in the country, receiving \$172.8 million in salary, bonuses and stock options.
- But the corporation refuses to pay its workers a living wage and guarantee they are not facing sweatshop abuses.
- In Central Mexico, workers in Tehuacan make our jeans for 28 cents an hour. Workers say they need just \$1.00 an hour to provide for their families.
- Here in the U.S., on the Pacific island of Saipan, the women in GAP sweatshops make only \$3.05 an hour and often must pay exorbitant fees just to get their jobs and sign contracts that take away their basic rights.
- Challenged with a lawsuit, more than a dozen companies have settled the suit and promised to stop abuses in Saipan. But the GAP still refuses to make the same guarantee.

Help us to CLOSE THE WAGE GAP. Come to one of the ongoing demonstrations at The GAP, show your solidarity with the Gap 20 defendants by coming to the court hearings, and/or contribute to the Gap 20 legal defense fund.

The Labor/Community Alliance is sponsoring a fund raiser for the Gap 20 legal defense fund. The Fresno Premier of GOLDEN LANDS - WORKING HANDS will be shown

Friday, November 17 at 7 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, south of Ashlan. The film's producer, Fred Glass will be present, and George "Elfie" Ballis will show the latest installment of our family story/docu-poem about the Gap 20 arrests and legal proceedings. Tickets are \$10 each, but nobody will be turned away for lack of money.

THE STORY OF A MAQUILADORA WORKER

Interview with Omar Gil by David Bacon

NUEVO LAREDO, TAMAULIPAS

I come from Mexico City. My father had a business there, a small bookstore, until I was 11 years old. Then, because of the devaluation of the peso, his store went broke. My parents looked for work in Mexico City, but they couldn't find any, so they decided to come here to the border, to Nuevo Laredo.

We came here looking for a way to subsist. So I went to school on the border. When I finished preparatory school, my plan was to go back to Mexico City to the university, to study physics and mathematics or law. But I couldn't continue my studies because we didn't have the money. I had to go to work.

At first I began taking classes in air conditioning, so that I could get some training for a better job. It wasn't my intention to work full time, but to study and work at the same time. But working in the maquiladoras, it's not really possible to go to school, mainly because of time. Also, the pay is low, and my job is very insecure. Despite all this, I haven't lost hope yet that I'll be able to go back. It's just that I'm not 100% sure anymore. Now there are other factors as well. I don't have any time to rest, and I'm getting physically exhausted. It's very hard. I've been in these factories since I was 19 years old, and now I'm 26. I've gotten more and more worried, because I don't have time for any kind of personal life. I leave work so tired that on the weekends I don't want to even leave the house to go anywhere. I just want to rest. All my personal development has been put on hold so that I can just rest, just so I'll be able to work. I feel like my youth has passed me by.

Back in 1993 I got my first job in a maquiladora, at Delphi Auto Parts. They paid 360 pesos a week (about \$40). There was a lot of pressure from the foremen on the assembly lines to work hard and produce, and a lot of accidents because of the bad design of the lines. The company didn't give us adequate protective equipment to deal with the chemicals; we didn't really have any idea of the dangers, or how we should protect ourselves. The union there did nothing to protect us. From Delphi I went to another company, National Auto Parts. In that plant we made car radiators for Cadillacs and Camaros and there was a lot of sickness and accidents there, too. I worked in the area with the metal presses. There were no ventilators to take the fumes out of the plant, and they didn't give us any gloves. We had to handle the parts with our bare hands, and people got cut up a lot. I worked in an area with a lot of lead. If you work with lead, you're supposed to have special clothing and your clothes should be washed separately. But the company didn't give us any of that. We had to work in our street clothes. For all that they paid 400 pesos a week (about \$43). We had no union and there was the same pressure for production from the foremen and the group leaders as I saw at Delphi.

Now I work at TRW, where I've been for about a month and a half. There's really no difference in the conditions in any of these plants - if anything, my situation now is even worse. You could say it's forced labor, considering how the foremen talk to the workers, and how much psychological pressure they put on people. We work an average of 14-15 hours a day. There's no transport service to and from work and we get off shift at 4 o'clock in the morning.

(Continued on page 11)

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- ☐ Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____ to support the Labor Community Alliance.
- ☐ Sustaining: \$10 per month (our foundation).
- ☐ Gap 20 Legal Defense Fund
- ☐ Yes, put me on the "Volunteers for Justice/Emergency Response Network" contact list. Alert me when there's a picket line, street action, phone bank, etc for labor rights and social justice.

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The Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter P.O. Box 5077,
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LABOR/COMMUNITY

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

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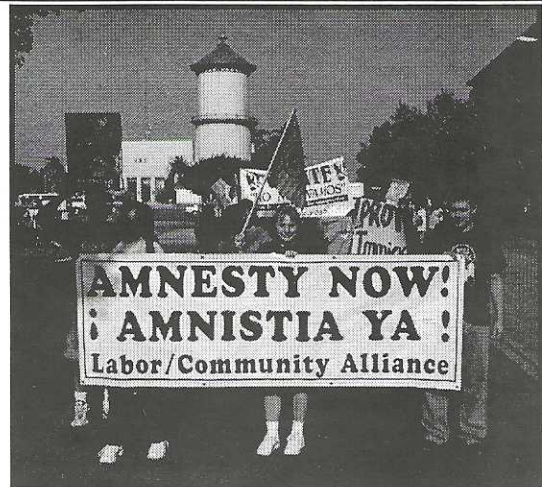
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*This project is funded in part by the Unitarian Universalist Fund
For a Just Society*

FRESNO WORKERS MARCH FOR AMNESTY

On October 14 about 300 undocumented immigrants and supporters from unions and community groups marched in Fresno supporting amnesty for these immigrants and legalizing their productive presence in the U.S.

For more information contact Leonel Flores at the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights (559) 490-1089 <nccircv@jps.net>.



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE AFL-CIO CALL FOR A NEW AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

As of October 21, 2000

- American Friends Service Committee
- California Faculty Association (CSUF)
- CWA Nabet Local 51
- El Comite No Nos Vamos
- El Concilio Immigrant Project
- Family and Friends of Prisoners Support Group of Fresno and Clovis
- Fresno Chapter ACLU
- Green Party - Fresno Chapter
- Hotel and Restaurant Workers (HERE) Local 11
- La Nueva Alianza Oaxaqueno
- Labor Community Alliance
- MAPA De Valle
- Menonite Central Committee
- Metro Ministry
- Mt. Carmel Catholic Church
- Pan Valley Institute
- Proyecto Campesino - Visalia
- Radio Bilingue KSJV FM 91
- Service Employees International Union Local 250
- St. Alfonsus Catholic Church
- The Fresno Center for Non-Violence
- The Unitarian Universalist Church
- United Farm Workers of America
- United Steelworkers Local 703
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom



2001: A Sprawl Odyssey?

By Kevin Hall

The coming year will prove to be pivotal in setting the future course for Fresno County. New government policies affecting sprawl, transportation and air pollution will be set and tested. Environmental legal action should increase. Tensions will rise. The following is an overview of several key developments.

City of Fresno General Plan Update. Outgoing mayor Jim Patterson is attempting to force through the revised plan prior to his end in office. While it contains some seemingly progressive policies on urban growth limits and corridor densities, the plan is critically short on implementation methods and real community input has not been sought. Nonetheless, the rapidly imploding city council is expected to approve the plan and its environmental impact report by year's end. Meanwhile, the council is set to reconsider northend developments along Willow Ave. without assessing critically important impact fees for increased traffic, and the first white flags of surrender have been waved toward developers who want to see the city's sphere of influence pushed north along the San Joaquin River.

Fresno County General Plan. The recently approved county update also contains progressive language on land use, but the new board can expect immediate requests for exemptions. For example, at the same October meeting at which county supervisors approved the plan Clovis's city manager requested that northeast lands be considered suitable for near-term development. More significant is the poison pill contained in the Copper River Ranch proposal (see below). Also, the 'supes' have virtually abdicated all responsibility for transportation planning and air pollution reduction to the Council of Fresno County Governments (not the safest of hands).

Copper River Ranch. This one's really hard to swallow. Copper River Ranch contains an amendment to the County General Plan creating a new land use designation called Planned Urban Village. Sadly, it's none of those things -- planned, urban or village-like. It calls for development to occur in chunks of at least 500 acres without specific development plans or environmental impact reports (that would be planning); on the outside edge of cities' spheres of influence (that's rural, not urban); with a maximum density of eight units per acre (again, not urban); and would foster home prices and rental rates that will exclude middle and lower income people (enclave, not village). Developers would excrete these square-mile compounds along Friant Road, Willow Ave., Freeway 168, Academy Ave. and places unimagined. This proposal has been pushed through the process in order to allow the current County Board of Supervisors to decide it -- draw your own conclusions.

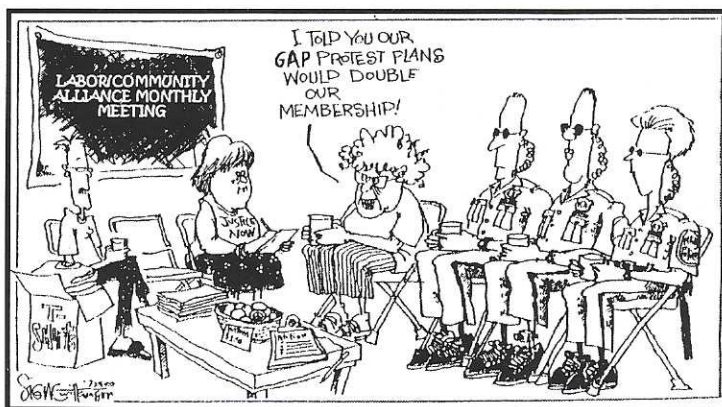
Regional Transportation Plan. The Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) will update the county's 20-year plan this Spring. Updated every three years, the 2001 plan is unusually significant because it follows our air district's bump-up to severe nonattainment for ozone. As a result, it will be subjected to much closer scrutiny for traffic impacts on air pollution (more below). Furthermore, it will lay the groundwork for the Measure C transportation sales tax renewal effort in 2002. Paradoxically, if not predictably, the powers that be are compiling a list of freeway horrors (witness Herndon's two miles of submerged freeway from Palm to First, or the Clovis Noose complete with a river-crossing at Copper -- yes, as in Copper River Ranch). The plan is devoid of alternative transportation elements.

State Implementation Plan. This is the big one and will lead to open bureaucratic warfare (sharpen your pencils!) between the San

Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the valley's eight county Transportation Planning Agencies (another function of the COGs). Because of the ozone bump-up, the valley must rework its failed 1990 attainment plan. The lead culprit, transportation, will no longer escape its responsibilities. This plan must be approved by federal EPA, an agency subjected to increasing environmental litigation for its failure to enforce the Clean Air Act provisions governing this threat to public health. The result of failure to comply is profound: withdrawal of federal highway dollars. Those same dollars could be used toward alternative transportation measures that would reduce vehicle use, had we any such plans in place.

So, as the good spaceship San Joaquin heads off into the 21st century with the pedal to the metal, local politicians and their backers will fight hard to stay on the old course. For relief, sanity, equity and basic safety, concerned citizens may be forced to turn to the third branch of government -- the judiciary, and Fresno County environmental and social activists may be pushed to prepare for an anti-Measure C renewal fight if local transportation planning remains mired in the exhausted visions of a 1950s autopia.

(Kevin Hall works on the issues of transportation, air pollution and global warming for the Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter. He also hosts "Clearing the Air: Transportation, Land Use and Air Quality in the San Joaquin Valley," a monthly radio show airing on the fourth Friday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on KFCF 88.1 FM.)



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FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

STATUS REPORT: Before the end of the year, many of you will be receiving our annual letter soliciting your support, financial and otherwise. This coming year will be a little different for us: as we plan for our 10th anniversary (in 2002) we will be evaluating where we go next. Do we maintain our current status? Or do we try to take a next big step--like having a paid director or purchasing our own facility?

In reality, the answer will not depend on our current active core. The real question is if we can attract key commitments of NEW people who are willing to invest significant energy and resources to our enterprise.

Our greatest asset is, in this regard, also our greatest liability. Our focus is general, not built around the single hot issue that more readily attracts activists and loyalists. We ask of people that they see the big picture, the interconnection of different concerns, the necessity of slowly building alliances based on personal relationship. And above all, we ask people to pay attention to how means affect ends, to scrutinize how WE conduct business as well as how our ideological opposites do.

People who seriously enter into our approach are usually delighted to come to our monthly board meetings (typically lasting 3 hours) because these gatherings are so full of information and high-level discussion. They are people who are concerned especially with affecting how others think, and about the decision-making processes of both individuals and interest groups.

Out of this approach we are able to sustain a modest facility that offers a home and resources to fledgling activist groups. We are able to initiate or help sustain short-term actions or movements (like opposition to the ongoing Iraqi sanctions). And we help bring together coalitions among the wide spectrum of groups that we have contact with--ranging from gay support groups to neighborhood activists to anti-sweatshop demonstrators..

We're proud of what we manage to do. And there's so much more that could be done with more people involved. But the main thing we offer is the fellowship of likeminded souls, seeking together to find ways to act responsibly, intelligently and compassionately in our daily lives. Anyone interested? Call me (Richard) at 266-2559.

VETERANS DAY: One of our annual events is a gathering on (or near) Veterans Day to honor those who have used "the weapons of nonviolence" to fight their battles. This year we are inviting war veterans to come talk about how, for them, the experience of participating in armed conflict affected their peace-time living. Two of our Board members, Drs. Siegel and Welch, will be among the participants. The program will be on Sat. Nov. 11th at 2:00 p.m., with a 1:00 optional potluck.



THE WELCH REPORT

October 16, 2000

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

Comparing the presidential candidates of the two major parties, both George Bush and Al Gore propose increasing Pentagon spending, Bush by \$45b over the next decade, and Gore, by an astonishing \$100b over the same period. Both men would spend \$60b or more on a "Star Wars" anti-missile system, although Bush's intention is to protect our (European) allies as well as the 50 US states -- given the highly unlikely assumption that the technology is feasible.

Gore supports the ratification of the test ban treaty (CTBT), which Bush does not -- a major difference. Neither candidate would end sanctions on food and medicine to Iraqi civilians, or require labor rights and environmental protections in all trade agreements.

In fairness, Ralph Nader of the Green Party disagrees with all of these positions except for his support for CTBT. (Peace Action, Washington, D.C.)

An outrageous example of rhetorical excess in the present election campaign have been George Bush's statements about a "readiness crisis" in the US military, based upon an Army report last fall documenting a "lack of readiness" in two Army divisions.

"Readiness requires adequate training and stockpiles of spare parts for quick repairs, funding for which normally is covered in the Operations and Maintenance budget." This budget is to be cut in 2002, whereas weapons procurement is slated to increase by \$38b (40%), half going to new weapons systems.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has declared his party has added more than \$44b to rebuild our military through improved quality of life, enhanced readiness and equipment modernization. Actually, what he added was pork, including \$425m for an unrequested helicopter carrier to be made in Lott's home state of Mississippi. Later, Lott and 73 of his Senate colleagues rejected an amendment to the FY 1999 Defense Authorization bill to begin providing childcare for the nearly 50% of military families without it" -- the cost of which would have been less than one quarter the cost of the carrier! (California Peace Action, Berkeley, CA Sept. 27, 2000)

"The use of only 2 1/2% of the present US nuclear arsenal could produce the deaths of 50 million Russians!" ("Rehearsing Doomsday", a documentary, CNN October 15, '00)

On behalf of 48 religious leaders from a cross-section of faith groups, a new ten-question survey of presidential candidates on nuclear weapons and disarmament has been released. Neither George Bush nor Al Gore answered a question on the morality of possession, threatened use and actual use of nuclear weapons. Ralph Nader called the US refusal to adopt a no--first--use policy "political immorality",

Importantly, neither Gore nor Bush had plans to carry out nuclear disarmament, which is an obligation of the nuclear states that are signatories to the Nuclear Non--Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

All three candidates have a strong commitment to further reductions in the US strategic arsenal (START III negotiations). (California Peace Action Sept. 27, 2000)

ELECTIONS 2000

LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK!

The Labor/Community/Alliance asked readers who they will vote for in the presidential race this November 7, and why. It is clear that readers of this newsletter are not torn between the two options (Gore and Bush) most voters feel they have to choose between. Our readers like Ralph Nader's politics but many are afraid that a vote for Ralph is a vote for the Shrub. Here is what our readers have to say about who they will vote for in this year's presidential race:

Gore has moved democrats too far to the right. I listened to the second presidential debate a few days ago, and I was struck by two things. 1) The candidates seemed to agree more than they disagreed. 2) On the few points where they disagreed, Gore sometimes seemed to be to the right of Bush. Let me reinforce my first point by citing filmmaker Michael Moore who reported on "Democracy Now" that he had counted 32 points of agreement between Bush and Gore in the second debate. One of their points of agreement was about the Gulf War, with Gore crowing about how he had been one of only a handful of Democratic Senators to give his early and wholehearted support to Bush's Daddy's war against Iraq. On the second point, Gore bragged that he would expand military spending by \$100 billion over the next ten years, compared to Bush's mere \$45 billion. Bush, on the other hand, was the one to say that the U.S. has too many troops overseas, and it is time to bring some of them home--something the peace movement has been saying for decades. And it took Bush to remind Gore that racial profiling is not only wrong when practiced against African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans, but also when practiced against Arab Americans as is currently done by several federal agencies. I don't really see how anyone committed to peace or racial justice can vote for Bush or Gore, which is why I am voting for Ralph Nader.

Gerry Bill

Sociology Instructor, Fresno City College, and
Center Director, Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

I support Al Gore for President because his election over George Bush does make a difference. It makes a difference to the millions of women in America who want to have control over their reproductive choices, to the millions of seniors and future seniors who need Social Security for their survival, to the millions of Americans that cannot afford both basic necessities and needed medications, and to the millions of current and future students in public education who need to be supported and not abandoned to vouchers for the few. While I do not agree with Al Gore and Joe Lieberman on all their positions, I do agree with them on many. There are few, if any, major issues with which I am in agreement with George Bush and Dick Cheney. Of the greatest importance, will be the 3-4 appointments to the U. S. Supreme Court the next President will likely make. There is a difference between having more Ruth Ginsburgs rather than more Clarence Thomases as new appointees. The next President will impact court decisions for at least 20 more years. The Supreme Court is but a few votes away from destroying the wall of separation between church and state. If that wall is destroyed, the radical right will be well on their way to legally controlling the future of this country. If George Bush carries California, he will win the Presidency. Such a result would ill-serve

the progressive community.

Howard K. Watkins

Local attorney and community activist

In how many presidential elections have I voted for a non-progressive candidate simply because of the fear that the Republican, who was usually quite scary, might win because of my one vote denied the Democratic candidate? And then there has been the Supreme Court argument. What kind of right wing nut would the Republican appoint to the powerful Court? Well, you know what? This time I'm going to be courageous and vote for Ralph Nader! The worst that can happen is that "Shrub" Bush will get elected. Sometimes things have to get worse before they can get better.

Carol Bequette

Retired education and community activist

I am going to vote against one-party rule. This is not a two-party system. Both political parties, and all the election hoopla and propaganda from each, are financed by the same interlocking corporate elite who own and control the major news sources that provide virtually all of what the public is allowed to know about world, national, and local events. In reality, it's one party with two candidates, and both are financed by the same corporate elite. In every presidential election, one wing of the party runs a nice, down-home, just-plain-folks kind of guy, and the other wing runs a mean dummy. The voting public gets to choose one or the other based upon massive moronic television advertising, and national debates on corporate television that exclude all but the two corporate-controlled parties. The outcome of the election is a moot point. The actual policies of the plain likeable one, and the actual policies



of the dumb one, will be the policies desired by the corporate elite, who control both parties and thereby control the government. So, I'm not voting for "the lesser of two evils." A vote for good ol' Al Gore is a vote for rule by the global corporations. To hell with that! Let democracy ring! Power to the People!

Bob Fischer

Sociology Professor, CSUF

I'm voting for Ralph Nader because he is not controlled by special interest money and his values represent mine better than any other candidate.

Steve Sacks

Registered Democrat

I am going to vote for Al Gore for president. First, he has a track record and proven capability to hold the office and second, nobody else can beat George Bush. Even though there are areas where I wish the democrats were more progressive, I am not tempted to go in any other direction. It's the Supreme Court,

(Continued on page 12)

☸ Calendar of Events for November 2000 ☸

Wednesday, November 1 • 3:30 PM

Stir-It-Up! - Green Scene. Tune into KFCF 88.1 FM for the latest Green campaign news before the election.

Saturday, November 4 • 10 AM

Precinct Walking for Ralph Nader and Medea Benjamin. Meet at the Green 2000 Campaign Headquarters located at 1461 N. Van Ness just south of Fresno City College. This is your last chance before the election to spread the Green message to the neighborhoods of Fresno. Call 268-3913

Monday, November 6 • 7:30 PM

FresCAMP meeting. FresCAMP is working on the problem of pesticides in our environment. Call Joan at 227-6134 for more information.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 • ELECTION DAY

Wednesday, November 8 • 7 PM

WILPF's Monthly board meeting. Everyone is invited to attend and help design this year's Peace Community Crafts Faire that will be held on December 2. We will also be discussing other important upcoming events. Plan on attending this very important board meeting; we need your help. Come to Carol Bequette's house at 3747 E. Circle Drive, West. Call 229-9661 for details.

Wednesday, November 8 • 7:30 PM

KFCF and the Fresno Free College Foundation present journalist and author John Ross speaking about current events in Mexico, where he lives. From his roots in the New York beat scene, through the civil rights and antiwar movements, to the Zapatista rebellion - John Ross has developed a remarkably intimate and comprehensive knowledge of Mexico. His on-the-scene coverage of events in Chiapas in 1994 led to an American Book Award for "Rebellion from the Roots: Indian Uprising in Chiapas". Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. Arte Americas 1630 Van Ness Avenue in downtown Fresno

Thursday, November 9 • 12:30 PM

John Ross (see info from Nov. 8 calendar listing) will be speaking at the Student Union Building, Fresno State University. John's will talk on "The War Against Oblivion - Putting the Zapatista's in History." Admission Free.

Thursday, November 9 • 7:00 PM

The Fresno County Green Party invites you to its County Council meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness Ave. (S of Olive). The four pillars of the international Green movement are Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, and Ecological Wisdom. Join us as we reflect on the election results! Call 497-1724 for details or go to <http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

November 10 - 12

REEL PRIDE. Fresno REEL Pride, the annual gay and lesbian film festival will be at the Tower Theater. REEL Pride has grown to become the largest film festival in Fresno and has become the premiere cultural event for lesbians and gays in Central California. It celebrates cinema as an art form. For more info visit their website at <http://www.reelpride.com>

Saturday, November 11 • 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/>

Saturday, November 11 • 1 PM (potluck, followed by presentation)

Annual Alternative Veterans' Day Program, at the Fresno Nonviolence Center, 985 N Van Ness. Veterans will speak about their experiences re-adapting to civilian life after experiencing warfare. All Veterans and the general public are invited to attend.

Sunday, November 12 • 7 PM

Community Radio Coalition meeting. Held at Carol Bequette's house, 229-9661

Tuesday, November 14 • 7 PM

KFCF Board of Directors meeting at the Unitarian Church, 4144 N Millbrook (Location is tentative - call 233-2221 to confirm).

Wednesday, November 15

Deadline for submissions to the November issue of the Labor Community Alliance newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to <clr2@igc.org>.

Wednesday, November 15 • 3:30 PM

Stir-It-Up Interview with Fred Glass, producer of the video "Golden Lands-Working Hands". KFCF 88.1

Thursday, November 16 • 7:30 PM

Death Penalty Focus meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N

Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: <martel93702@yahoo.com> or visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

Friday, November 17 • 5:30 PM

CRITICAL MASS RIDES AGAIN. Next ride starts at Fresno City College, grassy area where Van Ness curves into Maroa. Email gene1@cvip.fresno.com or call 497-0570 for further info or to be added to email list.

Friday, November 17 • 7 PM

The Labor/Community Alliance is sponsoring a fund raiser for the Gap 20 legal defense fund. The Fresno Premier of GOLDEN LANDS - WORKING HANDS will be shown at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, south of Ashlan. The film's producer, Fred Glass will be present, and George "Elfie" Ballis will show the latest installment of our family story/docu-poem about the Gap 20 arrests and legal proceedings. Tickets are \$10 each, but nobody will be turned away for lack of money.

Saturday, November 18

In lieu of WILPF's regular Program meeting in Fresno, members will be attending the Sacramento branch's cluster meeting. This will be an informative and fun event. Please come along. Call Carol Bequette for more info and/or to sign up to go with us 229-9661.

Saturday, November 18 • 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents CHERYL WHEELER, singer/songwriter in concert in the Fresno Art Museum's Bonner Auditorium. Jon Adams will open. Admission: Advance, \$12; \$15 at the door. Tickets available from Jeff and Jane at THE MOVIES on Van Ness, ARCHER'S MUSIC on Shaw, and the FIG GARDEN BOOKSTORE.

Sunday, November 19 • Afternoon

Fresno Metro Ministry celebrates 30 years of community activism with its annual Thanksgiving concert. A celebration of music put on by the choirs and ensembles of faith communities of many of the religions represented in the Fresno area. This faith based organization can be found on the frontlines of struggles for social and economic justice here in Fresno.

Monday, November 20 • 7 PM

National Organization for Women (NOW) will hold their monthly Planning/Business Meeting at the Center for Non Violence (985 N Van Ness). For more info call 221-7229.

Wednesday November 22 • 3:30 PM

Listen to "Stir It Up" on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join WILPF's Zay Guffy-Bill and Lauralee Crain Carbone as they talk about alternative holiday shopping strategies that do not put your hard-earned, peace-lovin' dollars into the wrong hands this holiday season. If you have ideas or sources concerning this topic, please give Zay a call so the good word can be passed along on the airwaves 227-2133.

Friday, November 24

BUY NOTHING DAY. Our Consumer Culture Is out of Control. Once, we shopped to buy what we needed, period. Now that we don't need much, we shop for other reasons: to impress each other, to fill a void, to kill time. A mere 20% of the earth's population uses 80% of its natural resources. Our overconsumption is killing the planet. BUY NOTHING DAY is a simple idea with deep implications. It forces us to think about the "shop-till-you-drop" imperative and its effects on the rest of the world. On Buy Nothing Day enjoy a break from the shopping frenzy. Relish your power as a consumer to change the economic environment. For more information see: <http://adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd>

Friday, November 24 • 12 Noon - 2 PM

Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will be held at Fashion Fair (Shaw & Fresno Street in Fresno). The last time anti-sweatshop protesters went to Fashion Fair their civil rights were violated and 20 people were arrested. This protest will be different! Come to stand up for your right to FREE SPEECH and protest the Gap's use of sweatshop labor. Call (559) 226-0477 for more information.

Friday, November 24 • 5 - 6 PM

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

Monday, November 27 • 6:30 PM

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

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS - CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES		League of Women Voters
32 Veterans' Bond Act. Authorizes state to sell \$500 million in bonds to provide loans for the veteran's California Veteran farm and home purchase program (Cal-Vet)		*
33 Legislature: Retirement. Allows state legislators to earn retirement benefits under the state Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) for their years of service in the Legislature.		*
34 Campaign Contributions and Spending. Campaign reform: Revises state laws on political campaigns Establishes new contribution and voluntary spending limits for state elective offices.		NO
35 Public Works Project. Allows state and local governments to contract with private entities for engineering and architectural services for public works project.		*
36 Drug Treatment Diversion Program. Requires drug treatment and probation for certain non-violent drug possession offenses. Appropriates funding for drug treatment programs.		*
37 Fees, Taxes. Vote Requirements. Redefines as taxes certain types of compulsory fees and requires 2/3 vote of the legislature and local elections to impose such fees.		NO
38 School Vouchers. State-funded Private and Religious Education. Public School Funding. Authorizes state-paid vouchers of at least \$4,000 per pupil to qualifying private and religious schools. Exempts private schools from some Uniform Building Code requirements and from certain other regulations. Restructures state's school financing system.		NO
39 School Facilities. 55% Local Vote. Bonds, Taxes. Accountability requirements. Lowers vote requirement for passage of local school projects from 2/3 to 55%.		YES

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS - CANDIDATES		Howard Watkins	California Nurses Ass
FEDERAL			
President of the United States	Albert Gore, Jr.		Ralph Nader
Vice President	Joseph Lieberman		Winona LaDuke
U.S. Senate	Diane Feinstein		*
House of Representatives, 18th District	Gary Condit		*
House of Representatives, 19th District	Dan Rosenberg		*
House of Representatives, 20th District	Cal Dooley		*
STATE			
State Assembly, District 25	Stephen F. Rico		*
State Assembly, District 29	Lita Reid		*
State Assembly, District 30	Dean Florez		*
State Assembly, District 31	Sarah Reyes		*
COUNTY OF FRESNO			
Supervisor, 2nd District	Susan B. Anderson		*
Superior Court Judge	Debra Kazanjian		*
CITY OF FRESNO			
Mayor	Dan Whitehurst		*
City Council, District 2	Linda Calandra		*
City Council, District 4	Yvonne Brown		*
Fresno Unified School District, Governing Board Member, Trustee Area #2	Manuel G. Nunez		*

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

American Civil Liberties Union	California Common Cause	California Labor Federation, AFL/CIO	California Federation of Teachers	California State Employees Association	California School Board Association	Planning and conservation League	American Association University Women	Friends Committee/ Legislation	California Chamber of Commerce	National Organization of Women	American Association of Retired Persons	Fresno County Green Party	Fresno Teachers Association	Howard Watkins
*	*	YES	YES	YES	*	*	*	*	YES	YES	YES	YES	*	YES
*	YES	YES	YES	YES	*	*	*	*	YES	*	YES	YES	*	YES
*	NO	YES	YES	YES	*	NO	*	NO	YES	*	NO	*	*	NO
*	*	NO	NO	NO	NO	*	*	*	YES	*	NO	NO	*	NO
YES	*	YES	YES	YES	*	*	*	YES	NO	YES	*	YES	*	YES
*	NO	NO	NO	NO	*	NO	*	NO	YES	NO	*	NO	*	NO
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	*	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	*	YES

Measure "A" - Howard Watkins = YES / Fresno Free College Foundation = YES

Association	Fresno County Green Party	Fresno Central Labor Council	Sierra Club - Tehipite Chapter	Mexican-American Political Association (Hmong-American Political Association)
r	Ralph Nader	Al Gore	*	*
ke	Winona LaDuke	Joe Lieberman	*	*
	Medea Benjamin	Diane Feinstein	*	*
	*	Gary Condit	*	*
	Dan Rosenberg	Dan Rosenberg	*	Dan Rosenberg
	*	*	*	Cal Dooley
	*	Stephen F. Rico	*	Stephen F. Rico
	*	Lita Reid	*	Lita Reid
	*	Dean Flores	*	Dean Florez
	*	Sarah Reyes	*	Sarah Reyes
	Susan B. Anderson	Susan B. Anderson	Susan B. Anderson	Susan B. Anderson
	*	Debra Kazanjian	*	Dan Casas
	*	Dan Whitehurst	Dan Whitehurst	Dan Whitehurst
	*	Brian Calhoun	*	Brian Calhoun
	*	Yvonne Brown	Brad Castillo	Brad Castillo
	*	*	*	*

THE REAL TEXAS UNDER BUSH REIGN

The George W. Bush Texas legacy:

1st in Children without Health Insurance...US Bureau of Census
5th in Highest Teen Birth Rate...US Dept. of Health & Human Services
3rd in Highest number of children living in poverty...US Bureau of Census
1st in Toxic Air Releases...EPA and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
1st in Smog Days (Houston)...EPA and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Houston Chronicle
1st in poorest counties (3)...US Bureau of Census
3rd in Hunger...45th in Mothers Receiving Pre-Natal Care...Children's Rights Council
46th in Public Libraries and Branches...Statistical Rankings by State
46th in High School Completion Rate...US Dept of Education
46th in Water Resources Protection...EPA
47th in Delivery of Social Services...State Rankings
48th in Literacy...Texas Workforce Commission and others
48th in Per Capita Funding for Public Health...State Rankings
48th in Best Place to Raise Children (29th before Bush became governor)...Children's Rights Council
48th in Spending for Parks and Recreation...Texas Observer
48th in Spending for the Arts...Texas Observer
49th in Spending for the Environment...Texas Observer
50th in Teachers' Salaries/Benefits...US Dept. Education Agency
1st in DWI deaths...Texas Department of Public Safety
2nd in 18-wheeler accidents...Texas Department of Public Safety
1st in Gun Related child injuries and deaths.
1st in the number of prisoners executed since 1976.
2nd (behind Louisiana) in number of people incarcerated.
9th on what it spends on prisons (prisons are big business).
41st on what it spends on kindergarten thru 12th grade education.
Only one accredited child-care center exists for every 2,637 children in the state.
A fourth of the children still are not immunized by age 2...

STUDENTS FOR FREEDOM

A new progressive student organization was established in October at Fresno State, The Students for Freedom. The goal of the organization is to bring the attention of the community and fellow students to civil and human rights violations around the world, the United States, and Fresno. The Students for Freedom would like to uphold the values inherent in the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal, that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are mankind's inalienable rights.

The Students for Freedom is recognized by the California State University, Fresno, and plans to hold informative events, demonstrations, and rallies on campus. Members of the organization would like to manifest that a new generation is ready to take part in the fight against injustice, disenfranchisement and discrimination. Contact: Sandor Nagy, email: sandor@csufresno.edu

THE MEASURE "A" DILEMMA

By Gregory P. Fletcher

Measure "A" would fund a variety of local cultural and artistic programs through a slight increase in the local sales tax. The Measure raises several important issues.

First, whether government funding for the arts should be supported. Would our society ever produce a Van Gogh or a Mozart if all culture were left to the "private" sector? The development of our culture should not be left to the lowest common denominator of market forces. If we are only going to allow popular whims to decide what has merit in culture, we will lose much of lasting value that might arbitrarily be out of fashion when created.

Further, the arts and culture are like clean air and clean water, and are part of the public good. It makes no sense to leave these things to the private sector. Individuals cannot opt out of the public good or there would be a collapse of the society. We accept this premise when it comes to infrastructure like police and fire protection, but when it comes to the arts public funding suddenly becomes controversial.

However, if one accepts social justice as a key value, all people in society should equitably share the burden of taxes. Sales tax is one of the most regressive methods of taxation, which disproportionately affects those with the least means. In the case of Measure "A", those least likely to be able to afford or take advantage of the programs slated for funding would be asked to pay the highest percentage of their income to support them. However deserving any individual program or institution may, be the method of funding under Measure "A" would be fundamentally unfair.

Unfortunately, this may be the only method of funding for the arts that our political system will allow, given the present hostility to social spending of any kind. One must face this reality when deciding whether to vote for Measure "A".

HEY FRESNO - CHECK IT OUT

STIR IT UP!

programs produced by local activists.

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

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

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

3rd: Hosted by the Fresno County Green Party and Theresa Louise Rogerson. This program focuses on environmental issues, planning, transportation and grass roots democracy.

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

(Continued from page 2)

Usually we have to wait until 7 AM before we can catch a public bus. And when a bus does come, getting home costs 20 pesos. That makes a very big dent in your take-home pay - 380 to 400 pesos a week (\$40-43).

My job is bending steel cables for seatbelts for GM, Ford and some European car models. The cable is about a centimeter thick, and I have to bend about 3500 a day. Because of what's passing through my hands every day, I can hardly sleep at night - the pain is so bad. Then I have to get up in the morning to do it again. In the future, I know that I can get carpal tunnel problems, which is a very scary idea. I've asked to change to another position, but no one wants to change because whoever works in this job gets a lot of pain in their wrists.

I feel that in three or four years my hands are going to be useless. I've been thinking that I'll have to get another job. What else can I do? They say work in the maquiladoras is the best paid work here in the city. But there's not much difference from one factory to another. This is all just normal - the standard. Really, I'm living my whole life in the factory. Because of the time and money pressure, I have no ability to develop myself even as a worker, much less as a human being.

After I had been working in Delphi for a year, I was invited to join a group that was trying to learn about workers' rights. People in this group said that things needed to be changed and better protections given to us, but that the companies didn't want to do it. At first I was undecided because I thought that I could get into a lot of trouble if I got involved. I thought I would get fired, or other bad things would happen to me. I heard about the movement in 1994 when Martha Ojeda [currently director of the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras - ed.] and others tried to democratize the union at Sony, to make it one which represented the workers and fought for their rights. For many years, Martha was a union leader in Nuevo Laredo, and during that time, she tried to democratize the unions here. But the union leaders in Mexico City refused to recognize her. In 1994 the union general secretary here called her an agitator and a Communist, and she was forced to leave. But she became well-known among the workers because she tried to help them at other plants, too. Then it seemed the whole world painted Martha Ojeda as a ghost to scare people, and used her as example of what could happen if you got into these problems. But a couple of years later, when I was invited to join one of the groups again, I went. They invited me to a workshop about health and safety - the problems you could suffer because of repetitive motion. I realized that it was ridiculous to believe that it was bad to show workers the dangers in their jobs. The companies and the newspapers say we're putting the maquiladoras in danger, but we're just showing workers what's wrong with the way the work is organized. When I understood that, I decided to become a voluntary organizer and we've been working together ever since. Everything I learn I try to pass on, so that it will help everyone else.

Every movement starts with just a small group, but they evolve and get bigger and bigger. Lots of people say you're just wasting your time because you'll never be able to change anything. But I say no. Nothing will ever change if we just sit on our hands. You have to keep trying and trying.

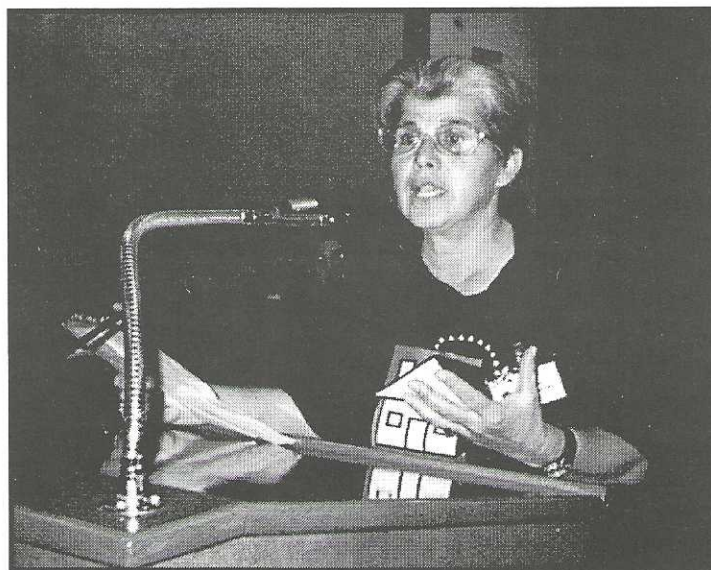
And the little that we're able to achieve will grow, step by step.

HOMECARE WORKERS NEED COMMUNITY SUPPORT

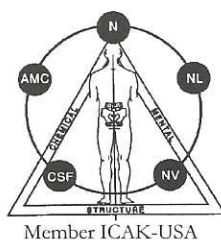
For the first time in 28 years, the nine thousand homecare workers in Fresno County have a chance to make more than minimum wage. Due to pressure from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and other groups, this year's state budget includes funds to raise these workers' salaries and provide for health care coverage.

Homecare workers provide critical services for the elderly and disabled, allowing them to remain in their homes. While the state has allocated dollars for much needed salary increases for these workers, the final decision remains with the county. The workers, who are members of SEIU 250, will address the Fresno County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 7 and ask them to pass the 3% state increase on to the workers. "We need community activist and advocates to come and support us on Nov. 7", said Annie Durazo, organizer for SEIU. "We are also asking community groups to join our coalition to advocate for quality homecare for Fresno County."

Anyone interested in helping homecare workers fight for a living wage should attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on Nov. 7 at 9AM and call Annie Durazo at (559) 277-4372 to find out how to join the Homecare Coalition.



Homecare worker Elen Dowling addresses the Fresno County Board of Supervisors on the need for a living wage.



Phone/Fax (559) 248-9527
E-mail: lbassman@pacbell.net

Larry F. Bassman, D.C.

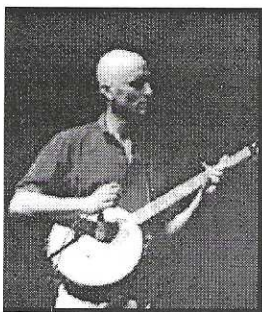
- ♦ Natural Health Care
- ♦ Applied Kinesiology
- ♦ Nutrition
- ♦ Chiropractic

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Fresno, California 93705

(Continued from page 6)

stupid! But, I also don't see a proactive women's agenda from anyone but the Democrats. I think that women, labor, and other under represented people need to support this ticket.

Karen Humphrey
Former Mayor of Fresno



I will vote for Ralph Nader. Gore is expected to carry California anyway so it is not seen as a vote for Bush. More than that, I resent the way the moneyed interest behind the dem. and rep. parties control the forums to prevent third parties that could actually raise important issues and significant competition for bland and blander. They are both so phony. I think one of these years, people will finally see through these guys and

this process in large enough numbers to make a difference. Nader has always stood for people as opposed to standing for corporate money.

Evo Bluestein.
musician/teacher

Neither Bush nor Gore excite me very much and the thought of listening/seeing either on TV for the next four years is reason enough to disconnect the set, but I will vote for Al Gore. Why? Bush's stand on issues and his statement that he would use Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas as his models for selecting appointees (maybe three or four) to the court. Now that's scary!

Robin Greiner, Jr.
Central California Alliance

I will be voting for Al Gore. He is a Democrat. I do support Democrats. Also he supports a woman's right for choice. He is very strong on his support of the Hate Crime Bill that may become a federal law if he is elected.

Gail Gaston
Commissioner on the Human
Relations Commission, City of
Fresno
Chair of the Martin Luther King
Unity Committee, City of Fresno



Visualize 1978, just before the election. It's Nixon and Humphrey. David Harris (Mr. Joan Baiz) and Joanie come to Fresno State speaking against the Viet Nam war. Harris has just spent a year in the cooler for refusing to fight. After singing and speeching, the inevitable question comes.

"Who are you going to vote for? Humphrey or Nixon?"

"It doesn't make any difference. For example, if you are at the beach and watch a really top flight surfer do his stuff, you don't say 'Look at that guy push that wave around.' You say 'Look at that guy ride that wave.'"

"So, the job for those of us seeking positive social change is not to choose politicians (surfers) to ride the wave, but to create the wave that all politicians must ride."

Elfie
Sun Mountain
Dreaming realist or realistic dreamer

I'm voting for Al Gore. Because of his lengthy government experience in the House, the Senate, and as VP, he knows how things work (or should by now). Even with a Senate/House Democratic majority it will be an uphill battle to get important healthcare and environmental issues passed. Also the next administration will probably select one to three Supreme Court justices who will have a profound effect on the future of the rights of women and minorities. Two conservative oil men in the White House will not speak well for the environment. I'm convinced that a vote for Ralph Nader, whom I much admire, would be a vote for Bush.

Pat Wolk

I'm voting for Ralph Nader for President because I'm tired of choosing between the lesser of two evils and want to feel good when I walk out of the voting booth. I want to send a message that money can't buy my principles or my vote.

Lauralee Crain Carbone
Member of the Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom; a local La Leche League Leader/Breastfeeding
Counselor; and a homeschooling mother of two.

I have never had such a difficult decision to make in voting for president. I truly have looked at all of the arguments for Nader and Gore and have decided my vote will be for Gore.

Vincent J. Lavery
Fresno Center for Nonviolence

I may still change however!!!

I'm voting for Ralph Nader for two reasons. First, Ralph is an honorable person who has made great personal sacrifices while fighting for consumers and the general public for all his adult life, creating numerous nonprofit watchdog groups. Second, the two major parties are so corrupt due to the infusion of big money from corporate America that there is no way they could possibly represent and fight for the people. I want an end to our corporate-run government and a return to a government of, by, and for the people.

Matthew A. Jendian
Instructor in the sociology dept. at Fresno State and Campus
Director of the American Humanics Certificate Program in
Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Utah Phillips tells the story of an anarchist walking thru skid-row one night who is approached by a big drunk with a gun. The drunk points the gun at him & asks, "How are you voting this year, Republican or Democrat?" The anarchist replies, "Shoot me!" Jerry Rubin (or was it Abby Hoffman?) exhorted us to vote Republican, that that would surely foment revolution in the streets. This year I am not voting for the evil of two lessers. Mr. Nader will receive OUR votes for President. I know damn good & well that it will make no difference in the long run if shrub or bore win.

Jeff & Jayne at The Movies

This year I will be voting for Al Gore even though I have been a lifelong avid supporter of Ralph Nader. Because of my concern for the sanctity and protection of Roe v. Wade, and because there will be critical Supreme Court appointments made during the years of the next administration, I choose to deter the Presidency of Bush. Gore, I believe will affirm Roe V Wade and he will also protect the environment...

Shirley Kirsten, M.A.

Pres National Substitute Teachers Alliance

Pres FASTA.



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Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Central California Region

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

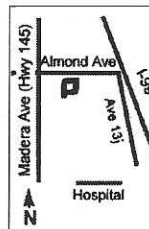
- ◆ Birth control
- ◆ Annual exams
- ◆ Breast, cervical & testicular cancer screening
- ◆ Pregnancy testing & counseling
- ◆ Prenatal care
- ◆ STD testing & treatment
- ◆ HIV testing & counseling
- ◆ Emergency contraception ("the morning after pill")
- ◆ And other reproductive health care services....

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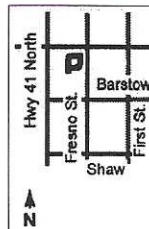
- ◆ Physicals for all ages
- ◆ Immunizations
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Headaches
- ◆ Sore throats
- ◆ Rashes

....and much more

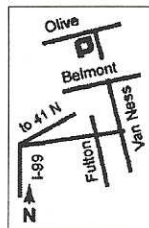
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500 E. Almond, #3
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OUR CHOICE MATTERS

Vinh T. Ngo

How many times have you heard someone say they just can't get excited about voting because politicians are all the same? Or it doesn't count? Or the outcome isn't going to affect their life anyway?

Next time you hear a comment like that, ask the person if they'd like to have the government telling them they can't get confidential birth control because they're under 21. Or they can't get an abortion because they're poor. Or they can't teach accurate sex education in school because it might give teens ideas.

These aren't fantasy scripts. They're already a reality in some communities and they could become the laws of the land if American voters don't pay attention to this November election.

Reproductive choice - the right to choose whether or when to have a child, without coercion or veto power of the government or other persons - seems so fundamental today, that it's hard to imagine a time when it didn't exist. But that time wasn't so long ago and it could return.

In 1965, 17% of all deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth were the result of illegal abortions. It was only in 1973 that the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision *Roe v. Wade* decision established the right to choose a safe legal abortion for all American women. Some people think the right to choose is safe today. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The next president of the United States may be able to appoint as many as three of the nine Supreme Court justices, setting the direction of the Court for years to come.

The Court's most recent vote on abortion rights in June this year upheld reproductive choice by a narrow 5-4 margin, relying on critical swing votes. The appointment of an anti-choice Justice could launch the rapid erosion of reproductive rights and access to health services. Choice is one robe away from being overturned.

In addition to nominating Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court the next president has many executive powers that could be used to threaten - and ultimately to eliminate - the right to choose a legal abortion, as well as to jeopardize other reproductive rights. The next president will nominate judges to federal appellate and trial courts who will decide state restrictions on the right to choose. He will nominate the U.S. Attorney General who has the power to prosecute crimes of violence against health care centers. He will nominate the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who has the power to reverse the legalization of RU-486 in this country. And he will influence the direction of public policy on family planning and abortion. He has executive power to restrict family planning programs and implements abstinence only education program in schools. Clearly, the President of the United States can affect reproductive rights more than any other single person.

Choice is still an issue because safe, legal abortion protects women's lives, health and dignity. It respects their moral authority to make decisions about critical issues in their lives, and enables them to make responsible choices.

Given the President's crucial influence on women's reproductive rights, your choice matters. Governor George W. Bush has said, "I will do everything in my power to restrict abortions." Vice President Al Gore recently affirmed, "I will always, always, defend a woman's right to choose."

A review of the presidential candidates' positions on reproductive rights demonstrates the dramatic difference between them:

Governor Bush: As governor of Texas, he opposed clinic protection legislation that would have protected women and doctors from violence at reproductive health clinics and facilities

Vice President Gore: Supports the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance Act (FACE), and making those convicted of clinic

violence pay their penalties.

Governor Bush supports continuing to prohibit abortions at military facilities in the U.S. or in foreign countries, even when the woman pays with her own money.

Vice President Gore opposes the ban on privately funded abortions at military facilities.

Governor Bush is silent of increasing federal family planning funding.

Vice President Gore supports increased federal family planning funding

So when you vote on November 7th, keep this in mind: The outcome of the 2000 Presidential election will determine whether the right to legal abortion remains secure for the next generation of American women. This is not about the next four years, but the next 40 years. This is the most important national election since 1932.



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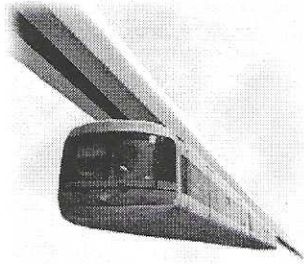
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FRESNO MONORAIL

It's 1950. The speaker arises to declare his vision. "In the future, people will live in suburbia. You will live in single family homes with two door detached garages. Everyone over 16 years of age will own a car. It will cost every family \$10,000 per year and require that the 2-wage earner families become the norm. But, you'll love it."



In 1950, America would have dismissed him as crazy. But over the past 50 years, this is exactly what we have done. In 1950, we went to work building the greatest freeway system in the world and discovered the suburbs. In moving to those suburbs, we did something so benign it was invisible. We simply increased the distance between travel points. But this was sufficient to increase our dependency on the automobile proportionately. So, the one car family of the 1950's became the 3 car family today. Today, transportation has replaced the home as the largest expense to a household. With some of the highest car ownership per capita in the nation, the capital flight from our collective car payments directly contributes to Fresno's 15% unemployment and diminished quality of life.

Thankfully, Fresno is getting a second chance. Researchers from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, (Cal Poly) through the sponsorship of the Fresno Area Sky Train Committee (F.A.S.T.), will soon undertake a ground breaking transportation study for the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan area. An elevated monorail system promising 10 minute waits and walking distances of two blocks or less will be evaluated. It will directly access malls, hospitals and other major destination points using existing boulevards as transportation corridors. Lead engineer, Dr. Aypios Chatziioanou and economist, Dr. Walter Rice, will publish their findings.

Interested parties wishing to support this project may make a tax deductible donation to the Cal Poly Foundation c/o Fresno Area Sky Train Committee at 4175 W. Sierra Madre #102, Fresno, CA 93722. (559) 275-7021 <http://www.skytraincorp.com/>

WILPF PEACE COMMUNITY CRAFTS FAIRE

The annual WILPF Peace Community Crafts Faire (formerly known as the Holiday Boutique) will be held this year on Saturday, December 2 from 10-4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church aka The Big Red Church on Van Ness and Yale Avenues. This is WILPF's biggest fundraiser and social event so we invite all you local Peace organizations to attend and to have a literature table and/or a "goodies" (baked goods, crafts, tapes, C.D's, etc) table to help your own organization make a bit of change for the new year. Also, we are in need of donated soups and breads for our infamous hot lunch served at the faire. If you would like to have a table for your organization, would like to donate soup and/or bread for the luncheon, or know of some crafty person who would like to sell their wares at this very popular event, please call Carol at 229-9661 or Zay at 227-2133.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER NEEDED

California ACORN is significantly expanding its organizing presence in California, in cities including Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and beyond, including other western states.

Work as a grassroots organizer to build power for low- and moderate-income communities and communities of color. Don't just help people win on their day-to-day and long-term issues; help alter the relations of power between the "haves" and the "have-nots" by building dynamic mass-based organizations.

Right now, California is fighting for and winning the following:

- ♦ Raising the state minimum wage to \$8
- ♦ Racial and economic justice in the funding of youth and after-school programs in Sacramento and Oakland
- ♦ Direct action empowerment of renters in view of the nation's worst housing crisis (San Jose, Los Angeles)
- ♦ Living wage policies in Sacramento (we've already won in Oakland, and helped win in San Jose)
- ♦ Ending predatory mortgage lending and racial discrimination in banking
- ♦ Environmental justice at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, a toxic Superfund site
- ♦ Political empowerment of a new, grassroots majority
- ♦ Much, much more.

All ACORN's positions are full time (regular evening work) with salary, good benefits, and the best training around.

Organizers learn to run social justice campaigns, work with grassroots leadership, build movement organizations, construct powerful coalitions, and much more.

For more information or to apply, email or call to:

Brian Kettenring
California ACORN
(916) 455-1795
(888) 918-8818 (toll free voicemail)
caacornsaro@acorn.org

Please also visit www.acorn.org for more information.

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Let's Get Organized

Are you tired of:

- ☒ lousy wages;
- ☒ no benefits;
- ☒ no respect on the job?

**Call one of the following local union
organizer to help you make the
world a better place to work!**

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SEIU Local 535 Public Employees, Health
Care, Social Services
(559) 275-1404

Glen Westersund
Engineers & Scientists of CA Local 20
Technical & Professional Workers
(559) 263-7481

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 100
Electricians
(559) 251-8241

Marc Scalzo
International Association of Machinists &
Aerospace Workers Local 653
Auto Repair, Industrial, Retail Consumer,
Electronics
(559) 264-2815
scmarc@madnet.net

Doug Whipple
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(559) 268-3895

Jimmy Hammack
Teamsters Local 431
(559) 486-5410

Tony Prendez
United Steel Workers of America
Manufacturing
(559) 255-0454

Frank Flores
Sheet Metal Workers Local 162
Sheet Metal Manufacturing
(559) 255-0454

Hotel Employees
Restaurant Employees Union Local 19
Restaurant Workers
(559) 485-0601

James Todd, Ninfa Franco, Pam Whalen,
Bettie Mamo
SEIU Local 250 Health Care Union
Representing 47,000 Health Care Workers in
No. California
(559) 271-7005

Humberto Gomez
Laborers Union Local 550
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(559) 891-7412

Marianna Durazo
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Home health care workers
(559) 277-4372